



5 killed, roads shut, rivers in spate as heavy rain lashes J&K

NH-244 closed; Chenab, Lidder, Sheshnag cross critical levels; nearly 100 vehicles damaged in Rajouri; search continues for missing employee; MeT forecasts another spell of heavy rain tomorrow; warns of flash floods, landslides, waterlogging over next 24-48 hours

Sajid Raina

Jammu/Srinagar, Jul 22: At least five people were killed, several major roads were closed, rivers and nallahs swelled to dangerous levels, and widespread damage was reported across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday as incessant rainfall triggered flash floods, landslides and waterlogging, prompting authorities to issue fresh advisories and intensify rescue operations.

According to details obtained by the news agency – Kashmir News Observer (KNO), two people were killed after a Tempo Traveller was hit by falling stones at Gangroo in Ramban district, while three others lost their lives after being swept away by floodwaters in separate incidents in Bandipora and Budgam districts, officials said.

In Bandipora, the bodies of 14-year-old Amir Khatana, son of late Mehboob Khatana and his mother were recovered from Guzarbal nallah after they were swept away by flooded



Nallah while trying to retrieve firewood being carried downstream by the swollen nallah.

In Budgam district, a man identified as Shabir Ahmad Poswal of Drang died after being swept away by a flooded nallah. His body was later retrieved by rescue teams.

Heavy rainfall also forced the temporary closure of the Batote-Kishtwar National Highway (NH-244), while traffic

movement remained affected at several vulnerable stretches due to landslides and shooting stones, officials said.

Meanwhile, a massive search operation entered the fourth day in Rajouri district to trace Abdul Ghani, a Jal Shakti Department employee who went missing after floodwaters washed away a pumping station at Plangarh village in Thanamandi. Teams of the SDRF, NDRF, police and the

Army are participating in the rescue operation.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajouri Abhishek Sharma said preliminary assessments indicate that nearly 100 vehicles suffered extensive damage in the recent floods. "About 50 damaged vehicles have been recovered, while another 50, including passenger vehicles and heavy machinery, were washed away and are yet to be traced," he said.

The DC said 15 relief and lodging centres have been established across the district, two of which are already operational. He said government and private schools will reopen only after detailed safety audits, citing the continued risk of landslides even after rainfall subsides.

The administration has also prohibited commercial use of building basements, including libraries and gyms, in vulnerable low-lying areas, Sharma added.

Amid the continuing rains, authorities issued flood alerts after water | [More on P6](#)

J&K Police head constable killed in Anantnag terror attack

DGP, Special DGP, IGP, other officers visit spot, assess situation; massive crackdown launched, police roundup over 2,500 suspected OGWs; LG, CM attack; express condolence



Jahangeer Ganaie

Anantnag, Jul 22: A Head Constable of the Jammu and Kashmir Police was killed in a terrorist attack in the Lal Chowk area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday, triggering a massive security crackdown across the Valley, with over 2500 suspected Over Ground Workers (OGWs) picked up for questioning and search

operations intensified at multiple locations.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that terrorists appeared at busy Lal Chowk the attack took place around 12:30 p.m. and fired upon a policeman from a close range. He sustained critical injuries and was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him | [More on P6](#)

Police warn against sharing 'unverified' content

KNO Correspondent

Anantnag Police on Wednesday cautioned the public against sharing unauthorised photographs, videos and unverified information related to the terror incident in Lal Chowk area, warning that violators will face legal action. A senior police officer told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that several social media users and platforms were circulating fake photographs, edited videos and unverified content linked to the incident, which could hamper the investigation, spread misinformation and create public panic. Police directed | [More on P6](#)

'Jhelum well below warning mark despite rains, no need to panic'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Amid continuous rainfall across Kashmir, the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department on Wednesday said there is no cause for panic as the Jhelum river and its major tributaries are flowing well below the warning and danger levels across the Valley. Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir, Showkat Hussain, told the

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that there is "absolutely no need to panic".

"The water level in the Jhelum is well below the warning and danger levels at all major gauge stations," he said.

"We are monitoring the situation round the clock, and people should not pay heed to rumours."

According to the gauge readings by KNO, the Jhelum was flowing at 6.78 feet at Sangam | [More on P6](#)

MP Mian Altaf escapes unhurt on Jammu-Poonch highway

Raja Syed Rather

Jammu, Jul 22: Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad on Wednesday escaped unhurt after a landslide hit his official vehicle while he was inspecting rain and landslide-affected areas along the Jammu-Poonch National Highway, officials said.

Officials told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that rocks and debris suddenly rolled down from a hill and struck the MP's vehicle during the inspection.

However, Mian Altaf and those accompanying him escaped without injuries.

The incident led to the temporary closure of the Jammu-Poonch National Highway, with authorities immediately launching clearance operations to remove the debris and restore traffic.

Officials have urged commuters to avoid unnecessary travel on the highway and adhere to traffic | [More on P6](#)

Army Rifleman dies after fall in Rajouri

KNO Correspondent

Rajouri, Jul 22: An Army rifleman died after slipping while on duty at a forward post in the Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the deceased, a rifleman of the 19 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (19 JAK Rifles), was deployed at the forward location.

He said the rifleman sustained fatal injuries after slipping at the post and died on duty.

The deceased was later identified as Rifleman Sukhpreet Singh, a resident of Punjab.

The official said cognizance of the incident has been taken and further proceedings have been initiated. (KNO)

LG, CM review rescue operations

Over 400 roads restored in Jammu: Sinha; Omar orders high alert, visits flood-hit areas in Beerwah

Sajid Raina/

Naveed UI Haq Ganaie

Srinagar, Jul 22: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday separately reviewed the flood situation across Jammu and Kashmir, with the LG directing authorities to intensify rescue operations and the Chief Minister assuring relief to affected traders besides ordering all departments to remain on high alert.

LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) wrote on X: "I spoke with senior officials today to assess the ground situation in districts affected by heavy rains, flash floods, and landslides across Jammu Kashmir. During the review, I was briefed on ongoing relief efforts by district administrations, SDRF, NDRF, J&K Police, the Indian Army, BRO, NHA, Health, PWD, and Jal Shakti



departments. Directed teams to intensify rescue operations. Joint operations continue in Poonch and Rajouri and over 400 damaged roads in Jammu Division have already been restored."

"I've instructed Officials to position manpower and machinery at safe, strategic locations near vulnerable areas for immediate response and

issued directions to disseminate timely advisories to the citizens discouraging unnecessary travel in high-risk zones. I also spoke with DC Ramban regarding the tragic shooting stones incident in which two precious lives were lost. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family members and praying for the speedy recovery of | [More on P6](#)

Heavy rain keeps temps below normal across J&K

Katra records coldest July day, Kathua gets highest rainfall

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jul 22: Widespread moderate to heavy rainfall lashed Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, with Kathua recording the highest rainfall of 153.4 mm in the past 24 hours, while Katra witnessed its coldest July day on record as persistent cloud cover kept daytime temperatures significantly below normal.

According to weather data shared by Kashmir Weather with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the heaviest rainfall in the Jammu region during the 24-hour period ending at 8:30 am was recorded in Kathua (153.4 mm), followed by Samba (133 mm), Udhampur (132.6 mm), Jammu Airport (67.7 mm), Jammu city (62.1 mm), Katra (58.5 mm), Poonch (51 mm), Ramban (49 mm),

Batote (46.1 mm), Reasi (44.5 mm) and Rajouri (40.8 mm).

In the Kashmir valley, Gulmarg received the highest rainfall at 55 mm, followed by Baramulla (37.5 mm), Tangmarg (28.2 mm), Pahalgam (23.8 mm), Lolab (22.4 mm), Nowgam Handwara (21.2 mm), Avantipora (21 mm), Bumhama Kupwara (19.8 mm), Qazigund (19.6 mm) and Kokernag (17 mm), among other stations.

The rain continued through the day, with fresh precipitation recorded between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. Bhawan (Shri Mata Vaishno Devi) received the highest rainfall at 109 mm, followed by Reasi (94.5 mm), Katra (91.4 mm), Bakore (50.5 mm), Jammu (47 mm), Ramban (43.5 mm), Banihal (37.2 mm), Rajouri (36 mm), Gulmarg | [More on P6](#)

KU postpones today's exams

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Jul 22: The University of Kashmir on Wednesday postponed all examinations scheduled to be held on July 23 in view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions.

According to a notice issued by the Office of the Controller of Examinations, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), all University examinations slated for July 23, 2026, have been postponed.

The notice stated that the revised dates for the postponed examinations/papers will be notified separately in due course.

"In view of the inclement weather conditions, all University examinations scheduled to be held on 23.07.2026 are hereby postponed. The | [More on P6](#)

LG Sinha visits Voluntary Medicare Society, interacts with para athletes

Assures world-class support

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 22: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today visited the Voluntary Medicare Society (VMS) today, which has been tirelessly serving Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh for over five decades through healthcare, education, livelihood, and community inclusion. During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor held key discussions with officials of the organisation and Para Athletes regarding the holistic empowerment, rehabilitation, and sports development for Divyangjan across Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

The VMS office bearers and its President/ Founder Dr. Mir Mohammad Maqbool and



Vice President Prof Masooda Yasin, urged the Lieutenant Governor for building a robust and structured ecosystem for adaptive sports. Several key initiatives and requirements including Robotic appliances for Physiotherapy, healthcare and skill development facility, setting up a J&K Para Sports Association to facilitate talent from the district level up to international competitions, developing an Indoor Para Sports Hall to ensure an accessible,

all-weather environment for year-round training and rehabilitation, addressing core athlete needs and including specialized sports wheelchairs, modern equipment, coaching camps, exposure programs, and travel assistance were deliberated.

The Lieutenant Governor said that under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India remains steadfast | [More on P6](#)

Rotary Club has put humanity first for 100 years: LG Sinha

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jul 22: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Rotary Club of Kashmir's installation ceremony on Wednesday. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the new President and team and best wishes to the outgoing President.

The Lieutenant Governor said that for over 100 years, Rotary has put humanity first through dedicated, selfless service and today it stands as a global force for human welfare, driving positive change across our country through thousands of active clubs.

"Since 2019, as Jammu Kashmir advances with unified momentum, we have also seen the Rotary Club's spirit of service in action, notably through their selfless medical initiatives across North, South Kashmir and Jammu Division. I want to



tell the incoming President and executive team that they are entrusted with a vital torch, and carrying it forward with tangible impact is a profound duty placed upon their shoulders," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted three specific areas which require Rotary Club's attention.

"I appeal to the Rotary Club of Kashmir not to limit itself to scholarships or book distribution alone, but to create a professional guidance chain, a network that connects young talents living in remote areas with experienced professionals. I want the Rotary Club of Kashmir to provide opportunities in | [More on P6](#)

BHAVYA Scheme: CS Atal Dulloo reviews implementation strategy

Stresses timely submission of DPRs for creation of world-class Plug-and-Play Industrial Parks in J&K



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation strategy for the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), a flagship Government of India initiative aimed at developing next-generation Plug-and-Play Industrial Parks across the country and positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred investment destination.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), PDD; ACS, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Managing Director, SIDCO; besides other senior officers of the concerned departments.

Reviewing the proposals in detail, the Chief Secretary undertook an assessment of the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) prepared for the proposed Plug-and-Play Industrial Parks at Pekhari, Samba and Nowgam, Srinagar.

Stressing the need for meticulous planning and technical robustness, he directed that the DPRs be thoroughly vetted by the Power Development

Department and the Public Works (R&B) Department to ensure their technical feasibility, engineering soundness and conformity with the prescribed standards before their submission to the Government of India for consideration under the BHAVYA Scheme.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of the land identified for establishment of the proposed industrial parks and sought details regarding the process of transfer and vesting of the land in favour of the implementing agency in accordance with the applicable legal and administrative provisions. He instructed the concerned departments to expedite all necessary procedural formalities so that the projects are taken forward without avoidable delays.

Dulloo further examined the proposed institutional and implementation framework envisaged for execution of the projects. He deliberated upon the mechanism proposed for establishment, execution and long-term management of these industrial parks, including the constitution of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), project implementation arrangements and the administrative structure that would

oversee their timely grounding, monitoring and successful completion in strict adherence to the operational guidelines of the BHAVYA Scheme.

Emphasising coordinated action, the Chief Secretary directed all stakeholder departments to work in close synergy to ensure that all statutory clearances, technical approvals are sought well in time, enabling the Union Territory to submit comprehensive and technically robust proposals capable of securing approval and financial assistance from the Government of India.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary was apprised by the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh about the broad contours of the BHAVYA Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, envisaging the development of 100 state-of-the-art Plug-and-Play Industrial Parks across the country during the period 2026-27 to 2031-32, with the first phase covering 50 industrial parks.

He added that the UT is well on the way to submit two proposals for the two divisions before the set deadline of 31st July so that both of them are considered and approved by the Ministry there. The scheme provides central assistance of up to 1 crore per acre for eligible projects, subject to prescribed norms and approvals.

During the meeting, the MD, SIDCO, Mohammad Shahid Saleem made a comprehensive presentation on the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) prepared for two proposed Plug-and-Play Industrial Parks under the BHAVYA Scheme.

DC Kulgam visits Qaimoh, Kudwani areas

Takes on-ground assessment of rainfall scenario



KT News Desk

KULGAM, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Wednesday visited Qaimoh and Kudwani areas to take an on-ground assessment of the prevailing rainfall scenario and review

the preparedness of the flood management authorities.

During the visit, the DC, as per an official statement, inspected vulnerable locations, including flood-prone low lying areas, river banks and reviewed precautionary measures being taken by the concerned

departments.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the local residents and also informed that men and machinery have been deployed across the vulnerable locations to keep check on water levels.

The DC also directed the concerned departments to supervise the working of beat teams deployed to keep round the clock vigil over the flood gauge levels and extend assistance to vulnerable populations.

The DC appealed to the public to avoid venturing near rivers, streams and other water bodies during the ongoing spell of rainfall and to strictly follow advisories issued by the administration.

He further directed the concerned officers to ensure the timely shifting of nomadic families from vulnerable locations to safer rescue centers and to remain prepared for any emergency response. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Tehsildar Qaimoh, Executive Engineers of Irrigation & Flood Control Departments, and officers of other concerned departments, who briefed him about the preparedness measures and the ground situation.

Continuous Rainfall: District Disaster Management teams intensify field monitoring across Baramulla

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JULY 22: In view of the continuous rainfall across Baramulla district, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Baramulla is on high alert and conducting field inspections to assess the situation in their respective jurisdictions.

Various sectoral officers visited vulnerable locations, monitored water levels in rivers and nallahs, reviewed flood preparedness measures, and assessed the availability of essential resources to

ensure prompt response in case of any emergency.

At Sopore, Additional Deputy Commissioner, S.A. Raina, accompanied by a team of officers, visited Mahrajpora, Tarzoo, Ningli and Sheer Colony to monitor the water level of the River Jhelum and inspect vulnerable points along the embankments. He informed that adequate sandbags are available to strengthen the bunds, if required, and stated that the situation is presently under control.

At Uri, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Prince Kumar, accompanied

by a team of officers, inspected Nambra, Bela Salamabad, Machikrand, Bandi, Trikanjan, Boniyar, Mayan, Hapat Nallah and Hajipeer Nallah. The inspection revealed that water levels at all locations were within the normal range and no untoward incident was reported.

At Pattan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gulzar Ahmad visited Matipora, Singhpora, Hanjiveera and other vulnerable spots to monitor water levels in the River Jhelum and local nallahs. During the inspection, engineers from the Flood Irrigation

Division, Narbal, apprised the SDM about the availability of adequate sandbags for emergency response. The SDM also inspected various health institutions to review the availability of medical staff, essential medicines and emergency preparedness, besides interacting with attendants to obtain feedback on healthcare services.

At Tangmarg, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Mir Jaleel, accompanied by a team of officers, inspected Nallah Ferozpora to monitor the water level and review flood preparedness in the area.

DC Pulwama chairs District Level Telecom Committee Meeting

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) at the Administrative Complex here to review the status of telecom infrastructure, mobile network coverage, BharatNet implementation and other connectivity-related issues across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation highlighting the progress achieved under various telecom connectivity initiatives being implemented in the district was presented. Discussions focused on mobile tower saturation, augmentation of signals, phase-wise coverage network status, Right of Way (RoW) issues and the progress of the BharatNet project.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, took a detailed review of the project-wise status of mobile tower installations and the progress of BharatNet & BSNL 4G Saturation Project across the district. He also reviewed the status of signal augmentation, coverage in underserved and shadow areas, and issues related to pending sites, including power connectivity, land availability and other logistical requirements necessary for their timely completion.

Dr. Qayoom directed all stakeholder departments and telecom service providers to work in close coordination for the timely completion of ongoing projects and resolution of pending issues. He emphasized the importance of strengthening digital connectivity, particularly in remote and underserved areas, to facilitate improved access to communication services, online platforms and digital governance initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama; Officers from R&B, KPDCL, Rural Development, PMGSY; SDO BSNL, Pulwama and representatives of various telecom service providers.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA E-mail, id, xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender(Short Term)

e-NIT No:	MHDH/TS/2026-27/eNIT/35
Date:	22/07/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from registered/reputed firms for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Shifting/ relocating of Oxygen bed panel 02 Nos from 2nd floor gynaeological ward to Ground Floor for installation of ventilators, Electrification job and minor sanitary works at RO-Dialysis ward, at DH Handwara.	0.4413	200.00	900	07 days	Accorded	Accorded

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility

criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 22/07/2026 (1800hrs)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 23/07/2026 (1000hrs) to 31/07/2026 (1400hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 31/07/2026 (1600hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.

1. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
2. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara
No: - MHDH/TS/1093-1100
Dated: -22/07/2026
DIPK-3599/26
DATED: 22-07-2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer(R&B) Division Ganderbal

Address: Mini Secretariat Ganderbal

No.:4884-89
Subject:- Invitation of Various Tenders under C&T.
Reference:- This Office FreshNIT No.35 (Serial 1-5) of 2026-27 issued under endorsement No.4443-48 Dated:15-07-2026.
Dated:- 21-07-2026

Extension Notice

The Bid submission end date for the subject work floated for tenders vide this office NIT No. referred to above which were scheduled to be on 21-07-2026 upto 04:00 PM is hereby extended and the details were of are given as under:-

1	Date of issue of Tender	15-07-2026
2	Period of down-loading of bidding documents	15-07-2026
3	Bid submission start date	15-07-2026 from 04.00 PM
4	Bid submission End date	24-07-2026 upto 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening	25-07-2026 at 11:00 PM in the office Of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

The other terms and conditions of the aforesaid NIT shall remain unaltered.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B)Division Ganderbal
DIPK-3580/26
DATED: 22-07-2026

UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 56 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering DATED: 21.07.2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time &Date of Openingof Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of TS
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
1	Lanes and Drains of Sopore Town.	198.64	2600/-	397300	02 Years	12.08. 2026	AAY	IDMT Urban Dev. Selector	CE/PWD (R&B) NKDB/TS /168 of 2026-27 dated: 18.7.2026

Project Authority: Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
Position of funds: Available
Position of AA. Accorded by Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir vide his order No: 670/DULB/Plg of 2026 dated: 3.7.2026

1, The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, billof quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www. jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	21.07.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21.07.2026 to 11.08.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	21.07.2026
4	Bid submission End date	11.08.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	12.08.2026 (12 PM) in the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla

2, Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/ BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released after submission of a performance security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NIT No.03 of 2026-27.

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

22: If the Contractor breaches the contract, the Department reserves the right to award the remaining work to new bidders at the defaulting contractor's expense immediately after the notice of breach has been served on the defaulter. In the event of a breach of contract by the Contractor, the Performance Security will be forfeited along with the termination of contract termination. Furthermore, the defaulting contractor will be barred from participating in future from participating in R&B Department in Bidding Processes for a period of one year. Any Subsequent Breach shall result in process of irrevocable cancellation of Registration.

23 The bidder must be registered on JKPWDOMS portal, while participating in the tendering process it should be ensured that all bank account of contractors mapped on JKPWDOMS must be linked with PAN No, GST No and ADHAAR No as per the circular instructions issued by the Finance Department.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

No : 4181-90
Dated: 21.07.2026.

DIPK-3562/26
DATED: 22-07-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

Rainfall Aftermath

Dy CM visits flood hit Bella

• Reviews restoration works in Rajouri

KT News Desk

Rajouri, July 22: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Wednesday visited the flood-affected area of Bella in Rajouri to assess the ground situation following the recent flash floods.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the officers and field functionaries deployed on the spot. He directed them to expedite restoration works, including clearance of damaged road stretches and restoration of essential services, so that normalcy is restored at the earliest.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister chaired a review meeting in Rajouri to review the progress of restoration works and emergency response measures following the recent flash floods. He reviewed the preparedness and response of all concerned departments and directed officers to ensure speedy restoration of essential services and effective relief measures for the affected population.

The meeting was informed that the district administration, along with all line departments, has been undertaking rescue, relief and restoration works on war footing. It was informed that four persons were initially reported missing in the flash flood incident, of whom three bodies have been recovered, while search operations are continuing to trace the remaining missing persons. Besides, multi-agency rescue operations involving the SDRF, NDRF, Police, Indian Army and other departments are being carried out in close coordination, while the administration



continues to work round the clock for the safety and welfare of the affected people.

Reviewing the status of infrastructure restoration, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to ensure proper drainage along NH-144A and expedite road works wherever progress is slow. He stressed that scientific drainage management is essential to prevent future damage.

The meeting was informed that 157 PMGSY roads were damaged due to the flash floods. Officers of PWD, PMGSY and BRO were directed to restore connectivity on priority and ensure that all damaged public infrastructure is repaired at the earliest.

Reviewing the Jal Shakti Department, the officers informed that 131 water supply schemes had been affected. Drinking water is presently being supplied through water tankers in affected areas until normal

services are restored. It was further informed that of the 150 power feeders affected, all except 30 had been restored and the remaining feeders would be made functional by the evening.

The Deputy Chief Minister also reviewed the availability of essential commodities and directed the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department to ensure there is no black marketing or hoarding. He instructed the officers to maintain an uninterrupted supply of ration and other essentials, particularly for stranded labourers and vulnerable families. He was informed that dry ration kits and packed food are being distributed in the affected areas.

The meeting was further informed that 76 schemes of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department have suffered damage. The Deputy Chief Minister directed the department to prepare a comprehensive proposal

for flood protection works in the Bella area to minimise the risk of such incidents in the future.

Taking serious note of delays in repairing roads within the defect liability period, the Deputy Chief Minister directed that contractors who failed to fulfil their contractual obligations be identified and blacklisted in accordance with the rules.

He also reviewed the assessment of losses in the Agriculture, Horticulture, Education and other sectors. He directed the concerned departments to conduct a comprehensive and transparent assessment so that relief and rehabilitation measures are implemented without delay.

Appreciating the prompt response of the district administration and the coordinated efforts of all rescue agencies, the Deputy Chief Minister commended the officers and field teams for their dedication during the crisis. He called for continued coordination among all departments to ensure early restoration of normalcy and effective rehabilitation of the affected population.

The meeting was attended by MLA Rajouri Iftkhar Ahmed, MLA Thanamandi Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, Chief Engineer PWD (R&B), ADDC Malikzada Sheraz-ul-Haq, PO ICDS Harpal Singh, ACR Mohammad Jahangir Khan, SE PWD (R&B) Manzoor Ahmed, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, SE Jal Shakti Sunil Kumar Bhat, ACD Auqil Nuvaid, ACP Mohammad Rafeeq, DSEO Sandeep Sharma; DDE, Mohammad Nawaz Choudhary, ARTO, Ashiq Rafiq Malik and other officers.

Ready to face any eventuality: Sakeena Itoo

• Says, all necessary measures in place

Jahangeer Ganaie

Shopian, Jul 22: Health and Education Minister Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday said the government is fully prepared to deal with any flood-like situation, asserting that all necessary arrangements have been put in place to tackle any eventuality.

Speaking to reporters during her visit to Kulgam, Shopian and other south Kashmir districts, the minister said that while the ongoing spell of heavy rainfall has claimed several lives in the Pir Panjal region, the overall situation in south Kashmir remains under control.

"Due to heavy rainfall over the past few days, we have unfortunately lost many precious lives in the Pir Panjal region. However, the situation in south Kashmir is comparatively better at present. We are hopeful that the rains will subside today and normalcy will gradually return," she said.

Itoo said the government, under the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has maintained constant vigil over the evolving weather situation and all concerned departments have been directed to remain alert.

She said adequate stocks of medicines, food and other essential supplies have already been kept ready to meet any emergency. "Electricity supply is functioning normally in almost all areas. Although a few drinking water supply schemes have been affected due to the prevailing weather conditions, the concerned departments are working on restoring them. Meanwhile, water tanker services have been deployed to ensure that people do not face hardships," she said.

Appealing to the public to remain calm, the minister urged people not to panic and instead cooperate with the administration so that emergency response teams can function effectively whenever required.

Referring to the devastating flood-like



situation witnessed in August last year, Itoo said almost all restoration and preventive works undertaken on rivers, streams and other vulnerable water bodies have been completed, while the remaining works are being taken up on priority to further strengthen flood mitigation measures. During her visit to south Kashmir districts, the minister reviewed the availability of emergency response systems, healthcare facilities, rescue equipment, essential medicines, communication networks and other critical resources required for effective disaster management.

She directed all departments to remain on high alert and ensure seamless coordination to provide a swift and efficient response in case of any emergency. Itoo also instructed officials to keep rescue teams, medical personnel and essential supplies in complete readiness to safeguard lives and property.

Stressing that public safety remains the government's foremost priority, the minister asked officers to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of vulnerable areas, strengthen communication systems and take all preventive measures to minimise the impact of any possible flooding.

Continued on
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Kunzer Bailey Bridge closed as authorities fear washout



Waris Fayaz

Tangmarg, Jul 22: Authorities on Wednesday closed the Lalpora-Kharkhal-Mamoosa Bailey Bridge in Kunzer for vehicular traffic after the R&B department warned that the structure could be washed away due to severe erosion

caused by the overflowing Ferozpora Nallah. A shopping complex near Chanpora Bridge has also been flagged as unsafe, with officials recommending immediate evacuation of shopkeepers.

Continued on
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DDA orders closure of Doodhpathri temporarily

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Jul 22: The Doodhpathri Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday announced the temporary closure of the famous tourist destination in Central Kashmir's Budgam district due to incessant rainfall and the threat of flash floods and landslides on approach roads.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Doodhpathri Development Authority, Riyaz Ahmad said that the decision has been taken in view of the prevailing adverse weather conditions to ensure the safety of tourists and the general public.

"Due to the unfavorable weather conditions, continuous rainfall, and the risk of flash floods and landslides, Doodhpathri will remain temporarily closed for visitors until the weather improves significantly," he said.

He advised tourists to avoid planning visits to the destination during this period and said the situation will be reviewed once weather conditions improve. He also urged people to contact the designated helpline numbers issued by the authority in case of any assistance—(KNO)

Baramulla Hill Top road caves in after landslide

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Jul 22: Continuous rainfall triggered a landslide, causing a portion of the road at Hill Top Colony in Baramulla to cave in on Wednesday, creating panic among residents and prompting an immediate response from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the district administration.

Officials said the incessant rainfall weakened the slope, leading to the collapse of the road. The affected stretch was immediately barricaded to prevent any untoward incident while officials assessed the damage and initiated restoration measures.

Speaking to reporters, the BRO Project Manager said the road collapsed due to continuous rainfall and assured that permanent restoration work would be taken up once weather conditions improve.

"The slide occurred because of continuous rainfall. As an immediate



measure, sandbags will be installed to stabilise the affected portion. Permanent concrete work will be undertaken after the weather improves," the manager said.

He said the road will be restored

and reopened for normal movement after the completion of the concrete protection work and other necessary restoration measures.

Continued on
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From The Parliament

‘Active ration cards in J&K stand at 16.57 lakh’

• 3,036 cards deleted in 2025

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jul 22: The Union Government informed the Lok Sabha that Jammu and Kashmir has 16,57,861 active ration cards as of July 2026, while 3,036 ration cards were deleted in 2025 and 4,767 were deleted in 2024, according to data placed before Parliament.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said the country has a total of 20,57,81,055 active ration

cards. Jammu and Kashmir accounts for 16.57 lakh of these, while neighbouring Ladakh has 28,105 active ration cards.

The Ministry further stated that 4,767 ration cards were deleted in Jammu and Kashmir during 2024, while the figure declined to 3,036 in 2025. In Ladakh, 615 ration cards were deleted in 2024 and 764 in 2025. The Centre said that under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the responsibility for identifying beneficiaries and maintaining beneficiary lists rests with

the respective States and Union Territories. "Ration cards are generally cancelled due to duplicate or ineligible beneficiaries, e-KYC mismatches, deaths and permanent migration of households. However, no ration cards have been reported to have been cancelled solely for failure to complete e-KYC or Aadhaar authentication," it said.

The government also informed Parliament that no specific reports or complaints of wrongful cancellation of ration cards have been received—(KNO)

India AI Data & AI Labs operational in J&K: GoI

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jul 22: Two India sAI Data & AI Labs are currently operational in Jammu and Kashmir, with hundreds of students enrolled, trained and certified under Artificial Intelligence-related skill development programmes, the Government of India (GoI) informed the Lok Sabha.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said that 27 IndiaAI Data & AI Labs have been established at NIELIT

Continued on
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Rs 240 Cr spent on J&K, Ladakh under BharatNet

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jul 22: The Centre informed the Lok Sabha that Rs 240.16 crore has been utilised under the BharatNet project in Jammu and Kashmir, including Ladakh, during the last three financial years (2023-24 to 2025-26) for strengthening broadband connectivity in rural areas.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Communications said that BharatNet has been approved in a phased manner to

Continued on
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provide broadband connectivity to

Consumer disputes redressal commissions established in Ladakh: Union Ministry

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Jul 22: The Government of India informed the Lok Sabha that the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions have been established in the Union Territory of Ladakh, adding that one member has been appointed to the Leh District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry

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EDITORIAL

J&K’s Drug-Free Campaign Continues

The 100-day ‘Drug-Free J&K campaign’ has concluded with impressive statistics: 2,581 traffickers arrested, 1,431 kg of narcotics seized, and over Rs 188.89 crore in assets confiscated. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has rightly called these achievements “significant progress” while cautioning that “our mission is far from complete”. This honesty is refreshing. Drug abuse is not a problem that can be solved in 100 days or

1,000 days. It is a deep-rooted social evil that feeds on unemployment, hopelessness, and the vulnerability of youth. The campaign’s real success will be measured not by the number of arrests made but by the number of lives saved and families restored. The administration’s focus on rehabilitation is particularly welcome. The proposed “Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026”, with its

structured three-year cycle of medical care, education, employment, and relapse prevention, addresses the root cause rather than just the symptoms. Drug addicts are victims, not criminals—and treating them as such is the first step toward a lasting solution. Drug cartels and narco-terror networks are deeply entrenched, with deep financial and logistical resources. Arrests alone will not dismantle these empires; sustained intelligence,

inter-agency coordination, and community vigilance are equally essential. The call to break the silence is perhaps the most important message. For too long, families have suffered in shame, communities have looked away, and addicts have been ostracised rather than supported. This campaign must transform from a government initiative into a mass movement—one where every citizen, every parent, every teacher, and every

religious leader plays an active role. The LG’s words carry weight: “If you ruin others’ lives, the law will not spare your future either.” But the law alone cannot win this battle. Only when society collectively refuses to tolerate drug abuse will the cartels finally be defeated. The 100-day campaign has laid the foundation. Now begins the harder, longer work of building a drug-free, terror-free, and hope-filled Jammu and Kashmir.

=== Journeys Of Grit, Pathways Of Growth === RSETIS Empowering Rural Aspirations Through Enterprise

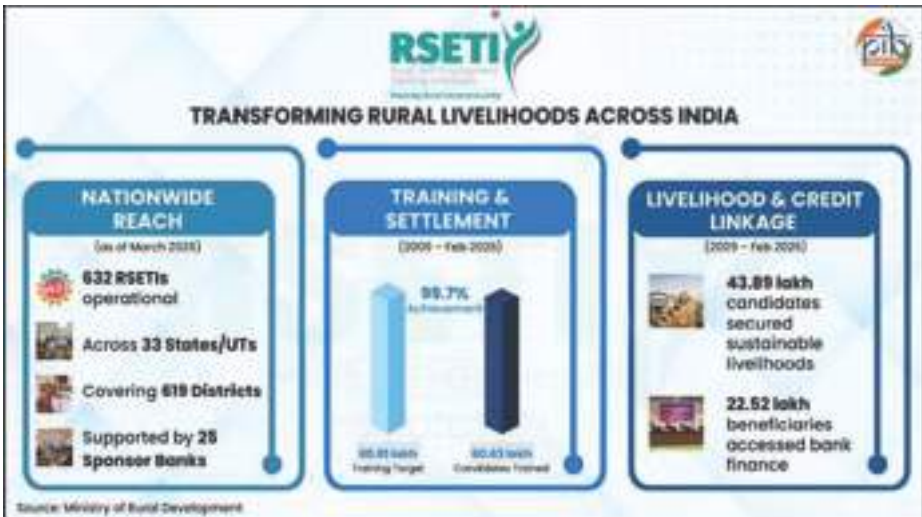
Press Information Bureau

Vishnu Bai reflects on a belief that has shaped her journey: that those who rise find the world lifting them further. She was born into a modest farming family, where dreams rarely stretched beyond daily survival. Her schooling stopped after eighth standard, cut short by an early marriage and new responsibilities. Within eighteen months, she returned home, as her marital household sank under financial strain. When her brothers refused to provide financial support, she chose self-reliance and began stitching clothes at home. Each small earning carried not just income, but a fragile sense of independence.

Her turning point came through the Shri Ram Self-Help Group, which introduced her to training opportunities at the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) in Bhopal. She wanted to learn tailoring alongside other women, but social barriers stood firm. Facing mobility restrictions, she requested training in her village. The institute responded, and the Panchayat Bhawan became a classroom of hope. Women gathered there, learning stitching alongside the basics of running a small business. For many, it was their first step into a world beyond household boundaries.

After completing training, Vishnu Bai opened a modest tailoring shop in her village.

Her work slowly expanded to include men’s garments. A government order for school uniforms brought steady income and renewed confidence. Soon after, she owned industrial sewing machines and built a stable livelihood through her growing enterprise. Her journey reflects quiet courage, shaped not by sudden change but persistent determination. Stories like hers echo across rural India, where transformation often unfolds



without noise or spectacle.

RSETIs: The Bridge from Aspirations to Enterprise

At the centre of this transformation are Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), working steadily in the background to promote self-employment and nurture micro-enterprises. These district-level institutes offer free, short-term, practical, residential training to unemployed rural people between eighteen and fifty years of age. Through three-way partnerships linking the Ministry of Rural Development, State/UT governments, and sponsor banks, their role extends beyond classrooms, reaching into livelihoods through credit support and continued guidance.

Seventy-three courses span agriculture,

manufacturing, services, and entrepreneurship and align with national skill standards. Sponsor banks play a crucial role, ensuring trainees have access to credit to build viable enterprises. This integrated approach ensures that skills do not remain theoretical but translate into real economic activity. For many, this support system becomes the turning point where possibility begins to take shape.

Another such journey of Umesh Shivaji Ingle from daily wager to employment generator reflects how RSETIs reshape lives with strength. Coming from a financially constrained family, he could study only up to the tenth standard. For nearly five years, he worked as a daily wager in a noodle factory. Despite long hours, his earnings barely sustained his household’s needs. A friend’s suggestion introduced him to the RSETI

training programme, opening an unexpected door. He enrolled in an Entrepreneurship Development Programme, drawing on his factory experience to deepen his learning. After training, he started a small noodle unit with a second-hand machine and basic tools. At first, he produced around 1,000 to 1,200 kilograms of noodles daily. Gradually, demand grew, and his enterprise began earning a monthly profit of about thirty thousand rupees. He employed four women from vulnerable backgrounds, extending opportunity beyond his own family. A loan of eight lakh rupees from the bank helped him scale his operations. He shifted to a larger unit in MIDC Akola, expanding production to meet rising demand. From a daily wager to an employer, his journey had redefined purpose by creating livelihoods for others.

While some journeys begin with economic needs, others emerge from creative aspirations. In Dharwad, Sanjay Malagi’s story reflects how RSETIs help diverse dreams grow into enterprises. After completing a diploma in electrical engineering, he worked in a multinational company in Bengaluru. Over time, dissatisfaction grew, urging him to leave and return home in search of purpose. During this uncertain phase, he discovered a photography course offered by RSETI Dharwad. He enrolled, and what began as curiosity soon turned into a clear entrepreneurial vision. In 2019, he founded his company, Cinewinks, stepping into a world of storytelling. His work spans videography, editing, and direction, weaving narratives across multiple Indian languages. His films explore migration, politics, and technology misuse with striking emotional depth.

His film ‘Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya’ earned two international awards for portraying

the struggles of weavers. Another work, ‘Hinnota’, brought him the Best Director award at Cochin International Short Film Festival in the year 2020-21. Over time, he won nearly ten awards, gaining recognition for his creative voice. His company began operating across multiple cities and undertaking diverse professional projects, while also generating local employment.

Together, these journeys reveal a larger story unfolding across the country.

They reflect not isolated success, but a growing ecosystem of resilience and opportunity. As of March 2026, 632 RSETIs operate across 33 States/UTs. They cover 619 districts and are supported by 25 sponsor banks nationwide. Since inception in 2009 until February 2026, RSETIs have demonstrated sustained and impactful progress nationwide. Against a training target of 60.81 lakh, about 99.7% has been achieved, with 60.61 lakh candidates trained. Of these, 43.89 lakh candidates have secured sustainable livelihoods. Institutional support has further enabled 22.52 lakh beneficiaries to access bank finance. Recent years have witnessed considerable growth, indicating expanding outreach and improved institutional effectiveness. Notably, 2024-25 recorded the highest annual training achievement, with 6.21 lakh candidates trained.

These numbers tell a story, but the deeper narrative lies in human transformation.

RSETIs are not merely training centres, but spaces where aspiration takes root. Across villages, small enterprises are reshaping local economies and restoring dignity. With every success story, confidence replaces hesitation, and hope becomes tangible. In these quiet shifts, rural India moves steadily towards a future shaped by self-reliance and belief.

The Crisis In The Strait Of Hormuz

Guaranteeing freedom of navigation through the strait was one of President Donald Trump’s key demands

Con Coughlin

The dramatic escalation in hostilities between the US and Iran over the Strait of Hormuz will ultimately decide the fate of the crucial waterway for decades to come. Until the outbreak of the Iran war in February, the strait was subject to the normal laws of the sea, with merchant ships passing freely through the narrow passageway, including those carrying about 20 percent of the world’s energy needs.

This long-established arrangement, which had operated smoothly save for the disruption caused by the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, was brought to an abrupt halt when the US and Israel launched their attacks by killing Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and senior Iranian army chiefs.

While the war meant the effective closure of the strait, with few merchant vessels willing to risk it, the situation has been further complicated by Iran’s efforts to weaponize the waterway by claiming sovereignty over an international shipping lane, before indicating that it intends to charge tolls on those using it. This was widely seen as little more than blackmail by a regime desperate to survive.

Unsurprisingly, this met strong opposition from both the US administration and key regional powers, which insist that the strait should return to its normal neutral status once a peace deal is reached. Guaranteeing freedom of navigation through the strait was one of President Donald Trump’s key demands in his 14-point memorandum of understanding for ending the conflict.

Another top priority for Trump is ending Iran’s nuclear weapons program but, while mediators say progress is being made on both these issues in Geneva and Qatar, Iran has continued to attack shipping in the strait, prompting a firm response from the



US, which has a heavy military presence in the region.

What began as tit-for-tat exchanges between the US and Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps now threatens to descend into all-out war. While insisting that Iran remains keen to negotiate, President Donald Trump also boasts that Iran will be destroyed, which would clearly render further negotiations unnecessary.

Trump has also made conflicting claims about his ultimate objectives regarding

the future shipping arrangements for the Strait of Hormuz. Having said that the US will be its “guardian,” for which Washington would charge a 20 percent toll for “protection,” Trump then rowed back, claiming that he had scrapped the plan after “highly productive conversations with Middle East leadership.”

Trump’s threat to impose fees, made during an interview with Fox News, caused consternation after he announced that the US was reimposing its naval blockade of

Iranian ports for ships both arriving and departing. “We are reinstating the Iranian blockade, so named because it is only stopping Iran’s ships or customers from entering or leaving,” Trump later wrote on social media.

He added that the US would be, “from this point forward, known as ‘The Guardian of the Hormuz Strait,’ but as such, and as a matter of fairness, will be reimbursed, at the rate of 20 percent on all cargo shipped, for any and all costs

necessary to do the job of providing safety and security to this very volatile section of the world. The process and formation will begin immediately.”

Trump’s threat to charge fees certainly prompted a strong response from the UN and regional leaders, who voiced their fierce opposition to the move. A statement issued by the UN’s shipping agency said it opposed any imposition of fees on merchant shipping to cross the strait, while Gulf leaders called Washington to make their thoughts known.

Trump’s U-turn is now being seen as an indication that his preferred option remains a negotiated settlement, despite video and photographic evidence that the US is now attacking civilian Iranian infrastructure, including bridges. Some think this is a negotiating tactic. “They want to settle so badly,” Trump said of the Iranians. “They don’t like what we’re doing. We’ll find out whether we want to settle with them or if we just finish it off.”

Whether the Iranians will accept Trump’s demands regarding the Strait of Hormuz is another matter. Their top negotiator, Speaker Mohammed Baqer Qalibaf, told state media that Tehran had “no reason” to abide by the deal if it did not benefit from it. And he insisted that Iran’s national security depended on maintaining “Iranian arrangements” in the strait. With neither side seemingly willing to compromise on navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, it could still be many months before the fate of this vital waterway becomes clear.

Con Coughlin is one of Britain’s leading journalists and an international best-selling author. His previous posts include Executive Defense and Foreign Affairs Editor with London’s Daily Telegraph. He is a leading expert on global conflict, international security and the Middle East. This column first appeared in Al-Majalla.

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

Railways introduces 4 new train services in Jammu Division during 2025-26

Newly introduced train services include Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra–Budgam Express, Amritsar–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express, 2 pairs of Jammu Tawi–Srinagar Vande Bharat Express trains

KT News Desk

New Delhi, 22 July: Indian Railways has introduced four pairs of new train services, including two pairs of Vande Bharat Express trains, in Jammu Division during 2025-26 to improve rail connectivity in the region.

This information was given by the Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a written reply to an un-starred question in the Lok Sabha Wednesday.

The Minister, as per a PIB statement, informed that Jammu Division, the 70th Division of Indian Railways, was created in January 2025. The newly introduced train services include the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra–Budgam Express, Amritsar–Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express, and two pairs of Jammu Tawi–Srinagar Vande Bharat Express trains.

The Minister further stated



that Jammu Tawi railway station is presently served by 114 train services, Mata Vaishno Devi Katra station by 46 train services and Badgam station by 19 train services.

Regarding the introduction of additional train services, the Minister said it is an ongoing process and depends on various operational factors, including line capacity, availability of train

paths, rolling stock, supporting infrastructure, maintenance requirements of railway tracks and other assets, as well as passenger occupancy and traffic demand on the section.

Anil Kumar inspects landslide-affected NH-44 stretches

Reviews restoration works in Udhampur

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, JULY 22: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh, Wednesday conducted an extensive inspection of the landslide-affected stretches of National Highway-44 from Udhampur to Chenani to re-view the damage and the progress of restoration works.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, along with officers from the Civil Administration, Traffic Police and the National Highways Authority of India.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the ACS on the extent of damage caused by recent landslides along the Udhampur-Chenani stretch of NH-44. He informed him about the ongoing restoration, debris clearance and road repair works being undertaken to restore normal



traffic movement.

The ACS, as per an official statement, personally monitored the situation and directed the NHAI authorities to expedite restoration works to ensure the early clearance of the highway and minimize inconvenience to commuters and the general public. He also inspected the Toldi Bridge site, reviewed the status of the bridge project.

Emphasising seamless traffic management, Anil Kumar directed the Traffic Police and NHAI to work in close coordination to maintain smooth and uninterrupted traffic flow on NH-44.

He instructed the concerned agencies to remove debris and clear all landslide-affected areas at the earliest while ensuring the safety and convenience of commuters.

KU's CCAS begins national seminar on India's foreign policy, Central Asia

KT News Desk

Srinagar July 22: The Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir (KU), commenced a two-day national seminar on 'The Political Dimensions of India's Foreign Policy: State, Society and Cultural-Economic Relations with Central Asia' in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR-NWRC) at the Main Campus.

The seminar, as per a KU statement, aims to examine the changing dynamics of India's engagement with Central Asia by exploring the social, cultural and economic dimensions of these relationships. It seeks to provide a platform for academics, researchers and policymakers to deliberate on contemporary developments and emerging opportunities in India's ties with the region.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan while referring to the theme of the seminar said that the study of foreign policy requires continuous academic engagement in view of evolving regional and global realities.

"Universities have an important responsibility to facilitate informed discussions on issues of regional and international significance. Such academic forums encourage research, dialogue and a deeper understanding of India's engagement with neighbouring regions and beyond," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said that Central Asia continues to occupy an important place in India's strategic and cultural outlook and interdisciplinary research can contribute to a better understanding of the historical and contemporary dimensions of these relationships.



Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that such seminars provide valuable opportunities for scholars and students to engage with diverse perspectives on global affairs.

Dean, School of Social Sciences KU, Prof. Sabeha Mufti, emphasized the need for sustained research on India's evolving relations with Central Asia, noting that academic institutions have an important role in generating evidence-based scholarship on regional and international issues.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, CCAS KU and Convenor of the seminar Prof. Wahid Nasaru, outlined the objectives of the seminar. He said the event has brought together scholars from different parts of the country to deliberate on the cultural and economic dimensions of India's engagement with Central Asia and to promote meaningful academic exchange in the field.

The two-day seminar features keynote lectures, research paper presentations, panel discussions and interactive sessions focusing on various aspects of India's foreign policy and its relations with Central Asia.

The latest edition of 'Central Asian Digest' was also released on the occasion.

The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Dr. Zohra Batul, faculty at CCAS KU and the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Parvana Bhatt, faculty at CCAS KU.

Javed Rana, Satish Sharma assess flood damage in Rajouri

Asks for speedy restoration of essential services, timely relief for affected families

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, JULY 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, along with Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Wednesday visited the flood-affected areas of Rajouri district to assess the damage caused by the recent flash floods and review the ongoing relief, rescue and restoration operations.

MLA Thanamandi Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, MLA Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed and other officers accompanied the Ministers during their visit.

The Ministers, as per an official statement, visited the worst-affected localities, interacted with the affected families and took stock of the damage to houses, public infrastructure, drinking water supply and other essential services.

They visited Bella Colony, Darhali which witnessed flash floods following incessant rainfall, causing the Darhali, Khandli, Suktoh and Jamola streams to overflow and inundate several low-lying areas. The Darhali river has breached the flood protection wall near Bela Colony, resulting in severe flooding of the new bus stand causing extensive damage to dozens of vehicles.

Javed Rana said the flash floods have caused extensive damage to public infrastructure, including roads, water supply and power supply systems, necessitating collective and immediate action for



restoration. He said several rural areas have been cut off due to the damage while irrigation schemes, flood protection bunds and residential houses have also suffered significant losses, underscoring the need for swift restoration measures and timely assistance to the affected families.

Javed Rana directed the district administration and line departments to work in close coordination to expedite restoration of essential services, particularly drinking water supply, road connectivity and other public utilities, on war footing. He stressed the need for a time-bound assessment of damage to houses, agricultural land and public infrastructure to facilitate prompt disbursement of relief and compensation.

Javed Rana also stressed the need to restore power supply expeditiously, stating that several water supply schemes have been severely affected due to the non-availability of electricity. He directed the Power Development Department to ensure the earliest possible restoration of electricity so that drinking water supply to the affected areas

is resumed without delay. Interacting with the affected people, the Ministers assured them that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, stands firmly with them and will extend all assistance for their relief, rehabilitation and early restoration of normalcy.

"Every possible effort will be made to provide timely relief, restore essential services and ensure early rehabilitation of the affected families. Our priority is to respond swiftly to the needs of the people, minimise their hardships and ensure that assistance reaches every deserving family without delay," Rana said.

Satish Sharma said that our immediate priority is to restore the essential services, support affected families and ensure that relief and rehabilitation measures reach every deserving household promptly through coordinated efforts of all departments.

The Ministers also appealed to the public to strictly adhere to weather advisories and avoid venturing into flood-prone areas until conditions improve.

Pre-Potential Linked Plan for FY 2027-28 discussed in Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPAIN, JULY 22: A meeting of officers was held Wednesday to discuss the Pre-Potential Linked Plan (PLP) for the financial Year 2027-28, here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian

During the meeting, CPO, Mudasir Ahmad Dar emphasized the crucial need for all line departments to provide timely, accurate information and to conduct extensive public awareness drives regarding the plan.

Speaking on the occasion, District Development Manager (DDM) NABARD, Zubair Ahmad, briefed

participants on the objectives of the potential plan and highlighted its role in strengthening the district's agriculture and allied sectors. The plan aims to promote sustainable agriculture, improve livelihoods and facilitate better access to institutional credit for farmers and allied activities. He also highlighted key aspects and strategic directions of the Potential Linked Plan, stressing its role in boosting sector-wise growth and rural credit flow across the district.

GM, DIC, Sharjeel Ali Naik, LDM, Farooq Ahmad Dar, CHO, CAO, and other concerned officers were present.

Director Agriculture Kashmir reviews flood preparedness of department

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Wednesday chaired a virtual review meeting with all Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) of the Kashmir Division to assess the prevailing flood situation and re-view the preparedness of the Agriculture Department in view of the inclement weather conditions.

During the meeting, the Director, as per an official statement, took a detailed district-wise assessment of the situation, including reports on waterlogging, crop damage, and the preparedness of field staff to respond promptly to any eventuality. He instructed all Chief Agriculture Officers to maintain close coordination with the district administrations and ensure continuous monitoring of vulnerable agricultural areas.

Sartaj Ahmad Shah directed



all Chief Agriculture Officers to keep the entire field machinery on high alert and ensure that all officers and officials remain available in the field for timely response. He emphasized that immediate assessments should be carried out wherever agricultural land or standing crops are affected, and that all necessary measures should be taken to minimize losses to the farming community.

JKLFC extends relief to borrowers under Settlement Scheme-2026

Six NPA Accounts settled, Rs 3.36 crore interest waived

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: The Settlement Committee of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) met under the chairmanship of the Managing Director to consider settlement of seven Non-Performing Asset (NPA) loan accounts under the Settlement Scheme-2026 (SS-2026).

The Committee, as per an official statement, approved settlement proposals in respect of six NPA loan accounts involving a total settlement amount of approximately Rs 84.43 lakh, subject to the borrowers depositing the approved settlement amounts within the stipulated period and fulfilling all the provisions of the scheme. One settlement proposal was deferred pending submission

of an updated legal status report and legal opinion.

The Board of Directors, in its 247th meeting held on 31st December 2025, had approved the introduction of the Settlement Scheme-2026 (SS-2026). The scheme came into force with immediate effect and shall remain in operation up to 30th September 2026.

The scheme has been introduced as a One-Time Settlement (OTS) mechanism to facilitate recovery of long-pending Non-Performing Assets by providing eligible borrowers an opportunity to liquidate their outstanding loan liabilities on concessional terms, thereby improving recoveries and reducing the Corporation's NPA portfolio.

The Managing Director emphasized that the scheme is an important initiative to recover long-pending dues, facilitate closure of stressed loan accounts, and safeguard the financial interests of the Corporation. He directed all Branch Heads and District Officers to expedite identification of eligible cases and ensure prompt processing and submission of settlement proposals.

The Corporation reiterated its commitment to strengthening its recovery mechanism and improving the quality of its loan portfolio through effective implementation of the Settlement Scheme-2026.

Eligible borrowers have been advised to avail the benefits of the scheme before its expiry on 30th September 2026.

SKUAST-K Researchers secure prestigious ANRF National Post-Doctoral Fellowships

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: Two researchers from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) have secured the coveted Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) National Post-Doctoral Fellowships, among India's most competitive funding programmes for early-career scientists, for pioneering research on crop disease resistance and next-generation diabetic wound care.

The fellowships, as per an official statement, have been awarded to Dr. Aasiya Nabi and Dr. Sofi Imtiyaz Ali for high-impact translational research in plant pathology and regenerative medicine, respectively, further strengthening SKUAST-K's growing research footprint across agricultural and biomedical sciences.



Dr. Aasiya Nabi, an alumna of the Division of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Horticulture, and a former Nehru-Fulbright Doctoral Fellow at Kansas State University, USA, received the fellowship for her project, "Dissection of Race-Specific Resistance in the Phaseolus vulgaris-Colletotrichum lindemuthianum Pathosystem: Insights from Race 73 and Co-12 Interaction." She will investigate the molecular mechanisms of bean anthracnose resistance. The study aims to identify race-73-specific



effector proteins and validate their interaction with the Co-12 resistance gene, generating insights that could accelerate the development of disease-resistant bean varieties.

In biomedical engineering, Dr. Sofi Imtiyaz Ali secured the two-year ANRF fellowship for his project, "Smart Bioactive Wound Dressing Engineered from Earthworm Granulation Scaffold and Multifunctional Therapeutic Cocktail for Diabetic Ulcer Healing." The project seeks to develop an indigenous bioengineered

wound dressing that combines an earthworm-derived tissue scaffold with multifunctional therapeutics to promote tissue regeneration, prevent infections and provide a cost-effective, clinically scalable solution for chronic diabetic wounds.

Congratulating the awardees and their mentors, Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai described the twin achievement as a testament to SKUAST-K's vibrant research ecosystem and growing national standing in scientific innovation.

"Securing two prestigious ANRF National Post-Doctoral Fellowships across distinct scientific disciplines reflects SKUAST-K's growing national prominence and our commitment to nurturing talent capable of solving complex challenges in agriculture, veterinary science and human healthcare," he said.

CS reviews measures to strengthen cybercrime prevention framework

KT News Desk

Srinagar, July 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Home Department to review the measures undertaken for prevention of cybercrimes in the Union Territory, with particular focus on safeguarding citizens against emerging cyber threats, including Digital Arrest scams, phishing, online financial frauds, cyber slavery, identity theft and other cyber-enabled offences.

The meeting also reviewed the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the directions issued during the previous review and assessed the progress achieved in strengthening the institutional framework, investigative capacity, public awareness and inter-agency coordination for combating cybercrime in Jammu and Kashmir.

Those who attended the meeting includes Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Scientists from NIC and officers from the Department of Public Grievances.

Chief Secretary while chairing this meeting observed that while the Government has

created a comprehensive institutional framework to combat cybercrime in the Union Territory, its success would lie in its effective implementation and its ability to provide timely relief to citizens affected by cyber frauds.

Emphasising the need for sustained oversight, the Chief Secretary directed the Principal Secretary, Home, to undertake regular and comprehensive reviews of the functioning of the cybercrime prevention and response framework to ensure that all stakeholder departments and agencies work in close coordination. He stressed the importance of fostering seamless synergy among the Police, banks, financial institutions, telecom service providers, Information Technology Department and other concerned agencies to strengthen preventive mechanisms, expedite response to cyber incidents and safeguard citizens' hard-earned money from organised cyber fraudsters.

Referring to the recently established Jammu & Kashmir Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (JK4C), the Chief Secretary said that the institution has been envisioned as the nodal mechanism for



coordinated action against cybercrime in the Union Territory and should emerge as a robust, technology-driven platform for prevention, intelligence sharing, investigation, capacity building and inter-agency coordination.

He directed that the JK4C, headed by an Inspector General of Police and supported by senior police officers and technical experts, be provided with the requisite space and support to enable it to function to its fullest potential and effectively discharge its mandate in the

service of the people.

Emphasising continuous capacity building, the Chief Secretary directed all Law Enforcement Agencies to ensure time-bound completion of CyTraincourses by police personnel and expedite the exposure visits of officers to States having established best practices in cybercrime prevention and investigation.

He observed that continuous upskilling of investigators and adoption of modern investigative techniques would significantly enhance the

effectiveness of cybercrime investigations.

He expressed confidence that a well-equipped and efficiently functioning JK4C, working in close coordination with all stakeholders, would significantly strengthen the Union Territory's capacity to prevent cybercrime, improve investigation and recovery of defrauded amounts, and instil greater public confidence in the Government's ability to protect citizens in the digital domain.

Reviewing the awareness

initiatives undertaken across the Union Territory, the Chief Secretary was informed by Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti that cyber safety awareness programmes have been integrated into Police-Public meetings at the police station level, with awareness campaigns being continuously redesigned on the basis of analysis of cybercrime complaint trends.

Additionally the meeting was informed that twenty-three Cyber Police Stations have been established across all police districts in Jammu and Kashmir, significantly strengthening the cybercrime investigation network in the Union Territory.

Reviewing the progress made in strengthening institutional mechanisms, the Chief Secretary was apprised that the Government has notified the establishment of the Jammu & Kashmir Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (JK4C) to provide an integrated framework for prevention, investigation and coordination in cyber-crime cases.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the e-Zero FIR mechanism for cyber financial frauds involving amounts of 1 lakh and above.

He observed that prompt registration of complaints coupled with seamless integration of the mechanism with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) would considerably improve the capacity of law enforcement agencies to initiate immediate action for freezing fraudulent transactions and recovering defrauded amounts.

The meeting also reviewed the utilisation of advanced cyber investigation platforms including Sahyog, Samanvaya and Pratibimb for interstate co-ordination, hotspot mapping, content takedown and investigation of organised cybercrime networks.

Reiterating that prevention through awareness remains the most effective strategy against cybercrime, the Chief Secretary called upon all departments to work in close coordination and adopt a whole-of-government approach to protect citizens from cyber threats. He further stressed the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms, improve intelligence sharing, leverage technological innovations and maintain sustained public outreach to build a resilient cyber security ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

5 killed, roads

levels in several rivers and streams crossed or touched critical thresholds.

The Chenab river at Akhnoor crossed the danger mark during the afternoon, touching 35.8 feet against the danger level of 35 feet before receding to 35 feet by evening. The alert level stands at 32 feet and the evacuation level at 42 feet.

The Sheshnag nallah in Pahalgam's Betaab Valley crossed the flood declaration mark, with the water level reaching 1.46 metres against the warning level of 1.40 metres.

The Lidder river, a major tributary of the Jhelum, also reached the flood declaration mark, with its water level touching 1.55 metres against the flood declaration level of 1.50 metres.

Authorities said water levels in the Arin and Madhumati nallahs in Bandipora have also risen sharply over the past few days due to continuous rainfall.

The district administration urged residents, particularly those living near rivers and nallahs, to stay away from water bodies and strictly follow official advisories.

According to the Meteorological Department, several areas received heavy rainfall during the day, with Bhawan (SMVD) recording 109 mm, Reasi 94.5 mm, Katra 91.4 mm, Jammu 47 mm, Ramban 43.5 mm, Banihal 37.2 mm, Rajouri 36 mm, Gulmarg 35 mm, Qazigund 33.2 mm, Kokernag 32.2 mm and Baramulla 30 mm between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm.

The day also witnessed unusually low maximum temperatures due to persistent cloud cover and rainfall.

Srinagar recorded a maximum of 20 degrees Celsius, nearly 10 degrees below normal, while Jammu settled at 24.8 degrees Celsius, around 8.7 degrees below normal.

Katra recorded a maximum temperature of just 22.6 degrees Celsius, the lowest ever recorded in the month of July, with the minimum and maximum temperatures differing by only 1.6 degrees, indicating persistent cloud cover throughout the day.

The Meteorological Department said moderate to heavy rain continued at many places across the Union Territory on Wednesday.

It forecast another spell of rain and thunder-showers, accompanied by heavy rainfall and brief intense showers, during the early morning and forenoon on Thursday.

From July 24 to 29, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at scattered places, with isolated intense showers.

The Met Department warned of the possibility of flash floods, landslides, mudslides, a rise in water levels in rivers and local streams, and waterlogging in low-lying areas over the next 24 to 48 hours, advising people to remain alert and follow official advisories. (KNO)

Jhelum well

against the warning and danger levels of 21 feet and 25 feet, respectively. At Ram Munshi Bagh, the water level was 8.24 feet, well below the warning level of 18 feet and the danger level of 21 feet.

The river level at Asham was recorded at 6.15 feet against the warning and danger levels of 14 feet and 16.5 feet, respectively, while the Wullar Lake level stood at 1575.40 metres, below the reference level of 1578.00 metres.

According to data, all major tributaries were also flowing within safe limits. Vishow Nallah at Khudwani was recorded at 4.88 metres against the warning and danger levels of 7.75 metres and 8.50 metres; Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi stood at 0.24 metres against 5.4 metres and 5.7 metres; Lidder Nallah at Batkoot was at 1.55 metres against 1.5 metres and 1.65 metres; Doodhganga Nallah at Barzulla measured 1.45 metres against 3.65 metres and 3.8 metres; while Sindh Nallah at Doderhama stood at 3.10 metres against 3.65 metres and 3.9 metres.

The Chief Engineer people not to believe rumours or unverified social media posts and advised them to rely only on official information.

"People should download the Kashmir Flood Watch application for real-time updates on water levels and flood-related advisories. There is no alarming situation at present," he said.

Meanwhile, Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng said rainfall has largely stopped across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing temporary relief.

"There is going to be temporary relief, at least for now. This break will allow rivers to recede. However, forecasts suggest another spell of rain may develop in some areas towards late tonight," Keng said. (KNO)

J&K Police head

brought dead.

The slain policeman was identified as Head Constable Ashiq Hussain of the 3rd Battalion of the India Reserve Police (IRP), who was deployed for security duties related to the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

The attack sent shockwaves across the district, prompting security forces and police to launch a large-scale cordon and search operation. The entire Anantnag town was sealed, with additional reinforcements rushed to the area as forces began a massive manhunt to track down the attackers.

A senior official told KNO that following the incident, Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with other security agencies, launched coordinated raids across several districts of the Valley.

"More than 2500 suspected OGWs have been picked up for questioning during the ongoing operations. Searches and verification drives are continuing, particularly in South Kashmir, to identify and apprehend those involved in the attack or providing logistical support to terrorists," the official said.

DGP PRABHAT, SPECIAL DGP, IGP KASHMIR, OTHERS REACH ANANTNAG

Senior police officers, including Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, Special DGP, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir V.K. Birdi, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) South Kashmir, SSP Anantnag, and officers from various security forces visited the attack site to assess the situation and review the ongoing anti-terror operations.

Later in the day, a solemn wreath-laying ceremony was held at the District Police Lines (DPL) Anantnag, where senior officers paid floral tributes to the slain policeman and offered a Guard of Honour in recognition of his supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

LG SINHA CONDEMNS TERROR ATTACK

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha strongly condemned the terror attack and said those responsible would be brought to justice.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said he spoke to DGP Nalin Prabhat to review the security situation following the attack and expressed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family. "I strongly condemn this cowardly attack. This heinous act will not go unpunished. J&K Police and our security forces are on the ground and will bring those responsible to justice. The entire nation stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the family of the martyr," the LG wrote.

COWARDLY ACT OF TERROR: CM OMAR

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also condemned the killing, describing it as a cowardly act of terror. "Deeply saddened by the death in the line of duty of Head Constable Ashiq Hussain of IRP 3rd Battalion J&K Police, HC Hussain made the ultimate sacrifice in a cowardly terror attack in Anantnag area of South Kashmir. I unequivocally condemn this attack and send my heartfelt condolences to the members of his family. May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannat," Omar Abdullah wrote on X.

The killing comes amid heightened security arrangements across Jammu and Kashmir due to the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra. Security agencies have further strengthened deployment at vulnerable locations while intelligence-based operations have been stepped up to prevent any further terror incidents.

Police have registered a case and initiated

a detailed investigation into the attack, while efforts are underway to identify and neutralise the terrorists involved. (KNO)

Police warn

social media users and platforms to immediately remove any unauthorised or misleading content related to the incident, stating that strict action would be taken under relevant legal provisions against those who continue to circulate such material.

Police urged people not to upload or forward unverified information and advised them to rely only on official updates. (KNO)

Qureshi family's

who had joined the Jammu and Kashmir Police under the SRO-43 compassionate appointment scheme after his father's death, was shot dead in a terror attack near Lal Chowk in South Kashmir's Anantnag district while performing his duties.

For the people of Lolipora, Ashiq was not merely a policeman. He was the son who carried forward his father's legacy, the man who supported his widowed mother, cared for his family and quietly fulfilled every responsibility placed upon his shoulders.

As his mortal remains reached the village late Wednesday evening, silence gave way to grief. Women broke down in tears while men struggled to hold back emotions as hundreds lined both sides of the road to receive the coffin draped in the Tricolour.

The entire village reverberated with emotional slogans of "Ashiq Tere Khoon Se Inquilab Aayega" and "Shaheed Ki Jo Maut Hai, Woh Qaum Ki Hayat Hai," as mourners bid a final farewell to one of their own sons.

Thousands of people from Beerwah and adjoining areas attended the funeral prayers with moist eyes, making it one of the largest gatherings the village has witnessed in recent years.

Senior police officers, led by DIG Central Kashmir Range Rajiv Omprakash Pandey and SSP Budgam Hariprasad K.K., besides several other officers, reached Lolipora to shoulder the coffin and express solidarity with the bereaved family.

According to officials, Ashiq was critically injured after suspected terrorists opened fire on a police party in Anantnag on Wednesday afternoon. He was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Family members said Ashiq had spoken to them over the phone barely an hour before the attack. None imagined it would be their last conversation.

His father, Head Constable Ghulam Mohiuddin Qureshi, had lost his life in 1990's after coming under a landslide in Ramban District while on official duty. Following his father's death, Ashiq joined the police force under the SRO-43 compassionate appointment policy and continued serving for years with dedication.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, his widowed mother, a brother and three married sisters.

Remembering him, Zubair Ahmad, a resident of Lolipora, said Ashiq lived with honesty and humility despite wearing the uniform.

"He was a brave and noble soul. Everyone in the village respected him because he was honest, kind-hearted and always ready to help others. We have lost not just a policeman but a brother," Zubair told KNO.

Another villager, Rafiq Ahmad, said Ashiq's death has devastated the entire village. "He was the breadwinner of his family and fulfilled every responsibility with dignity. The government should stand firmly with his family and ensure they receive all possible support. It is impossible to compensate such a loss, but justice should be done to those he left behind," he said.

As darkness fell over Lolipora, the echoes of mourning slowly faded, but the grief remained. For the Qureshi family, history has painfully repeated itself—first a father lost in service, and now a son martyred in the line of duty.

In one home in Budgam, two generations have now paid the ultimate price while serving the nation. (KNO)

LG, CM review

those injured. I have directed the district administration to ensure the injured receive the best possible medical care and to provide all necessary support to the affected families during this difficult time," the Lieutenant Governor wrote.

CM OMAR VISITS FLOOD HIT BEERWAH

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited flood-hit Beerwah in Budgam district to assess the damage caused by recent flash floods and interacted with traders whose shops were damaged or washed away.

He assured the affected traders that those who had constructed their shops after obtaining the required permissions from the competent authorities would be considered for compensation and rehabilitation after verification of documents by the district administration.

The chief minister also responded to the traders' demand for temporary accommodation in the newly-constructed municipal complex, saying the proposal would be considered only after the Roads and Buildings Department certifies the structure as safe, as it is also located in the affected zone.

He said the government would also examine the demand of traders seeking permission to reconstruct their shops at the same location.

Later, Abdullah chaired a high-level review meeting in Srinagar to monitor restoration of essential services, road connectivity and relief measures in the rain-affected areas.

Officials informed the meeting that electricity supply in most affected areas was likely to be substantially restored by Wednesday evening.

The chief minister directed all departments to remain on high alert, speed up restoration work, ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities and pre-position food grains and other necessities in vulnerable areas. He also asked officials to closely monitor vulnerable habitations and maintain swift on-ground response until normalcy is restored. (KNO)

Heavy rain keeps

(35 mm), Qazigund (33.2 mm), Kokernag (32.2 mm) and Baramulla (30 mm).

The prolonged rainfall led to a sharp drop in maximum temperatures across the Union Territory.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20 degrees Celsius, 9.9 degrees below normal, while Jammu settled at 24.8 degrees Celsius, 8.7 degrees below normal.

Kupwara recorded 20.2 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg 14.5 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 17.6 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 19.4 degrees Celsius and Baramulla 19.8 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Banihal recorded 19 degrees Celsius, Batote 19.8 degrees Celsius, Bhaderwah 20.2 degrees Celsius, Rajouri 19.4 degrees Celsius, Poonch 23 degrees Celsius and Kathua 26.9 degrees Celsius.

Katra recorded a maximum temperature of just 22.6 degrees Celsius, 8.1 degrees below normal, making it the coldest July day on record for the pilgrim town.

Weather observers said the day's minimum temperature in Katra was 21 degrees Celsius, only 1.6 degrees lower than the maximum, reflecting an unusually narrow diurnal temperature range caused by persistent cloud cover and continuous rainfall. (KNO)

LG Sinha visits

in its mission to uplift Divyangjan and ensure equal opportunities for all.

"In recent years, para-athletes from Jammu Kashmir have brought immense pride to the region on national and global stages. The administration reaffirms its commitment to providing world-class infrastructure and support to nurture the potential of UT's specially-abled youth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the extraordinary dedication and selfless service of the

entire team of Voluntary Medicare Society and the organisations associated with the society for transforming countless lives. He also toured the rehabilitation units, wards and other facilities and interacted with the children with special needs.

"Whenever meaningful social change occurs, it is driven by passionate individuals like Dr. Mir Mohammad Maqbool and all those serving here.

Today, I connect myself with the Voluntary Medicare Society; just as its office bearers and volunteers give their hearts to this noble cause," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Dr. Mir Mohammad Maqbool, President / Founder, Voluntary Medicare Society; Prof Masooda Yasin, Vice President; Dr Farooq Ahmad Kaloo, Secretary; Er. Majid Ahmad Bala, Executive Board Member, staff, coaches, trainers and other officer bearers of the Society were present on the occasion.

Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar and senior officers also accompanied the Lieutenant Governor.

Rotary Club has

digital education and skill development that prepare young people for a changing world," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that second important area is environment protection and urged the members of Rotary Club of Kashmir to act as guardians of nature.

"We can no longer confine ourselves to tree-planting drives. We must develop an environmental protection model based on scientific methods, long-term planning and the participation of local communities, which will inspire future generations. I want the Rotary Club of Kashmir to involve youth in this campaign and to partner with educational and research institutions. I wish to see the Rotary Club of Kashmir remembered for conserving rivers and lakes and for restoring forests to life," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the third and most important area concerns the campaign for a drug-free Jammu Kashmir. He highlighted the achievements of 100-day drug-free J&K campaign and called upon Rotary Club of Kashmir to become an active and full partner in this public campaign, because this is a fight for the future of coming generations.

"The Rotary Club possesses medical expertise and enjoys public trust. It can launch de-addiction camps, awareness drives in colleges and universities, and livelihood and skill-development programs for youth. I know Rotary's motto, 'Service Above Self,' is a pledge to a better public life, and contributions in these three areas will bring real change. Your work over the past two decades has proved that Rotarians in Kashmir are dedicated to selfless service. Now, as this responsibility passes into new hands, I entrust to you the task of working for a prosperous, peaceful and drug-free Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Rtn. Anil Kumar Singhal, District Governor; Rtn. Dr Touseef Bhatt, President, Rotary Club Kashmir; Rtn. Jagjit Singh, Outgoing President; Rtn. Adil Shah, Secretary; other office bearers of the Rotary Club Kashmir, Rotarians were present.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Javid Ahmad Tenga, President Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and prominent citizens from different walks of life also attended the installation ceremony.

MP Mian Altaf

advisories until the road is declared safe for vehicular movement. (KNO)

KU postpones

revised date(s) for the conduct of the postponed examination(s)/paper(s) shall be notified separately in due course," the notice reads. (KNO)

'Don't waste our time': SC declines urgent listing of plea against police action during CJP protest

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 22: The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined a request for urgent listing of a plea challenging the police action against students during the Cockroach Janta Party-led protest march in Delhi, with Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asking the petitioner not to waste time. The matter was mentioned before a bench comprising the CJI and Justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V Mohana.

"I have the videos as well regarding police brutality... If it can be listed tomorrow (Thursday)... students are there," the lawyer said.

He said that students had allegedly been subjected to police brutality during the protest and said the petition contained three prayers.

The CJI declined the request and



made it clear that the bench was not inclined to examine video footage at the mentioning stage.

"We are not interested in videos, we don't have time to watch... We don't want to watch videos," the CJI said.

When the counsel reiterated that students had been beaten up and again referred to the video evidence, the CJI said, "Don't waste our time. We don't want to watch any videos."

The plea relates to the police action during the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest march to Parliament on Monday, the opening day of the Monsoon session, when thousands of students and young protesters converged in the heart of Delhi to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities.

The march witnessed clashes between protesters and security personnel, who used lathis and tear gas to disperse crowds attempting to move towards Parliament.

Punjab govt introduces AI as main subject from Class 1-12

PTI

Chandigarh, Jul 22: The Punjab government on Wednesday introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a mainstream subject from Class 1 to 12, Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said.

Punjab has become the first state in the country to do so, he said.

The Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) will roll out the curriculum in a phased manner under the 'Sarbat.AI' project, making it one of the country's largest statewide AI education missions and positioning Punjab as a national leader in future-ready learning.

Bains, along with former Delhi education



minister Manish Sisodia, launched the project in the presence of education experts, technology partners and senior officials of the School Education Department.

Addressing a gathering, Bains said, "Today marks the beginning of a new era in Punjab's education system. Punjab has become the first

state in India to introduce Artificial Intelligence as a mainstream subject from Class 1 to 12. We are moving from leading the Green Revolution to leading the Artificial Intelligence Revolution."

"This initiative will equip our students with future-ready skills while fostering innovation, ethical AI, entrepreneurship

and responsible digital citizenship.

We want every child in Punjab to be prepared not only for the jobs of tomorrow but also to become creators and innovators in the technology-driven world," he said.

The curriculum has been developed after studying international best practices from Singapore, Finland, the UAE and the United States. It has been aligned with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)'s Ethical AI Framework to ensure that our students learn the responsible, safe and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence while meeting global standards, Bains said.

Ram temple trust defers CEO selection by month

To appoint interim secretary



PTI

Ayodhya, Jul 22: The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Wednesday deferred the selection of its first chief executive officer (CEO) by a month after receiving 5,200 applications for the post and decided to appoint a secretary in the interim to meet growing administrative requirements.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the board of trustees held here, where members also reviewed arrangements for the expected rise in the number of devotees during the ongoing Shra- van month, progress on filling vacant trustee posts and several administrative and financial issues.

After the meeting, Trust interim general secretary Krishna Mohan and treasurer Govind Dev Giri

briefed the press.

Trust treasurer Govind Dev Giri said a committee constituted to select the CEO had sought an additional month to scrutinise the large number of applications received for the post.

"We have received a total of 5,200 applications for the CEO post. Considering the volume of applications, the selection committee sought one month's additional time, which has been approved by the Trust," he said.

He added that the Trust has also decided to constitute a permanent religious committee to oversee all religious affairs of the Ram temple.

"The committee will comprise nine saints, including five from Ayodhya and four from outside," he said.

Return of foreign investments shows revival of confidence in economy: RBI Bulletin

PTI

Mumbai, Jul 22: Indian economy has navigated the external uncertainties well and the recovery of foreign investments in recent months shows a revival of confidence, the Reserve Bank Bulletin said on Wednesday.

The global economy is continuing with the heightened uncertainties emanating from fragile geopolitics and supply chain pressures, said an article published in the July Bulletin of the central bank.

"Amidst these uncertainties, India remains among the fastest growing major economies across the globe and has been able to sustain the momentum in economic activities through June. Both industrial and services sector indicators remained firm," it said. The article on the 'State of the Economy' also noted that the farm sector is witnessing uneven southwest monsoon, but the impact on food inflation may be mitigated by comfortable foodgrain stocks.

It further said the momentum of external trade sustained as reflected in high growth in exports and imports in Q1 of 2026-27.

This is likely to be strengthened by the recent operationalisation of the India-UK



Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and progress in other bilateral trade agreements, it added.

"External vulnerability indicators also remained sound. Recovery of foreign investments in recent months shows a revival of confidence in the economy," the article said.

Foreign portfolio investments saw net inflows in June 2026, driven by policy support for the debt segment and easing of geo-political tensions, it said.

In July (up to July 20), FPIs infused USD 3.1 billion into the equity and debt segments.

During April-May 2026, FDI remained higher in both gross and net terms, supported by lower repatriation, it said.

Japan, Singapore and Mauritius accounted for around 74 per

cent of the total equity inflows. Financial services received the highest share of equity inflows, followed by manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, and computer services.

These sectors together accounted for around 80 per cent of total inflows.

Of the outward FDI, the article said around 74 per cent of the flows were directed towards the US, Cayman Islands, and the Netherlands. The major sectors included financial, insurance & business services and manufacturing, accounting for more than 85 per cent of the outward flows during April-May 2026.

On the price situation, the article said the headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation crossed the target for the first time since January 2025,

increasing to an 18-month high of 4.4 per cent in June 2026 from 3.9 per cent in May.

The pick-up in inflation was driven by 'food and beverages' and 'fuel' components while core inflation stood unchanged.

It further said the sequential increases in key food items appeared to be broad-based in July so far (up to July 20).

Within foodgrains, prices of key staples (rice and wheat) recorded an uptick, while the pace of increase in pulses prices moderated sequentially, with moong dal recording a marginal decline month-on-month.

Edible oil prices continued to show a broad-based increase amidst use of edible oils for bio-fuel production.

Indonesia, the world's largest producer of palm oil, has recently raised its palm oil blending targets in diesel from 40 per cent to 50 per cent.

Within perishables, prices of major vegetables – potato, onion and tomato – increased further in July, with the largest spike recorded in onion, it said.

The central bank, however, said the views expressed in the Bulletin article are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India.

IPL 2009 FEMA case

Lalit Modi plans India return after tribunal relief

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 22: Former IPL chairman Lalit Modi on Wednesday said he plans to visit India later this year or early next year after receiving major legal relief from the Appellate Tribunal in the long-running 2009 IPL South Africa foreign exchange case, describing the ruling as the vindication of a 16-year battle.

In a video message posted on social media, Modi said the tribunal's verdict had finally established the truth behind his stand on the case.

"I'm really happy with the verdict. It's really been a great day. Sixteen years I have fought and whatever I have been saying to the media and to everybody has finally emerged as the truth," Modi said.

The Appellate Tribunal under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act (SAFEPA) on Tuesday set aside key penalties imposed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Modi and other former BCCI officials in connection with the conduct of the 2009 IPL in South Africa.

The tribunal held that the foreign remittances in question were current account transactions that did not require prior RBI approval and also ruled that Modi was not responsible for ensuring the BCCI's compliance with the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Modi, who has been living in London since leaving India in 2010 amid multiple investigations, said the



legal chapter was now behind him.

"I'm going to move on in my life and I'm looking forward to coming back to India. Yes, I will come back probably at the end of this year or early next year. My daughter is due with my grandson in October and hopefully everything will be well and I'll be back in India," he said.

In a separate post on X, Modi said India had always remained close to him despite his prolonged stay overseas.

"India has always been a part of who I am. The legal process has taken its course, and I respect that. I look forward to visiting my country again, meeting old friends, from time to time and contributing in every positive way I can."

Modi, 62, also clarified that he will continue to live in London.

"My home remains in London,

and that is where I will continue to live, but my heart has never stopped beating for India," he wrote.

Modi, the architect of the Indian Premier League, maintained that his actions throughout the 2009 episode were guided solely by the interests of the tournament.

"I was only concerned with the well-being of the IPL and nothing at all. That is the most dear to me," he said.

The ED case stemmed from the relocation of the 2009 IPL season to South Africa after the tournament clashed with the Lok Sabha elections in India.

The agency had alleged violations of FEMA provisions in relation to foreign exchange transactions linked to the event, but the tribunal rejected the central basis of those allegations while granting relief to Modi and other officials.

Preventive detention orders should be passed against those facilitating illegal sand mining: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Jul 22: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said preventive detention orders should be passed against those facilitating illegal sand mining activities in and around the National Chambal Sanctuary as such people are eating into natural resources and deserve no sympathy.

The observation came from a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta which was hearing a suo motu case titled 'In Re: Illegal sand mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary and threat to endangered aquatic wildlife'. The bench was informed that in Madhya Pradesh's Morena, 551 persons, who facilitate illegal sand mining activities, have been identified. "Why don't you detain them? These are people against whom preventive detention orders should be passed," the bench observed.

It said some of these persons should be kept under preventive detention for some time for setting an example. "These people are eating into natural resources, destroying pristine forest areas. They don't deserve any sympathy," the bench observed, adding that preventive detention orders could act as a deterrent. The National Chambal Sanctuary, also called the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary, is a 5,400-sq km tri-state protected area. Besides the endangered gharial

(long-snouted crocodile), it is home to the red-crowned roof turtle and the endangered Ganges river dolphin.

Located on the Chambal river near the tripoint of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the sanctuary was first declared a protected area in Madhya Pradesh in 1978 and now constitutes a long and narrow eco-reserve co-administered by the three states.

During the hearing, the bench also stressed on the need to have an institution-alised and structured scheme for welfare of frontline forest personnel, including forest guards, who are engaged in enforcement activities. The bench was told that there were some incidents where forest guards were attacked or even killed while discharging their duty. A law officer, appearing for one of the three states, said earlier compensation of Rs 10 lakh was given in case of death and now it has been increased to Rs 25 lakh. He said family pension and compassionate appointment was also given to the family members of victim in such cases.

"To these people, we will provide proper solace," the bench observed, adding, "All this has to be institutionalised".

The bench was also informed about the enforcement measures taken in these three states, including the number of FIRs registered, to prevent illegal sand mining.

Conflicts, energy shocks threaten progress against global hunger, UN agency head warns

AP

Rome, Jul 22: Conflicts and disruptions to global energy markets could push millions more people into hunger by driving up fuel, fertilizer and food costs, the head of the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development warned, as a new United Nations report showed global progress against hunger remains fragile.

The UN food security report, released Tuesday, found global hunger has eased modestly in recent years, but projected more than 500 million people could still face chronic hunger by 2030. Africa is expected to bear the largest share of that burden.

In an interview with The Associated Press on July 10, IFAD President Alvaro Lario said geopolitical tensions and potential disruptions to shipping and energy supplies, including uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz during the Iran war, could leave an additional 9-18 million people facing hunger if the shocks persist.

"We are in a current era where we have the highest number of conflicts and are still increasing,"



Lario said. "Whenever there is a conflict, also hunger, displacement, refugees increase."

Conflict fuels food insecurity Conflict remains one of the biggest obstacles to reducing hunger worldwide, Lario added.

Wars and geopolitical tensions can disrupt shipping, energy supplies and agricultural inputs, increasing costs across food systems already strained by inflation. Lario stressed that hunger and conflict often reinforce one another, creating a cycle that is difficult to break without

greater stability.

Higher energy prices are already affecting fertilizers and agricultural production, he said. The impact is especially significant for small-scale farmers, many of whom rely on diesel fuel to pump water, harvest crops and transport goods to market.

Rising fuel costs increase production expenses and can feed directly into higher food prices.

Climate shocks add pressure The new report identifies affordability as one of the world's biggest food security

challenges. While food production continues to grow, roughly a third of the global population still can't afford a healthy diet. In low-income countries, that figure rises to about 77 percent, according to Lario.

"The biggest challenge is no longer simply producing enough food, but making healthy diets affordable," he said.

Climate change is adding further pressure to food systems and rural livelihoods.

Lario noted that floods, prolonged droughts and extreme heat are increasingly disrupting agriculture around the world and have become a common reality for many communities.

Governments should focus on resilience and adaptation before disasters strike, rather than relying solely on emergency responses afterward, he said.

"This is just becoming the new normal," Lario said. "We are seeing floods in many countries. We're still seeing droughts that have been expanding for four or five years."

The fund is increasing investments in climate-adaptation programs aimed at helping rural communities withstand floods,

droughts and extreme heat, he said, arguing that support is urgently needed for the millions of small farmers who produce much of the world's food.

Africa emerges as epicenter The report highlights Africa as the world's most pressing food-security challenge. For the first time, the continent has overtaken Asia as the region with the largest number of hungry people, and nearly 60 percent of the world's chronically undernourished people could live there by 2030.

Lario attributed the shift partly to rapid population growth and slower economic gains than in parts of Asia, and he called for greater investment in agriculture, infrastructure and food systems.

African countries currently import nearly \$100 billion worth of food each year, he said, underscoring the need for stronger local production, storage, distribution and regional trade networks.

Conflicts, energy-market disruptions and climate extremes threaten to derail progress unless governments invest in more resilient food systems, Lario said.

Mamdani says NYC can't arrest Netanyahu but federal govt should



AP

New York, Jul 22: New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani said late Tuesday that the city would not be able to execute an arrest warrant issued by the world's top war-crimes court for Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, but urged the federal government to do so. In the video Mamdani described the Israeli prime minister as a "war criminal" and said he is not welcome in New York City. "It is clear that we do not have the independent legal authority to enforce this warrant," he said in a video posted on X. "The federal government however does and I call on them to join the ICC and execute this warrant," he added, referring to the International Criminal Court.

Mamdani had told the New York Times earlier this month that he and the city's legal department were discussing arresting Netanyahu if he comes to New York City for the UN General Assembly in September.

President Donald Trump on Monday told Netanyahu in a social media post that he "will

not be arrested, in any way, shape, or form, while in the United States of America." The post did not directly mention Mamdani. Mamdani had said throughout his mayoral election campaign last year that he would seek to order the city's police to arrest Netanyahu under the criminal court's warrant over Netanyahu's role in the war in Gaza. In his video message Tuesday, Mamdani said his administration has reviewed all avenues available and determined the city can't execute the arrest warrant.

"I want to be equally clear, Benjamin Netanyahu is not welcome in New York City, nor is any other war criminal at large," he said. Danny Danon, the Israeli ambassador to the UN, responded by telling the mayor "enough."

"You were elected to serve New Yorkers, not Hamas' propaganda," he said in a statement on social media. "Do your job!"

The world's top war-crimes court issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and others in 2024, accusing them of crimes against humanity in connection with the war in Gaza.

India looks to arrest T20I slide as it takes on spirited Zimbabwe



PTI

Harare, Jul 22: Shreyas Iyer will be eager for his first win as India captain while his young team eyes course correction against a spunky Zimbabwe that is expected to fight hard during the short three-match T20I series starting here on Thursday.

Having lost six out of his first seven T20I games as skipper in series defeats

to minnows Ireland and a seasoned England side, the rubber against Zimbabwe gives Shreyas and Co. a chance to get the house in order.

A series win against Zimbabwe would be the expected outcome, but a defeat could unnerve the dressing room. For this tour, India will have VVS Laxman handling the reins in place of head coach Gautam Gambhir.

Fear of failure has no place in this team, says India skipper Shreyas Iyer



PTI

Harare, Jul 22: India captain Shreyas Iyer wants his players to play fearless cricket and not be weighed down by criticism after the team's disappointing run in England, saying the recent setbacks have only brought the squad closer ahead of the three-match T20 series against Zimbabwe.

India arrive in Zimbabwe after enduring a winless white-ball tour

of England and Ireland, but Iyer said the team has identified the areas it needs to improve on.

"We had a rough patch in England, but there were a lot of positives out of that. We got to know what we have to build as a team going forward, what kind of presence of mind, awareness and adaptability we need once we step onto the field," Iyer said on the eve of the opening T20I here.

The series in England and Ireland

was also Iyer's first assignment as captain.

The skipper, who is touring Zimbabwe for the first time, said the biggest challenge would be adjusting to the conditions in a short span of time.

"Some of us are playing here for the first time, so the quicker we adapt, the better results we will get."

Iyer also urged the young members of the squad to play without the fear of failure despite recent scrutiny following India's performances.

"I don't think they should fear failure because when you have such thoughts at the back of your mind, then you play to save yourself. When you don't have that fear, you can get the best out of yourself."

"We don't have to think much about what people are saying outside. We have to stay in the present. The more we play good cricket and play together as a unit, the better it will be for the team."

Trump approves landmark nuclear deal with Saudi Arabia

AP

Washington, Jul 22: US President Donald Trump has approved an agreement with Saudi Arabia that could potentially provide the Kingdom with uranium enrichment capability for its civilian nuclear program, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The people, who were not authorized to comment publicly about the yet to be formally announced decision, said the agreement is expected to be announced publicly on Wednesday.

The deal is expected to last 30 years and is also expected to involve US firms in developing the program. The deal could allow for the building of a uranium enrichment facility in Saudi Arabia following a joint US-Saudi study.

Condolence Message



A condolence meeting was co-chaired by the Director Finance, Jal Shakti Department, Director Estates and Special Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department today on 22.7.2026 at Civil Secretariat, Jammu/ Srinagar. The officers/officials of the Jal Shakti/JJM/Estates Departments and FCR attended the mourning ceremony on the sad demise of **Shri Ramprasad Kabra**, father of **Shri. Shaleen Kabra, IAS**, Financial Commissioner (ACS), Jal Shakti Department.

The meeting was attended by the Mr. Imtiyaz, Director Planning, JSD, Mr. Hitesh Gupta, Addl. Secretary, JSD, Mr. Vivek Phonsa, Addl. Secretary, Home Department, Mr. Muneer-ul-Hassan, Addl. Secretary, Law and Dy. Secretaries/Dy. Directors/Under Secretaries/Assistant Directors/Personal Section/Section officers and other non-gazetted staff. The participants expressed their profound grief and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

On the occasion, a two-minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul. The gathering prayed to the Almighty for eternal peace to the departed soul and to bestow strength/ courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

May the departed soul rest in peace.

Director Planning
Jal Shakti Department

INOX SRINAGAR

Movies SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 23RD JULY

TICKET ASSISTANCE 95416 13868

JAN NETA HINDI (A) 02:00 PM, 06:45 PM

DHAMAAL 4 HINDI (U/A 13+) 11:00 AM

THE ODYSSEY ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE (A) NOW SHOWING 10:45 AM, 12:25 PM, 02:10 PM, 03:50 PM, 05:35 PM, 07:15 PM

EVIL DEAD BURN ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES (A) 10:00 AM