



## 21st century is India's century, says LG Manoj Sinha

Asks youth to transcend linguistic differences, transform India into Viksit Bharat

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 19: With the peace and stability, with the spirit of unity and common goals, and fostering a strong collective identity, India will achieve robust development, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He was speaking at a national Seminar on Integration in Indian languages organised by National Institute of Technology, Srinagar and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

The Lieutenant Governor said India's rich linguistic landscape is a source of strength. He said hundreds of languages and dialects have helped in building a cohesive society, which is driving transformation and development.

"Despite diverse background, languages, dialects and ideas, a common national identity and shared consciousness unite us all. We must harness the power of unity in diversity for nation-building. Our effort should be to ensure that Hindi continues



to serve as an essential bridge, connecting people from different linguistic backgrounds, motivate people to learn other languages, enhancing mutual cooperation and economic integration," the LG said.

Sinha said that all the sections of the society must also strive to preserve, and promote the rich cultural heritage

inherent in all Indian languages.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth to transcend linguistic differences and unite the nation to transform India into Viksit Bharat. "You have to create a glorious and developed India by completely eliminating every trace of colonial mindset," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the entire world is looking towards India with hope for future prospects. "The 21st century is India's century. It is written in stone. Consistent growth and productivity will make India a dominant global power," the Lieutenant Governor said. He also encouraged the young students to learn | [More on P6](#)

## Industrial growth must create youth, artisan livelihoods: CM

Calls for revival of stressed MSMEs

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 19: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday directed the Industries & Commerce Department to adopt a proactive and inclusive approach in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's industrial ecosystem, with a special focus on employment generation, sustainability and competitiveness.

Chief Minister emphasized the need for handholding of MSME units which are in distress but still revivable with minimal government intervention. He asked officials to identify such units at an early stage so these do not become defunct. "Such units can generate significant employment if supported in time," he said.

Chief Minister expressed concern on slow progress under capital expenditure during current fiscal particularly under PMEGP & REGP schemes asking the department to at least match the last year's progress.

Chief Minister also reviewed the New Central Sector Scheme aimed at encouraging new



investments and incentives provided under the scheme. CM assessed the claim wise progress achieved under the scheme and called for completion of targets fixed under the NCSS.

He also asked Industries Department to prioritize setting up of industries for which either raw material is readily available or the market is locally available for finished products.

Calling for a review of the land policy in industrial estates, Omar Abdullah stressed on ensuring early allotment

of land to Units which have deposited premium but their proposals for land transfer remain in limbo. CM gave directions for early completion of 46 new Industrial Estates and to take up development of existing industrial estates to ensure judicious and productive use of industrial land.

On improving the business climate, the Chief Minister urged the department to explore what J&K can itself do to enhance the Ease of Doing Business, beyond national benchmarks. He further instructed | [More on P6](#)

## India shaping its destiny through decisive action: Rajnath Singh

Says 'Op Sindoor' sent clear message

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Sept 19: Asserting that India shapes its destiny through decisive action and preparedness, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that success of 'Operation Sindoor' has sent a clear message to the world that victory is a routine outcome for Bharat in any operation.

Speaking at an event held in South Block, New Delhi, to mark 60 years since the 1965 India-Pakistan war, the Defence Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), referred to the military response to the April 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam. "The Indian armed forces acted with firm resolve during 'Operation Sindoor'."

Pertinently, the operation was launched to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead. Indian armed forces destroyed the headquarters of terror outfits deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). The skirmishes between the two countries continued till May 10. Indian forces hit 13 military and airbase targets and eliminated over 100 terrorists at nine separate locations. The hostilities ended after



Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called his Indian counterpart and requested for a ceasefire.

Singh said, "The Pahalgam terror attack pushed the entire nation into mourning but did not weaken the country's will to act. The leadership decided that those responsible must face consequences that would be remembered by one and all."

Singh said, "Operation Sindoor reflects a broader shift in the country's approach towards national security. India's growing focus is on modernising its defence infrastructure, improving training, and equipping the forces to deal with any challenge. This preparedness is intended to prevent resource constraints during future | [More on P6](#)

## Modi Govt stands with you: Union Min assures flood-hit Jammu farmers

Shivraj Chouhan assesses damage to crops, infrastructure

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Sept 19: Assuring the flood-hit farmers in Jammu region that the Centre is with them, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday said that PM Modi-led government is concerned about their plight and will extend all necessary assistance.

The Union Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) visited flood-hit areas of Jammu to assess damage to crops and infrastructure. "The Centre is with you. We will spare no effort in



providing assistance to the farmers. I have come here to see the situation myself and understand the loss," the Union Minister told

the farmers and displaced residents.

Chouhan said, "The Centre has already sent inter-ministerial | [More on P6](#)

## 'Flying Squads to inspect high-risk food products across J&K'

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 19: In a significant step aimed at safeguarding public health and ensuring the availability of safe and quality food products, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Friday chaired an inter-departmental coordination meeting to review the comprehensive action plan on food safety across the Union Territory.

The review comes in the backdrop of recent seizures of substandard meat and dairy products in different parts of the UT, raising serious concerns over food adulteration and public safety.

The meeting was attended



by Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, H&ME; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary, Law; Commissioner, FSD; Director, FCS&CA, | [More on P6](#)

Highway Delays

## Apple growers reel under losses as bulk supply floods markets

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sept 19: The demand for Kashmiri apples has started declining in outside markets as thousands of trucks carrying the fruit arrived simultaneously after being stuck for days on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

Speaking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), growers said that not only has the bulk supply lowered the rates drastically, but the prolonged halts have also deteriorated the quality of the fruit, leaving them to count heavy

losses.

For over a week, fruit-laden trucks were stranded along the highway due to repeated closures caused by landslides and repair work.

With the road now partially restored, nearly 5,500 apple trucks were released over the past two days, according to officials.

Growers thanked the government for allowing all vehicles and requested them to work in a way so that such a bad situation won't come to fore again.

President of Fruit

Growers-cum-Dealers Union, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, explained this: "Whenever produce in bulk quantity reaches mandis, it disturbs the entire supply-and-demand chain. Prices are bound to go down."

He added, "This time the problem is worse, because most of this produce had remained stuck on the highway for almost a week. The fruit condition has deteriorated, yet the freight charges remain extremely high. It is a double loss for us."

Growers said that while their produce | [More on P6](#)

## August 14 flash floods wash away over 45 kanals of farmland in Chishoti, 350 kanals in Wadwan

Life has lost meaning, say survivors; admin promises relief after survey

Peerzada Ummer

Jammu, Sept 19: The remote village of Chishoti in Kishtwar district is still reeling under the devastation caused by the massive flash floods that struck the hamlet on August 14.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) what began as another rainy day in the Monsoon turned into the darkest chapter in the village's history,



as a torrent of water, mud, and boulders swept through homes and fields, leaving more than a hundred people dead and dozens of families displaced. Those who managed to survive now find themselves staring into an uncertain and grim future.

The fury of the disaster was such that 38 farmers of Chishoti lost their entire agricultural land. For fourteen of them, the tragedy was even more merciless, their homes were flattened into rubble

by the surging waters. Today, these families neither have roofs over their heads nor land to cultivate. They are forced to live under the open sky, counting days with despair. For them, life after the flood is nothing but a long night with no sign of dawn.

According to estimates, nearly 45 kanals of land in Chishoti were washed away. The destruction extended beyond this small village; in the Wadwan area of the Madhwa subdivision, | [More on P6](#)

## Northern Railways to re-operate trains in Jammu

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Jammu, Sept 19: Northern Railways on Friday announced that several trains cancelled due to continuous rains and water logging in the Jammu division will resume services from September 21 onwards.

Officials said the decision follows safety inspections and a phased restoration plan.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Northern Railways have informed that Train No. 12238 (Jammu Tawi-Varanasi), Train No. 12332 (Jammu Tawi-Howrah) and Train No. 12356 (Jammu Tawi-Patna)

will restart operations on September 21, while Train No. 12920 (Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Dr. Ambedkar Nagar) will resume on September 22.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said the trains are being re-operated after ensuring the safety and continuity of tracks and bridges. "These trains are being operated in the third phase. Earlier also, trains were re-operated in two phases. As soon as the technical work on the railway track and railway bridge is completed, the train operations in the division are being gradually normalised," he added, | [More on P6](#)



# CS for strengthening Nursing Education

## Calls it backbone of healthcare system

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 19: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a meeting to comprehensively review the quality and standards of nursing education across the Union Territory, emphasizing that nursing forms the backbone of the healthcare delivery system.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Principals of GMC Jammu and Srinagar; Chairperson, J&K Allied & Healthcare Council (A&HCC); Registrar, J&K Nursing Council; Principals of Nursing Colleges, and other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took stock of the functioning of newly established Nursing Colleges across districts, including the range of courses offered and the enrolment of students. He directed that diploma-level courses should be progressively upgraded to degree and postgraduate programmes in order to build advanced capacities in the nursing sector.

He further instructed for early completion and operationalization of Nursing Colleges at Sopore, Kulgam, Shopian, and Budgam, besides exploring the feasibility of establishing such colleges at few left out



districts. The Chief Secretary also stressed on the need to phase out obsolete courses that do not contribute meaningfully to patient care, and to introduce new courses aligned with emerging healthcare needs.

Highlighting the crucial role of quality teaching, he underscored that only well-qualified faculty should be engaged in these institutions. He called for framing Recruitment Rules for Nursing Colleges, filling up vacancies through recruitment agencies, and creating posts wherever required to ensure that standards of teaching and training remain uncompromised.

Reviewing the functioning of the recently established

J&K State Allied & Healthcare Council (SA&HC), the Chief Secretary directed that it be further strengthened with adequate manpower and robust monitoring mechanisms, in line with the National Commission for Allied & Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) guidelines and checklists for institutional readiness.

The Secretary, H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, while presenting an overview, informed that significant progress has been achieved in nursing education. Over the past year, 360 new B.Sc Nursing seats, 80 Post Basic B.Sc Nursing seats, and 25 M.Sc Nursing seats have been added across colleges in the UT.

From the next academic session, Nursing College Jammu will also offer 60 additional Post Basic B.Sc Nursing seats, he added.

It was further revealed that J&K presently has around 50 Nursing Colleges with a total intake capacity of 3,040 seats. In addition, 8 institutions are offering 233 M.Sc Nursing seats, 14 institutions 805 Post Basic B.Sc Nursing seats, while dozens of institutes collectively cater to more than 5,600 GNM, 5,200 FMPHW, and 2,300 MMPHW students across the UT.

Registrar, J&K Nursing Council, Dr. Sandeep Singh, apprised that examinations for 14,738 candidates in paramedical courses had been successfully conducted. He also reported

recognition of 28 new Pharmacy institutions with an intake of 1,800 seats in Diploma in Pharmacy, which is now a mandatory qualification for obtaining drug licenses.

Chairperson, J&K A&HCC, Dr. Sabhiya Majid, elaborated on the mandate of the NCAHP Act, 2021, which came into force as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions. She explained that the NCAHP and State Councils are responsible for regulation and maintenance of standards in allied and healthcare education and services, assessment of institutions, maintaining central and state registers of professionals, and fostering research and adoption of latest scientific advancements.

She further elucidated that presently, 10 recognized categories spanning 57 professions fall under its ambit, with the scope set to expand in order to uphold the quality, dignity, and recognition of allied healthcare professionals nationwide.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the Chief Secretary emphasized that strengthening nursing education and allied healthcare systems is pivotal for enhancing patient care, meeting the growing healthcare demands, and creating a skilled workforce to serve the people of J&K.

# Choudhary, Sakeena visit DH Pora Kulgam

Lay foundation stone of Rest House



KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 19: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along with Minister for Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo Friday visited Damhal Hanji Pora and laid foundation stone of Rest House which will come up with an estimated cost of 2.94 crore.

Addressing a large gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government is committed towards improving infrastructure across all sectors to provide better services to the people. He directed the concerned engineering wing to ensure timely completion of the Rest House and other projects while maintaining quality standards. The Deputy CM said that the government led by Omar Abdullah is determined to fulfil all promises made to the people. He further stated that

several projects are going on to boost connectivity, public amenities, and holistic development, in line with the government's vision of inclusive growth across Jammu & Kashmir. The Deputy CM added that transparency, accountability, and a pro-people approach remain the government's top priority.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo said that under the leadership of the Omar Abdullah, the government is working with a clear vision to ensure holistic development across all regions of J&K. She further stated that the establishment of the Rest House will add to development profile of this area. The Health Minister highlighted that the current government has restarted several long-pending projects, besides many new projects have been sanctioned, particularly in health sector, to improve overall well-being of the people.

# PDD launches massive parallel training sessions across J&K

## 780 linemen receive hands-on training on electrical safety

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 19: With a view to foster safety-first culture in the power sector, and in line with the Government's emphasis on conducting employee training in a structured and regular manner, the Electrical Inspectorate of the Power Development Department (PDD) has launched massive parallel training sessions across all districts of J&K.

The training programs are carefully structured so that each district is covered, ensuring that all linemen and contract workers engaged on the electrical system are trained with the basic safety practices, during this first phase. This initiative marks a significant step toward institutionalized capacity building, aimed at improving operational efficiency and prioritizing safety, aligning with the department's future plan of establishing dedicated Power Training Institute for all power employees across J&K.

The said training sessions, which commenced last month, are currently in progress and so far, 780 linemen have been trained through a combination of theoretical sessions and hands-on demonstrations,

with a special focus on use of safety gears and other essential workplace precautions. These sessions have so far been conducted in the districts of Budgam, Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora, Jammu, Kathua, while the remaining districts are scheduled for the coming weeks.

Considering human safety a top priority, line staff have also been instructed to raise awareness among the general public regarding electrical hazards—particularly those arising from weather vagaries such as snapped wires or infrastructure damage caused by flash floods. A general safety advisory, along with detailed Do's and Don'ts, has been clearly communicated during the training to ensure electrical safety not only for humans but also for animals across the UT.

The entire schedule has been prepared under the guidance of Principal Secretary, PDD, H. Rajesh Prasad, who reiterated that human safety must always remain a top priority. He firmly underscored the importance of adhering strictly to SOPs, with no tolerance for shortcuts during work execution. He further stated that regular monthly reviews on safety compliance will be

conducted by each corporations and detailed reports in this regard will be submitted to the department for monitoring purpose.

Highlighting the challenges faced by linemen in J&K, he mentioned that these linemen operate in challenging environments, including harsh weather conditions, snow-bound areas, and tough mountainous terrains often during emergencies and time-constrained situations. The recent restoration of power in record time during the incessant rains in Jammu stands as a testament to their commitment and resilience. Such a dedicated workforce must be provided with specialized trainings and adequate facilities to enable expeditious restoration of the system in difficult terrains while ensuring that their safety remains uncompromised.

The training sessions were organized and conducted by officers of the Electrical Inspectorate. The master trainers for the training sessions were Er. Anil Abrol in Jammu, and Er. Manzoor Ahmad& Er. Adil Bashir in Kashmir—all three from the Electrical Inspectorate J&K. Additionally, Er. Gulshan Bhagat, Er. Sanjeev Pathania, Er. Navneet Singh Raina, Er. Mudasar Amin Tibet, Er. Sajad

Tariq, Er. Sandeep Kohli, Er. Divya Gupta, along with other officers, officials, and supporting staff of the Inspectorate, actively participated in conducting the proceedings.

The Chief Electrical Inspector, Sanjay Sharma, in his opening remarks during the session, stressed the critical importance of electrical safety both in execution of works as well as in managing day to day operations. He further highlighted that power sector of J&K is currently undergoing complete transformation with conventional systems rapidly being replaced with modern technologies to ensure better service delivery to the consumers.

He also informed that the Electrical Inspectorate of PDD has been entrusted with the responsibility of organizing regular training programs and workshops to upgrade skill of power employees for improving the overall efficiency of the department. He added that in this regard, an annual training calendar has been prepared and MoUs have also been signed with reputed national-level power training institutions to adopt a collaborative approach in imparting trainings by inviting the best experts from across the country to J&K.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION HANDWARA

Rajwar Road, Handwara – 193221

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NITNo:08-IFCD/HND/2025-26Dated: 19/09/2025.

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Jammu and Kashmir UT Government for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Advertised cost	Earnest Money	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head	Cost of Tender document	Tender ID No.
1.	Construction of edge wall/ lining wall on Dangerwari canal near the land of Naseer Ahmad Khan, Gh Mohd War, Mohd Maqbool War and others at Manzgam.	₹ 399000	₹ 7980	30 Days	DEE	District Capex (ADF)	₹200/-	

Position of AAA: Sanctioned vide District Development Commissioner Kupwara Accord Order No.168-DDCK of 2025Dated: 10/09/2025.

Position of T.S.: Under Process.

Position of funds: Assured.

Authorization by: District Development Commissioner Kupwara vide No. DDCK/Capex/5076-77 Dated: 10/09/2025.

The NIT consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from website www.jktenders.gov.in from:

1	Publishing Date	19-09-20251600 Hours
2	Download Date Start	19-09-2025 1700 Hours
3	Tender Submission date Start	19-09-2025 1700 Hours
4	Tender Submission date Ends	09-10-2025 1500 Hours
5	Date of Opening	10-10-2025 1400 Hours

Note: Item for which no rate or price has been entered in will not be paid for by the Employer when executed and shall be deemed covered by the other rates and prices in the Bill of Quantities

Unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder in Indian Rupees.

No: - IFCDHND/Camp/2774-83

Dated:19/09/2025.

DIPK-6401/25

DATED: 19-09-2025

Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
Irrigation &FC Division  
Handwara.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION GUREZ

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

(I&FC) E-NIT No. 42/2025-26/EE/R&B/Grz/5245-52/E-tendering/Dated:-19-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Realignment of 300mm dia QCC pipe line from RD 300mm to RD 1306.06 M to Burmal Irrigation Khul	9.71	600 (Indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	01 Months	19420	CDF Grants of Hon'ble MLA	DEE/CEE	District Development Commissioner

Position of AAA:- (Accorded)

Position of TS:- (Accorded)

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	18-09-2025 From 19-09-2025 (10:00 AM)
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	To 24-09-2025 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 19-09-2025 (10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 24-09-2025 (04:00 PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	25-09-2025 (10:00 AM) In the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Gurez

DIPK-6416/25

DATED: 19-09-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Gurez

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OFFICER, BUDGAM

No: CAHIO/SK/

Subject: Invitation of Short-Term Quotations.

For and on behalf of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Budgam Short term quotations are invited from registered dealers/supplier as per the below mentioned specifications. The quotations should reach this office within seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this notification.

DATED:

S. No	Name for the medicine	Specification	Quantity required
01	Inj. intalyte bottle	500 ml	500 numbers
02	Inj. Rintose	500 ml	500 numbers
03	Inj. Normal siine 0.9%	500 ml	700 numbers

The date of opening of quotations is 29.09.2025.

Terms and Conditions: -

1. The rates should be quoted for Veterinary Campus Budgam.

2. The quotations should be accompanied by stamp duty of Rs.10/-.

3. The approved supplier has to supply the required quantity of medicine within 5 days from the issuance of supply order.

4. The Purchase committee constituted for the purpose shall have full authority to reject or accept the supplied medicines after proper verification.

5. The quotations shall be opened in presence of committee of officers constituted for this purpose and Quoter who wish to participate can attend on the particular date and time.

6. The decision of the Purchase Committee in respect of acceptance or rejection of quotations shall be final and binding.

DIPK-6408/25

DATED: 19-09-2025

Sd/-  
Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Budgam



# Elected Govt won't step down, will fight for statehood: Dy CM

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Gulgam, Sep 19: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on Friday said the biggest issue confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir is getting back whatever was snatched from them, including statehood.

Addressing a gathering on the sidelines of the function here, the Dy CM said some people expect the ruling elected regime to step down. "But the government is committed to fighting for the restoration of the rights of people that have been snatched," he said.

Choudhary said the National Conference has always fought for the rights of the people and will continue to do so. He said that restoring statehood is crucial for J&K, not for the government, but for the people whose livelihoods and opportunities have been affected. "Today, outsiders are getting



jobs, while locals are pushed aside," he said, vowing to continue the fight against those responsible for the removal of Article 370 and the downgrading of the state into a Union Territory.

About the National Highway closure and subsequent losses to the fruit growers, the Dy CM said the growers never faced losses when J&K was a state, but today the highway remained closed for

a longer period, causing extensive losses to the growers. "Unfortunately, the Lieutenant Governor didn't utter even a single word on it," he said.

Choudhary said those responsible for the state's downgrading have met the LG, but not the elected Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was elected by the people.

"The PDP leader (Iltija Mufti) needs to clarify why she met the

LG instead of the elected government. The LG's tenure has already ended, and she did so despite claiming that nothing is in his hands," he said.

He said the biggest issue at present was the restoration of the identity snatched from the J&K people. "If anyone is responsible for this, it is PDP," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the elected government in Jammu and Kashmir has done whatever was under its domain, following the recent floods triggered by heavy rainfall.

"The Chief Minister visited almost every area affected by the floods, and the government has extended every possible support under its domain. J&K doesn't want any healing, but wants compensation for those affected by the floods," Choudhary said. "It is the Centre that has to provide compensation." (KNO)

## NIT Sgr committed to promoting linguistic unity: Dir



"Indian languages are not just a means of communication but also a reflection of our collective history, culture and identity. This seminar will serve as a platform to deepen our understanding of linguistic unity and strengthen the values of national integration," Prof. Kanaujia said.

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 19: Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia on Friday said the institute is honoured to host a seminar of national relevance at a time when preserving linguistic heritage is critical.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the national seminar on "Bhartiya Bhashaon Mein Ekatmata", organised by the Rajbhasha Cell of NIT Srinagar with academic support from Shiksha Sanskriti Uthhaan Nyas, Bhartiya Bhasha Manch Nyas and the Department of Hindi, University of Kashmir.

"Indian languages are not just a means of communication but also a reflection of our collective history, culture and identity. This seminar will serve as a platform to deepen our understanding of linguistic unity and strengthen the values of national integration," Prof. Kanaujia said.

He stressed the seminar provides an opportunity for scholars and students to engage in meaningful dialogue on how language diversity can be harmonised to reinforce

national solidarity.

Prof. Kanaujia also highlighted that NIT Srinagar has made significant progress in promoting Hindi and other Indian languages on campus. "We have enhanced the use of bilingual documentation under Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963, rising from 0.05 percent to 75 percent," he said.

He further noted that the institute has been advancing digital initiatives such as e-office systems and the establishment of an innovation hub, reflecting its commitment to modernisation, inclusivity, and cultural integration.

Prof. Kanaujia lauded the Rajbhasha Cell for organising various events during Hindi Pakhwada (September 14-28) including essay writing, poetry recitation, debates, workshops and quizzes aimed at promoting the use of Hindi in official work and everyday communication.

He also shared the NIT Srinagar's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment that respects India's linguistic diversity and contributes to building a culturally vibrant and united nation. (KNO)

## Omar-led Govt working for public welfare: Raina

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Sep 19: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Ravinder Raina on Friday sought to put to rest speculation about a "dual government" in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that both the Lieutenant Governor and the elected government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are working in complete coordination for the welfare of the people.

"There is no dual government, but there are two brothers – one elder and one younger," Raina told reporters during his visit to Asia's second-largest fruit mandi in Sopore.

"The LG wishes for the betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and so does the elected government led by Omar Abdullah. Both the brothers are working together and when they do, the betterment efforts become stronger," he said.

On Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's remarks that he has "nothing in his hand," be it road or security, Raina said, "Omar sahib might have made this statement out of anger. The concerned minister and NHA are ensuring restoration on a war footing. Yes, steps taken a few days ago



should have been initiated 20 days earlier."

The BJP leader said that in the last 24 hours alone, over 10,000 fruit-laden trucks had crossed Jammu and the pace would increase further in the coming days. "Hopefully, within the next 10 days, packed apples will be transported to different parts of the country," he assured.

Raina admitted that apple growers and traders suffered huge losses due to prolonged highway blockages caused by heavy rains and landslides.

"The mandi leadership has put forth their demands, including priority for the national highway. I have witnessed lakhs of apple boxes ready for transportation. These issues will be taken up with the government, including the LG and if required, I will take up them with Home Minister Amit

Shah."

Reiterating the central government's resolve, Raina said both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have consistently assured that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not be allowed to face hardships. "A special cargo train was mobilised earlier and if required, more such measures will be taken. Whatever possible efforts the Centre has to undertake, they will, to ensure smooth transportation and ease the pain of people," he said.

Raina said that both essential supplies and apple transportation were moving smoothly again. "The last few days were tough, but now the weather is favourable, transportation is moving and the efforts will continue. Whatever the issues are, we will ensure their early redressal," he added. (KNO)

## SMC enforces 'strict livestock taxation' at Bypass toll Post

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 19: With the aim of streamlining livestock taxation and ensuring public health safety, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has intensified enforcement at its Bypass toll post, Dr. Fazil Bashir, a senior official overseeing the department said.

He said that under the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, a toll post was established earlier, where vehicles are required to pay taxes upon entering Srinagar city.

"The tax rates are specified as Rs 400 per truck for poultry items, Rs 600 for sheep, and Rs 1,000 for cattle such as cows and oxen. These measures aim to regulate the movement of livestock and ensure compliance with health and safety standards," he added, noting that a drive was recently conducted to strengthen livestock monitoring and health inspections.

Dr. Fazil said the toll post has been operational for years and all trucks entering the city are mandated to stop, pay the requisite tax and undergo inspection. "However, recent incidents where some vehicles bypassed the checkpoint prompted the SMC to establish mobile checking units near Tempora Bypass and impose penalties on defaulters," he added.

"At our checkpoint, we also inspect for dead or unfit animals such as poultry and sheep. Any such carcasses are scientifically disposed of in

our facilities," Dr. Fazil said, mentioning that defaulters are only allowed to proceed after payment of fines.

Moreover, officials said that in addition to SMC inspections, departments such as Sheep Husbandry conduct health checkups of live-



stock to ensure compliance with safety and health standards.

They say this collaborative effort aims to prevent the entry of diseased or unsafe animals into the market, thereby safeguarding public health—(KNO)

## ECI revises guidelines, makes EVM more readable

KT NEWS DESK

New Delhi, Sep 19: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has revised the existing guidelines under Rule 49B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, for the design and printing of EVM Ballot Papers to enhance their clarity and readability.

The initiative is in line with the 28 initiatives already taken by the ECI in the past 6 months to

streamline and improve election processes and enhance convenience for voters.

Henceforth, photographs of candidates will be printed in colour on the EVM Ballot Paper. The candidate's face will occupy three-fourths of the photo space for better visibility.

Serial numbers of candidates/NOTA will be printed in the international form of Indian numerals. The font size will be 30 and in bold

for clarity.

To ensure uniformity, the names of all candidates/NOTA will be printed in the same font type and font size large enough for easy readability.

The EVM Ballot Papers will be printed on 70 GSM paper. For Assembly Elections, pink-coloured paper of specified RGB values shall be used.

The upgraded EVM Ballot Papers will be used in the upcoming elections, starting with Bihar.

## Transport, Freight Crisis

# RTC trucks roll out to valley mandis

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Sep 19: After weeks of anxiety for Kashmir's apple growers, the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) has rolled out 55 trucks to major fruit mandis in Sopore and Shopian after weeks of crisis marked by a shortage of vehicles and soaring freight charges.

General Manager, Loads & Cargo, JKRTC, Bashir Ahmed Sofi said the deployment followed direct instructions from the government after persistent appeals from growers.

"The minister instructed us to ensure there is no shortage of trucks for fruit transportation. Today, we have mobilised 55 vehicles, including 14 big trailers and other small trucks, to Sopore mandi and 10 trucks to Shopian. These will carry fruit to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and other stations," he said.

He said concessional freight had been fixed to protect growers. "For Delhi, the charge is Rs 130 per box and Rs 120 for Punjab, compared to the usual Rs 240-250. A margin of Rs 10 has been left so that labourers can be paid directly," GM explained.

For the past several weeks, apple growers had struggled with no transport availability, as frequent closures of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway left thousands of fruit-laden trucks

stranded. With RTC absent from the scene, private transporters exploited the situation by hiking freight abnormally. Freight to Delhi and Punjab nearly doubled, forcing many growers to sell their produce at throwaway rates or risk losses as apples piled up in mandis.

The President of Asia's second-largest, Sopore Fruit Mandi, Fayaz Ahmed Malik @ Kaka Ji, said the relief came late but was welcome. "Thousands of apple boxes were lying stranded here with no vehicles to lift them. Private truckers were charging at will. The 40 RTC trucks that have come today will help, but our requirement is at least 200-300 trucks daily to clear the backlog," he said, urging the government to prioritise horticulture transport the way it does during the Amarnath Yatra.

Orchardists voiced relief but stressed that the crisis was far from over.

"At least now there is some support from RTC. But unless trucks are deployed consistently every day, our losses will continue," said Ghulam Rasool, a grower from Rafiabab.

Similarly, Abdul Majid, another grower, said they cannot afford highway closures. "When fruit doesn't reach Delhi or Kolkata on time, buyers turn elsewhere, and it is the grower who bears the loss," he said.

General Manager Sofi

said the corporation will closely monitor the situation and increase the fleet as more vehicles become free from food supply duty.

"The minister has instructed that strict action be taken against any private trucker found overcharging. RTC will continue deputing trucks daily so that the fruit industry, which is the backbone of our economy, is not made to suffer," he said.

Private Secretary to Minister Satish Sharma, Sanjeev Sharma, said the government has issued strict directions to prevent any exploitation of fruit growers during the apple season.

He said private truckers will face action if found overcharging, particularly during highway closures when freight rates often shoot up. "The minister has made it clear that strict action will be taken against such practices," he said.

Sanjeev said the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) will inspect trucks to ensure fair freight charges and to keep transport accessible to growers.

With apple harvest at its peak, growers have appealed to the government to ensure uninterrupted transport availability and smooth highway connectivity, warning that any delay could devastate the Valley's horticulture economy and the livelihood of lakhs of orchardists. (KNO)

## Soaring freight charges continue

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Pulwama, Sep 19: High freight charges and an acute shortage of transport continue to haunt Kashmir's fruit sector despite repeated assurances from the government.

Growers said they are being forced to pay triple the usual rates to send their produce to outside markets, leaving them on the verge of massive losses. Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union president, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, said that apart from the highway crisis, low demand and other issues, the profits of growers are being eaten away by soaring transport costs.

He appealed to the administration to intervene immediately by deploying RTC (Road Transport Corporation) vehicles at every mandi to stabilise freight rates.

Basheer said that RTC vehicles have been deployed at Fruit Mandi in Shopian and Sopore, but they must also be deployed at other mandis.

"Earlier, we used to pay around Rs 60 per box via the National Highway route, but this year the rates have skyrocketed to Rs 200. On the Mughal Road, the charges are even higher—over 200 per box," said Abdul Rashid, a grower from Shopian. "At these rates, how can a farmer survive? We are not traders with multiple sources of income. For us, apples are the only livelihood."

Another grower, Mohammad Yousuf from Pulwama, stated that private transporters were taking advantage of the crisis. "We were assured that freight charges would be kept under check, but the ground reality is completely different. If the government is serious, it should immediately deploy RTC trucks at every mandi. That will automatically bring down the rates," he said. Fruit growers' associations accused transporters of creating a shortage. "The government must step in. Unless RTC trucks are made available, private transporters will continue to loot the growers. Every day of delay is pushing farmers towards bankruptcy," Basheer said.

He added that the soaring costs come at a time when growers are already facing uncertainty due to highway closures and market volatility. "If immediate action is not taken, not only will growers suffer, but the entire horticulture economy of Kashmir will be hit hard," he said.

Growers said the government should not only ensure free movement of trucks on highways but also regulate freight rates. "We want the administration to fix uniform charges and deploy RTC vehicles at mandis across Kashmir. This is the only way to save us from exploitation," said Ghulam Nabi, a grower from Baramulla.

The apple industry, which provides livelihood to nearly 3.5 million people in J&K, is seen as the backbone of the region's economy. But with freight charges spiralling and transport shortage persisting, growers fear that their season's hard work will go in vain. (KNO)



## EDITORIAL

## Teaching Environmental Science In Schools Unavoidable Necessity

The proposal by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly's Committee on Environment to introduce Environmental Science as a mandatory subject in schools is a visionary and urgently needed step toward securing the region's ecological and social future. In a landscape increasingly scarred by floods, cloudbursts, and land erosion, this initiative represents not just an educational reform but a survival strategy. The recent climatic disasters in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the devastating floods and landslides,

have exposed our vulnerability to environmental degradation. These are symptoms of a deeper ecological crisis exacerbated by climate change, deforestation, and unsustainable land use. Merely responding to disasters is no longer enough; we must equip future generations with the knowledge to prevent them. Introducing Environmental Science as a compulsory subject will foster ecological literacy from an early age. Students will learn about local and global environmental challenges, the science behind climate change, water resource

management, and sustainable practices. This knowledge is essential for nurturing responsible citizens who can contribute to policy-making, community leadership, and everyday conservation efforts. Moreover, the committee's emphasis on consulting Himalayan environmental experts is critical. The region's unique geography requires context-specific solutions, and involving specialists ensures that educational content is both scientifically sound and locally relevant. Integrating traditional knowledge with modern science can further enrich the

curriculum, making it more relatable and effective. Beyond the classroom, this initiative can drive broader societal change. Educated youth can influence their families and communities, promoting practices like waste reduction, water conservation, and afforestation. Over time, this can lead to a cultural shift toward sustainability, reducing human impact on fragile ecosystems. The government must act swiftly to implement this recommendation. Collaboration between educational boards, environmental agencies, and local communities will

be key to developing a robust curriculum. Training teachers, creating engaging learning materials, and incorporating practical activities, such as tree plantation drives and water quality testing, will make the subject dynamic and impactful. Jammu and Kashmir's future depends on how we respond to today's environmental challenges. By making Environmental Science a core part of education, we invest in resilience, awareness, and hope. Let this be the beginning of a greener, safer, and more conscious generation.

# Rural Prosperity PM Vishwakarma Scheme: Honouring Heritage, Powering Progress Recognition, skill upgradation, credit, and market linkages for artisans

Press Information Bureau

In the quiet village of Khanapur in Amravati lived a mason, Prateek Prakash Rao Jamadkar, without any identity of his own. He lacked essential tools for his work and was struggling to complete his projects on time, which was directly affecting his livelihood. With the introduction of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in his village, his life changed. He got a loan of Rs 1 lakh, with which he bought new advanced tools, which helped him in completing his tasks on time. The training provided under the scheme made him aware of the new technology. The scheme also boosted his self-esteem as it provided him with something more valuable than an ID card and certificate, his dignity and recognition.

Artisans and craftsmen like Prateek are attached to their roots. The skills or occupations they are following are being passed down to them following a guru-shishya model of traditional training. They want to continue with their legacy but with pride and honour. These artisans and craftsmen, who are referred to as 'Vishwakarmas' in India, are working at the grassroots level, with their hands and tools. No matter how much the world advances, how technology reaches everywhere, their role and significance will always remain. They are usually self-employed but in the unorganised sector of the economy. They are generally engaged in occupations like carpenter, Blacksmith, Potter, Washerman, and others.

### DID YOU KNOW?

PM Vishwakarma Scheme was launched on 17 September, 2023 on the occasion of Vishwakarma Day, with a financial outlay of Rs 13000 crores starting from FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28.

The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana was launched to uplift the lives of these artisans and craftsperson by enhancing their skills and increasing the reach of their products and services. It aims to provide end-to-end holistic support to artisans and craftspeople for their respective trades. It emphasises encouraging the trades in rural and urban areas, with special attention to women empowerment and marginalised or underserved groups like the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Specially Aabled, Transgenders, residents of NER states, Island Territories, and Hilly Areas.

The scheme is being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of India.

To expand the reach in every district, District Project Management Units (DPMUs) have been appointed in almost all the districts. The role of DPMUs is to generate awareness about the scheme benefits, and also inform the Vishwakarmas about training dates, batch timings, location of training centres, stakeholder coordination, and regularly monitoring the training centres to ensure adherence and compliance with the training guidelines. The total number of DPMUs appointed under the scheme is 497 (as of July 2025), who are covering 618 Districts of the country.

With the support of ministries and DPMUs, the scheme focuses on achieving the goal of recognizing artisans as Vishwakarmas, providing them with skill training, modern tools, and easy access to collateral-free credit, along with incentives for digital transactions. It also focuses on brand promotion and market linkages, enabling artisans to enhance productivity, quality, and growth opportunities.

**Who Can Apply? Vishwakarma Scheme Eligibility Explained**



The PM Vishwakarma Yojana lays down specific eligibility criteria to ensure the benefits reach the intended artisans and craftsmen. The scheme focuses on supporting individuals engaged in traditional skills and manual trades which has been passed down through generations.

### Eligibility conditions to be a beneficiary under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme:

The beneficiary should be working with bare hands and tools

Engaged in one of the mentioned 18 family-based traditional trades

Involved in the unorganized sector or self-employment basis

Minimum age should be 18 years on the date of registration

No loans should have been availed under a similar credit-based scheme of the Central/State government for self-employment/business development in the past 5 years

The benefit of the scheme shall be restricted to one member of the family only. Under the scheme, the family is defined as Husband, Wife, and unmarried children.

The person/family member should not be employed in government service

To register for the scheme, Common Service Centre (CSC) agents register artisans and craftspersons on the portal, for which the government has set down a process so that every Vishwakarma is registered via Aadhaar authentication using biometrics.

### Big Gains for Small Artisans

PM Vishwakarma Scheme brings small artisans under one umbrella and empowers them with recognition. The initiative also focuses on financial support, skill upgradation, and connects them with global markets. With this initiatives, age-old traditions can thrive in a competitive world, while preserving their traditional art and knowledge.

Recognition: Artisan and craftspersons are provided with the PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID Cards, which give them the acknowledgement of their work and acceptance of their traditional trade.

Skill Upgradation: To enhance the capabilities of Vishwakarmas and to make them aware of the modern tools and machinery, skill intervention is organised, where every craftsman and artisan receives a stipend of Rs 500 per day.

Toolkit Incentive: The government provides with financial incentive of Rs 15,000 in the form of an e-voucher to help the artisans and craftsperson so that they can purchase quality

tools for their trade. This supports the beneficiaries in getting access to modern tools, which can result in increasing their productivity. With the toolkit incentive, toolkit manuals were also released so that they have a comprehensive list of essential tools and equipment designed to empower the craft of beneficiaries.

Credit Support: Under the scheme, to support Vishwakarmas, collateral-free 'Enterprise Development Loans' are provided. The credit assists them in business expansion and also frees them from the reliance on unregulated moneylenders who charge high interest.

The first tranche of the loan amounts to Rs 1 lakh, with a repayment duration of 18 months. The condition for this tranche is that the borrower must have completed basic training.

The second tranche is Rs 2 lakhs, with a repayment period of 30 months. To qualify for this tranche, the borrower must have availed the first tranche of the loan, maintained a standard loan account, and either adopted digital transactions in their business or undergone advanced training.

Concessional rate of interest fixed at 5% with Government of India subvention to the extent of 8% is charged from artisans and craftsmen, making the overall cost of the loan extremely favourable for the beneficiaries.

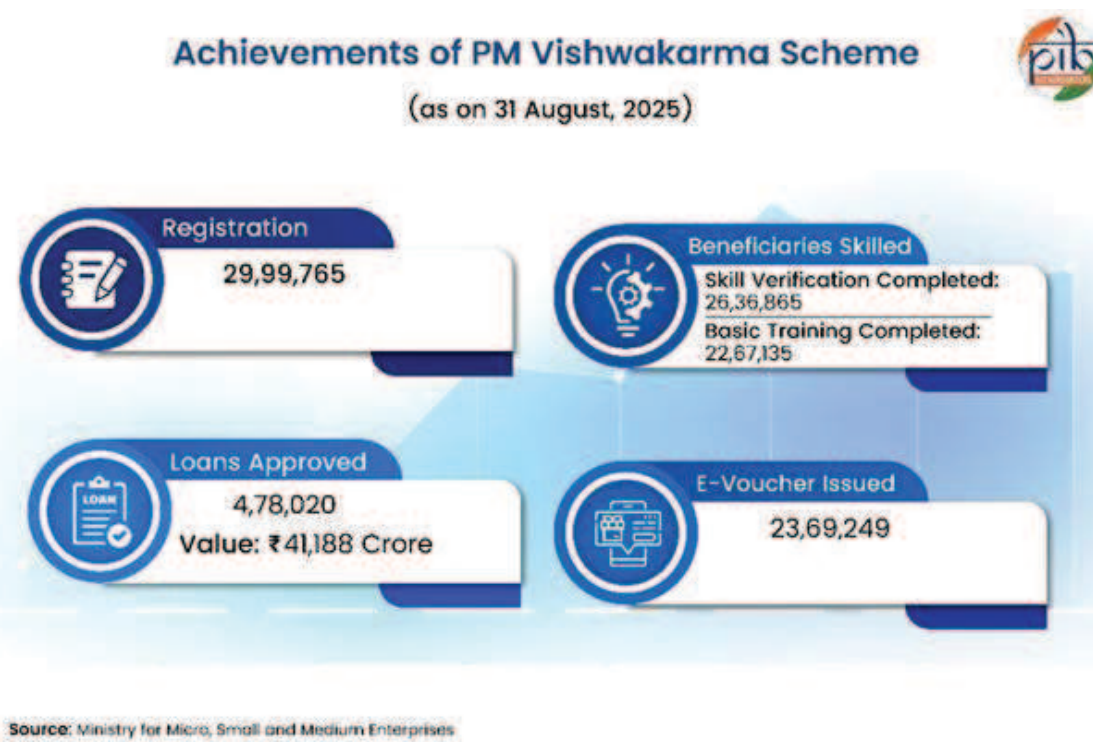
Incentive for digital transaction: To build the reliance of Vishwakarmas on the digital payment system, Re.1 per digital transaction is given to them. The incentive is given for up to a maximum of 100 transactions monthly. These transactions include digital payouts and receipts, which are credited to the beneficiary's account. This initiative prepares them for digital reforms in the country, increases their customer base to urban buyers with UPI/QR codes, and reduces cash dependency.

Marketing support: Artisans also get marketing support in the form of quality certification, market linkages with fairs, exhibitions & trade shows, branding and promotion of their products, advertisement, publicity and onboarding them on e-commerce platforms such as GeM with other marketing activities.

This helps them in gaining a wider base of consumers, recognising their brands, and gives them cultural recognition.

Including the above benefits, the artisans also get assistance while onboarding on Udyam Assist Platform as entrepreneurs. UAP is an online system developed by MSME to register the informal micro enterprises and provide them with Udyam Registration Number and certification.

### Turning Skills into Success: Vishwakarma Impact



Source: Ministry for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme has emerged as a transformative initiative of the government that has supported traditional artisans and empowered them. The scheme in 2 years is on the path of achieving its 5-year target of 30 lakhs proposed beneficiaries. As on 31 August 2025, there are around 30 lakhs registered artisans and craftsmen, with skill verification completed for over 26 Lakhs beneficiaries, out of which around 86% them have completed their basic training.

To directly equip the skilled worker with the necessary equipment and encourage the promotion of modern technologies, more than 23 lakhs e-vouchers have been issued as a toolkit incentive.

For the support in business development, more than 4.7 lakhs loans have been approved, including both the tranches, with Rs 41,188 crore as the value of the total loans.

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme is catering to a large base of traditional artisans and is every corner of the country, from the southern states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to the western states, like Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The scheme also accommodated Vishwakarmas of various trades such as Rajimistri (Mason), Tailor, Garland Maker, Carpenter, and Cobbler. Rajimistri (Mason) is the highest registered traditional trade among all of them.

Top Registered States and Trades  
Karnataka – Rajimistri (Mason)  
Maharashtra – Tailor  
Madhya Pradesh – Garland Maker  
Rajasthan – Carpenter  
Andhra Pradesh – Cobbler  
Voices of Transformation: Stories from the Ground

Ajay Prakash Vishwakarma, a Carpenter in Darekhu Village, Varanasi, UP, is holding on to his roots and continuing with his traditional profession, which has been followed for generations. The high interest rate of 15-20% charged by local loan providers was getting in between his dream of buying modern tools and excelling in his business. However, with the introduction of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in his life, he got a loan at 5% interest rate with which he bought modern tools. He got an ID Card, a certificate, and was trained for 5 days, where he got stipends too.

In Nagaon, Assam, Rashida Khatoon, a female mat maker, works hand in hand with her husband to sustain their small business. Through the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, she received 7 days of training and a Rs 1 lakh loan, which proved fruitful in expanding her work. With two instalments received and one more yet to come, her business is steadily growing. The scheme not only strengthened her livelihood

but also provided her family with a home to live in, bringing security and dignity.

In Samastipur, Bihar, barber Siyaram Thakur has carried forward his father's profession. He has been in the same profession for the past 30 years and used to look for work by roaming on a bicycle. However, under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, he received training in modern salon skills like hair-cutting and massage, which helped him open his own shop. His wife, Nutan Devi, recalls the struggles of running the household and educating their children before the scheme. Today, Siyaram earns Rs 500-1000 a day, ensuring stability and a better life for his family.

Feeling privileged, the beneficiaries thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the life-changing opportunity.

### Conclusion

The PM Vishwakarma scheme connects beneficiaries' existing skills and future opportunities by providing them with recognition, skill intervention, credit facility, and marketing guidance. With the wide facilities provided under the scheme, it reached different states of the country, catering to 18 traditional trades, showcasing promising achievements. By turning artisans into entrepreneurs and giving them a global stage, the initiative ensures these Vishwakarma companions continue to play a significant role in our societal life.

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## Arrangements for festivals discussed at Udhampur



KT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 19: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai Friday chaired a meeting of officers and civil society members to discuss arrangements for upcoming holy festivals, including Navratra, Dussehra and Maha Navami.

Detailed discussions were held on the arrangements related to security measures, provision of safe drinking water, power supply, first-aid services, sanitation, checking of rates, Fire safety measures, deployment of police personnel and the management of traffic in the town.

The stakeholder departments were asked to take advance measures for comprehensive arrangements in their respective domains. Special emphasis was placed on security arrangements to prevent any untoward incidents during the festive season.

A Committee was constituted to conduct extensive

market inspection to prevent overcharging by shopkeepers. The general public was advised not to park their vehicles on the roadside.

The representatives of Shopkeepers were urged to display the approved price list of the essential commodities for the information of the general public.

The Executive Engineer PHE was directed to ensure the uninterrupted supply of drinking water, while the Xen PDD was instructed to maintain continuous power supply throughout the festival period.

To maintain the cleanliness of the town, the Municipal Council was directed to take all necessary actions. Additionally, civil society was encouraged to cooperate in keeping the town clean and presentable during the festivities. The Traffic Department was directed to deploy an adequate number of traffic personnel to prevent congestion during the festival.

## Support for Grading and Packaging scheme Fruit growers provided corrugated Boxes at Batote



KT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 19: In a major step to support horticulture growers, the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing Friday provided corrugated boxes to the farmers of Batote under the "Support for Grading and Packaging" scheme on a 50% subsidy basis.

As many as 6,300 corrugated cardboard boxes of different sizes were distributed among fruit growers of the area. The measure aims to improve post-harvest management and enhance market competitiveness of local produce.

The growers of the area appreciated the department's support, expressing gratitude for the initiative. They stated that the provision of corrugated boxes will significantly raise packaging standards, reduce post-harvest losses and enable them to secure better prices for their fruits in the market.

Reiterating its commitment, the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing assured that it will continue to introduce farmer-friendly schemes to promote modern practices in grading, packaging and marketing of horticultural produce across the district.

## JDA cracks down on unauthorised construction at Domana, Nardani



KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 19: On the directions of Vice Chairman Rupesh Kumar, a team of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) carried out an intensive anti-encroachment operation targeting unauthorised construction at Domana and Nardani.

The authority sealed two unauthorised constructions at Domana and demolished an illegal plinth at Nardani, reaffirming its commitment to upholding planned urban growth and safeguarding public land.

This operation was executed in close coordination with the district administration, ensuring professionalism and transparency. The identified constructions were built without

legal approvals and had encroached upon JDA land, violating planning norms. The swift action prevented further misuse of public assets and sent a clear message against unlawful development practices.

Vice Chairman, JDA, underscored the authority's zero-tolerance approach toward encroachments, warning that strict legal consequences will follow any form of unauthorised occupation or construction. Residents are strongly advised to verify land status and obtain all necessary permissions before undertaking any building activity. JDA remains steadfast in its mission to promote lawful, systematic urban development and assures continued vigilance against violations.

## Secy Tribal Affairs chairs virtual meet



KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 19: Secretary Tribal Affairs, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Friday chaired a virtual meeting to review the implementation of the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan in District Poonch.

The meeting was attended by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma along

with other senior officers and Master Trainers from various blocks through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Secretary outlined the objectives of the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan, emphasizing the need to activate field officers to ensure the successful execution of the programme. The Secretary highlighted that the initiative is aimed at the

holistic development of rural and tribal areas, and encouraged the formulation of local development plans through Gram Sabhas.

The DDC assured the Secretary full cooperation and said that they are committed to mobilize the administrative machinery for effective implementation of the Abhiyan across all tribal areas of the district.

## Health deptt Doda observes Int'l Snakebite Awareness Day

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 19: To mark the observance of International Snakebite Awareness Day 2025, the Health Department organized a series of awareness programmes across Doda district under the aegis of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).

The activities were held under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar, District Health Officer Dr. Raj Kumar and the close supervision of Block Medical Officers.

Awareness sessions were organised at PHC Assar, CHC Thathri, AAM Sub Centre



Khellani (Assar) and in several other parts of the district. Health experts sensitized the community about snakebite prevention, early first aid and the importance of timely treatment at nearby health

facilities. The department emphasized that raising awareness is crucial in reducing snakebite-related morbidity and mortality, particularly in rural and high-risk areas.

### Sewa Parv 2025

## Kishtwar hosts disaster management drills, health camps

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 19: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 campaign, a series of impactful activities and awareness programs were organized across District Kishtwar Friday featuring awareness camps on disaster management, health and wellness, fisheries sector, nutrition, community welfare and others.

The SDRF team conducted a Disaster Management Demonstration and Workshop on fire safety at Government Higher Secondary School. The session included live demonstrations on fire evacuation, handling extinguishers and adopting preventive safety measures. Mock drills on earthquakes, fire and other emergencies were also carried out to equip students with practical knowledge and preparedness.

The Health Department organized snakebite awareness drives across the district, where medical staff educated people about timely medical assistance, avoiding harmful traditional practices and preventive measures. Alongside, medical check-up camps were also held.

The Fisheries Department



launched outreach programs for the Fishermen Community, spreading awareness about government welfare schemes like PMMSY, HADP, KCC and ATMA support services. The initiative encouraged Fishermen to avail scheme benefits for socio-economic empowerment.

The Municipal Council Kishtwar conducted awareness among street vendors regarding registration under the PM SVANidhi Scheme to ensure their inclusion in livelihood benefits.

Meanwhile, a spirited anti-drug and anti-tobacco rally was organized at HS Sigdi Bhata under the theme "Say No to Drugs, Say No to Tobacco."

The ICDS Department carried out multiple activities

under Sewa Parv and Poshan Maah. These included sensitization sessions on reducing sugar, salt and oil intake to combat obesity, father-led complementary feeding recipe competitions, and community pledges on nutrition.

Similar activities were held across Sub-Division, Tehsil, and Block levels by Health, RDD, ICDS, Forest, Education, Social Welfare and Agriculture departments, ensuring widespread participation and awareness.

The day's events highlighted the spirit of Sewa Parv 2025—uniting communities through awareness, preparedness and collective responsibility for a healthier, safer and more resilient society.

## Food safety enforcement drive conducted in Doda town



KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 19: In compliance with the Jammu and Kashmir High Court directions to curb the sale of unsafe Meat, a multi-department team conducted a thorough market inspection in Doda town, Friday.

The drive was carried out on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and under the close supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur.

A team comprising officers from the Food Safety Department, Legal Metrology, FCS&CA, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Municipality and Sales Tax Department inspected around 20 meat shops, dhabas selling cooked meat and other allied establishments. The purpose of the inspection was to check the quality, hygiene standards and compliance with the

legal provisions of different departments. Encouragingly, no rotten meat or unsafe food items were found during the inspection.

However, to further strengthen food safety practices, 12 improvement notices were served to meat sellers for compliance with hygiene and regulatory parameters.

The Legal Metrology Department imposed a penalty of 5,000 for violation of LMD norms, while the FCS&CA Department levied a fine of 800 against those using domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes.

The District Administration has reiterated its commitment to ensuring safe, hygienic and quality food for the public. Regular inspections will continue in the coming days and strict action will be taken against violators to protect the health and rights of consumers in Doda.

## JKEDI organizes Startup Idea Challenge Boot Camps at 4 districts

KT News Desk

JAMMU / SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 19: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) continued its mission of fostering innovation and empowering youth through entrepreneurship by organizing J&K Startup Idea Challenge – Boot Camps at the Government Sri Pratap College, M.A Road, Srinagar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University - Technology Business Incubator Centre (SMVDU-TBIC), Katra, Government Degree College for Women, Kathua and Govt. Degree College Banihal.

The events, held under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and faculty members.

At Srinagar, the boot camp was held at the Government Sri Pratap College, M.A Road, Srinagar. The camp was inaugurated by Professor Bashir Ahmad, Principal of the College who underscored the need of organizing such initiatives more frequently to build and nurture a vibrant startup ecosystem in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir.

Twenty two participants presented their ideas before the jury comprising of faculty of the college, Lead Bank Manager from J&K Bank and officers/officials of JKEDI. Sh. Ahsan Qadir, District Nodal Officer(DNO), JKEDI Srinagar deliberated on the details of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 while Dr. Sameer Jan Baht, Incharge, CEER,JKEDI presented the keynote address.

At Katra, the boot camp under the J&K Startup Idea Challenge was held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University - Technology Business Incubator Centre (SMVDU-TBIC), Katra to boost the startup ecosystem of the Union Territory in line with the J&K Startup Policy

2024-27. Chand Kishor Sharma, Joint Director, JKEDI, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his address, he highlighted the various interventions and workshops being implemented by JKEDI under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 and urged students to think innovatively and work towards building sustainable entrepreneurial ventures while

Dr. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Vice-Chairperson, TBIC, graced the event as Guest of Honor and encouraged the participants to nurture their ideas into impactful startups. Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO, TBIC, was also present at the event who appreciated the JKEDI's role in building startup ecosystem. Smt Divya, Manager TBIC was also present at the event.

Abhilash Kumar Bararo, District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI Reasi, delivered the keynote address, outlining the agenda of the session and setting the tone for discussions on innovation, entrepreneurship, and opportunities available under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 while Zahid Ali Dar, Project Manager, JKEDI, spoke on the importance of the J&K Startup Idea Challenge workshop emphasizing the opportunities available for budding entrepreneurs.

The Bootcamp witnessed enthusiastic participation, with 110 students attending the session. A total of fourteen students pitched their ideas, out of which twelve were shortlisted for the next round of the Startup Idea Challenge.

At Kathua, the Boot Camp, held at Government Degree College for Women, Kathua was graced by Chand Kishor Sharma, Joint Director, as the Chief Guest in presence of Dr. Savi Behl, Principal, Govt. Degree College for Women, Kathua.

He emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in youth empowerment.

## DM calls for intensifying surveillance against drug trafficking

KT NEWS DESK

REASI, SEPTEMBER 19: District Magistrate Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee on Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review progress achieved in curbing the drug menace in the district. The DM reviewed the status of surveillance, intelligence sharing, and new NDPS cases, directing the police department to intensify vigilance and ensure that offenders are brought to the book.

She instructed the Drug Control Department to carry out intensive inspections across the district to cover all pharmacies



to thwart any violations. The Assistant Drug Controller informed that 36 pharmacies were inspected this month, with

one shop sealed for violations. DM Nidhi Malik laid special emphasis on awareness generation under Nasha Mukti J&K

Abhiyaan, directing that the anti-drug awareness camps cancelled earlier due to bad weather be rescheduled and conducted effectively.

She also asked the Health Department to organize clinical consultation camps in schools and colleges, involving psychiatrists to highlight the harmful effects of drugs. She further directed procurement of drug testing kits and enhancement of counselling sessions.

The Education Department was instructed to declare schools as tobacco-free zones. The Police were directed to conduct regular inspections to ensure that no tobacco products

are sold within 100 meters of educational institutions.

In addition, the DM directed SDMS, ACD and CMO to identify 40 villages to be declared tobacco-free under the National Tobacco Control Programme.

The District Magistrate reiterated that a multi-pronged approach involving strict enforcement, awareness, health intervention and community participation is vital to make Reasi a drug-free district.

SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, ACD Vijay Kumar, DySP HQ, CEO, CMO, DSWO, DIO and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.



# Pahalgam attack: Special court extends period of probe, accused's custody

PTI

Jammu, Sept 19: A special NIA court in Jammu has extended by 45 days – beyond the stipulated 90-day period – the custodial remand of two accused arrested for allegedly harbouring Pakistani terrorists involved in the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in April.

Special NIA judge Sandeep Gandotra on September 18 extended the investigation and remand period of Bashir Ahmad Jothat, who hails from Baisaran in Pahalgam and Parvaiz Ahmad from Batkote in Pahalgam.

The court held a prima facie case in favour of the extension of the remand and the investigation in view of the allegations, progress of investigation and pending forensic and DNA profiling reports.

"Accordingly, the extension for a period of 45 days is given to the investigating officer for the investigation of the case beyond the period of 90 days in favour of accused Bashir Ahmad Jothat and Parvaiz Ahmad with direction to complete the investigation of the case as soon as possible," the order said.

The court directed the investigating officer to expedite and complete the investigation at the earliest. The 90-day period of remand for investigation as well as 10 days of judicial remand in respect of the two accused persons was due to expire on Friday.

After the expiry of the earlier remand, Parvaiz Ahmad Jothat and Bashir Ahmad Jothat were produced through virtual



mode on September 18 before the court, which extended their period of investigation and remand to enable the NIA to carry out its probe, officials said.

The judge observed the plea for a 90-day extension of investigation was "well-founded" and "deserved acceptance" as the crucial stage of the probe.

The court noted several witness statements and forensic reports were pending.

"The report of DNA profiling of accused persons for comparison is also awaited. A prima facie case is made out for extension of remand and detention of accused beyond the stipulated period of 90 days," it said.

Public Prosecutor Chandan

Kumar Singh, representing NIA, had moved an application seeking extension of custody from 90 to 180 days under provisions of UAPA. The prosecution argued that crucial evidence, including statements of witnesses, forensic reports, DNA profiling of seized blankets and shawls, and analysis of mobile data linked to Pakistani numbers, was still awaited. More suspects and underground workers were claimed to have surfaced during the probe, besides recoveries from a July 28 encounter, in which three terrorists were killed, pending expert examination.

"Some Pakistani numbers have been recovered from the mobile phones of the accused and their details have to be

ascertained. Three terrorists have been killed and some recoveries have been made from them, which have been sent to NFSU Gandhinagar, the report of which is still awaited. Some arms and ammunition have also been recovered from the killed terrorists in the encounter on July 28, and the details of the FSL report are still awaited," the prosecutor said.

Mr. Singh said some blankets, shawls and bedsheets were recovered at the behest of Jothat and Ahmad, and were sent to CFSL Chandigarh for extraction of DNA to be matched with the killed terrorists.

"The report of the same is still awaited," he added. The case, re-registered by the NIA, pertains to the killing of tourists from a particular community at Baisaran meadow, Pahalgam, on April 22, 2025. The accused, Bashir Ahmad Jothat and Parvaiz Ahmad, were arrested on June 22 and have been in judicial custody at Amphalla Jail in Jammu.

According to the NIA, the accused disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists involved in the attack and confirmed that they were Pakistani nationals affiliated with the banned terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The federal agency alleged that Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the terrorists at a seasonal "dhok" (hut) in Hill Park in Pahalgam before the April 22 attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead and 16 others injured.

PTI

Bengaluru, Sept 19: The Ministry of Tourism is developing a "five-year action plan" for 2026-30 to be jointly implemented with other key stakeholders, as the government seeks to "overhaul" the 'Incredible India' brand to enrich the experience of both domestic and foreign tourists.

Union Tourism Secretary V Vidyavathi made a presentation on the roadmap envisioned for her ministry at a national conference here on Friday. She said that the ministry is also working on "country-specific strategies" to draw foreign travellers, and underlined that "we cannot have a one-size-fits-all approach".

In her presentation, titled 'Tourism Together', made to a gathering of representatives from leading hotels, hospitality giants, and tourism business stakeholders, she emphasised that her ministry's role is to "catalyse" and "converge", and urged the industry to be a "co-partner in every effort".

To make the country a global travel destination, India has set an ambitious target of a USD 3 trillion tourism economy by 2047.

In her presentation, it was mentioned in an opening slide that, "For 2026-30, the (Tourism) Ministry is developing a five-year action plan to be jointly implemented by: Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, all states and Union Territories, all Government of India ministries, overseas Indian Missions, tourism industry, Indian diaspora and Indian citizens".

"We are now working in the ministry on what we call the 'tourism business plan'. What do we mean by that? What we mean by that is how do we, together as the Government of India, as a state government, as the local government, as the industry, as all of us associated with the sector... how do we create value for the tourist," she said.

The 55th annual convention of the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) is being held in Bengaluru from September 18-20.

The convention's theme is 'Future Scape 2047: Redefining Hospitality for a New Era', and brings together a large number of industry leaders, policy-makers, investors, and global experts to deliberate on the future roadmap of India's hospitality and tourism sector.

"What we are trying to do is to brand refresh and overhaul the entire 'Incredible India' brand, which, all of you agree with me, has still a very, very huge top of the mind recall. How do we refurbish the entire brand? How do we focus on our core offerings?" Vidyavathi said.

One of the slides mentioned that for promotion and marketing, the ministry will focus on "culture and nature (India-only offerings) to attract high-value tourists", and on country-specific strategies based on product-market fit and target-based implementation.

It envisions joint promotions by the tourism ministry, Indian missions, states and UTs, tour operators, airlines and hotels, among others. The goals are to increase foreign arrivals,

diversify domestic visits, and retain outbound departures.

Besides, "digital-first -- global influencers programme" is to begin shortly, and under the vision, the industry will create packages for lesser-known destinations apart from well-established ones.

"We're working on country-specific strategies in terms of... this is more for the inbound tourist. What does a tourist of say, Germany want?"

"What does a tourist from Spain want? Therefore, how do we cater to that segment? What we realise is that we cannot have a one-size-fits-all approach and therefore, should we be having country-specific strategies?" she said.

"While we are working on this, we have been talking to people, we have been talking to the industry, but once we have some kind of a draft ready, we will be sharing it with you for your inputs as well, because we cannot have a tourism business plan for India without the cooperation and without the inputs of the industry, without all of you as part of that," the Union tourism secretary said.

Her presentation began with a reference to the 'Viksit Bharat' vision, and it quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's earlier statement on the sector.

"By 2047, our goal is to be a Viksit Bharat - a developed India. We have the potential to increase the contribution of tourism to 10% of our National GDP - and it is my wish that we create and implement a strong roadmap to achieve this vision," Modi has said.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### 21st century is

new languages, broaden perspectives and drive innovation.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the NIT Srinagar for establishing the Official Language Cell and organising numerous activities for promotion of Hindi language.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated writers, scholars, and researchers for their important contribution to the promotion of diverse languages.

Atul Bhai Kothari, National Secretary, Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas; Prof. Binod Kumar Kanojia, Director, National Institute of Technology, Srinagar; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; members of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas; prominent literary personalities, scholars, faculty and students were present.

### Industrial growth

officials to design policies that attract new industries in the wake of new GST rate slabs announced by Central Government, with a clear differentiation of how J&K can uniquely position itself compared to neighboring states.

To ensure stronger policy implementation, Omar Abdullah asked the department to seek structured feedback from new industries that have applied under Single Window Clearance or begun operations under the SWC system, so that operational gaps can be identified and addressed.

With regard to GI certification of crafts, the Chief Minister called for augmenting GI certification testing facilities so that dealers do not suffer due to limited capacity of Handicrafts department, cautioning that without adequate systems in place, the very purpose of GI tagging would be undermined.

"Industrial development in J&K must not only attract investment but also ensure it translates into jobs, livelihoods, and sustainable growth for our youth and artisans," Omar Abdullah said.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh made a detailed presentation highlighting the department's progress.

He informed that investment realization in J&K during FY 2024-25 has reached Rs 4145 crore, nearly 10 times higher than the pre-2021 average, while the current fiscal (up to August 2025) has already seen Rs 4001 crore worth of projects grounded, generating 5,111 jobs in the formal industrial sector. For the first time, multiple units with investment exceeding Rs 500 crore have been set up across sectors such as metals, plastics, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and food processing.

The presentation further revealed that MSMEs contribute 8% to J&K's GDP and employ over 10.88 lakh people, including 15% women. Initiatives such as the MSME Health Clinic, Udyam registration drives across 4914 blocks, and capacity-building programmes under the RAMP scheme have been launched to support this backbone of the economy.

On the startup ecosystem, Singh informed that registrations have surged from just 69 in 2020 to 1,127 in 2025, with a marked shift towards technology and service-based ventures. The meeting was informed that J&K is also set to host a Startup Summit in collaboration with Startup India, MEITY, and SIDBI in October this year in Srinagar.

The meeting was also informed that 4.39 lakh artisans are registered across J&K, with

exports more than doubling to Rs 1163 crore in 2023-24. Srinagar has been designated as a World Crafts City by the World Crafts Council and recognized by UNESCO under its Creative Cities Network. A QR-based certification mechanism for craft products, the first of its kind globally, has also been introduced.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who is also Minister Incharge Industries & Commerce, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Heads of the Departments of Industries & Commerce and other senior officers.

### EC axes 12 more

Secular Party of India.

Although many of the delisted parties were relatively obscure, three were either founded by prominent political figures or rooted in significant causes.

Jammu State Morcha was formed on the eve of 2002 Assembly elections to advocate for a separate state for Jammu.

The Jammu & Kashmir National Democratic Front was headed by Abdur Rashid Kabuli, who won on a Janata Party ticket in 1977 from the Eidgah segment of Srinagar. Kabuli was supported by the Awami Action Committee, which was declared an unlawful association by the Central Government in 2025.

The Nature Mankind Friendly Global Party is led by Babu Singh, a former minister in the PDP-Congress government. He was arrested in a Hawla case in 2022. (KNO)

### Modi Govt stands

teams from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Jal Shakti, Rural Development, and Agriculture to survey the flood affected areas. The state administration is compiling its assessment reports, which will be sent to the Centre for final evaluation and decision-making."

After his visit to Badyal Brahmana, the Minister returned to Jammu city and chaired a review meeting with the J&K government.

Later, he addressed the media and announced a slew of relief measures. Chouhan announced that one instalment under PM-Kisan would be released immediately to the farmers affected by the floods in the Union Territory. "In flood-hit areas, workers will get an additional 50 man-days under MGNREGA," he said, raising the total from 100 to 150 man-days," he said.

The Union Minister also announced compensation for farmers who lost domestic animals due to the flood. As per the Jammu and Kashmir administration's preliminary data, approximately 5,000 houses have been damaged. "We will provide Rs 1,30,000 under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for rebuilding each house. Each will include a separate toilet," he said.

Addressing losses faced by local Self Help Groups, Chouhan said Rs 76,000 crore will be released to support them.

He said that the sand deposited in fields by floodwaters should be retained by the farmers for personal use, and suggested that the Jammu and Kashmir Mining Department relax regulations to allow this.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Government currently has Rs 2,499 crore available under the disaster management fund. These funds will be used for immediate relief and rehabilitation. He added that if the need arises, the Centre will provide additional support," he said, adding,

"Damaged irrigation canals and embankments will also be repaired in coordination with the Centre." (KNO)

### Apple growers

was stuck en route, the buyers in mandis such as Delhi, Chandigarh, and Azadpur know that this fruit has remained stuck on the highway for days together and they are giving very low returns, further pushing Kashmiri apples growers in losses.

Abdul Rashid, President of Fruit Mandi Jablupora, said the arrival of thousands of trucks at a time has created oversupply. "On top of that, the fruit is no longer fresh due to the long delays. Farmers will inevitably suffer heavy losses because buyers will negotiate at throwaway prices," he said.

Many growers lament that they have invested heavily in cultivation this year, including in fertilisers, pesticides, packaging, and labour. "We are entirely dependent on this harvest for our livelihood. If we don't even recover our input costs, how will we sustain ourselves?" one farmer added.

Meanwhile, the administration said that efforts are underway to normalise the situation.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, told reporters that the highway restoration work is progressing swiftly. "In the last two days, nearly 5,500 fruit trucks have been allowed to move. Similarly, the movement of vehicles carrying essentials is also being ensured," he said.

The Kashmir apple industry, which provides livelihood to over 3.5 million people, has already been hit hard by erratic weather, rising freight costs, and falling market prices. This latest disruption, growers fear, could further break their backbone. (KNO)

### ‘Flying Squads

Jammu/Kashmir; DG, Budget; DirectorHealth, Jammu/Kashmir besides other senior officers.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary directed the Food and Civil Supplies Department to take stringent action against unlabelled and non-standard packaged food items, particularly imported products that fail to specify ingredients and product details, terming such practices as blatant violations of law.

He took a detailed appraisal of the action plan prepared by the Food Safety Wing in collaboration with key departments, including Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and District Administration. The plan lays out both immediate and long-term measures to eradicate the entry of substandard food items into J&K and ensure strict compliance with food safety norms.

Key Features of the Action Plan, as laid out by the Commissioner, DFCO constitutes formation of joint inspection teams and flying squads for surprise checks, particularly targeting high-risk sectors such as meat, milk, and bakery products. It also envisages establishing district-wise mapping of food businesses, including primary producers, processors, and vendors, to enable targeted inspections.

One more feature of this robust action plan is the strengthening of infrastructure & surveillance. It involves establishment of checkpoints and cold-chain facilities at toll plazas, entry points, and major transport routes for high-risk food consignments. Besides strict monitoring of consignments from outside states to prevent import of substandard products.

## ‘Govt working on five-year action plan, country-specific strategies’

PTI

Bengaluru, Sept 19: The Ministry of Tourism is developing a "five-year action plan" for 2026-30 to be jointly implemented with other key stakeholders, as the government seeks to "overhaul" the 'Incredible India' brand to enrich the experience of both domestic and foreign tourists.

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It envisions joint promotions by the tourism ministry, Indian missions, states and UTs, tour operators, airlines and hotels, among others. The goals are to increase foreign arrivals,

the Agriculture and Revenue departments are already on the ground conducting surveys. "Assistance will be provided based on the report once the survey is completed," Kumar said. However, he added that the question of providing alternate land in exchange for what was lost rests with a central government team whose evaluation is still pending.

For the farmers, however, immediate relief feels like a distant promise. The torrent of August 14 not only washed away their possessions but also shook their faith in the future. Each name on the list of the 38 affected farmers tells a story of despair: Hoshiyaar Singh son of Krishnalal, Wazir Chand son of Bhag Singh, Ram Lohi son of Tarachand, Surat Singh son of Tarachand, Gokal Chand son of Tarachand, Hari Singh son of Thakur Chand, Dhyan Singh son of Thakur Chand, Jamil Singh son of Thakur Chand, Arjun Singh son of Thakur Chand, Hari Ram son of Jameet Ram, Surinder Kumar son of Mani Ram, Dhari Singh son of Mani Ram, Des Raj son of Mani Ram, Thaba Devi wife of Om Prakash, Ravi Kant son of Bansilal, Jaswant Singh son of Bansilal, Maniram son of Harilal, Deva Ram son of Harilal, Kuldeep Singh son of Diwan Singh, Chet Singh son of Diwan Singh, Rajesh Kumar son of Totaram, Om Prakash son of Hansraj, Jaswant Singh son of Hansraj, Sewa Ram son of Harilal, Bharat Singh son of Jyotirm, Radha Krishna son of Jyotirm, Hari Krishna son of Suram Singh, Dev Raj son of Nathra, Tirath Lal son of Ghoparam, Hari Chand son of Tarachand, Kunj Lal son of Tarachand, Jagdeep Singh son of Nathram, Shiv Kumar son of Maniram, Randeep Singh son of Nathram, Sumit Singh son of Bodhray, Balwant Singh son of Bodhray, Murli son of Hansraj, and Mela Ram son of Sham Lal.

Each of these farmers once had land to till, homes to return to, and fields full of maize and potatoes. Today, they stand empty-handed. Some sleep under tarpaulins, others in makeshift shelters, all waiting for help to arrive. (KNO)

### India shaping its

operations."

He said the response to the Pahalgam terror attack demonstrated that India decides its own course through action and preparation. "The retaliation proved that the country's armed forces operate with a sense of duty that places national sovereignty above all else," Singh added.

The Defence Minister recalled the 1965 conflict with Pakistan. "India at the time was facing uncertainty but managed to withstand the pressure. The leadership under then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri provided clarity and direction during a difficult phase and kept national morale intact."

He said, "Wars are not won only through armed confrontation, but through unified national effort. The events of 1965 exhibited how collective decisions and unity among citizens contributed to the country's ability to overcome military threats."

The Defence Minister said that the government continues to pay attention towards the needs of serving soldiers, ex-servicemen, and the families of those who lost their lives in duty.

The ceremony was attended by war veterans, families of fallen soldiers, and senior military officials including Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Western Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar, and Delhi Area GOC Lieutenant General Bhavnish Kumar. (KNO)



# Rahul Gandhi systematically, deliberately trying to weaken democracy: BJP

PTI

Patna, Sept 19: Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday accused Congress' Rahul Gandhi of "systematically and deliberately trying to weaken democracy in the country" over his 'vote chori' (vote theft) allegations against the Election Commission. Speaking to reporters here, the former Union law minister dismissed the claims of the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha.

"Rahul Gandhi is trying to create anarchy in the country... he is systematically and deliberately trying to weaken the democracy in the country," Prasad alleged.

Referring to Gandhi's X post on Thursday on 'vote chori' allegations against the EC, Prasad said, "He (Gandhi) wrote that the youth, students and 'Gen Z' will save the Constitution, protect democracy, and stop 'vote theft'. What does he (Gandhi) mean? He is simply trying to promote violence in the country... this is highly condemnable," he added.

Gandhi has been repeatedly levelling false, mischievous and misleading allegations against the government and constitutional bodies in the country, Prasad alleged.



"He is lowering the dignity of the post of the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha," the BJP leader alleged.

Prasad claimed that Gandhi's repeated allegations against the EC reflected Congress' lack of faith in Indian democracy.

The Congress leader on Thursday alleged that names were deleted through software manipulation and fake applications in Karnataka's Aland seat in 2023.

"I must advise Rahul Gandhi to do proper homework before levelling such allegations," Prasad said.

The EC has already clarified that the issue was thoroughly investigated in 2023. Whatever questions

he is raising today, had been replied to by the EC earlier, he said.

"Congress is in power in Karnataka... what was his government doing? The Congress candidate won from Aland and Rahul Gandhi is raising questions about the victory of his own party MLA? Anyway, the matter is pending before the court," Prasad said. "Gandhi is abusing the democratic choice of the voters of India by questioning parliamentary elections held in 2014, 2019 and 2024. The Congress leaders will have to face the consequences for this... We will give him and Congress leaders a proper reply through the democratic process... They will face a

humiliating defeat in the coming polls," Prasad said.

In his fresh offensive against the EC, Gandhi had said on Thursday that the poll panel must stop protecting "vote chors" (vote thieves) and provide, within a week, information sought by the Karnataka CID in an investigation into deletions of electors' names. Gandhi had cited details of alleged attempts to delete 6,018 votes in Karnataka's Aland constituency in the run-up to the 2023 assembly polls. He also gave the example of Maharashtra's Rajura constituency, where he claimed 6,850 voters were added in a "fraudulent" manner using automated software.

## India, New Zealand to hold next round of trade talks in Oct

PIB

New Delhi, Sept 19: The third round of negotiations for the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) concluded successfully on 19th September, 2025, in Queenstown, New Zealand. The discussions reaffirmed the shared commitment of both nations to strengthen economic ties and work towards the early conclusion of a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement.

Guided by the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Right Hon'ble Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, the negotiations reflected a common resolve to deepen bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation. The FTA was formally launched on 16th March, 2025, during the meeting between Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment, Mr. Todd McClay.

The third round, held from 15th to 19th September, 2025, witnessed constructive discussions across all areas of the agreement. Several chapters were concluded and significant progress was achieved in other key domains.

India's bilateral merchandise trade with New Zealand stood at USD 1.3 billion in FY 2024-25, registering a growth of nearly 49 percent over the previous year. The proposed FTA is expected to further boost trade flows, promote investment linkages, strengthen supply chain resilience, and create a predictable framework for businesses in both countries.

Both sides agreed to maintain momentum through inter-sessional engagements. The next round of in-person negotiations is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 13-14 October, 2025.

## PM Modi plants Kadamb sapling gifted by King Charles at his residence



IANS

New Delhi, Sept 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday planted a Kadamb sapling at his official residence, 7 Lok Kalyan Marg. Interestingly, this Kadamb sapling was given to him by King Charles III of the United Kingdom as a birthday gift on turning 75 on September 17.

The planation of the sapling at the Prime Minister's residence not only reaffirms his vision of building a greener and healthier planet but also symbolises friendship and shared commitment to environmental sustainability.

British Monarch King Charles, who has been strongly inspired by PM Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, sent the Kadamb tree sapling while extending birthday greetings to him.

The British High Commission in India also posted a picture of the Kadamb tree on X and wrote, "His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to send a Kadamb tree to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday." "The gesture, inspired by PM

Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, reflects their shared commitment to environmental conservation," it further said.

The British High Commission also recalled PM Modi's gift to King Charles, during the former's visit to the United Kingdom in July, this year.

"During his visit to the UK in July, PM Modi gifted His Majesty The King a 'Sonoma' tree as part of the same initiative. Collaboration on climate and clean energy is a key pillar of the Commonwealth and the UK-India partnership as set out by the two PMs in Vision 2035," the British High Commission said.

PM Modi's birthday also marked the beginning of the 15-day-long 'Sewa Pakhwada' under which various public welfare programs are being organised across the country, which include blood donation camps, plantation drives and others.

Odisha took the lead in the plantation drive as it saw more than 1.49 crore saplings sowed in a single day, marking a special tribute to 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

## Sikh delegation presents recommendations on holy relics to PM

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 19: A Sikh delegation, including Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, on Friday submitted recommendations for the safekeeping and a befitting display of the "Jore Sahib", a footwear each of Guru Gobind Singh and his wife, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi said the holy relics will inspire the future generations to follow the path of courage, righteousness, justice and social harmony shown by the 10th and last human Sikh guru. After Gobind Singh's demise, Sikhs consider their sacred scripture, Granth Sahib, as their living guru.

Holy relics as significant and spiritually important as the "Jore Sahib" are as much a part of the glorious Sikh history as they are of the cultural ethos of nation, Modi said in a post on X.

"I was very happy to receive the distinguished and

accomplished members of the Sikh delegation who handed over their recommendations with regard to the safekeeping and befitting display of the immensely sacred and invaluable holy 'Jore Sahib' of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Sahib Kaur Ji," the prime minister said.

Puri noted that his family has been performing "seva" (service) of these holy relics from the time those were bestowed upon his ancestors by Gobind Singh and his wife more than 300 years ago.

He said his ancestor was blessed to be in the direct service of the 10th guru, adding that it is believed that the highly-respected spiritual and temporal head of the community had asked him to seek any reward in return.

"Our ancestor requested Guru Sahib to kindly grant him his divine permission to keep the sacred 'Jore Sahib' so that the direct blessings of Guru Sahib and Mata Ji continue in his family and their generations to follow," the minister said in a post on X.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (CIVIL WORKS)

Dated: 19-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11
1	Repair/ Renovation of Divisional Office Tangmarg.	3.98	200/-	7960/-	20 days	2059-M&R	DEE	R&B Deptt.	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Repair and Renovation of Sub Division Office Tangmarg.	5.00	200/-	10000/-	20 days	2059-M&R	DEE	R&B Deptt.	1 <sup>st</sup>

Position of J&K: Accorded  
Position of T.S.: Accorded  
Position of funds: Assured

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	19-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	19-09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	29-09-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	30-09-2025 11:00 AM

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority)
- All the bidders must upload Earnest money / Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/ Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid Submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (1) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority).
- The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
  - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
  - Failure of successfully bidder to submit the performance security within the time period (as per JKPWD Engineering Manual 2020) i.e 21 Days from the issuance of latter of acceptance, after that the work will be put to fresh tenders without any notice to the contractor and the EMD will be forfeited.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
  - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" option on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
  - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
  - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
  - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
  - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg and Earnest Money / Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG. (The date of earnest money/ Bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), CDR/ FDR/ BG (earnest money/ bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Bidder should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded / submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake / not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the contractor / bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division / Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
- Price escalation on and Taxes:- The % age rate method requires the bidder to quote a percentage below / at par of the schedule of rates applicable / as mentioned in the advertisement. The percentage quoted by the bidder shall include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines standard bidding document shall be followed.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB):  
All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids:-
  - Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address / e-mail address.
  - A valid Contractor/ Firm Registration Certificate duly renewed for the year 2025-26 (Online mode) issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act & verification of Card registration issued from the competent authority.
  - Treasury Challan & CDR/ FDR/ BG Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
  - Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the relevant preceding Month / quarter with respect to the issuance of NIT (i.e for the Month of July -2025 (Quarter April-June 2025)).
- Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during technical evaluation.
- The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.
- General Conditions of Contract:-
  - The date of start of the work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/ Contract allotment as the case may be.
  - Penalty for delay in completion: In case of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty upto maximum of 10% of the contract shall be imposed.
  - Time extension: Suitable time extension shall be granted in case of increase in scope of work and in the event of delay beyond control of contractor to be determined by the department.
  - Advance Payments:- No mobilization advance/ equipment advance shall be paid unless otherwise specified in the SBD.
  - Secured Advance:- No secured advance is admissible unless otherwise specified.
  - Schedule of Payment:- The payment schedule shall be fixed after award of contract in favour of successful bidder, on the basis of availability of funds and value of work executed, shall be determined by the Engineer.
  - Amendment of bidding document:- Before the deadline for submission of bids the employer may modify the bidding documents by issuing Addendum/ corrigendum.
  - For sake of public works, the tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without giving a reason.
  - Unbalanced Bid:- In case bid of the Successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority), as per the Circular issued by Finance Department (Codes Division) J&K wide endorsement No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025.

S. No.	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional Performance Security
01	Upto and including 10% below	Nil
02	>10% upto and including 20% below project cost Example: If the bid is 12% below project cost, that's 2% below the 10% limit --> Additional Security = [0.1 x (12-10)] = 0.2% of bid price.	Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
03	>20% or more below project cost Example: If the bid is 25% less than project cost, that's 5% below the 20% limit --> Additional Security=[1%+(0.2% x (25-20))] =2% of bid price	Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

Note: The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.

Restoration of work:- On completion of contract the contractor shall be responsible to remove all un-used material and restore all work in its original position at his own cost.

Traffic regulations:- The contractor is bound to adhere to traffic regulations as is applicable from time to time and ensure arrangements of smooth regulation of traffic during execution of work.

Arbitration:- The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the arbitration procedure stated in the J&K Conciliation and Arbitration Act No:-xxv of 1997 issued vide SRO No:-403vide Notification of J&K Govt. "LawDepartment" 11<sup>th</sup> December-1997.

Defect Liability period:- The DLP shall be Calculated from date of certified completion of work and period shall be 36 or 18 months which shall be mentioned in the allotment as per the scope / nature of work. The defects noticed in the work during execution or D.L.P. shall be corrected by the Contractor within the length of time specified by the Engineer. If the contractor does not correct the defects pertaining to D.L.P. to the satisfaction of the Engineer within the time specified, the Engineer will assess the cost of having the defects corrected and contractor will pay this amount on correction of defects.

The date of start of work shall be reckoned within seven days from the date of issuance of allotment/ Letter of intent. In case the agency fails to execute the work, the deposits in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG shall be liable for forfeiture besides initiating other punitive actions against the defaulter without serving any notice.

ALL KEY CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL shall have to be strictly as per prescribed specifications and approval of the Engineer in-charge.

The EMD shall be released after successful completion of DLP

Failure on part of the contractor to fulfill his obligations of maintenance schedules shall result in forfeiture of the deposits held for this purpose as well as the CDR/FDR/ BG for this work.

The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT and the time of completion will also increase / decrease in proportion with additional / deleted quantum of work depending upon the actual quantum of work.

37. The tender / bid is liable rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

38. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

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

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/ 4344-54

Dated : 19-09-2025

DIPK-6409/25

DATED: 19-09-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Technical Officer  
R&B Division Tangmarg.

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: [rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in](mailto:rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in)

NO:T-1/EEA/4370-75 Dated: 16/09/2025

### EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject:- UDDDC2526100008-(Construction of Chain Link Fencing of Graveyard from Cowshed of Manzoor Ahmad to House of Tariq Ahmad Sheikh at Iqbal Colony Ward No 3 at MC-Awantipora Phase-2nd

Reference:- This office e-NIT NO.44/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/3805-15 Dated28-08-2025

The critical dates for the above noted NIT are hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	24-09-2025 up to 4.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	25-09-2025 at 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-  
Technical officer

DIPK-6419/25  
DATED: 19-09-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora.



## Nepal observes 10th Constitution Day, PM Karki calls for dialogue for finding solutions

PTI

Kathmandu, Sept 19: Nepal Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Friday said the protection and successful implementation of the Constitution adopted 10 years ago is the responsibility of all Nepalis, asserting that democracy is a system of dialogue and finding solutions.

Karki was speaking at the main event organised here in view of the Constitution Day, also celebrated as the National Day across Nepal. However, unlike in the past, the celebrations this year are scaled down as the country mourns the death of 72 people in the violent protests by Gen Z that led to regime change last week.

Nepal's Constituent Assembly delivered the Constitution on Asoj 3, 2072 Bikram Samvat, as per the country's national calendar, or September 20, 2015, years after the erstwhile monarchy was abolished.

"Listening to the voice of the people is the soul of democracy," Karki, Nepal's first woman prime minister, said.

Recalling that the Constitution of Nepal is the result of "the sacrifice, struggle, and movement" of the Nepali people, Karki said "its protection and successful implementation is the common responsibility of all Nepalis."

The recent Gen Z movement was a result of the dissatisfaction and expectations of the younger generation, Karki explained and made it clear that her government is committed "to listening to and



addressing the voices of the people, as democracy is a system of dialogue and finding solutions."

Karki, 73, became prime minister on September 12, ending days of political uncertainty after the ouster of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli following youth-led Gen Z protests against his government over corruption and a ban on social media.

The main celebrations were held at Tundikhel Open Ground here. Besides President Ramchandra Paudel, who was the chief guest, and Prime Minister Sushila Karki, the function was attended by Chief Justice Prakash Man Singh Raut, Speaker Devraj Ghimire, National Assembly Chairman Narayan Prasad Dahal and other dignitaries.

President Paudel said the present Constitution has integrated Nepali society having ethnic, lingual, religious, cultural and geographical diversities into the

broader national unity by ending all forms of discrimination and oppression resulting from centralised state systems.

He also called on all Nepalis to stay united to realise the aspirations of sustainable peace, good governance, development and prosperity through the federal democratic republic systems.

"The Constitution has set a broader goal to create an egalitarian society based on social justice and socialism-oriented economy," he pointed out.

Separately, a group of Gen Z members too organised a rally at Maitighar Mandala, the same place where the protests had gathered on September 8 and 9, and vowed to safeguard the achievements made by the Gen Z movement.

The two main political parties, the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre also organised separate programmes at their respective party head offices in Kathmandu.

While former Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' addressed the programme at the Maoist Centre party's central office, deposed Prime Minister Oli was absent during his party's programme.

Later in the afternoon, President Paudel hosted a special function at the President's Office, which was attended by Prime Minister Karki, ministers and other dignitaries.

## Afghanistan rebuffs Trump's bid to retake Bagram air base

### Insists on sovereignty

KABUL: The United States seeks to regain control of Bagram air base in Afghanistan, President Donald Trump said on Thursday during a press conference with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, but an Afghan official dismissed the need for any U.S. presence. The historic Soviet-built airstrip was the main base for American forces in the mountainous South Asian nation following the attacks of September 11, 2001, until their 2021 withdrawal led to a takeover by the Islamist Taliban movement.

"We're trying to get it back," Trump said of Bagram, citing what he called its strategic location near China. "We want that base back." Kabul said it was not open to any such deal, however.

"Afghanistan and the United States need to engage with



one another ... without the United States maintaining any military presence in any part of Afghanistan," Zakir Jalal, an Afghan foreign ministry official, posted on X.

The two nations could establish economic and political ties on the basis of mutual respect and shared interests,

he added. China respects Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, a spokesperson of its foreign ministry said, urging all parties to play a constructive role for regional peace and stability. "The future and destiny of Afghanistan should be held in the hands of the

Afghan people," Lin Jian told a regular press conference on Friday, when asked about Trump's comments.

"I want to stress that stoking tensions and creating confrontation in the region wins no popular support."

Engaging with Kabul to free citizens wrongly detained abroad, U.S. officials held talks on Saturday with Afghan authorities regarding Americans held in Afghanistan.

Adam Boehler, the Trump administration's special hostage envoy, and Zalmay Khalilzad, a former U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan, met the Taliban's foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi.

Washington does not recognise the Taliban administration, which seized power in 2021 after 20 years of U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan.

## US revokes sanctions waiver for Iran's Chabahar Port, effective Sept 29

ANI

Washington, Sept 19: The Trump administration, in yet another hard move against India, has announced the revocation of its waiver of sanctions over the Iranian port of Chabahar, in almost ten days, terminating a special waiver granted to India in 2018.

According to a statement issued by the US Department of State on Tuesday, the operators of the Chabahar Port in Iran will face US sanctions starting September 29.

"Additionally, consistent with President Trump's maximum pressure policy to isolate the Iranian regime, the Secretary of State has revoked the sanctions exception issued in 2018 under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA) for Afghanistan reconstruction assistance and economic development, effective September 29, 2025. Once the revocation is effective, persons who operate the Chabahar Port or engage in other activities described in IFCA may expose themselves to sanctions under IFCA," State Department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson Thomas Pigott said in the statement.

The move was announced to target Iran's financial network for its military and to put "maximum pressure" on the Islamic State. "Today, the United States is countering Iran's destabilizing activities by designating an international illicit financial network, along with several individuals and entities based in Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates. These networks have facilitated the sale of Iranian oil, with proceeds benefiting Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Qods Force (IRGC-QF) and Ministry



of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL). These funds are used to support regional terrorist proxies and advance weapons systems that pose a direct threat to U.S. forces and our allies," the statement read.

"This action is being taken pursuant to the counterterrorism authority E.O. 13224, as amended, and marks the fourth round of sanctions targeting Iran's shadow banking infrastructure since the President issued National Security Presidential Memorandum 2, directing a campaign of maximum pressure on Iran," it added.

This was made to isolate the Iranian regime and could significantly impact India's strategic investments in the port. Chabahar Port, located in southeastern Iran near the China-controlled Gwadar Port, stands out due to its strategic and logistical advantages. It includes two main terminals, Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti, each equipped with five berths, facilitating significant cargo handling capabilities.

In 2024, India signed a 10-year agreement with Iran for the operation of the Chabahar Port. This long-term deal, signed between Indian Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL) and Iran's Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO), grants India operational control over the Shahid Beheshti terminal, a key component of Chabahar's port infrastructure.

## France warns mayors against flying Palestinian flag next week

AFP

Paris, Sept 19: France's interior ministry has ordered prefects to oppose the display of Palestinian flags on town halls and other public buildings next week when Paris is set to formally recognize the Palestinian state.

"The principle of neutrality in public service prohibits such displays," the interior ministry said in a telegram, a copy of which was seen by AFP on Friday.

Any decisions by mayors to fly the Palestinian flag should be referred to courts, the interior ministry said. Israel's war on Gaza is a hot-button issue in France, and several French mayors have already announced their intention to display the Palestinian flag on their town halls next week. On Monday, France is set to formally recognize a Palestinian state at the United Nations General Assembly.

The warning from the interior ministry came after Socialist leader Olivier Faure called for the Palestinian flag to be flown on town halls on Monday, when Jewish worshippers also celebrate the Rosh Hashanah holiday, the Jewish New Year. However, the telegram said any such display would amount to "taking sides in an international conflict."

"It is therefore appropriate," the telegram said, "to ask mayors who display such flags on their public buildings to cease doing so and, in the event of refusal or non-compliance" to refer those mayors' decisions to administrative courts. Israel has been under mounting pressure to wrap up its campaign in Gaza, where the war has created a humanitarian crisis and devastated most of the territory, and to bring home Israeli hostages held there.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused Macron of pursuing a policy of "appeasement" of the Hamas militants. Macron said Thursday that recognizing a Palestinian state would isolate Hamas.

Several other leaders have announced their intent to formally recognize the Palestinian state during the UN summit.

## Asia Cup 2025 Unbeaten SL hope to tame B'desh again in opening Super Four game

PTI

Dubai, Sept 19: A determined Sri Lanka will take inspiration from their unbeaten group campaign and start favourites against an inconsistent Bangladesh in the first Super Four match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday.

Ably led by Charith Asalanka, the Lankans finished on top of Group B with three wins from as many matches, ahead of Bangladesh and T20 World Cup semifinalists Afghanistan. Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by six wickets before defeating Hong Kong and Afghanistan by four and six wickets respectively.

But the Lankans are very capable of collapsing as well. The Islanders almost lost against Hong Kong on Monday after opener Pathum Nissanka's fifty.

A brittle middle-order is the major concern for Sri Lanka as they were on the verge of a



familiar nosedive against Hong Kong, just three weeks after they were bowled out for 80 by Zimbabwe in Harare.

Nissanka has been the stand-out performer for Sri Lanka with the bat, leading the run-scorers' list with 124 runs from three games, including two fifties.

After two sedate knocks, wicketkeeper-batter Kusal Mendis finally came to the party with an attacking 74 off 52 balls against Afghanistan, much

to the delight of the Lankans.

Left-hander Kamil Mishara too has been in good touch but Sri Lanka would look for contributions from the likes of skipper Asalanka, senior batters Kusal Perera and Dasun Shanaka in the middle-order.

In all the three group matches, Sri Lanka thrived while chasing and one would expect the Islanders to continue the same trend if they win the toss on Saturday.

## ICC unveils official song 'Bring it Home' for Women's Cricket World Cup 2025



IANs

Dubai, Sept 19: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday launched the official event song titled 'Bring it Home' for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.

Performed by acclaimed Indian singer Shreya Ghoshal, the song is a high-energy blend of rhythm, melody and emotion and aims to unite fans across the globe.

With catchy hooks like "Tarikita Tarikita Tarikita Dhom" and the heartbeat-inspired "Dhak

Dhak, we bring it home", the song encapsulates the fire and dreams of every woman cricketer stepping onto the world stage.

The lyrics celebrate determination and unity, honouring the thriving legacy of women's cricket through the power of dreams and perseverance. The lines - "Patthar pighlana hai, Ek naya itihasa banana hai" (We have to melt stones and forge a new history) evoke the unbreakable power of dedication and grit, against all odds.

"It has been a wonderful

experience to be part of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 through the official event song that celebrates the spirit, strength and unity of women's cricket. I feel honoured to lend my voice and be part of a moment that brings people together through the love of the game. I hope it inspires fans and creates lasting memories as we celebrate this exciting tournament," Shreya Ghoshal said.

The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 is scheduled to take place from 30 September to 2

November across DY Patil Stadium (Navi Mumbai), ACA Stadium (Guwahati), Holkar Stadium (Indore), ACA-VDCA Stadium (Visakhapatnam) and R Premadasa Stadium (Colombo, Sri Lanka).

The 13th edition of the quadrennial showpiece offers record-low ticket prices, starting at just Rs 100 (approximately USD 1.14) - the lowest ever for any ICC global event. Ticket sales have already begun and are now open to all fans at Tickets.cricketworldcup.com.

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September

# MOVIES SCHEDULE

THE CONJURING: LAST RITES (A)  
ENG WITH ENG SUBTITLES  
01:25 PM

NISHAANCHI (UA 16+)  
HINDI - 08:45 PM

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA 16+)  
HINDI - 10:10 AM, 04:15 PM, 07:30 PM  
HINDI ATMOS - 12:10 PM, 03:20 PM, 06:30 PM

DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA (UA13+)  
JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
10:50AM  
ENGLISH - 03:35PM

TICKETS AT: [www.bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com) | [www.inoxmovies.com](http://www.inoxmovies.com)  
Paytm, Inox App, or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

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**SHIVPORA SRINAGAR**

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