

‘Operation Sindoor’ part of India’s new security approach: PM Modi

- » Hails armed forces for bringing Pakistan to its knees within no time
- » Says JeM terrorist’s video validates success of anti-terror operation

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Sept 17: Terming ‘Operation Sindoor’ as part of a new security approach, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday praised India’s armed forces for bringing Pakistan to its knees within no time.

Addressing a gathering in Madhya Pradesh, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “The security of Mother India is the nation’s highest priority. Terrorists who came from Pakistan attempted to tarnish the dignity of our daughters and sisters. Responding



through Operation Sindoor, we destroyed the terror launch pads,” PM Modi said, adding, “Our brave soldiers brought Pakistan to its knees in the blink of an eye.”

The Prime Minister while referring to a video circulated by a terrorist of a JeM terror outfit, who recounted the May 7 counter-terror assault under Operation Sindoor in Bahawalpur, Pakistan said, “In

the clip, the terrorist is heard describing how Indian forces entered the outfit’s stronghold, leading to the deaths of family members of Jaish chief Maulana Masood Azhar.”

PM Modi said the video validated the success of the operation. “Just yesterday, the nation and the world witnessed a Pakistani terrorist tearfully narrating his ordeal,” he said.

Emphasizing a shift in India’s

counter-terror approach, PM Modi declared: “This is the new India. It does not fear anyone’s threats. It strikes by entering the home.”

He added that even nuclear threats would not deter the country, remarking: “This is a new India. It fears no one’s nuclear threats. It takes the fight to the enemy’s doorstep.”

Linking Operation Sindoor to broader military actions targeting terrorist infrastructure across the border, PM Modi said Indian soldiers were resolute in ensuring that attacks such as the one in Pahalgam would never go unanswered.

“The country saw the destruction of camps that trained and sheltered those responsible for targeting our people,” he said. “Within days, the message was delivered that India will respond.”

The Prime Minister reiterated that the events of April and May marked a turning point in India’s security doctrine. “Those who thought they could harm our people without consequence have now seen the reality,” he added. (KNO)

Rainfall caused extensive damage to J&K: CM Omar

- » Visits affected areas in Kalaban, Poonch, Udhampur
- » Says in touch with Centre, expecting comprehensive package
- » Sanctions Rs 38 lakh, Rs 50 lakh to land subsidence-hit families

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sept 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the recent rainfall has caused extensive damage to Jammu & Kashmir. He added that the government is in touch with the centre and is expecting a comprehensive package for the region.

Talking to reporters after visiting multiple places, including Kalaban, Poonch and Udhampur National Highway, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News



Observer (KNO), said that at the land sinking spot, the people who were living there and got affected cannot be resettled at the place.

The CM, however, said that a government scheme already exists for people who have no land and are being provided 5 marlas to construct the houses. “We have directed the administration to come up with a proposal in this regard and send it for cabinet approval,” he added.

“It is our responsibility to

stand firmly with the people in these hard times. Jammu and Kashmir faced extensive damage due to the landslides and floods triggered by the rainfall. There is hardly any place in J&K which has not been affected during the recent rainfall,” he said.

Omar said the government will use its financial power to support the affected. “We are also in touch with the Centre, which recently deputed a team to different parts of J&K to assess the | [More on P6](#)

India’s patience not its weakness: Rajnath Singh

Says ‘Op Sindoor’ on hold, will resume with full force if needed

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 17: Stating that India’s patience should not be misconstrued as its weakness, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that military operations, including ‘Operation Sindoor,’ demonstrate the country’s strong will to act against terrorists and their supporters.

Speaking at the Hyderabad Liberation Day event, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “India’s patience should not be mistaken for its weakness. The ‘Operation Sindoor’ is currently on hold but will resume in full force if terrorism emanates again from across the border.”

The Defence Minister said the ‘Operation Sindoor’ has proven



to the world that strength, strategy and self-reliance are the pillars of India’s military approach in the 21st century.

He referred to the 2016 surgical strike and the 2019 Balakot air strike as examples of India’s policy of restraint followed by decisive action when dialogue fails.

“Operation Sindoor, the surgical strike of 2016 and the Balakot | [More on P6](#)

Under PM Modi, terrorists, their sponsors pushed to wall: LG Sinha

Greets Prime Minister on 75th birthday

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 17: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is still suffering due to terrorism and needs to be wiped out completely, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that during the past 11-years of PM Modi’s rule terrorists and their sponsors have been pushed to the wall.

Addressing a gathering after distributing fruits to the patients at JLN Hospital here as part of ‘Sewa Pakhwada’ to



celebrate the 75th Birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi for dedicating the national health campaign to promote women’s health and well being. He called upon all the stakeholders to work with Whole of | [More on P6](#)

LG lauds Army for constructing bailey bridge on Ramban-Gool road

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 17: Lauding Army for building a bailey bridge on the Ramban-Gool road in a short span of time, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that it (bridge) is a symbol of hope and a lifeline for nearly 1.5 lakh people living in Ramban, Sangaldan, and Gool areas.

Addressing a function after inaugurating the bailey bridge virtually, LG Sinha, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the bridge will significantly boost connectivity and improve the ease of living for local residents.

He added that recent natural calamities had severely



impacted lives, causing infrastructure damage, economic hardships, and disruption along this crucial route

connecting Gool, Sangaldan, and surrounding areas.

“Despite these challenges, the brave | [More on P6](#)

‘Jammu–Srinagar direct train likely to roll out before winter’

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Sept 17: The much-awaited Jammu–Srinagar direct train service is likely to become operational by the end of October, sources said.

They told the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the service, part of the prestigious 272-km Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, is being seen as a major step in connecting the Valley with the rest of the country through uninterrupted rail travel.

According to officials, the service is expected to begin once the pending works at Jammu railway station are wrapped up. The expansion

of Jammu railway station was scheduled to be completed by September. However, the pace of work slowed due to multiple factors, pushing the deadline back by nearly three weeks.

A senior railway official said that the final work is yet to be completed at the Jammu railway division, and the project is in its last stages. “Construction activities are continuing, and efforts are being made to finish the remaining tasks. Once the pending expansion at Jammu station is completed and clearance is received, the direct service will be launched. The target is to make it operational before winter sets in,” the official said.

The USBRL project, declared a ‘national | [More on P6](#)

Rotten Meat Row HC appreciates police action, seeks responses in 10 days

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sept 17: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday directed all respondents in a case concerning the sale of rotten and unsafe meat to file their complete responses within ten days.

The matter relates to Public Interest Litigation (PIL No. 9 of 2025), which was filed by Advocate Mir Umar. He is represented in court by Advocate Shafiqat Nazir, while Senior Advocate Jehangir Iqbal Ganaie is assisting the court as amicus curiae.

The Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, heard the matter and took note of

measures undertaken by the police following earlier court directions.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Bench observed that the steps taken by the Inspectors General of Police (IGPs) of Kashmir and Jammu had resulted in a visible change on the ground.

The court recorded that several seizures of unsafe food, including rotten meat and other items, had been made in recent weeks. It also noted that police had initiated action in a number of cases, with First Information Reports (FIRs) registered against those found selling food | [More on P6](#)

Heart-wrenching sight: trucks return from Qazigund, other areas with rotten apples

HIGHWAY CLOSURE

Growers demand immediate steps from govt, seek compensation

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sept 17: In a devastating blow to Kashmir’s horticulture sector, several apple-laden trucks returned

from Qazigund and other areas after being stranded for more than eight days due to the prolonged closure of the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway.

By the time the trucks were allowed to move back, the entire produce inside had rotted, leaving growers in tears and traders staring at heavy financial losses.

The incident has once again

highlighted the catastrophic impact of the frequent highway blockades during the peak fruit season. For many growers, this year’s harvest has already turned into a nightmare.

“It was a heart-wrenching scene when I opened my truck after eight days. All the apple boxes were rotten. I had borrowed money for fertilisers and packaging, hoping to



Pic: Umaisar Gull (KNO/KT)

recover it from sales. Now I am ruined,” Ghulam Nabi, an orchardist from Shopian, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The national highway, Kashmir’s only all-weather road link to the outside world, has remained shut for much of the past three weeks following landslides and shooting stones triggered by incessant rains. Although the

administration had promised a smooth passage to perishable fruit-laden trucks, many were left stranded at Qazigund, unable to move forward.

“We waited day and night at Qazigund, hoping the road would open, but no turn came for us. After eight days, we had no choice but to return. The apples had turned into pulp. Who | [More on P6](#)

Let us work together to save environment: Javid Dar

Addresses ‘Swachhata Hi Sewa’ event at Gulmarg

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 17: Directorate of Rural Sanitation Wednesday organized the ‘Swachhata Hi Sewa’ event at picturesque Gulmarg here, with the aim to spread awareness among the masses about the importance of cleanliness.

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department, and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized on the significance of maintaining cleanliness to protect the environment for future generations. “Let us work together to save our environment and ensure a healthy and prosperous future for our children,” he said.

The Minister stated that ‘Swachhata Hi Sewa’ event aims to promote cleanliness and sanitation awareness among the public, encouraging community participation in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

He added that the event’s theme, ‘Cleanliness for a Better Future’, resonates with the audience, inspiring them to take collective action towards a cleaner and greener tomorrow.

The Minister urged the



public to take an active role in maintaining cleanliness and promoting environmental sustainability.

He underlined that individual efforts, when combined, can lead to significant positive change and a better future for all.

MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah, while speaking on the occasion,

highlighted the importance of cleanliness and plantation drives in the current situation, stressing that it is crucial to keep our surroundings clean and plant more trees to mitigate the impact of climate change.

The event marked the beginning of a concerted effort to promote

cleanliness and environmental awareness in the region, with the participation of local communities, government officials, and stakeholders.

Among others, the event saw presence of DDC, Chairperson Baramulla, Safina Beigh; MLA Pattan, Javid Riyaz Bedar; MLA, Wagoora- Kreeri,

Irfan Hafiz Lone; Director General Rural Sanitation J&K, Anoo Malhotra; Director Rural Development Department Kashmir Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director Panchayati Raj, J&K Sham Lal and other senior officers of Rural Sanitation and Rural development departments.

Maintain quality of works: Dy CM

Reviews progress on Boulevard road widening project

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along-with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, convened a meeting to review the progress on the widening of Boulevard Road Project.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman LCMA; Chief Engineer, R&B Central Kashmir; Superintending Engineer R&B; Executive Engineers and other senior officers of PWD.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the PWD to immediately restart the work on the widening of Boulevard Road, considering its prime importance and vital significance for tourism development. He instructed them to



initiate the process on priority and expedite the pace of execution of works.

The Deputy CM directed the concerned executing agency to complete the project in a stipulated time frame while maintaining the quality of works.

The Deputy CM also

instructed the Vice Chairman LCMA to facilitate the concerned executing agency for smooth implementation of the project.

During the meeting, Chief Engineer (R&B) presented a detailed report and gave a presentation outlining the current status of the projects.

Introduce Environmental Science as mandatory subject in schools: CoE

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: The Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Wednesday emphasized the need to introduce Environmental Science as a mandatory subject across all schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Committee during a meeting today observed that the recent floods, frequent cloudbursts, and flash floods across the Himalayan region should serve as an eye-opener, underscoring the urgent need for preparedness to mitigate their adverse impacts.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman Committee on

Environment, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, and members including Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khatana, Yudhvair Sethi, and Darshan Kumar also participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed the recent devastation floods in Himalayan range due to ecological disorder and measures being taken to prevent disasters in the future.

At the outset, the Chairman stressed the importance of consulting environmental experts with experience across the Himalayan range to devise a comprehensive strategy for safeguarding the region against future climatic challenges.

Highlighting the

significance of protecting J&K’s fragile ecosystem, the Chairman instructed the concerned departments to involve subject experts and prepare an annual action plan for rural sanitation.

The Committee reviewed the ongoing flood-related works and measures undertaken by the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Pollution Control Board, and Environment & Ecology Department to prevent future flood situations and other climatic challenges in J&K.

The Chairman directed the concerned departments to submit detailed reports on dredging, desilting, and flood protection works across all rivers and tributaries.

Achieve desired objectives: Sakeena

Attends launch ceremony virtually

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday virtually attended the inaugural ceremony of ‘Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar’ (Healthy Women, Empowered Families) Abhiyaan, a 16 days National Health Campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

Senior officers of health and medical education department also attended the launch ceremony alongside the Health Minister.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister urged upon the officers of health department to carry this unique national health outreach campaign regarding women’s health and well-being to every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir. She asked them to involve all stakeholders from Panchayat level into this campaign so that its desired objectives can be achieved.

The Health Minister also called upon the officers to conduct awareness among the masses through electronic, print and social media, so that maximum people can take benefits from this Abhiyaan.

The Minister, on the occasion,



also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister for launching a dedicated campaign for the women’s health and well-being.

Pertinently, ‘Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar’ Abhiyaan is considered to be the largest ever health outreach for women in the country and over One Lakh Health Camps will be organized across the country from 17th September to 2nd October under this initiative.

The camps will be organized at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres (CHCs), District Hospitals and other government health facilities across

the country. Daily health camps will also be held in all government health facilities.

This nationwide intensified campaign seeks to provide women-centric preventive and curative health services at the community level. It will strengthen screening, early detection, and treatment linkages for non-communicable diseases, anaemia, tuberculosis, and sickle cell disease, while also promoting maternal, child, and adolescent health through antenatal care, immunisation, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, lifestyle and mental health awareness activities.

Create healthier living environment: Comm Secy H&UDD

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: In a major push towards enhancing Srinagar’s green cover and making all waste management facilities of J&K green with dense bio fencing, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur Wednesday launched a Mega Plantation Drive under the banner of ‘Seva Parv 2025’ in collaboration with Self Help Groups (SHGs) and UEED.

MD NULM; CEO Urban Development Agency; SE,UEED and other senior officers of UEED, Urban Forestry Division SMC, and members of SHGs participated in the inaugural event.

Speaking on the



occasion, Mandeep Kaur emphasized on the importance of expanding urban green spaces to obviate the ugly look and public nuisance created by bad odour emanating from these facilities. She added that

the expanded green cover will also enhance the air quality and create a healthier living environment.

She urged citizens, community groups and students to actively participate in the plantation

drives and adopt the motto ‘Ek Paed Maa Ke Naam, Ek Paed Desh Ke Naam’.

The drive, formally kick-started at the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Allochi Bagh, will cover four STPs across Srinagar, with a target of providing two layered bio fence around each STP facility and surround all these facilities by dense green cover over the years which will not only improve the aesthetics of the neighbourhood, but will also enhance green cover of the city. It will focus on native species, with the aim of strengthening ecological resilience and improving the urban environment.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: exen-mechospqsgr@jk.gov.in)

Subject : 1. Radiator Relocations and allied Mechanical Works within Hospital Installations to be carried out at 500-Bedded Govt. Children Hospital, Bemina Srinagar
2. SITC of (G 4) 26 Passenger Bed lift at JLNH Hospital Rainwari Balance work for commissioning of lifts thereof
Ref : This office NIT No: MHDS/TS /2025-26/67/e-tendering Dt 10.09.2025

EXTENSION

In view of No/Poor response the Critical dates of above subject work tendered vide above referred e-NIT are extended as follows: -

S. No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	20.09.2025 (13:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	20.09.2025 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals Division,
Srinagar.

No: M&HDS/TS/4405-09 Dated: 17.09.2025
DIPK-6319/25
DATED: 17-09-2025

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (JAL SHAKTI) PHE, MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SGR.

GIST OF E-TENDER.

E-N.I.T. NO: - PHE/MRD/TS/ 41 OF 09/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar invites e-tenders on item rate basis in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work: -

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Rs.	Cost of Tender Doc. Rs.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	Electrical repairing works to be executed at various WSS's	Sub-Division Budgam	0.225	450/-	50/=	05 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	17-09-2025 (5:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	17-09-2025 (5:00 PM) to 24-09-2025 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	17-09-2025 (5:00 PM) to 24-09-2025 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	24-09-2025 at (12:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6.	Document Cost: Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
7.	(The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
8.	Bid Validity Period: 90 Days	
9.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.Jktenders.gov.in	
10.	Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/ bank guarantee from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 3% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR as performance security before allotment is issued in his favour.

No: -PHE/MRD/TS/1991-95
DT: - 17-09-2025

DIPK-6321/25
DATED: 17-09-2025

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural
Division Srinagar.

CM Omar inaugurates transport Bhawan at Bemina



KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday inaugurated the newly constructed Transport Bhawan at Bemina, Srinagar, marking a major step towards bringing all transport-related services under one roof and strengthening the office infrastructure of Transport Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Bhawan will serve as a central hub for transport administration and services, housing the offices of the Transport Commissioner J&K, Joint Transport Commissioner, Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir, ARTOs, and other allied sections.

Bringing these offices under one roof is expected to enhance efficiency, coordination, and public service

delivery. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched PVC Registration Certificates—a modern initiative designed to provide durable, tamper-resistant, and convenient registration cards to vehicle owners. Replacing the traditional paper-based format, the new PVC cards will not only improve service quality but also help reduce misuse.

During the launch of PVC Registration Certificates, RTO Kashmir Qazi Irfan Rasool described the launch as an important step towards modernization and convenience of vehicle owners.

He informed that the new cards are durable, tamper-proof, pocket-sized, and equipped with QR codes, ensuring instant verification and reducing complaints

with time-bound issuance. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary Transport Avny Lavasa, Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Regional Transport Officer Kashmir Qazi Irfan Rasool, besides senior officers and officials of the Transport Department.

After inaugurating the facility, the Chief Minister toured the building and inspected its various sections. He interacted with officers and staff, reviewing the facilities created for both employees and the general public.

Expressing satisfaction, he said that the new Bhawan would significantly streamline the functioning of the Transport Department and ensure better service delivery to citizens.

NH closure due to wrath of Allah: Dr Farooq

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Anantnag, Sep 17: National Conference (NC) President Dr. Farooq Abdullah Wednesday said that Jammu and Kashmir has historically been known for its politics and every individual has the right to participate in political discourse.

Speaking to reporters in Anantnag NC leader said that the ongoing crisis facing fruit growers due to repeated highway closures is the outcome of the situation that is not man-made but the result of natural calamities. Dr. Abdullah stressed



that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has remained shut frequently in recent weeks owing to landslides, cloudbursts and heavy rains. This disruption has led to massive losses in Kashmir's apple industry, with trucks

stranded for days and produce rotting on the way to outside markets. However, he urged people not to look at the crisis only through a political lens. "The highway closure isn't a deliberate attempt. It is due to cloudbursts, rains

and landslides, which are natural calamities. This is nothing but the wrath of Allah, reminding us to turn back towards Him. Instead of blaming each other, we should pray to Almighty Allah for relief and blessings," Dr. Abdullah said.

He welcomed the government's efforts to restore the road link, saying that smooth connectivity is essential not only for the fruit industry but also for the day-to-day lives of people across Jammu and Kashmir.

The NC Chief also

remarked that J&K has always been a land of political dialogue, and people should not be deprived of their right to speak, debate, or engage in politics. "Jammu and Kashmir is known for politics and everyone has a right to do politics. Politics is about giving people a voice and finding solutions to their problems. No one should be stopped from it," he said.

"We must bow our heads before Almighty Allah and pray for His kindness. Only His blessings can save us from these hardships," he said—(KNO)

Dumpers utilized to ferry apples amid transport shortage

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 17: With the frequent closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway leaving fruit growers in a state of despair, an unusual scene is unfolding: dumpers, usually meant for construction material, are now being used to transport apple boxes to outside markets.

On Tuesday, fruit growers were seen loading dumpers with apples at the fruit mandi in Shopian to take their fruits to outside Kashmir markets. Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), growers said the decision comes in the backdrop of an acute shortage of transport vehicles.

With the authorities allowing only six-tire trucks on the Mughal Road, the demand for vehicles has skyrocketed, pushing freight charges beyond the reach of many small farmers. "At this critical time, we have no option left. Dumpers, which are generally used for sand and gravel, are now ferrying our fruit to Jammu. It is unsafe and unscientific, but we can't afford to let the produce rot in orchards or mandis," said Ghulam Nabi, an orchardist from Shopian.



Another grower, Bashir Ahmad from Pulwama, expressed anguish over the rising freight rates. "The transport shortage has become a nightmare. The rates have tripled, and we are being forced to pay whatever the transporters demand. If the government doesn't intervene, we will face huge losses."

Growers have urged the intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address the crisis on an urgent basis. They appealed for the immediate deployment of Jammu and

Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (RTC) trucks to ferry apple consignments.

"RTC vehicles can provide major relief to us. Their deployment will not only ease the pressure but also help put a cap on skyrocketing freight charges," said Abdul Rashid, a trader at Fruit Mandi Shopian.

Fruit associations have also raised concerns about the safety of produce being loaded in dumpers. "Apples are delicate, and such rough transportation damages the boxes and reduces market value. The government must step in and provide a proper transport mechanism before it is too late," said Farooq Ahmad, a member of the fruit association in south Kashmir.

With Kashmir's horticulture sector reeling under the impact of prolonged highway closure, growers warn that if immediate steps are not taken, the Valley's apple economy—supporting lakhs of families—will face devastating losses this season, and it has faced a loss of hundreds of crores—(KNO)

Paperless VCP ration cards from Oct : Satish Sharma



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 17: C on Wednesday said that 'paperless VCP ration cards' will be introduced from October 1 to make the ration distribution system more secure and convenient for the public.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of the Transport Bhawan at Bemina in Srinagar by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Sharma said the Transport Bhawan project, which was initiated 10 years ago during the tenure of then Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has now been inaugurated by the present CM. "It is indeed a proud moment," he said.

Talking about the upcoming VCP cards, Sharma said they have launched the VCP cards and will

make them completely paperless from October 1 onwards. "We will try to provide them to every single person as sometimes ration cards get damaged in floods or are lost. These new digital cards will store all the data securely and make it easy for people to access their entitlements," the Minister said.

Responding to a query about the functioning of the transport department, Sharma acknowledged that there were shortcomings but assured that efforts were underway to address them.

"Yes, there are flaws in the department, but we are trying to address them. Unfortunately, in the past few months we have seen a war-like situation, floods, the Pahalgam incident and the overall situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Our focus during that time was on rescue and providing relief," he said, adding that now, with this new facility, people will be able to access all transport-related services, like licenses, transport office work and other matters, under one roof.

He further said that the department had also taken up various concerns with the Centre. "Last month, a minister from Delhi visited and we met them. We raised all the issues, including ration cards and other related concerns, with them," Sharma added—(KNO)

PM Modi's B'day in Lal Chowk



KNO

Srinagar, Sep 17: All India Modi Mitr Mandal on Wednesday celebrated the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the iconic Lal Chowk here in Srinagar.

A life-size cutout of PM Modi was garlanded at the famous Ghanta Ghar while supporters offered sweets and raised slogans.

Local artists performed traditional dances and patriotic songs, drawing crowds at the city centre.

The celebrations also featured a blood donation camp and distribution of food among the needy, held as part of the ongoing "Sewa Parv" initiative being observed from September 17 to October 2 across Jammu and Kashmir.

Members of the Modi Mitr Mandal said their celebrations at Lal Chowk symbolised gratitude to a leader they credit with steering India's progress and inspiring the youth of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

LoP Sharma meets LG Sinha

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 16: Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan Srinagar and held an extensive discussion on several critical issues affecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of recent natural calamities.

During the meeting, Sharma highlighted the issue of road connectivity across the Union Territory, particularly in areas cut off due to landslides and floods. He stressed that many villages and towns remain disconnected, which is severely hampering public movement, delivery of essentials, and access to healthcare.

The power supply and water supply crisis was



also raised in detail. Shri Sharma pointed out that many flood-hit and hilly regions are facing acute electricity cuts and irregular drinking water facilities, creating immense hardships for common people. He urged the administration to ensure restoration on a war footing.

On the matter of flood relief, Sharma emphasized that the current allocation for damaged houses is grossly inadequate. He requested that the financial support for affected families be increased substantially, so

that people whose homes have been destroyed or partially damaged can rebuild their lives with dignity.

The postponement of competitive examinations, including the JKPSC Lecturer recruitment and Munsiff examinations, was also discussed at length. Shri Sharma conveyed the concerns of aspirants who are unable to prepare or even reach examination centres due to poor connectivity, floods, and internet issues. He appealed to the administration to ensure fairness by rescheduling these exams.

The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha gave a patient hearing to all the issues raised and assured Shri Sunil Sharma that these matters will be taken up on priority for timely resolution.

Sunil Sharma expressed gratitude to the LG for his understanding and prompt assurance. He said, "As Leader of Opposition, it is my duty to be the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. I will continue to raise their concerns with full sincerity and commitment, ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard and addressed."

Ruhullah free to express his views: Speaker

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIE

Budgam, Sep 17: Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Wednesday said that politics is a "vast field", and senior leaders like Member Parliament (MP), Aga Ruhullah Mehdi are free to express their views.

Speaking to media persons in Budgam, Rather responded

to Ruhullah's recent comment that people were asked to vote for Article 370 rather than just statehood. He said, "Why don't you ask Ruhullah again? I am here to listen to the grievances of the people and to seek their redressal. Aga Sahab is a senior leader; who can stop him from speaking? He is free to express his views." The Speaker further said that if the region had

regained statehood earlier. "We wouldn't be facing such a difficult situation today," he said. He, however, expressed hope with optimism, saying, "InshaAllah, that will also come."

Regarding the current situation on National Highway-44, Rather referred to a video conference held a day earlier between the Chief Minister and Union Minister

Nitin Gadkari. "We have been assured that within two days, the route will be restored. Mughal Road is already open, and traffic movement on the national highway has resumed," he said.

The Speaker also assured that the difficulties faced by the horticulture industry due to transport disruptions would be "resolved very soon"—(KNO)

Former separatist leader, Prof Abdul Gani Bhat passes away

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 17: After a brief illness, the former separatist leader, Professor Abdul Gani Bhat died on Wednesday at his Sopore residence. According to the family, Bhat breathed his last today after a brief illness at his residence in Sopore area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The announcement regarding the conduct of last rites including the funeral will be made shortly by the family.

Several political leaders including the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over his demise. In a post on X, Omar Abdullah wrote, "I'm saddened to hear about the demise of senior Kashmiri

political leader & academician Professor Abdul Gani Bhat Sb. Our political ideologies were poles apart but I will always remember him as a very civil person. He had the courage to espouse the cause of dialogue when many believed violence was the only way forward and this resulted in him meeting the then PM Vajpayee ji & Deputy PM Advani ji. May Professor Bhat sb find place in Jannat. My condolences to his family & loved ones."

Head Cleric of Jamia Masjid, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a post, wrote, "Just heard



the very sad news that I lost the affectionate elder, a dear friend and colleague, Prof. Abdul Ghani Bhat Sahib, who passed away sometime ago. Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. A huge personal loss! May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannah. Kashmir has been bereft of a sincere and visionary leader." Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former J&K chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti wrote, "I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Professor Abdul Gani Bhat sb. He was a voice of moderation amidst the tumultuous history of Kashmir an esteemed scholar, teacher, and intellectual with a pragmatic approach to politics.—(KNO)

Srinagar airport celebrates 'Yatri Seva Diwas'

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 17: The Srinagar International Airport turned festive and welcoming on Wednesday as it celebrated 'Yatri Seva Diwas' with a host of vibrant, passenger-focused activities — from cultural folk dances and children's competitions to wellness camps and a tree plantation drive, embodying the spirit of Kashmir's traditional "mehmaan-nawazi" (hospitality). Passengers arriving were greeted with a sacred Tiika ceremony, traditional folk dance

performances, and heartfelt gestures from the airport staff, leaving many to describe the experience as "unforgettable."

"Landed in Srinagar and experienced the true 'mehmaan-nawazi' — from Tika to cultural folk dances and heartfelt care by airport staff, it was truly unforgettable," a passenger posted, tagging Airport Authority, Chief Minister, LG Sinha and others. Yesterday, the Officiating Director of Srinagar International Airport, Anil Kumar Gupta, said the celebration was aimed at making passengers feel welcomed and valued.

"Yatri Seva Diwas is about serving passengers with devotion and respect. From cultural programs to wellness camps, every activity reflects our resolve to make their journey memorable," Gupta told KNO earlier during a press briefing. Meanwhile, as part of the day, the airport organised a 'health check-up and blood donation camp,' which brought passengers, staff and stakeholders together, celebrating wellness, compassion, and what officials described as "the true spirit of service."

In another initiative, airlines' representatives,

airport officials, defence personnel and passengers joined hands in a tree plantation drive, symbolising unity, harmony, and sustainability. Additionally, photo booths were also installed at key spots for travellers to capture their moments, while feedback counters were set up to collect passengers' suggestions to improve airport services further.

Officials said the smiling faces and positive feedback from passengers were the "true success" of this year's Yatri Seva Diwas celebrations at Srinagar Airport—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Parl Committee’s Pahalgam Visit A Much-Needed Step To Restore Confidence

The visit of the Parliamentary Committee on Commerce to Pahalgam marks a significant and empathetic step toward healing Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector after the devastating terror attack in April. Led by Chairperson Dola Sen, the committee's engagement with local stakeholders – hoteliers, travel agents, and traders – reflects a much-needed, ground-up approach to addressing the challenges facing the region's economic

lifeline. Tourism is more than an industry in Kashmir; it is a source of livelihood for thousands and a symbol of the valley's cultural richness and resilience. The terror attack earlier this year dealt a severe blow to this vital sector, triggering cancellations, instilling fear, and undermining years of progress. In this context, the committee's efforts to listen, understand, and act are commendable. By choosing to visit affected areas like Pahalgam

and interact directly with those most impacted, the delegation has demonstrated a resolve to move beyond rhetoric and deliver tangible solutions. The committee's commitment to preparing a comprehensive, time-bound policy for revival is particularly encouraging. Such initiatives must prioritise immediate confidence-building measures, which include enhanced security assurances, targeted promotional campaigns, and financial support for

affected businesses. Infrastructure development, including better connectivity, modern amenities, and digital accessibility, will also play a crucial role in restoring tourist inflow. The delegation's emphasis on collective effort and solidarity sends a powerful message: the nation stands with Kashmir. This visit, apart from assessing damage, is about reaffirming faith in the region's potential and partnering with its people to rebuild what was lost. While

challenges remain, the committee's proactive approach offers a roadmap for recovery. By combining policy support with on-the-ground empathy, the government can help restore normalcy, rejuvenate commerce, and reestablish Kashmir as a premier tourist destination. More than an economic imperative, this is a moral one, to ensure that the shadows of violence do not dim the valley's enduring spirit and promise.

Doordarshan At 66
A Legacy Of Public Service And Digital Innovation

Press Information Bureau

Doordarshan, India's premier public service broadcaster, celebrates its 66th foundation day on September 15, 2025, marking its inception in 1959 as an experimental television service under All India Radio. Over the decades, it has grown into a vital platform for information dissemination, cultural preservation, and national integration, reaching nearly 100% of the population through satellite and DTH services. As part of Prasar Bharati since 1997, Doordarshan continues to prioritise public interest broadcasting with a focus on education, news, and entertainment.

Doordarshan will celebrate its 66th foundation day on September 15, 2025 with a special cultural event titled "Shabdanjali: DD@66" to be held at Rang Bhawan, Akashvani Bhawan, New Delhi.

History
Doordarshan, India's premier public service broadcaster, celebrates its 66th foundation day on September 15, 2025, marking its inception in 1959 as an experimental television service under All India Radio (now known as Akashvani). Over the decades, it has grown into a vital platform for information dissemination, cultural preservation, and national integration, reaching nearly 100% of the population through satellite and DTH services. As part of Prasar Bharati since 1997, Doordarshan continues to prioritise public interest broadcasting with a focus on education, news, and entertainment.

A pivotal moment came with the separation from All India Radio (AIR) on April 1, 1976, granting Doordarshan operational autonomy to expand its reach. The introduction of colour television on August 15, 1982, coinciding with the Asian Games in Delhi, transformed Doordarshan's visual appeal and viewership. The establishment of Prasar Bharati as an autonomous corporation on September 23, 1997, under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, further professionalized Doordarshan, integrating it with All India Radio under a unified public broadcasting framework.

Present day
With a network of 35 satellite channels and 66 Studio Centers, Doordarshan serves diverse linguistic and cultural communities, by delivering content in over 24 languages and various dialects. Its DD Free Dish platform, covering 49 million households as of 2024, remains India's largest free-to-air DTH service, ensuring accessibility even in remote areas. Doordarshan commitment to public service is evident in its focus on socially relevant programming, such as health campaigns and educational initiatives, aligning with national development goals.

Today, the vibrant bouquet of Doordarshan Network consists of 35 channels with 06 National Channels, 28 Regional channels and 01 Channel with international presence.

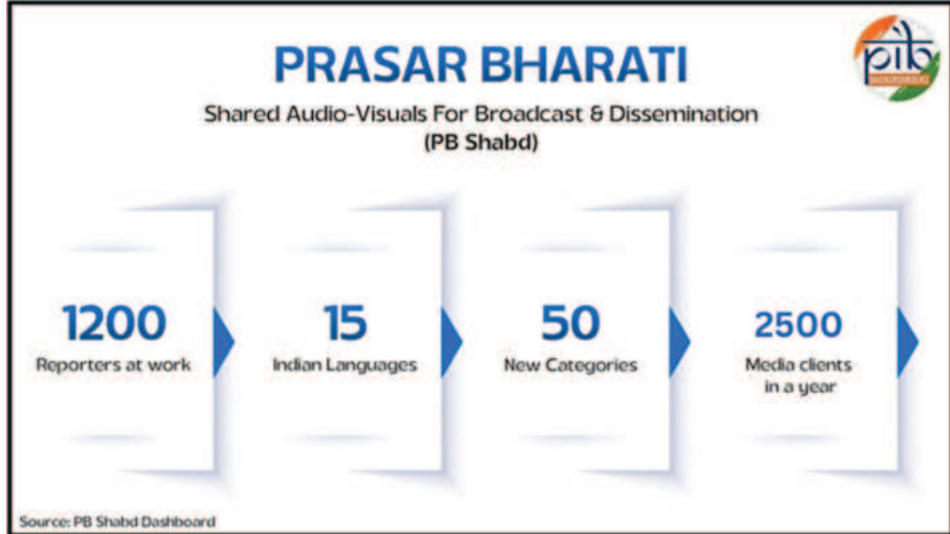
DD News: A Pillar of Public Broadcasting

DD News, India's only terrestrial-cum-satellite news channel, has been delivering balanced, fair, and accurate news since its launch on November 3, 2003, by transforming DD-Metro into a 24-hour news channel. DD News delivers over 17 hours of live programming daily. This includes more than 30 news bulletins alongside regional content produced by 30 Regional News Units (RNUs) in 26 languages/dialects. The channel produces diverse content in Hindi as well as Sanskrit and sign language. This includes a business show, current affairs programs, and special features on health, youth, cinema, art, culture, flagship government schemes, a news magazine show in Sanskrit and more, while also supplying content for sister channels like DD National, DD India, and DD Urdu.

Actively engaging with audiences through social media platforms like Twitter (@DDNewsLive) and YouTube (youtube.com/DDNewsOfficial), DD News streams real-time news updates, as well as relevant information on its ticker band for public awareness. This dynamic presence reinforces its role as a trusted, inclusive source of information that promotes public awareness and national unity.

DD India: Catering to the International Audience

DD India, launched in 1995 as DD International and later renamed, is Prasar Bharati's free-to-air satellite English news channel targeting the global audience,



including the Indian diaspora. It focuses on news, current affairs, foreign affairs, economy, sports, and entertainment, aiming to project India's perspective internationally. The channel, now in high definition (HD) since October 2020, competes with top private English news channels and has gained recognition from BARC. DD India leverages cable and satellite platforms to meet the growing demand for Indian content abroad, emphasising live reporting and in-depth analysis.

PM's Mann Ki Baat on Doordarshan
"Mann Ki Baat," Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio and television address, is a flagship program aired on DD National and DD News, as well as other Doordarshan channels, to connect with citizens on national issues, culture, and development. The program, broadcast live, reaches a vast audience through Doordarshan's extensive network and DD Free Dish, ensuring accessibility in rural and urban areas. It also engages international viewers via DD India. The show promotes public participation, highlights grassroots initiatives, and addresses topics like education, health, and sustainability, aligning with national priorities.

Iconic Doordarshan Series
Doordarshan aired some of the most iconic series, such as Ramayana, Mahabharat, Hum Log, Buniyaad, Chanakya, Malgudi Days, Shaktimaan, Chitrahaar, Fauji, Circus, and Udaan, which set high standards for exceptional programming and entertainment while sustaining its essential function of raising public awareness.

DD Free Dish: India's Largest Free-to-Air Service
DD FreeDish DTH service was launched in December, 2004. It is the only Free-to-Air (FTA) Direct-To-Home (DTH) Service where there is no monthly subscription fee. Today, this unparalleled service has made its way into 49 million households across India. DD FreeDish platform hosts a wide spectrum of Channels which includes 9 HD Channels, 35 SD Channels of Doordarshan Network, 48 Radio channels of Akashvani, 2 HD & 2 SD Channels of Sansad TV, 92 private TV channels & 266 co-branded educational channels.

The service broadcast offers diverse content including entertainment, news, and educational programs like PM e-Vidya, without requiring an internet connection.

THE DIGITAL DAWN
Digital Transformation with the Waves OTT Platform

Doordarshan, under the aegis of Prasar Bharati, has undergone a remarkable digital transformation with the launch of its Waves OTT platform in November 2024, marking a pivotal shift from traditional broadcasting to modern streaming. This comprehensive digital hub, offering content in 12 languages has plans to include all major Indian languages. This platform caters to diverse audiences and has achieved significant global engagement this year, reaching viewers in the USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand. Waves' partnership with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) makes it stand out by adding e-commerce to the app, combining entertainment, education, and shopping to showcase India's culture while embracing modern digital trends.

The success of Waves underscores Doordarshan's ability to adapt to the cord-cutting era while retaining its public service ethos,

delivering clean, inclusive, and family-friendly content. With over 70 live TV channels, including Doordarshan's own as well as private networks like B4U, SAB Group, and 9X Media, alongside interactive features such as play-to-play games and curated youth content, Waves has expanded its global engagement.

The launch of WAVES has positioned Doordarshan as a forward-thinking broadcaster, leveraging its vast infrastructure to deliver high-quality digital content, reinforcing its role as a cultural and educational cornerstone in India and beyond.

PB SHABD – New Way of News Dissemination
Prasar Bharati-Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD), launched on March 13, 2024, as a news sharing service, provides media organisations with daily news feeds in video, audio, text, and photo formats. It leverages a network of over 1200 reporters, correspondents, and stringers supported by 60 round-the-clock edit desks. With over 2500 media clients in a year, it pioneers in delivering more than 1000 stories daily, across over 50 categories including agriculture, technology, foreign affairs, and political developments in major Indian languages from Regional News Units and headquarters. Key features include logo-free content requiring no credit for usage, a Live Feed for exclusive coverage of events like National award ceremonies, election rallies, press briefings, and political events, as well as a developing a Media Repository for rare archival footage from Doordarshan and Akashvani libraries, along with curated packages to help subscribers reach wider audience. An editorial module has also been created which includes expert articles to help people understand complex issues in simpler terms.

DD Sports

Prasar Bharati Sports in the recent years has taken a series of steps to reinvigorate the content path of DD Sports and Waves- the OTT channel. The idea is to enhance the viewership of the channel through holistic and substantive sports content, proactively contribute the role as the public broadcaster to make India a sporting power and make niche sports content available for all the sports lovers across the country.

Firstly, a series of steps has been taken to enhance the production quality of the shows around the Live events i.e pre show, mid show and post shows around the important international matches of the events telecast under the Sports Act, 2008. This has been done through real time statistics, state of art graphics, and global standard look and feel of the sets.

Secondly, enhanced production quality of the flagship sports shows of the Government of India spearheaded Khelo India Games. In the recent years, DD Sports has successfully produced and telecast the major events like National Games in Gujarat, Goa and Uttarakhand, Khelo India Youth Games in Tamil Nadu and Bihar, Khelo India University Games in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and North East, Khelo India Para Games in New Delhi, Khelo India Beach Games in Diu, Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg and Leh to name a few.

The channel last year signed an agreement with the Hockey India to produce and telecast the Men's and Women's Hockey India League and the major other events spearheaded by the Hockey India. Similarly, Prasar Bharati has signed an agreement with Handball Federation of India to produce and telecast its

Key Takeaways

- As on September 2025, Doordarshan operates 35 channels, including DD India, which provides international broadcast.
- Doordarshan reaches over 90% of India's population, with DD News airing 17+ hours of daily live programming, while DD India strongly competing with leading English news channels.
- The Rs 2,539.61 crore BIND Scheme (2021–26) aims for overall technical upgradation and modernisation of the network.
- PB SHABD currently operates in 15 Indian languages with 1200 reporters at work (as on September 2025).

major events. Similar agreements are likely to be signed with the Archery Association of India, the Badminton Association of India and Professional Golf Tour of India in the months ahead. Last week, Prasar Bharati signed an agreement with the Paralmpics Committee of India to produce and telecast the upcoming World Para Athletics Championship 2025 in Delhi.

Prasar Bharati Sports has tied up with the leading international and national agencies to bring fresh and innovative content on the channel to enhance its viewership. This includes, two-year agreement with Ellipse CricViz Private Limited to produce 104 episodes of the Great Indian Cricket Show to be telecast across the Doordarshan Network, Waves- the OTT platform of Prasar Bharati and Akashvani. In this series, the major former Indian cricketers share the first-hand account of their memories of victories, defeats and events. Similarly, Prasar Bharati has entered an agreement with the Aadi Group to produce the Global League of Wrestling-which will be the Indian version of the world class global sports property.

Lastly, Prasar Bharati has entered into an understanding with the DFB Pokal- the German Cup, wherein major football matches of DFB Pokal and Women's Bundesliga are being telecast on DD Sports and Waves. The idea is to bring the best of the global football to maximum Indian homes.

Partnerships with IIT Kanpur and Next-Generation Technologies

Doordarshan's commitment to technological innovation is exemplified by Prasar Bharati's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, signed to develop a next-generation broadcast roadmap, including Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting and Direct to Mobile (D2M solutions). This collaboration aims to modernise Doordarshan's infrastructure by integrating cutting-edge standards like D2M Broadcast, which enables efficient content delivery to mobile devices, enhancing accessibility in remote and urban areas alike.

Under the BIND Scheme (2021–26), the enhancement of technical infrastructure at 24x7 regional channels is planned to enable high-definition (HD) production and broadcasting.

This strategic alliance with IIT Kanpur positions Doordarshan at the forefront of broadcast innovation, aligning with the government's Rs 2,539.61 crore Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme (2021–26) to upgrade 28 regional channels to HD production and expand All India Radio's FM coverage to over 80% of India's population. By adopting technologies like augmented reality, virtual reality, and file-based workflows, Doordarshan enhances programming quality and viewer experience, particularly for educational and cultural content. These advancements not only improve operational efficiency but also strengthen Doordarshan's global competitiveness, enabling it to deliver high-quality content to diverse audiences while maintaining its public service ethos in an increasingly digital media landscape.

Yupp TV Partnership and AI Integration in DD Kisan

In March 2022, Prasar Bharati signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Yupp

TV, a leading over-the-top (OTT) platform, to expand the global reach of DD India, to countries like the USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand. Yupp TV, a gateway for television viewers worldwide, hosts DD India alongside other Indian content, capitalising on the growing demand for India-centric programming among the Indian diaspora and global audiences.

Doordarshan Kisan, the agricultural channel, has embraced technological innovation by introducing two AI anchors, AI Krish and AI Bhoomi, making it the first government TV channel in India to employ artificial intelligence for 24/7 news delivery. These AI anchors, capable of presenting in 50 languages, deliver seamless, multilingual content to farmers and rural audiences, enhancing accessibility and engagement on topics like agriculture, rural development, and environmental sustainability. This integration, launched in recent years, complements Doordarshan's broader digital strategy, including the Waves OTT platform, and demonstrates its commitment to leveraging next-generation technologies to serve diverse communities while maintaining its public service mandate.

Conclusion
Doordarshan, marking its 66th anniversary in 2025, stands as a cornerstone of India's public broadcasting, evolving from its modest beginnings in 1959 to a dynamic network that blends tradition with innovation. Its iconic programs like Ramayana, Mahabharat, and Malgudi Days have shaped cultural memory, while milestones like broadcasting the space journey of India's first cosmonaut in 1984 united the nation. Today, with 35 satellite channels, 66 digitised centres, and the expansive DD Free Dish serving over 45 million households, Doordarshan remains a vital force in delivering inclusive, multilingual content. Through digital transformation via the Waves OTT platform, AI integration in DD Kisan, strategic partnerships with Yupp TV and IIT Kanpur, and initiatives like PB-SHABD, Doordarshan is embracing next-generation technologies and global outreach, and upholding its legacy of fostering education, cultural preservation, and national integration for future generations.

References:

Press Information Bureau:
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2147342>
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1888540>
[https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?Noteld=152142&ModuleId=3#:~:text=On%20March%2007%2C%202022%2C%20India%20public%20broadcaster,with%20Yupp%20TV%2C%20an%20over%2Dthe%2Ddrop%20\(OTT\)%20platform](https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?Noteld=152142&ModuleId=3#:~:text=On%20March%2007%2C%202022%2C%20India%20public%20broadcaster,with%20Yupp%20TV%2C%20an%20over%2Dthe%2Ddrop%20(OTT)%20platform)
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2021431>
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2067861>
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?Noteld=152142&ModuleId=3#:~:text=According%20to%2C%20FICCI%20DEY%20As,apart%20from%2022%20MPEG%20channels>
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting:
<https://mib.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-10/annual-report-2023-24-english.pdf>
Doordarshan:
<https://ddnews.gov.in/en/tag/ai-krish>
<https://ddnews.gov.in/en/waves-prasar-bharatis-all-in-one-ott-platform-for-family-friendly-entertainment/>
<https://www.newsonair.gov.in/mib-launches-kalaa-setu-real-time-language-tech-for-bharat-challenge/>
<https://prasarbharati.gov.in/dd-channels/>
<https://prasarbharati.gov.in/dd-news/>
<https://prasarbharati.gov.in/dd-india-homepage/>
<https://shabd.prasarbharati.org/login>
<https://www.facebook.com/DoordarshanNational/>
<https://www.freedish.in/>
<https://ddnews.gov.in/en/about-us/>
Others:
<https://www.ey.com/content/dam/ey-unified-site/ey.com/en-in/insights/media-entertainment/documents/ey-shape-the-future-indian-media-and-entertainment-is-scripting-a-new-story.pdf>

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

DC Reasi leads cleanliness, plantation drive



KT News Desk

REASI, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik Wednesday launched the Sewa Parv 2025 with the inauguration of a series of activities to mark the beginning of the fortnight-long program scheduled from 17th September to 2nd October 2025.

The program commenced with a plantation drive and cleanliness drive in the District Hospital premises and the Nursing College. Officers from across line departments, students and youth volunteers participated in the initiative. A Swachhta Pledge was also taken by all present, reaffirming their commitment to a clean and green Reasi.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the medical stalls put up by the Health Department, offering services including OPD consultation, disease testing and screening. A blood donation camp was also organized at the site.

Later, the DC also visited Sula Park, where a plantation and

cleanliness drive was jointly organized by the Forest and the Social Welfare Departments. The DC led the plantation activity and participated in the cleaning of the park as well as the surrounding water sources with active involvement of district and sectoral officers.

The day's activities concluded with a cleanliness drive at the DC Office Complex, where officers and officials, led by the DC herself, participated in ensuring a clean workplace.

Parallel to the district-level activities, Sewa Parv 2025 was also launched across all subdivisions and blocks of Reasi.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring environmental protection, cleanliness and community service, while urging citizens to actively take part in the upcoming programs under Sewa Parv 2025.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal; CPO Narinder Kumar, DSEO, CMO, CEO, DSWO and other district officers were also present.

Omar-led Govt empowering citizens: NC Praises its effective response to natural calamities

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 17: National Conference Provincial President Adv Showkat Mir Wednesday stated that the greatest achievement of the Omar Abdullah-led government is its success in reviving a long-lost sense of accountability within the administration and empowering citizens to once again ask the hard questions.

Speaking at a review meeting with party functionaries at the Nawa-e-Subha headquarters in Srinagar, Mir highlighted the success of the ongoing outreach programme and addressed several pressing public issues particularly the hardships faced by fruit growers across the region.

In a strong endorsement of Omar Abdullah's government, Mir stated, "The restoration of public accountability and the revival of democratic engagement between the people and the government under Omar Abdullah's leadership remains the administration's most enduring legacy. It wasn't just about delivering governance, it was about rekindling the public's confidence to question authority, demand transparency, and actively participate in democratic processes. That spirit



had long been diminished in our region for a decade now."

He commended the Omar Abdullah-led government for its effective and timely response to natural calamities, particularly highlighting its swift relief and rehabilitation measures. "There was widespread appreciation for the hands-on approach adopted by Omar Abdullah and his cabinet colleagues in reaching out to affected communities be it in Ramban, Kishtwar, Jammu, or Udhampur. It was the elected government that led from the front and was the first to release compensation to the victims," Mir noted.

On the issue of prolonged highway closures, Mir dismissed criticism directed at

the former elected government as unfounded and politically driven. "Holding an elected government accountable for an issue that squarely falls under Union jurisdiction is not just misleading, it borders on theatrics. When facts no longer serve a narrative, drama often takes over. Blaming the UT government for the highway mess is like barking up the wrong tree loudly, and without a sense of direction," he remarked.

The meeting also included detailed discussions on organisational matters and strategies aimed at deepening public engagement and strengthening the party's grassroots outreach in the coming months.

Traffic restrictions imposed on Bani-Basohli road



KT News Desk

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 17: Sub Divisional Magistrate Bani has imposed restriction on movement of traffic on Bani-Basohli Road within the territorial jurisdiction of the Sub Division from 06:00 pm to 6:00 am.

The move has been taken for the safety of commuters keeping in view the extensive damage caused to the road after recent heavy rains, besides

facilitating the renovation work being executed by GREF.

"Vehicular movement on Bani-Basohli road shall be prohibited from 6 PM to 6 AM, unless permitted by the undersigned in cases of exigency. No person shall ply on the said road during restricted timings in any manner whatsoever without permission. The concerned authorities, including Police and GREF shall ensure strict enforcement of this order," the order reads.

Seva Parv 2025 kicks off with Swachhata drive led by DC

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma Wednesday formally flagged off the Seva Parv campaign here from DC Colony. The campaign, part of the UT-wide initiative, commenced with a Swachhata pledge by participants, reaffirming collective commitment towards cleanliness and community service.

Later, a massive Swachhata Drive was carried out from the DC Office to the Children Park. The officers and staff actively participated in cleaning activities.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of community involvement for sustained cleanliness and building a culture of service to society.

All district and sectoral officers joined the campaign with great enthusiasm, setting the tone for a series of events planned under Seva Parv.

In line with the spirit of the campaign, simultaneous activities including cleanliness drives, plantation programs, health camps, financial

inclusion camps, donation drives and awareness initiatives were organized at 160 different locations across the district, involving educational institutions, Panchayats, government offices and local communities.

The Seva Parv celebrations will continue with multiple activities till October 2.

Meanwhile, the District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department and the District Police launched a five-day Residential Self-Defence Training Programme for 75 girls of the District under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The programme was inaugurated at Government PG College Rajouri by Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar. The event also included a screening-cum-medical camp organized for all participating trainees.

The self-defence training programme aims to equip the girls with physical self-protection skills and imbibe in them a sense of self-worth, leadership, and empowerment.

Speaker Rather inaugurates macadamization works

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 17: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather Wednesday inaugurated the much-anticipated macadamization works on vital road connecting Chadoora to Brenwar.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, the Speaker emphasized on the Government's commitment to upgrading rural infrastructure. "This road is a lifeline for the people of this area. Its macadamization will not only end the long-standing difficulties faced by the residents but will also act as a catalyst for the overall development of the area", the Speaker said.

He added that the improved connectivity will open new avenues for economic growth, enhance access to markets, healthcare facilities and significantly improve the quality of life of local community.

On the occasion, Executive Engineer PMGSY assured the Speaker that the macadamization work will be completed



efficiently within a strict timeframe of 20 days. He informed the Speaker that this 9.90-kilometer road project, undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 2.15 crores, is a key infrastructure initiative aimed at providing a smooth and safe travel experience for commuters, farmers, and local businesses.

Pertinently, the macadamization of this vital road marks a significant step towards improving

connectivity and boosting the socio-economic development of the region. It is expected to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce vehicle maintenance costs, and provide all-weather connectivity to the surrounding villages.

The event, among others, was attended by local dignitaries, community leaders, and large number of enthusiastic residents who have long advocated for the upgradation of this crucial road.

Committee on Estimates concerned over adverse impact on Environment

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: The House Committee on Estimates Wednesday convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest, Ecology & Environment Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson Shamim Firdous and attended by members including Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Gharu Ram Bhagat, Aijaz Ahmad Jan, Shafi Ahmad Wani, Chander Prakash Ganga, Pyare Lal Sharma, and Arjun Singh Raju.

Expressing serious concern over the dwindling forest area and its adverse impact on the environment, the Chairperson stressed the need for sustainable and time-bound measures to protect forests and safeguard ecological balance.

The Committee emphasized conducting massive and sustained plantation drives across all regions of J&K.

She impressed upon taking tangible steps to curb



deforestation and prevent forest fire incidents.

The Committee undertook a detailed review of initiatives taken to contain deforestation caused by various developmental projects under PMGSY, PWD, Rural Road Mission, National Highways Authority of India, and hydro-electric projects and measures taken for compensating falling of trees.

She instructed that compensation of forest land use by user agency be also addressed on priority and details on the same be submitted to the Committee within 15 days time period.

The Chairperson stressed that

concrete initiatives be taken for re-plantation on priority, especially in tourist resorts such as Gulmarg, Yusmarg, Sonmarg, and Pahalgam, and sought details of deteriorated and fallen trees in these areas. She also called for strict measures to check the smuggling of pine and deodar trees.

Members raised the issue of shortage in timber supply and directed that vacant and fallen timber be recovered immediately and distributed through timber depots.

The Chairperson emphasized that the department should pick up many areas to developed them as green city areas, with

planting variety of trees and also steps be taken to preserve our water body for sustainability of flora and fauna.

The members raised issues of man-animal conflict and asserted that sterilization drives be taken to control the rising monkey population in Jammu areas, causing damage to crops and orchards.

Senior officers present in the meeting included Commissioner Secretary, Forest Department, Sheetal Nanda; PCCF, J&K, Suresh K. Gupta; CWLW, Suresh Rai; MD FDCL, Suneesh Buxy; DG Budget Finance, M.S. Malik; Special Secretaries and other senior officers.

Sewa Parv Secy IT flags off CSC Digi Vans initiative

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Secretary Information Technology (IT) Department, Dr. Piyush Singla, along-with State Head, J&K-CSC SPV, Faizan Maanזור flagged off of CSC Digi Vans under Sewa Parv initiative, a fortnight-long awareness initiative being observed across the Union Territory from 17th September to 2nd October 2025.

The Sewa Parv national initiative aims to celebrate the spirit of Sewa (service) as the truest form of patriotism, contributing to the end goal of VIKSIT BHARAT.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Piyush Singla reiterated the Government's commitment to providing seamless access to public services, particularly for citizens in rural and far-flung areas and endorsed need of awareness of Cyber Hygiene and Digital Literacy. He emphasized that SEWA PARV embodies the vision of Digital India and reinforces the principle of "Service to Citizens" as the foundation of good



governance.

The initiative is designed to strengthen last-mile service delivery, awareness of Digital Literacy, Cyber Hygiene, enhance digital inclusion, and create mass awareness about government welfare schemes. The programme will place a strong emphasis on citizen-centric governance, digital

empowerment, and the promotion of social security schemes for the benefit of people in every district.

The SEWA PARV campaign will culminate on 2nd October 2025, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, symbolizing the values of service, inclusivity, and empowerment.

LG Sinha, CM Omar, others greet PM Modi on his 75th birthday

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Shah Faesal Wednesday greeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday.

The trio took to the X, formerly (Twitter) to extend their greetings.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Office of LG J&K wrote, “Heartfelt birthday wishes to Hon’ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji. I pray for your long & healthy life. Under your visionary leadership, the nation is achieving unprecedented progress in every sphere. Your commitment & dedication to people’s welfare continue to inspire us all.”

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah wrote, “Wishing the Hon PM @narendramodi Sb a very happy 75th birthday. May he be blessed with good health & a long life in the service of our nation & all its citizens.”

Meanwhile, an IAS officer Shah Faesal also extended his greetings.

“A time came in my life when I found myself at the bottom of a ditch, professionally and personally. My qualifications still mattered on paper, but the world had moved on. Friends had vanished, recognition had faded, and the future felt sealed shut,” he wrote.

“In that low moment, I resolved to make one last attempt to return to public service, though I doubted anyone would take a chance on me again. Would I be judged for being a Kashmiri, being a Muslim? The opening came sooner than I imagined. A true visionary recognized the worth in my modest beginnings and the struggles that had shaped me. He seemed to read the intent behind my journey, he forgave, the way a priest-king might, measuring not pedigree but purpose. It was a quiet gesture that restored my dignity. Some day I will tell the entire story but for today this much should suffice. Many happy returns of the day to the man who transformed a billion lives - Honble Prime Minister of India,” Shah Faesal wrote. (KNO)

Ensure priority passage to fruit-laden trucks on NH-44: CS

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sept 17: In view of the recent disruptions on the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) caused by inclement weather, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to re-view restoration works, assess supply chain management, and ensure the smooth movement of essential commodities along this highway.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Public Works Department (PWD); Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA); Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary, Transport; IG Traffic; Deputy Commissioners; and senior representatives from the Army, Beacon, and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary sought a detailed appraisal of the current status of NH-44. The Divisional Commissioner informed him about partial restoration of traffic on a single-lane stretch that was severely damaged by flash floods, as well as the ongoing restoration work and the efforts made by them to facilitate vehicular movement through the Mughal Road as an alternative route.

Emphasizing the need to streamline traffic management, the Chief Secretary directed that on September 18, only Jammu-bound vehicles be allowed to ply on NH-44, ensuring clearance of all trucks stranded enroute. On the following day, traffic would be exclusively facilitated for Srinagar-bound vehicles to enable smooth movement. He further instructed that stoppages



along vulnerable stretches be strictly avoided to prevent traffic jams.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of expediting restoration works to restore double-lane traffic at the earliest. He directed divisional administrations to closely monitor the repair works and share real-time updates with his office.

He also called for augmenting men and machinery along both NH-44 and Mughal Road, with adequate arrangements such as cranes and service providers to assist vehicles in case of emergencies.

Highlighting the critical nature of perishable goods during the harvest season, he instructed authorities to prioritize movement of fruit-laden trucks, along with petroleum and LPG tankers, to safeguard the interests of farmers and ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities in the Valley.

Reviewing the stock position, the Chief Secretary was informed by the Commissioner Secretary,

FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat that food grain and petroleum supplies in Kashmir were comfortable, with additional consignments being regularly transported since the partial reopening of the highway. Deputy Commissioners also apprised him of the availability of essential commodities and services in their respective districts.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the economic interests of fruit growers and traders must be fully protected, and directed field officers to provide all necessary support for hassle-free transportation of produce.

Reiterating the urgency of restoration, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the NHAI to mobilize all available resources and ensure early completion of repair works. He emphasized that restoring NH-44 to full capacity remains the topmost priority, given its pivotal role as the lifeline connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

Grief engulfs Sgr’s Rainawari as 14-year-old girl dies in accident



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 17: A pall of gloom descended on Rainawari, Srinagar on Wednesday after the body of a 14-year-old girl, who succumbed to injuries after being hit by an Eco vehicle at Jogi Lanker, returned to her home, turning the lanes of Gurpora into corridors of mourning.

Heartbreaking scenes unfolded as the body of Madiha Farooq, daughter of Farooq Ahmad Bhat, was carried through the narrow lanes. The cries of her family members, the wails of neighbours and the stunned silence of her classmates gripped the entire locality.

“She was so full of life... none of us can believe she is gone. Her schoolbag still lies at home,” said a sobbing neighbour, watching the funeral procession pass while speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). Officials said the accident

took place when an Eco vehicle, bearing number DLCA5 1744 — a school bus from Khanyar, rammed into several pedestrians near Jogi Lanker, Rainawari on Wednesday afternoon.

“All the injured were shifted to JLNH Hospital Rainawari, where Madiha succumbed to her injuries. After completion of medico-legal formalities, her body was handed over to her family,” the official said.

They added that five others were injured in the accident, with two of them reported to be in critical condition. They have been identified as Halima (55), wife of Gh Mohd Saudagar, resident of Nowgam; Amina (57), wife of Farooq Ahmad Sofi, resident of Noorbagh; Neelofar (47), wife of Fayaz Ahmad Baba, resident of Nehru Park; Gulshana (45), wife of Gh Mohd Mir, resident of Rainawari; and Bashir Ahmad Gagroo (65), son of Ab Rehman, resident of Illahibagh Soura.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Rainfall caused

damage. We will put forth our demand and expect a comprehensive package for J&K like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand,” he said.

The Chief Minister visited Kalaban, Poonch, to oversee the damage caused by land subsidence in the area. He assured full support to the affected families and sanctioned immediate relief of Rs 38 lakh to these families in addition to Rs 50 lakh sanctioned under SDRF. He was accompanied by Minister Javed Rana during the visit.

Omar interacted with the affected families and listened to their concerns. He assured them that the government stands firmly with them in this difficult time and that all possible support will be extended to ensure their rehabilitation.

The CM also visited Udhampur to inspect the ongoing restoration work on Jammu–Srinagar NH-44. He directed the concerned authorities to expedite the work and ensure smooth movement of traffic, particularly for fruit trucks and essential supplies.

During his on-spot assessment of the restoration work on NH-44, the Chief Minister directed the concerned officials to expedite the process, noting that the prolonged closure is severely impacting the supply of essentials, including fresh fruit.

This marked the Chief Minister’s second visit to the affected site and came a day after he, along with the Union Minister for Roads, Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, reviewed the progress of restoration efforts. (KNO)

J&K Govt moves

Dar, who urged the Transport Commissioner to address the escalating freight charges affecting apple growers.

Dar, who has been at the forefront of tackling the crisis emerging in Kashmir due to the closure of the highway, told KNO that the government is making every effort to bring freight charges under control.

He said the government will provide State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) trucks to fruit growers upon request.

He further said, “Fruit growers from the Sopore Mandi have requested SRTC trucks, and we have instructed the Transport Commissioner to dispatch the vehicles accordingly.” (KNO)

Under PM Modi,

on the backfoot, but under the leadership of the Prime Minister, India has regained confidence and is on the path of rapid growth. Naxalism is on its last legs and the terrorism has been crushed in every part of the country.”

The Lieutenant Governor, while referring to Jammu and Kashmir said that the Union Territory is still suffering due to terrorism and stressed the need to completely root it out. “Terrorism has to end in J&K for peace, progress, and prosperity. There are different types of terrorists — some carry guns while others provide financial assistance. Those who fund terrorism are even more dangerous than those who pull the trigger,” LG Sinha said.

He emphasized that lasting peace is essential to make J&K Viksit (developed). Highlighting India’s transformation over the past decade, the LG said that the country’s economic growth story has been remarkable. “Till the 1990s our growth was very slow, but in the last 11 years India has emerged as the fastest growing economy and today stands as the world’s fourth largest economy. Nearly 25 crore people have

risen above the poverty line and are now living dignified lives,” he said.

LG Sinha pointed out that corruption, once deeply entrenched, has been curbed to a large extent. “I don’t claim corruption has ended, but a lot has changed under PM Modi’s rule,” he said.

On women empowerment, the LG said that women have played a vital role in shaping the country’s progress. “In PM Modi’s rule, many women-oriented schemes have been launched. Women have been provided all facilities and opportunities, and they are leading from the front,” he said.

In Jammu and Kashmir, LG Sinha said more than 9 lakh women are associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs), forming the backbone of grassroots economic empowerment. “There are more than 42,000 Lakhpati Didis in J&K today. Our daughters are winning more gold medals than men, a reflection of their determination and talent,” he added.

Women in J&K are carrying forward Prime Minister Modi’s vision of empowerment and inclusivity, playing a pivotal role in the Union Territory’s developmental journey,” he added.

Talking to the reporters on the sidelines of the function, LG Sinha extended his heartfelt birthday wishes to Prime Minister Modi.

“Selfless service fosters community bond and a sense of shared purpose. From 17th September to 2nd October, various Sewa Parv campaigns are being dedicated to women empowerment and health.

“The Prime Minister spent his life dedicated to nation’s service. Under his leadership, the past 11 years are seen as a milestone in India’s transformation and it has emerged as the world’s fourth-largest economy,” he said, adding, “The Prime Minister has ensured that benefits of economic growth reach the poor and marginalised section of society. 25 Crore people have been lifted out of poverty. India’s prestige in the world has greatly increased under his visionary leadership. We pray for his long and healthy life.”

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; SSP Srinagar, Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarthy; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo and other senior officials. (KNO)

India’s patience

air strike of 2019 prove that India’s patience is its strength, not weakness. We choose hard power when negotiations fail to yield any solution,” Singh said, adding, “While India believes in dialogue, it has the capacity to respond firmly when needed.”

On Operation Sindoor, launched in May this year after the Pahalgam terror attack, he said, “It was a response to attacks on our civilians. The armed forces targeted terrorist hideouts deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.”

Referring to the cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan on May 10 this year, he said, “Some people ask whether the ceasefire between India and Pakistan happened because of intervention of someone. I want to make it clear that the operation was not suspended because of anyone’s intervention.”

He pointed to comments made by Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in an interview, where Dar acknowledged that India had categorically opposed any third-party role. “Today’s India is competent to respond to the enemy by looking into the eyes,” he said, adding, “The conflict remains a bilateral

matter, with no role for outside actors.”

He also urged the armed forces to remain alert against new forms of warfare. “The nature of warfare is continuously evolving. Wars today are sudden and unpredictable. We need to ensure our surge capacity remains sufficient,” he said.

Singh identified threats from information, ideological, ecological and biological domains, stressing the need for a technology-driven and joint approach to defence. (KNO)

PM’s holistic approach

Government Approach and make this campaign a huge success.

The LG attended the “Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan–Healthy Women, Empowered Families”, a national health campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 16-day campaign will strengthen screening, maternal health services, lifestyle counselling, yoga and Ayush-based interventions for women, adolescent girls and children. The event also witnessed the commencement of 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah which will be celebrated from 17th September to 16th October 2025, across the country.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor said, “A healthy woman is the foundation of a happy and prosperous family, which in turn builds a strong nation. Today, the supreme position of women in public life is seen as key to ensuring peace and progress in the society. The ‘Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan’ is poised to turn a new chapter in women’s empowerment.

Hon’ble Prime Minister’s holistic approach to improving the lives and prioritising health of women has given new strength to Nari Shakti. Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision, which places Nari Shakti at the forefront of development, has made women powerful agents of change,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted India’s rapid economic development, under the guidance of Hon’ble Prime Minister.

India has overcome previous slow growth to become one of the world’s fastest-growing economies, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said peace is essential for development, and peace can only be achieved by completely dismantling terror ecosystem.

“The people from all sections of society must realise that those who provide ideological and financial support for terrorism, create false narratives are dangerous to peace and development.

“Viksit Bharat” requires a “Viksit Jammu Kashmir”, which can only be achieved when economic benefits reach the poor and the common man, and not only to handful of persons. On this occasion, we must also introspect on these important issues,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called for a widespread awareness campaign using various platforms to encourage public participation and leveraging Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Anganwadi centres for dissemination of detailed information on health camp schedules and services.

The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a health camp to mark the occasion. He also distributed medical aids and handed over sanction letters under Mission YUVA among beneficiaries

“Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan” is a landmark initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry

of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), aimed at strengthening healthcare services for women and children across India, with a focus on improving access, quality care, and awareness.

The Abhiyan is organising more than one lakh health camps, making this the largest ever health outreach for women and children in the country. These camps will be organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres, and other healthcare facilities and will actively promote nutrition, health awareness, and overall family well-being.

Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department, Ms Mandeep Kaur; Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare, Shri Sarmad Hafeez; Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Shri Anshul Garg; Deputy Commissioner, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Shobhna Gupta; Mission Director NHM J&K, Shri Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary; Administrative Secretaries, senior officials, women and people from different walks of life were present at the UT level event in Srinagar.

LG lauds Army

engineers of the Indian Army worked tirelessly under difficult conditions to complete the bridge. This bridge stands as a testament to the dedication, expertise, and unwavering service of the Indian Army,” he said.

The LG said the restoration of this vital connectivity has not only provided relief and assistance to the affected communities but has also renewed hope for the entire region.

DISTRICT ADMIN SOUGHT HELP, PROVIDED RELIEF TO 5000 PEOPLE, SAYS ARMY

Meanwhile, an Army spokesman in a statement issued to KNO said, “Due to recent incessant rainfall in Ramban district, a vital stretch of the Karol–Maitra Road, an important artery connecting Ramban district with mainland was washed away. This road is critical for linking government establishments and villages and its loss disrupted daily life, stranding locals and vehicles.”

“The District Administration requested assistance from the Indian Army for urgent restoration of connectivity. The washed-away site was located nearly 20 metres above the Chenab River under unstable cliffs. Accordingly, a team from the White Knight Engineers was deployed and they executed the launch of a 150-Foot Triple Panel Double Storey Extra Wide Reinforced Bailey Bridge, designed to ensure heavy traffic bearing capacity,” he added.

The spokesman said that the BRO, NHAI, District Administration & Police Department Ramban and other civilian agencies assisted in early execution of task. “In addition to it, the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations under the project #HumAapkeSaathHain continued in Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur, Reasi, Akhnoor, Rajouri and Poonch districts, providing timely relief to people affected by torrid rains, landslides and flash floods. “More than 5000 people were provided relief and number of Medical Camps were organised at remote villages to provide necessary medical aid,” he said, “These sustained efforts including construction of the bridge provided timely medical, veterinary and food supply across remote locations, which showcased that Indian Army stands shoulder to shoulder with the people it serves. Each bridge rebuilt, each camp

conducted, each family helped, strengthened the bond of faith and confidence between the Armed Forces and local communities,” he added. (KNO)

‘Jammu–Srinagar direct

project’ in 2002, has faced numerous engineering and natural challenges. It features some of the world’s most ambitious railway infrastructure, including the Chenab Rail Bridge—the tallest railway bridge in the world—and several long tunnels.

The new connectivity is expected to give a major boost to tourism, trade, and the horticulture sector in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

HC appreciates police

deemed unsafe for public consumption.

In its order, the court said that respondents who had not yet filed replies should place their pleadings on record within ten days. It stressed that no further delay would be entertained in completing the process of responses. The case has been listed for further hearing thereafter.

The PIL, which was filed last month, raises concerns over the unchecked availability of unhygienic and unsafe food items in different districts of the Union Territory. Apart from meat, it highlights the circulation of chicken and synthetic cheese that, according to the petitioner, are being sold without proper quality checks or oversight by regulatory authorities.

Earlier hearings in the case had led the High Court to issue specific directions to the IGP’s of both regions to monitor and strengthen enforcement of food safety measures.

The latest proceedings recorded that some action had been taken as a result of those directions, but the Bench maintained that the issue required sustained oversight.

The court will review the matter again once all respondents have filed their replies and the pleadings are complete. The case is scheduled to come up after ten days. (KNO)

Heart-wrenching sight

will compensate us?” asked Bashir Ahmad, a grower from Pulwama.

Growers said the repeated highway disruptions have made their livelihoods unsustainable. They added that every delay translates into enormous financial setbacks since apples are highly perishable and require timely transportation to outside mandis.

“Every year, we are told that the government is working on alternatives, but when such crises hit, we are left helpless. Our entire economy is crumbling. If this continues, the horticulture sector, which supports lakhs of families, will collapse,” said Muhammad Yousuf, a trader at Fruit Mandi Shopian.

The fruit industry, considered the backbone of Kashmir’s rural economy, contributes thousands of crores annually. But this season’s continuous blockades, combined with the lack of transportation facilities, have led to unprecedented losses.

“What is more painful is that this destruction was preventable. Why did the government fail to ensure the timely clearance of the highway for fruit trucks? Why are growers always left to suffer silently?” asked Abdul Rashid, another farmer from Kulgam.

As the losses mount, growers and traders are demanding immediate intervention from the government, including adequate compensation, improved traffic management, a cap on freight rates and the development of alternate routes to ensure that Kashmir’s produce reaches markets on time. (KNO)

Cong holding rally to save infiltrators: Amit Shah

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday hit out at the Congress 'Voter Adhikar Yatra', saying the opposition party held the campaign to "save infiltrators" as it wants to win elections with their help.

Shah was speaking at the Thyagaraj Stadium here. He inaugurated 17 welfare schemes of the Delhi government on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday.

"Rahul Gandhi is taking out 'ghuspaithiya bachao' (save infiltrators) rally. It is time to recognise them. They want to win elections with the help of infiltrators. They do not trust the country's voters. The BJP supports SIR exercise to cleanse electoral rolls," he said. The Congress held a 14-day and 1,300-km-long 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of



electoral rolls in the poll-bound state by the Election Commission. Bihar goes to polls later this year.

Congress and other opposition parties have alleged that the exercise is aimed at depriving people of their right to vote.

Addressing the event, Shah hailed Modi for ensuring the safety of borders

through surgical and air strikes.

"He gave a befitting reply to Pakistan with Operation Sindoor," the home minister added.

Under Modi's leadership, Shah said, 25 crore people have been brought out of poverty and 60 crore poor have been provided basic facilities in the last 11 years.

GST reforms to inject Rs 2 lakh cr into economy: FM

PTI

Visakhapatnam, Sept 17: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the next generation GST reforms will infuse Rs 2 lakh crore into the economy, which will leave people with more cash in hand that otherwise would have gone as taxes.

Addressing the Outreach and Interaction Programme on Next Gen GST Reforms, she said that following the tax reforms, 99 per cent of goods under 12 per cent GST slab have moved to five per cent. The rejig has resulted in 90 per cent items under 28 per cent tax slab slipping into the 18 per cent bracket.

"With this New Gen Tax regime, with only two slabs (5 per cent and 18 per cent),



Rs 2 lakh crore will be injected into the economy. People will have cash on hand," she said.

The minister said the GST revenues grew to Rs 22.08 lakh crore in 2025 from Rs 7.19 lakh crore in 2028 when it was introduced.

According to her, the taxpayer's number grew to 1.51 crore from the earlier 65 lakh.

Over half of voters may not need documents for electoral roll revision, say EC officials

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 17: More than half the electorate in most of the states may not have to provide any document as they will be covered in the electoral roll of the last special intensive revision (SIR) held in their states, Election Commission officials said on Wednesday.

They pointed out that most states had the last special intensive revision of the voters' list between

2002 and 2004. That year will be considered their cutoff date for the next SIR. The Election Commission will soon decide on the date to roll out special intensive revision pan-India, and the exercise to clean up the voter list across states may take place before the end of the year, officials had earlier said.

Chief electoral officers have been told to keep the electoral rolls of their states, published after the previous SIR, ready. Some state CEOs

have already put up the voter list published after their last SIR on their websites.

The website of the Delhi CEO has the 2008 voter list when the last intensive revision took place in the national capital. In Uttarakhand, the last SIR took place in 2006, and that year's electoral roll is now on the state CEO website.

The last SIR in states will serve as the cut-off date, just as the 2003 voter list of Bihar is being used by the EC for intensive revision.

Stigma a 'silent epidemic', hindering access to care for mental health: Experts

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 17: Stigma and lack of awareness are among the major roadblocks towards making care for mental health conditions accessible to people who require help, experts have said, while underlining that early diagnosis is key to better treatment. "People hesitate to even acknowledge mental illness," said Dr Neerja Agarwal, a psychologist and the founder of Emoneeds, which provides care to people struggling with mental health problems. She said it is important to recognise mental illness as a health condition and should be treated as such, not as a personality flaw. "Just as diabetes and blood pressure need lifelong treatment, so too do conditions like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder," Dr Agarwal said.

Dr Deepika Dahima, a scientist at AIIMS, Delhi, also pointed out that stigma remains one of the greatest silent epidemics surrounding mental health in India.

"It is not the illness alone that debilitates individuals, but the shame, secrecy and silence that accompany it. In many households, a psychiatric diagnosis is still perceived as a threat to family honour, marriage prospects,



or social standing. This cultural weight deepens suffering, isolates people, and deters them from seeking timely care," she said.

Dr Agarwal emphasised the need for consistency in following medical advice for treating mental health issues. "Only then can patients live a normal life." Her Emoneeds colleague, Dr Prerna Chaudhary, spoke of a marriage on the brink of collapse because the woman's parents stopped medication in the days leading up to her marriage. "She suffers from schizophrenia. Her husband left her soon after the wedding, citing her mental illness," the psychologist said.

"While on regular

medication and treatment for one-and-a-half years, the woman's condition had been improving. But when her marriage was fixed, her family members discontinued her medicines," said Dr Chaudhary.

Soon after the wedding, her illness resurfaced with symptoms becoming visible, and she was eventually sent back to her parents. "Schizophrenia requires lifelong treatment. She has now resumed treatment with us," the doctor said. Dr Agarwal explained that schizophrenia can cause excessive anger, delusions, slow functioning, and poor social skills. It can be trauma-induced or hereditary. Highlighting the

importance of early diagnosis, Dr Jitender Jakhar, a consultant psychiatrist at the Sitaram Bhatia Hospital, said when it comes to mental health, psychiatrists often use the phrase "duration of untreated illness."

"It means the longer someone lives with an untreated mental health condition, the harder it becomes to recover. Just like untreated diabetes can damage organs over time, untreated depression, anxiety, or psychosis can affect the brain, emotions, and daily life," he said.

According to experts, when mental health conditions are identified early, treatment works better. People respond faster, have fewer relapses, and regain their confidence more quickly.

But if the illness goes untreated for years, the consequences are more serious, Dr Jakhar pointed out. "Symptoms become harder to manage, and the illness turns out to be more resistant to treatment. People may lose productivity and struggle at their jobs. Also, long-standing illness often leads to social withdrawal, poor social skills, or social anxiety, making it difficult to build relationships and support networks," he explained.

PM Modi turns 75, lauds rise of New India

World leaders, eminent personalities praise his leadership

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned 75 on Wednesday with a host of prominent personalities, including world leaders, lauding his leadership, while the ruling BJP organised welfare initiatives under the fortnight-long "Sewa Pakhwada" to mark the birthday of its preeminent leader.

Keeping with his practice of unveiling development programmes from different states on his birthday, Modi travelled to Dhar in Madhya Pradesh to launch a nationwide campaign focusing on the health and nutrition of women and children.

At a public meeting, he hailed the rise of a New India which brought Pakistan "to its knees" during the recent military conflict.

"Our brave soldiers brought Pakistan to its knees in the blink of an eye. Just yesterday, the country and the world saw a Pakistani terrorist weeping and recounting his plight," Modi said, a day after a viral video emerged of a Jaish-e-Mohamad (JeM) commander speaking of the Indian strikes destroying the organisation's headquarters, killing terrorists and their associates.

"This is the New India, which does not fear any nuclear threats. It enters the enemy's house and strikes," Modi said.

He made a strong pitch for "swadeshi" goods and also launched "Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar" and the eighth annual National Nutrition Month campaigns.

He urged people to buy made-in-India goods. "Shops selling 'made in India' goods should have 'Garv se kaho yeh swadeshi hai' boards," he said.

BJP governments in states and the party's organisation in different places started or have lined



up an array of outreach, welfare and awareness programmes covering health camps to cleanliness drives, get-togethers of intellectuals and fairs to promote indigenous products. The exercise will continue till October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Birthday wishes for Modi, who was born in a poor family in Gujarat's Vadnagar and has led the BJP to unprecedented geographical expansion and electoral successes since 2014, poured in. President Droupadi Murmu praised him for instilling a culture of achieving great goals in the country. "Today, the global community is also expressing its faith in your guidance," she said.

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan said India is making a mark on the global stage and moving steadily towards the goal of a developed nation under his visionary leadership.

BJP leaders and members of other parties extended birthday wishes to Modi.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Modi, with his visionary leadership, dedication to the nation and untiring hardwork, has given the country new energy and shown it a new direction.

He has enhanced India's capability and respect globally, and

his commitment to people's and the poor's welfare is exemplary, Singh said.

Home Minister Amit Shah said Modi has been working tirelessly for people's welfare for more than five decades, and he is a living inspiration of the 'nation first' motto for every citizen.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha wished him good health in their greetings.

In posts on X, Shah described the prime minister as a symbol of sacrifice and dedication, and inspiration for crores of countrymen. The home minister said from the RSS to the party and the government, Modi's journey in life shows the possibility of extensive transformations when resolve is as unwavering as the Himalayas and vision is as vast as the ocean.

"Workers like me are fortunate to have had the chance to work with him in every role he has undertaken," he said.

BJP president J P Nadda said PM Modi has taken many transformative steps to build an "aatmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat" with the goal of progress of every section of society.

Under his leadership, India's spiritual and cultural heritage

has received global prestige, he added.

Several world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, extended birthday greetings to Modi.

Putin praised Modi for his "great personal contribution" to strengthening the partnership between the two countries.

"Through your activities as head of government, you have earned the high respect of your compatriots and enormous authority on the world stage," Putin said in a message published on the Kremlin website.

A day earlier, US President Donald Trump had dialled Modi and extended birthday greetings, sparking hopes of a reset in the bilateral ties that came under severe strain after Washington doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent.

Trump said Modi is doing a tremendous job and thanked the prime minister for his support in ending the war in Ukraine.

In the national capital, Shah inaugurated 17 welfare schemes of the Delhi government on the occasion of Modi's 75th birthday.

Modi is the third-longest serving prime minister of India after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi and second in terms of an uninterrupted tenure.

If the BJP emerged as the main challenger to the Congress under the dual leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani in the late 1980s, it has left the main opposition party far behind in popular support and poll dominance under Modi. While the BJP suffered a setback in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as it fell short of the halfway mark, it has since recovered its mojo by pulling off impressive wins in assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra.

Dalai Lama wishes PM Modi on birthday

IANIS

New Delhi, Sept 17: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday to offer heartfelt greetings and wish him continued good health.

"As India's longest staying guest," he wrote, "I have witnessed firsthand the far-reaching development and prosperity that have taken place over the years. I congratulate you on the growing confidence and strength that have occurred



in recent times. India's success also contributes to global development."

"I consider myself a proud messenger of India, and regularly express my admiration for India, the world's most

populous and largest democracy, for its remarkable and deeply rooted religious pluralism. India presents an example of harmony and stability to the world. For us Tibetans, India has not only been the source of our spiritual heritage, but for more than sixty-six years, has also been our physical home. I would like to once again extend our deep gratitude to the Government and people of India for their warm and generous hospitality," the spiritual leader wrote in his letter.

His Holiness concluded by offering his prayers and good wishes.

NHAI tightens provisions of tender document to seek proposals for highway projects

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 17: State-owned NHAI on Wednesday tightened provisions of request for proposal (RFP) to seek bidders for national highway projects with an aim to improve execution, reduce delays, and bring down cost of highway development.

Stringent conditions in various clauses under the RFP will help ensure that only technically capable and experienced contractors qualify for the implementation of national highway projects, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) said in a set of clarifications on RFP provisions.

"One of the important elements of the provision is clarification of the 'similar work' criteria in bid qualification, which has been often misrepresented by contractors to gain eligibility for large-scale highway projects despite having experience only in minor or peripheral works that do not reflect the complexity and scale of full-fledged highway development, the agency said.



NHAI further clarified that 'similar work' shall refer exclusively to completed highway projects that include all major components comparable to those required for the project for which the bid has been invited.

In addition to refining the qualification criteria, the clarifications to RFP also seek to address the unauthorised engagement of EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) contractors in HAM (hybrid annuity model) and BOT (build, operate, transfer) or toll projects, and subcontractors in EPC projects.

"Instances have been

observed where concessionaires or selected bidders have engaged contractors without the required prior approval of the Authority or exceeded the permissible subcontracting limits," the NHAI said, adding that such practices not only violate contractual norms but also pose risks to quality assurance, project timelines, and regulatory oversight.

The NHAI asserted that any unauthorised sub-contracting and subcontracting beyond permissible limits will be classified as "Undesirable Practice", thereby attracting penalties on par with fraudulent practices.

'Had enough of his hatred': Tyler Robinson confesses to killing Charlie Kirk in texts to partner

AP

New York, Sept 17: As authorities worked feverishly to find the person who assassinated Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University last week, the 22-year-old man now charged with the crime was texting with his romantic partner and acknowledging he was the shooter, court documents revealed.

Tyler Robinson fired a single fatal shot from the rooftop of a building overlooking the outdoor venue where Kirk was speaking to about 3,000 people on September 10, investigators say.

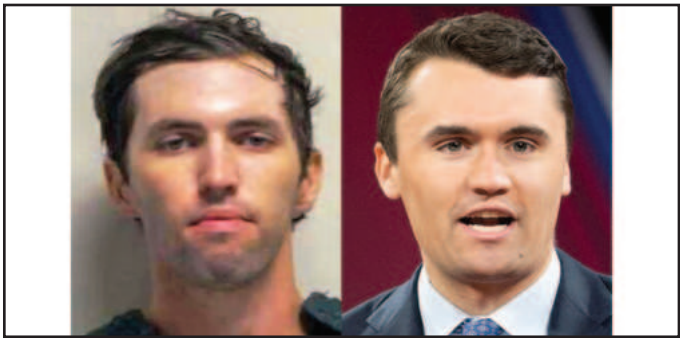
Afterward, prosecutors say he texted with the partner, who he lived with near St. George, Utah, about 387 kilometres southwest of the campus.

He said to look under his keyboard at their home. There was a note that said, "I had the opportunity to take out Charlie Kirk and I'm going to take it."

After expressing shock, his partner asked Robinson if he was the shooter. Robinson responded, "I am, I'm sorry."

The partner apparently never went to law enforcement with the information. Robinson remained on the run until the next night, when his parents recognised he was the person in a photo released by authorities as they searched for the shooter. They helped organise Robinson's peaceful surrender.

The partner was not named in the charging documents that contained the narrative of the shooting and were made public Tuesday when authorities charged Robinson with capital murder and other counts. He could face the death penalty.



Law enforcement officials say they are looking at whether others knew about or aided Robinson in the assassination. They have not said if the partner is among those being investigated but have publicly expressed appreciation for the partner sharing information.

Prosecutors allege Robinson used a bolt-action rifle to shoot Kirk in the neck on the campus in Orem, about 64 kilometres south of Salt Lake City. DNA on the trigger of the rifle matched Robinson, according to Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray. The rifle had been Robinson's grandfather's.

Robinson appeared briefly Tuesday before a judge by video from jail. He nodded slightly at times but mostly stared ahead as the judge read the charges and said he would appoint an attorney to represent him. Robinson's family has declined to comment to The Associated Press since his arrest.

Kirk, a 31-year-old father of two, was a prominent force in politics credited with energising the Republican youth movement and helping Donald Trump win back the White House in 2024. He gained a large following through social media, his podcast and

campus events that featured him responding to a line of questioners who could query and debate him on any topic.

Was Charlie Kirk targeted over anti-transgender views?

Authorities have not revealed a clear motive in the shooting, but Gray said that Robinson wrote in a text about Kirk to his partner: "I had enough of his hatred. Some hate can't be negotiated out."

A charging document in the State of Utah vs Tyler Robinson, suspected of fatally shooting conservative activist Charlie Kirk, is seen in this release from the Utah County Judicial District Court, September 16, 2025. Reuters picture

The prosecutor said Robinson also wrote in one text that he spent more than a week planning the attack on Kirk. Authorities have not said what they believe the planning entailed.

Gray declined to answer whether Robinson targeted Kirk for his anti-transgender views. Kirk was shot while taking a question that touched on mass shootings, gun violence and transgender people.

"That is for a jury to decide," Gray said.

Robinson was involved in a

romantic relationship with his roommate, who investigators say is transgender.

Parents said their son became more political

While authorities say Robinson hasn't been cooperating with investigators, they say his family and friends have been sharing information.

Robinson's mother told investigators that their son had turned hard left politically in the last year and became more supportive of gay and transgender rights, Gray said.

Those decisions prompted several conversations in the household, especially between Robinson and his father. They had different political views and Robinson told his partner in a text that his dad had become a "die-hard MAGA" since Trump was elected.

Robinson's mother recognised him when authorities released a picture of the suspect and his parents confronted him, at which time Robinson said he wanted to kill himself, Gray said.

The family persuaded him to meet with a family friend who is a retired sheriff's deputy. That person was able to get Robinson to turn himself in, the prosecutor said.

Robinson was arrested late Thursday near St. George, where he grew up.

Robinson detailed movements after the shooting

In a text exchange with his partner released by authorities, Robinson wrote about planning to get his rifle from his "drop point," but that the area was "locked down."

Later he sent: "I can get close to it but there is a squad car parked

right by it. I think they already swept that spot, but I don't want a chance it." The texts cited in court documents did not include timestamps and it was unclear how long after the shooting Robinson was texting.

"To be honest I had hoped to keep this secret till I died of old age. I am sorry to involve you," Robinson wrote in another text to his partner.

A charging document in the State of Utah vs Tyler Robinson, suspected of fatally shooting conservative activist Charlie Kirk, is seen in this release from the Utah County Judicial District Court, September 16, 2025. Reuters picture

Prosecutor says Robinson told partner to delete texts

Robinson discarded the rifle and clothing and asked his roommate to conceal evidence, Gray said.

Robinson also was charged with felony discharge of a firearm, punishable by up to life in prison, and obstructing justice, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

He also was charged with witness tampering because he had directed his partner to delete their text messages and told his partner to stay silent if questioned by police, Gray said.

Kash Patel says investigators will look at everyone

FBI Director Kash Patel said Tuesday that agents are looking at "anyone and everyone" who was involved in a gaming chatroom on the social media platform Discord with Robinson. The chatroom involved "a lot more" than 20 people, he said during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in Washington.

UNSC reform now at centre of UNGA discussions: Guterres



IANIS

United Nations, Sept 17: UN Security Council reform is now at the centre of discussions at the General Assembly, and there is some progress in the reform process, according to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"Before, there was a committee that couldn't even issue papers and the documents would not move from one year to another", he said on Tuesday at a news conference, referring to the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN). "Now there is a committee working seriously. So I seem movement", he said. Although the IGN has failed to adopt a negotiating text that India has demanded to form the basis for discussion, its co-chairs have prepared "Elements Papers" broadly laying out the positions of various countries on reform, and points of divergence and convergence, and creating a record. "The Council's legitimacy, and efficiency is compromised by its current structure", Guterres said.

"The Security Council has a composition that doesn't correspond to the world of today, it corresponds to the world of 1945. And that creates not only

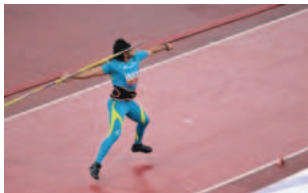
a problem of legitimacy, but a problem of efficiency", he said.

Guterres took some credit for the heightened interest in Council reform that he said "was completely taboo in the past". "One thing I can tell you is that I believe I am the first Secretary-General that talks all the time about the need to reform the Security Council", he said. One of the factors driving the momentum for reform is Africa's claims for permanent seats because most of the peacekeeping operations mandated by the Council are in the continent. "Several countries have recognised, for instance, even the P5 [the five permanent members], that Africa should have the right to have a permanent member", Guterres said. Another reform needed, Guterres said, was curbing the veto powers of the permanent members. "The truth is that this item (Council reform) that was completely taboo in the past is now in the centre of the discussions of the General Assembly", he said. "There were proposals from, namely, by France and UK, limiting the right of veto, especially in situation where we have massive violation of human rights or dramatic cases of this kind, and I see with sympathy that proposal", he said.

Neeraj qualifies for World C'ships finals with first throw

PTI

Tokyo, Sept 17: Defending champion Neeraj Chopra stormed into the men's javelin throw final of the World Championships in style after clearing the automatic qualification mark of 84.50m in his very first throw here on Wednesday. The 27-year-old two time Olympic-medallist sent his spear to 84.85m in his first throw in the Group A of the qualification round. In fact, Chopra was the first thrower and he packed up after making it to the final. Those who touch the automatic qualifying mark of 84.50m or the best



12 finishers will make the final round to be held on Thursday. Chopra has been clubbed with German star Julian Weber, who also qualified with a throw of 87.21m, Keshorn Walcott, Jakub Vadlejch and Sachin Yadav in the 19-man Group A qualification round on Wednesday.

The 18-strong Group B will feature Olympic champion

Arshad Nadeem, Anderson Peters, Julius Yego, Luiz Da Silva, Rohit Yadav, Yashvir Singh, and rising Sri Lankan Ramesh Tharanga Pathirage among others.

In the last edition in Budapest, Chopra had thrown 88.17m to win the gold, while Nadeem (87.82m) and Vadlejch (86.67m) had pocketed silver and bronze respectively. Chopra will aim to become the third male javelin thrower in history to defend the World Championships gold. Czech legend Jan Zelezny (1993, 1995), who is now Chopra's coach, and Peters (2019, 2022) are the other two who have won the world championships crown on two consecutive occasions.

Ben & Jerry's co-founder resigns after feud with parent Unilever over Gaza

REUTERS

New York, Sept 17: Ben & Jerry's co-founder Jerry Greenfield, whose name helped shape the popular ice cream brand, has quit the company, as its rift with parent Unilever deepened over its stance on the Gaza conflict.

In an open letter addressing the Ben & Jerry's community that was shared by his partner Ben Cohen on social media platform X on Wednesday, Greenfield said that the



Vermont-based company has lost its independence since Unilever curtailed its social activism. Unilever

and Ben & Jerry's have clashed since 2021, when the Chubby Hubby maker said it would stop sales in

the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The brand has since sued its parent over alleged efforts to silence it and described the Gaza conflict as "genocide," a rare stance for a major US company.

Greenfield said he could no longer "in good conscience" continue working for a company that had been "silenced" by Unilever, despite a merger agreement meant to safeguard the brand's social mission. "That

independence existed in no small part because of the unique merger agreement Ben and I negotiated with Unilever," he wrote in the letter.

A spokesperson for Magnum Ice Cream Company, Unilever's ice cream unit, said that it "disagrees with Greenfield's perspective and has sought to engage both co-founders in a constructive conversation on how to strengthen Ben & Jerry's powerful values-based position in the world."

Varun Chakravarty becomes No.1 T20I bowler in ICC rankings for first time

PTI

Dubai, Sept 17: India's Varun Chakravarty bowls a delivery during the Asia Cup Cricket match between United Arab Emirates and India at Dubai International Cricket stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025.

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty on Wednesday rose to the top of the ICC T20 Bowlers' Rankings for the first time in his career, becoming only the third Indian to achieve this feat.

The 34-year-old emulated fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi by moving up three spots following spells of 1/4 against the UAE and 1/24 in against Pakistan.

Chakravarty, whose previous best was second place in February 2025, displaced New Zealand's Jacob Duffy, who had held the top position since March.

"India spinner Varun Chakravarty has been rewarded for his consistent form in 2025 by becoming the No.1 ranked bowler on the latest ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings," the ICC said in a statement.



Left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav has made a significant leap, jumping 16 places to 23rd, while spin all-rounder Axar Patel has moved up one place to 12th.

Bumrah has also improved his position, rising four spots to 40th.

In the all-rounders' rankings, Hardik Pandya continues to hold the top spot, while Abhishek Sharma has climbed four places to 14th.

Abhishek has also consolidated his position at the top of the T20 batting rankings. His explosive innings of 30 off 16 balls against the

UAE and 31 off 13 against Pakistan have helped him achieve a career-high 884 rating points.

His opening partner Shubman Gill has moved up four places to 39th. However, Tilak Varma and captain Suryakumar Yadav have slipped in the rankings.

Tilak is down two spots to fourth, while Suryakumar has dropped one position to seventh. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was not included in the Asia Cup squad, has also fallen two places to 13th.

The England opening

pair of Phil Salt and Jos Buttler have advanced one spot each to second and third positions, respectively, after their scintillating performances in the second T20 against South Africa in Manchester.

Salt's 141 not out off 60 balls, which was the highest score and the fastest T20 century by an England batter, inched back towards his career-best No. 1 position while Buttler's 83 off 30 helped him attain a career-high 794 rating points and make a first appearance inside the top three.



DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA
JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:45 AM, 06:15 PM
ENGLISH - 03:00 PM



LOVE IN VIETNAM (UA16+)
HINDI - 11:30 AM



THE CONJURING LAST RITES (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:00 AM, 03:15 PM



MIRAI: SUPER YODHA (UA16+)
HINDI - 05:50 PM



BAAGHI 4 (A)
HINDI - 02:30 PM, 06:30 PM

Movies Schedule
Thursday, 18th September
INOX SRINAGAR

CALL 95416 13868
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS