

Jammu-Srinagar highway partially reopens after 9-day closure

LMVs released from Qazigund, HMV movement likely today

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Sept 10: After remaining closed for nine days due to massive landslides, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway re-opened partially for traffic on Wednesday, officials said.

An official told the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that stranded passenger vehicles and trucks carrying essential supplies, including vegetables, poultry and meat, were allowed to move from Udhampur towards Srinagar from 10 am today.

"Light motor vehicles (LMVs) were also released from Qazigund towards Jammu," he said, adding that heavy motor vehicle (HMV) movement is expected to be allowed from tomorrow, with fruit-laden trucks given top priority.

Over 4,000 trucks, mostly carrying fresh apples, had been stranded for days due to the blockade. Growers complained that the delay had already caused stocks to rot, hitting the fruit industry badly. They said



that the long-term solution lies in the operationalisation of freight trains on the railway link between Kashmir and the rest of the country, which would minimise uncertainty during frequent highway blockades.

The official said more than 250 metres of the road at Bani Nallah in Udhampur had been washed away following incessant rains.

The highway was hit by

landslides on August 26 and September 2, and only a few hours of traffic movement was restored in between. Currently, only vehicles with up to six tyres are being allowed. On the alternative road built through a marshy patch, vehicles continue to get stuck, causing slow movement. Traffic police personnel, with the help of machinery, are pulling out stranded vehicles, resulting in long

queues on both sides of Thud and Bani Nallah.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) completed restoration work late Tuesday night by creating a new diversion at Bani Nallah, officials said, adding that men and machinery worked round-the-clock to make the road motorable.

SSP Traffic National Highway (Ramban), | More on P6

CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT ON RESERVATION

J&K govt invokes 'cabinet papers' clause to justify denial of information

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sept 10: Amid questions from different quarters over the status of the cabinet sub-committee's report on reservation, the J&K government has dismissed an appeal filed against the order passed by the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) to deny information about it.

The First Appellate Authority of the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has upheld the order passed by the CPIO, citing Supreme Court and High Court judgements and order passed by the Central Information Commission.

The information seeker Sheikh Mohammed Imran, Peoples Conference leader, had contested the denial of information by Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The CPIO had denied the information, citing different provisions of the RTI

"The disposal of the RTI application by the CPIO vide

order dated 05.08.2025 is well founded and well-reasoned and is in consonance with the provisions of the RTI Act and as such the appeal is dismissed and the said order of the CPIO is upheld," reads the order, a copy of which is in possession of news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

In the order, the FAA has said that RTI Act allows disclosure of cabinet decision only after decision is finalised and cabinet sub-committee's deliberations are ongoing.

"The proviso to Section 8(1) (i) allows disclosure only after the decision is complete and the matter is finalized. It is submitted that the Cabinet Sub-Committee's deliberations are ongoing, and no final decision has been notified," it said.

Justifying denial of information about status updates and timelines of CSC report, the FAA said, "Therefore, the entire set of documents, including status updates and timelines, falls within the ambit of 'cabinet' | More on P6

Radhakrishnan likely to take oath as VP tomorrow



PTI

New Delhi, Sept 10: Vice President-elect C P Radhakrishnan is likely to be administered the oath of office by President Droupadi Murmu on Friday, officials said.

The president is expected to administer the oath of office to Radhakrishnan at a formal ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on September 12, they said.

The 67-year-old Radhakrishnan won the vice presidential election on Tuesday, defeating the joint opposition nominee B Sudershan Reddy by a margin of 152 votes.

The election was necessitated due to the sudden resignation of the then incumbent, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on July 21.

NRPC flags poor renewable energy reporting from J&K

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sept 10: The Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) has found persistent unsatisfactory reporting status of Renewable energy (RE) from Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), NRPC in a recent meeting said that Northern Regional Load Despatch Center (NRLDC) representative has said, "On the basis of status of July month, it is evident that reporting status of some of the constituents that is Renewable energy (RE) stations, SLDC-HR, SLDCPS, SLDC-J&K, SLDC-HP, SLDC-Delhi, NTPC, NHPC and RAPS are not satisfactory and need improvement."

"Further, persistent unsatisfactory reporting status of Punjab and J&K was also highlighted," reads the NRPC document.

The NRPC has further anticipated that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh may face a shortfall of 2 percent of electricity in the ongoing month as per the revised peak demand.

The committee however said that the representative of J&K SLDC informed them that the shortfall in J&K would be met through Real time exchanges.

In the meeting NRPC requested POWERGRID to share with the respective STUs and SLDCs the details of transmission lines experiencing frequent faults.

It further advised the SLDCs of Haryana, Punjab, and J&K to coordinate | More on P6

BJP leadership visits flood-hit Pulwama

Will ensure adequate compensation: Sat Sharma

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Sept 10: In the aftermath of the devastating floods that wreaked havoc on agricultural fields in Pulwama, a high-level delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) visited the affected areas on Wednesday to assess the scale of damage and listen to the grievances of the residents.

The delegation was led by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, accompanied by Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma, General Secretaries Mohammad Anwar Khan and Gopal Mahajan, and Vice-President Shahnaaz Ganaie.

They toured several flood-hit villages including Gusoo, Aglar, Hasanwani, and Pinglena,



where farmers have suffered massive losses due to inundation of paddy fields and other crops.

Speaking to reporters Sat Sharma as per news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the purpose of the tour was

to directly interact with the affected families and understand the challenges they are facing. "Our team visited different areas and personally saw the extensive damage caused by the floods. While loss of life and property | More on P6

SIA conducts raids in south Kashmir over escape of Hizb terrorist

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 10: Twenty years after a Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) commander escaped to Pakistan through the Attari border in Punjab, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Wednesday raided two South Kashmir locations in connection with the case.

In an official release, the SIA, according to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that its officers raided locations in Anantnag and Pulwama districts in the morning.

"In pursuant of its unrelenting efforts, SIA Kashmir

conducted raids earlier today at two suspected places at District Anantnag and Pulwama in a case related to escape of HM terrorist Amin Baba to Pakistan in 2005," reads the statement.

The escape of Baba, who was Divisional Commander of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen outfit to Pakistan, was orchestrated with the support of former MLA Gul Rafeeqi and others, the spokesman said in a statement.

It also said the accused persons had managed a fake passport for the terrorist and ferried him in the official vehicle of the MLA from Anantnag to Attari, due to which he managed to cross | More on P6

Govt committed to protecting purity, sanctity of Pashmina: Union Textiles Secretary

Calls for elevating the fibre with new labs, assures support to artisans

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 10: Calling Pashmina "India's gold standard fibre", Union Textiles Secretary, Neelam Shami Rao on Wednesday said the government is committed to protecting its purity and sanctity.

Rao was speaking during the inauguration at SKUAST-Kashmir, Shuhama and IIC, Srinagar, where she distributed Modified Modern Steel Carpet Looms to artisan clusters. She called for enhanced testing infrastructure, unified branding and greater support for Kashmir artisans.

Addressing the gatherings,



the Secretary, as reported by the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), called for a vibrant testing and certification ecosystem for Pashmina and other animal fibres.

"Certification, numbering,

and coding must be smarter so that every labelled product is traceable. In the next two to three years, we should have reliable data on genuine Pashmina products entering the market," she said.

Rao said the Ministry would work closely with Customs, BIS and the Ministry of Environment and Forest to evolve a consensus-driven solution balancing industry requirements with wildlife and animal rights concerns.

The Union Textiles Secretary called for expanding testing infrastructure closer to production areas to reduce logistical challenges.

"We do not want your products to travel to Dehradun, Delhi, or Hong Kong for testing. The capacity of existing labs must be augmented, and if more labs are required, the Textiles Ministry | More on P6

Utilisation of 2014 flood relief funds

CM's Advisor seeks probe, audit

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 10: Chief Minister Advisor's and senior National Conference leader Nasir Aslam Wani on Wednesday said that the funds allocated for flood mitigation measures following the 2014 catastrophe must be audited and their utilization thoroughly investigated.

Wani, while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora, according to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "We need to review how the funds received at the time of the 2014 floods were spent."

He said, "We are not opposing anyone here, but we are directly connected to this issue, and we should know what measures were taken. Even today, if you look, there is a complete list of what needed to be done after the 2014 flood. We need to review which of those actions were actually taken to protect Kashmir. That also needs to be considered."

He added that after the calamity Kashmir endured in 2014, a flood mitigation plan was supposed to be implemented. "We will talk about how far we have brought that plan forward and discuss what needs to be done so that such a situation does not arise again. Experts | More on P6

IPS officer A G Mir posted in J&K segment of AGMUT cadre



KNO

Srinagar, Sept 10: Senior IPS officer Abdul Ghani Mir has been posted to the Jammu & Kashmir segment of the AGMUT cadre. The Ministry of Home Affairs has ordered the posting of Mir, a 1994 batch IPS officer from the erstwhile J&K cadre, to the J&K segment of the AGMUT cadre.

This order | More on P6

'Now we pay to throw them away': National Highway closure turns apples into burden

Rehan Qayoom Mir

■ Growers forced to hire labourers to dump rotten fruit at Parimpora Mandi

■ Traders term it 'unprecedented loss'; railway services fail to provide relief

Srinagar, Sept 10: The prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway has pushed Kashmir's apple industry into crisis, leaving growers not only without earnings but also forcing them to pay for dumping their rotting produce.

At Srinagar's Parimpora fruit mandi, heaps of spoil apples lie scattered, turning the marketplace into what traders call a "dumping ground."

"We hired trucks and loaded our apples with a hope. But after being stuck for days on the highway, the fruit came back rotten. Now we spend more money to



throw it away," said Ghulam Nabi, a farmer in Parimpora Mandi, while

speaking with the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

Bashir Ahmad, another grower from Pulwama who was present at the mandi, said the situation is unbearable. "We can't store them (apples), we can't sell them. The smell is suffocating. We are forced to hire labourers to clear heaps of our own fruit," he lamented.

"This is the first time I have seen growers paying for the destruction of their own produce," said Mohammad Yousuf, a Sopore-based trader who was in the mandi to check his returned rotten stock.

The crisis comes at a time when September marks the peak harvest of varieties like Gala and Red Delicious.

As KNO earlier reported, nearly 90 percent of Gala apples have

already been harvested, with other varieties close to completion. But with the highway shut for over two weeks, and the railway link falling short, the produce is piling up.

"The market is completely closed. For more than 15 days, the highway has been shut," said, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, Chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Union (KVFGDU). "This is the beginning of the season and the loss has increased considerably. Fruit growers can't bear it," he said.

Growers had pinned hopes on the recently expanded railway services to ease transport, but that too has failed. "The train service was expected to provide relief, but it is not operating | More on P6

Rana visits Anantnag flood-affected villages

KT NEWS DESK

Anantnag, Sep 10: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of several flood-affected villages in Anantnag to assess the damages caused by the recent heavy rains and floods. Accompanied by legislator Abdul Majeed Bhat, the Minister visited a series of worst-hit areas including Pushwara, Mir Danter, Khanabal, Nathpora, Harnag, Batengoo, Uranhall, Wanpoh, Iarm, Hanji Danter and adjoining localities.

The Minister interacted directly with residents, farmers and community representatives, many of whom have been severely impacted by the natural disaster. During the visit, the Minister inspected multiple affected sites, including damaged orchards, submerged vegetable fields, washed-out rice and maize crops, as well as damaged roads, bunds, bridges, residential houses and government institutions.

The scale of destruction to both agricultural output and public infrastructure has left hundreds of families distressed, with many reporting complete loss of livelihood.

Farmers informed the Minister that standing crops such as vegetables, pulses, rice, and maize have been completely washed away and large swathes of fertile farmland has turned unfit for cultivation due to the flooding.

Expressing deep concern over the extent of the damage, Rana assured the people that the Omar Abdullah-led government stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the affected families in this hour of crisis. Minister emphasized that immediate relief, compensation, and rehabilitation measures will be taken up on priority to address the losses suffered by the people.

“The government is fully aware of the suffering caused by this disaster. Agriculture is the soul of our economy, and the livelihood of thousands depends on it. We are committed to extending timely support to all affected families and ensuring that farmers can recover and rebuild as quickly as possible,” said Minister Rana.

Rana further stated that the restoration of essential services, including drinking water, electricity, road connectivity, and healthcare, is being fast-tracked in coordination with the concerned departments.

CS discusses strengthening of health infra with GoI



KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday held an extensive interaction with Secretary, Health and Family Welfare (H&FW), Government of India, Punya Salila Srivastava, to deliberate on avenues for strengthening health infrastructure and upgrading healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary conveyed his gratitude to the Ministry for enhancing MBBS intake capacity in several medical colleges of the Union Territory.

The meeting reviewed progress on centrally sponsored key construction projects, the introduction of specialization courses such as MD/MS, DM/MCH, and DNB in

newly established medical colleges, and the proposal for increasing 50 MBBS seats in other colleges that had applied. Discussions also focused on extending support for strengthening tertiary care facilities in the recently established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs).

The Chief Secretary further sought the Ministry's intervention in expediting the completion of AIIMS Awantipora and facilitating expansion of AIIMS Jammu. He assured full cooperation of the J&K administration in implementing all initiatives of the Ministry in the Union Territory.

The Union Health Secretary assured the Chief Secretary of sympathetic consideration and timely action on all the issues raised during the meeting.

Kashmiri carpets get a makeover

Union textiles Secy rolls out modern looms

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 10: Union Textiles Secretary, Neelam Shami Rao Wednesday reiterated the Government's commitment to promoting and reviving the unique craft of hand-knotted carpet weaving. She made these remarks while distributing Modified Modern Steel Carpet Looms to artisans under the Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) at the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) campus, Srinagar.

The event was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Padmini Singla; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Musrat Islam; Executive Director, Central Wool Development Board, G.S. Bhati; Member Secretary, J&K Sericulture Development Board, P. Shiv Kumar and other senior officers of the Ministry of Textiles and the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir.

In her address, the Union Secretary encouraged the UT Government to submit more proposals to the Ministry of Textiles, particularly for upgradation of testing and certification facilities. She stressed the importance of reviving traditional designs while simultaneously incorporating contemporary patterns to strengthen the global appeal of Kashmiri handicrafts.

“I have come from Delhi along with a team of senior officers to gain firsthand insight into introducing new benchmarks

that will strengthen backward and forward linkages in the craft sector,” she stated.

Earlier, Neelam Shami Rao visited various sections of IICT, where the Director IICT briefed her about ongoing training programmes, the design studio and the NABL-accredited laboratory. She expressed keen interest in scaling up IICT's laboratory facilities, noting that special funding has already been provided under the technology component of the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP).

Union Secretary also visited the Pashmina Testing & Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC) and assured full support for procuring state-of-the-art machines to ensure the authenticity of Kashmiri Pashmina and other handicrafts.

During her visit, Union Secretary interacted with Padma Shri and National Award-winning artisans, including Ghulam Hassan Khan (Patchwork Jamawar), Ghulam Nabi Dar (Wood Carving), and Farooq Ahmad Mir (Kani Shawl), as well as budding entrepreneurs like Shah Nawaz Carpets and Beenish CreweL Toys.

Union Secretary distributed Modified Modern Steel Carpet Looms among artisan clusters from Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Budgam, Kulgam and Srinagar districts. She also assured consideration of a proposal submitted by the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, for the procurement of 500 additional looms for distribution.

FROM THE OFFICE OF PANCHAYAT SECRETARY NADIHAL-A BLOCK NADIHAL, DISTRICT BARAMULLA

Auction Notice of Trees

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that in the jurisdiction of Panchayat Nadihal-A, on 22nd Sep. 2025, Monday, an auction will be held for certain Poplar trees marked in the premises of Panchayat Ghar Nadihal. Interested individuals may participate in the auction as per the terms and conditions. Details of the trees to be auctioned are given below:

S No	Specie	Girth	Girth Class	Dia-Class	Volume in CFTs / Remarks
1	Poplar	69.566879	60-70	118.6	Dry Felled
2	Poplar	34.783439	30-40	29.94	
3	Poplar	19.976178	10-20	3.47	
4	Poplar	69.566879	60-70	118.6	
5	Poplar	24.626516	20-30	13.44	
6	Poplar	29.929936	20-30	13.44	
Total				297.48	

Marking List of Felled Logs

S No	Dimensions of logs	Volume in CFTs	Remarks
1	33*15	7.08	Dry Lying on the Ground
2	37*15	16.27	
3	41*14	10.21	
4	40*20	21.15	
5	38*19	6.19	
Total		61.9	

Terms & Conditions:

- Before the auction, the entire value of the trees shall be secured through CDR pledged in favour of BDO Nadihal.
- During the auction, the decision of the auction committee shall be final and binding, and no objection shall be entertained thereafter.
- In case of acceptance of the bid, the successful bidder must deposit the bid amount within the stipulated time, otherwise the CDR will be forfeited.
- Interested individuals may contact the undersigned office during working hours for further information regarding the auction.
- For participation in the bidding process, please contact on phone numbers: 7889729671,7780929342

DIPK-6100/25

Dated: 10-09-2025

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail ID: xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender (Short term)

e-NIT No:	M&HDH/TS/2025-26/eNIT/17
Date:	08 /09/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from experienced registered/reputed firms or authorized dealer's/workshop holders for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Repairs and maintenance of Departmental Snow Clearance Machines of MHD, Sub Division II, Handwara stationed at SCCR Bandipora/Sumbal for SC Season 2025-26.	2.49	200.00	5000	15 days	Accorded	Accorded

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 08/09/2025 (1800hrs)
2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 09/09/2025 (1000hrs) to 15/09/2025 (1200hrs) in two covers.
3. Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 15/09/2025 (1400hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
5. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

No: - MHDH/TS/1047-54
Dated: -08/09/2025

DIPK-6133/25

Dated: 10-09-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bashir Ah Mir S/o Mohd Ramzan Mir R/o Frestabal, Tehsil Pampore, District Pulwama, do hereby inform the general public that I am the holder of Driving Licence No. JK-13 20150039011 issued by ARTO Pulwama.

In the said Driving Licence, myname and date of birth have been wrongly recorded as Bashir Ahmad Mir, 07/05/1965.

Whereas, as per my Aadhaar Card, my correct name and date of birth are Bashir Ah Mir, 22/11/1965.

I am applying for rectification of the same in my Driving Licence with the concerned authority.

If anybody has any objection to the above correction/rectification, he/she may file the same in writing with the ARTO Pulwama within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN QAZIGUND

TENTATIVE SELECTION LIST OF SANGINIS (Anganwadi Worker) IN RESPONSE TO ADV.NOTICE NO:05 OF 2024 DATED: - 29.02.2024 OF CDPO QAZIGUND FOR ANGANWADI CENTER BERIGAM-A PANCH WARD: - 02 ARE ARRANGED IN ORDER OF MERIT AS SHOWN BELOW.															
S. No	Application S.No	Name of the Candidate	Parent-age/W/O	Residence	Qualification	Board	Additional Qualification	DOB	Married/ Unmarried	Marks 10th			Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy	Total Merit	Remarks
										Max Marks	Marks Obtained	% of Marks			
1	16	Nazrana	D/o Gulam Mohidin Shah	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	01.02.2005	Un-Married	500	388	77.6	0	77.6	
2	107	Gowhar jahan-geer	O/O Jahangeer ahmad wani	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	01.03.2004	Un-Married	500	349	69.8	0	69.8	
3	127	Sheebu Shakeel	D/o Shakeel Ahmad Dar	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	01.03.2004	Un-Married	500	345	69	0	69	
4	46	Arooja Aziz	D/o Ab Aziz kumar	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	20.12.1998	Un-Married	500	316	63.2	0	63.2	
5	53	Ulfat Ibraheem	D/o Lt. Mohd Ibraheem Reshi	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	10.04.1999	Un-Married	500	302	60.4	0	60.4	
6	45	Asmath Aziz	D/o Ab aziz Kumar	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	03.03.1994	Un-Married	500	268	53.6	0	53.6	
7	140	Shubi Jan	O/O Mohd Yousuf Dar	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	06.03.1994	Un-Married	750	338	45	0	45	
8	80	Sumy Jan	D/o Gull Mohd Reshi	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	14.03.2001	Un-Married	500	245	49	0	49	
9	123	Reyhana Akhter	D/o Mohd Jamal Reshi	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	15.04.1992	Married	750	304	40.5	0	40.5	
10	74	Nusrat Iqbal	O/O Mohd Iqbal Dar	Berigam	10+2	JKBOSE	No	09.03.1997	Un-Married	500	198	39.6	0	39.6	

S No. Namely NAZRANA D/o Gulam Mohidin Shah being highest mereterious among all is tentatively selected for the post of Sanginis (AWW) at AWC Berigam-A -The list is herby circulated in local dallies for inviting objections if any within a period of 10 days. After expiry of the date no objection will be considered.

DIPK-6098/25 DATED: 10-09-2025

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Qazigund (Member Secretary)

NH Closure....

‘Fruit industry faces loss of Rs 700 Cr’

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 10: The Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union on Wednesday expressed deep concern over the massive losses suffered by the horticulture sector due to frequent and prolonged closures of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. The Union said the valley's fruit industry has already incurred losses amounting to nearly Rs 700 crore this season.

The Union president, Bashir Ahmad Basheer said the horticulture sector - the lifeline of Kashmir's economy - is being pushed towards a crisis because of the elected government's failure to ensure smooth transportation of perishable goods.

"Thousands of trucks carrying apples and other fresh fruits are left stranded on the highway for weeks together. The silence of the elected government is worrisome, as no serious steps



are being taken for the proper restoration of traffic or to provide an alternative mechanism," he said.

The more time the highway remains closed, the losses will go up with each passing hour, Basheer said, adding that the prolonged delay puts its impact on the quality and quantity of the fruit.

The Union leader further criticised the authorities for ignoring available alternatives. "Railway connectivity is

there, but no arrangements have been made to transport fruit consignments via train. This apathy has put the livelihood of lakhs of families associated with horticulture at stake," he said.

Growers said that truckloads of fresh fruit, including Gala apple varieties and different types of pears, have already been stranded on the highway. "The longer they remain stuck, the more they deteriorate. Even if they finally

reach markets, they won't fetch the desired prices," said Mohammad Yousuf, a fruit grower from Sopore.

Farmers have urged authorities to immediately strengthen alternative options such as the Mughal Road. However, restrictions allowing only six-tyre vehicles have limited its effectiveness. "These vehicles hardly make it beyond Delhi. They don't reach major markets like Bangalore, Kanpur, or Chennai, which are crucial for our trade," explained Mohammad Ramzan, an orchardist from Pulwama.

Others called for looking beyond road transport. "If the government arranges goods trains, growers won't face these repeated crises. This is the least they can do for the sector that is the backbone of our economy," said Mohammad Amin from Shopian.

The Union warned that if the government continues to remain indifferent, the situation could lead to

an unprecedented crisis in Kashmir's horticulture sector, which contributes significantly to the region's economy.

Fruit growers have appealed to the administration to immediately intervene, ensure hassle-free movement of fruit-laden trucks, and explore long-term alternatives such as dedicated freight corridors and rail cargo facilities.

"Apple is the backbone of Kashmir's economy. If the government fails to safeguard it, the economic repercussions will be disastrous not only for growers but for the entire Valley," Basheer added.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains the only surface link between the Valley and the rest of the country, and its frequent closures due to landslides, shooting stones, and traffic mismanagement have time and again triggered major economic setbacks in Kashmir—(KNO)

13 days were like 13 years: Stranded truckers

UMAISAR GULL GANIE / REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 10: Stranded for nearly two weeks on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, truck drivers are battling hunger, dehydration and growing safety concerns, filled with frustration as they await clearance to resume their journey.

While light vehicles were allowed on the highway today after nearly 10 days, heavy trucks carrying essential supplies, fruits and other goods remain stuck, leaving drivers in a state of uncertainty and distress.

"This is unbearable. These 13 days feel like 13 years. We are sleeping in our trucks, eating whatever we can get, and constantly worrying about our goods rotting," Bashir Ahmad, a truck driver from Anantnag said.

Drivers said their situation is worsened by the lack of food and drinking water. "We have been pooling our money to buy meals, but there are no proper facilities here. Some of us are surviving on just tea and biscuits," said another trucker, Irfan Malik, who

was transporting vegetables from Jammu to Srinagar.

Apart from basic necessities, safety remains a major concern for those stranded. Drivers said long halts in isolated areas along the highway make them vulnerable to accidents and theft. "We are not only worried about our goods but also about our own lives. There is no clear information from authorities on when heavy vehicles will be allowed to move," Irfan added.

Moreover, the prolonged closure has also caused mounting financial losses. Several truckers said that perishable goods in their vehicles have already started rotting due to delays. "Every day of waiting costs us money. We are losing both earnings and peace of mind," said Bashir.

Authorities, while allowing light vehicles to move today, have yet to announce a timeline for the clearance of heavy trucks. Truckers and transporters are urging the administration to expedite the reopening of the highway for trucks to avoid further economic and personal losses—(KNO)

Qazigund youth serve water to stranded passengers

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

Qazigund, Sep 10: With the closure of Srinagar-Jammu National Highway for nearly two weeks due to landslides in Udhampur and Ramban, a young man from Qazigund area of south Kashmir has become a symbol of hope for stranded passengers. Mohammad Aasim Ganie, 23, a B.Com student from Checkiwangund village, has turned his tractor into a makeshift water tanker to provide free drinking water to truck drivers and other passengers stuck along the highway stretch between Nayvug Tunnel and Levdoora. Aasim said that he distributes two to three tankers of water with 3,000 litres of capacity.

"I am doing this only for the sake of Allah. Our Islam teaches us to help one another," Aasim said. "The highway gets blocked frequently in both summer and winter. Many drivers don't even have running cash in such times. That is why we should come forward with Langars and water services, just like we are doing here in Qazigund." His initiative has earned widespread appreciation from drivers stranded for days. "This brother is giving us water, and we will never forget it. Locals here have always helped us. I have been coming to Kashmir for the last ten years, and the support of people here is unmatched," said a truck driver.

Another driver called Aasim's efforts "rare humanity." "He has been with us for nearly two weeks, serving us. Not everyone thinks like this at his age. He could have stayed home, but he chose to stand with us in our distress. He has made us feel proud," he said—(KNO)

Road, we are charged around Rs 200 per box. This is simply unbearable," said Abdul Majid, an orchardist from Shopian. "The margins in apple farming are already very low. With freight charges tripling, we are running into losses that we may never recover."

The prolonged closure has also disrupted grading and marketing strategies. Growers said that currently, they mostly send second-grade produce of traditional varieties such as Kulu and Delicious. "The money we are receiving in outside markets is not even covering the freight charges. Most people have delayed picking up first-grade apples because we cannot afford to take the risk of them rotting in transit," said Bashir Ahmad, a grower from Pulwama.

Many orchardists fear that if the situation persists, Kashmir's horticulture

sector—considered the backbone of the valley's economy—will face irreparable setbacks this season. The industry has already been under strain due to climate change, untimely rains, cheaper imports, and rising input costs. "The government must step in without delay. Either ensure the immediate restoration of smooth traffic on NH-44 or provide adequate transport through Mughal Road at fair rates," said Ghulam Rasool, a grower from Kulgam. "Otherwise, our year-long hard work will go in vain."

Fruit growers' associations have warned of a deepening crisis if no action is taken. They have appealed to the administration to treat the issue as an economic emergency, as thousands of families in Kashmir directly depend on apple farming for their livelihood—(KNO)

‘Freight costs three-fold via Mughal road’

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 10: Apple growers in Kashmir are grappling with heavy losses as the continuous closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44) has forced them to divert their produce through the Mughal Road, where freight costs have skyrocketed and transport availability is scarce.

The growers said that while authorities have permitted six-tyre vehicles on the Mughal Road, their numbers are too few to meet the demand. The limited availability has pushed freight rates to unprecedented levels, leaving orchardists frustrated and anxious about their livelihoods.

"Earlier, we used to pay Rs 50 to Rs 60 per apple box when transporting via NH-44. Now, on the Mughal

Wangchuk begins hunger strike, demanding Ladakh statehood

KNO

Leh, Sep 10: Renowned environmentalist and innovator Sonam Wangchuk, along with the Leh Apex Body (LAB), has launched a 35-day hunger strike in Leh, beginning today.

The protest aims to press the central government to grant Ladakh statehood and include the region under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which provides for autonomy and protection of indigenous rights in certain tribal areas.

Speaking to the media, Wangchuk said he was forced to restart the protest due to the Centre's continued inaction on the key demands raised by Ladakh-based groups. He said the Ministry of Home Affairs



had not held any meetings with them over the last two months, despite earlier engagement on

the matter.

Wangchuk said the dialogue between the people of

Ladakh and the central government had come to a halt. A second meeting, expected to take place after initial discussions on the demands, was never scheduled. This, he said, indicated a lack of seriousness from the government and left the people of the region with no option but to escalate their movement.

With the Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections approaching, Wangchuk reminded the government of its earlier commitment to grant Sixth Schedule status to Ladakh. He said the upcoming elections provide a crucial window for the government to fulfil that promise. According to him, the absence of such recognition could impact not just political

autonomy but also the environmental and cultural integrity of the fragile Himalayan region.

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution allows for the creation of autonomous councils that can legislate on issues related to land, forest, customs, and local governance.

For Ladakh, inclusion in the Sixth Schedule has been a long-standing demand from various civil society groups following the region's separation from Jammu and Kashmir and its designation as a Union Territory in 2019.

Wangchuk and LAB have called for peaceful, democratic action. They have urged the government to resume dialogue and fulfil its commitments to the region before the elections—(KNO)

PSA Against MLA

‘Mockery of Constitution’: Dy CM



WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Sep 10: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Wednesday strongly condemned the arrest of Doda MLA under the Public Safety Act (PSA), terming it a murder of Indian democracy and constitution.

Choudhary urged the Lieutenant Governor to revoke the order to restore calm in the region.

Speaking about the prevailing situation in Doda following the MLA's detention, Choudhary in Kunzer said the move has eroded public faith in democratic institutions.

"Only those who elect their representative can remove him. "How can a Deputy Commissioner, who himself is being accused in a complaint, book an elected MLA under PSA? Where is it written in the Constitution?" he asked.

The Dy CM said that governance in Jammu and Kashmir has been reduced to a 'bureaucratic monopoly' where officers act as "Patwari, Tehsildar, Girdawar and all rolled into one". He cautioned that this system cannot sustain

and will only deepen mistrust.

Stating that PSA is meant for anti-national elements, drug peddlers and those posing threats to society, Choudhary said, "They fail to arrest drug peddlers vanishing our youth, but a sitting MLA is booked under PSA. This is not just an attack on one MLA, but on the very institution of democracy".

He reminded that Indian democracy was achieved through the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters including B.R. Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. "In mockery style, PSA is now being slapped on an elected representative. Does this mean Journalists or Panchayat members will be next if they question officers?" he said.

While calling the move a political decision by the administration, Dy CM warned officers against indulging in politics. "Governments change and when they do, everything changes with them. It is better for officials to avoid conflicts that could make their future functioning difficult," he cautioned.

Urging the LG to intervene, the Dy CM said, "PSA is not the solution. It is better to revoke the PSA orders at the earliest so that the situation in Doda does not worsen. People should not be pushed onto the roads".

He said that the PSA detention of an elected representative has set a dangerous precedent. "It is condemnable and must be reviewed immediately to safeguard democracy and prevent unrest", he said—(KNO)

Unjustified: CM's advisor

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Sep 10: Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani Wednesday said that the arresting a sitting MLA of Doda under the Public Safety Act (PSA) is unjustifiable and those who initiated such an action are directly responsible for the tense situation in the district.

Speaking to reporters at Kunzer, Wani said that even if an elected representative had committed a mistake, there are due procedures in place to address it, but slapping PSA on a law-maker amounts to undermining democracy.

"MLAs are law-makers chosen by the people. Their arrest under PSA is condemnable. Those who initiated this action are responsible for the prevailing tension in Doda", he said.

He further pointed out that law and order is the responsibility of the Lieutenant Governor-led administration. "Law and order fall under LG's domain. They should rethink this move as PSA against an

MLA is not justified", Wani said.

On the recent Dargah controversy, the Advisor said the incident was politically motivated and unnecessary. "It is a secondary question whether Waqf Board chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi is removed or not, but what happened at a sacred place was a political act for self-protection," he said.



On the demand for a special assembly session regarding Andrabi's removal, the CM's advisor explained that constitutional provisions must be observed. "There has to be a mandatory six-month gap after an assembly session. Still, it is upto the Speaker and sitting MLAs to decide what steps to take", he clarified—(KNO)

FSD suspends licenses of 3 eateries in Kangan

RAJA SYED RATHER

Ganderbal, Sep 10: The Food and Safety Department (FSD) has suspended the licenses of three eateries — including two hotels and a dhaba — in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district after they failed mandatory food quality tests.

Incharge Food Inspector Fayaz Ahmad said that samples were collected from several restaurants during routine checks. "These samples were sent for laboratory testing, and after reports showed irregularities, the license of three establishments were suspended,"

he said, adding that legal proceedings will be initiated against the violators under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

Authorities have appealed to the public to remain cautious and assured that regular inspections of hotels, restaurants, and dhabs will continue to ensure safe and hygienic food for consumers.

Speaking to reporters, SDM Kangan Dr. Nazir Ahmad said that the operational activities of the hotels and a dhaba have been suspended till further orders. He emphasized that the administration will not tolerate any violation of food safety guidelines—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Decisive Action Needed To Revive Kashmir's Textile Heritage

The visit of the Union Ministry of Textiles Secretary to Kashmir marks a welcome step toward promoting Kashmir's silk heritage and sustainable livelihoods. She inaugurated the Seri-Eco Tourism Project at Manasbal and met with top officials and trade bodies here who demanded urgent and substantive policy intervention. The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and the Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) raised critical issues that

threaten the very survival of Kashmir's handicraft and textile industry, which supports nearly 400,000 artisans. For decades, Kashmiri handicrafts, which include Pashmina shawls, silk carpets, and Sozni embroidery, have been renowned globally for their artistry and quality. Yet today, the sector faces existential challenges: declining exports, competition from machine-made imitations, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient financial support. Artisans, often living

on the margins, struggle with low wages, lack of market access, and limited institutional backing. The reduction of GST on handicrafts to 5% is a positive step, but it is not enough. The government must address structural issues to revive this vital sector. First, it should establish dedicated warehousing and marketing facilities for Kashmiri products in key international markets like Dubai. Second, it must revive defunct carpet centres under the Massive Carpet Scheme and transform

them into modern production and design hubs. Third, financial measures such as interest subvention on export finance and the removal of caps on incentives under schemes like the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (ROSCTL) are essential to support small exporters and artisans. Stronger branding and Geographic Indication (GI) enforcement are needed to protect authentic Kashmiri products from counterfeit imitations. Cluster-based development,

skill enhancement programs, and greater participation in international trade fairs can empower artisans and expand global market reach. The handicraft sector is a cultural legacy. The government must move beyond symbolic projects and implement concrete, inclusive policies that preserve this heritage while ensuring sustainable livelihoods for artisans. The survival of Kashmir's craft traditions depends on decisive action today. e time for decisive action is now.

75th Birthday

Mohan Bhagwat Ji's tenure most transformative period in RSS's 100-year journey

As RSS marks its centenary, we honour the visionary leader whose unwavering dedication, adaptive vision, and embodiment of Indian values continue to shape a stronger, united nation

Shri Narendra Modi

Today is September 11th. This day evokes two contrasting remembrances. The first dates back to 1893, when Swami Vivekananda delivered his iconic Chicago address. With the few words, "Sisters and Brothers of America," he won the hearts of thousands present in the hall. He introduced the timeless spiritual heritage of India and the emphasis on universal brotherhood to the world stage. The second is the gruesome 9/11 attacks, when this very principle came under attack thanks to the menace of terrorism and radicalism.

There is something else about this day which is noteworthy. Today is the birthday of a personality who, inspired by the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, has dedicated his entire life to societal transformation and strengthening the spirit of harmony and fraternity. For lakhs of people associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, he is respectfully referred to as Param Pujya Sarsanghchalak. Yes, I am referring to Shri Mohan Bhagwat Ji, whose 75th birthday is, incidentally, falling in the same year when the RSS marks its centenary. I would like to convey my best wishes to him and pray for his long and healthy life.

My association with Mohan Ji's family has been very deep. I have had the good fortune of working closely with Mohan Ji's father, the late Madhukarrao Bhagwat Ji. I have written extensively about him in my book, Jyotipunj. Along with his association with the legal world, he devoted himself to nation-building. He played a pivotal role in strengthening the RSS across Gujarat. Such was Madhukarrao Ji's passion towards nation-building that it groomed his son, Mohanrao, to work towards India's regeneration. It is as if Parasmani Madhukarrao prepared another Parasmani in Mohanrao.



Mohan Ji became a Pracharak in the mid-1970s. Upon hearing the word 'Pracharak', one may mistakenly think it refers to someone who is simply doing Prachar or campaigning, propagating ideas. But, those familiar with the working of the RSS understand that the Pracharak tradition is at the core of the organisation's work. Over the last hundred years, thousands of young people, inspired by a patriotic zeal, have left their homes and families to dedicate their lives to realising the mission of India First.

His early years in the RSS coincided with a very dark period of Indian history. This was the time the draconian Emergency was imposed by the then Congress government. For every person who cherished democratic principles and wanted India to prosper, it was natural to strengthen the anti-Emergency movement. This is exactly what Mohan Ji and countless RSS Swayamsevaks did. He worked extensively in rural and backward

areas of Maharashtra, especially Vidarbha. This shaped his understanding of the challenges faced by the poor and downtrodden.

Over the years, Bhagwat Ji held various positions in the RSS. He performed each and every one of those duties with great dexterity. Mohan Ji's years as the head of the Akhil Bharatiya Shairirik Pramukh during the 1990s are still fondly remembered by many Swayamsevaks. During this period, he spent considerable time working in the villages of Bihar. These experiences further deepened his connect with grassroots issues. In 2000, he became the Sarkaryawah and here too, he brought his unique way of working, handling the most complex of situations with ease and precision. In 2009, he became the Sarsanghchalak and continues to work with great vibrancy.

Being Sarsanghchalak is more than an organisational responsibility. Extraordinary individuals have

defined this role through personal sacrifice, clarity of purpose and unshakable commitment to Maa Bharti. Mohan Ji, in addition to doing full justice to the enormity of the responsibility, has also brought to it his own strength, intellectual depth and empathetic leadership, all of which is inspired by the principle of Nation First.

If I can think of two attributes Mohan Ji has held close to his heart and imbibed in his work style, they are continuity and adaptation. He has always steered the Organisation through very complex currents, never compromising on the core ideology we are all proud of and at the same time addressing the evolving needs of society. He has a natural connect with the youth and thus, has always focussed on integrating more youngsters with the Sangh Parivar. He is often seen engaging in public discourse and interacting with people, which has been very beneficial in today's dynamic and digital world.

Broadly speaking, Bhagwat Ji's tenure will be considered the most transformative period in the 100-year journey of the RSS. From the change in uniform to the modifications in the Shiksha Vargs (training camps), several significant changes occurred under his leadership.

I particularly remember Mohan Ji's efforts during the COVID period, when humanity battled a once in a lifetime pandemic. In those times, continuing the traditional RSS activities became challenging. Mohan Ji suggested increased usage of technology. In the context of the global challenges, he remained connected with global perspectives while developing institutional frameworks.

At that time, all Swayamsevaks made every possible effort to reach out to those in need, while ensuring the safety of themselves and others. Medical camps were organised in several places. We also lost many of our hardworking Swayamsevaks, but such was the inspiration of Mohan Ji that their determination never wavered.

Earlier this year, during the inauguration of the Madhav Netra Chikitsalaya in Nagpur, I had remarked that the RSS is like an Akshayavat, an eternal banyan tree that energises the national culture and collective consciousness of our nation. The roots of this Akshayavat are deep and strong because they are anchored in values. The dedication with which Mohan Bhagwat Ji has committed himself to nurturing and advancing these values is truly inspirational.

Another admirable quality of Mohan Ji's personality is his soft-spoken nature. He is blessed with an exceptional ability to listen. This trait ensures a deeper perspective and also brings a sense of sensitivity and dignity to his persona and leadership.

Here, I also want to write about the keen interest he has always shown towards various mass movements. From Swachh Bharat Mission to Beti

Bachao Beti Padhao, he always urges the entire RSS family to add vigour through these movements. In order to further social well-being, Mohan Ji has given the 'Panch Parivartan', which includes social harmony, family values, environmental awareness, national selfhood and civic duties.

These can inspire Indians from all walks of life. Every Swayamsevak dreams of seeing a strong and prosperous nation. To realise this dream, what is required is both clear vision and decisive action. Mohan Ji embodies both these qualities in abundance.

Bhagwat Ji has always been a strong votary of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', a firm believer in India's diversity and the celebration of so many different cultures and traditions that are a part of our land.

Beyond his busy schedule, Mohan Ji has always found time to pursue passions like music and singing. Few people know that he is very versatile in various Indian musical instruments. His passion for reading can be seen in several of his speeches and interactions.

This year, in a few days from now, the RSS turns 100. It is also a pleasant coincidence that this year, Vijaya Dashami, Gandhi Jayanti, Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti and the RSS centenary celebrations are on the same day. It will be a historic milestone for lakhs of people associated with the RSS in India and the world. And, we have a very wise and hard-working Sarsanghchalak in Mohan Ji, steering the organisation in these times. I will conclude by saying that Mohan Ji is a living example of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, showing that when we rise above boundaries and consider everyone as our own, it strengthens trust, brotherhood and equality in society. I once again wish Mohan Ji a long and healthy life in service of Maa Bharti.

Author is the Prime Minister of India

World Suicide Prevention Day Hope Beyond Despair: Preventing Suicide Together

Press Information Bureau

World Suicide Prevention Day is observed since 2003 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), with the World Health Organization (WHO) as co-sponsor. The day mobilises governments, organisations and the public around one message: Suicide is preventable. The triennial theme for World Suicide Prevention Day (2024-2026) is "Changing the Narrative on Suicide". This theme calls on us all to challenge harmful myths, reduce stigma, and foster open, compassionate conversations around suicide.

This day holds significance as every year, over 727,000 people die by suicide globally (2021 figures), and for each death, an estimated 20 suicide attempts are made. In 2021, suicide was the third leading cause of death among 15-29-year-olds globally underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive intervention strategies.

Suicide in India: Magnitude, Trends, and Key Demographics

India accounts for a third of global female suicides annually and nearly a fourth of male

suicides. On an average, more than 100,000 lives are lost to suicide in India each year. The underlining factors include:

Overall Prevalence: In India, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics showed a consistent, concerning rise in suicide rates from 9.9 per lakh population in 2017 to 12.4 per lakh population in 2022.

Geographic Variations: The incidence rates of suicide vary across states, ranging from 0.6 per 100,000 population in Bihar to 43.1 per 100,000 population in Sikkim. The southern cities of Vijayawada (42.6 per 100,000 population) and Kollam (42.5 per 100,000 population) reported the highest rates in 2022.

Delhi Metro's 2024 Campaign Marked World Suicide Prevention Day

In 2024, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched a special awareness campaign to observe World Suicide Prevention Day. The initiative aimed to foster greater understanding, compassion, and support for individuals dealing with mental health challenges.

As part of the campaign, DMRC placed banners and digital displays at key Metro stations across Delhi, carrying messages of hope and resilience. The awareness drive also extended

to online platforms, with active engagement on social media to spark conversations around mental well-being.

By reaching out to passengers through both visual and digital mediums, the 2024 campaign further strengthened DMRC's commitment to building a supportive environment and spreading awareness on the importance of mental health.

Manodarpan Initiative

Manodarpan is a nationwide initiative by the Ministry of Education (formerly MHRD), launched under the broader Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, to provide psychosocial support for the mental health and emotional well-being of students, teachers, and families. Key components of the initiative include:

Web Portal: Resources, FAQs, posters, videos, and tips for mental well-being.
24x7 Toll-Free Helpline (8448440632): Tele-counseling by trained psychologists.
Counselor Directory: National database of counselors across schools, colleges, and universities.

Publications: 21st Century Skills Handbook to build resilience and life skills.
Interactive Platforms: Online tools, chatbots, and apps for psychological support.

How Can You Help

Way Forward

India is advancing suicide prevention through a comprehensive set of initiatives. The National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS), launched in 2022, aims to cut suicide mortality by 10% by 2030. To expand access, the Tele-MANAS helpline now operates 53 cells across 36 states and UTs, handling over a million calls, while the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) covers 767 districts with community-level crisis care. Mental health services have also been integrated into over 1.78 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, alongside strengthened capacity in AIIMS, Centres of Excellence, and government medical colleges. For young people, the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), the School Health & Wellness Programme, and the Manodarpan initiative provide critical support in schools and communities. Together, these efforts reflect India's holistic, multi-tiered approach to mainstreaming mental health and reducing suicides.

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<https://www.iasp.info/wspd/about/>
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The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

Rana attends tribal conference at Anantnag

KT News Desk

Anantnag, Sep 10: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Wednesday attended a Tribal Conference in Anantnag, where he addressed a diverse audience comprising legislators, tribal leaders, intellectuals, community representatives and members of civil society.

Legislators Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Altaf Kaloo, Zafar Ali Khatana, Abdul Majeed Bhat and Reyaz Ahmad Khan also attended the conference.

In his keynote address, the Minister reiterated the critical need for de-centralised and participative planning as the foundation for inclusive and sustainable development in tribal areas.

He stated that empowering communities at the grassroots level, particularly through the involvement of local legislators, is essential to ensuring that government initiatives are both responsive and effective.

“The path to meaningful development lies in understanding local realities. When planning is de-centralised and participative, it leads to solutions that are grounded, inclusive, and truly transformative,” he said. “A collaborative, de-centralised approach—rooted in equity and inclusion—is the way forward to ensure that no community is left behind.”

The Minister outlined the core priorities of the Department of Tribal Affairs, which include strengthening healthcare, improving educational access, enhancing

rural and digital connectivity, promoting skill development and revitalising traditional livelihoods.

He announced that multiple programs are currently being formulated to bridge service delivery gaps, particularly in remote tribal regions.

Rana gave special emphasis to the conferring of forest rights through Forest Rights Committees (FRCs), calling it a key instrument of legal and economic empowerment for tribal communities.

During the conference organised by a prominent media house in Anantnag, the minister highlighting the importance of cultural preservation, Minister Rana stressed that the government is committed to protecting tribal languages, customs, and heritage through the Tribal Research Institute (TRI), which is playing a pivotal role in documentation, research, and cultural programming across tribal regions.

The Minister also spoke at length about the government's plans to promote livelihood generation through traditional tribal occupations such as milk and meat production and wool processing—sectors that not only offer sustainable economic avenues but also help preserve tribal identity.

Reaffirming the government's vision, Rana stated that empowering tribal communities is not just a policy objective but a foundational commitment of the present dispensation and encouraged tribal youth to take up creative entrepreneurship.

Minister Sharma assesses supply position, transportation in J&K

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 10: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today convened a high-level review meeting to assess the supply position and transportation of essential commodities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director, JKSRTC, Rakesh Sarangal; Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan; and other senior officers of the concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Minister was briefed about the daily deployment of trucks and the lifting of food grains and other essential commodities to ensure uninterrupted supplies to both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

It was given out in the that in Kashmir Division, 210 trucks are being deployed every day, lifting 20,000 quintals of essential commodities. Similarly, in the Jammu Division, 190 trucks are deployed daily, lifting 16,150 quintals.



In total, 400 trucks are engaged across both divisions, lifting nearly 36,150 quintals of essential commodities per day, the meeting was informed.

Addressing the officers, Satish Sharma emphasized that timely supply of food grains, LPG and other essentials is the top priority of the Government, especially in view of the prevailing weather conditions. He called upon the officers to maintain uninterrupted essential supplies across all districts.

The Minister further directed the officers to maintain close coordination

between FCS&CA, Transport Department, and JKSRTC to guarantee smooth logistics and last-mile delivery.

The Minister also instructed that adequate buffer stocks be maintained in vulnerable and far-flung areas so that people do not face any hardship. He further appreciated the efforts of the transport authorities and drivers working round-the-clock for keeping supply chain functional.

He reiterated the Government's commitment towards ensuring food security and uninterrupted delivery of essentials to every household in Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Poonch reviews drug control measures



KT News Desk

Poonch, Sep 10: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the action taken to control drug abuse and strengthen enforcement measures to keep check on narcotic trade in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; PO ICDS Khalid Hussain Wafa; DFO (T), DYSP DAR Khaliq H. Choudhary; Chief Education Officer, Mukhtar; ARTO Basharat Mehmood; DSWO Khalil Ahmed Bandy; Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid; Tehsildar Mandi, Ashfaq Hussain, Drug Inspector and Heads of Degree Colleges. SDMs & Tehsildars of Surankote, Mendhar, Balakote and Mankote joined the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, detailed reports were presented by the SDMs and Tehsildars regarding the situation in their respective jurisdictions. They highlighted

issues of drug abuse, peddling and addiction, along with the measures undertaken to control the menace.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the education department to intensify awareness campaigns in schools and Colleges. The monitoring of shops near schools and colleges was also stressed to prevent the sale of drug-related items.

To ensure compliance and safety on roads, the DC instructed Tehsildars to set up nakas to check helmet usage and enforce 'no helmet no fuel' directive for two Wheeler riders. He further asked the Tehsildars to support the forest department in identifying and destroying cannabis in the district.

In another significant directive, the ARTO was asked to conduct a special testing drive to assess drivers, while the Drug Inspector and Tehsildars were instructed to thoroughly review CCTV footage from chemist shops and other relevant locations to detect any suspicious or illegal activity.

Union Textiles Secy inaugurates AFQA lab at SKUAST-K Shuhama

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 10: Union Textiles Secretary, Neelam Shami Rao Wednesday inaugurated the Animal Fibre Quality Assurance (AFQA) Laboratory at Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry (FVSc & AH), SKUAST-Kashmir, Shuhama Campus.

Addressing officers and stakeholders meeting, the Union Secretary underlined the government's commitment to protecting the purity and sanctity of Pashmina, describing it as the “gold standard” of India's natural fibres.

She said that the Ministry is working towards creating a vibrant testing and certification ecosystem for Pashmina and other animal fibres. “Certification, numbering, and coding must be smarter so that every labelled product is traceable. In the next two to three years, we should have reliable data on the number of genuine Pashmina products entering the market,” the Secretary said.

Neelam Shami Rao assured that the Ministry would work closely with Customs, BIS, and the Ministry of Environment and Forest to evolve a consensus-driven solution that balances industry requirements with wildlife and animal rights concerns.

She stressed the need for expanding the testing infrastructure closer to production areas to reduce logistical challenges.

“We do not want your products to travel to Dehradun, Delhi or Hong Kong for testing. The capacity of existing labs must be augmented, and

if more labs are required, the Textiles Ministry will infuse additional funds,” the Union Secretary announced.

On branding, Neelam Shami Rao said that the Textiles Ministry is working on a unified Pashmina branding initiative under a “Bharat Ka Fabric” campaign, integrating GI tagging and certification under a single label to avoid duplication. “Pashmina is not just a Kashmir story, it is India's story. We will promote it globally through multi-forum branding, sourcing magazines, and digital platforms,” she said.

Union Secretary also highlighted the need to take the benefits of government interventions directly to artisans and weavers and called for measures to ensure better access to raw material, design support, upskilling opportunities, and improved earnings. “Artisans receive only a small fraction of the final market value of their products. We must create mechanisms that protect their livelihood and preserve the art form. What is niche must remain niche and be promoted as luxury,” the Secretary remarked.

“Upskilling must be a continuous process. Protecting and empowering workers is critical because if the artisan perishes, the art perishes,” she said, emphasizing the importance of linking consumers with the stories of the crafts they wear.

Assuring stakeholders that their concerns on standardization and regulatory frameworks will be addressed within the next two months through inter-ministerial consultations, with a roadmap

expected by the end of the current quarter, Union Secretary also suggested including J&K government representation in future consultative committees while reviewing the Textile Committee Act.

Earlier, Union Secretary welcomed by the Dean, FVSc & AH, followed by a presentation on laboratory activities by the Head of the Division of Livestock Products Technology and a presentation on the development of Pashmina Mark by the Textiles Committee.

The event also featured addresses by the Presidents of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Kashmir Pashmina Organization, and Pashmina Exporters & Manufacturers Organization, who shared their insights on product diversification and promotion of knitted Pashmina products to boost exports.

Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Kashmir, Nazir Ahmad Khan expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Textiles for strengthening the region's fibre testing infrastructure and promoting artisan welfare.

Union Secretary also visited exhibition stalls displaying local products, witnessed demonstrations of laboratory activities, and interacted with key stakeholders from the Pashmina industry.

Joint Secretary, MoT, Padmini Singla; Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, P. Sivakumar; Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Mussarat Zia; Director IIC, Zubair Ahmad and other senior officers also accompanied the Union Secretary during her tour to SKUAST-K Shuhama.

DC Reasi visits land sinking sites to assess damages

KT News Desk

Reasi, Sep 10: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik Wednesday visited Mahore Subdivision to assess damages caused by land sinking and adverse weather conditions in Sarh and Jamslan villages.

During the visit, the DC inspected the landslide-affected stretches of the Arnas-Mahore-Dharmari highway and directed the XENs to ensure round-the-clock deployment of machinery for fast-tracking restoration works.

She also inspected houses and agricultural land affected by heavy rain at Saral village in Dharmari. She instructed revenue officers to submit relief cases to the District Relief Committee at the earliest to ensure timely disbursement of compensation to the affected families.

At Sarh and Jamslan, where several houses were completely damaged due to land sinking, the DC took stock of the situation and informed that all residents have been safely evacuated to relief camps. She personally visited the relief camps, interacted with affected families and reviewed the facilities being provided to them.

The Deputy Commissioner directed SDMs to ensure availability of all basic amenities in the camps, including adequate

ration, safe drinking water, and electricity. She assured that additional relief material would be supplied as per requirements and directed the Health Department to conduct regular medical check-ups of all camp residents.

Responding to the demands of locals, DC Nidhi Malik informed that the issue of permanent settlement for the affected families has already been flagged to higher authorities, while the damages in Mahore Subdivision have been apprised to the visiting IMCT Central Team. She also announced that partially damaged houses would be repaired under MGNREGA, while restoration work on the Dewal-Gulabgarh road is in progress.

The DC directed GREF officials to expedite the restoration of the Badora Nallah Bridge, while instructing the XEN Flood Irrigation, Dharmari to formulate a long-term mitigation plan to prevent future flooding.

Appreciating the tireless efforts of officers and staff working in challenging conditions, the DC informed that ration and essential supplies are being continuously distributed across all affected areas. SDM Mahore Shafqat Majeed Bhat, SDM Dharmari Tariq Aziz, XENs of different departments and other concerned officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

CEO Ramban inspects schools to ensure safe reopening

KT News Desk

Ramban, Sep 10: Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ramban Mohammad Sultan Khan Wednesday conducted inspection of different schools in the Education Zones of Ramban and Batote to assess their preparedness for reopening and resumption of class work post heavy rainfall. During the visit, the CEO issued necessary directions to the Heads of

Institutions to ensure timely coverage of syllabus by arranging extra classes wherever required. He instructed heads of damaged school buildings to shift to identified safe rented accommodations to ensure uninterrupted education for students. The CEO emphasized that the safety of students and staff remains the top priority but minimizing academic loss and ensuring continuity of learning is also imperative.

Suicide Prevention Day GCOE hosts awareness seminar

KT News Desk

Jammu, Sep 10: To raise awareness about mental health and suicide prevention, Psychological Counseling Cell of Government College of Education Jammu organized a special seminar on World Suicide Prevention Day observed annually on September 10.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Principal of the College Dr. Jyoti Parihar. She applauded the initiative and highlighted the college's ongoing efforts to provide counseling services and mental health resources for students. She said that education is not just about academics. It is also about building resilience, empathy and a strong support system.

Dr. Ambica Kumari, HOD Department of Psychology and Convenor Psychological counseling cell was the Resource Person. She emphasized the importance of recognizing warning signs and building a supportive community. “Mental health should be a priority, not a taboo. Together, a safe space can be created where everyone feels heard and supported,” she

said. “Your life matters. You are not alone. If you're ever feeling overwhelmed, please know that there are people who care about you, who want to help, and who are ready to listen—whether it's a friend, a teacher, or a professional counselor. We must also remember that suicide prevention is not a one-day event. It is an ongoing effort that involves awareness, education, empathy and action,” she added.

The seminar, held at the college auditorium, featured expert talk, student testimonials, and interactive sessions aimed at educating the participants about the importance of early intervention, emotional support and destigmatizing mental health issues. The event also included a pledge ceremony where participants committed to being mental health allies.

Faculty members Dr. Rajinder Kour, Prof. Anuradha Choudhary, Dr. Sushma Bala, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Dr. Shalini Sharma, Dr. Rakesh Bhatti, Dr. Shailu Jasrotia, Prof. Roopa Kumari, Prof. Kiran Thappa and Dr. Sonam Gandotra attended the Seminar.

DC Kishtwar hands over tractor key to HADP beneficiary

KT News Desk

Kishtwar, September 10: As part of ongoing efforts to empower farmers and promote agricultural mechanization, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma Wednesday handed over a tractor key to a farmer, Mohammed Shafi, from the far-flung area of Nowpachi, Sub Division Marwah under the Farm Mechanization and Automation Scheme of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for the year 2025-26.

The farmer received a 50% subsidy, with a maximum limit of 4.5 lakh, to facilitate the adoption of modern farming practices in remote areas.



During the event, DC Kishtwar interacted with the beneficiary and gathered insights on how the tractor would be utilized to enhance

agricultural productivity in the region.

So far, four tractors have already been provided to farmer beneficiaries under the same

scheme in the District.

The Agriculture Department is extending subsidies ranging from 50% to 90% under various HADP initiatives to support farmers across the district.

The DC urged the farmers to take advantage of the scheme to promote farm mechanization, which will enhance agricultural efficiency, reduce labour requirements and improve crop production and productivity in an economical and time-effective manner.

The event was attended by ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, CAO Kishtwar Kushal Chandel, DAO Kishtwar Rajeshwar Singh Rana, SDO Kishtwar Manzoor Ahmed Zarger, SDAO Marwah Sushel Sharma and SDAO Paddar Dheeraj Singh.

DC Jammu provides Rs 1.63 Cr to construction workers

KT News Desk

Jammu Sep 10: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas Wednesday released financial assistance of Rs. 1 crore 63 lakh 78 thousand in favour of 3595 wards of registered construction workers.

The financial assistance has been provided under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board schemes, covering death, funeral assistance, chronic assistance as well as educational assistance.

ALC Dr. Rupali Jasrotia highlighted the core objective of the BOCWWB schemes. She said the schemes offer financial assistance under different components to support the registered construction workers.

The Deputy Commissioner lauded the efforts of the Labour



Department in extending financial support to economically disadvantaged laborers. He emphasised the need to ensure that the maximum number of beneficiaries avail the government welfare schemes.

Stressing the administrative

commitment, the DC stated that the economic and social security of the labour class is a top priority. He further stated that the initiative also aims to enhance the economic potential of laborers, ensuring their financial stability.

Bisleri International inaugurates 12 lakh litre water reservoir in Ladakh's Nubra Valley

Company's 3 reservoirs supply water to over 500 families for irrigation

KNO Correspondent

Leh, Sept 10: Bisleri International, India's leading packaged drinking water company, inaugurated its third reservoir in Nubra Valley, Ladakh, under its flagship initiative, Project Nayi Umeed.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the reservoir, with a capacity to hold nearly 12 lakh (or 1.2 million) litres of water, has been repaired and restored to ensure a reliable irrigation supply for farming communities in the region.

The initiative was launched in collaboration with the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, with the Ladakh Marathon acting as the implementing agency. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Rigzen Lundup, Councillor - Tegar Constituency.

The restored reservoir is connected to the Lakjung Irrigation Canal, which originates from the Shyok River and runs for approximately 14 kilometers. The canal provides critical irrigation to three major villages, stretching from Lakjung Trith up to Sumoor Village, and supports around 7,000 kanals (875 acres) of farmland. By ensuring



a steady water supply, this project is expected to benefit 300 hundred farming families and strengthen the agricultural production in the Nubra Valley.

Speaking on the occasion, K. Ganesh, Director - Sustainability & Corporate Affairs, Bisleri International, said, "Ensuring water security is critical for communities that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The restoration of the third reservoir in

Nubra Valley represents another step forward in strengthening agricultural resilience and empowering farming families in Ladakh. With every project under Nayi Umeed, we aim to provide long-term sustainable solutions that help secure livelihoods, support food security, and bring enduring prosperity to the region."

Adding his perspective, Rigzen Lundup, Councillor - Tegar Constituency, said,

"Communities in Ladakh face increasing challenges due to rising temperatures and fluctuating snowfall, which reduce the availability of water for irrigation. In this context, restoration of the reservoir is a significant achievement that directly addresses our water needs. We are grateful for Bisleri's continued commitment to Nubra Valley, and this project will enhance agricultural productivity and improve the lives of our farming

families."

Chewang Motup, Founder & CEO, Ladakh Marathon mentioned, "As an implementing agency, we are proud to collaborate with Bisleri and LAHDC, Leh, in bringing this project to life. The restored reservoir not only ensures water availability but also showcases the power of partnerships in building climate-resilient communities in Ladakh."

This marks the third successful reservoir restoration project by Bisleri in Nubra Valley. Previously, in 2023 & 2024, the company restored reservoirs in Sumoor Village, benefiting over 200 households and ensuring irrigation for vast agricultural lands.

Pertinently, these initiatives carried out under Project Nayi Umeed, a part of the Bisleri Greener Promise philosophy, which underscores the company's dedication to combating climate change, ensuring access to safe and healthy water, and creating a robust circular economy. To date, Project Nayi Umeed has built or restored 336 check dams, harvesting nearly 28 billion litres of water, benefiting over 64,362 farmers family members across India, and irrigated more than 20,878 acres of land.

Poonch: Land still shifting at Kalaban Geologists assess slope condition evaluate risk



Yogesh

Poonch, Sept 10: Days after a massive landslide struck Kalaban village in Poonch district, teams of geologists have been deployed to assess the slope conditions and evaluate the risk of further ground movement, officials said on Wednesday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the landslide damaged over two dozen homes in Kalaban, displacing residents and forcing many to relocate to temporary shelters.

"Immediate relief work is continuing, however, the focus has now expanded to understanding the underlying geological causes of the event," said an official, adding, "The land is still shifting, and further collapse in surrounding areas remains a possibility."

He said that geologists are currently conducting field studies to measure soil saturation levels, map fracture zones, and evaluate the structural integrity of the slope.

"Early observations suggest that prolonged rainfall and water infiltration have weakened the hill's subsurface layers, contributing to the slide," he said, adding, "Teams are using both surface-level inspections and remote sensing data to build a clearer picture of how the terrain has responded to recent weather patterns."

"The outcome of these assessments will be critical in determining whether nearby households and infrastructure are at continued risk. Some areas, already marked as unsafe, may see extended evacuation orders, depending on the findings," the official said, adding that they are also considering whether slope reinforcement or controlled relocation will be required in parts of the village.

Experts are of the opinion that an integrated slope monitoring system, including early-warning sensors and community alerts, may be necessary in these high-risk zones.

The administration has stated that the findings will guide future land-use decisions and infrastructure planning in hill regions where shifting terrain is becoming increasingly common.

Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, who visited the area said that the landslide had caused extensive damage in Kalaban village, with nearly 25 houses completely destroyed and several others developing structural cracks.

He said that a significant portion of the village had been affected, rendering the area unfit for habitation. He further stated that directions had been issued to the local administration to ensure relief assistance reaches the impacted families, assuring that the government is actively involved in supporting the affected residents. (KNO)

School building in Kangan's Badipathri Thune develop cracks

Raja Syed Rather

Kangan, Sept 10: A government school building in Badipathri Thune in Kangan area has developed visible cracks that triggered alarm over the safety of children studying in the institute.

Parents of those students studying in the school said that the condition of the educational institute has left them anxious.

"The building is no longer safe. We urge the administration to construct a new school building so our children can study without fear. This is a genuine demand," said one of the parents.

The parents further said that they cannot put their wards at risk by sending them to the

classrooms that are unsafe. "Every day we drop our children at school with fear in our hearts. We don't know if the building will hold up. The government must act before something unfortunate happens," they said.

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ganderbal, Oneel Kumar Bhat, said that it will speak about the issue with the higher-ups. "If cracks have developed, students will be shifted to a safer location immediately. I will also seek a detailed report from the concerned ZEO," he assured.

Locals, however, stressed that temporary measures would not suffice, urging authorities to find permanent solution to ensure safety of both residents and school children of the area. (KNO)

Swiss environmentalist urges creation of wildlife corridors to protect Kashmir's endangered species

Claude Fischer says rising urbanisation, human presence in natural areas pose major threat

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 10: Swiss environmentalist Claude Fischer on his maiden visit to Kashmir, has stressed the need for creating safe habitats and corridors to ensure wildlife survives alongside growing urbanisation.

Speaking to reporters during the inauguration of the 2nd International Conference on Hangul and other threatened ungulates at SKUAST Srinagar, Fischer said species like the Hangul, Kashmir's endangered red deer, face threats due to shrinking spaces and increasing human presence in natural areas.

"It is crucial to secure habitats and corridors for wildlife to thrive alongside humans. With rapid urbanisation, safeguarding species such as the Hangul and red deer demands greater awareness, effective management, and a balanced coexistence between people and nature," Fischer said, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

Asked about Hangul's declining numbers in Kashmir, the environmentalist admitted he recently learned about

the subspecies but stressed that sustaining wildlife populations requires space, genetic flow, and connectivity between different groups. "It is really important that animals have corridors to move, interact and adapt to changing conditions," he added.

Drawing parallels with Switzerland, Fischer said poaching there is controlled through strong ranger presence and community sensitisation. "We make people aware of how animals live so that they are not seen as a threat but as a species that must be protected," he said.

The Swiss environmentalist also highlighted road expansion and valley-crossing routes as potential threats to Kashmir's fragile wildlife corridors. "Roads often cut through habitats, disturbing animal movement. This is something that needs to be addressed carefully," he said.

Fischer said he has not yet planned visits to Kashmir's protected areas but expressed interest in exploring the region's unique biodiversity. "It is a beautiful landscape, but urbanisation and road development may be the biggest challenge for wildlife here," he added. (KNO)

JKMC issues guidelines for private de-addiction clinics

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Medical Council (JKMC) has issued fresh directives aimed at regulating privately owned de-addiction clinics in order to curb the misuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances in the Union Territory.

According to the public notice issued by JKMC, a copy of which lies with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Council has taken serious cognizance of the misuse of privately owned de-addiction centres, raising concerns about the unregulated prescription and dispensation of Buprenorphine-Naloxone and other similar drugs.

Officials said such practices pose a direct threat to public health and safety, necessitating strict intervention.

"In the larger interest of public health, it has become imperative to regulate the practice relating to de-addiction treatment and the prescription/dispensation of Buprenorphine-Naloxone and other narcotic/psychotropic substances," the notice reads.

The JKMC has now made it mandatory for any medical practitioner seeking Permanent Registration



with the Council — specifically for the purpose of providing de-addiction treatment or prescribing, dispensing narcotic or psychotropic substances — to submit an affidavit.

The notification states that the affidavit, to be sworn before a Judicial Magistrate of First Class, must be in strict accordance with the format prescribed by the Council.

Officials added that this step is aimed at ensuring accountability and transparency among practitioners operating in the sensitive field of addiction treatment.

"The misuse of de-addiction centres not only hampers

recovery but also risks worsening the drug abuse crisis. These new measures are meant to protect patients and regulate medical practices," said a senior health department officer.

The notification comes at a time when Jammu and Kashmir is grappling with a surge in drug addiction cases, with government reports highlighting an alarming rise in substance abuse, particularly among youth.

Experts say proper regulation of de-addiction centers is essential to prevent these facilities from becoming hubs of misuse rather than recovery.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Jammu-Srinagar highway

Raja Adil Hamid, said vehicles were continuously getting stuck in the affected Thud section of Udhampur at several spots and were being extracted with the help of machines and manpower. "NHAI has cleared debris and marshland to build a temporary road on a 300-metre stretch, but normal traffic will only be restored after further improvements," he added.

From around 9:30 am until Wednesday evening, hundreds of vehicles were cleared from the affected sector.

SSP (Traffic) Rural Kashmir, Ravinder Paul Singh, said light vehicular movement has already been restored and HMVs from the Kashmir side are likely to be released towards Jammu tomorrow. "Many trucks and LPG tankers have been diverted via the Mughal Road. There is no deficit of essentials in Kashmir. As soon as we get the green signal, HMVs will be released from the Kashmir side," he said.

The SSP advised commuters to strictly follow traffic rules and advisories to avoid further disruptions. (KNO)

J&K govt invokes

papers" as they are integral to the deliberative process."

The FAA said that "Under examination" implies receipt for vetting, but specifics could expose timelines, risking interference. "No contradiction or misleading exists; the response

protects statutory confidentiality," reads the order. (KNO)

SIA conducts

over to Pakistan.

"Initially, the FIR No. 98 of 2005 was registered in Police Station Bijbehara and was subsequently transferred to SIA Kashmir for specialized investigation in 2023. So far, SIA Kashmir has successfully filed a charge sheet against four persons including the Ex-MLA and his private secretary whereas a hunt for others is underway."

Fresh raids in the case mark the unrelenting efforts of SIA Kashmir to gather evidence and bring all the accused persons to justice, the spokesman added. (KNO)

BJP leadership visits

has fortunately been minimal, the destruction of crops is widespread, and the livelihood of hundreds of families has been badly hit," Sharma said.

He further said that the district administration has already prepared and forwarded the damage assessment report to higher authorities.

"We have been assured that once the final report is submitted, the affected people will be compensated under a special flood relief package that will be Prime Minister and Home Minister," he said.

Sharma also revealed that Union Home

Minister Amit Shah had intended to visit Kashmir during his recent trip to Jammu, but due to inclement weather, he had to cut short his visit. "This reflects the seriousness of the government at the highest level towards addressing the concerns of the people," he said.

During the interaction, locals highlighted the recurring issue of waterlogging and damaged road connectivity, saying that during heavy rains their roads remain submerged, leaving them unable to step out of their homes.

Sat Sharma assured the villagers that this concern would be taken up with the concerned authorities on priority.

LoP Sunil Sharma is expected to meet the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha later today to apprise him of the situation and press for immediate relief measures. "Our efforts will continue for the welfare of the people, and we will not rest until adequate compensation and long-term preventive measures are put in place," Sat Sharma said. (KNO)

NRPC flags poor

with their respective STUs to avoid frequent tripping and to ensure proper maintenance of lines prone to recurrent faults.

In the meeting, Operation Coordination Sub-Committee (OCC) forum took cognizance of the issue and asked Haryana, Punjab, and J&K SLDC to coordinate with their respective STUs to avoid frequent tripping and to ensure proper

maintenance of lines prone to recurrent faults.

"Further, forum asked POWERGRID to share with the respective STUs and SLDCs the details of transmission lines experiencing frequent faults," it reads. (KNO)

Govt committed to

will infuse additional funds," she said.

On branding, Rao outlined the "Bharat Ka Fabric" initiative, integrating GI tagging and certification under a single label.

"Pashmina is not just a Kashmir story; it is India's story. We will promote it globally through multi-forum branding, sourcing magazines and digital platforms," she added.

Highlighting artisan welfare, Secretary Rao said artisans receive only a small fraction of the final market value of their products. We must create mechanisms that protect their livelihood and preserve the art form, she said.

"What is specialised must remain a high-value segment and be promoted as a luxury. Protecting and empowering workers is critical because if the artisan perishes, the art perishes," she said.

Rao also called for better access to raw materials, design support, upskilling opportunities, and improved earnings for artisans. (KNO)

CM's Advisor seeks

will advise us on the measures that need to be taken," Wani said, as per KNO.

The Chief Minister's Advisor said that the flood threat has become a persistent problem for Jammu and Kashmir, as the region faces a flood-like situation after every rainfall. "Whether it's because our rivers have insufficient capacity, or our primary flood channels need to be cleared, or our outfall channels need to be expanded and these all need to be included in an integrated flood mitigation program. And as I have said before, we will bring a renewed and expedited plan soon, and we will present it," he said. (KNO)

IPS officer A G Mir

follows his repatriation from central deputation and subsequent joining of the AGMUT cadre. (KNO)

'Now we pay to throw

as required. That hope too is fading now," Bashir said.

He added that the Mughal Road, which could have served as a vital alternative, remains underutilised for fruit-laden trucks. "At a time when every day counts, this route has not been fully opened. It adds to the losses of growers," he said.

Moreover, the growers' union appealed for urgent highway restoration on a war footing. "If work is carried out round the clock, the season can still be saved," Bashir said, warning of a ripple effect on the Valley's economy if the crisis drags on. (KNO)

India, US continuing negotiations to address trade barriers: Trump

PTI

New York/Washington, Sept 10: Signalling a thaw in the bilateral chill between India and the US, President Donald Trump has said he feels "certain" that there will be "no difficulty" for the two countries to come to a "successful conclusion" in trade talks and he looks forward to speaking with his "very good friend" Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the coming weeks.

In a post on Truth Social on Tuesday, the US president said he was "pleased to announce that India, and the United States of America, are continuing negotiations to address the Trade Barriers between our two Nations." "I look forward to speaking with my very good friend, Prime Minister Modi, in the upcoming weeks. I feel certain that there will be no difficulty in coming to a successful conclusion for both of our Great Countries!" he said.

Responding to the post, Prime Minister Modi in a post on X on Wednesday, expressed confidence that the ongoing negotiations will pave the way for unlocking the limitless potential of the partnership between them.

India and the US are close friends and natural partners, Modi said, adding that both countries are working to conclude the trade discussions at the earliest.

He said, "I am also looking forward to speaking with President



Trump. We will work together to secure a brighter, more prosperous future for both our people."

Trump shared the Prime Minister's post on his social media platform.

Trump's latest comments signal a significant thaw in bilateral relations as ties between the two countries reeled under possibly the worst phase in over two decades amid tensions over tariffs and Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

Trump has doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 percent, including a 25 percent additional duty for India's purchase of Russian crude oil.

India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

After months of critical

rhetoric against India, Trump had last week said that India and the US have a "special relationship" and there's nothing to worry about as the two countries "just have moments on occasion".

"I always will. I'll always be friends with Modi, he's a great Prime Minister. He's great. I'll always be friends, but I just don't like what he's doing at this particular moment," Trump had said in the Oval Office on Friday.

"But India and the United States have a special relationship. There's nothing to worry about. We just have moments on occasion," Trump said, with a smile.

Responding to the comments, Modi on Saturday said that he deeply appreciates Trump's positive assessment of India-US

relations.

"Deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties," Modi said.

"India and the US have a very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership," he said.

Trump had also said that he is "very disappointed" that India would be buying so much oil from Russia. "...I've been very disappointed that India would be buying so much oil... from Russia, and I let them know that. We put a very big tariff on India, 50 per cent tariff, very high tariff. I get along very well with Modi, he's great. He was here a couple of months ago," he said in response to a question on his social media post that the

PM Modi says he looks forward to speaking with Trump

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 10: New Delhi- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday reacted warmly to US President Donald Trump's positive assessment of trade talks between the two countries, expressing confidence that the ongoing negotiations will pave the way for unlocking the limitless potential of the partnership between them.

India and the US are close friends and natural partners, Modi said on X, adding that both countries are working to conclude the trade discussions at the earliest.

He said, "I am also looking forward to speaking with President Trump. We will work together to secure a brighter, more

prosperous future for both our people."

Modi's comments came hours after Trump said he feels certain that there will be "no difficulty" for the two countries to come to a successful conclusion in trade talks and he looks forward to speaking with his "very good friend" Modi in the coming weeks.

After weeks of strain in ties over Trump's tough rhetoric following his decision to impose 50 per cent tariff on India, the relations between the two countries have shown signs of a thaw of late.

This is the second time of late when Trump has spoken highly of his country's ties with India and mixed it with his praise of Modi, who has positively reacted to his comments.

US has lost India and Russia to China. Defending its purchase of Russian crude oil, India has been maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics. India turned to purchasing Russian oil sold at a discount after Western countries imposed sanctions

on Moscow and shunned its supplies over its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

In the Truth Social post, Trump had said that "Looks like we've lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest, China. May they have a long and prosperous future together!" Trump had also posted an

old photo of Prime Minister Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping. The post came days after the bonhomie among Modi, Xi and Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global attention.

Optimism over US-India trade talks

Sensex rises 323 points, Nifty rallies for sixth day

PTI

Mumbai, Sept 10: Benchmark Sensex rose by 323 points while Nifty closed higher for the sixth consecutive day on Wednesday (September 10, 2025) amid renewed optimism over a successful conclusion in India-U.S. trade talks. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 323.83 points or 0.40%, to settle at 81,425.15, registering its third straight day of gain. During the day, it jumped 542.56 points or 0.66% to 81,643.88.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 104.50 points or 0.42%, to 24,973.10. A rally in IT and capital goods shares and hopes that the U.S. Federal Reserve will cut interest rates next week also instilled optimism in the markets.

Among Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Infosys and State Bank of India were among the major gainers.

However, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, Tata Motors and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards.

Signalling a thaw in the bilateral chill between India and the U.S., President Donald Trump has said he feels "certain" that there will be "no difficulty" for the two countries to come to a "successful conclusion" in trade talks and he looks forward to speaking with his "very good friend" Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the coming weeks.

In a post on Truth Social on Tuesday (September 9, 2025), the U.S. President said he was "pleased to announce that India and the United States of America



are continuing negotiations to address the Trade Barriers between our two Nations."

"I look forward to speaking with my very good friend, Prime Minister Modi, in the upcoming weeks. I feel certain that there will be no difficulty in coming to a successful conclusion for both of our Great Countries!" he said.

Responding to the post, Prime Minister Modi in a post on X on Wednesday (September 10, 2025) expressed confidence that the ongoing negotiations will pave the way for unlocking the limitless potential of the partnership between them.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Renewed optimism around ongoing trade negotiations between India and the U.S. lifted market sentiment. Anticipation of stronger H2 FY26 earnings, driven by GST rationalisation and the benefits of monetary easing, is providing resilience to valuations."

He further said that the IT index extended its outperformance on

hopes of a potential Fed rate cut next week and a revival in technology spending.

"Investors remain focused on the progress of India-US trade talks for signals of a constructive resolution to tariff-related issues," he said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory.

Markets in Europe were trading higher. U.S. markets ended higher on Tuesday (September 9, 2025).

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Tuesday (September 9, 2025) after days of offloading equities. They bought stocks worth 2,050.46 crore, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.65% to \$66.82 a barrel.

On Tuesday (September 9, 2025), the Sensex climbed 314.02 points or 0.39%, to settle at 81,101.32. The Nifty rallied 95.45 points or 0.39% to 24,868.60, registering its fifth day of gain.

India's auto industry to be No. 1 in 5 years: Gadkari

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 10: The government's aim is to make India's automobile industry number one in the world within five years, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

The future of Indian automobile industry is very good as the country has trained manpower, Gadkari said while addressing an event here, highlighting that all big automobile companies are present in the country.

"Within five years, our target is to make India's automobile industry the number 1 in the world... it is difficult, but not impossible," the road transport and highways minister said.

Gadkari pointed out that the quality of vehicles manufactured in India is good and cost is less, so all top automobile companies are present in the country. "When I took charge as transport minister, the size of Indian automobile industry was Rs 14 lakh crore. The size of Indian automobile industry now is Rs 22 lakh crore," Gadkari said.

Presently, the size of the US automobile industry is Rs 78 lakh crore, followed by China (Rs 47 lakh crore) and India (Rs 22 lakh crore).

Gadkari noted that India is spending Rs 22 lakh crore for importing fossil fuels and because of import of fossil fuels, "we are facing problem of pollution". The minister said Indian companies are manufacturing electric cars, buses and trucks as they are very cost-effective.

"The cost of lithium-ion battery is also reducing. In due course of time, the price of petrol, diesel vehicles and electric vehicle will be the same," Gadkari observed.

The minister pointed out that manufacturing capacity of electric buses



in India was 50,000-60,000 per year, but the country's requirement is 1,00,000 buses per year.

"We need to increase production of electric buses... There is a huge market for exports also. This is the opportunity for electric vehicle companies," he said.

Gadkari said the transport ministry is working to encourage use of flex-fuel engine in agriculture equipment vehicles.

Responding to the growing concern on social media about E20, Gadkari said the petroleum sector is lobbying against this move.

"Everywhere there are lobbies, there are interests...petrol lobby is very rich," he said.

Currently, Indian vehicles can run on E20 petrol with minor changes to the engine to prevent corrosion and other issues. In 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol.

Ethanol, which can be produced from sugarcane, broken rice and other agricultural products, is expected to help reduce India's dependence on foreign oil. India is currently the world's third-largest oil consumer and imports about 88 per cent of its crude oil requirements, making it vulnerable to geopolitical vagaries that can impact crude prices.

MoSPI invites feedback on Draft National Industrial Classification – 2025

PIB

New Delhi, Sept 10: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is the nodal Ministry for setting standards for collection, compilation and dissemination of data. The Ministry is undertaking a number of structural reforms to improve timeliness, quality and granularity of data such as updating the base year of the major indicators, refining methodologies of various surveys to enable local level data collection and updating various statistical classifications. As part of these efforts, the Ministry has now revised its National Industrial Classification (NIC)-2008 and prepared the draft NIC-2025.

The National Industrial Classification (NIC) serves as a foundational tool utilized across multiple domains, including statistical surveys, censuses, economic research, registration processes, and for policy formulation by central and state government agencies. India brought out its first Standard Industrial Classification in 1962. Thereafter, it was regularly revised in consonance with the revisions in the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) to NIC 1970, NIC 1987, NIC 1990, NIC 1998, NIC 2004 and NIC 2008.

A comprehensive revision of the NIC-2008 became due after the approval and adoption of ISIC Revision 5 in 2024 by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The revision was also imperative due to the significant structural and technological changes that have occurred in the Indian economy, including the emergence of new industries, services, and technological advancements that require appropriate inclusion and representation.

The draft NIC-2025 has been formulated under the aegis of an Expert Committee comprising of eminent academicians, economists, industry associations and experts from various domains. Extensive consultations were also done with stakeholders, including central Ministries/ Departments, industry experts, and other relevant organizations.

The draft NIC-2025 is in sync with the ISIC Revision 5 up to the Class (4-Digit) level to ensure comparability of data across countries. The ultimate level (Sub-Class) was used to accommodate the national level requirements. Here special emphasis has been given to the Renewable energy sector, Fintech services, Intermediation activities, AYUSH health system, E-commerce, Digital economy, etc. To accommodate the above, the number of Sub-Classes in the draft NIC-2025 has gone up significantly to around 1900 from 1304 in NIC-2008.

The increase in the number of Sub-Classes is primarily due to the increased granularity brought in sectors like Health, Finance, Agriculture, Information and Telecommunication. These refinements would enable more accurate measurement of contribution of various sectors/ sub-sectors of the economy for their better tracking, coverage and effective policy making.

Considering the importance of National Industrial Classification and its use by diverse stakeholders, MoSPI invites comments and suggestions from all stakeholders, including government agencies, industry representatives, academic institutions and the general public, to ensure that the revised NIC-2025 remains relevant, unambiguous and user-friendly. Comments may please be provided by 20th September, 2025 through email (classification-esd@mospi.nic.in). The subject of the email may please read "Comments on draft NIC 2025". Comments may also be provided through the link: <https://forms.gle/dZeAbDonxYVWV6nQ6>

Draft NIC-2025 can be accessed on MoSPI website on the following link:

https://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/main_menu/national_industrial_classification/Draft_Structure_NIC-2025.xlsx

7 simple habits to relieve post-meal bloating, according to top cardiologist

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Sept 10: That uncomfortable feeling of fullness after a meal can really ruin the day. Bloating is a common digestive issue, and millions of people struggle with it. While persistent bloating requires medical attention, the occasional ones can be avoided by making some lifestyle changes. Dr Alok Chopra, a cardiologist and functional medicine expert, has now shared some simple tips to relieve post-meal bloating. Take a look.

Gut health linked with heart health
Banner Inset
May cause indigestion and bloating

Gut health has a direct impact on your heart health. "As a cardiologist and functional medicine expert, I've seen how gut health impacts overall

health, including your heart," Dr. Chopra said in a note shared on Instagram. The gut-heart connection is real. Studies have shown that gut health has a huge influence on heart health. A recent study looked at the intricate relationship between gut health and cardiovascular function. This bidirectional interaction is known as the gut-heart axis.

Bloated tummy woes? Common remedies to get rid of gas and bloating

A 2024 Harvard study has found that microbes in the gut may affect cardiovascular disease as well. The researchers of the study identified specific species of bacteria that consume cholesterol in the gut and may help lower cholesterol and heart disease risk in people.

Simple habits to prevent post-meal bloating



Dr. Chopra has shared some effective lifestyle habits that can help you beat post-meal bloating and feel your best.

Eat slowly and mindfully
Life has gotten busier than before, and to compensate it, most of us end up eating food in a matter of minutes. It is important to eat slowly and mindfully. This allows your body to recognise when you are full, and prevents overeating and improves digestion. Savour each bite.
Avoid carbonated drinks
You may feel like grabbing a fizzy

drink for freshness, but this habit is putting your body at risk. These beverages are loaded with added sugars or artificial sweeteners that may further irritate the stomach. They trap excess gas in your system and cause bloating.

Watch portion sizes
No matter how sumptuous your meal is, it is important to stick to the right portion size. Overeating can put stress on the gut. This will further lead to sluggish digestion, bloating, and other digestive issues. Limit gas-producing foods
Certain foods can worsen bloating. Limit foods like beans, lentils, and cruciferous veggies (broccoli, cabbage), which could make you feel gassy.

Take a gentle walk after meals
The best way to reduce or prevent post-meal bloating? Take a gentle

walk after meals. This movement will stimulate your digestive system and encourage food to move smoothly through the intestines. It will also help to reduce gas buildup and aid digestion.

Stay hydrated
Your body needs water to function. Drinking adequate water keeps digestion smooth. Even if your hands are full, ensure to keep yourself hydrated.
Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and does not substitute professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Occasional bloating is common; however, persistent or severe symptoms may indicate an underlying condition and should be evaluated by a qualified healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor before making significant changes to your diet, lifestyle, or treatment plan.

Murky pipeline deal to send Russian gas to China shows Beijing’s dominance in relationship

Frankfurt, Sept 10: The head of Russia's state-owned gas company Gazprom says it has a deal to build a pipeline to China, but there are many unanswered questions about the details of the agreement.

On paper, the project — known as the Power of Siberia 2 — would give Russia a way to replace some of the revenue from its decades of selling natural gas to Europe that was lost over its invasion of Ukraine. The pipeline would carry gas from reserves in western Siberia through Mongolia to China.

And what Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller called a “legally binding” memorandum to build the pipeline with the China National Petroleum Co. is a chance for Moscow and Beijing to underline their deepening ties against the United States.

Here are key issues surrounding the Power of Siberia 2 and why it can't completely replace Russia's lost revenue from Europe:

A new link to China
The pipeline would run 6,700 kilometers (4,163 miles) from gas fields in the Yamal Peninsula in western Siberia, past Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia, and then across Mongolia into China. For more than 50 years, Russia earned fat profits sending Yamal gas to Europe through pipelines leading west.

But Russia cut off most pipeline gas to Europe over the war in Ukraine, and the European Union wants to end the remaining trickle of supplies by 2027.



So the new pipeline would be a way to shift those lost gas sales to a big new customer.

The geopolitics of the deal
Power of Siberia 2 would carry 50 billion cubic meters a year to China, compared with the up to 180 billion cubic meters a year that went to Europe — meaning the new pipeline could only make up part of the lost business. It would supplement a previous, smaller Power of Siberia line that carries gas from different fields in eastern Siberia with a capacity of 38 billion cubic meters per year.

Miller's announcement, which came during a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, left out key details. There was no agreement on gas prices or even who would finance the pipeline's construction. Analysts say

the announcement was primarily a chance for Russia and China to underline their closer relationship, and for China to snub supplies of U.S. liquefied natural gas that comes by ship.

India is buying Russian oil despite U.S. President Donald Trump retaliating with 25% tariffs on imports, and China's purchases of U.S. liquefied natural gas are blocked by tariffs imposed as part of China's trade dispute with the Trump administration trade. Meanwhile China has started taking LNG shipments from Russia's Arctic-2 terminal, which has been the target of U.S. and EU sanctions. So the theatrics of the deal are clear.

“You've got this show of Russia, India, China saying, ‘you know what, we don't care about your sanctions, we don't care about your

LNG,” said Michal Meidan, head of China energy research at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies.

The announcement was “an absolutely perfect way ... to say: ‘Look, we're not all talk, here's an actual measure,’” said Annette Bohr, associate fellow in the Russia and Eurasia program at Chatham House in London. But while the deal is “a step forward for Gazprom, it's not a done deal. There's no confirmed timeline, no definitive pricing agreement,” she said.

China's hard bargain on prices
Discussions on the pipeline have moved slowly, largely because China has held out for low prices.

“At the moment, it's entirely possible that Beijing is still only ready to commit to part of the pipeline, and at heavily discounted rates, which has in fact been the problem for a number of years,” Bohr said. “So Russia is, in effect, still subsidizing Chinese gas consumption.”

She added that “China is definitely in the driver's seat” when it comes to energy deals.

The announcement underlines that China is the dominant partner, said Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center.

China “has multiple other sources to import gas. So if Russia is ready to provide conditions that satisfy China's demands, then it's probably a green light,” he said. “But without that, it's just a friendly reminder that Russia

needs to accommodate some of Chinese demand. And it's telling you that China has tremendous leverage, and has, in a way, the seniority in this relationship.”

Does China need another fossil fuel pipeline?

Given the global effort to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels, one good question is whether China needs another gas supplier, says the Oxford Energy Institute's Meidan.

“It's not clear that it really does need Power of Siberia 2,” she said, adding that there is “huge uncertainty about just how much demand China will have in the 2030s, even from Chinese analysts and Chinese institutions.”

China's future demand is part of a complex equation involving a shift away from coal, which emits more carbon dioxide, as the swing fuel used to cover peaks in electricity demand that can't be met by renewables such as wind or hydro power.

A faster move away from coal means more gas use over the short term, while a slower coal exit could increase gas consumption. Battery storage to cover demand peaks and nuclear power could also play a role.

“They might not necessarily use more gas if they do renewables and storage faster than anyone else, or if they find other ways where ... they use their hydro and their nuclear,” Meidan said. For China, gas “is sort of a nice to have (but) it's not a must-have,” she added.

Bishnoi, Arshdeep move up in ICC rankings for bowlers in T20Is



PTI

Dubai, Sept 10: Indian spinner Ravi Bishnoi and left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh moved up to the sixth and 10th spot respectively in the latest ICC T20 rankings released Wednesday.

While Varun Chakravathy remains the highest-ranked Indian bowler at No 4 spot, the trio of Bishnoi, Arshdeep and Axar Patel moved up one spot each to reach sixth, 10th and 13th. Among batters, Abhishek Sharma continues to sit atop the table with 829 rating points, followed by Tilak Varma on second and skipper Suryakumar Yadav at the sixth spot.

But Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was not selected for the Asia Cup in India's 15-member squad and is among the five reserve players, slipped one position to be ranked 11th.

Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju

Samson both gained one position each to be ranked 26th and 34th.

Among all-rounders, Hardik Pandya remains No 1 with 252 rating points. The T20I rankings were updated following the conclusion of the tri-series involving UAE, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Pakistan won the competition with a 75-run victory against Afghanistan in the final.

There were no changes in ODI rankings for batters with India's Shubman Gill ranked world No 1, captain Rohit Sharma at No 2, Virat Kohli at No 4 and Shreyas Iyer at No 8.

However, in the latest ODI rankings for bowlers, India's Kuldeep Yadav slipped one position to be ranked fourth and Ravindra Jadeja dropped two places to 10th. Both Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj also slipped two places each to be ranked 14th and 15th.

Nepal Army imposes nationwide restrictive orders, curfew to curb possible violence

PTI

Kathmandu, Sept 10: The Nepal Army on Wednesday imposed nationwide restrictive orders from morning till 5 pm, followed by a curfew until 6 am the next day, to curb any possible violence under the guise of protest.

In a statement, the Army warned that any form of demonstration, vandalism, arson, or attacks targeting individuals and property during this period would be treated as criminal activity and dealt with accordingly.

The restrictive orders are in effect throughout the country from morning to 5 pm, and then a curfew will be in place



until 6 am on Thursday, it said.

The Army said the measures were necessitated to curb possible incidents of looting,

arson, and other destructive activities under the guise of agitation. “There are also possible threats of rape and violent

attacks against individuals,” the statement said. “Keeping in view the security situation of the country, restrictive

orders and a curfew have been enforced,” it said.

The statement clarified that vehicles and personnel engaged in essential services, including ambulances, fire engines, health workers, and security forces, would be permitted to operate during the restrictive orders and curfew.

Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli quit Tuesday shortly after hundreds of agitators entered his office demanding his resignation for the death of at least 19 people in police action during Monday's protests by Gen Z over corruption and a government ban on social media. The ban on social media was lifted Monday night.

Indian airlines cancel Kathmandu flights for second day

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 10: Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo and SpiceJet cancelled their flights to and from Kathmandu on Wednesday as the city's airport remains closed amid unrest in the neighbouring nation.

In a statement, Air India said its flights to and from Kathmandu on September 10 have been cancelled as the airport continues to remain closed. “We are closely monitoring the situation and will share further updates.”

The Tata Group-owned airline operates a total of 12 flights to and from Kathmandu.

In a post on X, IndiGo said that following the extension of the

airport closure in Kathmandu, all flights to and from the city will remain cancelled until 1800 hours on September 10.

“We fully understand the uncertainty this may cause and want to assure you that flexible options remain open. We continue to extend waivers on rescheduling and cancellations for travel to and from Kathmandu until September 12, applicable for bookings made on or before September 9.

“While operations are on hold, our teams are actively coordinating with the relevant authorities and remain fully prepared to restore services as soon as permissions are granted,” the carrier said.

Which teams have qualified for FIFA World Cup 2026



SPORTSTAR

New Delhi, Sept 10: The 2026 edition of the FIFA World Cup will feature 48 teams, up from the previous 32, and qualification campaigns across the globe are entering their final stages. With the tournament now less than a year away, Sportstar takes a look at the countries that have secured their place at the FIFA World Cup.

Eighteen berths out of the 48 spots have been taken so far.

North America (CONCACAF) - USA, Canada, Mexico

Asia (AFC) - Japan, Iran, South Korea, Australia, Jordan, Uzbekistan Oceania (OFC) - New Zealand South America (CONMEBOL) - Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay, Paraguay, Colombia Africa (CAF) - Morocco, Tunisia

Argentina stunned by Ecuador in FIFA World Cup Qualifiers



REUTERS

Guayaquil, Sept 10: Argentina's final round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers came to a disappointing close as it suffered a shock 0-1 defeat at the hands of Ecuador on Wednesday.

While Ecuador and reigning champions Argentina had already qualified for the World Cup, there was no shortage of intensity in their match in Guayaquil.

Argentina's Nicolas Otamendi was sent off in the 31st minute and the host capitalised on its numerical advantage when Enner Valencia scored a penalty in first-half stoppage time.

Ecuador was also reduced

to 10 men when Moises Caicedo was dismissed in the 50th minute, but it held firm to claim victory and go second in the table.

Despite the loss, Argentina retained top spot in the standings with 39 points, nine ahead of Ecuador.

Colombia secured third place with a 6-3 victory over Venezuela in Maturin, with Luis Suarez stealing the show by scoring four goals to extinguish Venezuelan hopes of clinching the playoff place.

Uruguay finishing qualifying in fourth place following a 0-0 draw with Chile the in Santiago, while Matias Galarza's strike gave Paraguay a 1-0 win over Peru in Lima, leaving them in sixth place.

Thursday, 11th September

MOVIES SCHEDULE

 THE CONJURING LAST RITES (A) ENG ATMOS WITH ENG SUBTITLES 11:20 AM, 02:30 PM, 06:00 PM HINDI - 04:00 PM	 SAIYAARA (U/A16+) HINDI - 10:45 AM	 PARAM SUNDARI (U/A13+) HINDI - 05:30 PM	 BAAGHI 4 (A) HINDI - 12:15 PM, 02:00 PM, 07:00 PM
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