



Dargah Hazratbal glows with lights, prayers on Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) eve

Thousands flock to revered shrine for night-long Shab Khwaani; traffic advisory issued

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 25: Thousands of devotees gathered at Hazratbal on Tuesday evening ahead of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), filling the shrine and adjoining areas with spiritual fervour.

Families carrying prayer mats, elderly devotees and young men and women made their way towards the shrine, adding to the growing crowds where special prayers, durood-o-azkar, naats and religious gatherings continued through the night.

For people across Kashmir, the intervening night of August 25 and 26 is more than a date on the calendar; it is a night of remembrance and devotion.

The scene is familiar to generations of Kashmiris: roads filled with devotees, mosques glowing



with lights, families arriving from far-off areas and people walking towards Hazratbal as the night deepens.

Mohammad Salam Dar, a devotee in his 70s, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that it was difficult to explain what Hazratbal means to him on this night. “People come with love in their hearts and prayers on their lips,” he said.

Abdul Jabbar, another devotee, said the

gathering reminded people of the values associated with the Prophet's life. “We come here not only to pray, but to remember his teachings of mercy, patience, compassion and brotherhood,” he said.

As the evening progressed, the atmosphere around Hazratbal changed visibly. The hum of vehicles mixed with the sound of prayers as groups of devotees moved towards the shrine, while volunteers and officials worked

to manage the crowds.

Inside and around the shrine, the recitation of durood and naats added to the distinct spiritual atmosphere. The night-long Shab Khwaani is underway, with devotees expected to continue prayers and religious observances through the night.

On Wednesday, people across Jammu and Kashmir will observe Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), with prayers, religious discourses, recitation of the Quran, durood and naats being held at mosques and shrines.

Religious scholars and clerics are expected to speak about the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), particularly his message of compassion, mercy, patience and brotherhood.

Traffic advisory issued
With a massive movement of devotees expected, the Traffic | More on P6

Prez Murmu, LG Sinha, CM Omar, Div Com, Mirwaiz, others extend Milad greetings

DGP reviews security arrangements as Hazratbal braces for major congregation

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Top leaders and officers, including President Droupadi Murmu, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Mohammad Umar Farooq and others extended greetings to people on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW). As per the details available with the

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), President Droupadi Murmu, in her message, extended best wishes to citizens in India and abroad, especially Muslims, saying the occasion was a reminder of the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). “The festival of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) is an occasion to recall the preachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). His teachings inspire us to follow the path of | More on P6

PSC pushes panic button on recruitment rules

Calls them obsolete, redundant; seeks urgent revision

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Aug 25: Terming the existing recruitment rules as “obsolete” and “redundant,” the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has recommended their urgent revision.

In its Annual Report for 2025–26, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Commission expressed serious concern over what it described as decades-old recruitment rules of government departments. “Recruitment Rules of most of the State Government Departments framed decades ago are very old, outdated, obsolete and have become redundant and require their revisions and updating to keep pace with the fast-changing social, economic and technological scenario, as well as efficiency and expertise required for handling assignments of complex nature in view of the diversification and specialization in the field of governance and functioning of government organizations,” the report noted.

The Commission stressed that diversification in fields such as education, medical sciences and computer sciences must be accommodated and incentivized through updated service rules. It said that | More on P6

CM Omar assures people: No more power tariff hike during my tenure

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Aug 25: Assuring that Jammu and Kashmir won't see any further power tariff hike during his tenure, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the latest revision was imposed out of compulsion and not by choice.

Addressing a gathering here in North Kashmir, CM Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) defended the tariff revision and hit back at opposition parties, saying previous dispensations had significantly hiked electricity rates during their rule.

“I acknowledge the increase in electricity tariffs, but we did not do it out of happiness. It was a compulsion,” CM Omar said, adding that his government had tried to keep the additional burden on consumers to a minimum.

Comparing the latest revision with previous tariff hikes, the Chief Minister said, “When these people were in power, they increased the tariff by 13-15 per cent four years ago.”

CM says some teachers avoiding rural postings

Voices concern over proliferation of ‘ghost schools’

Riyaz Bhat

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that some teachers are using influence to avoid postings in rural schools, a practice he claimed has created a staff imbalance that leaves village schools understaffed and urban ones overcrowded. | More on P6



Referring specifically to the PDP-BJP coalition government, CM Omar said, “When Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba was the Chief Minister, the electricity rates were increased by 13.5 to 14 per cent.”

Questioning the criticism of the latest hike, the Chief Minister asked why similar objections were not raised when previous regimes increased the rates. “Why did you remain silent at that time? At that time, didn't you feel that injustice was being done to the people?” he asked.

CM Omar assured consumers that his government would not increase electricity tariffs | More on P6

Kashmir's economic identity beyond tourism: CM Omar

Calls farming, fruits, industry major pillars, says Tangmarg fruit mandi will strengthen rural economy

Waris Fayaz

Tangmarg, Aug 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said Kashmir's economic identity goes beyond tourism, asserting that farming, horticulture and industry remain major contributors to the Jammu and Kashmir economy.

Omar was speaking to reporters after laying the foundation stone for a new fruit and vegetable mandi at Wussan Bangil, Tangmarg, a project



estimated to cost around Rs 15 to Rs 20 crore.

The Chief Minister, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said people outside Kashmir often view the region as an economy driven primarily by

tourism and believe that it has little else to offer.

“We frequently tell them that farming, crops, fruits and the industrial sector hold a major share in our economy and then tourism,” he said. Abdullah | More on P6

Two terror associates held in Pulwama

KNO Correspondent

Pulwama, Aug 25: Security forces on Tuesday arrested two terror associates in South Kashmir's Pulwama district and recovered a pistol, 12 rounds and a hand grenade during a joint operation in the Yarwan forest area of CB Nath in Rajpora, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the operation was launched by Pulwama Police in coordination with the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles and 183 Battalion CRPF following specific intelligence inputs regarding the movement of suspected

‘88.8% homes near apple orchards in Kashmir have no pesticide buffer zone’

Three-fourth face moderate to high exposure risk

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Aug 25: A new study by researchers has found that nearly 90 per cent of households located near apple orchards in Kashmir have no buffer zone separating their homes from pesticide-treated land, leaving them exposed to chemical drift.

The study published in the International Journal of Social Impact, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), surveyed 509 households



across all ten districts of the Valley, developing a composite Residential Proximity Index (RPI) based on six indicators: distance from orchards, presence of buffer zones, pesticide storage practices, disposal methods, awareness of

pesticide toxicity, and post-spray health symptoms.

The study found that 41.06 per cent of surveyed households were located within just 200 metres of orchards, a distance the authors said sharply increases the likelihood of

pesticide drift reaching residential areas. Compounding this, 88.80 per cent of homes had no intercepting buffer zone at all. More than 70 per cent of households reported unsafe disposal of pesticide packets, containers and leftovers, largely through open dumping near orchards, while 45.38 per cent stored pesticides within their domestic living space rather than outside.

Using the composite RPI, which scores households from 0 to 6 based on how many risk conditions apply to them, the study classified about one-fourth of households as high-risk (score 5-6), reflecting a combination of close orchard proximity, absent buffer zones,

unsafe pesticide handling, low awareness and reported health symptoms. Over half fell into the moderate-risk category (score 3-4), while only a small share of households qualified as low-risk (score 0-2). Combined, three-fourths of surveyed households fell within the moderate-to-high risk bracket.

The study also found that 55.01 per cent of respondents reported experiencing health symptoms following pesticide spraying, and 61.30 per cent had only low to moderate awareness of the health hazards posed by pesticide exposure.

The study said that horticultural land in Jammu and Kashmir | More on P6

Warming high-altitude zones put J&K glaciers at greater risk: Study

Researchers call for stronger climate monitoring, early-warning systems in Himalayas

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 25: Climate change is increasing the vulnerability of the Himalayan region, with rising temperatures, changing snow patterns and accelerating glacier retreat posing growing risks to water security and climate-induced hazards in Jammu and Kashmir, according to a new study.

The study, published in 2026 and based on long-term observations and climate projections, found a significant rise in mean annual temperatures across several parts of the Himalayas

since the early 20th century.

The researchers used Climatic Research Unit (CRU) observational data covering 1901-2020 and Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) climate models to examine historical and projected changes in temperature and snow conditions across the Himalayan region.

For Jammu and Kashmir, which forms part of the western Himalayas, the findings are particularly significant as the region's glaciers, snowfields and mountain ecosystems play an important | More on P6

Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

Deputy Chief Minister, Health Minister extend greetings



KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 25: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Health Minister Sakeena Itoo extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

In his message, Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, said that the sacred occasion is a reminder of the noble teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW), who showed humanity the path of truth, compassion, and service to mankind. He expressed

hope that the blessed day will inspire people to uphold the values of peace, harmony, mutual respect, and brotherhood, thereby fostering unity and collective progress in society.

Deputy Chief Minister added that the true way of celebrating this day is by practicing patience, spreading goodwill, and extending support to those in need. Surinder Choudhary also prayed for peace, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens, especially the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a separate statement, Minister for Health and Medical Education,

Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo also extended her heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

In her greeting message, the Minister said that this sacred day reminds us of the timeless values of compassion, kindness, and service to humanity, which form the essence of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW). She expressed hope that this pious occasion will inspire people to strengthen bonds of brotherhood, promote peace and harmony, and work collectively for the welfare of society.

“On this revered occasion, let us pledge to walk on the path of truth, compassion, and selfless service shown to us by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)”, she said.

The Minister also highlighted that true way of celebrating this blessed and sacred day is to uphold the values of empathy, patience, and mutual respect in our daily lives.

Sakeena Itoo also prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens, particularly the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Training programme on Digital Crop Survey Kharif Season 2026 held in Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, AUGUST 25: A comprehensive training programme on the Digital Crop Survey (DCS), Kharif Season, 2026 was Tuesday conducted at Kulgam.

Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam Shahzad Alam presided the training programme.

The training was aimed to sensitize the field functionaries with the requisite knowledge and skills for smooth, accurate and timely conduct of the Digital Crop Survey across the district.

The training programme was attended by the officers and officials associated with the implementation of the Digital Crop Survey, including Surveyors, Supervisors, Verifiers and other concerned field functionaries.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of the Digital Crop Survey in ensuring accurate, transparent and technology-driven assessment of crop coverage and agricultural activities. He stressed upon all concerned to discharge their assigned duties with utmost sincerity, diligence and a sense of responsibility.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure that the survey is conducted strictly as per the prescribed guidelines and within the stipulated time-lines. He further underscored the need for ground-level verification, accuracy of data, proper geo-tagging and timely uploading of survey details on the designated digital platform.

During the training session, detailed demonstrations and practical guidance were provided regarding the various components and procedures involved in conducting the Digital Crop Survey. The participants were apprised of the methodology to be followed for recording crop details, capturing field-level information, ensuring correct identification of land parcels and addressing technical issues that may arise during the survey.

The trainers also provided hands-on guidance to the field functionaries regarding the use of the Digital Crop Survey application and other relevant digital tools. The participants were encouraged to raise their queries and seek clarifications regarding the survey process and technical aspects.

DC Shopian calls for strict COTPA compliance

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Tuesday chaired a meeting of the COTPA District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) to review measures for effective implementation of tobacco control laws and curbing tobacco use in the district.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the enforcement of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), prevention of tobacco use among youth and strengthening awareness regarding the harmful effects of tobacco consumption.

He stressed upon the concerned departments to constitute market-checking committees headed by the respective Tehsildars for regular inspections and strict enforcement of tobacco control provisions.

He further directed that the sale of tobacco products within 100 metres of educational institutions be strictly prohibited, with regular inspections to ensure compliance. The concerned officers were asked to take necessary action against violators as per the provisions of law.

The DC called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of COTPA and create a tobacco-free and healthier environment for children and youth.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; SSP Shopian, Rameez Rashid; CMO, Dr. Salma Bhat; DHO, Dr. Shafkat Khan; BMOs; representatives from the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, and other concerned officers.

Heritage Conservation Scheme

DC Srinagar reviews renovation works at Narayan Temple Bulbul Lanker



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday visited the Narayan Temple at Bulbul Lanker in the Share-Khaas area of the District to inspect the renovation and upgradation works being taken under the Government's Heritage Conservation Scheme.

During the visit, the DC, as per an official statement, was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Qureshi, IAS Probationer Aakash Garg, Chief Planning Officer,

Fayaz Ahmad, Superintending Engineer R&B North, Shabir Ahmad, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, Executive Engineer, Water Works Division, Aijaz Rafiq, Executive Engineer, R&B Division Core, Arif Hazari, Executive Engineer KPDCL, Syed Abrar, Tehsildar Khanyar, Syed Shahid, ZMO MR Gunj, Dr Shafqat, Executive Engineer, City Drainage SMC, and other concerned.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the conservation works being executed on the Temple and its allied structures on heritage pattern.

The DC emphasized the need for quality execution, close coordination among departments and timely completion of the works on the religious and heritage assets while upgrading associated infrastructure while ensuring that the heritage character and architectural significance of the temple are preserved.

He also directed the concerned agencies to address issues related to essential services and infrastructure in a coordinated manner so that the restoration work progresses smoothly and the site receives the required civic and utility support.

DC Shopian chairs meeting on setting up De-Addiction Centre

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the steps for setting up a dedicated District De-Addiction Centre under the Scheme Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.

The proposed centre aims to provide comprehensive support, treatment and rehabilitation services to individuals affected by drug dependence across the district.

During the meeting, the DC, as per an official statement, highlighted that the facility will focus on medical treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and social reintegration, while also strengthening preventive measures and community



awareness campaigns.

Reaffirming the District Administration's commitment to creating a drug-free Shopian, the DC stressed the importance of sustained prevention, timely treatment and rehabilitation, along with active collaboration among government departments, community leaders and other stakeholders.

DC Kulgam visits Shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali (RA) at Chimmer

KT News Desk

KULGAM, AUGUST 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Tuesday visited the revered shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA) at Chimmer, D.H. Pora, and paid obeisance at the holy shrine.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the arrangements and facilities being put in place for devotees, particularly in view of the forthcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, took stock of the overall arrangements at the shrine and its adjoining areas, including cleanliness, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, road connectivity, parking and other essential facilities required for the smooth and comfortable movement of devotees.

The DC interacted with members of the shrine management committee, local residents and other stakeholders and took detailed feedback regarding the developmental requirements and issues affecting the area. He assured them that all genuine concerns would be examined and addressed in coordination with the concerned departments.

While reviewing the preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), the DC stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all concerned departments to ensure adequate arrangements for the expected congregation of devotees. He directed the officers to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation in and around the shrine, uninterrupted availability of essential amenities and timely completion of all necessary arrangements.

The DC also directed the concerned officers to remain vigilant and responsive to any requirement that may arise during the Eid Milad celebrations.

Accompanying the Deputy Commissioner were SDM Noorabad Bashir ul Hassan, AEE R& B, Reyaz Ahmad, AEE PDD, Javid Ahmad Wagay and other concerned officers.

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 89 of RnB-Sopore of 2026-2027 e-tendering DATED: 25.08.2026.

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:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Upgradation of inner links of Mehrajpora Chinkipora Sopore	4.00	200/-	8000/-	90 days	08.09.2026	DEE	3054 M&R	EE/R&B/ Sopore 94 of 2026-27 dated: 17.08.2026
2	Upgradation of Hajam Mohalla and Bagat Links Colony seelu	4.493	200/-	9000/-	90 days	08.09.2026	DEE	3054 M&R	EE/R&B/ Sopore 95 of 2026-27 dated: 17.08.2026
3	Construction of Drain at Nowpora near Ahad Bab Chowk from H/o Farooq ahmad	3.863	200/-	7750/-	90 days	08.09.2026	DEE	3054 M&R	EE/R&B/ Sopore 100 of 2026-27 dated: 17.08.2026

Project Authority:

Position of funds:

Position of AA.

dated: 05.08.2026

CE PWD (R&B) North Kashmir.

Available

Authorization by CE PWD (R&B) North Kmr. vide his order No: CE/R&B/NK/Accts/69 of 2026-27

1, The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other 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	25.08.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25.08.2026 to 07.09.2026
3	Bid Submission start date	25.08.2026
4	Bid submission End date	07.09.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	08.09.2026 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

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. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore . 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 and NIT No: 37 and 57 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 : 6815-24
Dated: 25.08..2026.

DIPK-4992/26
DATED: 25-08-2026

sdl/
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Mechanical Rural Division, Sgr.

Gist of e-Tender.

E-N.I.T. No: - PHE/MRD/TS/ 31 of 08/2026

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

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Rs.	Cost of Tender Doc. Rs.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	Electrical works to be carried out to the Starters at various WSS's	Sub-Division Srinagar	0.5075	1015/-	50/-	05 days	M&R
B	SITC of 200 Ampere Changeover Switch as a replacement of damaged one at WSS	Chuntwaliwar 1 st	0.23	460/-	50/-	05 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1. Publishing Date	25-08-2026 (5:00 PM)	
2. Period of Downloading of Bids	25-08-2026 (5:00 PM)	to 02-09-2026 (11:00 AM)
3. Period of Submission of bids	25-08-2026 (5:00 PM)	to 02-09-2026 (11:00 AM)
4. Date of opening of Tender/Timing	02-09-2026 at (12:00 P.M)	
5. Tender Receiving Authority:	Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6. Document Cost:	Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
7. Bid Validity Period:	90 Days	
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on	www. jktenders.gov.in	
9. Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/ bank guarantee from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Executive Engineer	Jal shakti PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar. In case the e-NIT is cancelled, the EMD submitted for this e-NIT shall remain valid and will be considered for fresh e-NIT.	
Note:	The Date of cost of tender document fee and Earnest money must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as non-responsive.	

No: - PHE/MRD/TS/1760-64
DT: - 25-08-2026

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

DIPK-4992/26
DATED: 25-08-2026

CM Omar lays foundation for Wussan Bangil fruit, veggie mandi

KT News Desk

Tangmarg, Aug 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of a modern Fruit & Vegetable Mandi at Wussan Bangil, Karhama, Tangmarg, marking the beginning of a long-pending demand of the area and a significant step towards strengthening the horticulture marketing infrastructure in the Tangmarg-Gulmarg belt.

The proposed mandi will be developed on 50 kanals of land, with direct access to the Tangmarg-Gulmarg Road. Envisaged as a modern and organised marketing facility, the mandi will cater to the major horticulture belt of Tangmarg and adjoining areas and is expected to benefit around nine lakh people across 19 blocks in Baranulla and Budgam districts.

The facility will provide growers with an organised platform for the handling, grading, sorting, packaging and marketing of fruit and vegetable produce, besides strengthening market linkages and logistics in the region.

It is expected to bring buyers closer to producers, improve price realisation for farmers and reduce post-harvest losses through better handling, storage and supply-chain facilities.

Addressing a large public gathering after laying the foundation stone, the Chief Minister said the project represented the fulfilment of a major and long-standing demand of the people of the area and underlined the need to look beyond tourism while assessing the economic potential of Kashmir.

"Often, when we speak to people outside J&K, they feel that there is nothing but tourism in Kashmir and that our entire economy revolves around tourism. But when I explain to them that agriculture, horticulture, fruits, dairy and other sectors contribute much more, they are surprised," he said.



The Chief Minister said the establishment of the mandi was particularly important for Tangmarg because the area is a major horticulture-producing belt. "Your fruits and vegetables were being grown here, but to take them to the market you had to travel to far-off markets. You did not always get buyers. Now, through this market, the buyers will come here and, through the buyers, you will get a better rate," he said.

He said the modern infrastructure would also help ensure better quality of produce and facilitate its access to wider markets. The project, he added, would create a new source of income for the area and give a major boost to the rural economy.

Emphasising that the success of the mandi would also depend on connectivity, Omar Abdullah directed that the road leading to the facility be improved and widened. "Along with this fruit market and vegetable market, we will have to fix this road as well. Even if it is a 1.5 to 2 km stretch, we will have to widen it and improve its condition so that people do not face any difficulty," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government had initiated development works across sectors in the constituency, including drinking water, healthcare, education, roads and horticulture

infrastructure. He said the focus was on taking development works to the ground and addressing the demands of people through concrete projects.

Responding to criticism from the opposition, the Chief Minister said political parties were free to oppose government initiatives, but people would ultimately judge governments by the work delivered on the ground. He questioned why earlier governments, despite having land and opportunities, had not established a fruit and vegetable mandi in the area when they were in power.

"You had the government, you had the opportunity and this land was already here. No land had to be acquired for this fruit and vegetable mandi. It was lying unused. Today, if the MLA sits with the concerned Minister and prepares a project for a fruit market in his area, is that his fault, or is the question why those who represented the area earlier did not do it?" he asked.

The Chief Minister also addressed concerns regarding the recent revision in electricity tariffs.

"The opposition is targeting us over the increase in electricity tariffs. We have increased the electricity tariff, and I accept that. But we had to take this decision out of compulsion and the circumstances we were facing," He said the increase should

also be viewed in the context of the prevailing economic situation and compared with the tariff revisions effected during the tenure of previous governments. "In the four years since the previous increase, inflation in the country has gone up by around 19 to 20 percent. When they were in power, the electricity tariff was increased by around 15 percent four years ago. In comparison, we have placed only a small part of that burden on the people," he said.

Taking a dig at the opposition, Omar Abdullah said those criticising the present government had themselves presided over substantial tariff increases when they were in power. "When they were Chief Ministers, the electricity tariff had gone up by around 13.5 to 14 percent. Why were you silent then if you felt that injustice had been done to people? Today, those whose decisions have contributed to the problems we are facing are making noise," he said.

The Chief Minister, however, assured the people that the government would make every effort to avoid any further increase during its present term. "I assure you that I will try my best not to increase the electricity tariff during this government," he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated the government's commitment to fulfilling the

promises made to the people and said the next three and a half years would witness accelerated development across Jammu and Kashmir.

"God willing, in the next three and a half years, we will fulfil all the promises we have made to the people and present ourselves before you. I say with confidence that after three and a half years, if you look at all the Assembly constituencies, among the most developed, if not the most developed, will be the Gulmarg-Tangmarg constituency, because here not only has work started, it is progressing rapidly," he said.

The Chief Minister also announced that the Mini Secretariat at Tangmarg, whose work had been initiated during his earlier government but could not be completed, would be completed and handed over to the people during the current year.

He congratulated the people of Tangmarg, particularly the residents of Wussan, on the foundation stone laying of the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi and said the project would create a stronger and more organised horticulture marketing ecosystem in the area.

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited the Kisan Mela showcasing key government initiatives and innovations in agriculture and horticulture.

Delegations call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 25: A delegation of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at from Reshnagri, Shopian headed by Khurshid Ahmad Mir, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday.

The members of the delegation projected various public important issues of Reshnagri including upgradation of Government High School, Health Sub-centre, promotion of horticulture and industrial sector.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, Member of Legislative Assembly from Bishnah

called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and put forth the issues pertaining to establishment of Police Post at Rehal and Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Bishnah Constituency.

In the meanwhile, a delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) J&K UT Council, led by its Chairman, Iqram Ali Shafiee called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and briefed him on the upcoming 3rd Edition of the CII J&K Health Conclave, scheduled to be held on 29 August 2026 in Srinagar.

Will answer in few days: MP Ruhullah on Dr Farooq's resignation remark



Waris Fayaz

Tangmarg, Aug 25: Srinagar MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday said he would respond in the coming days to National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah's call for his resignation, while maintaining that he holds the veteran leader in high regard.

Speaking with reporters, Ruhullah said it is not possible that Farooq Abdullah asks him for something and he doesn't give it to

him. "It is not possible that I send him back empty-handed". Ruhullah was responding to a query on Dr Farooq's remark that he should resign from the Lok Sabha and seek a fresh mandate from the people.

"He has asked for something at this age. I respect him. I don't want him to ask me for something and I return it to him empty-handed," he added.

Asked whether he would accept Farooq Abdullah's challenge, Ruhullah said he will give an answer in a few days—(KNO)

One killed, three injured in Vijaypur flyover collapses

KNO

Samba, Aug 25: A person was killed and three others injured after a flyover collapsed during construction work in the Jakh area of Vijaypur in Samba district on Tuesday, officials said.

An official said that the incident occurred when the structure gave way during ongoing work.

He said the injured persons were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment, while their condition was not immediately known.

Investigation has been taken up and further details are awaited—(KNO)

Bear injures two in Kulgam orchard



KNO

Kulgam, Aug 25: At least two people were injured after a bear attacked them in an orchard in Ahmadabad village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday. An official said that the bear attacked a group of people who were working in the orchard, injuring two of them. He said the injured were shifted to SDH Damhal Hanjipora for treatment and are stated to be stable.

The injured were identified as Abdul Salam Teeli, a resident of Ahmadabad and Bilal Ahmad Kholi, a resident of Danipora, DH Pora.

When contacted, Syed Irshad, in-charge of the DH Pora Wildlife Control Room, told KNO that a cage has been set up to trap the bear—(KNO)

Concrete measures being taken for FRA implementation: Minister Rana



Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment and Jal Shakti Javed Ahmad Rana on Tuesday said the Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated concrete measures for the effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, across the Union Territory, with dedicated mechanisms being put in place at the district level.

Speaking to reporters after attending a Tribal Convention on the Forest Rights Act at Sangernwani in Rajpora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, Rana said the implementation of the FRA would ensure that the rights of eligible forest-dwelling communities are formally recognised and protected, describing the legislation as an important step towards strengthening the socio-economic security of tribal communities.

The minister said the Tribal Affairs Department, which is the nodal department for implementation of the Act in Jammu and Kashmir, has already issued the

requisite notification and is working towards ensuring its implementation in "letter and spirit".

"The Forest Rights Act should have been implemented much earlier. Now the Tribal Affairs Department, being the nodal department, has issued the notification and steps are being taken for its implementation in letter and spirit," Rana said.

He said FRA cells have been constituted in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, while 20 appointments have already been made to facilitate the implementation process and ensure that grievances and claims of eligible beneficiaries are dealt with appropriately.

Rana said the government would focus on ensuring that the benefits of the legislation reach the intended beneficiaries without unnecessary delays, while maintaining transparency throughout the process.

He also appealed to all stakeholders, particularly members of tribal communities, to cooperate with the administration and

refrain from allowing vested interests to derail the implementation process.

"Some people are trying to exploit the issue. I want to tell them to give their time and support for proper implementation," he said.

The minister said Jammu and Kashmir had witnessed important measures concerning the rights of people over land and natural resources.

He described the granting of land rights during the tenure of Sheikh Abdullah as an important step for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, while saying that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had taken another significant step by facilitating the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Filtration plants in these areas were being strengthened to improve the quality and reliability of drinking-water supplies, he added.

Rana said various works under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) were also progressing and that the first instalments for the schemes had already been released, while the government was expecting the release of the second instalment soon.

"I thank Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his personal efforts in meeting the concerned Jal Shakti Minister. Following that intervention, some payment was released, while we are expecting the remaining amount soon," he said.

Rana said the government remained committed to strengthening essential infrastructure in tribal and upper areas and ensuring that development schemes are implemented effectively on the ground—(KNO)

J&K awaiting clearance for weather-based crop insurance: Javed Dar



Waris Fayaz

Tangmarg, Aug 25: Agriculture Minister Javed Ahmad Dar on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir is gearing up to implement the revised Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme and is awaiting the Government of India's approval.

The Minister said the revised policy is currently under review by the Centre, while an advisory committee constituted in this regard has submitted its report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

He said the Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had assured him during a recent ICR conference that the revised policy would be implemented in the coming days.

"Once we get the go ahead, we will implement the scheme here. We have already made provision for it in the budget," the Minister said.

He said the government was focusing on areas with high potential in fruit and vegetable production and would deploy officers who believe in a strong work culture in such areas.

"Wherever there is potential, be it fruit or vegetables, we are making it possible to post officers who believe in work culture. We are on it," he said.

The Minister said the move is aimed at strengthening agriculture and horticulture activities in potential-rich areas and ensuring focused administrative support for farmers and growers—(KNO)

Div Com Garg extends Eid-e-Milad (S.A.W) greetings



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 25: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, extended warm and heartfelt greetings to the people of Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W), commemorating the blessed birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.).

In his message, the Divisional Commissioner prayed that this sacred occasion brings peace, prosperity,

happiness and well-being to all. He emphasized the enduring values of compassion, brotherhood, tolerance and mutual respect that the occasion inspires.

Garg also expressed hope that Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W) would further strengthen communal harmony, unity and peaceful coexistence across the region, fostering a spirit of mutual understanding and goodwill among all sections of society.

EDITORIAL

Threat To KP Employees Needs Immediate Action

The fresh terror threats to Kashmiri Pandit employees, accompanied by the online leak of their personal details, are a direct assault on the dignity and security of a community that has already endured decades of displacement and violence. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has rightly termed this a matter of serious concern. But concern alone is not enough. What is needed is immediate, decisive action.

The threat letter names employees recruited under the Prime Minister's Special Package and includes confidential information such as residential addresses, vehicle numbers, and phone numbers. This is a calculated attempt to instil fear and disrupt the lives of those who have chosen to serve the state despite the risks. The All PM Package Employees Forum has rightly demanded a comprehensive review of security

arrangements. The administration must ensure that these employees are provided robust security at their workplaces and residential accommodations. The suggestion to allow work from home as an interim measure is reasonable and must be considered. This is not the first time such threats have emerged. Two-and-a-half years ago, Kashmiri Pandit employees, including revenue official Rahul Bhat and school teacher

Rajni Bala, were targeted and killed. We cannot afford to repeat that mistake. The security agencies must investigate the source of the threat and the data leak with urgency and hold those responsible accountable. The political leadership must speak with one voice on this issue. The right to work with dignity and without fear is not a privilege; it is a fundamental right. Any attempt to deny that right must be met with the

full force of the law. The government must also work to restore the confidence of the affected employees, assuring them that their safety is a top priority. Those who threaten innocent citizens will not succeed. The administration must act swiftly, decisively, and with the seriousness that this situation demands. The safety and dignity of Kashmiri Pandit employees are non-negotiable.

5 Years Of E-Shram Portal Building An Inclusive Social Security Ecosystem

Press Information Bureau

The e-Shram Portal completes five years on 26 August 2026, marking a significant milestone in strengthening social security for India's unorganised workforce. Launched in 2021 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, it created the country's first-ever Aadhaar-seeded National Database of Unorganised Workers. It gives every registered worker a unique Universal Account Number and has evolved into a one-stop digital platform integrating welfare, jobs, skilling, apprenticeship and pension services. With over 31.89 crore registrations, e-Shram has improved benefit delivery, portability and evidence-based policymaking. It advances the Government's vision of an inclusive, technology-driven social security ecosystem.

Empowering India's Unorganised Workforce

As India advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, empowering its vast workforce remains central to inclusive and sustainable growth. The unorganised sector comprises a diverse range of workers, including agricultural labourers, construction workers, domestic workers, street vendors, migrant workers, gig and platform workers, and many others. Together, they form a vital pillar of India's workforce and economy. Ensuring their access to social security and welfare has therefore remained a key priority of the Government.

Building on this commitment, the e-Shram Portal was launched on 26 August 2021, and completes 5 years since then. It marks an important milestone in India's efforts to build a comprehensive social security ecosystem for unorganised workers.

The Vision Behind e-Shram

The e-Shram Portal, developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), created the country's first Aadhaar authenticated National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW). It provides every registered worker with a unique 12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN). The key objectives include:

Improve delivery of social security services by enabling the convergence of welfare schemes across Ministries and Departments.

Facilitate secure sharing of worker data with government agencies through APIs. This supports the effective delivery of welfare schemes and evidence-based policymaking.

Facilitate nationwide access and portability of social security and welfare benefits for migrant and construction workers.

Create a comprehensive national database that supports timely planning and response during national emergencies and crises.

"Unorganised worker" includes a home-based worker, self-employed worker, or a wage worker in the unorganised sector.



It also includes a worker in the organised sector who is not a member of ESIC/ EPFO/ Government Employee.

Evolution into a One-Stop Solution

The e-Shram portal transformed from a worker registry into a unified service delivery platform with the launch of the e-Shram

One-Stop Solution on 21 October 2024. It now integrates welfare, employment, skilling and pension services. This aligns with the Union Budget 2024-25 vision of delivering a wide range of labour services through a single digital platform. Registered workers can access eligible schemes and view

benefits already received. The platform also promotes convergence across government portals. It strengthens access to social security and improves service delivery for unorganised workers.

The One-Stop Solution brings together 15 Social Security and Welfare Schemes on a single platform. These include Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) and others.

eShram registrants can conveniently enrol in the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) through the eShram portal. Under PMSBY, workers are eligible for accidental insurance benefits of 2 lakh for accidental death or permanent disability and 1 lakh for partial disability. PMJJBY provides a life insurance cover of 2 lakh in the event of death due to any cause.

The portal connects workers with the National Career Service (NCS) for employment opportunities. It also provides access to the Skill India Digital Hub for skilling and apprenticeship. Workers can also use myScheme to identify government schemes for which they may be eligible.

Through the portal, eligible workers can enrol in the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) Scheme, which offers a minimum assured pension of 3,000 per month upon attaining the age of 60 years, subject to eligibility.

Powered by the Bhashini platform, multilingual functionality in 22 languages was introduced in 2025.

The portal includes a provision to capture the family details of migrant workers.

It enables sharing of construction workers' data with States and Union Territories. This facilitates their registration with the respective Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Boards.

eShram provides a platform for the identification and registration of gig and platform workers as part of the national database of unorganised workers. As of date, around 11.5 lakh platform workers have registered on the portal. This database may support the formulation and implementation of suitable social security and welfare measures for such workers.

e-Shram Registration: Eligibility and Process

Registration on the e-Shram Portal is simple, accessible and a one-time process.

Eligibility: Any worker aged 16 years and above, engaged in the unorganised sector, is eligible to register on the e-Shram Portal. A worker must not be an income tax-payer or

a member of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) or the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

Coverage: The portal covers a wide range of unorganised workers. These include construction workers, migrant workers, gig and platform workers, street vendors, domestic workers, agricultural workers, and other unorganised workers.

How to register: Workers can register by visiting the e-Shram Portal (<https://register.eshram.gov.in/#/user/self>). They can also register through the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) or State Seva Kendra. State Government field officers also facilitate registration at the district and sub-district levels.

Registration cost: Registration on the e-Shram Portal is completely free of cost. Workers are not required to pay any fee to any registering agency or service provider.

Required Documents: Registration requires their Aadhaar number (for Aadhar eKYC) and a mobile number (preferably linked with Aadhaar).

Growing Coverage of India's Unorganised Workforce

Registrations on e-Shram portal over the past 5 years reflects broad participation across genders, age groups, occupations and States (as on 18 August, 2026).

Total registrations: The portal has recorded 31.89 crore registrations.

Gender distribution: Women account for 54.28% of registered workers, while men account for 45.72%.

Age profile: 0.08% are aged 16-18 years, 55.21% of registered workers are aged 18-40 years, 24.18% are aged 40-50 years and 20.53% are above 50 years (as on 20 August, 2026).

Top occupational categories: Agriculture, Domestic and Household Workers, Construction, and Apparel account for the highest registrations.

Top States: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra have recorded the highest registrations.

Mode of registration: Most registrations have been completed through Common Service Centres (CSCs), followed by self-registration.

Building the Future of Labour Welfare

The e-Shram Portal has laid a strong foundation for an inclusive and technology-enabled social security ecosystem for India's unorganised workforce. By creating a nationwide digital identity and database for unorganised workers, it has enabled more targeted and transparent delivery of government support. As its coverage and services continue to expand, e-Shram remains an important digital pillar of a more inclusive and future-ready workforce.

Toxic Positivity Must Die Curiosity and acceptance are the answers to toxic positivity

Clay Drinko

When someone tells you they're sad, how do you respond? Do you tell them to look on the bright side? That things will get better? That it's not that bad?

You may have fallen victim to the 21st-century blight of toxic positivity, the idea that "good vibes" cure all.

Scan any bookstore shelf, and you'll see the evidence of toxic positivity and how far it's invaded our lives. If fulfillment and contentment were as easy as making our bed or washing our face, we wouldn't still be in our current mental health crisis.

Toxic Positivity

Toxic positivity is the idea that positivity begets positivity, that by acting happy, we somehow become happier. It's the false assumption that we can reverse-engineer our own life satisfaction from the outside in.

Problem With Toxic Positivity

The problem with toxic positivity is that it leads to emotional suppression. It's the modern-day version of walking it off, instead of feeling our feelings. When we're told to smile or look on the bright side, we're not given the time, space, or permission to feel our actual feelings and work through them in healthy and productive ways.

Solution to Toxic Positivity

The solution to toxic positivity is threefold: emotional acceptance, emotional honesty, and radical empathy.

Emotional Acceptance

Emotional acceptance is when you acknowledge how you're feeling. It's the opposite of emotional suppression. Some people get confused and think acceptance means liking or supporting your negative feelings, but it doesn't. If I'm frustrated, emotional acceptance is owning that I'm frustrated.

Acceptance can then allow me to ask for help or take a break. In contrast, suppression might lead to me bottling it up, taking it out on other people, or even blowing my top.

In a world of toxic positivity, we're not supposed to be frustrated or have any other negative emotions, which means we're pushing our feelings down. This leads to all kinds of negative physical and mental consequences.

Emotional Honesty

Emotional honesty is when we own up to our feelings to others. That means using our words and actually telling people how we're doing. When someone asks you how you are, respond honestly.

Because of toxic positivity, we often tell people we're good when we're not. Let's fight toxic positivity by telling people how we really are.

Radical Empathy

Finally, radical empathy means we let people feel what they're feeling, instead of trying to force them to be OK. Sometimes, we're not OK. When we get divorced or lose a loved one, we're allowed to be sad or mad or any number of other so-called negative feelings. In fact, we're allowed to have all the feelings all the time. Our feelings give us essential information for how to navigate through life. But we're not privy to that information if we're always lying about being happy and forcing others to do the same.

If someone says they're cranky, ask them why or give them space. If someone is angry, don't be defensive. Get curious. Curiosity is the antidote to shutting down other people's feelings. Other people's emotions can make us wildly uncomfortable. Fight that discomfort by getting curious about their anger, rage, discomfort, anxiety, overwhelm, upset, grief, or sadness.

Emotions Are Impermanent

Emotions are impermanent. Accepting them, being honest about them to others, and letting people experience them in their own time and in their own way helps emotions come and go. When we get stuck trying to be OK or good or even great, we're not solving our mental health crisis. We're not making ourselves happier. We're not actually creating positivity. What we're doing is suppressing our actual emotions, which allows them to linger and harm ourselves and our connection to others.

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Courtesy: Psychology Today

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Land records goes digital, farmer services gets smarter

J&K advances AgriStack frame work under DILRMP

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: In a major step towards modernising land administration and creating a more transparent, citizen-centric system of Revenue and Agricultural services, Jammu and Kashmir has accelerated the digitisation and updation of land records while simultaneously preparing the verified land database for integration with the AgriStack framework of the Government of India under its Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

The exercise, as per an official statement, being undertaken by the Revenue Department in collaboration with BISAG-N, covers nearly 70 lakh land parcels, with more than 2,500 Revenue field functionaries having been provided role-based access for data entry, verification and approval. The initiative has been designed not as a mere exercise in scanning or data entry, but as a comprehensive process of digitisation, updation, verification, public scrutiny and authentication of land records.

From legacy records to a trusted digital database

Land records form the foundation of a wide range of public services, including ownership verification, mutations, agricultural benefits, credit, insurance, compensation and land-related transactions. Recognising the importance of an accurate and accessible Record of Rights, the Revenue Department has adopted a departmental, field-driven model for the present exercise.

A dedicated software platform has been developed in



collaboration with BISAG-N, providing for village-wise management of land-record data through a structured relational database. Unlike a simple scanned copy of a physical register, the digital record captures individual particulars in defined data fields, enabling systematic searching, comparison, validation, monitoring and authorised updating.

Three-tier institutional verification

A key feature of the exercise is the Maker-Checker-Approver mechanism, designed to ensure that a record is not accepted merely on the basis of data entry.

Under the system, the Patwari acts as the Maker, entering the record; the Girdawar/Naib-Tehsildar acts as the Checker, verifying it against the source Revenue record; and the Tehsildar acts as the Approver, providing final approval.

This segregation of responsibilities creates successive checks against transcription errors, omissions, incorrect shares,

spelling discrepancies and other inconsistencies. Every stage is electronically recorded, thereby creating an audit trail and fixing responsibility for the information entered and approved.

The Department has supplemented this institutional workflow with additional layers of supervision. Regular reviews have been undertaken at the highest administrative levels, while District-level Mentors and Prabhari Officers have been deployed to monitor both progress and quality. District committees have also undertaken cross-Tehsil verification to provide an additional layer of independent scrutiny.

Public verification made integral to digitisation

The Government has also placed the landholder at the centre of the verification process. More than 6,800 village-level camps have been organised for public reading of Jamabandis, enabling landholders to examine the records and report discrepancies relating to names, shares, mutations and

other particulars.

This public verification mechanism has been complemented by making digitised land records available for public viewing through the JK Zameen Sudhaar portal. Over 13 lakh rectifications have already been completed on the basis of discrepancies detected during verification and grievances received from the public.

Updation of Records alongside Digitisation

The Government has simultaneously addressed the critical issue of pending mutations so that digitisation does not result in merely reproducing an outdated physical record in electronic form.

Approximately 7 lakh backlog mutations have been incorporated into the digitised Record of Rights and subjected to the prescribed verification and approval process.

Land Records being transformed for AgriStack

The verified digital land database is now being transformed to support the AgriStack framework under the Digital Agriculture Mission of the Government of India.

AgriStack envisages an integrated digital architecture comprising the Farmers Registry, geo-referenced village maps and Crop Sown Registry. At its foundation is the ability to reliably associate a farmer with the landholding recorded in the official land records.

Traditional Jamabandis may contain several co-owners in a single khasra and may reflect shares at the holding or khata level. The AgriStack architecture requires the precise extent

attributable to each recorded owner to be available in machine-readable form.

Through the transformation exercise, 31.26 lakh khasra records have so far been converted into the required owner-extent format. For the farmer the process significantly simplifies the experience of viewing and claiming multiple land parcels associated with his or her name.

Farmer validation adds another layer of trust

A significant feature of the AgriStack implementation is that the process does not end with government-side verification alone. The farmer or landholder authenticates through e-KYC and is able to view the relevant landholding particulars on the registration interface.

After examining the information, the landholder can claim the appropriate landholding group and provide voluntary electronic consent. A Farmer ID is generated only after the prescribed verification and approval process is completed.

Direct benefits for citizens and farmers

The digitisation of land records is expected to substantially improve the everyday experience of citizens dealing with Revenue and agricultural services.

With land records available digitally, citizens will have easier access to their Record of Rights and will increasingly be able to obtain Revenue services without repeated visits to Patwari or Tehsil offices. Updated records, electronic audit trails and defined responsibility are expected to enhance transparency and reduce avoidable delays and disputes.

Bandipora clinches U-14 Girls Kabaddi title



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 25: The Inter-District Provincial-Level U-14 Girls Kabaddi Competition, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora, concluded on Tuesday at Higher Secondary School Nadihal, with District Bandipora emerging as the winner and District Anantnag securing the runner-up position.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from young athletes representing different districts, providing them a platform to showcase their sporting talent, teamwork, discipline and competitive spirit.

In the keenly contested final, District Bandipora displayed an impressive performance to secure the championship title, while District Anantnag finished as the runner-up.

The concluding ceremony was attended by District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Bandipora, Ab Majeed. Rather besides officials and field staff of the department were also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, DYSSO Bandipora congratulated the winning team for their

commendable performance and also lauded District Anantnag for putting up a strong fight to finish as runners-up. He encouraged all participating teams, particularly those who could not make it to the final, to remain focused, continue training with dedication and treat the experience gained from the championship as a stepping stone towards greater achievements. He emphasised that every match played, every challenge faced and every effort made on the field contributes to the growth and development of a young sports person.

While speaking on the occasion, the DYSSO Bandipora also expressed gratitude to the District Administration, District Information Officer Bandipora, Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Principal HSS Nadihal, besides officials, field staff and other supporting staff for their valuable cooperation and contribution towards the smooth and successful conduct of the championship.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports congratulated the winning team, runners-up and all participating athletes, and appreciated their commitment towards sports and healthy competition.

SKUAST-K scientists secure National Recognition for Kashmir Pony as Indigenous Horse Breed

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25: In a landmark scientific achievement for Jammu & Kashmir, scientists of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) have secured official recognition and registration of the Kashmir Pony as a new indigenous horse breed by the ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBAGR), Karnal.

The recognition was accorded by the ICAR Breed Registration Committee during its 14th meeting held on August 7, 2026. Jammu & Kashmir has been recognized as the home tract of the breed, which has been assigned the accession number INDIA_HORSE_0700_KASHMIR_07009.

The milestone has been accomplished by scientists of



SKUAST-K's Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, led by Dr. Syed Shanaz, Head, Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding. The research and documentation involved the committed efforts of the research team comprising Dr. Muzamil Abdullah, Assistant Professor, MRCSG; Dr. Akeel Yousuf Wani, MVSc Scholar,

LPM; Dr. Nazish Rizwan, MVSc Scholar, LPM; and Dr. Khushboo Javid, MVSc Scholar, AGB.

The work was carried out with valuable scientific collaboration and guidance from ICAR-NBAGR, Karnal, including Dr. A.K. Mishra, Principal Scientist and In-charge of the Project. The groundwork for the study was also made possible through the support and cooperation of officers of the Animal Husbandry Department.

The recognition marks a significant milestone in the scientific documentation, characterization and conservation of Kashmir's unique animal genetic heritage. Besides securing national recognition for the Kashmir Pony, the registration opens new avenues for its systematic conservation, sustainable utilization and exploration of its future livelihood potential.

DLSA Ganderbal initiates steps for establishment of Village Legal Aid Clinics at Anderwan

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 25: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal has initiated steps for establishment of Village Legal Aid Clinics at identified village Anderwan of the district for mega drive of NALSA scheme under Phase-1.

The village Anderwan comprises two Panchayat Halqas namely Anderwan-A and Anderwan-B consisting of seven wards each. Accordingly, a team of DLSA Ganderbal comprising of Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) and Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) visited Anderwan to assess local requirements and facilitate establishment of the proposed Clinics as per the SOP for the mega drive.



During the visit, one room each in the Panchayat Ghars of Anderwan-A and Anderwan-B was identified and earmarked for the respective Village Legal Aid Clinics. The Clinics will provide accessible platforms for legal awareness, identification of eligible beneficiaries, free legal advice and assistance, dissemination and facilitation of benefits under relevant NALSA Schemes mentioned in the SOP for mega drive commencing

from today and will culminate after expiry of 60 days.

The outreach activities will cover the identified NALSA Schemes relating to education and schooling, children, senior citizens, persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities, victims of human-wildlife conflict, acid attacks, trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, workers in the unorganized sector, Veer Parivar and poverty alleviation

schemes, besides other relevant legal services and entitlements. Awareness regarding free legal services under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 will also be undertaken.

The initiative aims to bring legal services closer to vulnerable and disadvantaged sections at the grassroots level and facilitate their access to justice and welfare benefits.

DLSA Ganderbal will undertake and supervise the legal awareness and outreach activities in accordance with the Operational Modalities prescribed for the 60-day Mega Drive.

The DLSA has requested all other stake holders including representative of the line departments and local masses to cooperate in this Mega Drive for its successful results.

Pawan Singh Rathore attends National Conference with States, UTs & I&PR Secretaries

KT News Desk

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25: Special Secretary, Information Department, Jammu & Kashmir, Pawan Singh Rathore, attended the National Conference with States/UTs and Information & Public Relations (I&PR) Secretaries convened by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

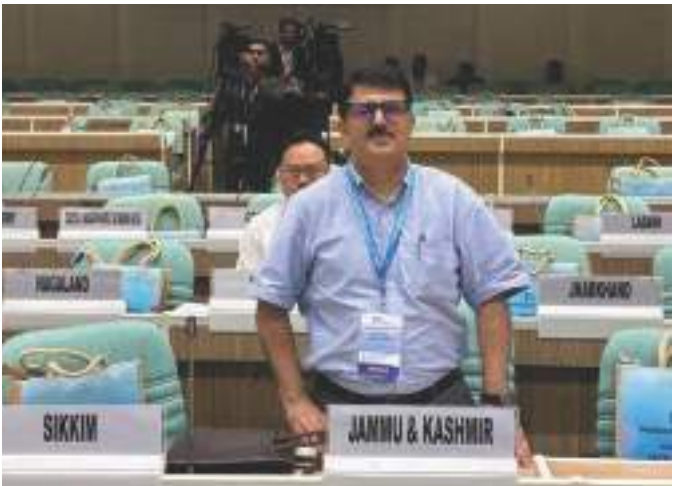
The conference brought together senior officers from the Centre and States/UTs to deliberate upon strengthening coordination in the fields of public broadcasting, media, film, creative industries, information dissemination and the emerging Media & Entertainment (M&E) ecosystem. The deliberations also focused on facilitating greater participation of States and UTs in national initiatives and ensuring that the benefits of the rapidly expanding creative economy reach talent and institutions across the country.

A comprehensive agenda covering 15 key areas was discussed during the conference. These included implementation of the **Right of Way (RoW) mechanism for cable operators by State Governments, roadmap for WAVES 2027, strengthening WAVES Bazaar and market

access, expansion of public service broadcasting infrastructure, integration of the Indian Cine Hub (ICH)/Film Facilitation Office (FFO) portal, adoption of the single-window ICH portal for film shooting and live-event permissions, strengthening public service broadcasting through content co-production and State-specific programming, promotion of the live-events sector, capacity building of DIPR officers, transition to the digital framework under the Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Act, 2023, strengthening libraries, promotion of low-cost cinema in rural and underserved areas, accessibility standards in cinema halls, operationalisation of the WAVES State Ecosystem and State partnership for the Create in India Challenge (CIC) – Season 2.

The conference highlighted the WAVES platform as an important national initiative for bringing together the creative industries, technology, startups, investors, creators and global industry leaders.

The proposed roadmap for WAVES 2027 envisages a wider and more diverse ecosystem comprising the CEO Roundtable, Creatosphere, WAVEX, WAVES Bazaar, Global Leaders' Track, WAVES Cultural, Thought Leaders' Track and Exhibition &



Country Pavilions.

The Exhibition and Bharat Pavilion component is proposed to provide a global showcase of India's media and entertainment capabilities, culture and creative industries, besides promoting India as a global filming destination. The initiative also seeks to facilitate high-value partnerships and deal-making while showcasing Indian intellectual property, innovation and immersive experiences.

The conference also reviewed the role of WAVEX as a start-up accelerator, aimed at providing a platform for media-tech startups and fostering stronger

linkages between emerging entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders and markets. The emphasis was on creating an enabling environment for innovation, entrepreneurship and employment within the Media & Entertainment sector.

A major area of discussion was strengthening public broadcasting through content and community reach. The conference highlighted initiatives such as WAVES OTT, MyWAVES and Gems of India, with emphasis on showcasing State/UT-specific content, culture, tourism, heritage and development stories. Greater participation of local creators,

particularly through MyWAVES and the Gems of India initiative, was encouraged to bring district-level talent and unique local stories to wider audiences.

The States and UTs were encouraged to work closely with the Ministry for amplification of Government schemes, citizen services and public-awareness campaigns, while also facilitating dedicated showcases of local culture, tourism, heritage and developmental achievements through national media and broadcasting platforms.

The proposed State/UT Partnership for Create in India Challenge (CIC) – Season 2 was another important component of the conference. The initiative is aimed at identifying, nurturing, upskilling and showcasing India's creative talent, particularly from Tier-II and Tier-III cities, and connecting such talent with industry and employment opportunities.

Under the proposed partnership framework, States/UTs have been advised to designate a State Nodal Officer (SPOC) for coordination, communication and facilitation of WAVES and CIC-related activities. States may also identify suitable spaces for WAVES State Centres/incubation centres and facilitate identification of promising startups, innovators, freelancers, developers

and content creators.

The State partnership further envisages support for promotion and outreach, provision of venues, incubation and mentoring, grant/seed funding and market access. States may facilitate access to suitable venues such as stadiums, auditoriums, convention centres, educational institutions and skill-development centres for workshops, masterclasses, auditions and talent showcases.

The conference emphasised that State-level participation would be critical for taking these initiatives beyond major urban centres and creating a more inclusive creative ecosystem. States/UTs were encouraged to utilise their information and publicity machinery, including State DIPRs and other available media assets, for extensive outreach and promotion of CIC and WAVES-related activities.

The deliberations also covered strengthening the film ecosystem through the Indian Cine Hub, including adoption of the single-window mechanism for film shooting and live-event permissions. The initiative is aimed at facilitating ease of doing business for filmmakers and event organisers and positioning States and UTs as attractive destinations for film production

and creative activities.

The importance of promoting low-cost cinema in rural and underserved areas and ensuring implementation of accessibility standards in cinema halls was also underlined, with a view to making cinema and entertainment more inclusive and accessible to wider sections of society.

The conference further stressed the need for capacity building of DIPR officers through training facilities of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), enabling information departments to keep pace with emerging communication technologies, digital media platforms and evolving public communication practices.

Participating in the deliberations, Special Secretary Information Pawan Rathore represented Jammu & Kashmir's perspective and engaged in discussions concerning greater State participation in the emerging national media, broadcasting and creative economy initiatives. The participation provided an opportunity to explore avenues for strengthening Jammu & Kashmir's presence on national platforms and creating enhanced opportunities for local creators, filmmakers, startups and media professionals.

CM Omar calls for shared responsibility to shape future of J&K children, assures teachers of support

Addresses one-day Education Conference organized by J&K Teachers Forum at SKICC

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the responsibility of shaping the future of our children cannot be placed on teachers alone, stressing that the Government, parents and teachers must work together to prepare children for a rapidly changing world.

Addressing a one-day Education Conference organized by the J&K Teachers Forum at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), the Chief Minister said teachers play a crucial role in determining the future of children, but placing the entire responsibility on them would be unfair and add

unnecessary pressure to an already demanding profession.

The conference, themed “Child is Our Priority”, brought together educators, researchers, policymakers and teachers to deliberate on key issues confronting the education sector, the challenges being faced by teachers and students, and the way forward.

Reflecting on the changing nature of the teaching profession, Omar Abdullah said the challenges before teachers today are very different from those faced 10, 15 or 20 years ago.

“There was a time when we could not even think of complaining about teachers. From KG to Class 12, I do not remember ever complaining to my

parents about any teacher,” he said, adding that children today are growing up in a vastly different environment.

He said that while children must certainly be encouraged to ask questions, they must also learn to listen and engage with the answers they receive.

The Chief Minister recalled former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam’s emphasis on the role of parents and teachers in shaping the minds of children and building a better society.

“Today, when we put more responsibility on you, I also realize that it is not as easy to be a teacher today as it was 10 to 20 years ago,” he said.

He pointed out that teachers

today have to compete for the attention of children with smartphones, social media, multiple television channels and now artificial intelligence.

“Today, you are competing with a smart- phone, social media, channels, so many things. And now artificial intelligence. At the same time, how difficult it must be for a teacher to decide whether the child’s assignment is his own creation or the help of artificial intelligence,” the Chief Minister remarked.

Omar Abdullah also acknowledged that the Government itself often adds to the responsibilities of teachers by involving them in a range of activities beyond classroom teaching.

From preparing students for cultural programmes on the occasion of national events to organizing activities on various important commemorative days or participating in events such as Nasha Mukht Bharat campaigns or election-related duties, teachers are frequently called upon to shoulder additional responsibilities, he said.

The Chief Minister assured the teaching community that the Government would address their genuine service-related and professional concerns, including transfers, Departmental Promotion Committees, vacancies and other issues.

“If you have problems with transfers, if you have problems

with DPCs, if you have problems with vacancies, if you have problems with other things, then we have to solve those problems,” he said, assuring the teachers that he and Education Minister Sakina Itoo would work together to resolve their issues.

Omar Abdullah said there was a need to acknowledge the difficult conditions in which many teachers work, particularly in remote and rural schools.

“It is not easy to provide education in the remote schools of the village. It is difficult to work there,” he said, calling for greater attention to teachers who serve in such areas despite lacking influence or access to people in positions of power.

He also pointed to disparities in the distribution of teachers, noting that some city schools have more teachers and fewer students, while remote schools continue to face shortages.

The Chief Minister underlined that addressing infrastructure deficiencies and filling vacancies were responsibilities of the Government and not of teachers.

“There are gaps in the infrastructure. We talk about smart classes, but how far have we been able to take them? Smart classes are far away. In some places, we are still not able to provide the right infrastructure for the schools—with schools functioning in rented accommodation, unsafe buildings,” he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Dargah Hazratbal

Police City Srinagar has issued a detailed traffic advisory for the intervening night of August 25 and 26 and the Friday following Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi on August 28.

According to the advisory, vehicles coming from north Kashmir after reaching Shalteng will be routed through Parimpora, Qamarwari Cement Bridge, Noorbagh, Sekidafar, Eidgah, Alimajsid, Sazgaripora, Hawal, Alamgari Bazar, Mill Stop, Molvi Stop, Botshah Mohallah and Kanitar before reaching the University parking area through the Saderbal side.

Vehicles from south Kashmir reaching Panthachowk will proceed through Stone Quarry, Batwara, Sonwar Bazar, Ram Munshi Bagh, Gupkar, Grand Palace, Zethiyar Ghat, Nishat, Foreshore Road and Habbak Crossing before entering the Naseembagh-side University parking area.

Devotees travelling from Budgam and adjoining areas will use the Hyderpora-Tengpora-Bemina Bypass-Bemina Crossing-Qamarwari route and thereafter proceed through Noorbagh, Sekidafar, Eidgah, Alimajsid, Sazgaripora, Hawal, Alamgari Bazar, Mill Stop, Molvi Stop, Botshah Mohallah and Kanitar to the Saderbal-side University parking.

Those travelling from Lal Chowk will be routed through SRTC Crossing, Ikhwan Chowk, Bhoori Kadal, Rajouri Kadal, Gajwari Chowk, Hawal, Alamgari Bazar, Mill Stop, Molvi Stop, Khanyar Chowk, Botshah Mohallah and Kanitar.

Vehicles from Ganderbal will use the Nagbal-Zakoor-Habbak route to reach the Naseembagh parking area.

Traffic Police has also prescribed separate return routes to prevent congestion after the congregations.

Parking arrangements

Vehicles from north and central Kashmir will be parked inside the University campus through the Sir Syed Gate on the Saderbal side, while vehicles from south Kashmir, including Ganderbal, will use the Naseembagh-side University parking through Budshah Gate.

Those coming from Rainawari and Khanyar towards Hazratbal can use the NIT Parking/ Multi-Level Parking at Hazratbal. A separate traffic camp at Hazratbal has been earmarked for VIP and official vehicles. (KNO)

Prez Murmu, LG Sinha,

pious conduct and dutifulness,” she said, hoping that the Prophet’s noble ideals would inspire people to contribute towards building an inclusive and developed India.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also extended greetings to the people on the occasion, saying the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) remain an eternal beacon of peace, equality and compassion.

“On the blessed occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to everyone,” the LG said, urging people to live by the values of love, kindness and universal brotherhood and work towards a harmonious, inclusive and united society.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and said the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) offer a timeless message of peace, compassion, equality, tolerance and brotherhood.

“Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) reminds us of the timeless message of the Prophet (SAW), rooted in kindness, tolerance and service to humanity. Let us dedicate ourselves to following this noble path and promote unity, brotherhood and mutual respect across all sections of society,” CM Omar said.

He also prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, expressing hope that the occasion would further strengthen communal harmony, mutual understanding and a shared spirit of service across the region.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg also extended warm and heartfelt greetings to the people of Kashmir on the auspicious occasion, commemorating the blessed birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

In his message, the Divisional Commissioner prayed that the sacred occasion would bring peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being to all. He stressed the enduring values of compassion, brotherhood, tolerance and mutual respect that the occasion inspires.

Garg also expressed hope that Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) would further strengthen communal harmony, unity and peaceful

coexistence across the region, fostering mutual understanding and goodwill among all sections of society.

Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Mohammad Umar Farooq greeted Muslims on the occasion and said the birth and advent of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) brought an enduring message of mercy, guidance and hope to humanity.

He said the true significance of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) lies in understanding and practically following the Seerah and exemplary character of the Prophet (SAW) in individual and collective lives.

Mirwaiz urged Imams, Ulema, Khateeb, teachers and parents to play an active role in spreading the message of the Seerah, particularly among the younger generation, and called upon mosques, khanaqahs, imambaras and educational institutions to contribute towards building a compassionate, responsible and morally upright society.

National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana and Javid Ahmad Dar, PDF chairman Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen and MLA Satish Sharma, among others, also extended greetings on the occasion.

DGP REVIEWS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

Meanwhile, Director General of Police J&K Nalin Prabhat chaired a security review meeting at PCR Kashmir to assess and further strengthen security arrangements for Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) and other forthcoming events across Jammu and Kashmir, including the Friday following Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) and Raksha Bandhan.

The meeting was attended by Spl DGP Coordination J&K, IGP Kashmir Zone, IGP Jammu Zone, all Range DIGs, all district SSPs/ PDs of J&K, SSP PCR Kashmir, AIG (Ct & Int) PHQ, besides other senior officers.

Detailed discussions were held on security preparedness, deployment strategy, crowd management and traffic regulation measures to ensure the safe, peaceful and smooth conduct of the events.

The DGP stressed heightened vigilance, proactive policing and foolproof security arrangements, particularly at major shrines, mosques and other religious places. Special focus was laid on Dargah Hazratbal and other prominent religious sites where nightlong prayers and large congregations are anticipated.

Nalin Prabhat directed officers to strengthen surveillance at sensitive and vulnerable locations and ensure effective deployment at strategic and high-traffic areas. He further directed officers to put in place effective traffic regulation and route-management plans around major religious places and along procession routes to facilitate seamless movement of devotees.

As Kashmir prepares to observe Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), major religious centres, particularly Hazratbal, are witnessing preparations for large congregations and nightlong prayers. (KNO)

PSC pushes

modernizing recruitment rules would also help reduce litigation.

The apex recruitment body of the UT further pointed out that draft recruitment rules submitted by departments for concurrence are often incomplete. “The proposal for seeking concurrence of the J&K PSC on the draft recruitment rules is being submitted incompletely by some Administrative Departments in respect of comparative statements, creation/abolition orders and concurrence of the Finance Department in case of change of nomenclature/ creation of posts. In order to ensure uniformity, the Commission issued a checklist for submitting draft recruitment rules, and the same has been forwarded to all the Departments,” the report stated.

The Commission has called for immediate notification of recruitment rules for which it has already conveyed its concurrence.

It cautioned that no amendment in service rules should be made without consulting the PSC, as required under existing regulations.

The PSC has also recommended that departments must consider minimum qualifications while revising recruitment rules. “It has been noticed that in various departments, a certain category of posts is eligible for promotion to the next level post even without the basic minimum qualification as per the existing recruitment rules of the concerned departments,” the

report reads. (KNO)

CM Omar assures

further.

“I assure you, my complete effort will be that, God willing, during this government, after this, we will not increase the electricity rates any further. No more than this,” he said.

The Chief Minister said the government would now focus on improving basic services and infrastructure, including drinking water, schools, healthcare, roads and horticulture infrastructure.

He also reiterated that his government would fulfil the commitments made to the people during the remaining three-and-a-half years of its term. (KNO)

CM says some

Addressing a function at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, the Chief Minister voiced concerns over the proliferation of ‘ghost schools’, where students enroll merely to appear for board exams while spending their academic time in attending private tuition centres instead of government classrooms.

Omar on the occasion as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) raised concerns about the difficulties faced by teachers posted in rural areas.

He said, “Teachers without any influence often remained stationed in schools of rural areas while those with connections manage to secure postings in urban schools.”

“Some teachers posted in villages of rural schools with no influence never return from the village schools. They don’t get exposure to city schools while there are some teachers in our School Education Department who have only influence, they may not have even see a posting in village schools. They only work in city schools,” Omar said.

The Chief Minister further said that “The disparity was causing greater staffing challenges as some urban schools had surplus teachers with fewer students. Those schools have more teachers and fewer students.”

Omar also referred to concerns over ‘Ghost Schools’ wherein the students get admission in the schools but do not attend classes and instead rely on private tuition before appearing for board examinations.

“Those schools where students take admission only to register their name and to sit for the board exam. They never come to attend the classes. They sit in the tuition centre and spend the whole day there,” he added.

“On one hand, smartphones, social media and artificial intelligence are changing the classroom environment and on the other side teachers are being assigned additional duties related to official government functions, election duties and other programmes,” he said.

“We really put a lot of responsibility on our teachers. The future of Jammu and Kashmir lies in the hands of our teachers in grooming our children,” Omar said.

“If there is a function on 15th August or on 26th January, we ask the teachers to prepare the children, to organise a cultural programme,” he said.

The Chief Minister said teaching nowadays is more challenging in comparison to 10-20 years ago. “Teachers had to compete with multiple sources of information and knowledge available to children.”

Referring to artificial intelligence, Omar said the emergence of AI had created another challenge for teachers in assessing the assignments given to students’.

“It is very challenging to our teaching community to assess as to whether the assignment has been completed by the children by themselves or with the help of artificial intelligence tools,” he said.

The Chief Minister further said that the government often does not show the pace enough to show the same urgency when teachers approach us with their own grievances. “I must say that when it comes to solving the problems of students, their files don’t go forward as fast as those files should go.

“We do not bring teachers to government functions by choice but by compulsion. Despite that they fulfil their assigned role so perfectly,” he added.

Omar acknowledged the issues like transfers, Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs), vacancies in the education sector. “There is a dire need to address these issues with the same speed as the teaching community shows

in accepting multiple roles.”

The Chief Minister acknowledged gaps in school infrastructure and said the government was gradually working to address issues including unsafe buildings and inadequate facilities.

“There are gaps in the infrastructure. We talk about smart classes, but how far have we reached with smart classes for our children? Smart classes are still far away,” Omar said.

Making a clear distinction between the responsibilities of teachers and the government, Omar said infrastructure and staffing related issues cannot be expected to get resolved by teachers.

“Fixing the infrastructure and filling the vacancies is not the teachers responsibility, it is the responsibility of the government,” he said.

Omar also spoke about the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), saying the government is repeatedly trying to oppose its implementation in J&K.

The Chief Minister on the occasion said that the responsibility of shaping the future of the children cannot be placed on teachers alone, stressing that the government, parents and teachers must work together to prepare children for a rapidly changing world.

He said that the teachers play a crucial role in determining the future of children, but placing the entire responsibility on them would be unfair and add unnecessary pressure to an already demanding profession.

Reflecting on the changing nature of the teaching profession, Omar said the challenges before teachers today are very different from those faced 10, 15 or 20 years ago. (KNO)

Kashmir’s economic

said the new mandi would strengthen the rural economy of the Gulmarg constituency and provide farmers with a nearby market for their produce.

“Farmers earlier had to transport their produce to distant mandis, but the new facility would enable them to sell their produce closer to home and secure better market rates,” he said, adding that the mandi would also help maintain the quality of agricultural and horticultural produce by reducing the need for long-distance transportation.

The Chief Minister said the project was significant for Tangmarg and Gulmarg, areas often viewed primarily through their tourism potential. “This fruit mandi will strengthen the sector and boost the rural economy,” he said.

Omar also said the government would improve the approach road to the mandi to accommodate the movement of heavy vehicles. The widening and blacktopping of the road would be planned to prevent inconvenience once the mandi becomes operational, he added.

Taking a dig at the opposition, CM Omar questioned why the long-pending mandi project had not been executed by previous governments despite the land being available.

“The land was here only, and nobody had illegally occupied it. Why did they still fail?” he asked, accusing the opposition of overlooking development works while raising issues against the government.

He assured that work on the languishing mini secretariat in the area would resume by the end of this year.

The Chief Minister said that he expected the Gulmarg constituency to emerge among the most developed of Jammu and Kashmir’s 90 Assembly constituencies over the next three and a half years. (KNO)

Two terror

terror associates.

He said that during the search operation, the joint teams noticed two persons moving suspiciously towards CB Nath village from the forest area.

“The security personnel immediately intercepted and apprehended them. They were later identified as Latif Ahmad Deedad, son of Gh Mohammad Deedad, a resident of Lassi Daban, and Aejaz Ahmad Bajad, son of Nazir Ahmad Bajad, a resident of Bun Kha Bamnoo,” the official said.

He said a pistol, 12 pistol rounds and a hand grenade were recovered from their possession.

In connection with the recovery, a case under relevant sections of the Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been registered at Police Station Rajpora and further investigation has been initiated, he said. (KNO)

‘88.8% homes near

PM Modi reviews Rs 30,000-crore projects, incidents of digital arrest

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reviewed six key infrastructure projects worth over Rs 30,000 crore spanning nine states and said that delays of such works have consequences beyond cost escalation, as they also postpone the benefits intended for citizens, businesses and the economy.

Chairing the 53rd meeting of PRAGATI, the ICT-enabled multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation here, the prime minister also took stock of cyber fraud cases, including incidents of digital arrest, and said that prevention must be strengthened through a sustained focus on training, awareness and education.

He stressed the need for continuous and targeted public-awareness campaigns, particularly for senior citizens, youth and other vulnerable sections, to familiarise them with common fraud techniques, warning signs and safe digital practices, an official statement said.

Modi also called for regular capacity-building of personnel involved so that emerging modes of cyber fraud are identified and acted upon swiftly.

Later, in a post on X, the prime minister said, "Rs 30,000 crore worth of projects across 9 states covering railways, roads



and power sectors...this is what we reviewed during today's PRAGATI session. Focus areas remain - better connectivity, higher growth, better public services and lesser delays."

During the meeting, he reviewed six key infrastructure projects across the railway, road and power sectors, with a cumulative cost of more than Rs 30,000 crore. The projects, significant for strengthening connectivity, supporting industrial and economic activity and improving public services, were reviewed with particular emphasis on adherence to timelines, inter-agency coordination, resolution of pending issues and expeditious completion.

The prime minister emphasised that delays in infrastructure projects have consequences beyond cost

escalation, as they also postpone the benefits intended for citizens, businesses and the economy, the statement said.

He said that infrastructure projects should be viewed and monitored as an integrated whole, rather than as isolated sections, stretches or packages.

Modi noted that progress in individual packages should ultimately translate into timely completion and operationalisation of the entire project.

Ministries and states were therefore asked to adopt an end-to-end approach, and address critical gaps that could delay the overall commissioning and delivery of benefits.

The prime minister called for fostering a proactive work culture across ministries and state governments, with greater ownership at every level of project

implementation.

He stressed the need to explore common utility corridors for infrastructure services, wherever feasible, particularly while planning major transport and infrastructure projects.

He called upon ministries and states to examine such integrated approaches at the planning stage itself, keeping in view their technical and economic feasibility.

Modi said that speed of execution must be accompanied by uncompromising quality.

He called upon ministries, states and implementing agencies to adopt modern technologies and strengthen quality assurance and supervision at every stage.

While reviewing AgriStack under the Digital Agriculture Mission, the prime minister emphasised the need to leverage the latest digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, to derive greater value from agricultural data.

He stressed that the data ecosystem should be effectively utilised across the agricultural value chain, from input planning to processing, enabling more informed interventions, better targeting and data-driven decision-making.

He appreciated the efforts of the states and the Central government in building the AgriStack ecosystem and called for further strengthening its use for delivering better outcomes for farmers, the statement said.

Rajnath approves transfer of DRDO missile technologies to Indian private industry



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 25: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the transfer of DRDO-developed technologies of all conventional missile systems to the Indian private industry for production within the country as part of a larger goal to enhance domestic defence manufacturing.

Under the initiative, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will transfer missile technologies to eligible defence firms.

Singh's office said he has "approved the transfer of DRDO-developed technologies of all conventional missile systems to Indian industries for production within the country".

"This Transfer of Technology (ToT) marks an important

milestone in promoting greater participation of the Indian industries in the defence ecosystem by enabling them to undertake indigenous production, as per applicable qualifications, certifications and regulatory requirements," it said. The defence ministry is yet to provide any list of missiles that could be produced by the private sector under the new initiative. It is understood that the private sector may be allowed to produce conventional weapons such as Akash air defence missiles, Astra air-to-air missiles and the Nag anti-tank guided missile.

The conventional missiles are those which rely on explosives or kinetic impact to destroy targets. The non-conventional missiles are armed with nuclear, biological, or chemical

warheads.

The defence ministry said the "provision will enable successful transition of missile system development to industrial production".

"The objective is to enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities, strengthen the defence industrial base and create opportunities for the participation of Indian MSMEs and other technology partners in the supply chain," the ministry said.

It added that the initiative aims to enhance operational capability, reduce import dependence and increase domestic value addition, while supporting the growth of India's defence manufacturing sector.

"DRDO remains committed to working closely with Indian industry to facilitate the transfer and absorption of advanced defence technologies and to further strengthen the country's indigenous defence capabilities," the ministry said in a statement.

In last few years, the government rolled out a number of measures to boost the domestic defence production.

The volume of India's domestic defence production was recorded at Rs 1.78 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26 as against Rs 46,000 crore in 2014, according to latest government data.

India, US discuss cooperation in Indian Ocean region

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 25: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri discussed with US Under Secretary of State Allison M Hooker ways to deepen India-US cooperation in the Indian Ocean region during a call.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said both sides discussed opportunities for practical cooperation and complementarity in the region.

"Foreign Secretary @VikramMisri held a productive call with US Under Secretary of State Allison M Hooker to advance discussions on the India-US Indian Ocean Strategic Venture (IOSV) initiative, launched by the leaders of the two countries in February 2025," he said on social media. "Both sides discussed opportunities for practical cooperation and complementarity in the Indian Ocean Region, including maritime security, strategic infrastructure and connectivity, in line with the priorities of partner countries," he said. IOSV -- a bilateral initiative -- was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump following their talks in Washington DC in February last year.

Air India ‘seeks \$1.5 billion’ from owners Tata Sons, Singapore Air as losses mount

REUTERS

New Delhi, Aug 25: Air India is seeking about \$1.5 billion in fresh equity from its owners Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, months after the second-largest Indian airline posted a record annual loss, two people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

It would be one of Air India's largest publicly reported requests for shareholder funding since Tata took control of the former state-owned carrier in 2022. It highlights the challenges facing the airline as it undergoes a multi-billion-dollar revamp, including the refurbishment of its existing fleet.

The carrier and its budget unit Air India Express posted combined losses of \$2.33 billion in the fiscal year ended March, more than double the prior year's losses. The losses have also weighed on Singapore Airlines' profits.

"Air India wants the funds immediately, though the infusion is likely to happen in tranches. Singapore Airlines would need to contribute its share of the



proposed infusion for the investment to go through," one of the sources said.

It is seeking the funding in the form of fresh equity, the two people said. Discussions are ongoing and no decision has been taken on the request, they added, declining to be named as they were not authorised to discuss the matter publicly.

Air India and Tata Sons did not respond to Reuters requests for comment. Singapore Airlines,

which owns around 25% of Air India, said it was working closely with Tata Sons to support Air India's transformation programme, but declined to comment on the airline's finances.

Air India's turnaround efforts Air India has also been hit by Pakistan's airspace ban on Indian carriers, disruptions to its international network from the US-Israeli war with Iran and the fallout from a deadly crash last year that killed 260 people.

Sensex falls over 100 points, Nifty slips below 24,200



PTI

Mumbai, Aug 25: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Tuesday amid renewed escalation in the US-Iran standoff and elevated crude oil prices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex was down 30 points to 77,336.32 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 38.80 points to 24,179.50.

Later, the BSE benchmark traded 139.96 points

lower at 77,235.23, and the Nifty was down 66.75 points to 24,162.50.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, NTPC, Power Grid and Bajaj Finance were among the major laggards.

Trent, Adani Ports, ICICI Bank and Bharat Electronics were among the major winners.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.35 per cent higher at USD 92.49 per barrel.

Govt notifies 'Keralam' as new name for Kerala effective Tuesday

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 25: The Union Home Ministry has notified 'Keralam' as the new name for the southern state effective Tuesday.

In a gazette notification issued on Tuesday, the home ministry said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026, the Central government hereby appoints the 25th day of August, 2026, as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force."

Earlier this month, President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to a Bill to rename Kerala as Keralam, turning the legislation into a law. The Lok Sabha passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill on August 11, followed by the Rajya Sabha the next day.

In the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Kerala Assembly passed a resolution in 2024, urging the Centre to bring a law to change the name of the state to Keralam.

"The Bill provides that the state of Kerala will be known as the state of Keralam, and hence there is a proposal to rename Kerala to Keralam," he said. The Kerala government had forwarded a resolution passed by the state Assembly regarding the name change to the Centre in June 2024.

Subsequently, President Murmu referred the Bill to the state legislature for its views, following which the Assembly adopted a unanimous resolution agreeing with the Bill.

India boosts US LPG, LNG purchases as Gulf supplies falter amid West Asia war

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 25: India has sharply increased purchases of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the United States as disruptions linked to the conflict in West Asia constrain supplies from traditional Gulf suppliers, data from maritime intelligence firm Kpler showed.

India imported about 0.62 million tonnes of LPG from the United States in August, in addition to 0.89 million tonnes in July, accounting for more than 73 per cent of the country's LPG imports, according to Kpler data.

The July US volume was almost equal to the highest-ever monthly LPG import from the United Arab Emirates, India's traditional supplier, of 0.891 million tonnes in October 2025.

Imports from Gulf suppliers have fallen sharply after the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, following the outbreak of war between Iran and the United States. The waterway is a key shipping route for crude oil and gas exported by Gulf producers to major consumers, including India.

UAE LPG imports fell to about 1,40,000 tonnes in August, while Qatar supplied around 60,000 tonnes, Kpler data showed. Saudi Arabia supplied no LPG to India in either July or August.

The shift has also been visible in LNG,



although India's sourcing pattern has been more diversified.

LNG imports from Qatar, India's largest source of the fuel, fell to zero in April, while US supplies rose to about 0.75 million tonnes in August from 0.72 million tonnes in July. Qatar has historically supplied as much as 1.2 million tonnes of LNG a month to India.

"The shift towards the US has broadly continued over the past few months, particularly for LPG," said Sumit Ritolia, senior manager - modelling.

"I would, however, be cautious about viewing this purely as India deliberately replacing Middle Eastern supplies with US volumes. A large part of the change has been driven by

constrained Middle Eastern availability and the need for Indian buyers to diversify and secure replacement cargoes."

"For LNG, the supplier mix has been somewhat more fluid, with India sourcing incremental cargoes not only from the US but also from other Atlantic Basin and non-traditional suppliers. So, while the US has become increasingly important, the broader story is one of supply diversification following reduced Middle Eastern availability."

A brief easing of tensions between Iran and the United States has so far not produced a meaningful or sustained decline in US supplies to India, Ritolia said, noting that energy trade flows do not adjust immediately to geopolitical developments because of contractual commitments, cargoes already in transit and procurement lead times.

The increased reliance on more distant suppliers is also raising India's import costs.

"There is clearly an additional cost associated with replacing nearby Middle Eastern supply with cargoes from the US and other more distant origins," he said.

"Freight is higher because of the significantly longer voyage, while tighter global availability has also raised the underlying commodity cost."

"However, I would not attribute the entire increase in India's LNG or LPG import bill to the shift towards US supplies. The increase

reflects a combination of higher international prices, tighter Middle Eastern availability, freight and insurance costs, and longer supply routes. In the current environment, India is effectively paying a premium for supply security and diversification."

Russia remains key crude supplier

While India's LNG and LPG sourcing has shifted toward the United States, Russia continues to be the country's largest crude oil supplier despite the threat of the Graham Bill and potential secondary tariffs, Ritolia said.

India bought almost 2 million barrels per day of crude oil from Russia in August, more than three times the second-largest supplier, the UAE, at 0.61 million tonnes.

"The important distinction here is between policy risk and an immediate physical disruption to trade," he said.

"Indian refiners typically procure crude several weeks in advance, so even if policy pressure increases, the adjustment would not necessarily be visible immediately in arrival data. We do not expect Russian imports to ease currently, given the overall global crude supply situation remains constrained."

"Replacing Russian crude completely would be challenging, particularly while Middle Eastern supply and logistics remain constrained. Replacing Russian barrels is technically feasible, but economically and politically fraught."

Trump says Strait of Hormuz has been demined, warns Iran not to plant more

REUTERS

Washington, Aug 25: US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that all mines had been detonated or removed from international waters of the Strait of Hormuz and that Iran has been told that any ship or boat placing new mines will be destroyed.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the United States, through its Space Force, was watching "every square inch" of the Strait, a key waterway in the global energy supply chain.

"There is a Zero Tolerance policy on mine placement in full force and effect," Trump said.

The US and Iran have not conducted air strikes on each other's militaries for weeks, but attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz have continued as the two sides vie for control of the narrow maritime passage.

Oil transits through the strait were at 5 million barrels per day on Monday, provisional data from shiptracker Vortexa showed, down from more than 20 million per day before the war or about one of every five barrels consumed worldwide.

Earlier, Trump expressed outrage at the mounting number of executions in Iran of people allegedly involved in mass protests earlier this year before the Middle East war began.

"The failing Islamic Republic of Iran is not paying large segments of their military, while at the same time killing protesters, even when



they are not protesting, at levels not seen before," the president wrote on Truth Social.

"It is a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions, and must be stopped, NOW," he added.

It was not immediately clear what new information had spurred the early morning post, but there has been a steady increase in executions since the outbreak of the war on February 28.

The joint US-Israeli strikes which kicked off the war came weeks after the violent quelling of mass protests in Iran.

Rallies initially began in late December over outrage at the high cost of living, but rapidly evolved into widespread anti-government demonstrations that peaked on January 8 and 9.

Iranian authorities reported more than 3,000 deaths, but attributed the violence to "terrorist acts"

orchestrated by the United States and Israel.

Rights groups based abroad recorded a far higher toll and said the security forces had fired on demonstrators.

Earlier this month, more than 30 countries signed a joint letter condemning "in the strongest terms the ongoing executions of protesters and use of the death penalty" by Iran.

The United States, where capital punishment is still legal, did not sign the letter.

Since then, at least three more people have been executed in Iran on charges related to the protests.

Iran vows to retaliate after US widens sanctions

Iran promised to retaliate against expanded US sanctions that the Americans said would cut Iran's economic lifeline, with Tehran expressing confidence that major

trading partners would resist Washington's pressure campaign.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent unveiled the measures on Monday but stopped short of the most punishing sanctions, saying countries that continued trading with Iran risked being forced out of the dollar-based financial system.

Bessent declined to identify the countries that would be targeted or reveal when the penalties would take effect, saying he would instead give them time to comply with the new directive.

The Treasury Department did announce new sanctions on 60 individuals, entities and vessels, but the list did not feature any of the Chinese financial institutions suspected of facilitating Iran's oil trade.

Iran and the United States signed an interim deal in June aimed at ending the war that began with US and Israeli attacks on Iran, but the Islamabad memorandum, as it is known, quickly faltered.

Mediator Pakistan made "significant progress" in the latest talks with Tehran that focused on measures such as prevention of further escalation of the conflict and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the Pakistani military said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The Iranian president candidly shared his government's perspective and we had a very constructive exchange on the issues involved," Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who accompanied army chief Asim Munir to Tehran, said on X.

Syria slams Israeli minister's 'illegal' visit to country's south



AFP

Jerusalem, Aug 25: Syria slammed a visit by Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz on Tuesday to troops in the country's south where he vowed to keep forces there while "threats" persisted.

Syria "condemns the illegal entry today of Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz and his crossing of the international border... in flagrant violation of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity," a foreign ministry statement said, urging the international community to take "the necessary measures to force the occupying authorities to halt these repeated violations."

Katz made a rare visit to troops in southern Syria on Tuesday, reiterating a pledge to keep forces in the area as

long as there were "threats" to his country's security.

The visit comes a week after Israel bombed the disused Abu Duhur base in northwestern Syria, claiming it wanted to prevent Turkish troops deploying to the facility. Ankara has denied any visit to the site.

In southern Syria, Israeli forces have been stationed in a "security zone" since the fall of longtime ruler Bashar Assad in December 2024.

They occupy what was previously a buffer zone patrolled by the United Nations that had separated Israeli and Syrian forces in the Israeli-occupied Golan since 1974.

"There is daily activity here to thwart threats, to eliminate remnants of the old regime, to prevent dangerous consolidation of the new

regime," Katz said according to a video statement from his office.

"The message is clear to the president of Syria as well: when you wake up in the morning in your palace in Damascus, look up at Mount Hermon and see the IDF — you know we are here to protect our communities and our border," he added.

"As long as there are threats, the IDF will remain here to guarantee our security — this is what we have done and this is what we intend to continue doing in the future," Katz said.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria since the fall of Assad and made repeated incursions into Syrian territory.

Officials have also repeatedly vowed to keep troops in the security zone, where Israel is seeking a broader demilitarised area.

Israeli army chief Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir visited troops in the security zone last week, saying the military would not allow threats to "establish themselves" on the border.

During his visit on Tuesday, Katz addressed the strike on the Abu Duhur air base, saying Israel had "acted against a Turkish attempt to entrench itself in Syria, at the risk of Israel's security interests."

Pant is badly bruised, hope to see on field on 4th day: Morkel

PTI

Colombo, Aug 25: India bowling coach Morne Morkel on Tuesday said Rishabh Pant is "badly bruised" which is affecting his movement, but hoped to see the wicketkeeper batter return to action on the fourth day of the ongoing second Test against Sri Lanka.

Pant did not keep wickets for the whole of the third day here, as Dhruv Jurel donned the big gloves.

India to host Panama in int'l friendly on Sep 26

PTI

New Delhi, Aug 25: India will host Panama in an international friendly on September 26 during the FIFA men's international window, with the venue for the match to be announced later, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Tuesday.

The match will be the first meeting between the two sides and only the ninth different CONCACAF opponent India have faced. Panama, ranked 44th in the latest FIFA standings, featured at the 2026 World

Cup and will provide Khalid Jamil's side with a strong test.

The fixture is currently scheduled to be the first of four matches India will play against nations that featured at this summer's World Cup in 2026. The Blue Tigers are slated to face Brazil on October 3 and New Zealand on November 12 and 15.

"Playing against Panama will be a tough battle ahead of the Brazil game. Panama are a top-50 team in the world, and it will be a good test for Khalid Jamil's boys," AIFF Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan said.

Almuqet FC make emphatic debut with 7-1 victory in Srinagar Premier Division



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 24: Almuqet Football Club made an emphatic entry into the Srinagar Premier Division Football League 2026, defeating Arco FC 7-1 at the TRC Turf Football Stadium in its first competitive outing.

Making their league debut, Almuqet FC produced a confident and attacking display, marking an encouraging start for a club with a long-term vision of developing a competitive senior team while creating a strong pathway for young footballers in Jammu & Kashmir.

Almuqet FC is a football initiative of Almuqet Systems Private Limited (ASPL), established in 2010 and headquartered at STPI, Rangreth, Srinagar. Through the club, ASPL aims to bring meaningful corporate support to football and contribute to a more structured and

sustainable sporting ecosystem in J&K.

The club's vision is to establish a professionally managed football club and academy that can identify, nurture and develop local talent, while progressively competing at the highest levels of Indian football. Its current squad includes players with experience in Youth National Teams, the I-League, Srinagar Premier Division and Kashmir Super League, supported by an experienced coaching and management team.

Muzamil Mahmood, Head Coach, Almuqet FC (AFC A License), said the manner of the team's beginning was more important than the scoreline. "This is a new club and our vision is to provide a pathway to players and play good-quality football. The result does not matter much to me; what matters is that we started well and our

management has trusted us. This is only the beginning. We have a lot to learn and improve." He said.

Zaffar Owais Andrabi, CEO, Almuqet Systems Private Limited, congratulated the team and said the victory was only the first step. He said "Kashmir has a remarkable football culture and enormous talent. We need better pathways, stronger structures and more opportunities for young players to progress. We want to build a club that young footballers can look towards a platform that helps them dream, develop and compete, and ultimately takes the talent of Kashmir to the highest levels of Indian football."

Almuqet FCs focus in future will be on building consistency, developing its players and establishing itself as a significant force in Kashmir football.

INOX

SRINAGAR

MOVIE

Schedule

26 AUGUST 2026 WEDNESDAY

AWARAPAN 2

(U/A 16+)

HINDI

11:10 AM

01:55 PM

TOXIC

A FAIRY TALE FOR GROWN-UPS (A)

HINDI

02:00 PM

04:45 PM

05:45 PM

HINDI ATMOS

11:30 AM

03:15 PM

07:00 PM

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY

(U/A 13+)

ENGLISH

WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

11:00 AM

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