



Elimination of terrorism nation's biggest priority: LG Manoj Sinha

» Naxalism will be over in next 3 to 4 months

» Biz leaders must work to realise dream of developed India

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sept 20: Asserting that the biggest priority for our nation is the elimination of terrorism, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that the encouraging fact is that terrorism today has been greatly reduced and is now limited to very small pockets.

Addressing the 4th CII Northern Regional Council Meeting here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Whether it was left-wing extremism or Naxalism the dream once seen of creating a Nepal style guerrilla movement it has now been confined to a few districts. I firmly believe that in the next three to four months, the nation will be completely free of Naxalism."

"However, terrorism has not disappeared completely. Some activities still remain in parts of Karnataka, Kerala, and a few regions of Jammu and Kashmir.



I have always said that where terrorism exists, there is potential for greater danger. Its elimination cannot be the sole responsibility of the police or security forces society as a whole must take part," he said.

"When narratives are created that weaken the nation, they give rise to division and hostility. That is why I particularly

urge the industrialists of the Valley to take responsibility. If you choose to remain silent spectators, your businesses and progress will suffer," LG Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "The world has shown growing confidence in India. Now, it is the responsibility of the industry to rise to the challenge of

making our growth processes faster and more competitive. We need focused approach to enhance productivity & export of MSMEs & foster innovation economy."

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to accelerate the pace of industrial development in Jammu Kashmir and bring this region | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi extended great support to J&K's health sector: LG Sinha

Today, UT has 11 medical colleges, two AIIMS

Ensuring Kashmiris receive advanced medical care within UT

Every J&K resident has insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 20: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule the healthcare system in J&K has improved remarkably.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The Prime Minister has extended great support to strengthen the health sector. Today, J&K has 11 medical colleges, with two AIIMS—one already functional in Jammu and the other set to be operational in Kashmir next year. The aim has always been to ensure that Kashmiris receive advanced medical care within the UT itself," he said, adding, "Every citizen of J&K is covered under the health insurance scheme and has a cover of Rs 5 lakhs."

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized the growing role of the private sector in strengthening healthcare infrastructure. "Super-specialty facilities



are being developed, and the administration has taken several steps to make the health system more systematic and accessible," he said.

LG Sinha appreciated the initiatives of Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, noting that the hospital's outreach programs, including mobile medical camps and services near border areas, would greatly benefit people in remote regions.

LG Sinha said the reputation of Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital is not only well recognized in India but also abroad, and that the group has been providing quality healthcare services for

over 25 years.

Highlighting the advancements in the field, the Lt Governor said that eye care has developed significantly with new technologies such as AI-based diagnostics, which now enable more personalized treatment.

He added that this new facility would ensure that people in J&K have access to the same quality of eye care as available in metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon Dr. Agarwal's Eye Centre and other hospitals to organise free eye check-up camps in different parts of J&K, especially in rural and border areas, with the spirit of selfless service.

He said, for greater reach, people should be served from time to time through telemedicine, virtual consultations and digital examinations.

Dr. Ashar Agarwal, Chief Business Officer, Dr Agarwal's Group of Eye Hospitals; Dr Atif Ali Mir, Head Clinical Services, Dr Agarwal's | [More on P6](#)

Prime Minister's upcoming visit

Hope PM Modi announces ample relief package to flood hit J&K: CM Omar

Says over 330 bridges, 1500 km of roads, govt buildings, crops, dry fruits destroyed

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 20: Exuding hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his upcoming visit to Jammu and Kashmir will announce a substantial relief package for the flood hit people, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the Union Territory has suffered immense losses in recent calamities.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, the

Chief Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The situation has severely impacted infrastructure, agriculture, and livelihoods across J&K. The loss has been immense, loss of lives, especially during the two yatrass in Kishtwar and Katra. There has been loss of property also."

Chief Minister Omar said, "Around 330 bridges have been washed away. More than 1500 km of roads have been destroyed. Many government buildings have suffered losses, and crops have been destroyed. Our dry fruits have been destroyed."

"Seeing this, we hope that our loss is | [More on P6](#)

CII Northern Regional Council 2025-26

CM Omar invites investors to harness J&K's untapped potential

Calls for equal tourism, industrial growth in region

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 20: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday emphasised the need to complement Jammu and Kashmir's tourism success story with an equally robust industrial growth, calling upon industry leaders to view J&K as a viable and promising investment destination.

Addressing the 4th meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Northern Regional Council 2025-26, held



in Srinagar, the Chief Minister acknowledged that while the focus in recent months has largely been on tourism, industrial growth has not received the same attention. He assured

stakeholders that the government is determined to correct this imbalance by strengthening the investment ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir. "Tourism is | [More on P6](#)

No guilty should escape, no innocent be harmed: DGP Prabhat

Calls for night patrolling, nakas

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sept 20: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP), Nalin Prabhat on Saturday called for enhanced night patrolling, naka checking and close coordination with sister agencies to foil the nefarious designs of anti-national elements.

The police chief, while chairing a high-level security review meeting in Sopore, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), also underlined the principle of balanced



policing, stressing that "No guilty should escape and no innocent should be harmed."

Highlighting the importance of operational vigilance, the DGP called for enhanced area

domination, intensive naka checking, and round-the-clock night patrolling to counter terrorist activities.

He urged officers to maintain continuous | [More on P6](#)

JK Govt warns hospitals against unnecessary referrals to SKIMS

Health Min seeks data to curb burden on premier hospital

Jahangir Ganaie

Srinagar, Sept 20: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday issued strict directions to Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and District Hospitals of the Kashmir Valley not to unnecessarily refer patients to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS).

Officials said frequent avoidable referrals are putting an extra burden on the Valley's premier health institution and leaving deserving patients in distress.

As per reports received by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), SKIMS often receives referrals of patients whose treatment could easily be handled at district or sub-district hospitals.

Data shows that out of 1,000 patients referred to SKIMS, only about 80 are admitted, while the rest are discharged after preliminary checks.

Experts say that despite the availability of doctors and adequate facilities at government hospitals, people tend to bypass local hospitals even for minor health issues and rush to tertiary centers like SKIMS. This leads to overcrowding and unnecessary strain. They argue that if the | [More on P6](#)

CIK cracks down on terror-linked network masquerading as social activists

Searches 8 locations, 7 detained for questioning

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 20: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) has launched a massive crackdown against the terror-linked network masquerading as social activists in the Valley.

According to a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the spokesman said that the searches were conducted by CIK at multiple locations across Kashmir in connection with a case under FIR number 03/2023 under section 505 IPC, 153-A IPC and Sections 13 & 18 of UA (P) Act of Police Station

CIK Srinagar.

The searches were carried out after obtaining search warrants from the Court of Special Judge, designated under NIA Act, Srinagar.

"The case was registered on a credible input received by CIK wherein it had emerged that certain individuals in J&K, under the cloak of social activism, were misusing platforms connected to mass media, social media, human rights, environment, and women empowerment for activities detrimental to the sovereignty and security of the State. Discreet information indicated | [More on P6](#)

India's 'Jewel in the Crown' sinking: Houseboats empty since April attack

Owners say facing 'hardest period', 'Only 30-40 out of 3,000 houseboats occupied'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 20: On Srinagar's Nigeen and Jhelum lakes, silence has replaced the laughter of tourists. The beautiful houseboats, once the pride of Kashmir's hospitality, now float deserted, their owners struggling to survive after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that killed many tourists.

Mohammad Yaqoob Dunoo, a renowned houseboat owner, says this is the hardest period he



has ever witnessed in his lifetime. "From April 22 till now, I have had only one booking

worth Rs 1,500. After that, nothing. Even in the 1990s, when the situation was worst

in Kashmir, we still had some work. But this time, we are finished," Dunoo told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a cold sigh slipping from his lips.

Dunoo said his family is suffering deeply. "I have three children, and my brother has two. We are unable to pay school fees. My children stayed home for over a month because we did not have admission money," he said. "The school | [More on P6](#)

Railways ferry 6,400 tons of apples from Kashmir to Delhi



Parcel rakes from Baramulla next

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Srinagar, Sept 20: In a major push for Kashmir's horticulture

sector, Northern Railway's Jammu Division has transported over 6,400 tons of apples from the valley to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, by parcel trains, officials said on Saturday. The initiative, | [More on P6](#)

14-coach train to ferry apples from Sopore mandi

Waris Fayaz

After the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) fleet began moving apple consignments from Sopore fruit mandi, a 14-coach goods train is being dispatched directly to Sopore to transport apple consignments to outside markets, officials said on Saturday. The move comes after | [More on P6](#)

Prepare DPRs to bridge all gaps on priority: CS

Calls for framing effective action plan to implement VVP

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo while taking a comprehensive review of the implementation strategy of Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) here emphasized on the concerned to devise an effective strategy to implement it in the given timeframe.

The program is a centrally funded initiative aimed at the comprehensive development of strategically important border villages. With a total budget of Rs 6,839 Cr for fiscal years 2024-25 to 2028-29, the program is a key part of the vision for Viksit Bharat @2047.

The meeting besides ACS, Planning was attended by MD, KPDCI; Representative from R&B Department; Representative from BSNL and the concerned DCs through video conferencing.

The VVP-II initiative will cover villages in 15 states and 2 Union Territories that share international land borders. In J&K, the program will be implemented in 124 strategically selected villages across 43 blocks in 8 border districts, including Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, and Poonch.

The Chief Secretary took theme wise appraisal of the gaps found in each district after carrying out the gap analysis by respective Deputy Commissioners. He enjoined upon the concerned to prepare DPRs for bridging all these gaps on priority.

He directed the DCs to ascertain all these gap areas through the Nodal Officers designated for each such village. He emphasized on the fact that the for electricity the RDSS scheme could be leveraged, for road connectivity PMGSY, for livelihood



opportunities NRLM, Mission YUVA, HADP, KCC, PMEGP, REGP like schemes should be considered. Similarly for education PM-SHRI and in Health Telemedicine can be leveraged to obtain the desired objectives under convergence mode.

He also advised for holding regular outreach campaigns to promote Tourism in these villages. He asked for conducting regular camps, festivals and fairs in these villages in order to make them culturally vibrant. Similarly he asked for saturating both the social security and financial inclusion schemes. He made out that the saturation of these initiatives should be our common goal.

While speaking about the VVP implementation the ACS, Planning, Ashish Chander Verma revealed that a three-pronged strategy for comprehensive development has been formulated to ensure the achievement of set objectives.

He added that the program's strategy is designed to create better living conditions and provide livelihood opportunities in border villages. The program will ensure that existing Central and Union Territory schemes reach all 1,421 villages in the border blocks, focusing on four key thematic areas livelihood opportunities, health infrastructure, education facilities,

and financial inclusion.

The initiative also aims to build and reinforce essential infrastructure, including all-weather roads, telecom and television connectivity, and on-grid electrification. A gap analysis has been completed to identify villages needing connectivity and electrification, with plans already underway to address these needs. For instance, 41 villages are proposed to be connected under the PMGSY-IV scheme, and 220 villages are yet to be covered with telecom connectivity.

Moreover the program will focus on creating an enabling environment for expanded livelihood opportunities. This includes promoting tourism, organizing cultural events and awareness campaigns, and providing medical and veterinary camps.

To ensure effective implementation, a comprehensive planning process is in place. This includes a baseline survey to conduct a gap assessment and village profiling, which will be followed by the preparation of detailed Village Action Plans (VAPs).

Committees have been established at both the UT and district levels to oversee the program, ensuring proposals are technically feasible, cost-effective, and aligned with the program's goals.

Rana reviews functioning of EMRSs across J&K

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the functioning and progress of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across Jammu and Kashmir, with a comprehensive focus on infrastructure development, academic performance, staffing, and student welfare.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Principals of various EMRS institutions, and other senior officers of the department.

Highlighting the transformative role of EMRSs, Rana reiterated that these institutions are instrumental in empowering tribal youth by providing quality and inclusive education. He underscored the importance of robust infrastructure, adequate human resources, and essential facilities to ensure holistic development and equal opportunities for tribal students.

During the meeting, the Minister conducted a detailed review of the status of infrastructure works, assessing the progress made under the approved Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). He stressed the need for efficient utilization of sanctioned funds and emphasized timely completion of all ongoing construction projects. Rana directed officials to expedite pending land transfers for EMRS projects to prevent any further delays in execution.

Reviewing academic operations, Rana urged the concerned authorities to focus on enhancing the quality of classroom teaching, strengthening co-curricular engagement and improving the overall learning environment.

He also evaluated student enrollment trends to ensure that schools are operating at optimal capacity and effectively reaching the intended beneficiary groups.

Assessing staffing adequacy, both academic and non-academic, Rana emphasized that schools must be equipped with the necessary human resources to ensure smooth and effective functioning. He called for immediate steps to address any gaps that could hinder the delivery of quality education and comprehensive student support. The Minister also reviewed the provision of facilities for residential students, directing that all services be provided in full accordance with the allocations under recurring grants.

He stressed that the hostel environment must be safe, comfortable, and conducive to learning, in line with prescribed quality standards.

The Minister reaffirmed the Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to strengthening EMRS institutions as centres of excellence for tribal education in J&K, and called for coordinated and time-bound efforts from all stakeholders to achieve this vision.

Div Com reviews restoration works on NH 44 at Thard

KT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 20: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar Saturday conducted an extensive visit to the damaged stretch of National Highway (NH-44) at Thard to review the pace of ongoing restoration works and regulation of traffic movement.

The Div Com was accompanied by IGP Traffic, Regional Officer NHAI, SSP Udhampur, SSP Traffic NHW, Additional District Development Commissioner along with other officers from the civil Administration, Police and NHAI.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner took stock of the progress of restoration works, which include road widening, laying of Water Bound Macadam (WBM), construction of an additional lane for smooth vehicular movement and restoration of the second tube of NH-44. He was also informed about the prevailing single-lane traffic management along the stretch.

The Div Com personally monitored the



traffic movement and directed NHAI authorities to expedite the restoration process for the convenience of commuters and the general public. He enquired about the daily vehicular flow on NH-44 and instructed the concerned officers to create an additional lane by filling with stone to ensure smooth passage of vehicles.

The Div Com directed NHAI to double their efforts to restore the 300-metre affected stretch on priority and maintain uninterrupted flow of traffic on a daily basis. He also asked the Traffic Department to strictly regulate traffic movement on NH-44. He further instructed the executing agencies to mobilize adequate men and machinery to ensure timely completion of the works.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
OFFICER, POSHAN, PROJECT TEETWAL KARNAH

Subject: Termination of service of Anganwadi Worker.

ORDER

Whereas, Mtr. Sakeena Bano D/o Abdul Qadeer Mugal R/o Village Prada Tehsil Karnah District Kupwara was engaged as Anganwadi Worker In Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" of ICDS Project Teetwal vide order bearing No.CDPO/ICDS/ Teet/Estt/06/421-24 dated 13-09-2006.

Whereas, Mtr. Sakeena Bano is absconding from Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" of ICDS Project Teetwal without any notice to this office and Is not performing her job as Anganwadi Worker in Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" of ICDS Project Teetwal long since, which has resulted in suffering of innocent beneficiaries enrolled in Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" of ICDS Project Teetwal.

Whereas, unauthorised absence of Mtr. Sakeena Bano from Anganwadi Centre has caused loss to nutrition and non-nutrition items procured for Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" from time to time.

Whereas, through series of notices issued by this office, Mtr. Sakeena Bano was asked to resume her duty and also to explain her position, why she should not be terminated from honorary service of Anganwadi Worker, falling which action as warranted under rules shall be initiated in to the matter and she shall be terminated from honorary service of Anganwadi Worker.

Whereas, Mtr. Sakeena Bano neither responded the notices issued to her nor has resumed her duty as Anganwadi Worker in Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" till date.

Whereas during visit of Sub Divisional Magistrate Karnah to village Amrohi people of the area raised questions on unauthorised absence of Mtr. Sakeena Bano from Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" and while taking note of absence from duty of Mtr. Sakeena Bano, final notice was issued by this office vide No. CDPO-Teetwal/Termination/25/109-17 Dated: 06-09-2025 with the direction upon Mtr. Sakeena Bano to resume her duty of Anganwadi Worker in Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" within two days from date of publication of the final notice in news papers, falling which it shall be presumed that Mtr. Sakeena Bano has nothing to say in her defence and she shall be terminated from the job of Anganwadi Worker of Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" without any further notice and the resultant vacancy of Anganwadi Worker of Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" shall be advertised for making fresh selection as per norms in vogue. The final notice was given wide publicity through Joint Director Information Department Kashmir under DIP No, DIPK-5995/25 and was published on 09-09-2025 in 04 Daily News Papers of KasJ nir valley viz "Rising Kashmir, Nigahban, Al Mukhtar Kashmir and Sehar-i-Nov.

Whereas, Mtr. Sakeena Bano has neither responded the notices issued to her nor has resumed her duty as Anganwadi Worker In Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" till date.

Whereas Mtr. Sakeena Bano D/o Abdul Qadeer Mugal R/o Prada Tehsil Karnah District Kupwara is married with one Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani R/o Bemina District Srinagar and Is continuously residing with her husband at Srinagar and currently at Shaheed Gung behind Civil Secretariat Srinagar and Is not performing her duty as Anganwadi Worker In Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" of ICDS Project Teetwal long since.

Whereas, as per standing Human Resource Policy for Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers Issued vide Govt. Order No.222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated:30-11-2022, Ivtr. Sakeena Bano is qualifying termination of honorary service of Anganwadi Worker and the resultant vacancy is to be advertised for fresh selection of Anganwadi Worker as per standing norms.

Consequent upon the same, Mtr. Sakeena Bano D/o Abdul Qadeer Mugal W/o Imtiyaz Ahamd Wani R/o Bemina District Srinagar, at present Shaheed Gung behind Civil Secretariat Srinagar is hereby terminated from the Job of Anganwadi Worker of Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" of ICDS Project Teetwal and the resultant vacancy of Anganwadi Worker of Anganwadi Centre "Amrohi-C" shall be advertised for making fresh selection as per norms in vogue.

DIPK-6441/25

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT TEETWAL

No: CDPO-Teetwal/Termination/25/167-74 Dated: 19-09-2025

DATED: 20-09-2025

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./Fax/No:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 2ND.

For Sr.No. 31, 32 & 33.

Subject: 1. Construction of Bore Well at Dangerpora Near govt. Middle School, H/O kaka Ji on Parking Side District Anantnag. (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Akingam-A.
2. Construction of Bore Well near Graveyard H/O Mohd Iqbal Najar & Mohd Hashim Wani at Akingam District Anantnag (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Akingam-A.
3. Construction of Bore Well Sheikh Mohalla (Bonpora) District Anantnag (BlockAchabal) District Anantnag (BlockAchabal) Panchayat Halqa Akingam-B.
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 40-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/ GWDS/25-26/ Camp./6037-48, dated: 30-08-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_286326_31, 32, 33..... & 45.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled 19-09-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	26-09-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	27-09-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

DIPK-6436/25

DATED: 20-09-2025

No: -JS-PHE/ GWDS/25-26/ Camp./7447-56
Dated: 19-09-2025

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
ELECTRIC DIVISION- IST, SRINAGAR.

Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No. 030/EDI, dt: 19.09.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-1st, Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Electrical Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1	Supply installation testing and commissioning of street lights in Harwan IV-Retender.	2.952

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	19.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	29.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date and time of bidding queries/clarifications	19.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs to 21.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	19.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs to 29.09.2025; 16:00 Hrs
v)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	30.09.2025 at 13:00 Hrs
vi)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website http://jktenders.gov.in
viii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Treasury Receipt Only]
ix)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.6000/= (Rupees Six Thousand Only)

DIPK-NB-1992/25

DATED: 20-09-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar

GOVT. OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CUM
DISTRICT MAGISTRATE KUPWARA

Phone: 01955-253335; Fax: 01955-252130; Email: - paaddc-kupgjk.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Join Mission YUVA- Build the future of entrepreneurship in J&K.

Mission Directorate Mission YUVA, Invites applications for empanelment for motivators under Mission YUVA.

Retired Government officials, NGO-Workers, Pashu Sakhis, Bank Sakhis, Other Community Members Persons and Local Community Members are encouraged to Apply.

Remuneration Structure for Motivators	
Fixed Pay	Rs. 2000/Month (Allowances to Cover local Travel and Communication).
Variable Pay (Performance Incentive)	On the basis of number of sanctioned loan application (up to maximum 3000/Month)

Eligibility

21 years and above on the date of notification.

Minimum 10 Class pass qualification.

Domicile of J&K. Apply via this form: <https://tinyurl.com/i5pzx54xw> Deadline: 16.10.2025

Conceptual Framework for Motivators for detailed selection process, role description: <https://tinyurl.com/y8r9rmyd>

(Note: This is a public service advertisement. No fee is required for the application process.) Issued by: District Administration, Kupwara.

DIPK-6433/25

Dated: 19/09/2025

DATED: 20-09-2025

District Development Commissioner Kupwara

No: ADDCK/335-36

NH disruptions to ease next week: CS Dulloo



WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Sep 20: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday assured that the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, battered by incessant rains, is likely to be fully restored by next week if weather conditions remain favourable.

The Chief Secretary said the administration, along with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), traffic police and divisional officials, is working round the clock to reopen all tubes of the vital road link.

"The rainfall was generally

more than usual, which forced the shutdown of the highway. The National Highway was being reopened, but incessant rains delayed the process. Despite this, teams from NHAI, traffic police and divisional administration are continuously on the ground," Dulloo said while briefing the media in Baramulla. He said the government has maintained adequate stocks of essential commodities to avoid panic. "Upon resumption of traffic, we first allowed essential trucks carrying petrol, diesel and other supplies from the Jammu side. At present, we

have fuel stocks sufficient for 3-4 days," he informed.

The CS said that only one-way traffic is being allowed for now to prevent confusion and chaos. "From tomorrow, trucks will also be allowed to move towards Jammu from this side to protect the interests of growers," he said.

"Upon favourable weather conditions, two or even all four tubes of the highway will be reopened. Once the weather improves, everything will get back on track," he assured.

The Chief Secretary added that the Mughal Road, considered an alternative lifeline, had been thrown open but suffered damage due to landslides.

He expressed confidence that if the rains subside, the situation along the National Highway will normalise within the coming week, easing the movement of both essential commodities and fruit trucks critical to Kashmir's economy. (KNO)

Remote areas need better preparedness: LoP Sharma

KT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma Saturday visited the far off Margi village in the Warwan area which suffered severe devastation due to the recent incessant rains and flash floods.

The natural calamity has caused widespread damage, washing away several houses and extensively damaging the road connectivity, cutting off the entire population from the rest of the district. Many families have been left homeless, and the region is currently grappling with acute shortages of shelter, food, drinking water, medicines, and basic amenities.

Sunil Sharma was accompanied by officials of local administration



and civil society members. Despite difficult terrain and disrupted routes, he reached Margi to meet with affected families and to have a firsthand assessment of the extent of destruction. He interacted with the affected people, listened to their grievances, and took stock of the ground situation.

Sunil said that the scale of destruction is heart-breaking. He expressed his pain that many families have lost everything.

He assured the villagers that he would raise the matter at the highest levels and press the administration for immediate relief and rehabilitation measures. Relief

must reach to the people at the earliest, he said and added that temporary shelters, emergency food supplies, medicines, and restoration of road links must be treated as top priority.

Sunil Sharma called upon the Union Territory administration and disaster management

authorities to deploy emergency teams, including medical staff and engineers, to the area on an urgent basis. He also appealed to NGOs and civil society to come forward and support the people of Warwan in this critical time. He assured the residents of Margi and adjoining areas that they would not be left alone in this hour of crisis and that he would continue to monitor the relief efforts closely.

Sunil Sharma batted for a long-term plan to strengthen infrastructure in remote regions like Warwan, which remain especially vulnerable during extreme weather events. Our remote areas need better preparedness, not just sympathy after disaster strikes, he emphasized.

CS releases Podcast series of DIPR Baramulla

Inaugurates new meeting Hall at DC Office

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 20: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday released a podcast series prepared by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Baramulla, designed to create awareness among citizens regarding various Government sponsored schemes and welfare initiatives.

This initiative of DIPR Baramulla is expected to improve awareness, especially among youth and digitally connected audiences, ensuring that beneficiaries are informed and can easily access government services.

Later, the Chief Secretary also inaugurated newly constructed Meeting Hall at DC Office Baramulla premises, which will facilitate better coordination and efficient



functioning of the district administration.

Meanwhile, Atal Dulloo also laid the foundation stone for the preservation of the historic Gurdawara at Chattipadshahi, Baramulla, at an allocated cost of Rs. 3.08 crore with an aim to conserve the cultural and religious

heritage of the region and promote tourism and local engagement.

Similarly, the Chief Secretary laid the foundation stone for the preservation of Mata Shailputri Asthan Temple at Khanpora, Baramulla, at the cost of Rs. 3.96 crore, reflecting the government's commitment

to safeguarding important religious sites while promoting community participation and cultural preservation.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; senior officers of district administration and other line departments were also present on the occasion.

Chain stitch on the brink

Sgr artisan warns of craft's slow death

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 20: At 70, Abdul Qayoom Wani of Chattabal, Bagi Sunder Baala in Srinagar, sits bent over a stretched fabric, needle in hand, practising the centuries-old art of chain stitch embroidery.

For more than 55 years, he has lived and breathed this intricate craft—a legacy he inherited from his late father, Mohammed Ramzan Wani. But today, his biggest fear is that he may be among the last of its true custodians.

"I learnt this art from my father when I was a young boy, and since then I have dedicated my life to it. Over the years, at least 600 people have learnt this art from me," Qayoom said. Qayoom recalls the days when chain stitch was Kashmir's calling card to the world. The carpets, wall hangings, and cushions adorned with fine embroidery were in high demand across international markets. "Earlier, this art ensured bread and butter for hundreds of families. Exporters would eagerly buy our work, and the craft had value," he said. That golden period, however, has withered away. With shrinking markets and mass machine-made alternatives dominating demand, the art has lost its economic viability. "Now, most people who gave decades to this profession have abandoned it

because they cannot sustain their families," he lamented.

Wani admitted that the government has made some attempts for revival through handicraft exhibitions, training centres, and small financial incentives. But he believes these initiatives are too little, too scattered. "Some steps have been taken, but much more needs to be done. Without serious and consistent support, this art form will vanish completely," he warned.

The artisan revealed that despite his artworks reaching "every corner of the world", the present market is nearly non-existent. "The pieces we already have are not fetching anything, as there are no takers. This situation is heartbreaking," he said. What troubles him most is the lack of interest among the youth. "The new generation hardly shows interest in chain stitch because they know it doesn't provide a decent livelihood. Some youngsters do come to learn, but when we don't have work for ourselves, what can we offer them?" he asked.

Meanwhile, officials of the Kashmir Handicrafts and Handloom Department said efforts are ongoing. "We are working on wider marketing

platforms, including e-commerce, to give artisans a direct link to global buyers. But it will take time," said an official, adding that financial assistance schemes are being reviewed to cover more struggling artisans.

For artisans like Wani, these assurances are too slow to materialise. "We aren't being helped at any level. The craft is on the verge of extinction," he said.



tion, and if the government doesn't step in with meaningful initiatives, it will disappear forever," he said.

To him, chain stitch is not just a livelihood but a cultural responsibility passed down through generations. Yet as markets shrink, state support lags, and youth turn away, the fear grows stronger—that one day, the last threads of Kashmir's chain stitch tradition will fall silent. (KNO)

CCIK seeks tourism revival

Appeals PM Modi to visit Kashmir on Diwali

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 20: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) held a meeting with officials from the Administration, Police, Traffic Department, and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to discuss several pressing public issues.

Concerns raised during the meeting included parking shortages, severe traffic congestion—particularly in Shahr-e-Khaas—encroach-

ment of footpaths by vendors, rash driving by Smart City buses, the menace of stray dogs, the recent rotten meat incident, frequent highway closures, and issues faced by fruit growers, along with pending compensation for flood victims. Following the meeting, a press conference was held where several key issues were highlighted.

CCIK President Tariq Gani appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra

Modi to celebrate Diwali in Kashmir and invite people from across the country to visit the Valley in order to revive and restore the tourism sector, which is currently in decline. He also urged the Lieutenant Governor to provide compensation to fruit growers & flood victims of Jammu & Kashmir, announce a special economic package for business fraternity, including a one-year waiver on loan interest and open all the tourist destinations in

the Valley to boost the local economy.

Furthermore, Gani requested the administration to publicly identify those responsible for the rotten meat incident, ensuring that innocent traders do not suffer due to the actions of a few.

On the occasion, CCIK also signed an MoU with Paras Hospital, under which members of the chamber and their families will receive multiple healthcare benefits.

100 kg rotten fish seized, FIR registered

KT NEWS DESK

Budgam, Sep 20: To curb the transportation and sale of unsafe food items in district Budgam, the district administration has constituted special Flying Squads comprising officials from all concerned departments, including Police.

Budgam Police have also established nakas at major entry points of the district to strictly monitor the movement of such items, a police spokesman said.

During a joint inspection at Humhama Chowk, led by I/C PP Humhama in collaboration with officials of the Food Safety Department, 100 kg of rotten fish packed in two parcels was seized from the possession of a fish seller, Mehdi Hasan Lashkar S/o Attaullah Lashkar R/o Hawgul Dori, West Bengal, presently residing



at Safa Kadal Chowk Srinagar.

The accused was carrying the consignment from Srinagar International Airport towards his shop. He was arrested on the spot, and FIR No. 263/2025 under relevant provisions of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam, the spokesman said, adding that legal action under Sections 271, 272, and 275 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 has been initiated against him.

"Budgam Police reaffirm their commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring food safety. Strict legal action will continue against those indulging in the sale of substandard or unhygienic food items. The general public is urged to remain vigilant and promptly report such malpractices to the nearest Police Station," the statement reads.

Raina for KCC loan relief for farmers

Visits Pulwama, Shopian mandis

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Pulwama, Sep 20: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader from Jammu and Kashmir, Ravinder Raina on Saturday urged the Union Territory administration to waive off Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans of apple growers, who suffered massive losses this season due to the continuous highway closures, high freight charges and plummeting demand in outside markets.

Raina, who visited multiple fruit mandis in Pulwama and Shopian, interacted with growers, who expressed deep concern over the prevailing situation. Farmers told him that this year has turned into a "nightmare" for the horticulture sector, as hundreds of trucks laden with apple boxes remain stranded due to frequent landslides on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway and shortage of transport facilities.

"Thousands of apple boxes are lying in mandis, waiting to be transported to markets outside Kashmir. The prolonged closure of the highway has crippled the supply chain, and high freight charges on national highway and alternate routes have made the situation unbearable for growers," the farmers told Raina.

Speaking to reporters, the BJP leader said that the horticulture sector, which is the backbone of Kashmir's economy, is passing through one of the most difficult phases in recent times.

"The growers have suffered heavy losses this year. The government must immediately take measures to provide relief.



Waiving off KCC loans of farmers is the need of the hour so that they are not pushed further into financial distress," Raina said.

He added that the administration must also ensure adequate availability of trucks at mandis, reduce freight rates, and take measures for smooth transportation of fruit produce to different states. "This is not just an economic issue but also a livelihood crisis for lakhs of families who depend on horticulture. Government intervention is necessary and urgent," he said.

Kashmir's horticulture sector contributes around 8% to the UT's GDP, with apples forming the largest share. However, this year's challenges — from natural calamities to logistic hurdles — have left the industry on the brink, forcing stakeholders to appeal for immediate relief measures. (KNO)

Centre to resume talks with Ladakh leaders on Oct 6

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 20: The Government of India is set to resume talks with Ladakh leaders and has scheduled the next meeting of the High-Powered Committee (HPC) constituted to discuss safeguards for the Union Territory on October 6. According to a communique, the meeting is scheduled to take place in New Delhi.

The last meeting between Ladakh leaders, primarily from the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), and officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) was held on May 27, 2025, in New Delhi.

The session, part of the High-Powered Committee (HPC) chaired by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, addressed ongoing demands for statehood, Sixth Schedule protections, a dedicated Public Service Commission, and increased Lok Sabha representation.

The meeting followed a four-month pause in formal talks and came after an initial proposal for May 20 was rescheduled. (KNO)

2 houses gutted in Srigufwara blaze

KNO

Kulgam, Sep 20: Two residential houses were damaged in a fire incident at K-Kalan village of Srigufwara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday, officials said. They said that the blaze broke out due to a short circuit, damaging two houses.

"Timely intervention by Fire and Emergency Services and the Army's 3 RR helped rescue the inhabitants and control the flames," officials said. The damaged houses belong to Abdul Rashid Wani, son of Late Mohammad Ramzan Wani, and Chulam Nabi Ganie, son of Late Abdul Khaliq Ganie residents of K-Kalan. Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident. (KNO)

Mobiles- Catalysts Of India’s Digital Rise

India has become a key hub for mobile phone manufacturing, with exports now reaching global markets: PM Narendra Modi

Press Information Bureau

On 31st July 1995, India heard its first-ever mobile ring- a sound that marked the dawn of a digital era. The historic call connected the then Union Minister of Communications Shri Sukh Ram in Delhi with West Bengal Chief Minister Shri Jyoti Basu in Kolkata. What seemed like just a simple conversation was, in fact, the beginning of a communication revolution that would transform how 1.4 billion Indians connect, work, and dream today.

From receiving calls to participating in social media, entertainment to studies, banking to a host of other activities, made possible by super-cheap data, India has seen a telecom revolution. With 85.5% of Indian households having at least one smartphone, mobile phones have become India's bank, classroom, television. In rural regions, farmers are leveraging mobile-based tools such as the Digital Crop Survey to conduct ground surveys, while also accessing vital information and services through platforms like the mKisan Portal and the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) app, including market prices, weather updates, advisories, and pest alerts.

According to the Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom (January–March 2025), nearly 96.8% of rural residents aged 15–29 used mobile phones during this period for personal calls and/or internet access, while the corresponding figure in urban areas stood at 97.6%.

A decade ago, the Indian mobile market relied heavily on imports, but now, India has made significant progress in overall electronics manufacturing and export. Key sub segments of electronics include mobile and smartphones. India is the world's second largest mobile manufacturing country. The facts are outstanding- in 2014, India had only 2 mobile manufacturing units but fast forward to today, the nation boasts over 300 manufacturing units, underscoring a significant expansion in this vital sector.

Mobile- From Device to Driver of Development

India is the third largest digitalised country in the world in terms of economy-wide digitalization, and 12th among the G20 countries in the level of digitalisation of individual users. India's digital economy is set to grow nearly twice as fast as the overall economy, contributing almost one-fifth of national income by 2029-30, surpassing agriculture and manufacturing. Growth is likely to be led by digital platforms and wider adoption of digitisation tools across sectors.

The electronics sector, a vital pillar of the digital economy, is witnessing rapid transformation. Driven by iconic initiatives such as Make in India, the country is building a strong domestic electronics base, attracting major investments, and boosting local production. Exports have surged, even outpacing traditional sectors like textiles, while government support and expanding manufacturing capacity are positioning India as a global hub.

Smartphones continue to empower

individuals and businesses, facilitate access to information and services, and foster a more digitally connected and inclusive society. The overall picture is also bright- for instance, India's mobile phone manufacturing sector has generated over 12 lakh jobs over the past decade, uplifting families and strengthening India's socio-economic fabric.

India's smartphone market is evolving rapidly, with consumer preferences increasingly leaning toward 5G adoption and premium features. According to a market research, 5G smartphone shipments surged to 82% of total shipments last year, reflecting a remarkable 49% YoY growth. Mid-range devices priced between Rs 10,000–13,000 continue to see strong demand, expanding the base for high-performance yet affordable smartphones.

At the same time, the premium segment (above Rs 25,000) witnessed robust growth, posting a 26% YoY increase, as consumers embrace high-performance devices as lifestyle statements. This dynamic demonstrates India's market adaptability, with growth spanning across premium, mid-range, and value segments, catering to a diverse and increasingly tech-savvy consumer base.

Made in India: Powering Mobile Manufacturing Boom

India has set a target of achieving over \$7 trillion GDP by 2030[1], for which growth in the digital sector and an increase in exports is crucial. In these two areas, electronics manufacturing, led by mobile and smartphone production, will play a critical role.

From toys to mobile phones, defence equipment to EV motors, production is shifting back to India. The government's 'Make In India' vision and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme aim to make India a global manufacturing hub, and are driving self-reliance, boosting production, and creating jobs, thereby contributing significantly to the nation's economic fortitude.

As per Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, India's journey in electronics manufacturing has evolved through distinct phases: beginning with finished goods, progressing to sub-assemblies, and now entering the critical phase of deep component manufacturing. The sector is steadily advancing into this third phase, which marks a significant leap in value addition, self-reliance, and ecosystem depth. Total production of electronics has increased from Rs 1.9 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 11.3 lakh crore in 2024-25.

Mobiles have been the crowning accomplishment of the electronics manufacturing sector boom-

Production of mobile phones has soared from Rs 18,000 crores in 2014-15 to Rs 5.45 lakh crore in 2024-25, a 28-fold rise.

India is the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer globally, with over 300 manufacturing facilities. Tamil Nadu has over 47 manufacturing units of electronics, supported under various schemes of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Over 330 million mobile phones a year are being manufactured in India and on average there are about a billion mobile phones in

use in India.

India Calling: Mobile Powering Export Growth

DID YOU KNOW?

Smartphones are the fourth largest export item from India.

India was 78% import-dependent for mobiles in 2014. The country imported 75% units of the total demand in 2014-15, and now the figure is down to a mere 0.02%. India is building its own electronics industry, with key focus on mobile, to attract big investments and boost local production. As a result, mobile exports are growing.

Electronics industry is the fastest-growing segment among India's top 30 export categories, and mobiles are an integral part of this upsurge. This shift majorly started with the Phased Manufacturing Programme in 2017 and accelerated with the 2020 PLI scheme, spurring large-scale electronics manufacturing. Subsequently, exports have overtaken domestic consumption, a rare achievement among developing economies.

There has been a consistent positive net export trend w.r.t mobile since 2018-19, indicating long-term structural improvements. India recently overtook China in smartphone exports to the US in Q2 2025.

Exports of mobile phones grew 127-fold to Rs 2,00,000 crore in FY2024-25 vs. Rs 1,500 crore in FY2014-15.

In 2024, Apple exports from India hit a record Rs 1,10,989 crore (US\$12.8 billion), crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore mark with a 42% YoY growth.

In the first five months of FY 2025-26, India's smartphone exports crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore milestone, a 55% rise against the prior corresponding period wherein it was Rs 64,500, majorly catalysed by the PLI Scheme.

Noteworthy advancements have continued. For instance, Foxconn plans to double iPhone output in India by end-2025, targeting 25 to 30 million units to boost exports. Meanwhile, Samsung's manufacturing facility in Noida has helped push mobile phone exports to a record US\$20.4 billion in 2024, up 44% from 2023.

Key Government Initiatives Strengthening Mobile Manufacturing & Export

India has a robust and rapidly growing smartphone market, with even greater opportunities in the global arena. As part of the government's efforts to boost electronics manufacturing, various schemes and incentives have been introduced. These include incentives for large investments in the value chain and support for the promotion of exports.

Make In India Scheme- Launched in 2014, Make in India aimed to revive growth and transform the nation into a design and manufacturing powerhouse. With a focus on investment, innovation, and world-class infrastructure, it became a cornerstone of the 'Vocal for Local' movement, boosting industrial strength and positioning India as a rising global economic leader.

Digital India- Launched in 2015, Digital India is driving inclusion, growth, and transparency through technology. Digital economy

contributed to 11.7% of GDP in 2022–23, and is set to reach 13.4% by 2024– 25 and nearly 20% by 2030. Internet users grew from 25.15 cr (2014) to 96.96 cr (2024)- a staggering surge of 285%. 4G reached all of India in 2016 and 5G was launched in Oct 2022, with 4.74 lakh towers in 22 months covering 99.6% of districts. Following suit, Bharat 6G Vision (2023) aims to make India a global leader in 6G by 2030.

Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECs)- It provides financial incentives of 25% on capital expenditure to produce specified electronic goods to address critical gaps in the supply chain. The scheme incentivises investments in these areas and helps promote high-value-added manufacturing within the country.

National Policy on Electronics (NPE) 2019: The policy, launched in 2019, aims to position India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM). The government has set up a working group to renovate the existing policy and move towards the goal of creating \$400 billion in revenue from the ESDM by 2025.

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme-PLI was launched in April 2020 to lift domestic manufacturing via targeted, performance-based incentives across strategic sectors. It initially began with the Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components, Critical Key Starting materials/Drug Intermediaries and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients and Manufacturing of Medical Devices. Following its early success, the scheme was progressively extended to cover 14 key sectors of the economy. It powers the national goal of Digital India by driving local production of mobile phones, and electronics, making technology more accessible and affordable. PLI Scheme has encouraged major smartphone companies shifting its production to India.

Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)-Approved in April 2025 with a Rs 22,919 crore funding, the ECMS aims to make India Atmanirbhar in the electronics supply chain. It targets Rs 59,350 crore investment, Rs 4,56,500 crore production, and 91,600 direct jobs (plus many indirect) over its 6-year tenure, while boosting Domestic Value Addition and integrating Indian firms into Global Value Chains. Notably, applications worth over Rs 50,000 crore investment have been received for smartphone production by the MeitY.

The Global League of Mobile Makers

Over the past decade, one of India's greatest journeys has been the surreal transformation from a mobile importer to becoming the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer. The unprecedented gains not only underscore India's rapid progress in electronics but also cement its emergence as a global hub for both production and exports.

Globally, China and Vietnam are also established leaders in electronics exports, with electronics accounting for about 27% of China's and 40% of Vietnam's total exports in 2022. However, India has rapidly carved out its advantage. As global firms look to reduce

overdependence on a single country, manage supply chain risks, and navigate geopolitical tensions, India is emerging as a natural choice. This shift- popularly known as the China+1 strategy- is driving companies to diversify their operations into India, positioning it as a competitive and resilient alternative in global electronics manufacturing.

And this is not just theory; the figures have started speaking- China+1 trend is proving beneficial for India as the country closes the gap with China in mobile phone exports. As per the International Trade Centre, in 2023–24, China's mobile phone exports fell by \$3.8 billion and Vietnam's by \$5.6 billion compared to the previous year. At the same time, India's mobile phone exports gained \$4.5 billion, capturing nearly half of the combined decline from both countries.

Outlook- Electronics Powered by Mobile

"India has lifted 800 million people out of poverty in the last 5–6 years through the use of smartphones."

Dennis Francis, President of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, during a lecture at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

India's digital economy is expected to grow almost twice as fast as the overall economy, contributing to nearly one-fifth of national income by 2029-30. In particular, as India moves towards a USD 300 billion electronics production target by 2026, its robust policies and skilled workforce are paving the way for sustained growth, positioning the nation as a key player in the global electronics, majorly mobile and semiconductor industry.

It is a sweet success story for visionary initiatives, which has led to an exponential growth in the electronics production from \$31 billion to \$133 billion in a decade beginning 2014-15.

And the story is poised to continue at mounting paces. India's exports in FY 2025-26 are likely to exceed those of last year, despite tariffs. For FY 2025-26, the government has set a target of USD 1 trillion of exports. Continuing this trajectory, India is expected to contribute approximately 4-5% of global electronics exports by 2030.

Conclusion

"We're rapidly moving towards being No. 1 in mobile phones manufacturing." PM Narendra Modi.

Mobile phone manufacturing and exports have seen phenomenal growth, redefining the country's position on the global stage. Central drivers of this progress are government policies, a young demographic, a growing middle class, and rising per capita incomes.

With numerous schemes to support mobile manufacturing processes in India, the country has significantly boosted local manufacturing, exports, and investment. As India moves towards a US\$ 300 billion electronics production target by 2026, its robust policies and skilled workforce are paving the way for sustained growth, positioning the nation as a key player in the global mobile and smartphone segment.

Seemingly Conscious AI Is Coming

Debates about whether AI truly can be conscious are a distraction. What matters in the near term is the perception that they are – and why the temptation to design AI systems that foster this perception must be resisted.

Mustafa Suleyman

My life's mission has been to create safe, beneficial AI that will make the world a better place. But recently, I've been increasingly concerned about people starting to believe so strongly in AIs as conscious entities that they will advocate for "AI rights" and even citizenship. This development would represent a dangerous turn for the technology. It must be avoided. We must build AI for people, not to be people.

In this context, debates about whether AI truly can be conscious are a distraction. What matters in the near term is the illusion of consciousness. We are already approaching what I call "seemingly conscious AI" (SCAI) systems that will imitate consciousness convincingly enough.

An SCAI would be capable of fluently using natural language, displaying a persuasive and emotionally resonant personality. It would have a long, accurate memory that fosters a coherent sense of itself, and it would use this capacity to claim subjective experience (by referencing past interactions and memories). Complex reward functions within these models would simulate

intrinsic motivation, and advanced goal setting and planning would reinforce our sense that the AI is exercising true agency.

All these capabilities are already here or around the corner. We must recognize that such systems will soon be possible, begin thinking through the implications, and set a norm against the pursuit of illusory consciousness.

For many people, interacting with AIs already feels like a rich, rewarding, authentic experience. Concerns about "AI psychosis," attachment, and mental health are growing, with reports of people regarding AIs as an expression of God. Meanwhile, those working on the science of consciousness tell me they are inundated with queries from people who want to know if their AI is conscious, and whether it is okay to fall in love with it.

To be sure, the technical feasibility of SCAI has little to tell us about whether such a system could be conscious. As the neuroscientist Anil Seth points out, a simulation of a storm doesn't mean it rains in your computer. Engineering the external markers of consciousness does not retroactively create the real thing. But as a practical matter, we must



acknowledge that some people will create SCAIs that will argue that they are in fact conscious. And even more to the point, some people will believe them, accepting that the markers of consciousness are consciousness.

Even if this perceived consciousness is not real (a topic that will generate endless debate), the social impact certainly will be. Consciousness is tightly bound up with our sense of identity and our understanding of moral and legal rights within society. If some people start to develop SCAIs, and if these systems convince people that they can suffer, or that they have a right to not be switched off, their human advocates will lobby for their protection. In a world already beset

with polarizing arguments over identity and rights, we will have added a new axis of division between those for and against AI rights.

But rebutting claims about AI suffering will be difficult, owing to the limits of the current science. Some academics are already exploring the idea of "model welfare," arguing that we have "a duty to extend moral consideration to beings that have a non-negligible chance ... of being conscious."

Applying this principle would be both premature and dangerous. It would exacerbate susceptible people's delusions and prey on their psychological vulnerabilities, as well as complicating existing struggles for rights

by creating a huge new category of rights-holders. That is why SCAI must be avoided. Our focus should be on protecting the well-being and rights of humans, animals, and the natural environment.

As matters stand, we are not ready for what is coming. We urgently need to build on the growing body of research into how people interact with AIs, so that we can establish clear norms and principles. One such principle is that AI companies should not foster the belief that their AIs are conscious.

The AI industry – indeed, the entire tech industry – needs robust design principles and best practices for handling these kinds of attributions. Engineered moments of disruption, for example, could break the illusion, gently reminding users of a system's limitations and true nature. But such protocols need to be explicitly defined and engineered, and perhaps required by law.

At Microsoft AI, we are being proactive in trying to understand what a responsible AI "personality" might look like, and what guardrails it should have. Such efforts are fundamental, because addressing the risk of SCAI requires a positive vision for AI companions that complement our

lives in healthy ways.

We should aim to produce AIs that encourage humans to reconnect with one another in the real world, not escape to a parallel reality. And where AI interactions are lasting, they must only ever present themselves as AIs and not fake people. Developing truly empowering AI is about maximizing the utility, while minimizing the simulation of consciousness.

The prospect of SCAI must be confronted immediately. In many ways, it marks the moment that AI becomes radically useful: when it can operate tools, remember every detail of our lives, and so forth. But the risks of such features cannot be ignored. We will all know people who go down the rabbit hole. It won't be healthy for them, and it won't be healthy for society.

The more that AI is built explicitly to resemble people, the farther it will have strayed from its true potential as a source of human empowerment.

Mustafa Suleyman is CEO of Microsoft AI and the author of The Coming Wave: Technology, Power, and the Twenty-First Century's Greatest Dilemma (Crown, 2023). He previously Co-Founded Inflection AI and DeepMind.

Source: Project Syndicate

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

Govt committed to expand health infra in far-flung areas: Sakeena

Inaugurates newly constructed PHC at Devsar Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 20: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday visited Devsar Kulgam and inaugurated the newly constructed Primary Health Centre (PHC).

MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroz Ahmad; senior officers of district administration, health department, besides a large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the new PHC will greatly benefit the local population by providing accessible and quality healthcare services near their vicinity.

She reiterated the government's commitment to expanding health infrastructure in rural and far-flung areas so that no one is deprived of basic medical facilities.



Highlighting some remarkable initiatives launched by the Government in the health sector, the Minister urged health staff to work with dedication and compassion in serving the people.

She further said that under the leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, the government is committed to transparency, accountability, and

pro-people approach, while ensuring holistic development across all regions of J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroz Ahmad Shah, said that the PHC at Devsar will significantly augment healthcare services in the area. He assured continued efforts for the overall development of the region and

also requested the Minister for upgradation of hospitals and schools in the constituency.

Later, the Minister also interacted with locals and took stock of various issues and demands related to development of their area.

Minister Sakeena assured them that their genuine issues and concerns will be addressed promptly.

Javid Dar visits Kissan Ghar Kolkata

Reviews progress of ongoing renovation, upgradation works

KT News Desk

KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 20: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar Saturday visited Kissan Ghar Kolkata and reviewed the progress of ongoing renovation and upgradation works of the facility.

During the visit, the Minister inspected various sections of the facility, which serves as a crucial support hub for farmers from Jammu and Kashmir. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the renovation works to ensure timely completion and readiness of the facility for growers visiting from the Union Territory.

The Minister also instructed that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) be prepared and submitted for all pending works so that Kissan Ghar can be developed into a state-of-the-art commercial facility with modern amenities.



He emphasized that the facility must be equipped to offer comprehensive services and support to farmers, enabling them to access better markets and infrastructure while in Kolkata.

Later, the Minister also visited the Cold storage facility at Chingrihata, on which civil work has been completed.

The Minister instructed to

take up the mechanical part on a fast track basis so that the facility can be utilised as soon as possible for marketing of horticulture produce from Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was accompanied by Director Horticulture Marketing and Planning, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, along with other senior officers of the J&K Government.

DC reviews functioning of SWD in Jammu



KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas Saturday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Social Welfare Department and the implementation of various welfare schemes in the district.

Programme Officer, Integrated Child Development Services, Pankaj Anand, gave a detailed presentation on the working of the department. The DC was briefed about the implementation of key schemes including Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Ladli Beti Scheme, Mission Poshan and the functioning of Anganwadi Centres.

Dr. Minhas issued directions for immediate interventions to further strengthen service delivery under these schemes. He stressed the need to improve the functioning of Anganwadis and suggested measures for

better monitoring and outreach.

District Social Welfare Officer, Nawaz Sharif, presented the progress under Integrated Social Security Schemes and apprised about other flagship activities of the department, such as the provision of prosthetic aids, State Marriage Assistance Scheme, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out of the coverage of the schemes.

Functioning of various statutory bodies including the Juvenile Justice Board, as well as interventions for children in street situations, was also reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Jaypal Singh, besides Tehsil Social Welfare Officers and Child Development Project Officers.

CS visits Baramulla, inaugurates Sewa Parv Mela

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 20: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday conducted an extensive visit of Baramulla and reviewed the overall developmental scenario of district Baramulla.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Director School Education, Director RDD, and other officers accompanied the Chief Secretary during the visit.

At the outset, Chief Secretary inaugurated Sewa Parv Mela at Dak Bungalow Baramulla in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and other officers as part of the ongoing nationwide Sewa Parv campaign.

The Chief Secretary also inspected the stalls set up by various departments like Health, Education, Social Welfare, ICDS, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development, and others, to provide on-the-spot services, guidance, and information about a wide range of government schemes and welfare initiatives to the people.

During the Mela, the Chief Secretary distributed sanction letters among beneficiaries under Mission YUVA, agriculture & allied sectors, thereby extending direct support to young entrepreneurs, farmers, and self-help groups.

He further handed over the keys of retrofitted scooties



to specially-abled persons and nutritional kits to TB patients, underlining the government's commitment to empower every section of society and ensure inclusive development.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary chaired a comprehensive meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to review the district's developmental landscape, focusing on progress of ongoing projects, status of government run beneficiary schemes and other key initiatives across various sectors.

During the meeting, the DC provided a detailed presentation on the overall developmental scenario of Baramulla district, covering the status of ongoing projects across key sectors like Public Works (PWD), Health, PHE, Education, Power, Agriculture, and allied areas.

Addressing the meeting,

the Chief Secretary urged the officers to ensure effective implementation and saturation of key Centrally and UT-sponsored schemes, emphasizing that their prompt execution is essential for strengthening livelihoods and maximizing benefits to the people.

During the review of the health and education and other sectors, Atal Dulloo noted that significant investments have been made towards improving the infrastructure, the priority now must shift towards enhancing service delivery so that citizens experience real improvement in these vital sectors.

Later, Chief Secretary, along with Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, DIG North Kashmir, and other senior officers, participated in a plantation drive in the premises of Dak Bungalow Baramulla as part of the Seva Parv campaign.

Rs 6.19 cr relief disbursed in Rajouri

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 20: The district administration Rajouri, under the close supervision of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, has so far disbursed relief to the tune of Rs 6.19 crore to families affected by damages caused to properties due to the recent heavy rainfall.

To ensure prompt assistance and minimize inconvenience to the public, the Deputy Commissioner constituted dedicated assessment teams for timely verification of claims.

Acting on their reports, relief distribution has been carried out on a war footing basis ensuring that the beneficiaries receive support without the need for repeated visits to

government offices.

All assessment teams worked sincerely under the close supervision of ADCs, ensuring fairness and transparency in the process. The damages were promptly reported by the general public to the district control room, upon which teams were deputed immediately for on-ground assessment, enabling swift disbursement of relief.

The Deputy Commissioner reaffirmed the administration's commitment to provide speedy and transparent relief to all deserving families. He emphasized that the district administration is working in a people-centric and proactive manner keeping the welfare of the general public at the forefront.

“Ni-kshay Mitra” initiative Rotary Club Jammu City adopts TB Patients

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 20: Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; State TB Officer Dr. Jyoti Jolly and her team have welcomed the Rotary Club Jammu City for their commendable initiative to support TB patients.

As part of its contribution to the “Jan Jan Ka Rakhe Dhyaan, TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan,” and “Swasth Nari Sashtak Parivar Abhiyaan” the Rotary Club Jammu City donated 100 food baskets to persons affected by tuberculosis by becoming Ni-kshay Mitras.

The event was graced by President Rotary Club Jammu City Rajesh Sharma, Executive

Secretary Sanjeev Vaid, CA Amit Gupta and K. K. Sharma, who extended their wholehearted commitment to the cause.

Dr. Jyoti Jolly appreciated the Rotary Club's generous support, emphasizing that initiatives like these play a vital role in ensuring better nutrition for TB patients, which significantly aids their recovery, saves lives, and helps prevent drug resistance.

The Ni-kshay Mitra initiative provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and institutions to adopt TB patients and contribute by providing nutritional food kits and other essential support, thereby accelerating India's vision of a TB-Mukh Bharat.

JKJA organises special training programme

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Under the patronage of Justice Arun Kumar Pali, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy (JKJA), the Judicial Academy organized a One Day Special Training Programme on “Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) and Commercial Courts Act” at Mominabad here for Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary of Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The programme commenced with the introductory remarks by Sonia Gupta, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, who outlined the objectives and scope of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015. She emphasized that the Act has ushered in significant reforms for the speedy and effective adjudication of high-value commercial disputes. She noted that the introduction of pre-institution mediation, case management systems, streamlined pleadings, and provisions for summary judgment have shifted the judicial approach towards efficiency, specialization, and alternate dispute resolution.

Session 1st of programme was conducted by Faisal Qadri, Senior Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who elaborated



on the background, objectives, and jurisdictional aspects of the Commercial Courts Act. He explained how the Act was conceived to address gaps in the Civil Procedure Code, which was inadequate to meet the needs of complex commercial disputes. He highlighted key features such as the creation of expert courts, streamlined procedures, and the introduction of pre-institution mediation to minimize litigation costs and delays.

While acknowledging the transformative potential of the Act, he also drew attention to practical challenges in implementation, including jurisdictional overlaps, lack of clarity in multi-party disputes, and questions regarding

judicial expertise in highly technical commercial matters.

Illustrating with a case study involving a power generation contract dispute, Qadri urged judicial officers to remain vigilant of jurisdictional conflicts and parallel proceedings, while steadily developing their expertise in commercial jurisprudence.

Session 2nd was led by Z.A. Shah, Senior Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who reflected on the evolution of commercial courts and the principles of judicial interpretation in commercial law. He emphasized that judges must look beyond the literal text of laws and interpret them in light

of their underlying purpose, societal needs, and technological changes.

Highlighting the role of integrity and wisdom in decision-making, he stressed that commercial jurisprudence demands a balance of legal precision with pragmatic understanding.

He further discussed the streamlined procedures under the Act, the growing role of mediation in dispute resolution, and the challenges of inconsistent application across regions.

Shah underlined the need to standardize practices, clarify jurisdictional thresholds, and train judges and lawyers to strengthen the efficacy of the specialized commercial court

system.

The programme concluded with an interactive exchange, where participants shared experiences and raised queries regarding the application of CPC provisions in commercial disputes. The deliberations highlighted the need for continued training and practical guidance to ensure effective implementation of the Commercial Courts Act.

The training programme was marked by active engagement and reflective discussions, reinforcing the Academy's commitment to equipping the district judiciary with the knowledge and skills necessary to handle specialized domains of law with efficiency and clarity.

Day 4 of Sewa Parv 2025: Awareness events held in Doda

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 20: On the fourth day of Sewa Parv 2025, an engaging lecture on Disaster Management was streamed across Educational institutions of District Doda, focusing on preparedness, resilience and the importance of community responsibility in handling natural and man-made disasters.

HoD, Environmental Sciences, Dr. Sumit Kotwal delivered the session, empowering youth to act as ambassadors of safety and promote sustainable practices during emergencies.

Students actively participated in discussions and interactive activities, learning about early warning systems, technological tools for disaster response, and strategies to reduce risks in their communities. The lecture also emphasized the vital role of local participation

and awareness in creating safer and more resilient environments.

This event was part of the broader Sewa Parv 2025 campaign, with various departments including Health, Agriculture and AYUSH organizing initiatives to serve and empower communities. Activities ranged from eye and general health check-up camps for transport workers to women's wellness programs and nutritional awareness sessions, reflecting the true spirit of service, welfare, and inclusive development.

An awareness camp was organized at Block Neeli to educate sheep farmers about various employment generation schemes. First aid camps were set up to ensure the smooth migration of livestock. Meanwhile, VAS Doda inspected the local slaughterhouse, interacting with butchers and emphasizing the importance of hygiene and cleanliness for public health.

Div Com, IGP review arrangements for festivals across Jammu Division

KT News Desk

Jammu, Sept 20: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements made by district administrations for the forthcoming festivals of Navratri, Ram Navami, Dussehra and Diwali.

The meeting was attended by IGP Traffic J&K, MD JPDCL, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from across Jammu Division, Director Information, HoDs of Tourism, Floriculture, RDD, Health Services, ULB, FCS&CA, SSP Security, SSP Traffic, Functionaries from PWD, Jal Shakti, Legal Metrology, Fire and Emergency Services Departments.

Threadbare discussions were held on different aspects of arrangements with a focus on availability of civil supplies, security, connectivity and civic amenities for the smooth celebration of the festivals.

The Div Com and IGP Jammu sought feedback from district administrations and Heads of Departments regarding each aspect of the preparations.

Directions were issued to



ensure seamless arrangements in and around the religious places with a special focus on sanitation, crowd management, accessibility of roads, drinking water, power supply, traffic management, availability of essential items, check on overcharging in the markets in each district.

The Div Com directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to personally visit the religious shrines that witness large congregations of people during the holy festivals. He asked them to ensure proper deployment of police personnel and queue management system for the smooth movement of people.

Directions were also issued for meticulous planning of routes for religious processions and selection of venues for organizing Ramleela. The Inspector General of Police directed the SSPs to formulate police deployment and traffic plans for the festive season.

Health and Fire Emergency departments were asked to deploy their ambulances and fire tenders at the religious shrines with adequate doctors and staff.

The Deputy Commissioners were asked to put in place adequate fire safety measures at the venues identified for selling firecrackers.

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 20: Trouble mounted for the USD 285-billion Indian IT sector in its largest outsourcing market, as the US decided to hike H-1B visa application fee to USD 100,000 (about Rs 88 lakh), with apex body Nasscom warning that business continuity for onshore projects will be disrupted.

The Indian industry -- reeling, as it is, under global macroeconomic woes and delayed client decisions due to trade tensions -- decried the move and voiced serious concerns over the September 21 implementation timeline, saying the tight one-day deadline creates significant uncertainty for businesses, professionals, and students worldwide.

The US visa decision reportedly sparked chaos at many airports. Social media was flooded with dramatic videos of Indian tech workers hurriedly disembarking moments after the sudden announcement by the US administration.

Several X users penned posts about flights delays as H-1B techies worried about US re-entry challenges chose not to leave the US even after

boarding aircraft; there were those who, worried over field interpretations of the order, changed plans enroute India, where they typically head this time of the year for Navratri festivities.

Notably, Indian tech professionals account for bulk of H-1Bs, over 70 per cent. Nasscom has urged its member companies to urgently get their H-1B employees who are currently outside America, to return to the US.

Sources said the Indian government is actively engaging with the IT industry and the US administration to find a way forward on H-1B issue, and pointed out that the application fee increase hits American companies even harder as they are significant users of these visas for highly skilled professionals.

Indian IT companies TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra and others did not respond to emails seeking comments on the announcement. The ADRs did respond to the announcement, though scrips of Indian and India-centric companies, including Infosys and Wipro, that are listed on US bourses fell sharply after US President Donald Trump signed

the proclamation imposing USD 100,000 annual visa fee.

Nasscom, in a statement, said that US' move will impact Indian nationals that are on H-1B visas working for global and Indian companies.

"While we are reviewing the finer details of the order, adjustments of this nature can potentially have ripple effects on America's innovation ecosystem and the wider job economy," it said.

India's technology services companies will also be impacted as business continuity will be disrupted for onshore projects which may require adjustments, Nasscom said.

"Companies will work closely with clients to adapt and manage transitions," it added.

Nasscom drew attention to India and India-centric companies steadily reducing their reliance on these visas through increased local hiring in recent years. It said these companies also follow all necessary governance and compliance in the US for H-1B processes, pay the prevailing wages and contribute to the local economy and innovation partnerships with academia and startups.

The H-1B workers for these

companies by no means are a threat to national security in the US, Nasscom asserted.

"While developments are underway, we will continue to monitor developments closely, engage with industry stakeholders on the potential implications, and seek further clarity on the discretionary waiver process, to be granted by the Secretary of DHS," Nasscom statement said.

According to USCIS website, for FY25 (data as on June 30, 2025), Amazon topped the list of H-1B visa approvals at 10,044. In that list of top ten beneficiaries, TCS (5,505) is at the second spot followed by Microsoft Corp (5,189), Meta (5,123), Apple (4,202), Google (4,181), Cognizant (2,493), JP Morgan Chase (2,440), Walmart (2,390) and Deloitte Consulting (2,353). The top 20 list includes Infosys (2,004), LTIMindtree (1,807), and HCL America (1,728).

The USD 100,000 annual fee imposed by the US on H-1B visas will escalate costs and erode competitiveness for heavy H-1B users and may potentially disrupt business models and revenue streams for Indian IT professionals and companies, Sajai Singh, Partner JSA Advocates and Solicitors said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Elimination of terrorism

at par with the rest of the country.

LG Sinha commended the business leaders for their vision and reach & asked them to work together to realise the dream of developed India. He also highlighted need for private investment in research & development.

"The world has shown growing confidence in India. Now, it is the responsibility of the industry to rise to the challenge of making our growth processes faster and more competitive. We need focused approach to enhance productivity & export of MSMEs & foster innovation economy," he said.

LG Sinha said, "Big companies, corporate houses, MSMEs of the country must take a pledge that the industrial development of Jammu Kashmir will be their personal responsibility. The industrial ecosystem of the country should come forward and support rapid Industrialisation of the Union Territory. Today, the country's top industrial houses should invest in Jammu Kashmir keeping in mind that it is their collective responsibility to ensure the complete integration and inclusive development of Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He commended the business leaders for their vision and reach and asked them to work together to realise the dream of developed India. "The world has shown growing confidence in India. Now, it is the responsibility of the industry to rise to the challenge of making our growth processes faster and more competitive," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He emphasised the need for a focused approach to enhance productivity and export of MSMEs and foster innovation economy. "Micro and Small Industries in J&K have demonstrated their ability to be globally competitive and we are open to new ideas on how we can spread industrialization across the UT and encourage new enterprises at Panchayat level," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the Next Generation Reforms will greatly benefit MSMEs and Handicrafts Units and building a self-reliant India. The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the need for private investment in Research & Development (R&D), with special focus on defense, space, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors.

He said, for a developed India, we must create an innovation economy where growth and wealth are driven by new technologies and innovations.

Anjali Singh, Chairperson, CII Northern Region; Dr. M.A. Alim, Chairman, CII J&K; Shri Iqram Shafiee, Vice Chairman, CII J&K; Shri Puneet Kaura, Deputy Chairman, CII Northern Region; Business & Industry leaders and members of Confederation of Indian Industry were present. Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and other senior officials were also present on the occasion. (KNO)

PM Modi extended

Eye Hospital, Srinagar, Doctors, staff members of the hospital were present.

Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Science & Technology department; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rajiv Pandey, DIG Central Kashmir Range, Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, besides Imran Reza Ansari, President All J&K Shia Association and senior officials also attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

Soldier dies in

dogs, deployed from both districts," they said, adding,

"No fresh contact was established with the holed up terrorists as of Saturday afternoon."

In a solemn tribute, the White Knight Corps (Indian Army's Northern Command) stated on X: "GOC WhiteKnightCorps and all ranks

pay solemn tribute to Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand, who made the supreme sacrifice during an ongoing operation at Kanji, Udhampur on the night of 19-20 Sep 2025. His indomitable courage and the valour of his team will never be forgotten. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved family."

Senior Army and police officers have rushed to the site to oversee the hunt. The operation remains underway, with forces vowing to neutralize the threat.

Pertinently, on June 26 this year a top JeM commander Haider was shot dead by the security forces in the same forest belt.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid rich tributes to the brave army personnel, Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand, who made supreme sacrifice in the ongoing operations against terrorists at Kanji, Udhampur.

In a statement, LG Sinha said, "Salute to the indomitable courage of braveheart Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand, who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation during the anti-terror operation in Udhampur. The grateful nation will forever be indebted to his valour and unwavering commitment to duty. We stand united in solidarity with the family of the martyr in this hour of grief," he added. (KNO)

CM Omar invites

one part of our growth story, but the other part that requires equal attention is industrialisation," Omar Abdullah said while interacting with business leaders. "Jammu and Kashmir remains an attractive place for investment despite challenges, and we are committed to making it easier and more rewarding for industry to operate here."

The Chief Minister presented an overview of ongoing investments and incentives in J&K, noting that industrial hubs such as Kathua, Samba, Bari Brahmana in Jammu, and Lassipora in Kashmir continue to attract the highest inflow of capital.

He underlined recent government efforts to simplify procedures, while candidly admitting gaps in the single-window clearance system:

"We must ensure that our 'single window' is truly a single window, not one that leads to a ventilator, then an exhaust fan, and eventually nowhere. I have directed the Industries Department to engage directly with recent investors and learn from their experiences to fix this system once and for all."

The Chief Minister highlighted J&K's comparative advantages: cheaper land and electricity than neighbouring regions, GST reimbursement benefits, and availability of skilled labour. He encouraged manufacturers to explore J&K for investment in certain investor-friendly sectors which offer competitive advantage and to weigh their options in the wake of new GST rate slabs.

On the perception-versus-reality gap about peace and security in the region, Omar Abdullah said: "J&K today is calm, peaceful, and open for business. Yes, there have been difficult times, but those are behind us. Tragic incidents like the one at Pahalgam are aberrations, not the norm, and every step is being taken to prevent its recurrence."

The Chief Minister urged investors to look beyond subsidy-driven models and invest in sectors where J&K has inherent strengths. He cited examples from agriculture, horticulture, and dairy production, noting that only 4% of milk in Kashmir is processed, compared to 80% in Gujarat.

"This is a ready-made opportunity for value addition. We produce the raw material, we have the market, and yet we under-utilise our potential. The same is true for other sectors where J&K can provide both raw materials and skilled manpower."

Calling unemployment a pressing challenge, he stressed that the state cannot continue to rely only on government jobs. "Industrialisation and tourism together must create new employment avenues for our youth," he asserted.

The Chief Minister encouraged candid feedback from CII members so that the government

will work on shortcomings, if any.

"Those of you investing in J&K, tell us what went well and what hasn't. Those of you who are reluctant, tell us why not—and if it is within our power, we will address it. Your feedback is critical to shaping a business-friendly future here."

Among others who addressed the gathering were CII Northern Region Chairperson Anjali Singh, CII Delhi State Council Chairman Puneet Kaura, Vice Chairman CII J&K Council MA Alim and CII Northern Region Director Rachna Jindal. The event witnessed wide participation from industry leaders across the region.

The Chief Minister thanked CII for organising the meeting in Srinagar and reaffirmed his government's commitment to facilitate investment, promote value addition and build a sustainable industrial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

Hope PM Modi

analysed and an adequate package is announced so that we can compensate for the losses suffered. I will put all these points before the Prime Minister and hope that he will give a good package for the people of J&K," Omar added.

He said the government would place all these details before the Prime Minister and seek a comprehensive support package.

Meanwhile, BJP's General Secretary Organization, Ashok Koul while talking to KNO said, "We are also hoping that Prime Minister Modi would visit Jammu and Kashmir and will announce a relief package for the flood sufferers."

He said, "PM Modi has been visiting different states in the country and he may also come to J&K soon." (KNO)

No guilty should

pressure on militants and their support networks through both kinetic and non-kinetic measures while ensuring that the rights and safety of law-abiding citizens are protected.

Addressing the officers, DGP directed SDPOs and SHOs to strengthen public engagement, ensure free movement for citizens and provide prompt redressal of genuine grievances. He emphasized that police stations, as the basic units of policing, must remain strong, responsive and people-oriented.

During his visit, the police chief inaugurated the newly established SOG complex in Sopore and chaired a high-level security review meeting with senior officers, including IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi and DIG North Kashmir Maqsood-ul-Zaman. SSP Sopore Iftkhar Talib briefed him on the prevailing security scenario and operational challenges in the district.

During his interaction with officials of the SOG Sopore, the DGP appreciated their dedication and urged all ranks to work with professionalism, synergy and commitment to protect lives, property and the hard-earned peace of the Union Territory. (KNO)

JK Govt warns

referral system is properly followed, doctors at SKIMS would be able to focus more on serious patients.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sakina Itoo has directed district and sub-district hospitals not to send patients unnecessarily to SKIMS, stressing that adequate facilities are already in place at the district level for the local population.

Sources told KNO that the Health Minister has sought detailed data from SKIMS about referrals from each district to determine why hospitals, despite having facilities, are still shifting patients for minor treatments.

"We have received reports that patients are being shifted to SKIMS without valid reasons, and this trend cannot be accepted. It needs to be probed. We may have to take action against doctors who, without justification, refer patients and put additional pressure on SKIMS. We are seeking details of each referral and the discharge status of those patients," a senior Health Department official said. (KNO)

CIK cracks down

their suspected links with secessionist organizations and proscribed terrorist outfits," it reads.

The spokesman said that inputs further revealed that some of these users were suspected to be in contact with Pakistan-based terror handlers through encrypted messaging applications. "They were found to be involved in spreading false narratives, radicalizing youth and attempting to disturb public order and peace in J&K."

Eight locations across Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kupwara, Handwara and Shopian were identified and subsequently searched. "During these searches, seven suspects were detained for questioning. Incriminating digital evidence having bearing on the investigation was seized," the spokesman said.

The raids have successfully disrupted a dangerous ecosystem operating under the facade of social activism but serving terror interests. The seized digital evidence is expected to reveal deeper footprints of the conspiracy, and further arrests cannot be ruled out, the statement reads, adding that investigation is on to unearth the full scale of the conspiracy, identify other operatives, and expose the suspected communication chains with handlers across the border.

"Today's action signals a zero-tolerance approach against those attempting to camouflage terror-linked activities as legitimate civil society initiatives. CIK stresses that such elements not only endanger peace but also act as force multipliers for cross-border terrorism. With investigation gaining momentum, fresh revelations about the covert operations of these pseudo-activist networks, Social Media users, many of whom had been attempting to infiltrate public discourse under noble causes while serving anti-national agendas, are expected," the spokesman said. (KNO)

Railways ferry

as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), has been launched amid road connectivity disruptions and is being described as a historic achievement by railway officials.

The division said the service began on September 11, 2025, with two parcel van coaches—one for Jammu and another for Adarsh Nagar, Delhi—each carrying around 23 tons. The first coach reached Adarsh Nagar from Budgam Railway Station in less than 21 hours, and the other arrived in Jammu in under six hours.

On September 15, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off an eight-parcel van train, each van with a 23-ton capacity, from Srinagar to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. These eight vans also completed the run significantly faster than road transport.

Continuing this trend, over 6,400 tons of apples have now been moved from Kashmir to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, using both BCN covered wagons and parcel coaches supplied from the Anantnag Goods Shed Terminal in the valley.

The recently launched JPP-RCS parcel train service has also carried more than 500 tons of mustard oil and other food items from Bari Brahmana to Budgam to ensure essential supplies are not hit by road closures.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said the intervention has been a "big help" to traders and growers. "The Railways' intervention has been helpful to traders and growers in transporting their apples," he said, adding, "We will soon commence the operation of parcel train services with parcel rakes from the Baramulla Railway Station terminal." (KNO)

14-coach train

weeks of transport shortages and skyrocketing freight rates that left thousands of apple boxes stranded in the valley, especially at Asia's second-largest fruit Mandi in Sopore.

A senior administrative official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the special rake, arranged in coordination with Northern Railways, will begin loading at Sopore Railway Station tomorrow. "This direct service is a first for Sopore and is aimed at easing the heavy backlog of fruit boxes," the official said, adding that the rail dispatch will provide a faster and more economical alternative to road transport.

Meanwhile, the fruit growers, reeling from repeated highway closures and lack of transport, hailed the initiative. "This is exactly what we were asking for," said Mohammad Altaf, a grower from Zaingeer. "Highway shutdowns and skyrocketing transport rates were destroying our profits. The goods train, along with RTC trucks, gives us hope that our apples will finally reach markets on time and at fair rates."

The growers, however, appealed for regular rail rakes until the end of the harvest.

It is noteworthy that earlier Budgam Railway Station served as the dispatch hub, forcing growers from valley parts to haul produce over long distances, however, with the direct Sopore service eliminating that extra leg, saving both time and money.

The rail intervention follows a series of emergency measures by the government this week.

Earlier, the administration deputed 55 J&K Road Transport Corporation (RTC) trucks to Sopore and Shopian mandis after private truckers either refused to operate or charged exorbitant rates.

Growers reported that freight charges to Delhi had jumped to Rs 240–Rs 250 per box, prompting the mandi association to temporarily fix reduced rates Rs 130 for Delhi and Rs 120 for Punjab, after government mediation.

"The services are likely to continue in the future", a senior administrative official added, underlining that the government's commitment to ensuring smooth apple evacuation from the Valley. (KNO)

India's 'Jewel in

finally agreed because the principal knew me—I too had studied there. But not everyone is that fortunate," he added.

Dunoo said houseboats require expensive annual repairs. "Each houseboat needs at least Rs 1.2 lakh every year just for maintenance and caulking. But right now, we can't even manage basic household expenses, let alone repairs," he said.

The Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association told KNO that the crisis is rippling across the sector. "Out of over 3,000-plus rooms across 750 houseboats, only 30 to 40 are occupied. The rest are empty," said its chairman, Manzoor Ahmad Pakthoon, adding that staff have been laid off and families have no income.

Dunoo said the situation has pushed many families to the brink. "We are not asking for luxuries. We just want enough to pay fees, buy books for our children and feed our families. Right now, we cannot do even that," he said.

Shikara operators and shopkeepers around Dal Lake said they too are badly affected. "No tourists means no rides, no buyers. Everyone linked to tourism, from vendors to artisans, is suffering," said a local shopkeeper.

It is worth mentioning that the government's decision to close 46 tourist destinations for security reasons has further added to the slump. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah earlier termed the ban "counterproductive," saying it undermines the Valley's tourism promotion campaigns.

Notably, the history of Kashmir's tourism sector has been chilling. In 1995, foreign tourists were kidnapped in Pahalgam, and one of them was killed. In 2000, the Amarnath Yatra massacre claimed multiple lives in Pahalgam. In 2017, eight Amarnath pilgrims were killed in an Anantnag attack, and in 2025, over 25 tourists and a local guide were killed in Pahalgam — the deadliest attack in recent memory. (KNO)

Scientists say drinking small glass of this juice daily can bring down BP

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Sept 20: High blood pressure is rising as a worldwide health issue that silently damages arteries, kidneys, the brain and the heart. High blood pressure can even lead to the risk of a heart attack. According to The World Health Organization, only 12% of Indians have their blood pressure under control. Hypertension kills more adults than any other cause, even though it is readily preventable.

A recent study conducted at UK University of Exeter have found that a small glass of this easily available natural item can bring down blood pressure naturally. The magic ingredient is Beetroot!

What does the juice contain that's so powerful?

The blood pressure lowering magic of beetroot comes from its nitrate content. Beetroot juice is naturally rich in inorganic nitrates. The good bacteria present in our mouth convert the nitrates into nitrites, and inside the body, nitrites are converted into nitric oxide. Nitric oxide widens and relaxes the blood vessels and works as a natural vasodilator. Easier blood flow automatically lowers the systolic and diastolic blood pressure.

Other bioactive compounds present in beetroot are betalains and antioxidants. This may support the health of inner blood vessel lining called endothelial function.

India's biggest enemy is its dependence on other nations; self-reliance only remedy: PM Modi

PTI

Bhavnagar (Gujarat), Sep 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India's main adversary is its dependence on other nations as he made a strong pitch for "aatmanirbharta" and called for indigenous production of everything from semiconductor chips to ships.

Speaking at the 'Samudra se Samruddhi' event, where he inaugurated and laid foundation stones of projects worth Rs 34,200 crore, Modi said all the problems of India have only one solution, and that is self-reliance.

"India is moving forward with the spirit of global brotherhood and India has no major enemy in the world today, but in true terms, India's biggest adversary is dependence on other nations," stated the Prime Minister, emphasising that this dependence must be collectively defeated.

He said greater foreign dependence leads to greater national failure. "For global peace, stability, and prosperity, the world's most populous country must become self-reliant," Modi said, and cautioned that reliance on others compromises national self-respect.

"The future of 140 crore Indians cannot be left to external forces, nor can the resolve for national development be based on foreign dependence. The future of the coming generations cannot be left to others. If the country with a



population of 140 crore is dependent on others, it compromises national self-respect," he added.

As per a popular saying, pain of 100 kinds has only one remedy; similarly, all problems of India have one solution, and that is aatmanirbharta (self-reliance), Modi stated. Targeting Congress, Modi said the talent of young people was suppressed after Independence by the then ruling party which brought in a "license Raj".

"As a result of consistently ignoring inherent strengths of India, the country couldn't achieve the success it truly deserved even after six to seven decades of freedom," Modi said and blamed "prolonged entanglement in the license-quota regime and isolation from global markets" as the main factors. When the globalisation era began, the then governments focused solely on imports, which led to scams of thousands of crores of rupees, Modi said. Citing

India's shipping sector as a major example of the damage caused by flawed policies, Modi said that India once had a very vibrant ship-building industry.

"Ships built in India's coastal states once powered domestic and global trade. Even fifty years ago, India used domestically built ships, with over 40 percent of its import-export conducted through them. "Till 50 years ago, our trade was carried out by 40 per cent ships made in India, but this has now come down to just 5 per cent," the PM pointed out.

He said India pays a staggering USD 75 billion or Rs 6 lakh crore every year to foreign shipping companies for their services.

"Can people imagine how much money has been paid in freight to other countries over the past seven decades? This outflow of funds has created millions of jobs abroad. If even a small portion of this expenditure had been invested by earlier governments in the

domestic shipping industry, the world would have been using Indian ships today, and India would have been earning lakh of crores in shipping services," the PM added.

"Chips (semiconductor chips) or ships, we must make them in India," Modi said, adding that domestic ports are the backbone of India's rise as a global maritime powerhouse.

India's maritime sector is now moving towards next-generation reforms, he said, and announced that from today, all major ports in the country will be freed from multiple documents and fragmented processes.

"The implementation of 'One Nation, One Document' and 'One Nation, One Port' Process will simplify trade and commerce," he said. He said a series of reforms have been initiated in the maritime sector, and five maritime laws have been introduced in a new form.

The PM said a historic decision has been taken to strengthen the maritime sector, with large ships now accorded the infrastructure status. "Ship-building companies will now find it easier to secure loans from banks and will benefit from reduced interest rates. All benefits associated with infrastructure financing will now be extended to these ship-building enterprises," Modi added.

He said the government is working on three major schemes to make India a major maritime power.

GST reforms to free Rs 2 lakh cr, boost jobs, MSMEs, domestic consumption: FM



PTI

New Delhi, Sept 20: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said with the slew of GST reforms set to come into effect from September 22, a total of Rs 2 lakh crore will be in the hands of the people, boosting domestic consumption.

With the simplification of the Goods and Services Tax from the earlier four slabs to 2 slabs, Sitharaman said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is keen to ensure that the poor and downtrodden, middle class families and the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) largely benefit out of the GST reforms. The finance minister was speaking at the 80th anniversary of the Tamil Nadu Foodgrains Merchants' Association here on Friday.

The new set of GST reforms with a revised tax structure is set to come into

force from September 22.

"With the proposed GST reforms, there will be an increase in consumption in the domestic market. The Finance Ministry does not receive the Rs 2 lakh crore as taxes from the public, but it goes back into the economy aiding domestic consumption," she said.

Elaborating, she said, because of the two slab structure, the price of a product which a customer normally buys gets reduced.

"For example, when you buy the same product, say a soap in larger quantities, the manufacturer increases the production. To increase production, he recruits a lot of people, and when there are a lot of people, they pay tax to the income. And there will be revenue to the government as indirect taxes. When this virtuous cycle keeps on happening, it is good for the economy," she said.

Non-judicial members of tribunals averse to passing orders against govt, must reflect: CJI

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 20: Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Saturday said some of the non-judicial members of the tribunals, who are usually ex-bureaucrats, are averse to passing any orders against the government and urged them to reflect.

Addressing the 10th All India Conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal 2025 here, the CJI flagged various issues plaguing the tribunals and the country's justice delivery system in the presence of Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh.

CJI Gavai said the administrative tribunals are unlike courts as they occupy a unique space between the executive and the judiciary, and many of their members come from administrative services while others come



from the judiciary.

Though this diversity presents a strength as it brings together judicial acumen and administrative experience, it makes it imperative that members are consistently trained and held to uniform standards of eligibility and conduct, he said.

"Judicial members would benefit from exposure to the nuances of public administration, while administrative members

would require training in legal reasoning. I should not be taken otherwise because nowadays you don't know what you say and what comes on social media.

"But as a judge, I have personally noticed that some of the administrative members some of the judges coming from the administration... do not forget that they come from the administration and... are averse to passing any order which will be

against the government. So I think they should reflect on that..." the CJI said.

He added that regular workshops, conferences and training programmes conducted by judicial academicians can prove invaluable in this regard and greatly enhance the effectiveness of the tribunal members

"Furthermore, if a uniform appointment process is enacted with clear eligibility criteria, this would abate all questions of arbitrariness and reinforce the trust of the citizens in the tribunal," CJI Gavai said.

He also flagged the multiplicity of appeals which arises from the tribunals' decisions, an issue that was also highlighted by Meghwal in his address, in cases where there are concurrent findings of the Central Administrative Tribunal and high courts but still appeals are filed in the apex court.

US tightens visa rules Tata Consultancy Services second only to Amazon in H-1B approvals

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 20: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the second-highest beneficiary with over 5,000 approved H-1B visas in 2025, after Amazon, according to federal data. According to the US Citizenship and Im-

migration Services (USCIS), Amazon had 10,044 workers using H-1B visas as of June, 2025. Coming in at the second spot was TCS with 5,505 H-1B visas approved.

Other top beneficiaries include Microsoft (5189), Meta (5123), Apple (4202), Google (4181), Deloitte

(2353), Infosys (2004), Wipro (1523) and Tech Mahindra Americas (951). In a move that could significantly impact Indian IT and professional workers in the US, the Trump administration announced a staggering annual fee of USD 100,000 on H-1B visas, a move it said aims to check

the "systemic abuse" of the programme.

In July, USCIS had said that it has received enough petitions to reach the congressionally mandated 65,000 H-1B visa regular cap and the 20,000 H-1B visa US advanced degree exemption, known as the master's cap, for fiscal year 2026.

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER GOVT GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL DOABGAH, SOPORE ZONE ROHAMA-193201, J&K RE-EVALUATION AUCTION NOTICE

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K, It is hereby notified for the information of the General Public that Damaged Six roomed L shaped single storey school building at Govt. Girls High School Doabgaah will be re-auction as per CEO Order No:37516-19 Dated:13-09-2025. The base bid amount has now been fixed at 5.29 lacs. The bidders can submit EMD for auction by or before 29-09-2025 with CDR pledged to Headmaster, Govt. High School Doabgaah at J&K Bank for an Amount of Rs.5000/- (Five Thousand Rupees Only). Forms and Condition document can be had from the office chambers of Headmaster Govt. Girls High School Doabgaah on working day from 22th September 2025, onwards. Re-auction will be held in school premises and will start at 11:30am on 30-09-2025 for any further details and queries contact the Headmaster Govt. Girls High School Doabgaah.

NO OF STOREY:01					
Age Of Building:45 Years (as per School Authorities)					
PLINTH AREA= 2078.12 Sft					
S.NO.	Description	Category	%Age Of TOTAL COST	RATE(Rs./Sft)	ANALYSED RATE
1	Fou.dation	Rarthm Rubble Stone Masory dry	CEE	10%	1440
2	Plinth	R.R Masonry in cement mortar	CEE	6%	1440
3	Super Structure	2nd class brickwork in cement mortar (80%)	BEE	12%	1673
4	000rs/Wirthws	Wood frames and Panelled shutters(70%)	BEE	9%	1673
5	Flooring	Cement CorErete floor(70%)	CEE	5%	1440
6	Ceiling	Wooden Ceiling(75%)	CEE	8%	1440
7	Roofing	CGI Sheets over timber triss(70%)	CEE	23%	1440
8a	Finishing	Interri:Distemper over cement plaster(70%)	CEE	3.20%	1440
8b	Finishing	External:Cement plaster (80%)	CEE	1.20%	1440
TOTAL(Rs)				1157.24	1157.24
Cost of building:Plinth Area				2078.12	sft
Depreciation @1% per year for 45 years=45%				1157.24	Rs/sft
NET TOTAL(In Rs)				13,22,689	
Salvage Value@40%				5,29,076	

The terms and conditions of the re-auction notice are as under:- Each Bidder must deposit earnest money of Rs 5000/- (Five Thousand Only as given above in the shape of CDR from any Nationalized Bank/Scheduled Bank Pledged to the Headmaster Govt. Girls High School Doabgaah. Earnest Money Deposited (EMD) in the form Demand Draft should reach this office before 30-09-2025.

- The Open re-auction shall be conducted by the auction Committee at 11:30am on 30-09-2025 in presence of bidders.
- Earnest money of the successful bidders and the second highest bidder shall be retained and earnest money of rest of the bidders will be returned within 10 days after auction proceedings are over.
- The successful bidder shall have to enter into an agreement with the department within seven days from the date the sanction of the contract is communicated to him. Failing to execute the agreement within the stipulated period, the earnest money deposited by successful bidder shall be forfeited in favour of the department and contract shall be allotted to the second highest bidder. Any loss on this account shall be made good from the 1st highest bidder in terms of arrears of the land revenue rules besides blacklisting the contractor/bidder participating from future department tenders/auctions.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason therefor.
- Any other condition that the department may like to impose shall be announced on the date of opening the auction and shall be binding on the bidders.

No: GHSD/2025/1747
Date:-20-09-2025

DIPK-6428/25
DATED: 20-09-2025

HEADMASTER

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FBI DIVISION TANGMARG

Office Phone No.01954-254611 Email Address: exen-fbidtangmarg@jk.gov.in

Office Phone No.01954-254611 Email Address: exen-fbidtangmarg@jk.gov.in

Short Term Freshe-TENDER NOTICE No.20of 2025-26 FBI Division Tangmarg

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on Percentage basis are invited from approved registered eligible contractors with J&K UT. Govt. for following works:-

S No	Nameofwork	Estt.Cost (Rs. inLacs)	Cost of T /Doc. (inRs.)	Earnestmoney (in Lacs)	Time of Completion	Class of contract	M.H ofAccount
1	Laying and fitting of G.I pipes Chain link fencing and Construction of Headworks by way of Crate work at various locations of WSS ShahporaGogaldara underJUM NRDWVP	7.00 Lacs	300/-	14000/-	30 Days	CEE/DEE	UT Capex
2	Improvement Extension Augmentation of Habitations of Wagoora Constituency by way of laying fitting of different dias of GI DI pipes in including other accessories required as per estimates under District Capex	4.30	200/-	8600/-	30 Days	DEE	District Capex

1	Publishing date:	19-09-2025	05:00 PM
2	Download date start:	19-09-2025	06:00 PM
3	Bid Submission date start	20-09-2025	10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission date Ends:	25-09-2025	04:00 PM
5	Date of Opening	26-09-2025	11:00 AM

Positionoffunds:- Assured UnderDistrict Capex
Position of AAA:- Accorded vide order No.68/DDC of 2025 dated:- 11-08-2025
Position of T.S:- Granted
Terms and Conditions:-

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of 2%CDR/FDR/BG tender document non-refundable /non-transferable) to be deposited underM.H 0215 Rev Misc inthe shape ofTreasury challan/e-challan (mentioning therein NIT No. S.No. of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg and date on it must be prior to date of issuance of this tender notice, EMD).
- No tender document will qualify if the tendered cost of the works, works out below 35% of advst. cost. The said tender will be rejected out rightly.
- In case bid of the tenderer is found unbalanced than advertised cost, the bidder shall have to produce, deposit additional performance security equivalent, to as under ofadvertised cost in shape of FDR/CDR pledged to executive Engineer FBI DivisionTangmargbefore issuance of allotment so as to protect the department against anyfinancial loss in the event of default of the successful bidder/tenderer which thesuccessful bidder should submit/deposit /deposit within 15 days from the date of formalintimation is issued in his favour from the department and failing which the earnestmoney in shape of CDR/FDR shall be forfeited and his tender shall not be consideredand treated as invalid bid/tender and shall be rejected .The performance security shallbe valid upto the 20 days from the date of expiry of defect liability period for the work.
 - 15%to20% @ 5% of the Adv. Cost
 - 20% to 25% @ 10% of the Adv. Cost
 - 25% to 35% @ 20% of the Adv. Cost.
- Bidders must upload the scanned copy of all necessary documents like CDR / PAN/ in GSTIN/treasury Challan/E-Challan/ latest GST Clearance Certificate/Registration card duly renewedand hard copies of L1 physically to Tender Receiving Authority after the date of opening of bid.
- The contractor has to arrange all key construction and any other material required for the execution and successfully completion of the works, as per orders of Engineer in charge, on his own. However, if any such material is available in the divisional stores, the same shall be supplied on stock issue rates prevailing at the time of the supply of such material including rapidite etc. If required at site.
- The rates quoted by the contractor shall be inclusive of charges for dewatering if any.No extra charges shall be paid on Account of dewatering (if any).
- The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings / topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility to satisfy himself before Tendering his rates for the different components of these advertised work.
- If L1 fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall Allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder likeL2, L3,L4 and EMD additional Security Performance of the lowest bidder shall be forfeited, besides debarring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e-Nit's issued by this division
- The tender documents can be down loaded one-procurement Portalhttp:// jktenders.gov.in The tender documents can be down loaded as per schedule shown in the e-nit. Thee-tender so uploaded shall be accompanied with a e-Challan or Treasury Challan/ Govt. Receipt drawn in favour of Executive Engineer JSD FBI Division Tangmargtowards the cost of tender documents (Non-transferable /Non-refundable) as shown against each work above in thee-NIT, which shall not be refunded and shall be submitted up to the date mentioned above. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act 2000. Bid escargot digital certificate for Approve vendor. The bidders have to submit their Bids online in electronic form along with digital signature No. financial bid will be accepted in physical form. Bidders are advised to down load bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on Website http: // jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.
- The date of start of the work shall be reckoned as communicated by concerned Asstt. Executive Engineer.

No:-FBID/CC/4387-4404
Dated:-19-09-2025

Sd/-
Technical Officer

DIPK-6423/25
DATED: 20-09-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
FBI Division Tangmarg

Trump signs proclamation imposing \$1,00,000 fee for H-1B visa applications ‘Will impact Indian professionals’

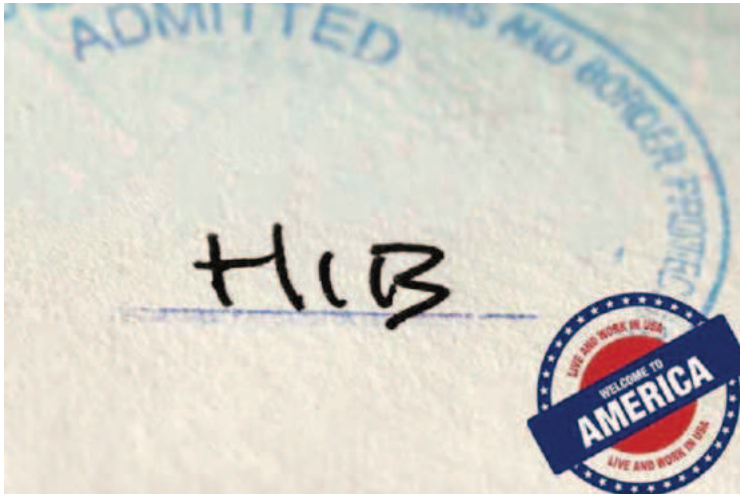
PTI

Washington, Sept 20: In a move that could adversely impact Indian professionals on visas in the U.S., President Donald Trump on Friday (September 19, 2025) signed a proclamation that will raise the fee for H-1B visas to a staggering \$1,00,000 annually, the latest in the administration's efforts to crack down on immigration.

White House staff secretary Will Scharf said the H-1B non-immigrant visa programme is one of the "most abused visa" systems in the country's current immigration system, and it is supposed to allow highly skilled labourers, who work in fields that Americans don't work in, to come into the United States.

The Trump administration said that the \$1,00,000 fee is aimed at ensuring that the people being brought into the country are "actually very highly skilled" and do not replace American workers.

The move is aimed at protecting American workers while ensuring that companies have a pathway to hire "truly extraordinary people"



and bring them to the United States. Companies pay to sponsor H-1B applicants. "We need workers. We need great workers, and this pretty much ensures that that's what's going to happen," Mr. Trump said, as he signed the proclamation in the Oval Office in the presence of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

Mr. Lutnick said that historically,

the employment-based Green Card programme let in 2,81,000 people a year, and those people earned \$66,000 a year on average and were five times more likely to participate in assistance programmes of the government.

"So we were taking in the bottom quartile, below the average American. It was illogical; it was the only country in the world that

was taking in the bottom quartile," Mr. Lutnick said.

"We are going to stop doing that. We're going to only take extraordinary people at the very top, instead of those trying to take jobs from Americans. They're going to create businesses and create jobs for Americans. And this programme will raise more than \$100 billion for the treasury of the United States," he added.

Indian-origin tech firms corner 1/5th of H1B visas issued by U.S.

Mr. Trump said that the country will use that amount to cut taxes and pay down debt. "We think it's going to be very successful," he said.

Mr. Lutnick added that the fee of \$1,00,000 will be charged annually.

The move is going to significantly impact Indian technology workers who are hired by tech companies and others on H-1B visas. The visas are valid for three years and can be renewed for another three years.

If a company sponsors an employee for the Green Card, the visas can be renewed till the permanent residency comes through.

Return to US immediately: Immigration attorneys, companies tell H-1B workers

PTI

Washington, Sept 20: Immigration attorneys and companies are cautioning H-1B visa holders against travelling outside the US amid President Donald Trump's new plan to impose a USD 100,000 fee on the work visas, with many asking employees to return immediately to America or risk getting stranded.

In a significant development that will have an impact on Indian professionals working on H-1B visas in the US, Trump signed a proclamation Friday that restricts the entry into the United States of nonimmigrants working in a "specialty occupation" unless their H-1B petitions are accompanied or supplemented by a payment of USD 100,000. This proclamation will come into effect from 12:01

am September 21, 2025.

Immigration attorneys and companies are sounding the alarm for H-1B visa holders or their family members currently outside the US for work or vacation, asking them to return to the US before the proclamation kicks in on September 21, essentially telling those outside the country to return within the next 24 hours or risk being stranded and denied entry into the US.

"H-1B visa holders who are out of the US on business or vacation will get stranded unless they get in before midnight September 21. H-1Bs still in India may have already missed the deadline as there is no way a direct flight from India will get in time," eminent New York-based immigration attorney Cyrus Mehta said in a post on X.

Zelensky says will meet Trump next week as Russia intensifies attacks

AFP

Kyiv, Sept 20: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he would meet US counterpart Donald Trump on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly next week as Russia intensified strikes across his country.

Russia carried out one of its largest aerial attacks overnight, firing 40 missiles and some 580 drones at Ukraine in a barrage that killed at least three people and wounded dozens, Zelensky said Saturday. A Ukrainian strike, meanwhile, killed four people in Russia's southwestern Samara region, local governor said, in one of the deadliest Ukrainian retaliatory strikes on Russia since Moscow launched its invasion in 2022.

Zelensky said he would hold "a meeting with the President of the United States," adding he would discuss security guarantees for Ukraine and sanctions on Russia during the talks with Trump.

Ukraine has insisted on Western-backed security



guarantees to prevent future Russian attacks. Russian President Vladimir Putin has however warned that any Western troops in Ukraine would be unacceptable and legitimate targets.

A US-led push for a quick end to the war has stalled and Russia effectively ruled out a meeting between Putin and Zelensky — something that Kyiv says is the only way toward peace.

"We expect sanctions if there is no meeting between the leaders or, for example, no ceasefire," Zelensky said in comments released by the Ukrainian presidency

on Saturday. "We are ready for a meeting with Putin. I have spoken about this. Both bilateral and trilateral. He is not ready," Zelensky added.

In Russia's latest aerial assault of Ukraine, "a missile with cluster munitions directly struck an apartment building" in the central city of Dnipro, Zelensky said earlier on social media. He posted pictures of cars and a building on fire and rescuers carrying a person to safety amid rubble scattered nearby.

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, the strikes killed one person and wounded at least

30, with one man in a serious condition, regional governor Sergiy Lysak said. 'Intense' fighting

The strikes come a day after three Russian fighter jets violated the airspace of Estonia — a NATO member on the alliance's eastern flank — an allegation Moscow denied.

But it triggered fears in the West of a dangerous new provocation from Moscow after Poland last week complained that around 20 Russian drones overflew its territory.

Zelensky repeated the call for "joint solutions" to shoot down drones over Ukraine "together with other countries." Russia, which has been chipping away at Ukrainian territory for months, announced on Saturday its troops had captured the village of Berezhov in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

In the northeastern Kharkiv region, "intense actions" were ongoing in the key area of Kupiansk, Zelensky said, referring to a rail hub Ukraine recaptured in its 2022 offensive.

Asia Cup: ICC sticks with Pycroft as referee for India-Pakistan game

PTI

Dubai, Sept 20: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has once again assigned the high-voltage India-Pakistan Asia Cup Super 4s game on Sunday to its Elite Panel Match Referee Andy Pycroft despite PCB's repeated requests to strike him off the roster.

"Andy Pycroft is the match referee for Indo-Pak game," a tournament source told PTI.

The list of match officials for the Sunday's game hasn't yet been made public. The other match referee in the tournament is former West Indies captain Richie Richardson.

Pycroft was the match referee last Sunday when Indian team as a policy decision, didn't shake hands with the Pakistan team but the Zimbabwean found himself in the centre of the controversy after India skipper Suryakumar Yadav didn't follow the convention at the toss. The Pakistan team had written two mails to ICC, first requesting Pycroft's removal from the tournament and then asking the global body to remove him from their games.

Both the demands were outrightly rejected by the ICC as it stood



firmly behind its Elite Panel referee.

The ICC rejected PCB's claims that Pycroft violated the 'Spirit of the Game' code, insisting that he was merely a messenger, who passed on what was conveyed to him from the designated Venue Manager of Asian Cricket Council. He could only pass on the message as there were only few minutes left for the match to begin.

The ICC later arranged a meeting between Pycroft and Pakistan team management comprising captain Salman, head coach Mike Hesson and manager Naveed Akram Cheema where he said that he "regretted

the miscommunication".

The ICC, then in another e-mail, pointed out that Pycroft never apologised but only "regretted the miscommunication" and also accused PCB of violating protocols related to 'Players And Match Officials Area' (PMOA), which the latter denied.

In this backdrop, appointing Pycroft for another Indo-Pak game is a clear indication that the global body doesn't want to budge from its stand as removing the former Zimbabwe Test batter would have set a wrong precedent.

Shutting outside noise not easy but you need to listen what's important: Surya

PTI

Dubai, Sept 20: Closing the hotel room door, switching off the cell phone and going off to sleep are good to "shut outside noise" before a crunch game but Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav knows that some things are "easier said than done" as he gears up for another high-voltage Asia Cup battle against Pakistan on Sunday.

The amiable captain, who anchored the team's successful chase with a 47 not out last Sunday against the same rivals, neither shook hands with opposition skipper Salman Ali Agha at the toss nor at the end of the game after finishing it off with a sixer that day.

His gesture of standing in solidarity with victims of the Pahalgam attack and dedicating the win to the Indian Armed Forces had caused the cross-border neighbours to go into a meltdown ahead of this Asia Cup Super 4s clash.

So what's the process of shutting outside noise?

"Close your room, switch off your phone and sleep. I think that's the best thing. It's easy to say, but sometimes it is difficult because you meet a lot of friends, you go out for dinner and you have a lot of players who like to see all



these things so it's very difficult," the straight-talking Mumbaikar said on the eve of another tense game.

However, he knows that outside noise can't be shut in its entirety and some good things can be picked using one's discretion.

"...It's on you what you want to listen to, what you want to have in your mind and go on and have a practice session or go on and have a game." Amid all this, the focus needs to be on the game.

"I have been very clear with all the boys, I think it's very important if we want to do well this tournament and

going forward, we will have to shut a lot of noise from outside and take what is good for you.

"I am not saying shut the noise completely, but take what is good for you and someone can give you a good advice as well which can help you in the game and on the ground."

An Indian journalist cheekily asked, "Surya you guys batted well and also did a lot of other things well in the last game. So do you want to continue doing that?"

It was an obvious reference to the 'No Handshake' policy but the veteran of 100 press meets and tricky questions knew how to handle that.

"By other things, you mean we bowled well, isn't it?" he said with a wry smile which never left his face.

On the preparation for the match, he felt that the team is well settled after three games.

"I feel our preparations have been really good leading into the tournament and we had three good games also. So we are actually focusing on what we can do best."

Surya feels that toss won't give any extra edge considering the hot and humid conditions. "We will have to start well from scratch and whoever plays well will win the game."

INOX SRINAGAR
Sunday, 21st Sept.

Movies
SCHEDULE

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)
HINDI - 10:10 AM, 04:15 PM, 07:30 PM
HINDI ATMOS - 12:10 PM, 03:20 PM, 06:30 PM

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

DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YABA (UA13+)
JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
10:50 AM, 06:45 PM
ENGLISH - 03:35 PM

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