



SCAN TO VISIT  
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## Real estate boosting PM Modi's Viksit Bharat vision: LG Sinha

- Property prices rise 14–15% annually
- Real estate second largest employer after agriculture
- PM housing schemes to attract Rs 10 lakh crore investments
- Rs 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund to transform cities

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the real estate sector is emerging as one of the major contributors towards realising the vision of Viksit Bharat. Addressing the Governing



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Council Meeting of All India Forum of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (AIFORERA) here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The rapid growth of the real estate sector is driven by the aspirations of the common man. It must move forward with equitable development and urban transformation at its core and ensure

fairness and transparency for those who dream of owning a home."

Welcoming the participants, LG Sinha said, "There has been growth in the luxury housing segment. Property prices have increased, with annual growth around 14–15%, and further increases are possible."

He said, "Under PM housing schemes, new homes are being

approved. This sector is expected to attract investments of around 10 lakh crore and could reach \$1.04 trillion by 2040."

He said, "After agriculture, real estate has become the second largest employment provider. There are challenges, as buyers have had to wait years for possession. Many developers merge projects, and those who wanted homes sometimes did not even get a roof."

He said, "Earlier, India did not have mechanisms to handle these issues. Today, the entire country is realizing the dream of homeownership, and people are showing patience under PM Modi's guidance."

"Now all relevant information is in the public domain. Real estate development should benefit workers and their families, providing for their health and education," he said.

LG Sinha said, "Rs 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund will be a game changer in the transformation of our cities and developing them as | [More on P6](#)

## CM announces 5-marla land to flood-hit homeless families

### Seeks central assistance to aid recovery efforts

KT News Desk

Billawar (Kathua), Sept 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday announced that the government has decided to provide five marlas of land each to all flood-affected families who have been rendered homeless and have suffered both on account of their houses destroyed and left without land due to landslides and flashfloods which has taken away their everything so that they are able to construct their dwelling units on the allotted land.

The Chief Minister made this announcement while interacting with residents of Duggain, Billawar, whose houses and livelihoods were severely impacted by the recent flooding. Earlier, he conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in the district, accompanied by MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh.

Assuring people of all possible assistance, Omar Abdullah



directed the administration to ensure timely relief and rehabilitation measures. "The year 2025 has brought immense devastation to Jammu and Kashmir—from the dry spell in March-April to incessant rains, flash floods, and landslides in August-September," he said. "From Kathua to Kupwara, the damage has been unprecedented."

The Chief Minister highlighted the scale of destruction, noting that torrential rains have damaged over 350 bridges, around 2,000 km of road network, thousands of hectares of agricultural land, besides washing away standing crops

and inflicting damages on both government and private buildings. "Given the enormity of restoration challenges, Jammu and Kashmir is looking forward to a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation package from the Central Government," he added.

Emphasizing the importance of first-hand assessment, Omar Abdullah said his visit to the remote and isolated areas of Kathua was aimed at understanding the ground realities. He also undertook an aerial survey of damages in Hiranagar and Lakhampur, the entry point of Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the Chief Minister convened a meeting | [More on P6](#)

### J&K Rajya Sabha polls

## Omar says no NC discussions yet on candidates, hints seat-sharing with allies

### Party high command to take final call: Karra

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sept 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that there have been no discussions within the National Conference regarding the party's candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls scheduled for October 24.

Speaking to reporters in Reasi, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Omar said that no deliberations have taken place so far within the party regarding the Rajya Sabha nominations. "You can make any news, you can put anyone's name. The

party will decide on it. As far as I know, there has been no discussion on who we will nominate," Omar said, responding to queries about whether NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and former minister Sajad Kichloo were being considered as candidates.

Omar also hinted at the possibility of allocating a seat to their ally, the Congress, stating that the party will decide how many seats it will contest and how many it will allow others to contest. "There are four seats. How many seats we will contest and how many we will allow others to contest will be decided by us," he said.

Sources told news agency—KNO that NC president Dr. Farooq | [More on P6](#)

## Utilise Centre's support, realise your dreams: LG Sinha urges J&K youth

'PM Modi transforming India into innovation driven society'

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sept 25: Urging youth of Jammu and Kashmir to take advantage of the support provided by the Government of India and realize their dreams of becoming future innovators, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is transforming India into a society driven by innovation.

Speaking at the launch of ATL Sarthi at University of Kashmir here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "India is a global leader in Artificial Intelligence. Our country is providing AI-driven solutions for various sectors and expanding its reach to design and development."



He said, "The University serves as a nodal institution for the ATL Sarthi initiative, collaborating with NITI Aayog to establish robust monitoring mechanisms and strong institutional linkages with Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools

across J&K." The Lieutenant Governor said that ATL Sarthi initiative will focus on providing mentorship, capacity building for ATL teachers, and guiding students in transforming ideas into commercial prototypes. | [More on P6](#)

## Indian banks must change scale, aim for global top 10: Amit Shah

PTI

Mumbai, Sept 25: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Indian banks should not merely plan for growth, but change their scale and aspire to be among the world's top ten.

"I want to tell our Indian banks that they should not only plan for growth, but try to change the scale. Our banks should be in the top ten," Shah said, speaking at the Financial Express India's Best Bank Awards function here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of making India a 'vishwaguru' by 2047, he said. "The Constitution speaks of three types of inclusiveness, which are political, social and financial inclusion, and these are guiding India's



growth story," Shah added. Supporting the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is critical to the country's economic growth, the senior BJP minister said, reminding that behemoths like Reliance Industries, Adani Group and Torrent Group were also MSMEs at some point. "If a | [More on P6](#)

## Invest in India's food processing sector: PM Modi to global companies

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday invited global companies to invest in India's food processing sector as the country's triple strength of crop diversity, demand, and scale make it an attractive destination.

The government has given a big push for the food processing sector in the last ten years, with supportive initiatives like production-linked schemes and mega food parks, resulting in a 20 times increase in capacity and doubling of exports, he said.

Addressing the fourth



edition of World Food India here, Modi also urged the industry to invest in

environment-friendly biodegradable packaging for processed foods.

"Bharat ne khule man se apne desh ke darwaze, duniya ke liye khol rakhe hain. Hum food chain se jude har investors ke liye open hain. Hum collaboration ke liye khule dil se taiyar hain. (We have kept our doors open for the world. We are open to investors engaged in the food chain. We are ready for collaboration)," Modi said.

The Prime Minister invited global food companies to make the "maximum investments" in India.

There are huge opportunities in India's food processing sector, and the global companies should take advantage of this, he said. | [More on P6](#)

## Dr Jitendra visits Lal Chowk, urges shopkeepers to promote local products



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

### Says traders happy over PM Modi's GST decision

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 25: Union

Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday visited the Lal Chowk market here and urged the shopkeepers to promote indigenous local products, calling it vital for boosting Jammu & Kashmir's economy and | [More on P6](#)

## Restrictions in Ladakh, day passes off peacefully

LG Gupta calls for heightened vigilance

Edu instts to remain closed for two days

Cong councillor booked, other leaders to face action

Sajid Raina

Ladakh, Sept 25: With no untoward incident reported on Thursday, restrictions imposed by the district administration remained in place for the second consecutive day in violence-hit Ladakh.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)



strict restrictions banning assembly of five or more persons remained in place in Leh and other major towns, including Kargil to maintain law and order. "The situation is under control. No untoward incident was

reported on Thursday, and strict restrictions remain in place," an official said, adding, "Around 50 people involved in the protest, which later turned violent, have been detained. The bodies of the deceased | [More on P6](#)

## Centre scraps foreign funding license of Wangchuk's NGO

'Accepted donation for study on country's sovereignty'

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 25: The Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday cancelled the foreign funding license of the Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), a Non-Governmental Organisation owned by activist Sonam Wangchuk.

The action comes 24 hours after violent protests in the Leh city over statehood and 6th Schedule demand led by

Sonam Wangchuk.

According to an MHA order, a copy of which lies with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), SECMOL was granted registration under FCRA to accept foreign contributions for cultural and educational programs.

It stated that the ministry had issued a Show Cause Notice (SCN) on August 20 this year through speed post followed by mail on September 9 to show cause as to why the NGO's FCRA registration should not be cancelled.

In one of the findings, the ministry noted that the association in its reply admitted that the donor | [More on P6](#)

## Don't take law into your hands: J&K CM to Leh residents

Yogesh

Reasi, Sept 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday appealed to the people of Leh to maintain peace and refrain from taking the law into their own hands.

Speaking to reporters in Reasi, Omar, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in Leh. "I urge the people of Ladakh to uphold peace and brotherhood. Do not resort to violence or take the law into your own hands," he said.

The CM further said that the demand for Union Territory status was raised by the people themselves and encouraged them

to progress in their pursuits.

Meanwhile, Omar interacted with residents of Duggain, Billawar, whose homes and livelihoods have been severely affected by recent flooding. He assured them that the government will provide all necessary support and assistance to those impacted.

Earlier, the Chief Minister conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas in the district, accompanied by MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh. Following this, he held a meeting with district officials, including Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner, and senior civil and police | [More on P6](#)



# CS reviews budget utilization

## Stresses on capital expenditure, revenue realization



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the performance of departments with regard to utilization of the annual budget and revenue realization in J&K. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D. Vaidya; Administrative Secretaries of all departments; Director General, Resources; Director General, Accounts & Treasuries; Director General, Budget, besides other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the proportion of revenue and capital expenditure made by each department till date. He emphasized the need for departments to enhance capital expenditure while rationalizing and curtailng avoidable revenue expenditure in order to strengthen the fiscal health of the UT.

The Chief Secretary underscored that capital expenditure not only supports infrastructure creation but also contributes directly to long-term economic growth and livelihood opportunities.

He urged departments to maintain strict adherence to timelines for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), noting that these schemes are designed to build durable assets and improve public services. He particularly stressed the smooth implementation of flagship programmes such as Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, PMGSY, NAB-ARD and other key initiatives.

With regard to the newly rolled out SASCI initiative, the Chief Secretary directed departments to expedite the process of Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction for all new works. He further advised that at least 75% of each ongoing work under this scheme should be completed by December this year, while also calling for the expeditious clearance of the remaining 100 mother sanctions to enable timely execution of projects envisaged under Gol's SASCI initiative giving 50-year interest-free loans for completion of capital expenditure projects in a specific timeframe.

He also reviewed the performance of departments in mobilizing tax and non-tax revenues. He directed the Power Development Department (PDD) to improve billing efficiency and asked the State Taxes Department to plug leakages in GST collection. He stressed on leveraging technology to detect tax evasion and take stringent measures against defaulters to ensure full realization of revenues.

In his presentation, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, provided a detailed account of the expenditure status. He informed that out of the Budget Estimates (BE) of Rs 79,703 Cr in Revenue Expenditure, an amount of Rs 52,085 Cr has been released, with Rs 33,247 Cr spent till date. On the capital side, against a BE of Rs 18,451 Cr, Rs 7,435 Cr has been released to departments, while the expenditure booked so far stands at Rs757 Cr.

# Rana calls on Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil

## Seeks central assistance in post-flood restoration in J&K

KT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25: Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana Thursday called on Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Chandrakant Raghunath Patil, in New Delhi to apprise him of critical issues currently confronting Jammu and Kashmir.

Javed Rana informed the Union Minister about the extensive damage to water supply and irrigation infrastructure caused by recent flash floods in the J&K and the urgent need for sustained financial support to complete ongoing schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

During the meeting, Javed Rana conveyed the gravity of the situation following the unprecedented flash floods that hit various parts of Jammu & Kashmir during August and September 2025. He informed the Minister that the floods severely disrupted public life, damaged essential infrastructure, and caused large-scale destruction to the water supply, irrigation and flood protection systems.

The Minister highlighted that the damage has deeply impacted access to safe drinking water and irrigation across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, creating immediate challenges for public health, agriculture and the overall well-being of rural communities.

The Jal Shakti Minister informed the Union Minister that the J&K Jal Shakti Department has taken swift emergency measures to restore basic services in the affected areas.

Javed Rana requested a special financial package from the Ministry of Jal Shakti to support full-scale restoration and to invest in long-term resilience-building measures. He emphasized that such support is not only critical for restoring normalcy but also for building infrastructure that can better withstand the growing impacts of climate change and extreme



weather events in the region.

In addition to the flood-related concerns, the Minister also raised the issue of the critical funding gap under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide safe drinking water to every rural household in Jammu & Kashmir. He informed that while a large number of schemes have made substantial progress, including many nearing completion, the shortfall in Central assistance and delay in fund releases have posed serious constraints on meeting the ambitious timeline of full saturation by March 2025.

The Minister pointed out that despite the J&K's consistent progress and efficient implementation of JJM schemes, including the successful completion of a significant number of projects.

Rana underscored the need for immediate release of additional funds to meet outstanding payments and to maintain the pace of execution. He urged the Union

Minister to personally intervene and facilitate the timely release of central funds and sanction of additional financial support, so that the JJM implementation in J&K does not suffer avoidable delays. Expressing his appreciation for the support received, Javed Rana thanked C.R. Patil for his patient hearing, assurances and positive response to the issues raised.

He reiterated the Jammu & Kashmir Government's firm commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to the goal of "Har Ghar Jal" and to building robust, climate-resilient water infrastructure that ensures the right to safe drinking water for every citizen.

The Union Minister assured Javed Rana of full cooperation from the Government of India and acknowledged the need for urgent and sustained intervention to support the people of Jammu & Kashmir in this time of crisis.

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### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are Invited from reputed suppliers/authorized dealers for the supply of Chemicals and Specimens for the Science Laboratory of Government Higher Secondary School Ramnagri, shopian for the academic session 2025-26 A detailed list of items/specifications can be obtained from the school office during working hours on all working days.

The tenders, duly sealed and signed should reach the office of the undersigned within the 05 days of prescribed time. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Principal  
Government Higher Secondary School Ramnagri,  
Shopian  
Contact No: 8082786700

No: HSSR/ESTT/25/399

DT: 24/09/2025

DIPK-6537/25

DATED: 25-09-2025

# GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/ZamZam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar  
(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Subject: - Provisional Selection List for the posts of Foreman, UT Cadre, advertised vide Ad-vertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020, under Item No. 80.

### NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Transport Department, vide Indent No. TR-9/SMG/2015 dated: 29.09.2020 followed by TR-09/SMG/2015 dated: 03.12.2020 forwarded the requisition for making direct recruitment to the 03 posts of Foreman, Level-6D (35800-113200) as per the following break up:

Cadre	ItemNo.	OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC	RBA	PSP	EWS	Total
UT	80	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3

Whereas, the qualification for selection against the post, as per the Indent/Advt., is/was as under:

"Degree/03 years Diploma in Automobile Engineering from a recognized University / Institute."

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), advertised the aforesaid 03 posts as per the category-wise break up given herein above, vide Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020, under Item No. 80, for seeking applications from the eligible candidates; and

Whereas, the JKSSB vide Notification No. JKSSB-COEEXAM/UT/10/2023-04 (7055504) Dated. 03.01.2025, issued an Advance Notice for holding the OMR based written Examination for these posts to be held on 02.03.2025and after holding the exams, the Result/Score-sheet of the candidates was notified vide notification No. JKSSBCOEEXAM(UT)/11/2025-03 (7655961) dated: 14.05.2025; and

Whereas, the schedule of the Documents Verification (DV) of the candidates falling under the consideration zone was notified vide notification No. JKSSBCOEEXAM(UT)/11/2025-03 (7655961) dated: 30.05.2025, followed by Supplementary Document Verification (DV) vide No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/11/2025-03 (7655961) dated: 15.06.2025; and

Whereas, the Board vide office Order No. 221-SSB of 2025 dated 14.07.2025 constituted a Selection Committee, for preparing the Selection List for the aforementioned posts of Foreman; and

The Selection Committee so constituted prepared the Provisional Selection List in accordance with the Merit/Eligibility of the candidates and on the basis of principle of meritcum-preference and the same was placed before the Board in its 312<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held

on 05.08.2025, which after deliberations and having regard to all the aspects of the selection, approved its notification; and

Now, after taking into consideration all the aforementioned factors, the Provisional Selection List for the posts of Foreman, UT Cadre, under Item No. 80, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020, is hereby notified as per "Annexure-A" to this notification. It is further notified that:

I. The Provisional Selection List shall be subject to the outcome of OAs/Writ petition(s), if any, pending in the competent court of law.

II. The Provisional List shall also be subject to the outcome of pending inquiry, if any, involving candidate(s), figuring in this Provisional Selection List.

III. This is a Provisional List and shall be subject to the change(s) as warranted necessary as per the objections which may be received against it and mere figuring in it shall not confer any right to selection, which shall be finalized after examination of the objections based on merit.

IV. In case any candidate/s is/are aggrieved with this Provisional Selection List,

or intends to furnish any document/clarification regarding his/her withheld candidature, he/she may represent through the e-mail address [Usselectionjkssb@jk.gov.in](mailto:Usselectionjkssb@jk.gov.in) within Ten (10) days from the date of its Notification, beyond which no representations shall be entertained. The representations in this regard shall necessarily include complete details of the candidate including Name, Address, Roll Number and Contact Number.

By Order.

Dated: 24.09.2025

No. JKSSB-Scry/26/2025-03(E-7733324)

Atul Kumar KAS  
Secretary, J&K Service Selection Board

PROVISIONAL SELECTION LIST FOR THE POST OF FOREMAN, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, UT CADRE, ADVERTISED VIDE NOTIFICATION NO. 04 OF 2020 DATED 16.12.2020, ITEM NO. 80													
S.NO.	D.V. S. NO.	APPL. NO.	ROLL NO.	CANDIDATES NAME	FATHER'S NAME	DOB	SELECTION CATEGORY	TOTAL MARKS	PERMANENT ADDRESS	QUALIFICATION	NAME OF THE INSTITUTION/ UNIVERSITY	YEAR OF PASSING	REMARKS
SELECTION LIST UNDER OPEN MERIT (OM)													
1	1-JMU	556052	1120031	DARPEN SHARMA	INDERJEET SHARMA	18/04/1990	OM	54.75	BALOTE, BALOTE BALOTE, WAH,DODA,JAMMU,182221	03 YEARS DIPLOMA IN AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERING	JKSBOTE	2011	
WAITING LIST UNDER OPEN MERIT (OM)													
1	2-JMU	157661	1120026	VISHESH GOSWAMI	ANIL GOSWAMI	28/02/1996	OM	41.25	H.NO: 172, SEC: 1A SOUTH EXTN. TIUKUTA NAGAR ,JAMMU,BAHU, JAMMU,JAMMU,180020	03 YEARS DIPLOMA IN AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERING	JKSBOTE	2015	
SELECTION LIST UNDER RBA CATEGORY													
1	1-KMR	122090	2120024	ARSHAD HUSSAIN GANAIE	ABDUL AZIZ GANAIE	34375	RBA	50.75	27,6,DARHAMA TANGMARG,TANGMARG, BARAMULLA,KASHMIR, 193404	03 YEARS DIPLOMA IN AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERING	JKSBOTE	2017	
WAITING LIST UNDER RBA CATEGORY													
1	2-KMR	261258	2120119	IRFAN ALI KHAN	MOHD YOUNIS KHAN	05/10/1996	RBA	40.75	41,5,NAGANARI,BONIYAR, BARAMULLA,KASHMIR, 193122	03 YEARS DIPLOMA IN AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERING	JKSBOTE	2015	RWH. Subject to Production of Clarification regarding Name Variation.
SELECTION LIST UNDER SC CATEGORY													
1	4-JMU	194734	1120052	KULWANT KUMAR	BIR SINGH	02/06/1990	SC	38.25	89,WARD NO 02,VILLAGE SUMWAN,KATHUA, KATHUA,JAMMU, 184143	03 YEARS DIPLOMA IN AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERING	JKSBOTE	2013	
WAITING LIST UNDER SC CATEGORY													
1	5-JMU	639953	1120041	JATINDER KUMAR	JANAK RAJ	03-04-1996	SC	35.50	NO,SAMBA,KALI BARISAMBA,RAMNAGAR,SAMBA, SAMBA,JAMMU, 184121	03 YEARS DIPLOMA IN AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERING	JKSBOTE	2019	

DIPK-6552/25 DATED: 25.09.2025

SD/-  
SECRETARY,  
J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD



# ‘Apple crop prices fall by nearly 50%’

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 25: Demand for Kashmiri apples has plum-metted drastically this season, with rates dipping to less than half of what growers earned last year, leaving thousands of orchardists across the valley in distress.

Bashir Ahmad Basheer, president of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, said the industry is facing one of its toughest phases in recent history.

“Rates are very low this year — less than even 50 per cent of what we earned last season,” Basheer said. “The prima-ry reason is the backlog of produce that remained strand-ed on highways, mandis, orchards, and other storage fa-cilities. This backlog will take nearly a month to clear, and only after that, we



may see some improvement. But by then, more apples will have already reached the market, adding to the crisis.”

Growers from different districts expressed deep concern over the unprecedented slump. They said that an apple box, which fetched over Rs 1,000 last year, is being sold for barely Rs 400 this season.

“How can we survive when the cost of production itself is higher than the selling price?” asked Abdul Rashid, a grower

from Shopian. “Fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides, freight, labour, boxes, paper, and packaging — everything has become costlier. But when we take our produce to the mandis, we are forced to sell it at throwaway prices.”

Another grower, Ghulam Nabi from Sopore, said the situ-ation has shaken the confidence of farmers. “We have been in this business for decades, but never have we wit-nessed such a

disastrous season. It feels like we are work-ing day and night only to incur losses. Many growers are worried about repaying debts taken for orchard manage-ment,” he said.

The growers fear that if immediate steps are not taken by the government to stabilise the market, the valley’s horti-culture sector — which provides livelihood to lakhs of families — could face long-term damage.

“This is not just about farmers,” Basheer added. “If apple growers suffer, the entire rural economy of Kashmir suf-fers with them. We urge the authorities to intervene be-fore it is too late.”

With the season’s peak harvest yet to arrive, orchardists are bracing for more challenges ahead, uncertain whether their produce will find fair prices in the already saturated markets—(KNO)

## CM Omar assures unwavering support to Mahore flood-hit families

KT NEWS DESK

Mahore, Sep 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday undertook an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas of district Reasi before reaching Mahore to meet the people reeling under the devastation. Accompanied by MLA Gulabgarh, Er. Khurshied Ahmed, and other senior officials, the Chief Minister expressed deep solidarity with the affected families and reaffirmed his Government’s commitment to prioritizing their relief and rehabilitation.

Addressing a gathering of flood victims, Omar Abdullah spoke with empathy and candor. “The purpose of my visit here is to share your pain and express my condolences for the loss of lives and property you have suffered. I want you to believe that you are not alone in this difficult time,” he said, assuring people of sustained Government intervention to help them rebuild their lives.

The Chief Minister recalled that his wish was for Er. Khurshied Ahmed’s first programme as MLA to be one of joy and development—laying the foundation of



new projects or inaugurating new facilities. “But destiny had something else in store,” he remarked. “It is not a favour that Khurshied Sahab and I are here; it is our duty and our way of repaying the faith you placed in us last year.”

Reflecting on the unusual challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir this year, Omar Abdullah said that J&K had gone from the threat of severe drought earlier in February–April, to unprecedented floods that wreaked havoc from Kathua to Kupwara. “In the beginning of the year, there was no sign of rain, and I had asked our irrigation, flood control, and PHE departments to prepare for drought. Yet, when the rains came, they came with such fury that plains and mountains alike were ravaged,” he noted.

e candidly acknowledged that lapses in planning and road construction practices may have compounded the damage, particularly where mountain cutting led to landslides and road collapses. “Thousands of kilometres of roads under PWD and PMGSY networks simply vanished,” he observed, stressing the need for better foresight in future infrastructure planning.

Interacting personally with affected families, the Chief Minister assured them that comprehensive relief measures and long-term rehabilitation plans were being put into motion. “We will not only help you tide over the immediate crisis but also ensure that your lives are rebuilt afresh with dignity and resilience,” he pledged.

## BJP accuses NC Govt of failing on poll promises

PEERZADA UMMER

Srinagar, Sep 25: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday accused the Omar Abdullah-led government of failing to fulfill its election promises and shifting the blame to the Lieutenant Governor’s administration.

Senior BJP leader and former minister Sham Lal Sharma said that the National Conference (NC) government is misleading the people instead of delivering on its pledges. Sharma said the domain of the LG administration is lim-ited to transfers of police and civil services officers, while all other administrative and financial powers rest with the elected government. “Tell me where the government is being stopped. They are not fulfilling the promises they made. The Reorgan-ization Act came into force post 2019, and NC knew the LG’s domain when it contested elec-tions. Why this drama now? Where is the government be-ing stopped in allocation of funds or in administrative matters? The only restriction is on transfer of DCs and SSPs,” Sharma said.

He said the NC had promised major reforms within 90 to 100 days of taking office, but none of the commitments had been implemented even after a year. “The Chief Min-ister listed 12 points in the first press conference after the elections. Not a single one is visible on the ground. The government is transferring its responsibility instead of owning it. Daily life of the people has not improved, it has become worse,” Sharma said.

On the situation in Ladakh, Sharma said that people of Ladakh had long demanded Union Territory status and welcomed the 2019 reorganization. “Now, some political parties are twisting the issue for their own politics. Ladakhis never wanted to remain with Kashmir, they consistently demanded Union Territory,” he added.

Sharma also hit out at regional parties like NC and PDP, accusing them of doing issue-based politics without any long-term vision. He said leaders in Kashmir were trying to occupy the political space left vacant after the decline of separatist groups. “This destruction has happened be-cause of politics for the sake of politics. Parties here have never pursued visionary politics, only short-term gains,” he said. On the issue of job reservations and regularization of dai-ly wagers in Jammu and Kashmir, Sharma said the gov-ernment had given commitments on the floor of the as-sembly but failed to deliver. “Committees were constitut-ed, statements were made in the House, and assurances were recorded. Failure to implement these is a breach of privilege. The government is already cornered on these issues, losing credibility every day,” he said.

He added that the BJP will play the role of a constructive opposition in the upcoming assembly session. “We will hold the government accountable for its failures. The NC is trying to turn non-issues into issues to hide its inaction. The fact is, the LG is not stopping them from working. They are stopping themselves by not fulfilling their com-mitments,” Sharma said—(KNO)

## Committee on environment draws a line on environmental damage

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Sep 25: The Committee on Environment on Thursday directed all concerned departments to submit detailed action-taken reports within 15 days on measures to curb environmental violations across the Union Territory.

The committee, which convened a high-level review meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla emphasised a zero-tolerance approach to environmental degradation, while acknowledging the need to protect the livelihoods of communities dependent on natural resources.

“We will not allow anyone to loot our environment,” said committee member and Uri MLA Sajad Shafi, who stressed that laws protecting forests, rivers and other natural assets will be enforced without leniency. “At the same time, we will consider the perspective of those whose survival depends on these resources,” he added.

The meeting discussed critical concerns such as illegal mining, unlicensed stone crushers and the desilting of the Jhelum River, directing the Wildlife, Forest, Pollution Control Board, and Urban Local Bodies to implement immediate corrective measures.

Committee members

clarified that while legally operating companies will face no obstruction, any illegal activity that threatens the environment will be met with firm action. “The committee will not compromise on safeguarding the environment or in addressing public grievances arising from illegal practices,” he said.

Responding to queries about royalty charges on stone quarries and loose material, MLA Sajad Shafi clarified that extraction of loose material will be allowed only in areas where it is not prohibited, but the fixed quota in metric tons must be strictly adhered to and not exceeded.

He stressed that the committee is pursuing a dual policy aimed at striking a balance between environmental protection and livelihood needs. “We do not want to create any ecological imbalance. Our approach is clear, no compromise on the environment, but no unnecessary hardship to those earning an honest living,” Shafi said.

The panel also instructed department heads to ensure ground-level action and timely compliance. Legislators present used the forum to flag gaps in enforcement and urged for stricter monitoring to protect fragile ecosystems—(KNO)

## Situation in Ladakh serious matter: Dr Farooq Says Delhi must pursue dialogue

OWAIS GUL

Srinagar, Sep 25: National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Thursday expressed serious concern over the current situation in Ladakh, saying the Centre must stop the use of force and instead pursue a dialogue to resolve pressing issues.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Dr Abdullah said the people of Ladakh, led by activist Sonam Wangchuk, have been peacefully protesting for the past 15 days, demanding statehood and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule. He said Wangchuk had even walked on foot from Leh to Delhi to draw attention to their demands, but the authorities have failed to address their concerns adequately.

“Initially, the protests were non-violent. The youth of Ladakh believed in the promises made to them. However, when these promises proved hollow, frustration grew, and they resorted to street protests,” Dr Farooq said, adding that some incidents during the protests included the



burning of BJP offices, police vehicles, and attempts to set public offices on fire.

The NC chief warned of broader implications, given Ladakh’s strategic border location and the Chinese occupation in the region. “Unrest in such sensitive areas is dangerous for our nation. Efforts must be made to resolve these issues through dialogue and prevent further escalation,” he urged. When asked about allegations that external forces influenced the protests, the former J&K Chief Minister dismissed such claims. “I do not believe any external group is behind this. These are genuine voices of the local people. They will not wait indefinitely. The government must remember the promises made regarding elections,

delimitation, and statehood for Ladakh,” he said.

He added that nearly 11 months have passed since promises related to Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood were made, yet no progress has been seen. “The people of Ladakh feel betrayed. They were promised jobs and development, but nothing has materialised. Instead, a colony has been established there, which led the youth to take extreme steps to press for their rights,” he added.

On BJP’s accusations blaming Congress for the violence, the NC leader said, “BJP has always blamed others for its failures. They are responsible for the current situation. They are the ruling party in Ladakh, yet they cannot even gather ten people for a rally. This is the

voice of the people. Instead of blaming others, they should focus on resolving issues.”

Regarding the Ministry of Home Affairs’ statement, Dr Abdullah clarified that Sonam Wangchuk has never shunned Gandhian principles. “It is the youth who have chosen this path; Wangchuk has no role in the violence. The CBI inquiry and the use of force will not resolve anything. I urge New Delhi to stop the use of force and adopt a dialogue-based approach,” he appealed.

The NC president further added on the situation in Ladakh: “The leaders in Delhi are responsible for what has happened in Ladakh. They have been talking without concrete action, and the youth have felt let down after waiting for five years. Delhi must act faster to resolve the issue.”

Dr Farooq said Ladakh is a sensitive area. “Everyone knows how much land China occupies there. We cannot even carry out patrolling in our own territories. It’s time to accept reality. If the situation continues, someone else will step in to fill the gap,” he warned—(KNO)

## Mehbooba expresses concern over prevailing situation

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 25: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President, Mehbooba Mufti Thursday expressed concern over the prevailing situation in Ladakh, saying the protests reflected growing uneasiness among people about their land, jobs, and cultural identity.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, the PDP president said Ladakh, which had historically remained peaceful, was witnessing agitation for the first time after the revocation of Article 370 in 2019.

“People in Ladakh had initially welcomed Union Territory status with the hope of more rights. But today they fear losing their land, resources and fragile environment to outside



interests,” she said.

Referring to the ongoing agitation led by environment activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has been on a hunger strike, she said, “He has genuine demands to protect Ladakh’s fragile environment, land and jobs. Instead of listening, the Centre is allowing

matters to worsen. Even a peaceful person like him has now run out of patience.”

Mehbooba said people in Ladakh fear a large-scale influx from outside, threatening their culture and fragile ecosystem. “Most of their land is already with the Army. The remainder is being eyed for big business projects—hotels, resorts, and solar projects. They see their future slipping away if Sixth Schedule protections are not extended to them,” she added.

Mehbooba Mufti said incidents of violence in recent days should serve as a warning sign. “Ladakh’s environment and demography are extremely sensitive. The Centre must act through concrete steps, not words, to reassure the local population,” she said—(KNO)

## LoP Sharma inaugurates blood donation camp at Kishtwar



KNO

Kishtwar, Sep 25: As part of the ongoing Seva Pakhwa-da initiative, Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma Thursday inaugurated a Blood Donation Camp at Pad-der, Kishtwar.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from cit-izens, particularly the youth, who came forward in large numbers to contribute to this noble, life-saving cause.

As per a statement, Sharma extended his heartfelt ap-preciation to all the blood donors and the organizers for their commendable efforts

in making the camp a re-sounding success.

He emphasized that such initiatives not only strengthen public health infrastructure but also nurture the values of compassion, social responsibility, and nation-building.

Highlighting the significance of Seva Pakhwada, he said that the spirit of selfless service and community welfare lies at the core of our cultural ethos, and the active in-volvement of people in such programs reflects the col-lective resolve to build a healthier and stronger socie-ty—(KNO)



## EDITORIAL

### Friday Brief | The Culture Of Ostentation: A Quranic Warning Against Spiritual Emptiness

In an age dominated by social media flaunting, lavish weddings, and competitive consumerism, Islam's teachings on humility and moderation offer a powerful antidote to the rising tide of ostentation. The Quran and Hadith repeatedly caution believers against showing off, whether in worship, wealth, or lifestyle, as it corrupts intention, fosters inequality, and distances the heart from Allah. The Quran explicitly condemns extravagance and pride, describing wasteful spenders as the "brothers of

Satan" (17:27). In Surah Al-Hadid, Allah warns, "Know that the life of this world is but amusement and diversion and adornment and boasting among you and competition in increase of wealth and children..." (57:20). This verse lays bare the fleeting nature of worldly displays, reminding believers that true value lies in piety, not possessions. Similarly, the concept of "riya" (showing off) is condemned as hidden shirk - a violation of Tawheed because it seeks praise from people rather than pleasure from Allah. The Prophet

Muhammad (SAW) embodied simplicity and warned against vanity. He said, "Allah does not look at your appearance or wealth, but He looks at your hearts and actions" (Sahih Muslim). The Prophet (SAW's) life, marked by modest clothing, humble meals, and unpretentious living, stands in stark contrast to today's culture of excess. He cautioned that those who wear garments of fame and pride will be humiliated in the Hereafter, and advised Muslims to live in such a way that if they die today, they leave behind

little worldly baggage. Islam does not forbid wealth but regulates its expression. Zakat and Sadaqah institutionalise sharing, while moderation (wasatiyyah) balances enjoyment with responsibility. Displaying blessings as gratitude is permitted, but with the intent to boast or belittle others is haram. The Prophet (SAW) said, "Eat, drink, give charity, and wear clothes without extravagance or pride" (Sunan An-Nasa'i). In today's context, this means rethinking how we celebrate weddings, use social media, or engage

in consumer culture. It calls for redirecting resources toward charity, community welfare, and spiritual growth rather than wasteful competition. True honour in Islam lies in taqwa (God-consciousness), not in luxury cars, designer labels, or Instagram followers. Let us remember that every show of arrogance is a step away from Allah's mercy. By embracing humility, we not only purify our faith but also contribute to a more just and compassionate society, where worth is measured by character, not currency.

# Sapno Ka Ghar: Realizing The Dream Of Housing For All In Rural India

## Press Information Bureau

Housing is universally recognized as a fundamental human requirement, and addressing rural housing shortages, particularly for the poor, is a vital part of the Government's poverty alleviation strategy.

For Smt. Kakrati Debbarma, a poor tribal woman from South Dhumacherra village of Manu RD Block, Tripura, life was a constant struggle as she and her family lived in a fragile mud-walled house with a weak roof. The home offered little safety or security, leaving the family vulnerable to harsh weather and natural disasters throughout the year, making every day an ordeal.

Everything changed when a house was sanctioned in her name under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme during the 2019-20 financial year. With assistance from the Block Administration, she received Rs. 1,30,000/- in three installments transferred directly to her bank account. With guidance and support, Kakrati was able to build her own pucca house.

Today, the new home has transformed the family's life. They are now protected from storms and rains, living in comfort and peace. Kakrati expresses her joy, saying the house brings not just safety, but also happiness and dignity to her family.

The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) launched on 1st April 2016, aims to provide "Housing for All" in rural areas. The scheme helps eligible rural families for the construction of pucca houses with basic facilities like a kitchen, toilet.

The scheme provides financial assistance to eligible rural households, including houseless families and those living in zero, one, or two-room kutcha houses, to construct pucca homes with basic amenities. The beneficiaries also gain access to piped drinking water, LPG, renewable energy, and building materials through convergence with other government programs.

PMAY-G has significantly improved rural housing by reducing poverty, enhancing living standards, and promoting social and economic development, reflecting steady progress in strengthening rural housing infrastructure.

Key Features of PMAY-G

Minimum unit size: Each house must have at least 25 sq. m, including a dedicated hygienic cooking area.

Quality construction: Beneficiaries use local materials and trained masons to build durable houses.

Design flexibility: A wide selection of house designs—structurally sound, aesthetically pleasing, and culturally & environmentally appropriate—is offered, moving beyond standard cement-concrete models.

Scheme Targets and Achievements

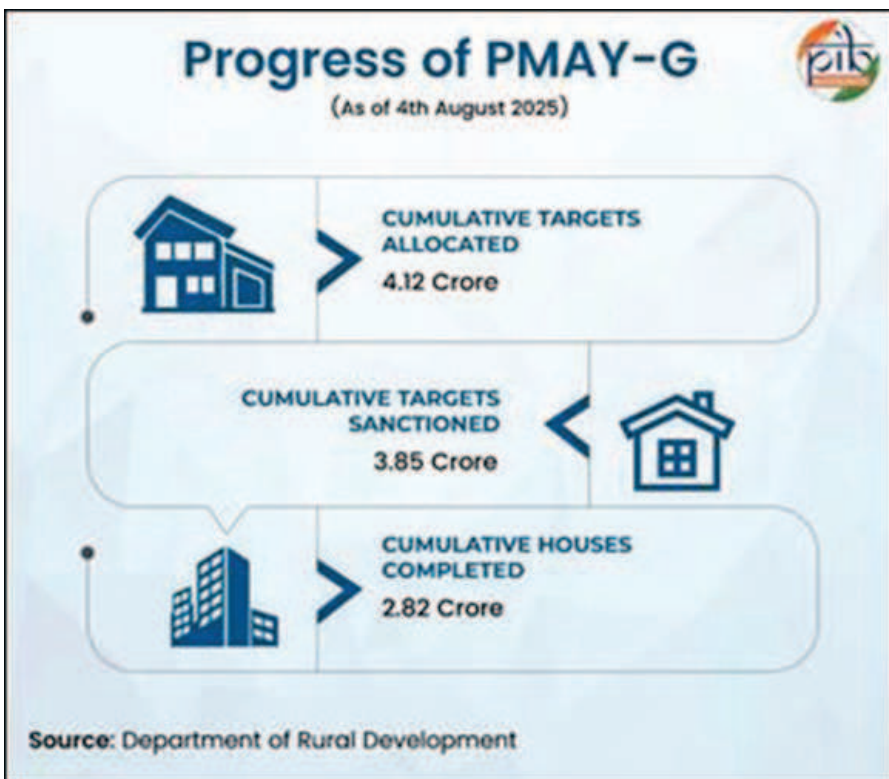
Under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), the Government initially set a target of 2.95 crore houses for FY 2016-17 to FY 2023-24.

Recognizing the continued rural housing demand, the Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the scheme for another five years (FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29) with an additional target of 2 crore houses, bringing the cumulative target to 4.95 crore houses.

As of 4th August 2025, a total target of 4.12 crore has been allocated by the Ministry to states and Union Territories (UTs), out of which 3.85 crore houses have been sanctioned and more than 2.82 crore houses have been completed.

The flagship housing programme continues to demonstrate strong implementation and rising coverage across financial years. For FY 2025-26, as of July 2025, a total of 32.9 lakh houses were targeted under the scheme, of which 25.6 lakh have already been sanctioned. In the previous year, FY 2024-25, the house allocation target was 84.37 lakh, of which 64.70 lakh houses got sanctioned. Over the four-year period from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25, a cumulative total of 216.73 lakh houses were sanctioned, out of which 176.47 lakh houses have been completed, reflecting steady progress in housing development.

Beneficiary Selection, Financial Assistance



and Funding Convergence Support

Who is Eligible?

One of the most important features of PMAY-G is the robust and transparent selection of beneficiaries.

SECC 2011 Data: The identification of beneficiaries under PMAY-G is carried out on the basis of housing deprivation parameters and exclusion criteria prescribed under the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011. Priority is given to houseless households and those living in dwellings with 0, 1, or 2 kutcha walls and a kutcha roof.

Gram Sabha Verification: The lists generated from SECC data are verified by the respective Gram Sabhas, followed by an appellate process to ensure fairness.

Awaas+ Surveys: To include eligible families who might have been left out of the SECC 2011 list, an "Awaas+" survey was conducted from January 2018 to March 2019. A new survey using the Awaas+ 2024 mobile app is being conducted for the scheme's next phase (2024-29) with modified exclusion criteria and technology like e-KYC face authentication.

Prioritization: The scheme prioritizes landless beneficiaries and mandates that a minimum of 60% of targets are earmarked for SC/ST households at National level. In view of the provisions of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, the States to the extent possible may ensure that 5% of beneficiaries at the State Level are from among Persons with Disabilities.

Financial Assistance and Funding

The scheme provides direct financial support for house construction:

Unit Assistance: Rs 1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs 1.30 lakh in hilly states (including North Eastern states, J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand).

Funding Pattern: The cost is shared between the Central and State governments. The ratio is 60:40 for plain areas and 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan states. For Union Territories without a legislature, the Centre provides 100% of the funding.

More Than Just a House: Convergence with Other Schemes

PMAY-G integrates with other government schemes to provide comprehensive amenities, ensuring a better quality of life.

Employment under MGNREGS: PMAY-G combine housing provision with large-scale livelihood opportunities. It not only builds houses but also offers jobs. Under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), it is mandatory to provide 90/95 person-days of unskilled wage employment at current rates (approximately Rs 27,000) to each beneficiary for the construction of their house, through convergence with MGNREGS. The construction of a single house generates about 201 person-days of employment (skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled). During the last nine years (2016-25), the construction of 2.82 crore houses under PMAY-G has

generated approximately 568 crore person-days of employment.

Under the Rural Mason Training programme of PMAY-G, 2.97 lakh candidates have been trained as on August 2025, with some certified masons even securing opportunities to work abroad in the construction sector. In addition, the scheme has generated significant indirect employment through the production of building materials and their transportation for house construction.

Toilets under SBM-G: The beneficiaries receive Rs 12,000 for toilet construction through convergence with Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) or MGNREGS, ensuring better sanitation facilities in rural homes.

Basic Amenities: The scheme facilitates connections for piped drinking water, electricity, and LPG gas connections, often through other government programs.

Digital & Technological Innovations - Ensuring Transparency and Quality

A robust monitoring framework is in place to ensure transparency, quality, and timely completion.

Digital Monitoring The entire process is managed through e-governance solutions like the AwaasSoft Management Information System (MIS) and the AwaasApp mobile application.

AwaasSoft Management Information System (MIS)

AwaasSoft is the web-based MIS that serves as the backbone for the PMAY-G scheme.

It provides functionalities for data entry and monitoring of multiple statistics related to implementation aspects of the scheme. These statistics include physical progress (registrations, sanctions, house completion and release of instalments etc.), financial progress, status of convergence etc.

AwaasSoft is the primary platform where all data related to beneficiaries, progress of house construction, fund releases, inspection reports, and photographs are stored.

High-level reports on physical and financial progress are made publicly available on the PMAY-G website (www.pmayg.nic.in) through the AwaasSoft portal, allowing for public transparency.

AwaasSoft is integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) to create the AwaasSoft-PFMS platform. This enables the payment of financial assistance directly into the bank or post office accounts of beneficiaries through an Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS).

To improve user experience and accessibility, new modules have been added to the software since its launch in 2016. For making it more accessible and maintain transparency in the implementation of the programme, some of the modules are:

Landless Module: This module helps map landless beneficiaries in the Permanent Wait List (PWL) and captures the status of land provided to them, whether through

financial assistance or physical allocation. In the current phase of PMAY-G (2024-29), the Ministry is closely monitoring the provision of land to all landless beneficiaries. As per data entered by various State Governments on AwaasSoft a total of 2,68,480 landless beneficiaries has been sanctioned houses under PMAY-G so far.

E-Ticketing System: This feature was introduced to address technical and non-technical grievances referred by States and UTs.

Online Job Card Module: An online module is available on AwaasSoft for the entry of MGNREGS job card numbers, which are mandatory for beneficiaries to receive wage employment benefits for house construction.

Awaas+ 2024 App

The Awaas+ 2024 App has been developed to strengthen the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) by ensuring efficiency, transparency, and accountability. This app has the following features: -

Assisted survey through pre-registered surveys, "Self-Survey" facility is available for eligible households in Awaas+ 2024 app, Housing typology selection,

Aadhaar based e-KYC Face authentication, Data capture of household, conditions of existing house, time stamped, and geo tagged photo capture of existing house and proposed site of construction,

The app works in online as well as offline mode.

House Design Typologies

Beneficiaries are assisted with a bouquet of house design typologies that incorporate disaster-resilient features and are tailored to local geo-climatic conditions, cultural preferences, and availability of construction materials. 3D designs of these typologies are made available through the Awaas+ 2024 Mobile App for easy selection by beneficiaries.

Geo-tagging

It is mandatory to upload geo-tagged, time-stamped photographs at each stage of construction, from the proposed site to completion.

100% Aadhaar-Based Payments

The Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS) under PMAY-G enables Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) directly into the beneficiary's bank account linked with their Aadhaar number, ensuring safe, transparent, and authentic transactions.

Technology-Driven Accountability

The new phase of the scheme uses advanced technology, including AI/ML models to curb fraud, face authentication, e-KYC, and liveliness detection to verify beneficiaries.

Physical Inspections and Audits

Regular inspections are carried out by officials at all levels—national, state, district, and block. Additionally, a Social Audit is required in every Gram Panchayat at least once a year.

Grievance Redressal

A multi-level grievance redressal mechanism is available, including the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal and District-level Appellate Committees.

Steps Taken by the Ministry to Accelerate PMAY-G Implementation

The Ministry is undertaking several measures to expedite house sanction and completion to achieve the scheme's targets. Key initiatives include:

Timely allocation of targets to States/UTs. Launch of PMAY-G Analytic Dashboard for real-time monitoring and supervision.

Micro-monitoring of house sanctions and completions using advanced IT tools and technologies.

Regular reviews by the Hon'ble Minister, Secretary, and Deputy Director General.

Priority focuses on completing houses where the 2nd or 3rd instalment of funds has already been released.

Dedicated reviews for States with higher targets.

Timely release of funds based on State/UT requirements.

Continuous follow-up with States/

## Key Takeaways

Under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin, cumulative target to build 4.95 crore houses; as of Aug 2025, 2.82 crore houses completed out of 4.12 crore allocated.

Total of 2,68,480 landless beneficiaries have been sanctioned houses under PMAY-G so far.

568 crore person-days of employment generated in last nine years (2016-25).

Technology-Driven Transparency: Use of Awaas+ 2024 App, AI/ML fraud detection, e-KYC, Aadhaar-based DBT, geo-tagged photos, and real-time dashboards for monitoring.

UTs to ensure land allotment for landless beneficiaries.

Conclusion

The Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) has emerged as a transformative initiative in rural India, addressing the critical need for safe and dignified housing. By combining financial assistance, convergence with other welfare schemes, and technology-driven transparency, the programme has not only reduced rural housing shortages but also enhanced living standards, promoted social inclusion, and supported economic development. With its extension to 2028-29 and renewed target of 2 crore additional houses, the scheme ensures that every eligible household has access to quality housing and a dignified life.

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# Himayat creating pathways for rural youth empowerment: Javid Dar

Hails mission for shaping futures, announces its expansion to agri-sectors

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department Javid Ahmad Dar Thursday lauded Himayat for creating a unique platform that offers rural youth an opportunity to shape their skills and build independent futures.

While speaking at the Himayat Alumni Meet 2025 in Srinagar, where several beneficiaries shared their success stories, the Minister said most participants came from humble backgrounds and had advanced in life through resilience and determination. "Himayat is a unique platform that offers rural youth an opportunity to shape their skills and build independent futures," he noted.

He added that in today's world, academic qualifications alone are not enough, skill is the real currency.

The Minister urged that skill development should extend to modern farming techniques, soil testing, livestock care, and even the use of artificial intelligence in agriculture. "If we train our youth in these areas, it can spark a real revolution," he said.

Citing inspiring success stories of Himayat trainees, Dar said every individual must write their



own journey of achievement despite hardships. Encouraging the youth, he quoted: "The essential thing in life is not conquering, but fighting back."

He emphasized honesty, hard work, and discipline as the foundations of lasting success. "Shortcuts never bring real achievements. Competition should be faced with courage and preparation," he stressed.

Dar also called for regular personality development training alongside skill trades to boost youth confidence. He congratulated the participants and lauded the Seva Parv initiative, running from September 17 to October 2 across the country, as a platform to highlight grassroots progress and youth empowerment.

"Every household faces

difficulties, but we must overcome them, polish our skills, and move forward," the Minister said.

Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, in his remarks, said the event was not merely an alumni meet but a journey that reflected "stories of struggle and success" of youth from remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir who through the Himayat Mission, have found their path to self-reliance.

"The alumni who shared their journeys today are a source of inspiration for the trainees present here. It shows that Himayat is not just training but also a ray of hope and a path to success," he noted.

The Secretary emphasized that the government is not only imparting skills but also

committed to tracking the post-training journey of candidates, ensuring placements and further interventions wherever needed. He congratulated the Himayat Mission team for sustaining this engagement and called for more such alumni meets in the future.

He announced that Himayat 2.0 will soon be rolled out with additional training sectors, including agriculture, dairy, horticulture, and farming. "By adding these sectors, we aim to give rural youth more opportunities and pathways for success," he said.

Linking the programme to the nationwide Seva Parv initiative launched by the Prime Minister on September 17, Asad said the campaign, running till October 2, seeks to connect people with various schemes and highlight stories of empowerment.

Chief Operating Officer, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta, also shared key insights into the program's impact during the Alumni Meet, underscoring its role in empowering youth across Jammu and Kashmir. "As of now, Himayat has trained more than 34,000 candidates and approximately 15,000 of them have been successfully employed," he informed.

The event was attended by Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Chief Executive Officer, IWMP, Rajnish Kumar; and other officers.

# Sakeena reviews performance, functioning of JKBOSE

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: Minister for Education, Social Welfare Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Thursday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the performance and functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE).

The meeting was attended by Chairman JKBOSE and Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education, Shantamanu; Secretary School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid Chowdhary; Secretary JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh and other senior officers of JKBOSE and School Education department.

During the meeting, the Education Minister took a comprehensive assessment of overall performance, examination mechanism, evaluation, curriculum development, digitisation services as well as ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening school education across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Education Minister emphasized on timely conduct of examinations and strengthening of grievance redressal mechanisms for the facilitation of students. She further asked the officers that



any updation related to curriculum updation should be done timely and before the onset of new academic session.

The Minister also directed the JKBOSE authorities that the textbooks should be made available by the end of November so that there is no hindrance in supply position before the start of new session. She asked the JKBOSE authorities and School Education department to devise a proper mechanism for dispatching of textbooks to schools well in time.

The Minister appreciated the JKBOSE for some student centric initiatives which will make the registration process as well as examination mechanism smooth. She asked the officers to establish a proper mechanism for evaluation so that the results can be declared timely.

Highlighting the importance of accountability and efficiency, the Minister underscored the need for continuous

upgradation of infrastructure, capacity-building of staff, and closer coordination with schools to address challenges on the ground related to examinations.

"Education is the foundation of our future. The role of JKBOSE is pivotal in shaping a transparent, modern, student-friendly examination and evaluation system. Our priority is to strengthen institutions so that every child in Jammu and Kashmir can benefit from quality education", Sakeena Itoo stated.

The Education Minister further called the JKBOSE authorities to issue date sheet for 10th and 12th classes well in time so that the students can prepare accordingly for their respective examinations.

During the meeting, Secretary JKBOSE gave a detailed presentation on the action plan for forthcoming examinations as well as other aspects of the Board.

## Domestic Power Amnesty -2025-26

## Over 13,000 consumers avail benefits



## KPDCL urges eligible consumers to avail benefit

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: The amnesty policy of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has witnessed an overwhelming public response with more-than 13,189 consumers availing the benefits and clearing their dues, till date.

This amnesty policy offers a 100% waiver on interest and surcharges for outstanding bills of domestic consumers as of March 31, 2025.

Focused awareness campaigns and facilitation efforts by the DISCOM has bore the fruits, with as many as 13,189 consumers have already availed the benefits under the

current phase, enabling a recovery of Rs.753.8 lakhs.

This positive trend reflects both consumer confidence in the initiative and its importance in strengthening the financial health of the Corporation, while at the same time advancing consumer welfare through settlement of arrears and regularization of services.

Meanwhile, KPDCL has urged all eligible consumers who have not yet availed the scheme to approach their nearest KPDCL Sub-Division offices without delay and benefit from this welfare-driven opportunity.

It has further given out that the Amnesty Policy has been designed in the interest of the public good, offering a simplified and consumer-friendly mechanism for clearing outstanding dues.

# Govt seeks local support to revive Namda Craft

GI Tag, flagship schemes aim to revive tradition, facilitate artisans

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: The Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, has reiterated that the Government is undertaking a series of concerted measures for the revival and promotion of languishing crafts, with special focus on the traditional Namda craft.

The spokesperson stated that Namda has recently been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) registration under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, a landmark achievement that safeguards the authenticity of the craft while strengthening its competitive standing against cheaper, machine-made alternatives.

The GI tag is expected to serve as a catalyst in revitalizing this centuries-old tradition and enhancing its market visibility at both national and international levels.

In pursuit of this objective, the Directorate has intensified its outreach by encouraging master artisans to avail the benefits of the Department's flagship Karkhandar Scheme, aimed at capacity building,



skill development and knowledge transfer to younger generations. District offices have also been directed to actively engage pass-out trainees to strengthen the grassroots implementation of the scheme.

At present, the Department is running nine Elementary and two Advanced Training Centres for Namda, creating a strong framework for skill development and knowledge transfer.

Redoubling its efforts for revival of the craft, under the CAPEX Budget 2025-26, an amount of Rs 26.50 lakh has been earmarked for the repair

and restoration of the Carding Machine at the UNDP facility, a step that will guarantee uninterrupted availability of quality raw material and thereby reinforce the production base for Namda artisans.

The spokesperson appealed to the public to support the Government's "Vocal for Local" initiative by buying felted Namdas, emphasizing that collective patronage is essential to provide a level playing field to Namda artisans and to ensure the revival of this unique craft, which forms an integral part of Kashmir's cultural heritage.

# Sewa Parv: DC leads swachhata cleanliness drive at Doda

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 25: A massive Swachhata cleanliness drive themed "Ek Din -Ek Ghanta-Ek Saath," was organized Thursday by the Municipal Council Doda as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv campaign.

The drive, led by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, attracted active participation from district officers, government officials, NGOs, civil society members and the general public.

The drive commenced from the main gate of the DC Office Complex, covered various areas of downtown and culminated back at the DC Office Complex. On the occasion, the DC gave away disaster relief kits to Municipal Workers, acknowledging their tireless service in maintaining cleanliness and sanitation across the town.

The participants carried banners of Swachhata initiatives and wore masks, symbolizing their commitment to both cleanliness and public

health.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said that the initiative forms an integral part of the Sewa Parv, which is a movement dedicated to public service with passion and commitment.

Other Government functionaries present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ashraf Pervez; Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohammad Afaqi district heads of different departments, municipal functionaries, and officials. The active participation of NGOs, civil society members and local residents reflected the spirit of collective responsibility towards a cleaner and healthier environment.

The initiative was conducted under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and supervision of Executive Officer Municipal Council Doda, Yasir Wani.

# 40+ startup ideas pitched at JKEDI Boot Camps across J&K



KT News Desk

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: In a major push to nurture grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) organized series of Startup Idea Challenge Boot Camps across SKUAST (K) campuses, Government Polytechnic College Reasi, and Government Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam.

More than 250 students and aspiring entrepreneurs participated enthusiastically, pitching over 40 innovative startup ideas under the recently launched J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

At SKUAST-K Wadura Campus, the boot camp was inaugurated by Dr. Shakeel A Mir, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, who urged students to think creatively and embrace entrepreneurship. Professors Imtiyaz, Bilal Ahmad, and Zahoor A Baba, along with Naveed, CEO & Head of SKIIE Centre, were also present.

JKEDI officers guided students on pitching techniques, and over 120 participants took part in interactive sessions to refine their ideas.

Similar boot camps were held at Shuhama and Rangil Campuses of SKUAST-K, where students engaged in ideation exercises and presented pitches before a jury comprising faculty and JKEDI officials.

Sheikh Nowsheen, Assistant Faculty, JKEDI Ganderbal, delivered an insightful session on entrepreneurship and innovation, motivating youth to pursue startups as viable careers.

At Government Polytechnic College Reasi, the event was inaugurated by Principal Er. Arun Bangotra, who called on students to focus on sustainable ventures.

The session was led by JKEDI District Nodal Officer (DNO) Reasi, Abhilash Kumar Braroo, and Assistant Manager, Sorab Mengi. Eight students pitched their startup ideas, out of which four were shortlisted for the next round of the J&K Startup Idea Challenge. The boot camp witnessed participation of 85 enthusiastic students.

The Budgam Boot Camp, held at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, saw 13 participants pitching their business ideas before a distinguished jury comprising JKEDI officials, Director RSETI, and faculty members.

Syed Nazneen, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Budgam, presented the provisions of the Startup Policy and trained students on pitching. The highlight of the event was a motivational address by noted comedian and TV artist Nazir Josh, who urged youth to adopt self-reliance and innovation as guiding principles.

Meanwhile, an orientation programme under the J&K Startup Idea Challenge was also organized at Amar Singh College Srinagar for Commerce and Computer Science students, where experts highlighted opportunities available under the Startup Policy 2024-27.

These boot camps served as vibrant platforms for idea exchange, mentoring, and entrepreneurial learning. Faculty members, jury experts, and dignitaries across districts praised JKEDI's sustained efforts to strengthen the startup ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. By providing hands-on training, exposure, and policy support, JKEDI continues its mission to transform youth into job creators rather than job seekers.

# Cleanliness drive conducted at bus stand Ramnagar

KT NEWS DESK

RAMNAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv, Block Development Office Ramnagar organized an extensive cleanliness drive at the bus stand area Thursday.

The drive themed 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath Shramdaan' witnessed active participation from officials, staff members

and local citizens.

The initiative focused on cleaning the public space as well as motivated people to dedicate at least one hour towards cleanliness and community service. The enthusiastic participation highlighted the spirit of collective responsibility and underscored the importance of maintaining hygienic surroundings.

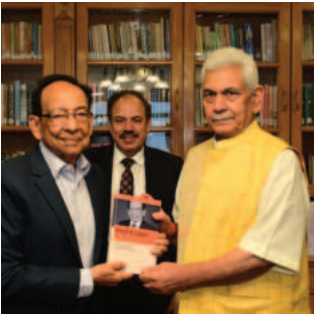


## Dr Gupta calls on LG, discusses disaster reduction strategies in J&K

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 25: Dr Harsh K. Gupta, former Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday. He was accompanied by Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST).

The meeting discussed the strategies to build a disaster-resilient Jammu and Kashmir, with emphasis on preparedness and risk reduction. Discussion was also held on the ways to reduce the impacts of natural hazards through systematic preparedness, resilient infrastructure, and an informed citizenry. The Vice Chancellor, IUST briefed the Lieutenant Governor on IUST's initiatives aimed at



enhancing disaster awareness and capacity-building, in collaboration with the J&K Disaster Management Authority.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, bringing together government agencies, academic institutions, civil society, and local communities, to strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's disaster management ecosystem.

## CS directs enforcement of GST rate reductions to benefit consumers

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 25: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with concerned Administrative Secretaries to review the implementation of recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms and ensure that the benefits of reduced tax rates directly reach consumers on the ground.

Those who attended this meeting includes Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir/Jammu; Controller, Legal Metrology besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for strict enforcement to prevent unjustified pricing and directed the Legal Metrology Department (LMD) to constitute special market-checking



teams. These teams will monitor retail and wholesale markets to ensure that commodity prices are reduced in proportion to the GST rate cuts recently announced by the Central Government.

The Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat informed the meeting that several companies have already initiated revisions in their product pricing in line with the new tax regime. Notably, 169 companies have revised their rates and submitted intimation to the Legal Metrology Department.

The Chief Secretary further emphasized that the reforms, effective from September 22, 2025, must yield visible relief for the common consumers in the coming days. The Legal Metrology Department will intensify inspections to verify compliance and take strict action against any violations.

He maintained that the objective of these reforms is consumer welfare. It is imperative that the reduction in GST rates translates into lower market prices so that people feel the real benefit, he underlined.

## Indian team back from US after holding trade talks

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 25: The Indian team has returned from the US after holding trade talks with their American counterparts in New York, an official said on Thursday.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who led the team, will be back on Friday. The team had arrived in New York on Monday to hold talks over the proposed trade agreement between the two countries. The talks are taking place at various levels, encompassing both trade and non-trade issues.

Goyal was accompanied by senior officials from the ministry, including Special Secretary and India's chief negotiator, Rajesh Agrawal.

"The Indian official team is back from the US," the official said.

Goyal has held discussions with his US counterpart.

This visit comes against the backdrop of recently concluded day-long discussions in New Delhi between US Chief Negotiator Brendan Lynch and Agrawal on the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

On September 16, the commerce ministry stated that the day-long discussions with the visiting US team on a bilateral trade deal were positive, and both sides agreed to push for an early and mutually beneficial conclusion of the agreement.

The visit of high-ranking US trade officials came after the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods entering the American market for purchasing Russian crude oil.

The visit also assumed significance amid the US administration's sudden decision to hike the application fee for H-1B visas to USD 1,00,000.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Real estate boosting

growth hubs."

He said the initiative involving states/UTs and private players to redevelop 300 cities across India will promote innovation, robust infrastructure, improve ease of living and integrate sustainability into urban planning.

He called for adopting the 'Whole of the Government' approach for advancing this sector and ensuring accountability in timely project delivery.

"The transparency, accountability, and efficiency brought by RERA Act 2016 must protect homebuyers' interests and swift grievance redressal mechanism is required to transform this sector into a more regulated and efficient industry," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also spoke on the intricacies of the Real Estate Sector, its challenges, possibilities and opportunities.

LG Sinha called upon private players and real estate developers to play their greater role in promoting affordable housing. "I also want to see this sector becoming more competitive to encourage growth. There must be uniformity and harmony in housing regulations across the states and union territories," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also exhorted the real estate developers to pay special attention towards the health and education of families of workers engaged in housing development projects.

LG Sinha said the welfare of those who are building our homes should be the top priority. He urged the All India Forum of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities to work with developer groups like NAREDCO (National Real Estate Development Council) to ensure that workers and their families are not deprived of their basic rights in any way.

LG Sinha emphasised on real-time monitoring of housing development projects and awareness campaigns for the buyers. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released the Journal and Annual Report 2024-25 of AIFORERA.

Anand Kumar, Chairman, All India Forum of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (AIFORERA); Satish Chandra, Chairman, J&K Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA); Mandeeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Chairpersons of various Real Estate Regulatory Authorities and senior officials attended the inaugural session of the Governing Council Meeting of AIFORERA. (KNO)

### CM announces 5-marla

with district administration, including Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, ADC, and senior civil and police officers. He directed the DC to conduct extensive tours of all affected areas and submit detailed ground reports at the earliest.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, underlined that the Bani region too has suffered extensive damages due to landslides triggered by torrential rains. He said that in villages such as Moar, Najote, and Kanthal-Majra, nearly 100 families have lost their land and property completely. He demanded allotment of five marlas of land for such affected families, besides highlighting other pressing concerns, including damages to the Jalana Bridge, delay in tendering of work for High School Lohai, upgradation of High School Sadrota, as well as amnesty from KCC loans and electricity bills for affected families.

The Chief Minister assured that the government would examine all these demands with due seriousness and extend all possible support to the affected families.

### Omar says no NC

Abdullah, former minister Sajad Kichloo and the party treasurer Shammi Oberoi are the frontrunners for the party.

They indicate that chances of nomination of Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Aga Syed Mehmood and Ajay Sadhotra are very bleak.

Meanwhile president of the Jammu & Kashmir unit of the Congress, Tariq Hamid Karra today said that the party's high command will make the final decision regarding its strategy for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.

Speaking to the news agency—KNO, Karra said, "The matter will be discussed with the party leadership, and they will examine all aspects before taking a final call."

In the Rajya Sabha polls, the NC-Congress alliance is poised to comfortably win three out

of the four seats. It is widely believed that the Congress, which has six MLAs in J&K, could seek one of the three "safe" seats.

Sources disclosed that the party may field Ghulam Ahmad Mir, MLA from Dooru, who has already been playing a role at the national level.

Mir, who was appointed as the party's general secretary in charge of Jharkhand in December 2023, is currently serving as general secretary in charge of West Bengal. Under his leadership, the party performed well in both the assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Jharkhand, winning 16 and two seats respectively.

The party may also consider fielding a senior leader from the Jammu mainland, which was once its stronghold but failed to secure even a single assembly or Lok Sabha seat since 2014. (KNO)

### Utilise Centre's

He lauded the move aimed at connecting every Atal Tinkering Lab to larger ecosystem of guidance and mentorship. "The Atal Tinkering Lab is a fitting tribute to former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. These Labs are empowering our young students and providing them with the tools for new discovery and self-development, and imparting skills like problem-solving. By nurturing the curiosity of India's 'Amrit Generation,' ATL labs are laying the foundation for a developed and aspirational nation," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the steady transformation taking place in J&K's innovation ecosystem at the school level by Atal Tinkering Labs. "Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Kulgam, Shopian, Srinagar and many other districts are witnessing significant rise of student-led innovation and equipping students with future-ready skills," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 500 additional Atal Tinkering Labs for Jammu and Kashmir, at a cost of Rs 100 crore, under the Frontier Region Program.

He said these additional labs will play a crucial role in inclusive innovation by starting Atal Tinkering Labs in remote and tribal areas. The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised the need to increase the number of Atal Tinkering Labs in the Jammu division.

He said these labs will provide the youth of the region with the vast opportunity to invent effective solutions to local problems in areas such as agriculture, handicrafts, tourism, and disaster management.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, innovation is no longer limited to industries; it has become a permanent part of our society.

The Lieutenant Governor said the landmark Rs 1 lakh crore fund for research, development and innovation, for the next 6 years is accelerating progress in high-priority sectors, ranging from energy security to climate action and deep technologies like Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence.

He called upon the University of Kashmir to focus on skill development, and capacity building for Atal Tinkering Lab teachers, unlocking their potential and promoting creativity and innovation.

The Lieutenant Governor made a special mention of Atal Tinkering Lab students from across Jammu Kashmir for providing innovative solutions to address local problems and challenges. He also visited the stalls showcasing the innovative projects by the students of ATLs and interacted with the young innovators.

The occasion also witnessed the release of the coffee table book celebrating the successful innovations by the ATL students from Jammu Kashmir. The representatives of Corporate and Foundation partners also briefed on their CSR initiatives aimed at fostering a stronger innovation ecosystem in the UT of J&K.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, and Atomic Energy & Space also graced the launch ceremony.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Deepak Bagla, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog; Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Secretary School Education; Ms. Deepali Upadhyay, Program Lead, Atal Innovation Mission; Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, Kashmir University; senior officials, heads of educational institutions,

faculty members, teachers, and students of Atal Tinkering Labs were present. (KNO)

### Indian banks

country's banking system, especially the one in a country like India, does not give importance to MSMEs, it stops the growth story of the nation," he said.

If nobody had extended credit to these conglomerates, India would not have had so many industrial houses, Shah added.

It can be noted that as per the official statistics, the MSME growth in FY25 slowed down to 14.1 per cent from over 20 per cent in the previous fiscal. Analysts have of late expressed concerns about the credit quality in the MSME lending segment.

Talking about the global economy, Shah said India has emerged as a bright spot. "While the world is going through difficulties, with polarisation of societies and people losing faith in leadership, India is offering stability, trustworthy leadership and a robust economy," he stated.

He also highlighted India's consistent economic performance. "Many countries are struggling at a one to two per cent growth rate, while India has maintained a steady seven to eight per cent growth. This is a huge achievement," Shah said.

Highlighting investor confidence, Shah added, "We have consistently maintained a 14 per cent increase in foreign direct investment. This reflects global faith in India's economy."

Speaking about structural reforms, the minister said, "Through the PLI scheme, industrial corridors, logistics parks and Start-up India, we have created a new ecosystem. A decade ago we had only 26 start-ups, and today we have 1.92 lakh. In the last ten years, India has moved from 26th to 3rd position globally in this sector."

Shah pointed to future areas of growth. "Electric vehicles, battery technology, green growth, fintech, space and defence manufacturing will all strengthen India's growth story in the coming years," he said.

He recalled the state of banks before 2014. "Between 2008 and 2014, loans worth Rs 52 lakh crore were given, many of which turned into bad loans. The banking sector was marred by corruption, carelessness and lack of transparency. Prime Minister Modi decided to bring in reforms to clean up the system," Shah said.

The minister also mentioned the Jan Dhan initiative. "There were 60 crore people where not a single member of the family had a bank account. We opened 53 crore accounts and linked poor people with the banking network," he said.

On digital adoption, Shah remarked, "The UPI has brought a revolution in digital payments. Recent figures show that every second digital transaction in the world is happening in India."

He also stressed India's digital leap. "Today 52 crore people are using DigiLocker and 95 per cent of the country has 5G network coverage," Shah said.

### Invest in India's

Modi further said global investors are looking at India with great hope because the country has triple strength — diversity, demand and scale, making it the most attractive destination for investment.

India is unique in the world, as the country has production diversity, growing all kinds of foodgrains, fruits, and vegetables.

There is a huge demand for different types of food in India, making it a preferred destination for investors, he noted.

The scale at which India is working is "unprecedented", which has helped lift 25 crore people out of poverty and become part of the neo-middle class, Modi pointed out.

The neo-middle class is the country's most energetic and aspirational class, which is going to set food trends in the coming years, he added.

On GST reforms, Modi said the food processing sector has also benefited, with most food items falling under the zero or 5 per cent slab.

The Prime Minister also mentioned that the government has reduced the GST from 18 per cent to 5 per cent on biodegradable packaging to promote environmentally friendly packaging.

"The demand now is for biodegradable packaging. It is necessary to ensure the food products remain safe and fresh, but at the same time, there is a responsibility towards nature.

Therefore, the government has reduced GST," he said.

Modi also directed the industry to invest in biodegradable packaging innovations and shift towards it at the earliest.

The Prime Minister also highlighted that the government is investing in modernising processing plants, cold chain facilities and smart harbours in the fisheries sector. It is also investing in modern technologies to reduce crop wastage and improve shelf life.

He said the government is promoting the food processing sector by allowing 100 per cent FDI.

Schemes like production-linked incentive (PLI) and mega food parks have given a boost to the sector.

Modi said these initiatives have enhanced the sector's capacity 20 times in the last ten years. The exports have also doubled.

Russian Federation Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Patrishev, Union Ministers Chirag Paswan (Food Processing Industries), Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav (Ayush Ministry) and Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu were present at the event.

"We have signed MoUs worth Rs 1,00,000 crore that will create 9 lakh jobs in the coming years," Paswan said in his welcome address.

The sector has grown sharply in the last ten years. The government will not compromise on the quality of food products. It will set up 100 food testing labs across the country, he added.

The fourth edition of World Food India is aimed at attracting greater investments in the domestic food processing sector and positioning India as a global hub for food innovation.

During the 2023 edition, MoUs worth Rs 33,000 crore were signed, while the 2024 edition focused on technology transfer agreements.

Covering an expansive 1,00,000 square metres, World Food India 2025 is the largest congregation of stakeholders in India's food processing sector.

Over 21 countries, with New Zealand and Saudi Arabia as partner countries, and Japan, Russia, the UAE, and Vietnam as focus countries, are participating in the event.

Around 21 Indian states/Union Territories, 10 central ministries, and 5 allied government organisations with 1,700 plus exhibitors are likely to participate in the four-day event.

### Dr Jitendra visits

empowering small businesses.

Highlighting the Centre's recent steps to ease the business environment, Dr Singh pointed to the Modi government's major decision on revising Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates.

"We all know that Prime Minister Modi has taken a significant decision to revise GST rates. Some items are now at zero per cent tax. This is being celebrated across the country," Dr Singh, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said while speaking to the reporters.

He said the positive impact of the GST decision was visible even in the valley. "It is encouraging to see the same celebratory mood here in Kashmir. We are standing in Lal Chowk, one of the most prominent market areas and everywhere we went, people thanked Prime Minister Modi and said they felt a huge sense of relief," he said.

The Union Minister said that since tourists from across India and abroad visit this place, the message that goes out from here resonates nationwide.

He highlighted PM Modi's long-standing focus on Jammu and Kashmir, recalling his visit during the devastating 2014 floods. "Those who remember know that just months after taking the oath as Prime Minister in 2014, a massive flood hit Srinagar and submerged this very market. That year, instead of celebrating Diwali at home, Prime Minister Modi spent it here with the flood-affected people, which reflects the special priority he accords to Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Dr Jitendra said that promoting locally-made products ties directly into the government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) and will help artisans, traders and small entrepreneurs grow. (KNO)

### Rs 1500 cr loss

Malik said the horticulture industry, vital to the Union Territory's GDP, grappled with the mounting losses as perishable fruit shipments remained stranded for days. "If the administration could not ensure the smooth reopening of

the National Highway, they should have sought immediate defence assistance to avoid such chaos," he said, adding that the government's delay cost the sector heavily during its peak fruit season.

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Kaka Ji revealed that Sopore Fruit Mandi alone suffered losses of around Rs 600-700 crore, while the overall losses across Kashmir have touched an estimated Rs 1,500 crore. "The government must take a serious view of this crisis and provide every possible compensation to the growers", he urged.

He further demanded that authorities should waive off Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans for fruit growers and simultaneously seek a special relief package from the central government to salvage the horticulture industry.

It is noteworthy that the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the Valley's only all-weather road link to the rest of the country, witnessed repeated closures in recent weeks due to incessant rains and landslides, choking the transportation of apples and other perishable produce at a time when Kashmir is in the middle of its peak harvest season. (KNO)

### Restrictions in

protesters were handed over to their families today."

The official said that a Congress councillor, who was accused of instigating the protesters, has been booked, and other political leaders spearheading the protests are likely to face action.

In a post on X, Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta emphasised the need for heightened vigilance, seamless inter-agency coordination and proactive measures to safeguard peace, security and public order across the Union Territory. "Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta chaired a high-level security review meeting to assess the emerging situation across Ladakh, emphasizing the need for heightened vigilance, seamless inter-agency coordination, & proactive measures to safeguard peace, security, & public order across UT," Office of LG Ladakh posted on X.

Pertinently, the Union Home Ministry on Wednesday had said in a statement that activist Sonam Wangchuk's provocative speeches led to the violence in Leh.

Meanwhile, the administration has ordered the closure of all government and private schools, colleges, coaching centers, and other educational institutions in Leh for two days. (KNO)

### Centre scraps

organisation has given the donation for study on sovereignty of the country including some other topics and the fund had also been spent in line with the objectives of the foreign donors.

"The foreign contribution cannot be accepted for study on sovereignty of the nation. This act of the association is against the national interest of the country in violation of section 12 (4) (f) (i) of the Act," it said.

The ministry noted that in view of violations u/s 8(1)(a), 17, 18, 19 and conditions of registration under section 12 (4) (f) (i) of the Act, the FCRA registration certificate of the association is liable to be cancelled in exercise of power u/s 14 of the Act.

It stated that considering the facts and position, the Competent Authority, hereby, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 14 (1) of the Act, cancels with immediate effect the FCRA Certificate of Registration No. 152710012R granted to SECMOL.

At least four persons died and over 50 were injured after violent protest broke out in the Leh city on Wednesday. Over 30 police and CRP personnel were also injured during the clash. The Home Ministry, in a statement, blamed Sonam Wangchuk of provoking the mob by his speeches with references of Arab Spring-style protest and Gen Z protests in Nepal. (KNO)

### Don't take law

officers. He directed the DC to conduct extensive field visits to all affected areas and submit detailed ground reports at the earliest.

Responding to the Election Commission of India's announcement regarding the Rajya Sabha elections for Jammu and Kashmir after a four-year hiatus, the CM said the party will decide on the candidates for the four vacant seats in due course. He clarified that, at present, no discussions are underway regarding candidate selection. (KNO)



# GST reforms will continue, tax burden to ease further: PM Modi

PTI

Greater Noida, Sept 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the reforms in GST will continue and the tax burden on citizens will further ease as the economy gains more strength.

Modi emphasised that the nation currently possesses strong willpower for reforms, backed by democratic and political stability, along with policy predictability.

Earlier this month, India effected next-generation reforms in GST.

Modi said the structural reforms in Goods and Services Tax (GST) are set to give new wings to country's growth story.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025 here, Modi said his government has significantly reduced taxes, curbed inflation, and increased both income and savings for the people.

He said that by making income up to Rs 12 lakh tax-free and implementing new GST reforms, citizens are set to save Rs 2.5 lakh crore this year alone.

The Prime Minister said the government introduced reforms in the indirect tax regime by implementing GST in 2017, a significant step towards strengthening the economy, followed by further reforms in September of this year.

"Today, the country is proudly celebrating 'GST Bachat Utsav'. I



want to tell you that we are not going to stop here. In 2017, we brought GST... and then again (brought reforms) in 2025. We will further strengthen the economy. As the economy continues to grow, the tax burden will continue to decrease. With the blessings of the citizens, the reforms in GST will continue," he said.

The Prime Minister also accused opposition parties of spreading falsehoods to cover up their own governance failures, asserting that during the Congress regime, excessive taxation burdened ordinary citizens.

"The poor, new middle class, and middle class have all benefited with higher savings (due to IT benefits and GST reforms). Despite

this, some political parties are trying to confuse people. Congress and its allies are lying to the people to hide the failures of their own governments prior to 2014.

"The truth is that there was 'Tax Loot' during Congress-led governments. The common citizens of the country were suffering due to the heavy taxes. Our government has reduced the burden of taxes in a big way and lowered inflation," Modi said.

He also emphasised that India is advancing toward its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. "Despite global disruptions and uncertainty, India's growth remains attractive," he said, and added that disruptions do not divert India -- they reveal new directions. Amidst these

challenges, he said, India is laying a strong foundation for the coming decades.

He reiterated that the nation's resolve and guiding mantra is Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

Stressing that there is no greater helplessness than dependence on others, Modi said in a changing world, the more a country relies on others, the more its growth is compromised.

"India must become self-reliant. Every product that can be made in India must be produced in India," he said.

He called upon the entrepreneurs, traders, and innovators present at the event to design business models that strengthen India's self-reliance.

He further said the government is strongly focused on 'Make in India' and boosting domestic manufacturing, and spoke about the vision to produce everything from chips to ships within the country.

The government is continuously working to enhance Ease of Doing Business and highlighted that over 40,000 compliances have been eliminated, and hundreds of rules that previously led to legal cases over minor business errors have been decriminalised. He remarked that every Indian is now connected with swadeshi and wants to buy local products.

The sentiment of proudly saying "this is swadeshi" is being felt across the country, he asserted

and called on traders to adopt this mantra and prioritise products that are made in India, he said.

In his address, Modi also discussed the progress being made by Uttar Pradesh in various sectors. He said the state is brimming with extraordinary investment potential.

He informed that Uttar Pradesh now has the highest number of expressways in the country, leads in the number of international airports, and accounts for nearly 55 per cent of all mobile phones manufactured in the country.

He added that UP will also strengthen India's self-reliance in the semiconductor sector, with a major semiconductor facility set to begin operations.

The Prime Minister further said India's armed forces seek indigenous solutions and aim to reduce external dependence.

"In India, we are developing a vibrant defence sector, creating an ecosystem where every component bears the mark of 'Made in India'," he said while highlighting Uttar Pradesh's significant role in this transformation.

He said production of AK-203 rifles will soon commence at a factory established with Russian collaboration in the state.

Additionally, a defence corridor is being developed in the state, where the manufacture of BrahMos missiles and other weapon systems has already commenced.

## Defence ministry inks Rs 62,370 cr deal with HAL to procure 97 Tejas jets for IAF



PTI

New Delhi, Sept 25: The defence ministry on Thursday sealed a Rs 62,370 crore deal with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to procure 97 Tejas light combat aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

The signing of the contract came over a month after the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi green-lighted the mega procurement.

It is the second such contract awarded to the state-run aerospace behemoth. In February 2021, the defence ministry sealed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with HAL for procurement of 83 Tejas MK-1A jets for the IAF.

A contract was signed with the HAL for 97 Tejas Light Combat Aircraft- Mk1A

with associated equipment for the IAF at a cost of Rs 62,370 crore (excluding taxes), the ministry said.

The advanced jet will feature Swayam Raksha Kavach and control actuators, with over 64 per cent indigenous content and 67 new indigenous items, it said.

The deliveries will start in 2027-28, it said.

The single-engine Mk-1A will be a replacement for the IAF's MiG-21 fighters.

The IAF is looking at inducting the warplanes as the number of its fighter squadrons have gone down to 31 from officially sanctioned strength of 42.

Tejas is a multi-role fighter aircraft capable of operating in high-threat air environments. It has been designed to undertake air defence, maritime reconnaissance and strike roles.

## Reliance Consumer Products signs Rs 40,000 crore MoU with Centre 'To establish food manufacturing facilities pan India'

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 25: Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL) on Thursday signed a Rs 40,000-crore agreement with the Food Processing Industries Ministry to establish integrated food manufacturing facilities across the country, according to sources.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed at the World Food India 2025 event here, the sources said. Reliance Industries

had announced the investment plan at its annual general meeting in August, saying it would create "Asia's largest integrated food parks with AI-driven automation, robotics, and sustainable technologies." RCPL, which emerged from Reliance Retail and became a direct subsidiary of Reliance Industries, has become one of India's fastest-growing fast-moving consumer goods companies, generating revenue of over Rs 11,000 crore in just three years since

inception.

Under the MoU, RCPL will invest more than Rs 1,500 crore to set up integrated facilities for food products and beverages in Katol, Nagpur in Maharashtra and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.

At the August AGM, Reliance Industries director Isha Ambani said that RCPL was among the group's "growth engines" and aimed to achieve revenue of Rs 1 lakh crore within five years with a global presence. "Our long-term

ambition is to become India's largest FMCG company with a global presence," Ambani had said, adding that the FMCG business would serve as a "blueprint for expansion" into apparel, electronics and other consumer categories.

RCPL has acquired several consumer brands including Tagz Foods and launched house brands ranging from soap to cola under names including Campa, Independence, Alan's, Enzo and Ravalgaon.

PTI

Mumbai, Sept 25: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Thursday as relentless foreign fund outflows and US H-1B visa fee concerns made investors jittery.

Also, a weak trend in global peers drove the domestic equity markets lower.

Falling for the fifth day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 141.32 points to 81,574.31 in the opening trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty slipped 22.4 points to 25,034.50.

From the Sensex firms, Tata



Motors, Asian Paints, Titan, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services, Maruti and Eternal were among the laggards.

However, Bharat Electronics, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Adani Ports and

Infosys were among the major gainers. In the past four days, the BSE benchmark tumbled 1,298.33 points or 1.56 per cent, and the Nifty declined 366.7 points or 1.44 per cent.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,425.75 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

"With Trump's steep tariffs and new USD 1,00,000 H-1B visa fee weighing on sentiment, Nifty faces strong resistance at 25,300," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi quoted lower while Japan's Nikkei 225

index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng traded in positive territory. US markets ended lower on Wednesday.

"The significant drag on the market throughout this year has been the sustained selling by FIIs. The reforms being implemented in India, along with the low interest rate regime, have the potential to push economic growth and corporate earnings growth higher. This should bring FIIs back to the Indian market," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, said.

## How drinking the right amount of water can lower risk of stroke & heart disease, according to studies

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Sept 25: Chronic illnesses like stroke and cardiovascular disease continue to rank among the leading causes of death worldwide. Medical advancements have brought in better treatment, researchers are turning their attention to more simpler, everyday habits that could potentially play a powerful role in prevention.

Recent scientific studies are shedding light on a common drink that may do more than just quench thirst, it appears to support blood pressure, protect heart tissue and even lower the most life-threatening vascular conditions, and it is none other than, Water!

Two studies are landmarks in understanding this relationship. One is an extended view of how hydration might influence cardiovascular death. The other looks at short-term blood pressure and cardiac function variability following water consumption. Together, they offer an optimistic but still developing picture of how hydration might benefit the heart and brain.

What long-term research suggests

A recent systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis examined the long-term effects of total water and drinking water intake on mortality from all causes and cardiovascular disease (CVD). The study combined data from



seven prospective cohort studies, covering over 116,000 participants followed for up to 19 years. Individuals who consumed more total water had a lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease.

Each additional cup of total water per day was linked to a: 3% lower risk of death from CVD 2% lower risk of death from any cause

While simply drinking more water may not directly reduce the overall risk of death, higher total water intake appears to play a protective role against cardiovascular disease mortality. This supports the idea that staying hydrated could be an important part of maintaining heart health over time

The short-term cardiovascular effects of water

Additional direct evidence comes from a 2025 study reported in National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. This experiment tested for immediate cardiovascular responses in healthy adults after being given one glass of water (355 ml).

Results showed a major decrease in systolic blood pressure and decrease in heart rate shortly after consumption. The effects were observed in an hour

and reflected an increased regulation of the autonomic nervous system. Though the effects were temporary, they reflect on the role of hydration in facilitating support of heart function under everyday living conditions.

Temporary reductions in blood pressure, even minimal ones, decrease the heart's workload. For people susceptible to hypertension or cardiovascular stress, this daily habit might offer daily relief. The study also gives validity to the belief that water is not only harmless but actually beneficial.

Why staying hydrated is important

Virtually all major body systems benefit from proper hydration. From a cardiovascular and neurological perspective, it helps with:

Supporting the normal blood volume and viscosity

Increasing circulation and nutrient transport

Reducing the workload on the heart Preventing clotting by smoothing blood flow

Supporting kidney function, which helps regulate blood pressure

Dehydration reverses all of these, causing the blood to become more viscous, raising heart rate, and potentially increasing the risk for vascular strain. It may also induce headache, fatigue, and light-headedness, which indirectly lead to lifestyle choice that impacts long-term health.

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

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (MACADAM WORKS)

NIT No:65/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/4632-42

Dated:24-09-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees )	Earnest money (In Rupees )	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Upgradation of Link road from Bus Adda to MirporaDadasara.	9.71	600/-	2% of Adv cost	10 days	Revet Budget 2025-26	CEE/DEE	PWD R&B Deptt.
2.	Mecadamization of Hari Dadoo Road Balance Length 600 mtr.	24.27	800/-	2% of Adv cost	10 days	Revet Budget 2025-26	BEE/CEE	PWD R&B Deptt.

Position Of AAA:

Accorded vide Authorization No: PWD-PLNG/277/2025-05-PWD (7659593) Dated: 12.08.2025

Position of TS:

Sanctioned.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	25-09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	03-10-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	04-10-2025 12:00 PM

1. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department ). (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

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

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

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

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

Sd/-

Draftsman

Sd/-

Technical Officer

DIPK-6518/25

DATED: 25-09-2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora



# Under promise, over deliver? China unveils new climate goals

AFP

United Nations, Sept 25: China has for the first time made specific emission cut pledges, though its goal of reducing planet-warming greenhouse gases just 7-10 percent by 2035 is seen as far too modest.

But Beijing has often "under-promised and over-delivered," analysts say, and its pledge offers a path toward more ambitious efforts to tackle climate change.

Here's what to know:  
Why it matters

China is the world's second-biggest economy and the largest polluter. It accounts for nearly 30 percent of global emissions.

It is also a clean energy powerhouse, and sells most of the world's solar panels, batteries and electric cars.

China's trajectory determines whether the world will limit end-of-century warming to 1.5C and avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate disruption.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries must update their "Nationally Determined Contributions" every five years. Many are racing to do so before the COP climate summit in Brazil this November.

Beijing pledged in 2021 to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2060. But it gave no near-term numerical targets for reducing emissions. The geopolitical context has



raised the stakes: the United States has again quit the Paris accord under President Donald Trump, who dismisses climate change as a "con job," while a fractious European Union has yet to set new targets.

What China promised  
Under the new plan, China pledges to:

- Cut economy-wide net greenhouse gas emissions by 7-10 percent from peak levels, while "striving to do better." Some analysts believe China's emissions have already peaked or will do so soon.

- To align with 1.5C, Beijing needs to cut emissions around 30 percent within a decade from 2023 levels. The United States peaked CO2 emissions in 2007 and reduced them by approximately 14.7 percent a decade later.
- Increase

- non-fossil fuels in total energy consumption to over 30 percent and expand wind and solar capacity to more than six times 2020 levels, reaching 3,600 gigawatts.

- Increase forest cover to over 24 billion cubic meters.

- Make electric vehicles "mainstream" in new sales.

- Expand the national carbon trading scheme to cover high-emission sectors and establish a "climate adaptive society."

What experts think

Observers almost universally say the targets are too modest — but that China is likely to surpass them thanks to its booming clean technology sector.

"China has often under-promised and over-delivered," said Andreas Sieber, associate director of policy

and campaigns at advocacy group 350.org. The new target is "underwhelming," but "it anchors the world's largest emitter on a path where clean-tech defines economic leadership," he added.

Others echoed that sentiment.

"What's hopeful is that the actual decarbonization of China's economy is likely to exceed its target on paper," said Yao Zhe of Greenpeace East Asia.

China is installing renewable energy at a record pace that far outstrips the rest of the world, and it dominates the production chain of many clean-tech sectors.

But it has also continued to install coal capacity, and its decision to use an unspecified "peak" rather than set a baseline year for emissions cuts raised concerns.

That keeps "the door open to near-term increases in emissions," warned Lauri Myllyvirta, lead analyst at the Center for Research on Energy and Clear Air.

The pledges serve as "a floor, not a ceiling, for China's ambition," he added. Still, many observers believe China's economy is now committed to the energy transition and the pledges will cement that.

"The good news is that in a world increasingly driven by self-interest, China is in a stronger position than most to drive climate action forward," said Li Shuo of the Asia Society.

## Japan Open: Alcaraz survives ankle injury scare, advances to second round

Tokyo, Japan, Sept 25: Carlos Alcaraz overcame an injury scare to progress to the second round of the ongoing Japan Open competition on Thursday, beating Sebastian Baez in a convincing manner.

Alcaraz produced dead silence from the audience when he went down to the court 20 minutes into the match, needing some help with his left ankle, but nonetheless continued to script an easy 6-4, 6-2 win, as per Olympics.com.

Following the match, he said, as quoted by Olympics.com, "I think I played a great level of tennis besides what happened at the beginning of the match. I am just happy to get the win and happy that I was able to play until the end of the match."

During the fifth game of the first set, with scores level 2-2, Alcaraz's leg gave up as he charged forward from baseline and he fell over his back, clutching his head and grabbing his left ankle in agonising pain. The audience held its breath, waiting for the world number one to get up and continue. Alcaraz got proper treatment and continued to entertain the crowd, converting his second break point to take a 5-4 lead.

## Bumrah back in Test squad for WI series; doors shut on Karun, Easwaran

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 25: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Thursday named in India's Test squad for the home series against the West Indies, while Devdutt Padikkal replaced Karun Nair, who could not deliver fully on what was "expected" of him in the opportunities offered so far.

While announcing the 15-member squad at the Indian team hotel here, Chairman of Selectors Ajit Agarkar dropped elaborate hints that Nair and Bengal opener Abhimanyu Easwaran are no longer in the scheme of things.

Rishabh Pant's absence has resulted in Ravindra Jadeja's elevation as vice-captain for the West Indies, while stylish Karnataka left-hander Padikkal, 25, is being seen as a long-term investment along with the 23-year-old Sai Sudharsan, who has locked the No.3 slot.

On Bumrah, Agarkar was clear that the pacer is well-rested and good to go in the series that gets underway on October 2 in Ahmedabad.

"This is a team for both the Test matches. So, he's available for both. We've had a fair break after England. He didn't play the fifth Test



either. There's been a month or five weeks of break," he said in response to a PTI query.

"This tournament (the ongoing Asia Cup here where Bumrah is playing) has been fairly spaced out till this last week. He's ready and keen to play both Test matches," Agarkar explained.

However, while speaking on Nair, he was clear that the 30-year-old burly Bengaluru man didn't make full use of opportunities, scoring one fifty in eight innings during the tour of England.

"We feel Padikkal offers a little bit more at this point and I wish we could give everyone 15 or 20 Tests. Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way," Agarkar said.

"Padikkal's been in the Test

squad. Frankly, we expected a bit more from Karun in England. Devdutt was in the Test squad in Australia, played in Dharamsala against England, got a 50 there. He's shown some decent form within the race," the former pacer stated.

When asked why Sudharsan got the nod when he and Nair had a similar run in England, Agarkar said: "Eventually, it's a little bit about continuity. There were a few changes at No.3 because of the combination that we played."

"But going forward, Sai has shown a lot of promise. We know he's a very good player. Hopefully, we can give him a longish run from now on, at a particular number," he explained.

## Padikkal returns as India name Gill-led Test squad for West Indies series Jadeja named vice captain

IANS

New Delhi, Sept 25: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday announced Shubman Gill-led 15-member squad for the two home Tests against the West Indies, starting from October 2, with Devdutt Padikkal making a return and senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja named vice captain.

Padikkal's last appearance in Tests came in the first game of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in November 2024, where he registered scores of 0 and 25 in two innings. Earlier this month, the left-hander scored a century in the first unofficial Test against Australia A in Lucknow.

Shubman Gill, who took over the red-ball captaincy from Rohit Sharma after the latter retired from the format, will lead the side, with Ravindra Jadeja as his deputy.

Dhruv Jurel, who replaced injured Rishabh Pant in the playing XI for the final Test against England in August, has been named the wicketkeeper for the Windies series and N Jagadeesan included as the backup keeper. Pant was the vice-captain during the recent five-match England series; the 27-year-old sustained a serious injury to his foot in the fourth Test and was subsequently ruled out of the fifth and final game. Karun Nair, who had a middling time on the tour of England, which marked



his comeback to Tests after eight years, has been dropped from the setup. Meanwhile, pacer Prasidh Krishna, who suffered a blow to his head while fielding in the second unofficial Test against Australia A on Wednesday, has also been included in the squad.

Shreyas Iyer has not been considered for selection after he requested the BCCI to grant him a six-month break from the red-ball format. He recently led the India A side against Australia A in the first of the two four-day unofficial Tests before handing over the captaincy duties to Jurel for the second game.

The series opener will be played in

Ahmedabad, after which the action will move to Delhi from October 10. This will be India's first Test series after the 2-2 draw in England for the first-ever Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

India are currently placed third, after Australia and Sri Lanka, despite playing more games than the two teams at No. 1 and 2.

India Squad: Shubman Gill (c), Yas-hasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravindra Jadeja (VC), Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, N Jagadeesan, Mohd. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav

## Netanyahu slams leaders recognizing Palestinian state ahead of US trip



AFP

Jerusalem, Sept 25: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denounced leaders who had recognized a Palestinian state, as he headed to the United States on Thursday for White House talks and an address to the UN General Assembly.

His remarks came three days after France led a special summit on the sidelines of the General Assembly, which saw a slew of Western governments recognize the State of Palestine against the backdrop of the nearly two-year Gaza war.

Netanyahu is due to address the assembly on Friday.

"At the General Assembly, I will speak our truth — the truth of the citizens of Israel, the truth of the (Israeli) soldiers, the truth of our nation," Netanyahu said at Ben Gurion airport ahead of his departure, according to a statement from his office.

"I will condemn those leaders who, instead of condemning the murderers, rapists and burners of children, want to give them a state in the heart of Israel. This will not happen."

On Wednesday, Netanyahu said the recent flurry of recognitions of Palestinian statehood, including by Britain and France, did "not obligate Israel in any way," calling it a "shameful capitulation of some leaders to Palestinian terror."

On Thursday, he said he would meet with US President Trump for a fourth time in Washington.

"I will discuss with him the great opportunities that our victories have brought, as well as our need to complete the goals of the war: to bring back all our hostages, to defeat Hamas and to expand the circle of peace that has opened up to us," Netanyahu said.

US envoy Steve Witkoff said Wednesday he expected a breakthrough related

to Gaza in the coming days, saying Trump had presented a plan to Arab and Islamic countries.

"We presented what we call the Trump 21-point plan for peace in the Mideast and Gaza," Witkoff said.

"I think it addresses Israeli concerns as well as the concerns of all the neighbors in the region," he said on the sidelines of the General Assembly, without elaborating on the 21 points. "We're hopeful, and I might say even confident, that in the coming days we'll be able to announce some sort of breakthrough."

An Israeli air strike on a home where displaced people had taken refuge in central Gaza killed at least 11 people on Thursday, the territory's civil defense spokesperson told AFP.

In recent weeks the military has been carrying out a ground assault on Gaza City, the territory's largest urban center, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee.

## ‘Vietnam’s top leader to pay rare visit to North Korea in Oct’

REUTERS

Hanoi, Sept 25: Vietnam's Communist Party chief To Lam is expected to visit North Korea next month, two Vietnamese officials said, marking the first visit in nearly 20 years for a Vietnamese leader to the largely isolated nation.

The two Communist countries maintain close diplomatic ties but have currently no trade relations, according to the Vietnamese embassy in Pyongyang.

The possible visit, with preparations still underway, has not been officially announced by either side. Vietnam's ministry of foreign affairs and North Korea's embassy in Hanoi did not respond to requests for comment.

The two officials declined to indicate a precise time frame for the visit and the issues that may be discussed, but one official said Lam would meet North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un.

The last time a Vietnamese leader visited



North Korea was in 2007 when the head of the ruling Communist Party Nong Duc Manh embarked on a three-day trip to the country, marking the first visit by a Vietnamese party chief since the late President Ho Chi Minh in 1957.

In a rare foreign trip, Kim visited Hanoi in 2019 as part of a visit whose highlight was a summit with US President Donald Trump, then serving his first term at the White House.

## Show Timings

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September

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BAAGHI 4 (A)  
HINDI - 02:20 PM



JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)  
HINDI - 05:30 PM, 06:45 PM



CHAINSAW MAN - THE MOVIE: REZE ARC (A)  
JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
04:40 PM



ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER (A)  
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
06:55 PM

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