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J&K Police have set example not seen anywhere else in country: LG Manoj Sinha

Force safeguarding security, acting as guardians of youth

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 15: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday praised the Jammu and Kashmir Police for setting an example by playing a dual role in region.

Addressing the closing ceremony of Jashn-e-Dal, a Water Sports event organized by Jammu Kashmir Police, at Dal Lake, here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “J&K Police have set an example not seen anywhere else in the country. Besides maintaining law, and order the force is also mentoring the younger generation, particularly through sports.”

“On one hand, J&K Police is ensuring the safety of people, and on the other, it is acting as a guardian to youth. The force has successfully channelized the energies of young people by mentoring them in sports and other positive fields,” the LG said, adding, “Jammu Kashmir



Police's proactive engagement with communities and empowerment of youth is laudable. It has been working with integrity and dedication to protect the nation's internal security.”

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Jammu Kashmir Police for playing a significant role in nation-building, upholding rule of law, ensuring public

safety and order and fighting terrorism.

He also commended the J&K Police for organising the annual sporting tournament at iconic Dal Lake with the main objective of youth engagement and to foster unity, harmony and camaraderie among athletes.

He said, “Events like Jashn-e-Dal, Pedal for | More on P6

CM for enhancing hydropower generation to strengthen J&K's economy

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday underscored the need for Jammu & Kashmir to reduce its power losses and then focus on harnessing its vast hydropower potential to strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

Addressing the gathering at the 58th Engineers' Day at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), the Chief Minister said that electricity generation and efficient distribution hold the key to economic prosperity in J&K. The event was held to honour the legacy of Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya for his pioneering contribution to engineering in India.

Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, President All India Power Engineers' Federation Shailendra Kumar Dubey, President J&K Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEGA) Pirzada Hidayatullah and General Secretary JKEGA Sachin Tickoo also addressed the gathering. Managing Directors of Kashmir Power Distribution Limited and J&K Power Transmission Corporation Limited, besides senior engineers were also present on the occasion.

Emphasizing the critical role of the power sector, Omar Abdullah said, “This is the only way to change the financial situation of Jammu and Kashmir. We should generate electricity and sell it to other regions, especially when their production is low. But to achieve this, we must first bring down losses | More on P6

LG flags off first Parcel Train from Kashmir to Delhi, thanks PM Modi

‘New era of trade, business for Kashmir apple growers has begun’



Naveed Ul Haq

Srinagar, Sept 15: Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ushering a new era of trade and business for apple growers and traders of Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on

Monday flagged off the first dedicated Parcel Train from Budgam to Adarsh Nagar, New Delhi.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “The parcel | More on P6

Events Like Jashn-e-Dal strengthen police-public bond: DGP Prabhat

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 15: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday said that sports events such as Jashn-e-Dal play a vital role in strengthening the bonds between the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the public.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of Jashn-e-Dal here, DGP Prabhat,



according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the annual event has been witnessing greater | More on P6

Highway havoc: Fruit mandis shut across Kashmir as Rs 1,200 crore losses mount

LG, Div com assure clearance of trucks, mandis to resume today

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sept 15: Fruit mandis across Kashmir observed a complete shut-down for the second consecutive day on Monday, as growers protested against the government's failure to clear fruit-laden trucks stranded on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, where “nearly 5,000 vehicles” remain stuck, causing losses of over Rs 1,200 crore.

At Asia's second-largest Fruit Mandi in Sopore,

emotional scenes were witnessed as growers broke down, lamenting that their year's toil was rotting inside stranded trucks while the government watched silently.

“We are ruined. Every hour of delay is pushing us deeper into debt”, a group of growers with tearful eyes at Sopore mandi told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Addressing the protesters, President Fayaz Ahmad Malik @ Kaka Ji lashed out at the government. “If the

Chief Minister cannot ensure the passage of fruit trucks, he has no right to sit in office. Resign if you can't do anything”, he said, warning that growers would announce a valley-wide strike if the highway is not restored within 48 hours.

Growers also alleged discrimination, claiming that trucks carrying iron and other goods were being cleared while fruit trucks were deliberately halted.

“The prolonged highway blockade has inflicted losses of | More on P6



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Fruit-laden trucks to get priority passage: Minister Dar

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 15: Minister Javed Ahmad Dar, along with MLA Shangus Advocate Reyaz Khan and MLA Abdul Majeed Larmi on Monday visited Jablpora and Qazigund to assess the

situation on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

The visit comes amid protests by Kashmir's major fruit mandis against the continued closure of the highway, which has severely disrupted the movement of apple | More on P6

J&K political leaders rally in support of fruit growers

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 15: With fruit mandis across Kashmir shutting down on Monday over the government's failure to ensure smooth passage of fruit-laden trucks, political parties, religious leaders, and

trade bodies extended support to growers, calling for immediate steps to restore highway access to protect the valley's fruit industry.

A delegation of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers' Union, led by | More on P6

300-metre stretch at heart of highway chaos

■ Narrow, uneven patch in Udhampur traps thousands of trucks

■ Only 1,000 vehicles ply daily against average of 10,000

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sept 15: At the centre of the ongoing highway crisis in Jammu & Kashmir is a 300-metre-long, narrow, and severely uneven stretch constructed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to facilitate traffic movement after a landslide buried a portion of the road.

Details gathered by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that the diversion was built earlier this month between Tharad and Balli Nallah in Udhampur district after the existing road was buried under debris from a mountain collapse.

KNO has learned that this



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

muddy stretch is the primary reason behind the current highway disruption.

“This stretch is so narrow that only one vehicle can pass

through at a time. Its surface is so uneven that vehicles struggle to move and often get stuck in the mud,” officials disclosed.

They suggested that stretch requires widening, and its surface should be properly leveled for fast movement of vehicles.

A group of fruit growers from Sopore accused the NHAI of failing to widen the road and level its surface.

“NHAI is responsible for maintaining the road. We have been hearing for the past 15 days that the road would be made fully functional for transporting fruits to various markets across the country, but hundreds of trucks carrying apples remain stranded,” they said.

Officials admitted that traffic movement has been severely | More on P6

Techknow-2025: CM promises equal opportunities for govt school students

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said it is the responsibility of his government to ensure that students studying in government schools have access to the same facilities and opportunities as those in private institutions.

“I would like to see even more participation from government schools in such events. Ultimately, it is our responsibility to ensure that government school students have access to the same facilities and opportunities as those in private schools. They must be prepared to compete not only with children across India, but with children across the world,” the Chief Minister said while



addressing the concluding day of Techknow-2025 organised by Delhi Public School (DPS) Srinagar.

The two-day event witnessed

enthusiastic participation from several schools across the Kashmir Valley, along with teachers and faculty members. He applauded the students' creativity, including their Humanoid Robot, and emphasized the Government's commitment to modern learning, knowhow of AI, and

innovation-driven education. Chairman DPS Srinagar Vijay Dhar, Principal Shafaq Afshan, Vice Principal DPS Srinagar, students and staff were also present on the occasion.

Reflecting on the rapid pace of technological change, the Chief Minister said that education has evolved remarkably since his own school days. Citing the example of Albania appointing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) being as a minister, he noted how AI is reshaping the world.

“This shows us the pace at which technology is moving. Already, jobs that were once taken up by young graduates in areas such as business process outsourcing and data management are increasingly being handed over to | More on P6

No significant weather forecast till Sept 23: MeT

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 15: The weatherman here has predicted no significant weather activity till September 23, saying that generally fair weather is expected with possibility of brief spell of light rain at few places for the next two days.

According to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad shared a week-long forecast, stating that for the next two days till September 17, generally fair weather is expected with possibility of brief spell of light rain at few places with brief

intense showers. He said that on September 18 & 19, a spell of light rain and thunder at scattered places with brief moderate showers is expected at a few places towards late night of 18th and early morning of 19th.

Furthermore, he said that from September 20 to 23, generally dry weather is expected, adding that overall, nothing significant is expected till September 23rd.

Also, in its advisory, the MeT has stated that there is a possibility of landslides and shooting stones at few vulnerable places. The farmers have been advised to continue harvesting of | More on P6

Govt committed to strengthen medical education: Sakeena

Flags off group of MBBS students for All India Educational Tour

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo flagged off a group of pre-final batch MBBS students of Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar to 15 days All India Education Tour from college premises here Monday.

Principal, GMC Srinagar, Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah; Administrator Associated Hospitals, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak; HoDs of various departments, faculty members, doctors and a large number of students were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the Health Minister said that this educational tour will mark a transformative chapter in



the academic journey of our future doctors and give them exposure to diverse medical practices, advanced research environments and interaction with leading medical experts from reputed health institutions they are visiting across the country. She added that this exposure tour

will not only broaden their clinical perspectives but also nurture their holistic growth as healthcare leaders of tomorrow. The Minister further said that this initiative underscores Government's commitment to strengthening medical education

by providing students with real-world exposure beyond classroom teaching.

While extending her wishes to students and accompanying faculty members for the tour, Minister Sakeena urged them to make most of this opportunity to enrich their knowledge and experiences.

Interacting with the Health Minister on the occasion, the students expressed immense gratitude and excitement about the journey ahead, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in their professional development.

Pertinently, this 15 days comprehensive educational tour is designed to provide the students with a unique opportunity to

visit some of the nation's most prestigious medical institutes, hospitals and research centers in New Delhi, Kerala, Goa and other places.

During the tour, the students will traverse several states, engaging in academic interactions, hospital rounds, workshops and seminars that cover a wide spectrum of medical disciplines and emerging healthcare technologies. They will also participate in interactive sessions with eminent medical researchers, observe cutting-edge medical procedures, engage in hands-on workshops and attend lectures on advancements in medical science, public health policy and medical ethics.

DLSA, JJB Budgam organize awareness prog

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 15: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Board Budgam, Monday organized an awareness programme on the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, DLSA Budgam, and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, DLSA Budgam, and Shaber Ayaz, Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board Budgam.

The primary objective of the programme was to highlight the key provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, with a special focus on legal protections for children in conflict with the law, issues related to child custody and guardianship, and the importance of safeguarding child rights.

To enrich the sessions, Zahoor Ahmad and Yawar Ali, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels deputised by DLSA Budgam as resource persons delivered insightful presentations and raised awareness among the participants.

DC Srinagar convenes DLSCC meeting

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: In a continued effort to swiftly resolve and dispose-off cases filed under SRO-43 by the next of kins (NoKs) of terror-affected victims in Srinagar district, a meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee (DLSCC) was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday in his office chamber, here.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Sandeep Chakravarthi was also present in the meeting.

The meeting focused on reviewing applications filed under SRO-43 and to recommend eligible individuals for compassionate appointments in accordance with laid guidelines. At the outset, the Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the cases/claims submitted under SRO-43 by NoKs of those affected by terror related incidents in Srinagar district.

After a detailed scrutiny of the applications/cases, the Committee recommended fresh cases of Srinagar district to the Government for



consideration for compassionate appointment under the provisions of SRO-43. On the occasion, DC emphasized the importance of timely and transparent processing of such cases. He directed all concerned officers to ensure speedy disposal in a time-bound manner so that victim families receive relief without any delay.

Underscoring the importance of a transparent and expeditious process, DC instructed the stakeholder departments to expedite the

examination of remaining cases, complete all necessary formalities, and ensure timely verification to facilitate swift appointments in favour of the victim families.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed; SP Headquarter, Umar Shah; Additional SP CID, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, District Social Welfare Officer, all the Tehsildars, senior officers from security agencies, besides other concerned.

Amid highway closure, Div Com chairs high-level meeting

Assures evacuation of stranded fruit-laden trucks through NH, Mughal Road

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Monday assured that the administration is taking all necessary measures to facilitate the evacuation of stranded fruit-laden trucks through both the National Highway and the Mughal Road.

He also stated that all valley-bound vehicles carrying essential commodities, including petrol, diesel, and LPG are being facilitated through an SoP to address the requirements of the general public.

Div Com made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting with representatives from various trade bodies and fruit growers' associations.

The meeting was convened to address the challenges faced by the horticulture industry due to the prolonged closure of the National Highway.

On the occasion, he said restoration work on the National Highway is progressing at full pace and that the status will be shared with stakeholders.

During the meeting, traders and growers highlighted the severe losses being incurred as harvested apples remain stranded in orchards and vehicles.

They urged the administration to take swift action



to minimize the damage to the region's vital horticulture industry.

They raised various issues including immediate evacuation of stranded trucks, implementation of one-way traffic on alternate days on the National Highway and Mughal Road, formation of a committee to assess losses suffered by growers and traders, reduction in transportation costs and exemption of GST on perishable goods, railway connectivity between fruit mandis and markets across the country and resolution of issues faced by traders at Azadpur Mandi Delhi.

Additional Member (Marketing & Business Development), Railway Board, Dr. Manoj Singh (IRTS) briefed the stakeholders on

the features of the New Parcel service and sought their active collaboration in making the best use of the same for transportation of fruit from valley to Delhi.

While welcoming the initiation of Parcel train services, the stakeholders reiterated the need for stronger logistical linkages and policy support to safeguard the horticulture sector.

The meeting was attended by IGP Traffic Kashmir, Director FCS&CA, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar and Budgam, Director Industries & Commerce, SSP Traffic Rural, and senior officials from Horticulture, BRO, NHIDCL, and representatives from various trade and fruit growers' associations.

MD JJM assesses availability of DI, GI pipes at Pampore

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Jammu & Kashmir, Khursheed Ahmad Shah Monday inspected the pipe store Pampore, to review and assess the available stock of Ductile Iron (DI) and Galvanized Iron (GI) pipes.

MD was accompanied by the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti department, Kashmir;

Technical Advisor, Kashmir; Superintending Engineer, Mechanical and other officers.

During the visit, officers conducted a detailed inspection of the inventory to ensure that the required materials are adequately available to support ongoing and upcoming projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The review was aimed at strengthening supply chain management, identifying gaps, and ensuring timely

availability of materials for rural water supply schemes.

MD emphasized the importance of maintaining proper stock levels to meet project deadlines and ensure uninterrupted progress towards providing functional household tap connections in rural areas. Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, assured that all necessary steps will be taken to streamline procurement and distribution processes.

DC Shopian finalises preps for 'Sewa Parv'

KT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 15: To review and finalize arrangements for the celebration of 'Sewa Parv' in the district scheduled from September, 17 to October, 2, 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Monday chaired a meeting of officers here in Mini Secretariat Shopian.

The fortnight-long programme is aimed at promoting the spirit of service, volunteerism and community participation across the district. It will focus on activities that strengthen the bond between the administration and the



people while fostering awareness about cleanliness, health, education, support to elderly, social welfare and sustainable development initiatives.

DC stressed inter-departmental coordination and proactive

community participation for effective execution of scheduled activities during the fortnight. Departments were instructed to focus on on-spot service delivery.

During the campaign, swachhata drives, health

awareness and Ayush camps for preventive healthcare, educational awareness campaigns on drug de-addiction and career guidance, plantation and environmental protection activities, awareness and registration sessions on government schemes related to agriculture, self-employment, NRLM, social security and welfare schemes shall be undertaken to improve performance of service delivery.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; Principal, GDC Shopian, ACD, various district officers, BDOs and civil society members.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA
MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.
email: xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in
CORRIGENDUM 01 (EXTENSION OF CRITICAL DATES)

Name of work:- Repairs and maintenance of Departmental Snowcats, Case backhoe loader of MHD, Sub Division II, Handwara stationed at SCCR Ganderbal for Snow Clearance Season 202425/MHDDH/TS/2025-26.

Reference: 1) e-NIT No.: MHDDH/TS/2025-26/eNIT/19
Tender ID No.: 2025_PWDJK_287385_1

Due to poor response the critical dates of the above referred NIT are rescheduled as under.

S.No.	Description	Date & Time
1	Document Submission End Date	20/09/2025 up to 1400hrs
2.	Date of Opening Cover-I	20/09/2025 at 1600hrs

All other terms, conditions and specifications of the NITs shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

DIPK-6261/25
DATED: 15-09-2025

No: MHDDH/TS/1181-84 Date:- 15/09/2025.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No: 60/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/ 4270-80
Dated:15 -09-2025
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways sand other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Construction of Boundary wall at Primary School Sadarnag...(list S.No 745)	7.59	300/-	2% of Adv cost	30 days	PAB 2024-25 under Samagra Shiksha (List S.No 745)	CEE, DEE	Directorate of SAMAGRA SHIKSHA

Position Of AAA: Accorded vide No: 59-CHIRAG of 2025 Dated: 21-02-2025

Position of funds: Committed

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q),Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below--

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	16-09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	25-09-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26-09-2025 12:00 PM

Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)

(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority).

2.All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

3. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority)as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to thesuccessful bidder only on receipt ofPerformance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.

Sd/- Draftsman

DIPK-6238/25
DATED: 15-09-2025

Sd/- Technical Officer

Sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

Petrol shortage triggers panic buying

Stocks to be refilled in 2 days: Div Com

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 15: With petrol stock dipping sharply amid partial closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the fuel stations across Kashmir witnessed a massive rush and long queues on Monday, as worried motorists scrambled to secure whatever fuel they could get.

From Hyderpora to Lal Chowk and Bemina to Old City, downtown parts, long lines of cars, bikes, auto-rickshaws, sumo vehicle and others spilled out onto main roads, causing traffic snarls and chaotic scenes.

At some stations, people arrived with plastic cans and bottles, seeking to store extra petrol fearing a longer crisis.

"We opened earlier and within a few hours, more than half our stock was gone. People are filling tanks to the brim and even bringing



extra containers," said an attendant at a petrol pump in Srinagar's downtown area.

He said they are trying to ration sales now so that everyone gets at least some.

Other commuters told KNO they had to wait for over an hour in lines stretching several hundred metres, while many returned empty-handed as stocks ran out by afternoon at several stations in Srinagar city and other Kashmir parts.

Amid the growing public panic, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, in the morning told KNO, petrol stocks are being replenished and will be restored within the next 48 hours, while diesel and LPG supplies remain stable across the Valley.

The Div Com Garg said round-the-clock work is underway to restore the rain-hit Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, while fuel trucks are being rerouted through the Mughal

Road to keep essential supplies flowing.

"Essentials are stocked well. Diesel and LPG are sufficient and there is a shortage of petrol at present. But it will be refilled within two days," Garg said, urging the public to remain calm and avoid panic buying.

Moreover, the petrol pump owners at some parts also said, social media rumours about an impending 'shutdown' of fuel supplies added to the panic, prompting people to rush to stations even if they had sufficient fuel.

By late afternoon, many of the filling stations had gone dry and displayed "No Petrol" boards, while attendants tried to pacify angry customers.

Additionally, authorities have appealed to people to cooperate and buy only what is necessary so that emergency and essential service vehicles do not suffer disruption—(KNO)

PSA Against MLA CM Omar slams detention of MLA Doda

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Sep 15: Reacting sharply to the booking of Doda MLA under the Public Safety Act (PSA), the targeting of Waqf properties and the prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday launched a scathing attack on the authorities.

He called for fairness, accountability and urgent redressal of issues affecting the people. On Doda MLA's PSA detention, CM Omar said there was no justification for the



move and that the matter could have been resolved without resorting to such a harsh law.

"There was no reason to

arrest the Doda MLA under the PSA. I believe he should have accepted his mistake and resolved the issue. The police

can continue their investigation and if something wrong is found during the investigation, the MLA can be held accountable," he said.

The CM said, however, registering a case under PSA at this stage is not justified.

On Waqf properties and the Supreme Court's observation, Omar said it was "unfortunate" that only one religion's properties were being targeted under the new law. He also welcomed the Supreme Court for acknowledging and understanding the sensitivity of the issue, saying the apex court's intervention was a much-needed step—(KNO)

Sajad Lone seeks discussion in Assembly

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 15: Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone on Monday called for a discussion in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly regarding the detention of Mehraj Malik and the assault on him during the last budget session.

Speaking to reporters in Handwara, Lone said that both the detention of Mehraj Malik and the assault he faced during the



last budget session should be discussed in the House. "I have known Mehraj Malik for

the past year. He has risen from the grass-roots and worked hard. He is not a 'Khoje Kout' (nepo kid) or part of any elite class. The treatment meted out to him in the Assembly was unfair. After the Assembly was adjourned, he was first assaulted by BJP legislators and then by non-MLAs following his issue with the PDP," Lone said.

Lone also said that Farooq Abdullah's statement, in a way, justifies PSA against him—(KNO)

Parcel train to ply daily from Kashmir

15 vans to be started from Anantnag

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 15: In a major boost to Kashmir's horticulture sector, Indian Railways on Monday launched a high-capacity daily parcel train service from Srinagar to Delhi for transporting apples and other fruits.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Divisional Railway Manager Vivek Kumar described the initiative as a 'golden moment' for the region. "This is a daily parcel train carrying apples and a limited quantity of walnuts, with the potential to transport many other products," he said.

He added that the train consists of eight parcel vans—one with a capacity of 23 tons and the others ranging between 160 to 170 tons. He said the train will depart daily at 6:00 AM from Srinagar.

"It will halt at Bari Brahmana, Jammu and reach Adarsh Nagar in Delhi. The biggest advantage is its fixed timetable, which allows businesses to plan logistics efficiently," Kumar said. Highlighting the broader impact, he said the initiative will significantly boost the horticulture industry.

Dr. Manoj Singh, a member of the Railway Board, said that the train carried apples worth Rs 2.5 crore and will reach Delhi in just 24 hours.

"With road transport currently disrupted, this marks a landmark joint effort by the Railways," he said—(KNO)

Decayed meat row...

Public demands reopening of municipal slaughterhouses

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 15: Amid growing concerns over the sale of rotten and uninspected meat, residents of Srinagar are urging municipal authorities to reopen official slaughterhouses. Citizens say the move is essential to guarantee access to clean, safe and nutritious meat, as street vendors continue to sell questionable products with little oversight.

For over a month, authorities, including the health department and police, have ramped up raids across the city, seizing large quantities of rotten and unfit-for-consumption meat. Fearing strict action, several individuals involved in the illicit meat trade have been seen discarding spoiled meat themselves. Despite these efforts, citizens complain that the municipal authorities have yet to guarantee the supply of clean and safe meat to the public.

"During the ongoing drives, our teams have confiscated considerable amounts of inedible meat and taken strict action against those flouting food safety norms," an official from the municipal health department requesting anonymity said as they were not authorized to speak publicly. "However, the challenge remains that without a robust system in place, ensuring consistent quality is difficult."

Historically, every district and sub-district headquarters in the valley operated municipal slaughterhouses, where local butchers brought livestock for official inspection and slaughter. A veterinary inspector from the municipality would examine each animal, approving only those fit for human consumption. Once slaughtered, the meat was stamped with

Flying Squad seizes rotten meat, lodges 2 FIR's

KNO

Budgam, Sep 15: To curb the transportation and sale of unsafe food items within district Budgam, the district administration has constituted special Flying Squads comprising members from all concerned departments, including Police.

In addition, Budgam Police has established a naka at the main entry point of the district to strictly monitor the movement of such items, a police spokesman said in a statement.

During a joint market inspection conducted on 14th September 2025, the Flying Squad seized rotten meat from two separate locations in Budgam district.

Subsequently, police said that a case under FIR number 255/2025 was registered at Police Station Budgam against Wazwaan Point Restaurant, and FIR No. 143/2025 was registered at Police Station Magam against Big Boss Restaurant, Magam for selling rotten and unhygienic wazwaan items prepared from meat.

Legal action under Sections 271, 272, and 275 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 has been initiated against the offenders, police said. Meanwhile, Budgam Police strongly warned that such violations pose a serious risk to public health and will not be tolerated.

Market inspections and strict monitoring shall continue across the district, and stringent legal action will be taken against any individual or establishment found involved in selling rotten, sub-standard, or unhygienic food items—(KNO)

municipal clearance, while weak or diseased animals were rejected and returned. This system, residents recall, was reliable and ensured only safe meat reached markets.

However, deteriorating law and order led to the closure of these slaughterhouses. For a time, municipal officials continued inspections at butchers' homes, but that practice also faded away. At present, a lack of oversight means vendors openly sell various types of meat from carts on city streets often with questionable quality and no official inspection.

Multiple sources allege that some municipal and food

production officials are complicit in allowing this unregulated trade to flourish. "We suspect there is collaboration between certain officials and vendors, which is why the problem persists," said a Srinagar resident.

With growing concerns about food safety, the public is now urging the authorities to reopen and reinstate municipal slaughterhouses. "Re-establishing these facilities is the only way to ensure clean, safe, and nutritious meat for all," said another official, adding that plans are under discussion but no decision has been finalized yet—(KNO)

Exploring different strategy for statehood case in SC: CM

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that he is consulting lawyers to explore whether a new strategy needs to be devised regarding the statehood case in the Supreme Court (SC).

Speaking to reporters, Omar said he is seeking legal advice ahead of the case's scheduled hearing in October.

"We will continue our fight for statehood. I am consulting lawyers because the case is set to come up for hearing before the Supreme Court in October. As of now, private parties are empanelled



and pleading the case. I am discussing with lawyers whether there is a need for

a different strategy," he said.

The Chief Minister stressed that he has not given up on the issue of statehood.

"We have not stopped advocating for statehood. I am thankful to Sharad Pawar Sahab, who wrote a letter to the Prime Minister regarding his promise to restore statehood. I also wrote letters to leaders of all parties during the last Parliament session, urging them to support us," he said, adding that he had personally hoped the Prime Minister would fulfill his promise on August 15, 2025. "But that didn't happen," Omar said—(KNO)

Exposure programme held for Law students

RAJA SYED RATHER

Manigam, Sep 15: In a significant step towards bridging academic learning with practical experience, a one-day exposure program was successfully organized on Monday at the Police Training School (PTS) Manigam for the students of the School of Legal Studies, Department of Law, Central University of Kashmir.

The initiative provided law students with a valuable opportunity to gain firsthand insight into various aspects of police training, particularly in areas related to investigation and the evolving legal landscape. The visit aimed to deepen their understanding of practical policing, which is essential for their future roles in the legal system.

During the visit, the students explored key facilities including the Moot Court Room, CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems), Smart Classrooms, Assault Track, Library, and Lecture Halls. These interactions offered them a practical perspective on how legal theory aligns with

real-world application.

As part of the community outreach component of the program, a special lecture was delivered by the Principal of PTS Manigam, Zubair Ahmad Khan (SSP).

He shared insightful experiences from his career in policing, highlighting the nuances and challenges of law enforcement in contemporary times.

A dedicated question-and-answer session followed, allowing students to engage in meaningful dialogue. The session also featured informative talks by Assistant Principal (Indoor) Farooq Ahmad Mir and Inspector Mudasir Hamid, who spoke at length about the new criminal laws and their implications.

Dr. Mudasir, from the Department of Law, who accompanied the students, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Principal Zubair Ahmad Khan for facilitating such an enriching and well-organized program.

The entire event was conducted under the able supervision of Zubair Ahmad Khan, whose leadership ensured a smooth and impactful experience

Cleanliness drive held at Vishansar Lake

RAJA SYED RATHER

Ganderbal, Sep 15: A massive cleanliness drive was carried out at Vishansar Lake in Sonamarg on Sunday, led by Block Development Officer (BDO) Gund, Sheikh Arif (JKAS), along with his team and field staff.

Officials said that the drive was aimed at preserving the pristine beauty of Vishansar Lake and its adjoining areas by removing garbage and plastic waste left behind by visitors and trekkers.

BDO Gund Sheikh Arif said, "Vishansar is one of Kashmir's most iconic alpine lakes and it is our collective responsibility to protect it from pollution. Through this drive, we want to send out a strong message that safeguarding our natural treasures is not just the duty of the administration but of every citizen and visitor."

He further appealed to trekkers and tourists to avoid littering and adopt eco-friendly practices while visiting high-altitude lakes. "These lakes are the lifeline of our ecology. Keeping them clean ensures that future generations can also experience their beauty in its purest form," Arif added. Locals and volunteers, who joined the drive, appreciated the initiative. A local participant said, "Such drives not only clean the area but also raise awareness among people about the importance of maintaining cleanliness in ecologically fragile zones—(KNO)

LoP Sharma meets UHM Amit Shah

KNO

Jammu, Sep 15: Leader of the Opposition in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma Monday met the Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and held a detailed discussion on the prevailing political and security scenario in Jammu & Kashmir.

He also apprised the Home Minister of the destruction caused by the recent floods and submitted a comprehensive ground assessment report, a statement reads.

During the meeting, Sharma highlighted the evolving political and security dynamics in the Union Territory. He underlined the need to maintain peace and stability through effective governance, strengthening democratic

institutions, and ensuring people's participation in the developmental process.

He also flagged concerns related to internal security, emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts to counter emerging challenges and safeguard the interests of the people.

Sharma briefed the Home Minister about his extensive visits to flood-affected areas and interactions with the local population. He reported large-scale losses, including damage to roads, schools, healthcare facilities, homes, and crops, along with the displacement of several families. Many remote areas, he noted, remain cut off due to damaged connectivity and broken communication lines.—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Highway Halts: Time For Govt To Act

The ongoing blockade of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway has sparked justified outrage across Kashmir, bringing the region's vital apple trade to a grinding halt. The centre of this crisis is a poorly constructed 300-metre stretch in Udhampur, which is narrow, uneven, and unable to handle two-way traffic. This bottleneck has left thousands of trucks stranded, jeopardising not just

livelihoods but an entire agricultural economy. Kashmir's apple industry supports nearly half the population directly or indirectly. With the harvest season at its peak, every hour of delay means financial ruin for farmers who depend on timely transportation to markets outside the valley. The situation is especially alarming given that only 1,000 vehicles are currently able to pass daily, against a usual flow of 10,000. The

diversion via the Mughal Road is insufficient, and the backlog grows with each passing day. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) must answer for this gross infrastructural failure. Building a temporary, single-lane muddy track in a critical zone reflects poor planning and a lack of urgency. That a 300-metre stretch can paralyse the only all-weather road link between Kashmir and the rest of

India is unacceptable. The government must act immediately. First, the highway should be widened and stabilised on a war footing, with technical teams deployed day and night. Second, rail services must be intensified to offer farmers a viable alternative. One train a day is nowhere near adequate. Third, a transparent, real-time traffic management system should be put in place to prevent such crises in the

future. Apart from a logistics failure, this is a test of governance. The people of Kashmir have shown immense patience, but enough is indeed enough. The administration must prioritise this issue, not as a mere inconvenience, but as an economic emergency. The apple industry cannot be held hostage to bureaucratic delays or engineering incompetence. It's time for decisive action. Our farmers deserve nothing less.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana: Enhancing Rural Connectivity

Press Information Bureau

Road is a key component of rural development, promoting access to economic and social services, thereby increasing agricultural incomes and generating productive employment opportunities. It also plays a crucial role in poverty reduction.

In Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh, life in Barbaspur and Kurla would come to a standstill every monsoon. The old causeway across the Rojhan Nalla would sink under floodwaters, cutting nearly 2,000 villagers—most from SC/ST communities—off from hospitals, schools and markets. In 2018–19, a bridge was sanctioned under PMGSY-I at a cost of Rs. 181.86 lakh. Built with seven spans of 10 metres each, it now stands as a lifeline for the village. Migrant workers returning to the village were trained and employed, creating nearly 3,000 days of work while completing the project on time.

For the people of Barbaspur and Kurla, the bridge means more than concrete and steel. It means safe passage to health care, steady access to education, secure livelihoods, and dignity in times of need. It has turned isolation into connection, and vulnerability into resilience.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a flagship rural development programme of the Government. It was launched on 25th December, 2000 with the objective of providing all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations in rural areas by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations of designated population size in the core network for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the rural population. PMGSY has significantly improved access to education and healthcare facilities, generated employment in both farm and non-farm sectors, and enabled farmers to secure better prices for their produce.

The budget allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in recent years is reflecting the government's focus on strengthening rural road connectivity. For the current financial year 2025–26, the programme continues to receive Rs 19,000 crore, underscoring sustained support to improve rural infrastructure, ensure all-weather road connectivity, and boost economic opportunities in villages.

Phases and Progress under PMGSY

A total of 1,91,282 rural roads covering 8,38,611 km and 12,146 bridges have been sanctioned across all phases of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) as of August 2025. Out of these, 1,83,215 roads covering 7,83,727 km and 9,891 bridges have been completed.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase - I

The first phase, launched in 2000, was the initial core program focused on providing all-weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas. As on 31st July, 2025, road connectivity works for a total of 1,63,339 habitations have been sanctioned across the country under PMGSY-I, out of which 1,62,818 (99.7%) have been constructed.

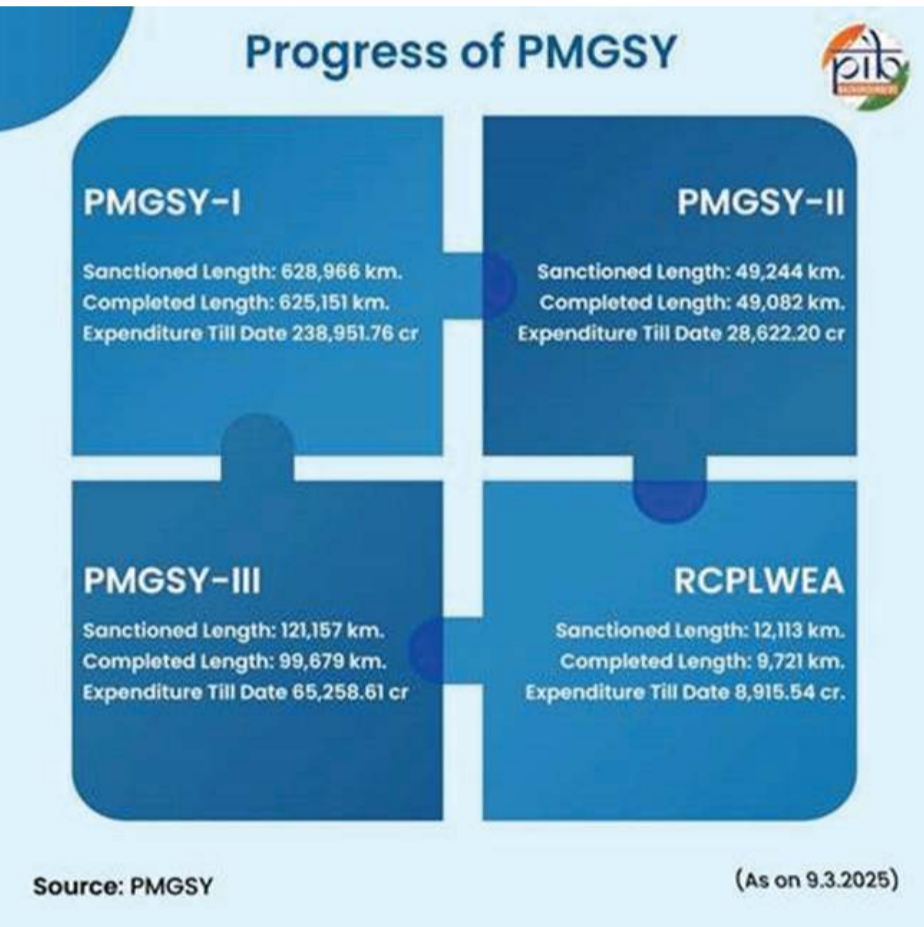
PMGSY Phase - II (2013)

Launched in 2013, Phase II was focused on strengthening the existing rural road network to enhance its efficiency as a key provider of transportation for people, goods, and services. The programme prioritised upgrading selected rural roads that supported economic activities and played an important role in connecting rural markets and growth centres.

Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA)

RCPLWEA was launched in 2016. It is a special initiative to improve road infrastructure and connectivity in LWE-affected districts, fostering security, accessibility, and development. It aims to improve road infrastructure in 44 worst-affected Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) districts and adjoining areas across nine States—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

The scheme has twin objectives: to facilitate smooth and effective anti-LWE operations by security forces, and to promote



socio-economic development in these remote and vulnerable regions by providing better access to markets, education, and healthcare, thereby reducing isolation and fostering inclusive growth.

PMGSY Phase-III

PMGSY-III (2019) aimed at the consolidation of through routes and major rural links, ensuring stronger farm-to-market connectivity and integration with Gramin Agricultural Markets, higher secondary schools, and hospitals was launched for consolidation of the existing Rural Road Network by upgradation of 1,25,000 kms of existing Through Routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals.

Facilities Connected (6.96 lakh total):

1.38 lakh Gramin Agricultural Markets
1.46 lakh Educational Centres
82,000 Medical Centres
3.28 lakh Transport & other facility centres

PMGSY Phase - IV

The Government approved the Phase IV of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) on 11th September 2024, with the aim of providing all-weather road connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations. The eligibility is based on Census 2011 population data, covering:

500+ population in plain areas

250+ in North Eastern & Hill States/UTs

Special category areas, including Tribal (Schedule V) regions, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, and Desert areas.

In Phase IV of PMGSY: -

Proposed road length: 62,500 km

Implementation period: FY 2024–25 to 2028–29

Total outlay: Rs 70,125 crore

Construction of Roads under Green Technologies

PMGSY actively promotes the use of local, non-conventional, and green technologies in rural road construction. The adoption of new and green technologies in rural road construction helps reduce costs while enabling the effective disposal of industrial and municipal waste. PMGSY also contributes to achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to poverty alleviation.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), as of August 2025, a total road length of 1,66,694 km has been sanctioned using new and green technologies, out of which 1,24,688 km has already been constructed reflecting the programme's strong emphasis on sustainable and eco-friendly practices in rural road development, ensuring both durability and reduced environmental impact.

Integration with other Initiatives to

Achieve Last-Mile Connectivity

PMGSY-IV is being implemented in convergence with two targeted initiatives that aim to ensure inclusive development of tribal and scheduled caste populations in backward and marginalised areas. By aligning with specialised programmes, this phase aims to expand last-mile connectivity, bridge regional disparities, and provide reliable road infrastructure to communities that have historically remained underserved.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA)

This initiative is aimed at the holistic development of tribal communities in remote and vulnerable regions through 25 targeted interventions implemented by 17-line ministries. PMGSY -IV addresses gaps in social infrastructure, healthcare, education, and livelihoods as part of DA-JGUA initiative. Habitations with 500+ population and 50% or more ST population, or habitations with 50+ ST population in the 250+ category in Aspirational Districts, as per Census 2011, are given priority under the scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)

It is a comprehensive initiative launched by the Government of India in FY 2021–22, aimed at the socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SCs). To fulfil this aim, Under PMGSY IV of Ministry of Rural Development, habitations with a population of 500 or more, where 40% or more of the residents belong to SC communities are given priority, thereby ensuring focused attention on inclusive development and equitable access to infrastructure and opportunities.

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)

Prime Minister launched Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) for socio-economic development of 75 PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) communities residing in 18 states and one UT. The mission aims to provide basic facilities to improve socio-economic conditions of tribal communities, including safe housing, clean drinking water, better access to education, healthcare and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of unelectrified households, and sustainable livelihood opportunities within three years. These objectives are being met through 11 interventions implemented by 9-line Ministries.

The Government is implementing the PM-JANMAN, with a dedicated road connectivity component under PMGSY of MoRD. Out of a total target of 8,000 km of rural roads under the programme, 6,506 km of road length has been sanctioned, as on 31-7-2025, for

Key Takeaways

- As of August 2025, under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, total of 1,91,282 rural roads covering 8,38,611 km and 12,146 bridges have been sanctioned.

- 1,83,215 roads covering 7,83,727 km and 9,891 bridges have been completed so far.

- Roads have been built to strict technical standards with a three-tier quality monitoring system.

- As of August 2025, a total road length of 1,66,694 km has been sanctioned using new and green technologies, out of which 1,24,688 km has already been constructed.

providing connectivity to 2,636 habitations of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).M

Use of Technology in PMGSY

The Government's systematic measures have significantly enhanced the quality, durability, and sustainability of rural roads constructed under PMGSY. The Government monitors the progress of road projects under PMGSY through advanced digital technologies and online platforms.

Online Management, Monitoring and Accounting System (OMMAS)

The OMMAS monitors implementation of all PMGSY works on real time basis to ensure that the physical and financial progress is in sync with the overall targets given to states. Further Project Management Information System (PMIS) within OMMAS has been developed for better management of construction activities of each road sanctioned under PMGSY-III.

OMMAS is also used for monitoring the quality of PMGSY projects through assessments by independent quality monitors. This facilitates real-time monitoring and ensures transparency in delivering quality infrastructure in rural areas. The inspections conducted by National Quality Monitors (NQMs) and State Quality Monitors (SQMs) are uploaded on Quality Monitoring System (QMS) mobile application by the quality monitors from the field with geo-tagged photographs which is finally reflected on OMMAS portal.

e-MARG (electronic Maintenance of Rural Roads)

e-MARG has been introduced to enhance the focus on maintenance of roads during the defect liability period and also streamlining the delivery of routine maintenance of PMGSY roads, which is conceptualized on Performance Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC).

Payment to the contractor is now made through e-MARG which is based on the minimum condition of road, its cross drainage works and traffic assets. Payments are based on how well the contractor manages to comply with the performance standards or service levels defined in the contract, and not on piece work.

Use of Global Positioning System (GPS)

To enhance transparency during road construction, it has been made mandatory from May 2022 onwards to install GPS enabled Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) on all vehicles/ machinery/ equipment deployed by the contractor/ PIUs for execution of PMGSY III works. This helps in assessing the proper operation of this machinery/ equipment for a specified period, which is very essential for achieving the specified quality of the roads being constructed.

Robust Technical Standards

Adoption of eco-friendly green & sustainable materials and cutting-edge construction practices & technology for road construction is promoted. Based on international best practices and the outcome of indigenous research, new standards/guidelines are framed by the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) and existing standards/guidelines of IRC are amended from time to time to facilitate the use of such materials and technology. MoRTH/National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have also issued policy guidelines on the use of such eco-friendly materials/processes.

New/innovative materials/processes are also accredited by the Indian Road Congress (IRC) for use in trial sections. All such materials and processes as allowed by IRC standards/guidelines, International Standards such as American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), American Society for Testing of Materials (ASTM), Euro Codes, British Codes, as well as materials accredited by IRC are allowed in National Highways Projects.

Various kinds of eco-friendly green and sustainable materials such as fly ash, slag, construction & demolition waste, inert materials of landfill, waste plastic, crumb rubber modified bitumen, milling & recycling, geosynthetics including jute & coir, bamboo crash barrier, bio-bitumen, bio-engineering measures for slope protection, ground granulated blast furnace slag, etc. are used in different NH projects depending upon availability and feasibility of use.

Innovation & Climate Resilience

Promotion of technologies such as waste plastic, cold mix, and Full Depth Reclamation to enhance road lifespan and reduce environmental impact—over 1.24 lakh km of roads have been built using these methods as of July 2025.

Three-Tier Quality Monitoring

To ensure the quality and durability of rural roads constructed, a three-tier Quality Monitoring System is in place.

Tier 1: Field-level quality checks by the executing agency.

Tier 2: Inspections by independent State Quality Monitors (SQMs).

Tier 3: Surprise inspections by National Quality Monitors (NQMs) deputed by Ministry. Progress and quality inspections are tracked in real-time through the Online Management, Monitoring and Accounting System (OMMAS).

Conclusion

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) stands as one of India's most impactful rural development initiatives, closing critical connectivity gaps and enabling socio-economic transformation in some of the country's most remote and underserved regions. Since 2015, investments—backed by innovative green technologies, strict quality control, and a focus on long-term maintenance—have resulted in completed rural roads and thousands of bridges. These all-weather links have improved access to markets, schools, and healthcare, enhanced livelihoods, and expanded opportunities for women, youth, and marginalized communities. By aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, PMGSY not only builds infrastructure but also drives inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and poverty reduction, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone of India's rural transformation strategy.

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DC Kupwara reviews implementation of schemes



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse chaired a comprehensive review meeting Monday focusing on the progress and effective implementation of key financial inclusion and social security schemes across the district.

At the outset, DC assessed the status of beneficiary enrolment under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY).

Lead District Manager presented scheme wise progress achieved so far from April 2025. Detailed discussions were held on strategies to be adopted to maximise registrations in coming months to achieve targets.

DC emphasized that these financial inclusion initiatives are vital for extending social security coverage, offering life and accidental insurance as well as pension benefits to economically disadvantaged sections of society.

Banks and relevant line departments were instructed to intensify awareness and registration campaigns, ensuring that more eligible citizens are brought under the scope of these schemes.

During the meeting, DC also directed to ensure maximum registrations under these schemes as part of the celebrations for Seva Parv-2025. Special camps shall be organised during Seva Parv for enrolments.

The meeting saw participation from key officials, including Programme Officer ICDS, CPO, CMO, CEO, ACD, LDM and other concerned officers.

DC inspects civic infra, cleanliness measures in Rajouri



KT News Desk

RAJOURI SEPTEMBER 15: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma Monday conducted a comprehensive tour of Rajouri town to assess the ongoing development works and review civic amenities, with a special focus on infrastructure upgrades, cleanliness and public safety.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the condition of manholes across the town. He directed the concerned departments to immediately fix and secure all damaged or open manholes to prevent mishaps and ensure public safety.

Reviewing the ongoing repair works already tendered, the DC instructed the Public Works Department (PWD) to expedite the pace of execution and adhere to the stipulated timelines. He emphasized adherence to quality standards and timely completion of the works for the convenience of the general public.

The Deputy Commissioner also took serious note of the open wiring in several areas, which poses potential safety hazards. He directed the department to prepare and submit a comprehensive proposal for underground cabling to enhance public safety and improve the aesthetics of the town.

As part of his public outreach, the Deputy Commissioner also interacted with local shopkeepers. He urged them to operate within legal and civic boundaries, maintain proper sanitation outside their establishments and use separate dustbins for wet and dry waste. He further appealed to all stakeholders to maintain cleanliness and contribute to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in spirit and action.

Among the others who accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during his visit were ACR, Mohd Jhangir Khan; Tehsildar Rajouri, Varinder Sharma; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohd Rashid; EO MC Rajouri, Yousef ul Mir and other concerned officers.

Oral health integral to overall health of citizens: Sakeena

Inaugurates four-day Oral Health Awareness Programme



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated a four days 'Oral Health Awareness Programme - Bright Smiles, Happy Lives' at Government Dental College (GDC) here Monday.

The event, organised by department of Public Health Dentistry of GDC Srinagar, aims to raise awareness about the importance of oral hygiene, preventive dental care and the overall impact of oral health on general well-being of an individual.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony of the event, the Health Minister highlighted that oral health is often an overlooked aspect of healthcare, yet it plays a critical role in preventing systemic diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular ailments and respiratory infections. "Oral health is not just about a bright smile, it is integral to the overall health of every citizen," Minister Sakeena stated.

The Health Minister added that in recent years oral hygiene practices and dental check-ups

have emerged as an essential routine for people, especially the young generation. She urged the public to adopt regular oral hygiene practices and make dental check-ups an essential part of their healthcare routine.

The Minister further said that the present Omar Abdullah led government is giving major thrust for development of medical infrastructure across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir. She added that dialysis facilities have been established at all SDHs, besides MRI, CT scan and other advanced medical facilities have been established in various GMCs and hospitals to provide best and quality medical care services to people.

Minister Sakeena, in her address, also called upon the administration of GDC Srinagar to carry awareness regarding Oral Health and Hygiene in rural and far-flung areas by organising camps, so that the people in these areas are made aware about dental health care and wellbeing associated with it.

Commending the medical fraternity for significant improvements in the healthcare system, the Minister said that being a doctor is not only

about wearing white apron and stethoscope around the neck, but remaining committed to the welfare of the common masses with the motto of 'Equal Treatment for All'.

In her welcome address, Principal of GDC Srinagar, Dr. Sandeep Kour Bali highlighted that the programme is designed to reach out not only to students and healthcare professionals but also to the general public. She added that the goal of this programme is to bridge the knowledge gap regarding oral diseases, their prevention and treatment options.

The Principal also gave a brief about the services being provided at the Dental college and other achievements.

On the sidelines of the event, Minister Sakeena also flagged off Dental Awareness Rally, aimed to hold interactive sessions, live demonstrations of correct brushing techniques, awareness workshops, and distribution of informative literature on oral hygiene best practices to the general public.

Later, the Health Minister also inaugurated Multidisciplinary Research Unit (MDRU) at the Central Library of the GDC Srinagar.

Div Com reviews preparations for 'Sewa Parv' celebrations

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review preparations for the upcoming celebration of 'Sewa Parv' across the Kashmir division.

The meeting aimed to ensure coordinated efforts by district administrations and line departments for impactful execution of activities.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners besides heads and representatives from departments including Rural Sanitation, Urban Local Bodies, Social Welfare, Education, Health,

Horticulture, Agriculture, AACL, Information, Skill Development, Police, and Forest.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com underscored the importance of a focused and result-oriented approach to achieve tangible outcomes during the 'Sewa Parv' period. He called for convergence and synchronization of departmental activities, programs, and awareness campaigns for effectiveness, as per the directions of Hon'ble LG.

To ensure effective monitoring, he directed each district to nominate a Nodal Officer, while Deputy Director Planning, Ashiq Hussain Malik, was appointed as the Divisional Level

Nodal Officer to oversee coordination and monitor daily progress.

He emphasized the uploading of targets achieved, photographs, and videos on the web portal developed by the IT department.

He laid focus on various activities to be planned during the period which include Social Security Initiatives, Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Financial Inclusion Drives, Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, Poshan Abhiyan, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, Grievance Redressal Mechanisms, Plantation Drives, and Health & Nutrition Initiatives etc.

Director Agri. Kashmir flags-off group of progressive farmers

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: A group of 45 progressive farmers from different zones of Srinagar district was Monday flagged-off by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah for an exposure visit to Faculty of Agriculture Wadura Sopore campus (SKUAST-K).

The exposure visit has been organised by Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare department district Srinagar under HADP project -11 (promotion of oil seed).

While interacting with the farmers on the occasion, Director Agriculture said that such programs are being organised by the department to keep farmers abreast with the latest cultural practices and technologies for commercial farming.

Shah said learning real time

trends in farming and cultivation of different agriculture crops on scientific lines, help farmers do better during their farming activities. He said, skilled human resource, and capacities building of farmers are among the department's priorities.

He impressed the progressive farmers to interact with the agriculture scientists, experts, and extension functionaries to get themselves acquainted with up-to-date methodologies in crop cultivation on scientific lines. He asked the farmers to enhance their technical skills in the field of crop farming and to adopt the advanced technologies after learning from such exposure visits.

Director Agriculture said the farmers would witness field demonstrations, farm management and practical demonstration sessions during the visit.

JKEDI conducts Startup Idea Challenge

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 15: Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, hosted a Startup Idea Challenge (Boot Camp) Monday at Government Degree College (Women), Pulwama, under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027.

The event aimed to inspire entrepreneurship, foster innovation, and highlight opportunities within Jammu & Kashmir's vibrant startup ecosystem.

Presided over by Prof. Dr. Sami Jan, Principal of GDC (Women) Pulwama, the event emphasized the significance of the J&K Startup Policy and the pivotal role of youth in driving regional innovation.

Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama,

engaged with participants, praising their innovative ideas and urged them to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams with passion.

Syed Gulzar (Associate Professor, Physics), Dr. Tanveer Bilal (Head, Department of Bioresources), Suraya Yousuf (Assistant Professor, Commerce) from GDC Pulwama (Women), and Ansar Ullah Machloo (Head, Centre for Startup Finance, JKEDI), alongside faculty and JKEDI officials were present on the occasion.

The event featured an engaging startup pitching session, where six innovative ideas were registered, and four participants showcased their concepts to a panel of experts. Selected participants were honored and advanced to the next stage of the challenge.

Health Deptt Doda organises medical camps

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 15: As part of the Public Outreach Programme and on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner and Director Health Services Jammu, the Health Department under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, organized a series of medical camps in Doda district, Monday.

The camps were held at Village Dashnan and Bagairni under the supervision of Block Medical Officer Ghat, Dr. Abdul Gafoor Ahmed.

At Dashnan, the medical camp was attended by around 60 patients who were screened and treated by the health

team comprising Dr. Younas Saleem (MLHP), Nusrat Aaliya (FMPHW) and the local ASHAs of the area.

Similarly, a medical camp was held at Bagairni where nearly 50 patients were examined by the RBSK team including Dr. Touseef Aslam and Dr. Nusrat Mumtaz.

The Patients were provided free medicines and Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS) and imparted awareness on health, hygiene and prevention of water-borne diseases.

The initiative aimed to bring healthcare services to the doorstep of people living in far-flung areas and to spread awareness regarding preventive health measures.

DC Kathua reviews preparations for campaign

KT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 15: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Monday chaired a meeting of District Officers to review and finalize preparations for the upcoming Sewa Parv and Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar campaign- to align with national-level initiatives.

The meeting focused on formulating an integrated plan that addresses key areas such as health, sanitation, services delivery and financial inclusion across all blocks and panchayats.

Emphasizing the importance of seamless coordination, Deputy Commissioner Sharma directed all departments to work in synergy for the successful execution of these programmes. He underscored that the initiatives are a prime opportunity to bring governance closer to the people, ensure inclusive development and promote culturally rooted nutrition practices within the district.

Under the Sewa Parv banner, the DC issued clear instructions for a series of community-centric activities. Block Development Officers (BDOs) and the CEO of the Municipality were directed to launch extensive Swachhata (cleanliness) drives in all panchayats and



urban wards.

Simultaneously, they are to conduct community tree plantation drives and awareness campaigns on various citizen services. Similarly, he asked the District Forest Officers (DFOs) to initiate community tree plantation drives. Educational institutions, including Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools, were directed to play an active role by organizing donation drives for books and stationery, undertaking campus beautification and arranging voluntary extra classes for students.

Besides, the Social Welfare Department was directed to prioritize social outreach by engaging with vulnerable sections of society. This includes visiting old-age homes and orphanages, interacting with the elderly, donating assistive devices like wheelchairs, hearing aids and

organizing community meals for the needy.

Regarding the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar campaign, the Deputy Commissioner detailed a multifaceted approach to promote women's health and well-being. This will be achieved through extensive outreach programmes, health check-up camps, nutrition counseling, and awareness sessions on critical topics such as anaemia prevention, maternal health and menstrual hygiene, with the active participation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

To strengthen health services and financial literacy, the Health Department was asked to organize health check-ups and blood donation drives across all blocks.

It was also informed in the meeting that a district-level program will be held at the SDH

Parole on September 17, in sync with the national launch by the Prime Minister, ensuring maximum community participation.

To ensure the messages reach every citizen, the Information Department was tasked with undertaking a robust publicity campaign, utilizing both traditional and social media platforms.

Other line departments were also instructed to hold awareness camps on flagship schemes such as PM-Kisan, Ayushman Bharat - PMJAY, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Atal Pension Yojana and other financial inclusion initiatives.

Pertinently, the Sewa Parv, a nationwide citizen-centric initiative, will be observed in the district from September 17 to October 2. Running concurrently, the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar campaign will continue for a month, from September 17 to October 16. These initiatives seek to mobilize communities and bring governance closer to the people through a series of integrated activities focused on health, sanitation, service delivery and financial inclusion.

Among others, ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur, ACD Akhil Sadotra, and other district heads were present in the meeting, while ADCs and SDMs joined virtually.

Pr Secy Culture inaugurates Hindi Pakhwada

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 15: Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma Monday inaugurated "Hindi Pakhwada" Celebration Programs during the inaugural event organised by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) at K.L. Saigal Hall, here. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from writers, scholars, academicians, and admirers of Hindi language and literature.

In his address, Brij Mohan Sharma lauded the role of JKAACL in documenting and promoting Hindi language and literature through its journals, books, and other publications. He recalled that in 2020, the Government of J&K declared Hindi as one of the official languages alongside Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, and English.

Underscoring the importance of Hindi as a symbol of unity and identity, Principal Secretary announced that a calligraphy centre will shortly be established to train the younger generation in writing Hindi, Urdu, and other languages, thereby enriching

the visual art scene of J&K. He further emphasized the responsibility of institutions like JKAACL in creating platforms for young writers and scholars to contribute to the growth of Hindi literature.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Secretary JKAACL, Harvinder Kour, extended greetings on Hindi Diwas and highlighted its historical significance, recalling that on 14 September 1949, Hindi was adopted as the official language of India. She also underlined the Academy's ongoing efforts to promote and preserve Hindi alongside other regional languages of Jammu & Kashmir.

As part of the academic session, Prof. Chanchal Dogra presented a scholarly paper on the status of Hindi in the contemporary world, its relevance in education, technology, and administration, and its role in fostering cultural harmony. Dr. Nirmal Vinod, in his paper, spoke on the literary traditions of Hindi, stressing the need to preserve its classical heritage while embracing modern creative expressions.

Earlier, the programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the

SWD hosts camp at Mandi

KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 15: The Social Welfare Department organized a Pension and Grievance Redressal Camp in Mandi, the other day.

A large number of people from across the three blocks of Mandi, Sathra and Loran attended the camp. The participants from remote and hilly villages raised their issues, particularly related to old age pensions, widow and disability pensions, and the State Marriage Assistance Scheme. Many participants highlighted delays in financial assistance and sought clarity on documentation and eligibility requirements.

District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Khalil A Bandy listened patiently to all the grievances and assured the public that their concerns would be taken up for redressal on priority, especially issues linked to pension disbursement and marriage assistance. He emphasized the department's commitment to ensuring that genuine beneficiaries receive timely benefits without unnecessary hurdles.

The locals welcomed the initiative of the department for addressing grassroots level concerns.

Engineers are backbone of development: CM Omar

Pays tribute to Sir M Visvesvaraya

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sept 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday attended the 58th Engineers' Day celebrations at Institution of Engineers (India), J&K State Centre (IEI JKSC), Srinagar, where he paid glowing

tributes to Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya and underscored the vital role of engineers in nation-building.

Highlighting the importance of innovation and ethical responsibility, the Chief Minister said that engineers form the backbone of development and implementation. "Whether the government is successful or not, engineers play a very important role in this. We may come



up with new ideas in meetings and sessions, but without you,

they cannot be translated on the ground," he said.

Assuring the engineering community of the government's

commitment to address their concerns, Omar Abdullah said, "I want to assure you all that my colleagues and I are working very seriously on this. We are determined to find a sustainable solution for your long-pending issues, not just a one-time measure. You should continue contributing towards making J&K a developed state, while we will shoulder the responsibility of resolving your service matters."

On the occasion, the Chief Minister unveiled policy briefs and the newsletter of IEI JKSC.

Advisor to the CM, Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad (Pardesi), Chairman IEI JKSC Er. Iftikhar Ahmad Hakim and Honorary Secretary IEI JKSC Dr.Jahangeer Ali also addressed the gathering and highlighted the contributions of engineers in shaping society and infrastructure.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Police have

Peace, and various marathons, football, and cricket tournaments are more than just sports activities. Each tournament is a symbol of a new and positive chapter for our youth."

Highlighting the unifying role of games, LG Sinha said sports hold immense power in bringing people together and fostering harmony in society.

He called upon young athletes to remain committed to keeping the national flag flying high, adding that sportspersons are role models and must inspire others through their discipline and dedication.

The LG also reflected on the transformation of water bodies in the Valley, particularly Dal Lake. "For a long time, people believed Dal Lake could not be cleaned, but today it looks more vibrant and cleaner than before. This is a matter of pride for all of us," he remarked.

Underscoring the importance of preserving natural resources, LG Sinha urged citizens, especially the younger generation, to take a pledge for safeguarding rivers and lakes. "As we move towards celebrating 100 years of independence in 2047, we must envision a future where our lakes and water bodies remain clean and thriving," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the youth to lead the community service campaign during the 'Sewa Parv' starting from September 17th, 2025.

He emphasized that the young volunteers, along with J&K Police, should be ready for community initiatives like cleanliness campaign, tree plantation program, and helping the weaker sections of the society.

Calling sportspersons the torchbearers of society, he emphasized their duty to lead from the front not only in the sporting arena but also in preserving the environment. "Sportspersons must pledge to keep our tricolour soaring and our natural heritage protected," he added.

At the closing ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor took the ceremonial salute at an impressive pedal pass and also felicitated the winners of Jashn-e-Dal.

The three-day event witnessed the participation of around 750 athletes in different water sports disciplines.

DGP, Nalin Prabhat; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; ADGP Armed, Anand Jain; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration; members of various water sports associations and sports clubs; prominent sports personalities, and youth in large number attended the closing ceremony. (KNO)

Highway havoc

over Rs 1,200 crore on the horticulture sector, with thousands of tonnes of perishable produce either rotting inside stranded trucks or being sold at throwaway prices," they said.

Meanwhile, Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers-cum-Dealers Union president Bashir Ahmad Basheer, after meeting Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan, told KNO that the LG assured immediate intervention.

"The LG said all fruit-laden vehicles on the national highway as well as the Mughal Road, will be cleared on priority. He also assured that the highway will be restored by tomorrow and compensation to the affected growers will be looked into," Bashir Ahmad said, adding that Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has also conveyed similar instructions.

Following these assurances, the Union said mandi operations will resume from tomorrow. However, they warned that if the commitments are not honoured, growers will be compelled to intensify their agitation. (KNO)

LG assured swift

The delegation expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Lieutenant Governor for the launch of a new parcel train connecting Budgam with Adarsh Nagar, New Delhi, which they termed a milestone for the fruit industry. However, they also flagged pressing concerns regarding the uninterrupted movement of fruit-laden trucks on NH-44 and the Mughal Road.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) after the meeting, Basheer said the LG assured that all stranded fruit trucks would be cleared on priority and that the highway would be "fully restored by tomorrow."

"The LG gave a patient hearing to our demands and assured that fruit-laden vehicles will be given top priority once the road is made traffic-worthy. He also said the government will look into the issue of compensation for losses suffered by growers due to the prolonged closure," Basheer said.

During the meeting, the Union submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting the plight of the growers.

Key demands, as per the memorandum, include immediate restoration of NH-44 to ensure smooth passage of stranded trucks, priority clearance of fruit-laden trucks once the road is restored, even against security convoys if needed, and daily movement of trucks from valley mandis to outside markets on a priority basis.

The Union demanded assessment of orchard losses in south Kashmir due to recent devastating floods, with horticulture experts deputed

for ground surveys, comprehensive compensation package for orchard owners affected by what growers termed a "natural disaster", railway connectivity for all major fruit mandis, especially Sopore, along with warehouse facilities to reduce dependency on road transport and waiver of KCC loans raised by small and marginal fruit growers, the "poorest community among the orchardists", Basheer said.

The memorandum stressed that hundreds of trucks carrying fresh consignments of Babogoshia pears, Ghalamast apples, Red Ghala, and other early-season fruits have been stuck for nearly three weeks, leading to "complete damage" of perishable stock.

The Union warned that growers face losses running into crores of rupees if immediate relief measures are not taken.

They said the government restrictions allowing only six-tyre trucks via Mughal Road have been unviable, as bulk transportation of apple and pear crops requires 10-14 tyre vehicles. Smaller trucks, they said, are charging "exorbitant rates nearly 300% above normal freight," adding to the financial burden.

The LG assured the delegation that men and machinery have been deployed for the complete restoration of NH-44, and railway freight terminals will be established in due course to facilitate growers and traders, the Union leader said, adding that Sinha assured that the stranded trucks will be given priority clearance.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the LG, was also present at the meeting.

The meeting comes at a time when Kashmir's horticulture industry—considered the backbone of its economy—is under severe stress due to weather-induced road disruptions and mounting transportation hurdles. (KNO)

CM Omar speaks

(formerly Twitter), the Chief Minister said he had discussed the situation along National Highway-44 with the Union Minister.

"Just spoke to Union Minister @MORTHIndia @nitin_gadkari Sb regarding the situation along NH-44 and the lack of connectivity with the rest of the country along this vital link," Omar said, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The Chief Minister said the frustration of fruit growers is understandable.

"They have been very patient for the first few days, but watching their hard work rot because NHIDCL is unable to stabilise the highway—their patience has worn thin, and that is totally understandable," Omar said.

He added that concrete steps are expected to be taken within the next 24 hours to address the issue but refrained from sharing further details until the plan is officially implemented.

"Some concrete steps will be taken within the next 24 hours to address this problem, but I will wait for that to happen before I say any more about the proposed plan of action," he said.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister said the Union Government should hand over the highway to the J&K Government if it cannot maintain it.

"Had the highway been under my control, I would have opened it. This highway falls under the jurisdiction of the Government of India. If they cannot maintain it, they should hand it over to us. I will deploy a team of engineers who are currently available here," Omar said.

He further stated that the Central Government has failed to restore the road.

"Enough is enough. We have been patient because they kept assuring us daily that restoration work would be done, but it hasn't happened," he said.

The Chief Minister also urged the Railway Minister to run train services regularly to ferry fruits to various markets across the country.

"I would request the Railway Minister that one train is not sufficient. We are thankful to you for starting the train service, but it should be operated on a regular basis so that fruit growers have the option to transport apples either by train or by road," he said. (KNO)

J&K political leaders

its Chairman Bashir Ahmad Basheer, met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

According to an official statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the members of the delegation thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Lieutenant Governor for the introduction of a parcel train from Budgam to Adarsh Nagar in New Delhi. The LG told the delegation that the issues raised would be taken up for appropriate action.

Reacting to the issue, Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi said the prolonged closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has created a situation of grave concern. He said apple growers are suffering heavy losses as truckloads of fruit remain stranded, while petrol pumps across the valley are running dry due to a lack of fuel supply.

Calling the blockade a direct threat to both the economy and the daily lives of people, Mehdi urged the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to urgently intervene and ensure immediate restoration of smooth traffic movement.

People's Conference (PC) president Sajad

Gani Lone slammed the National Conference-led government over its handling of the ongoing crisis caused by disruptions on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, Lone minced no words in castigating the government over hindrances in the movement of apple trucks on the highway.

"The apples destined for the rest of the country are in a state of rot. Massive losses for the apple growers. I am sure there must be some remedial measures," Lone said in a post on X.

The MLA from Handwara criticised the administration's inaction, saying that sitting like a mute spectator and doing nothing is criminal. "Inclement weather is not the fault of the government. But sitting like a mute spectator and doing nothing is criminal," he said.

The PC president asked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to work out a strategy for facilitating unhindered movement of trucks on the highway. "Stop wandering aimlessly across the country. Sit with your officers and stakeholders and work out a strategy," he posted on X.

Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Umar Farooq expressed deep concern over the situation faced by protesting fruit growers and orchardists, describing them as the backbone of Kashmir's economy.

In a post on X, Mirwaiz said that fruit-laden trucks have been left stranded on the highway for days without passage, causing losses to growers and pushing their year's hard work to the brink of ruin.

He termed the government's apathy towards the issue as "shameful" and urged the authorities to ensure unhindered movement of trucks on priority to prevent further financial losses and to address the mental agony caused to the growers.

CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, has called upon both the Union and Jammu and Kashmir governments to urgently address the problem. He conveyed his sympathies to the horticulturist community and demanded compensation for their losses.

Tarigami stressed the need to increase the frequency of van services to different states that serve as key markets for Kashmiri apples, so that the produce can reach buyers despite disruptions on the highway.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has stated that while the highway may reopen for light vehicles, full restoration will take longer. For many growers, Tarigami said, the delay puts their annual harvest at risk.

He added that the situation highlights the dependence of Kashmir's economy on a single highway. With horticulture providing income to nearly 70% of households in the region, repeated disruptions linked to weather events are not only transport issues but also serious threats to economic stability.

The community is waiting to see whether government action will respond to the scale of the problem, the CPI(M) leader added.

PDP leader Iltija Mufti visited the Jablipora fruit mandi in Bijbehara, where she met growers and urged the government to maintain the highway and give priority to fruit-laden trucks moving from Srinagar towards Jammu.

The Jammu and Kashmir Justice and Development Front also condemned the government's failure to ensure the unhindered movement of apple trucks on the Srinagar-Jammu highway, saying it has caused losses and hardship for fruit growers and their families.

The party said it stands in solidarity with growers who observed a shutdown in mandis and joined their call for urgent action to restore traffic and prevent further damage to Kashmir's Rs 12,000 crore fruit economy. It described the present situation as a consequence of official apathy, poor planning, and slow-paced reconstruction work by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The JDF demanded that the administration and NHAI act without delay to clear blocked stretches of the highway and ensure that trucks reach their destinations. It also sought the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to prevent similar crises in the future.

"The fruit industry is the heartbeat of Kashmir's rural economy. Its suffering due to neglect is unacceptable," the party said, urging the Chief Minister and the Government of India to prioritise infrastructure and the well-being of farmers over "bureaucratic inertia and empty assurances."

President of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Mohammed Yaseen urged the Union Territory government and the Centre to take urgent and serious measures for the immediate restoration of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, calling it the "lifeline" of Kashmir.

In a statement, Yaseen expressed deep concern over the prolonged highway closure, which he said has added to the suffering of the people of the valley, already reeling under floods and incessant rains.

"The Jammu-Srinagar highway is the only all-weather surface link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. Its closure has not only disrupted passenger movement but has also caused immense hardship to traders, fruit

growers, and truckers," he said.

The PDF chief added that the continued highway crisis has placed an unbearable burden on transporters and the economy of the valley. (KNO)

Fruit-laden trucks

trucks to markets outside the Valley.

In a post on X, per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), office of the Chief Minister said the government is in constant touch with all authorities and that every effort is being made to transport fruit out of the Kashmir Valley.

"The unprecedented closure of the highway due to heavy rains and repeated landslides has been one of the worst disruptions in recent memory. Despite round-the-clock efforts, clearance has been hampered by continuous slides," it said.

It added the Chief Minister has personally been monitoring the situation from day one, holding multiple review meetings, expediting road clearance, regulating traffic, and ensuring the uninterrupted movement of essential supplies.

The Minister interacted with truck drivers, traders, and transport officials at Qazigund, emphasizing the need to give top priority to fruit-laden trucks to prevent delays and safeguard the interests of farmers and traders.

During the visit, he also inspected damaged stretches of the highway in Udhampur district, reviewing ongoing repair works and coordination between agencies to ensure smooth and safe traffic flow.

DIG Udhampur Sridhar Patil and other senior officers briefed the Minister about the restoration works and traffic clearance in Udhampur particularly the Tharad-Balli Nallah stretch where extensive damages have occurred.

SSP Udhampur Amod Ashok Nagpure; SSP Traffic Adil Hamid and several prominent citizens were also present during the visit of the Minister.

Earlier, during the tour, the Minister also chaired a review meeting at DC Office Ramban, which was attended by DDC Chairperson Dr. Shamsad Shan; MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen; MLA Anantnag East-Shangus, Reyaz Ahmad Khan; MLA, Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Bhat; Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, SSP Ramban Arun Gupta and other senior officers.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Minister on measures taken to ease congestion, particularly between Banihal and Nashri, and on arrangements made for meals and support services to stranded drivers and passengers by the district administration, J&K Police, and NHAI.

Minister Dar urged the Deputy Commissioner and SSP to personally monitor traffic management on NH-44 and ensure uninterrupted passage for fruit-laden trucks, reiterating the government's commitment to minimizing losses to the farming community. (KNO)

300-metre stretch

hampered by the condition of the stretch. "On a normal day during peak fruit season, around 10000 vehicles, including 1000 apple trucks, ply on the highway. But due to the current road conditions, only 700 to 1000 vehicles are able to pass through. Besides, around 2500 vehicles are being diverted via Mughal Road, resulting in a daily backlog of 6000 vehicles," they said. (KNO)

LG flags off first

services will significantly reduce transit time and increase income opportunities for thousands of farmers and boost the agricultural economy of the region."

The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated the Indian Railways for dedicated freight train service between Budgam to New Delhi.

The Lieutenant Governor said that parcel train service from Kashmir to New Delhi will give a major boost to the economy. "The start of a daily time-tabled train carrying horticulture produce to the National Capital is a major relief for fruit growers. I am thankful to Railways for the initiative."

He said, "We have seen due to topographical issues and inclement weather conditions National Highway gets blocked some times. The closure causes loss to perishable goods. Introduction of railway parcel services is a big leap towards resolving this problem."

"The new freight train service is a big step for the apple growers of the Union Territory to transport their produce to different parts of the country. This will provide a faster and more economical transportation mode, strengthen market linkages and bring improvement in the lives and livelihoods of farmers," he added.

The Parcel Train Service (Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo Service) will be operational on all days and is suitable for all parcel commodities. The eight-Parcel-van coach train has the total weight capacity of around 180 tonnes (23 tonnes each coach).

The booking for full parcel vans is available in online mode, while smaller consignments can also be booked through off-line mode. The Freight train departing from Budgam at 6:15 a.m., will makes a stop at Bari Brahmana

Jammu from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will arrive at Adarsh Nagar, New Delhi at 5:30 am next day.

Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments; Vivek Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu; Dr Manoj Singh, Additional Member Railway Board (Marketing & Business Development); Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Vivek Gupta, IGP Railways; Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Budgam; Dr GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Uchit Singhal, senior Divisional Commercial Manager and other senior officials of Railways, Civil and Police administration were present. (KNO)

Events Like Jashn-e-Dal

participation with each passing year. "The enthusiasm shown by participants and spectators has made the entire Dal Lake vibrant. Such programmes act as a bridge between the police and the public," he said.

The DGP also lauded the achievements of police personnel in sports, citing the recent feat of a J&K Police constable who won the Ladakh Marathon. "Our men are not only ensuring peace and security but also excelling in the sporting arena, inspiring the youth to channel their energies in the right direction," the DGP said.

Highlighting the force's commitment to youth engagement, he said that besides Jashn-e-Dal, the J&K Police regularly organizes cricket and football tournaments and other sporting events. "Sports tournaments play a crucial role in bringing youngsters together and encouraging them towards healthy and constructive activities," he added.

DGP Prabhat maintained that such initiatives reflect the police's vision of building stronger community ties while promoting talent and discipline among the younger generation. (KNO)

CM forenhancing

in the power sector."

Highlighting the challenges of hydropower vis-à-vis renewable energy, he said, "The installed cost of hydroelectricity is very high, though the per-unit cost reduces over time. With solar power now available at Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.5 per unit, competing becomes difficult. But hydropower remains our only viable resource, and we must continue developing projects alongside improving efficiency."

The Chief Minister reaffirmed that tariff rationalisation should be guided by people's capacity to pay, ensuring that the rich contribute more while the poor pay less. He assured the engineers that their demands and suggestions would be taken up in earnest, adding that by next Engineers' Day, "there should be no need for you to repeat the same demands."

Explaining his decision to personally retain the Power portfolio, Omar Abdullah said, "I chose to hold this department because if we really want to make J&K prosperous, the most important sector is the Power Development Department. I request you to maintain the momentum in reducing losses and improving efficiency."

The Chief Minister lauded landmark hydropower initiatives like the Baglihar project, which transformed J&K's power scenario despite challenges, including lack of counter guarantees.

Dispelling speculation about privatisation of power, Omar Abdullah categorically stated, "We are not talking about privatisation. If we reduce our losses, improve billing efficiency and enhance revenue generation, there will be no need for it. My vision is to strengthen and reform the power sector in J&K."

No significant weather

paddy & other farm operations. (KNO)

Techknow-2025: CM

AI systems. Even software development is now being carried out by AI tools. With the latest version of ChatGPT, even someone with no knowledge of coding can generate code. That is how transformative this technology has become," Omar Abdullah observed.

He emphasized that education must adapt to this changing environment. While acknowledging that some schools have advanced rapidly, he stressed that others continue to lag behind and need urgent attention.

"I am heartened to see that DPS Srinagar is not only helping its own students but also supporting initiatives like Techknow-25, where even government school students have participated," he added.

Sharing a word of advice with the students, the Chief Minister said: "Always keep asking questions. It is curiosity that drives progress, and it is questions that create the answers of tomorrow." On the occasion, Omar Abdullah felicitated the schools that participated in Techknow-2025. Earlier, he took a round of the DPS Srinagar premises where he visited the computer labs, Atal Tinkering Lab, Innovation Hub, Junior School, and Learning Resource Centre, among other sections of the institution.

Muslim bodies welcome SC stay on key provisions of Waqf law

■ Expect 'complete relief' going ahead

PTI

Lucknow, Sept 15: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court judgement putting on hold several key provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The All India Shia Personal Law Board (AISPLB) also said it has full faith in the courts, and is hopeful of getting justice.

Reacting to the Supreme Court judgement, Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali, an executive member of AIMPLB, told PTI, "Muslims and the AIMPLB wanted a stay on the entire Waqf (Amendment) Act, which the Supreme Court refused. The court said the stay cannot be imposed on the entire Waqf law, but it put on hold certain provisions, which is a welcome step. We have got significant relief and hope to get complete relief when the final judgement comes."

He added that the apex court has also directed that efforts should be made to appoint the CEO, who is also the ex-officio secretary of the Waqf board, from the Muslim community, which is a relief.

"This has given significant relief. However, the issue of non-Muslim members (in the board) is still there. The Constitution gives freedom of religion to all Indians, and Waqf is an integral part of Islam," Mahali said.

He added that the trusts and religious endowments of



other religions and communities have a provision that only a person from the same faith and the same school of thought could become its member, but the Waqf (Amendment) Act ended this provision, and allowed a non-Muslim to become a member of the board.

"The Supreme Court has not stayed this. This is a big issue for which we have to wait," Mahali said.

The Supreme Court on Monday put on hold several key provisions of the Waqf law, including the clause that only those practising Islam for the last five years can dedicate a property as Waqf, but refused to stay the entire law.

The Bench of CJI B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George also pressed pause on the powers given to a collector to adjudicate the status of Waqf properties and ruled on the contentious issue of

non-Muslim participation in Waqf boards, directing that the Central Waqf Council should not have more than four non-Muslim members out of 20, and State Waqf boards not have more than three of 11.

The general secretary of AISPLB, Yasooob Abbas, told PTI, "We honour the judgement given by the Supreme Court. The way in which the Joint Parliamentary Committee toured India, got the Bill passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha overnight, and also got the approval of the president, we had no other option but to move the Supreme Court. We have full faith in our courts, and we are hopeful of getting justice."

"On the presence of non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council and state Waqf boards as members, we request the honourable court to reconsider it,"

Abbas added.

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Hajj, Danish Azad Ansari, told PTI, "We welcome the Supreme Court judgement. The Modi government is honestly and seriously working for the upliftment and development of the minority Muslims and the Pasmandas. In the light of the Supreme Court judgement, our government will do everything needed for the Muslims."

He also said the Waqf (Amendment) Act will open new avenues of development for the Muslims.

When contacted, former Uttar Pradesh minister Mohsin Raza told PTI, "We welcome the Supreme Court judgement. The petitioners never wanted the (Waqf) law to be implemented. This is a defeat for them. As far as the issue of three members of the Waqf

board being non-Muslims is concerned, the board is a constitutional body."

Raza added that the top has considered the laws enacted by the Modi government, be the anti-triple talaq law, Waqf law, or the abrogation of Article 370, to be correct.

"This will pave the way for the upliftment of the Muslim society, and those with whom the Waqf boards did injustice, will get justice now. Those who used to loot in the name of Waqf will now have hard times. The petitioners were siding with them," Raza claimed.

Samajwadi Party MLA from Sambhal, Iqbal Mahmood, told reporters, "I have not read the Supreme Court judgement completely yet. From what I have heard on news channels, I can say that Muslims have always followed the orders of the top court."

"However, a few things are beyond our understanding, such as the presence of non-Muslim members in the Waqf boards. Can we make any Muslim a member of the Ram Temple Trust?"

Bareilly-based cleric Maulana Shahabuddin Razi termed the apex court judgement "very good" and "balanced".

"The judgement has kindled hope that illegal occupation of Waqf land will be removed, and schools, colleges, hospitals, mosques, madrasas and orphanages will be built on those lands," Razi told PTI Videos.

Will set aside Bihar SIR exercise if any illegality found, can't stop SIR across country: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Supreme Court on Monday said it was presuming that the Election Commission, being a constitutional authority, was following the law during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and warned that the entire exercise would be set aside in case any illegality is found at any stage.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joydip Bagchi, which fixed October 7 for hearing final arguments on the validity of Bihar SIR, refused to offer any "piecemeal opinion" on the exercise and said "our judgement in Bihar SIR will be applicable for pan-India SIR".

The court clarified it can't stop the poll panel from conducting a similar exercise for the revision of electoral rolls across the country. The bench, however, allowed petitioners against the Bihar SIR exercise to also argue on the pan-India SIR on October 7.

The top court also clarified that the publication of the final electoral roll on September 30 will not make any difference to the adjudication of the case.

"What difference will the final publication of the electoral roll make to us? If we are satisfied there is some illegality, we can set it aside," the bench told the petitioners who have challenged the SIR exercise.

The top court, in the meantime, issued notice on a plea seeking the recall of the September 8 top court order directing the poll panel to include the Aadhaar card as the 12th prescribed document in the Bihar SIR.

At the outset, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the Election Commission, requested the bench that the court should defer the hearing till the final assessment of the SIR exercise is made.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan, appearing for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), said that the ECI is moving ahead with the preparations for conducting the SIR exercise in other states.

"We have to address the court on the legal aspect of the exercise. If it is found that there is a perversion of a constitutional scheme, we may press that this may not continue. There is no question of proceeding with other states and establishing fait accompli,"



he submitted. The bench told him that the court cannot stop the poll panel from conducting the SIR exercise.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for some activists, said no one should be denied a right to vote because of an illegal methodology.

The bench said, "Please take it from us. If we find any illegality in the methodology adopted by ECI at any stage of SIR in Bihar, the entire exercise will be set aside." Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for several opposition political parties, including the Congress, requested the court to take up the matter at the earliest as the ECI has announced the SIR exercise across the country.

Justice Kant said, "We can't express any opinion in piecemeal. Whatever they are proposing in the meanwhile, our judgment for Bihar SIR, will obviously have an impact." Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the Rastriya Janta Dal, alleged that the Election Commission was acting in gross violation of the rules and their own manual.

"There is virtually no transparency. Their rules require that within one day objections be uploaded on their website, so that people can see who has applied for deletion, etc. This is not being followed."

"They have uploaded only 30 per cent of the objections and requests for additions, etc. They are only following the court's order and not their own rules," he submitted.

The bench said, "The Election Commission, being a constitutional authority, is presumed to follow the law and the mandated rules." Justice Kant said it would hear the matter in detail on October 7 and consider all legal aspects of the exercise.

Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay submitted that he has filed an interlocutory application for the recall

of the September 8 order, which said that the Aadhaar card be considered as the 12th document for the SIR exercise.

"There are six judgments of the court which say Aadhaar is not proof of age, residence or citizenship. Therefore, Aadhaar cannot be equated to those 11 documents; otherwise the entire SIR exercise will be disastrous," he submitted, adding that over one lakh people are Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals in Bihar. He submitted that under the law, Aadhaar can also be given to even foreigners and it can be made on a recommendation letter of a village pramukh, local MLA or MP. The bench, while issuing notice on his interlocutory application, said the court will hear him on October 7 and pointed out that Aadhaar was made acceptable as an interim arrangement.

Justice Bagchi told Upadhyay that "whether it would be disastrous or not will be decided by the ECI".

Justice Kant said this court has earlier said that even a driving licence or birth certificate can be forged but Aadhaar can be used to the extent the law permits.

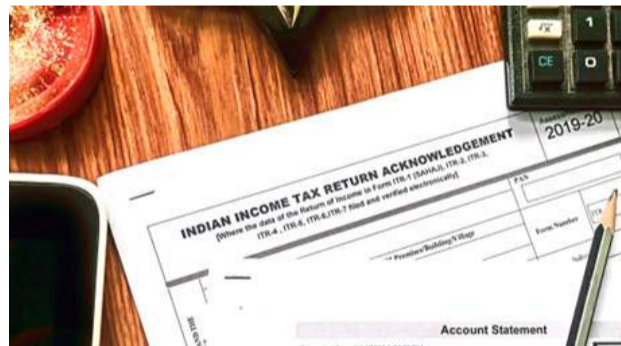
On September 8, the apex court clarified that Aadhaar will not be proof of citizenship and the poll panel can ascertain its genuineness on being submitted by an elector for inclusion in the electoral roll.

The SIR of the voter list in Bihar -- the first since 2003 -- sparked a huge political row, with the opposition parties alleging that the exercise is aimed at depriving people of their right to vote. The EC has maintained that the SIR's purpose was to clean the voter list by deleting names of people who are dead, possess duplicate voter cards or are illegal immigrants.

The SIR's findings reduced the total number of registered voters in Bihar, from 7.9 crore before the exercise to 7.24 crore.

Netizens complain of glitches in return filing on last date

I-T dept says no deadline extension



PTI

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Income Tax Department's I-T return filing portal faced huge traffic as the deadline for filing returns ends on Monday, leading to netizens complaining of glitches and demanding an extension of the September 15 deadline.

The department, however, said that the portal was working fine and gave no indication of extending the deadline for filing of income tax returns (ITRs) by individuals, HUFs and those who do not have to get their accounts audited for financial year 2024-25 (AY 2025-26).

The last date to file ITRs without penalty is September 15 for income earned in 2024-25 fiscal.

A number of chartered accountants and individuals have taken to social media over the past couple of days claiming that the I-T portal is facing glitches while making tax payment and downloading AIS (Annual Information Statement).

On Monday, netizens even complained that they were unable to log in into the e-filing portal.

In a late night post on X on September 14, the department termed "fake" a statement of extension of deadline, and asked taxpayers to only rely on official updates on @IncomeTaxIndia. "The due date for filing ITRs remains 15.09.2025," it said.

Replying to a post which claimed that there were issues in uploading ITR and tax payment, the department said, "The e-filing portal is working fine. Please clear your browser cache or try accessing the portal through a different browser". It also asked people

to share their details (along with PAN and mobile number) to e-mail id orm@cpic.incometax.gov.in.

On September 14, the I-T department had replied to users claiming issues with downloading AIS/TIS saying: "The AIS/TIS facility is functioning without any issues. May we request you to please try accessing it again. In case you continue to face difficulties, please share your details (along with your mobile number & public IP address) with us at cmcpc_support@insight.gov.in."

Over 6 crore ITRs were filed till afternoon of September 13, as per data shared by the tax department. Last year, 7.28 crore ITRs were filed till the July 31 due date.

The department had in May announced an extension of the due date for filing ITRs for Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26 (for income earned in financial year 2024-25) by individuals, HUFs and entities who do not have to get their accounts audited from July 31 to September 15.

The extension was on account of "structural and content revisions" in the income tax return (ITR) forms, which was notified in late April and early May. The changes made in the ITR form for AY 2025-26 also need modifications to be made in ITR filing utilities and the back-end system.

ITR filings have shown consistent growth over the years, reflecting rising compliance and widening of the tax base. For AY 2024-25, a record 7.28 crore ITRs were filed up to July 31, 2024, compared to 6.77 crore for AY 2023-24, registering a 7.5 per cent year-on-year growth.

Delhi to procure two amphibious excavators to clean Yamuna drains, fight pollution

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 15: In a bid to reduce pollution in the Yamuna river, the Delhi government will procure two large "amphibious excavators" for operations in major city drains such as the Najafgarh drain, officials said on Monday.

The machines, designed to function in marshy swamps, will be used for desilting, removal of solid waste, unwanted vegetation and landscaping work. The procurement is part of a multi-agency effort aimed at rejuvenating the Yamuna River, which remains one of the country's most polluted rivers.

"The machines will be procured for a period of four years, and the company will have to provide the manpower to operate them. The excavator will be used for desilting work, clearing of unwanted vegetation,

and landscaping work. We have floated a tender for procurement," an official said.

As per estimates, Delhi contributes a staggering 76 per cent of the Yamuna's total pollution load despite accounting for just 2 per cent of its length. In Delhi, the Yamuna flows for 52 kilometres, of which a critical 22 km segment is from Wazirabad to Okhla -- the most polluted section. The cost of the project will be 8.6 crore, including two years of operation and maintenance, watch and ward staff, fuel and other basic costs, he added. The excavators are specialised floating machines that are designed to operate in water bodies.

The Irrigation and Flood Control department, which will execute the project, currently has 77 drains under its purview, totalling around 419 kilometres in length.

Chronic illness deaths spike in India, women affected more: Lancet Study

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 15: India is among the countries where chances of dying from a chronic disease such as cancer and heart disease have increased among both men and women, even though the rates have shown a decline in four out of every five countries in the last decade, a global analysis published in The Lancet journal shows.

Among men and women in India, women have been affected by a bigger increase in risk compared to men, researchers, led by those from the UK's Imperial College London, said.

"Deaths from most causes of chronic disease increased in India, with heart disease and diabetes contributing heavily," they said.

The team worked with researchers from the World Health Organization (WHO), among others, to estimate the risk of dying from chronic diseases for 185 countries and territories.

"From 2010 to 2019, the



probability of dying from an NCD (non-communicable disease) between birth and 80 years of age decreased in 152 (82 per cent) of 185 countries for females and in 147 (79 per cent) countries for males; it increased in the remaining 33 (18 per cent) countries for females and 38 (21 per cent) countries for males," the authors wrote. They added,

"Among the largest countries -- regions other than high-income western countries -- non-communicable diseases mortality declined for both sexes in China, Egypt, Nigeria, Russia and Brazil, and increased for both sexes in India and Papua New Guinea."

Across most countries, deaths due to cancer and heart disease -- including heart

attacks and strokes -- had reduced, which were the biggest contributors to declines in death rates from chronic disease, the researchers said.

However, increase in deaths from dementia, neuropsychiatric conditions such as alcohol use disorder, and cancers of the pancreas and liver counteracted gains, they said.

The team said that nations

have pledged and planned to improve treatment of chronic diseases, including the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal of reducing premature mortality from the conditions by one-third by 2030.

The study is the first global analysis to track changes in death rates linked to chronic conditions at a national level and benchmark progress against historical performance, the researchers said.

They said that ahead of the upcoming fourth high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly, the study's findings show an urgent need for a greater investment in tackling chronic diseases and in ensuring approaches effectively reach people most in need.

On September 25, heads of states and government will meet at the UN General Assembly to set a new vision for preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, promoting mental health and wellbeing towards 2030 and beyond, the WHO said.

China terms as 'bullying' US call to G7, NATO to impose tariffs for importing Russian oil Warns of countermeasures

PTI

Beijing, Sept 15: Beijing on Monday described the US call to G7 and NATO countries to impose tariffs against China and other countries importing Russian oil as a "typical act of unilateral bullying" and "economic coercion", and threatened countermeasures if Washington's call is heeded.

China's rejection of the US push came even as the Chinese and US delegations reconvened in Spain on Monday for the second day of their talks on economic and trade issues.

At a regular news briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said that China's normal economic and energy cooperation with countries around the world, including Russia, is legitimate, lawful, and above reproach.

He made the remarks when asked to comment on reports that the US has asked G7 and NATO members to collectively impose additional tariffs on China for purchasing Russian oil to pressure Beijing to play



a role in ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"The US move is a typical act of unilateral bullying and economic coercion, which seriously undermines international trade rules and threatens the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains," Lin said.

"Facts have proven that coercion and pressure are unpopular and will not solve the problem. China's position on the Ukraine crisis is consistent and clear. Dialogue and

negotiation are the only viable way out," he said.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday said NATO countries should impose 50 to 100 per cent tariffs on China and stop buying oil from Russia to help end the Ukraine conflict.

On the same day, Treasury Secretary Bessent, during a call with G7 finance ministers, reiterated President Trump's call to the bloc's partners about joining the US in imposing tariffs on

countries purchasing oil from Russia to end the war in Ukraine.

Lin said since the very first day of the Ukraine crisis, China has been taking an objective and impartial stance, promoting peace talks. "We firmly oppose parties directing the issue at China and firmly oppose the imposition of unlawful, unilateral sanctions and long arm jurisdiction," he said, adding that if China's legitimate rights and interests are harmed, it will take

resolute countermeasures and firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests.

He said, "The majority of countries, including the US and Europe, continue to engage in trade with Russia. The normal exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Russian enterprises comply with WTO (World Trade Organisation) rules and market principles, are not targeted at any third party, and should not be subject to interference or influence from any third party."

On Saturday, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi also rebuffed the US call to G7 countries, saying that war cannot solve problems and sanctions only complicate them. While Bessent's statement did not name any country, the US has often blamed India and China for purchasing Russian oil even when there are no tariffs on Beijing for it.

The Trump administration has imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, including 25 per cent for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

British politicians condemn Elon Musk's comments at anti migrant rally

AP

London, Sept 15: Prime Minister Keir Starmer faced calls Monday to sanction Elon Musk after the X and Tesla owner told an anti-immigration rally that violence is coming to Britain and they must fight or die.

Starmer denounced violence on the fringes of Saturday's 100,000 or more-strong "Unite the Kingdom" demonstration in London organized by far-right campaigner Tommy Robinson.

Police said 26 officers were injured, four seriously, as protesters tried to breach lines separating them from a smaller anti-racist counter-demonstration. There were 25 people arrested at the event and the Metropolitan Police said more arrests would follow.

Addressing the demonstration by video link, Musk called for the dissolution of Parliament, an early election and a change of government in Britain. He told protesters "violence is coming to you" and "you either fight back or you die." Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrats, the third-largest party in Britain's Parliament, urged Starmer and Conservative opposition leader Kemi Badenoch to join him in condemning Musk's attempt "to sow discord and incite violence on our streets" and interfere with British democracy.

They should "consider what sanctions Elon Musk should face as a consequence," Davey said.

Equalities Minister Jacqui



Smith said Musk's remarks "were wrong and they were dangerous." Business Secretary Peter Kyle called the comments "slightly incomprehensible" and "totally inappropriate," but said the demonstration showed free speech was alive and well.

Starmer has not commented directly on Musk's comments. He wrote on X that peaceful protest "is core to our country's values. But we will not stand for assaults on police officers doing their job or for people feeling intimidated on our streets because of their background or the color of their skin."

This is not the first time Musk, an erstwhile ally of President Donald Trump, has supported hard-right and far-right figures in Europe, including Robinson, a convicted fraudster and founder of the anti-Islam English Defense League whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, and the

Alternative for Germany party, or AfD.

Musk also is a critic of attempts by the UK and other European governments to clamp down on harmful online content, something he argues restricts free speech.

Saturday's demonstration follows growing political concern about unauthorized immigration, especially the arrival of migrants across the English Channel in small boats. More than 30,000 people have made the dangerous crossing from France so far this year despite efforts by authorities from Britain, France and other countries to crack down on the people-smuggling gangs behind the trips.

The use of hotels to accommodate asylum-seekers has become a major political issue in Britain, sparking dozens of small but heated protests over the summer, some of which turned violent.

Bangladesh reform charter hits political roadblocks

AFP

Dhaka, Sept 15: Bangladesh's interim government said Monday that political parties had largely agreed in principle on a sweeping reform charter, but remain divided over how it should be put into effect. The South Asian nation of 170 million people has been in political turmoil since Sheikh Hasina was ousted as prime minister by a student-led revolt in August 2024.

Interim leader Muhammad Yunus has backed the 28-page draft, dubbed the "July Charter" after last year's student-led uprising, which



proposes a two-term limit for prime ministers and expanded presidential powers. Ali Riaz, vice-chairman of the Consensus Commission, has been leading talks with around 30 parties.

The commission wrapped up a second round of marathon negotiations on Sunday.

"The political parties have agreed on 84 reform proposals, with only a few notes of

dissent," Riaz said. "The main point of contention now is the procedure for implementing them." The key dispute is over the legal weight of the charter.

Critics argue it cannot override the existing constitution until after elections due in February, when a new parliament could endorse it. The powerful Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) insists parliament must decide on its fate, while Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami and others want it ratified immediately.

Jamaat-e-Islami is organizing mass rallies demanding the charter be endorsed, first in Dhaka on September 18, then countrywide on September 26.

Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj named ICC Player of the Month of August

PTI

Dubai, Sept 15: India pacer Mohammed Siraj of India was on Monday (September 15, 2025) named ICC Player of the Month for August following his heroic effort in the fifth and final Test against England.

Orla Prendergast of Ireland too was named player of the month alongside Siraj.

Siraj's superb match-winning effort on the final day of the Test series against England helped India win The Oval Test match by six runs.

Siraj grabbed three wickets on the dramatic final morning of the fifth match to finish with nine wickets in the match as the Indian team drew the series 2-2.

"It is a special honour to be named ICC Player of the Month. The Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy was a memorable series, and it was one of the most intense contests I have been part of.

"I am proud that I could contribute with some important spells, especially in the decisive moments. Bowling against a top batting line-up in their home conditions



was challenging, but it also brought out the best in me," said Siraj.

Ireland all-rounder Prendergast won the award ahead of Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batter Muneeba Ali and the Netherlands' seam bowler Iris Zwilling.

Prendergast was named the Player of the Series in a home T20 series, helping win 2-1 against Pakistan. She scored 144 runs and took four wickets in that series and maintained her fine form in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier, aggregating 244 runs and finishing with seven wickets in the month of August.

J&K's Hans Raj, Ladakh's Stanzin Chondol win men's, women's Ladakh full marathon titles

PTI

Leh, Sept 15: Jammu and Kashmir's Hans Raj and Ladakh's Stanzin Chondol won the men's and women's full marathon titles respectively as the Ladakh Marathon's 12th edition concluded with thrilling performances.

Hans Raj crossed the finishing line in 2 hours 47 minutes 41 seconds, while Stanzin Chondol stormed to victory in the women's field with a time of 3:13:00 – a run that also placed her sixth overall among men and women on Sunday.

The 42-km full marathon race, which began and ended at Leh's NDS Stadium, drew a strong field as part of an edition that welcomed 6,600 runners from across India's states and union territories, along with participants from more than 30 countries.

In the half marathon, Tsetan Namgail took top honours in the men's race with a time of 1:13:10, while Stanzin Dolkar led the women's field, finishing in 1:30:14.

In the 11.2 km category, Skarma Idong Lanzes clinched the women's open title with a time of 47 minutes and 30



seconds, while Sonam Stanzin took top honours in the men's section, crossing the line in 42 minutes and 39 seconds. He finished just 10 seconds clear of runner-up Furboo Tundup, making it one of the closest contests of the edition.

In the veterans' categories, Tsewang Dorjay topped the men's field while Sarah Hanan-Bajwa claimed the women's crown in the 11.2K

Run. The veterans half marathon titles went to Arvind Basaiawmoit in the men's section and Shilpa Phadke in the women's section.

In full marathon for the veterans, Shyamapada Das emerged victorious in the men's category, while Rita Satish Patkar won the women's race. Patkar also won the Khardung La Challenge veterans race also.

THE CONJURING LAST RITES (ENG WITH ENG SUBTITLE) (A)
11:00 AM, 05:30 PM

DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA (UA13+)
JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:45 AM, 05:15 PM
ENGLISH - 03:00 PM
HINDI - 01:05 PM

LOVE IN VIETNAM (UA16+)
HINDI - 10:20 AM

INOX
SRINAGAR

Movies Watch list
TUESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER

BAAGHI 4 (A)
HINDI - 02:00 PM

HEER EXPRESS (UA/13+)
HINDI - 04:15 PM

MIRAI: SUPER YODHA (UA/16+)
HINDI - 07:05 PM