



True measure of success lies in improved lives: LG Sinha

'I envision a future where healthcare remains accessible to all'



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 29: Reiterating that the true measure of success lies in improved lives, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that he envisions a future, where healthcare remains accessible to all.

Speaking at the 3rd edition of the CII Jammu & Kashmir Health Conclave here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "True measure of success lies in improved lives. I envision a future where families in Kupwara need not travel hours for routine care, workers in Rajouri are free from financial fear and medical graduates

can build their careers within the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir."

He said, "Advanced treatment and modern health facilities must be accessible to all so that we may establish the principles of social justice and equality. The health of an individual or a family affects opportunities, productivity and overall well-being of the society."

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the transformative vision of "Health Services Anytime, Anywhere" and highlighted the role of innovation, resilience and inclusive growth in shaping the future of healthcare.

Extending best wishes to Ujala Cygnus for its new

initiative, the "Peace and Wellbeing Foundation," the Lieutenant Governor noted that the conclave is a platform for discussion and a collective opportunity to redefine healthcare delivery in Jammu Kashmir and other states.

Citing the example of an ASHA worker using teleconsultation to connect patients in remote villages with district hospitals, the Lieutenant Governor said that telemedicine is a revolutionary step that eliminates geographical barriers. He stressed that technology must serve humanity, ensuring that even the most remote communities have access to timely medical care.

The Lieutenant Governor

said that modern tools should inspire solutions for easy accessibility of best possible healthcare to all the citizens. He urged stakeholders to make Jammu Kashmir a laboratory for low-cost, high-impact innovations such as drone-based delivery of medical supplies and solar-powered cold chains for high-altitude health centres.

The Lieutenant Governor outlined three pressing challenges confronting global health systems including rising healthcare expenditure. He called for a shift towards prevention, early intervention and regular screening to reduce dependency on costly treatments.

"We need to move beyond a system that | More on P6

Sports most 'honest teacher' in life, playing field never lies: LG Sinha

Pays tributes to hockey wizard Major Dhyana Chand, says his brilliance compelled world to acknowledge India's immense sporting talent

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 29: Terming sports as most "honest teacher in life, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that playing field never lies.

Speaking at a function organized to pay tributes to Major Dhyana Chand, the wizard of hockey, on the occasion of National Sports Day here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Sport is life's most honest teacher. The playing field never lies; rather, it tells you precisely where you stand today and what you must do to become better tomorrow. There are no shortcuts in sports. Even on the hockey turf, there is no place for excuses. There is only hard work, opportunity, and a test of your character."

Recalling the contribution of Major Dhyana Chand, LG Sinha said, "His brilliance compelled the world to pause and acknowledge India's immense sporting talent."

The Lieutenant Governor observed that every stroke of Major Dhyana Chand's hockey stick symbolised discipline, dedication, and willpower. He emphasized that sports are not merely about medals but about cultivating



resilience, unity, and the spirit of nation-building.

Sports cultivate the fundamental strength of nation-building that society needs. Sports produce young people who know how to fall and then rise again to hoist the flag of victory. Sports nurture the spirit and sentiment that teach us to believe in shared triumph," he said.

Highlighting the role of youth, the Lieutenant Governor said that sports give wings to dreams. He expressed confidence in the young athletes of Jammu Kashmir, noting that they represent the bright future of India. He envisioned a future where every Gram Panchayat harnesses the power of sports, where academies in small towns nurture talent,

and where farmers' daughters receive the same scientific training as athletes in Centres of Excellence in big cities.

UNDERLINES IMPORTANCE OF SPORTS SCIENCE, MANAGEMENT, TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

The Lieutenant Governor also underlined the importance of sports science, management, and technical expertise in universities and institutions, which would produce trainers, physiotherapists, and managers for the future. He expressed hope that Jammu Kashmir would not only participate in international sporting events but also host them, showcasing its talent to the world.

"It is a resolve filled with infinite possibilities. Our achievements | More on P6

Hot, humid weather likely across J&K till Sep 10

Gulmarg records coolest maximum at 24°C

Jammu remains warmer at 34.5°C

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 29: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience generally hot and humid weather over the coming days, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers expected at several places, the Meteorological Centre here said on Saturday.

According to the weather forecast, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO), scattered rain and thundershowers are likely during the early morning and afternoon hours on August 30.

On August 31 and September 1, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at many places, with brief intense or heavy showers likely in a few districts of the Jammu division.

The weather is expected to remain generally dry from September 2 to 10, although brief spells of rain or thundershowers may occur at scattered places during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The weather department has cautioned that brief intense showers in localised areas could trigger flash floods, mudslides and | More on P6



Perception towards persons with disabilities has changed after 2014: Dr Jitendra Singh

Says reservation in govt jobs increased from 3% to 4%, disability categories expanded to 21

Raja Syed Rather

Kathua, Aug 29: Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said the Centre has taken several significant measures to ensure dignity, equal opportunities and greater participation of persons with disabilities in nation-building and perception towards them has changed after 2014.

While talking to media persons on the sidelines of a Divyang and Family Sammelan organised by Saksham at Hiranagar here, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "PM Modi led government, since assuming office in 2014, has taken several important decisions to ensure that every citizen gets equal respect and that their capabilities are effectively utilised in nation-building."

Congratulating the organisers, Singh said Saksham is an all-India organisation working for the welfare of persons with disabilities for the past



10–12 years.

Referring to the change in terminology from "Viklang" to "Divyang", Singh said the decision was not merely a change of name but helped transform society's perception towards persons with disabilities.

He said persons with disabilities should not be viewed merely as recipients of sympathy, pity or assistance, but as citizens deserving dignity and respect who can make meaningful contributions to the nation based on their capabilities. The Union Minister said reservation for persons

with disabilities in government jobs has been increased from three per cent to four per cent, while reservation in higher educational institutions has been increased from three per cent to five per cent.

He said the number of recognised categories of disabilities has also been expanded from six or seven to 21, enabling more people with different forms of disabilities to avail benefits under government schemes.

The Union Minister said various other measures have also been introduced, including concessional loans, special facilities for persons with disabilities at around 90 airports, accessibility provisions in newly constructed government buildings and concessions on assistive devices.

He also stressed the importance of empowering women and mothers in supporting children with disabilities.

"Whenever a human being is born, the first contact with humanity is through the mother," Singh said, adding that strengthening and empowering women | More on P6

Ensure smooth IFFJK: Div Com Kashmir to depts Reviews preparations for 1st International Film Festival of J&K



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 29: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) to review preparations for the upcoming 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK).

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure befitting, comprehensive and meticulous arrangements for the successful conduct of the

festival and to execute their assigned responsibilities with utmost efficiency.

He instructed designated Nodal Officers to remain stationed at their respective venues and maintain close coordination with all stakeholders. He observed that the presence of officers on-site would facilitate prompt resolution of issues and help streamline arrangements.

Emphasising that there should be no gaps in preparations, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of comprehensive venue management, proper sequencing | More on P6

Kishtwar girl's rape-death probe transferred to Crime Branch

Family moves high court

PTI

Jammu, Aug 29: The probe into the alleged rape and subsequent death of a 15-year-old tribal girl in a remote Kishtwar village was handed over to the Crime Branch on Saturday, shortly after her father approached the high court for an investigation.

The teenager, allegedly raped by her school teacher over several months, died on August 20 during a pregnancy termination procedure. Police have constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the incident and have so far arrested six persons, including the school headmaster, the main

accused, a nurse, and a daily-wage sanitary worker posted at District Hospital Kishtwar.

The government has suspended the teacher pending an inquiry, while the daily-wage worker has been dismissed from service.

Kishtwar saw a complete shutdown on Thursday over the incident.

Inspector General of Police, Crime Branch, Sarah Rizvi, confirmed that the agency had received communication from the Police Headquarters regarding the transfer of the case.

"We are in the process of taking over the case," she told PTI. Congress leader G M Saroori expressed his gratitude to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha for the case transfer.

Saroori recently met the teenager's family and | More on P6

2000-year-old Buddhist site another treasure in J&K's history: CS Atal Dulloo

'Zehanpora archaeological spot set to emerge as major tourism destination'

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Aug 29: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday said the archaeological site at Zehanpora in North Kashmir's Baramulla district is another significant treasure in J&K's rich history.

Talking to the reporters on the sidelines of his visit to the archaeological site, Dulloo, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The ongoing excavation expected to reveal more about the region's ancient civilisation."

He said the second phase of excavation has commenced after obtaining the requisite permissions and "more



reveals could be in offing." "Prima facie, it reveals that this is a 2,000-year-old Buddhist site. More full-fledged findings will come up as the excavation progresses,"

he added.

He said the findings could provide valuable information about the civilisation that existed in the area around 2,000 years ago, including the

materials and objects used during that period.

"After the excavation, it is certain that a major cultural treasure will be added to our history. In the coming days,

this can become a tourism attraction as well," the Chief Secretary said.

The excavation, which had started in October last year, was subsequently halted. The second phase has now resumed and is expected to continue for around three months.

Dulloo said scientific testing of the excavated material is also being carried out simultaneously to establish its age, nature and historical significance.

He added that while the present excavation phase is scheduled for three months, the broader process of studying and documenting the archaeological site could take up to five years.

Pertinently, | More on P6

FDA conducts 140 inspections, 55 food samples lifted across J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 29: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, conducted food safety enforcement activities across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. During the drive, 140 inspections were conducted and 55 food samples were lifted for testing of quality and safety parameters. The samples included Milk and Milk Products, Edible Oils and Spices, besides other food commodities.

As part of the enforcement action, 17 Improvement Notices, as per an official statement, were issued to various Food Business Operators under Section 32 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and 11 cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006,



involving a total penalty of Rs 11,000. Further, 97 food labels were scrutinized for compliance with the prescribed labelling requirements, out of which two labels were found non-compliant with the applicable labelling provisions. Besides, one food business registration was cancelled in Reasi district for contravention of

the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The enforcement activities covered food business establishments, e-commerce establishments dealing with food items, milk and milk products, edible oils, spices and imported food items. Food supplied through PDS, MDM and ICDS channels

was also covered during the exercise. The activities were carried out in the districts of Jammu, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Reasi, Udhampur, Srinagar, Anantnag, Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Budgam.

The concerned Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers have been instructed to continue inspections, sampling, label scrutiny and enforcement activities and to take action against violations in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made there under.

Consumers have been requested to remain vigilant and report any suspected case of unsafe, adulterated or sub-standard food through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

DM, SSP chair NCORD meeting in Doda



KT News Desk

DODA, AUGUST 29: District Magistrate Doda, Krishan Lal and Senior Superintendent of Police Doda, Kartik Shrotriya Saturday jointly chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the National Coordination Committee for Drug Law Enforcement (NCORD) at the DC Office Complex, Doda to review measures being taken to curb drug abuse and strengthen enforcement against the illegal drug trade in the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, held a detailed review of the prevailing drug situation, enforcement activities, preventive measures, awareness programmes and inter-departmental coordination to tackle the menace of drug abuse.

During the meeting, various issues were discussed including installation of CCTV cameras at vulnerable spots, action against drug peddlers, strengthening of surveillance and intensification of awareness programmes.

District Social Welfare Officer, Doda briefed the chair about the

detailed Action Taken Report on the directions issued during the previous NCORD meeting. He also highlighted the achievements under the anti-drug drive including training of counsellors, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns and other initiatives undertaken under the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign.

The District Magistrate stressed the need for a coordinated and sustained approach involving all concerned departments to prevent drug abuse, particularly among youth. He directed the officers to intensify awareness activities in educational institutions and vulnerable areas and ensure effective implementation of measures aimed at making the district drug-free.

SSP Doda stressed the need for strict action against illicit cultivation, possession, transportation and supply of narcotic substances. He directed that information regarding illicit cultivation and the transportation of narcotic substances through courier services be promptly shared with the concerned officers and SHOs.

Chari Mubarak Yatra returns to Poonch

Concludes sacred journey from Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Mandir
KT News Desk

POONCH, AUGUST 29: The Annual Chari Mubarak Yatra Saturday returned from Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Mandir, Mandi to Shri Akhara Mandir, Poonch, marking the culmination of the sacred pilgrimage amid religious fervour, devotion and the chanting of bhajans and kirtans.

The Chari Yatra Led by Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwaatma Saraswati Ji Maharaj, the Chari Mubarak was accompanied by a large number of devotees. The sacred procession was received with great reverence and honour at Shri Akhara Mandir, Poonch by Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Bhat, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed, members of the Yatra management, devotees, prominent citizens and officers of the civil administration and police department.

Chari Mubarak was also accorded a Guard of Honour on its arrival at Shri Akhara Mandir.

The occasion once again reflected Poonch's long-standing tradition of communal harmony, peace, brotherhood and mutual respect, as people from different communities came together to welcome the sacred procession and participate in the concluding ceremony.

Following the arrival of the Chari Mubarak, the participants gathered at Shri Akhara Mandir, where the congregation was addressed by Shri Shri 1008 Swami Vishwaatma Saraswati Ji Maharaj.

Swami Ji expressed his gratitude to the District Administration, Police Department, Yatra management, devotees and the people of Poonch for extending their full cooperation and support for the smooth and successful conduct of the Yatra.

Relief Commissioner reviews delivery of essential services in migrant camps

KT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 29: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation (M), J&K to review the status of delivery of essential services in the migrant camps, ongoing developmental works and proposed maintenance, upkeep, and repair works for the current financial year in migrant camps. The progress of extension of social sector schemes to the eligible migrant beneficiaries was also reviewed. The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by senior officers of the Relief Organization and Nodal Officers from the allied Government Departments like Jal Shakti Department, Public Works Department(R&B), Jammu Power Development Corporation, Urban Environmental Engineering Department, Health Department, School Education, Garden & Parks Department, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Labour & Employment Department, Skill Development Department and Rural Development Department. Tehsildars/Camp Commandants of respective areas also attended.

DC Ramban reviews preparedness for Digital Crop Survey

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, AUGUST 29: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan Saturday reviewed the preparedness for the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) for Kharif 2026, stressing the need for the conduct of time-bound and error-free survey across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, also addressed participants during a capacity-building programme on DCS for Kharif 2026 held at Ramban. The programme was organised to sensitise and train officials and field functionaries including surveyors and supervisors, who will be involved in the upcoming survey.

ACR Ramban, Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Tehsildar Batote Vijay Sharma and Master Trainer Naib Tehsildar Sanasar Aakash Mahajan were present on the occasion.

The session focused on key aspects of DCS including deployment and mapping of surveyors, supervisors and verifiers, operation of the DCS application, plot capturing, submission,

approval and verification, besides handling map- and GPS-related issues and troubleshooting. The guidelines envisage completion of all pre-survey arrangements before commencement of the field survey.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure 100 per cent participation in the training and timely completion of all preparatory activities. He stressed close coordination among all stakeholders for the smooth and error-free conduct of the survey.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed ACR Ramban to establish a Control Room-cum-Helpdesk to provide prompt technical and operational support to field staff and ensure immediate escalation and resolution of issues.

The DC emphasized that all arrangements must be completed on priority to ensure efficient implementation of the Digital Crop Survey across the district. The survey is scheduled to be conducted from September 1 to 12, 2026, with daily monitoring of progress to ensure completion within the prescribed timeline.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION

SRINAGAR NEAR J&K BANK,(ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e-mail Id: to-exenmidrsrinagar@jk.gov.in Gist of e-NIT No. 27 of 2026-27, dated: 29.08.2026.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, invites tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode for:

S No	Particulars of the work	Tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost	EMD Amount	50 % Exemption Allowed for SSI/ MSE	Period Completion	Class/ Registration Type (Qualification criteria)
1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7
1	Pruning of tree branches and clearing of rank vegetation at Sub-Store premises, Gogjibagh.	100.00	Rs. 38251.00	765.00	Yes	05 Days	Registered firms / MSME / SSI Units

The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' consisting of Tender Document fee, EMD, Pre-qualification. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ. The critical dates are as tabulated below:

i	Publish Date	29-08-2026 at 1630 hrs
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	29-08-2026 from 1630 hrs
iii	Clarification start date	N. A
iv	Bid submission start date	29-08-2026 from 1630 hrs
v	Clarification end date	N. A
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	09-09-2026 upto 1400 hrs
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	10-09-2026 at 1230 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date /time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Zaldagar Srinagar.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

Position of funds	Budgetary Provisions MH - 2701 (M&R)
Position of AAA	Accorded under Order No. 06-MCO of 2026-27, dated: 07-04-2026
Position of Technical sanction	Sanctioned vide No. 88 of 2026-27, dated: 25-08-2026.

Date: 29.08.2026

No. MIDS/Ts/2766-70

DIPK-5117/26

DATED: 29-08/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical
Irrigation Division, Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

Notice

Subject: Issuance of Admit Cards to the candidates for Skill Test (Short hand) for the post of Junior Stenographer/Junior Scale Stenographer,

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) is scheduled to conduct the Skill Test (Short Hand) in respect of the candidates who have been declared to have qualified Type Test vide notification No. JKSSB/COEExam/UT/02/2026-03 (7827896) Dated: 17.07.2026 for below mentioned posts w.e.f. 01.09.2026 at NIELIT Jammu/Srinagar.

S. No	Notification No.	Item No.	Department	Name of the Post
1	08 of 2025	180	Agriculture Production Department	Junior Stenographer
2	08 of 2025	181	Agriculture Production Department	Junior Stenographer
3	08 of 2025	182	Agriculture Production Department	Junior Stenographer
4	08 of 2025	215	Forest, Ecology & Environment Department	Junior Scale Stenographer
5	08 of 2025	216	Forest, Ecology & Environment Department	Junior Scale Stenographer
6	08 of 2025	217	Forest, Ecology & Environment Department	Junior ScaleStenographer Junior Stenographer
7	08 of 2025	233	Higher Education, Industries & Commerce	
8	08 of 2025	236		Junior Stenographer Junior Stenographer Junior Stenographer
9	08 of 2025	241	Jal Shakti Department	
10	08 of 2025	242	JalShakti Department	
11	08 of 2025	246	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Junior Stenographer
12	08 of 2025	249	Science & Technology	Junior Scale Stenographer Junior Scale Stenographer Junior Scale Stenographer
13	08 of 2025	252	Transport Department	
14	08 of 2025	253	Transport Department	
15	08 of 2025	254	Transport Department	Junior Scale Stenographer

2. Candidates can download their Admit Cards from the JKSSB's Official website (www.jkssb.nic.in) w.e.f. 29.08.2026 using their credentials. They must read the instructions contained therein, carefully.

3. However, in case, a candidate is not able to download his/her admit card, he or she may represent before the board two days before the Examination Date with a valid proof of having filled in Online application form and online fee, failing which it shall be presumed that they are not interested in appearing in the said examination and no claim whatsoever shall be entertained.

4. The candidates are advised to take printout of the admit card well in advance to avoid last minute rush.

5. The candidature of candidates claiming eligibility by misrepresentation/concealment of any material facts, impersonation, fraud, etc. shall be liable for cancellation and disciplinary action, as deemed appropriate.

6. The Board reserves the right to cancel the candidature of any candidate at any stage at which he/she is found ineligible.

7. The candidates are also advised to be in touch with the 3KSSB's Official Website (www.jkssb.nic.in) for the latest updates on the examinations and Admit cards will not be sent by post.

8. Stepwise procedure to download JKSSB E-Admit Card:
a. To download E-Admit Card, first visit the official website of JKSSB, i.e.
b. On the homepage, there will be a link to download E-Admit Card.
c. Click on the Download Admit Card link.
d. You can Download your Admit Card by using Username and Password.
e. Download and print your JKSSB Admit Card.
f. Candidate must bring the clear printed copy of E-Admit card on the day of Short hand (Skill test).

DIPK-5112/26

Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS) Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/02/2026-03 (7827896)

DATED: 29-08/2026

Chief Secretary visits Zehanpora Archaeological site Marks commencement of Phase-II excavation

KT News Desk

Baramulla, Aug 29: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Saturday visited the ongoing archaeological excavation site at Zehanpora in Baramulla to review the progress of excavation works, the historical and archaeological significance of the site and mark commencement of Phase-II of the excavation.

The visit was attended by the Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla; Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums; SSP Baramulla; SDM Uri; faculty members of University of Kashmir Government and Degree College Baramulla besides other concerned officers and officials.

Pertinently, Zehanpora is an important archaeological site in the Baramulla region and holds considerable potential for providing valuable insights into the settlement patterns, material culture, technology and way of life of communities that inhabited the region during earlier periods. Archaeological excavation at such sites enables researchers to understand the past through material remains, including structural remains, pottery, tools, metal objects, skeletal remains and other archaeological deposits, thereby helping in reconstructing the history and cultural development of the region.

The first phase of excavation at

Zehanpora yielded several significant findings, providing important clues about the nature of the site and the activities of the people associated with it. Among the notable discoveries was a pebble wall constructed using naturally available stones and pebbles. The remains provide evidence of construction activity at the site and may help archaeologists understand the layout and building practices of the settlement. A number of iron nails were also recovered, indicating the use of iron objects and providing insights into the technological practices and material culture of the period. Several pottery fragments were recovered from the archaeological deposits, which are important indicators for understanding the chronology, cultural practices and every-day life of the communities that occupied the site.

One of the most significant discoveries during Phase-I was a human skeleton recovered from the excavated area. The finding is of considerable archaeological importance, as skeletal remains can provide valuable information regarding burial practices, health, lifestyle and the biological characteristics of past populations. Further scientific examination of the remains is expected to provide additional information about the individual and the context in which the skeleton was found.

Building on the findings of



Phase-I, Phase-II of the excavation has now commenced with the objective of understanding a more detailed investigation of the archaeological deposits and gaining a deeper understanding of the site's historical significance. The excavation will involve systematic exploration, scientific documentation and analysis of archaeological remains and cultural layers. The continuation of the excavation

is expected to provide further evidence regarding the nature and extent of the settlement and help researchers establish a clearer understanding of its chronology, architecture, material culture and patterns of human occupation.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of archaeological research in understanding the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir

and highlighted the role of universities in promoting field-based research and providing students and scholars with practical exposure to archaeological work. He also stressed the importance of bringing the region's historical and cultural heritage to wider public attention through sustained research, conservation and awareness initiatives.

The Director, Centre for Archaeological Studies (CAS), emphasized the need for systematic and scientific excavation of the site, proper documentation of the findings and adoption of appropriate measures for the preservation and protection of the archaeological remains.

The Director, SPS Museum, also stressed the importance of proper documentation, preservation and conservation of archaeological discoveries to ensure that the recovered material is scientifically studied and safeguarded for future generations.

The district administration, assured all necessary cooperation and support for the smooth conduct of the excavation and protection of the archaeological site. The presence of senior officers from the Culture Department, University of Kashmir, Archives, Archaeology & Museums and the district administration reflected the importance being accorded to archaeological research and the preservation and promotion of the region's rich cultural heritage.

Dr Ali calls on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 29: A delegation led by Dr Ali Mohd Mir, senior BJP leader called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday and projected various development issues of Budgam district.

Defunct oxygen plant hits Shopian DH



Jahangeer Ganaie

Shopian, Aug 29: Patients requiring continuous oxygen support at District Hospital Shopian are facing inconvenience as the hospital's central oxygen generation and pipeline system has remained non-functional for more than two months, leaving the health facility dependent on individual oxygen cylinders.

The prolonged disruption has become a matter of concern for patients and their attendants, particularly those suffering from serious respiratory ailments and elderly patients who require uninterrupted oxygen support. Attendants said the dependence on cylinders has added to the logistical burden on both patients and hospital staff and could pose difficulties in situations where several patients need oxygen simultaneously.

In the absence of the central oxygen supply system, oxygen cylinders are reportedly being shifted between different wards to meet the requirements of patients. Attendants said that while cylinders are being arranged, the system is less convenient than a functional central pipeline, especially during emergencies and periods of increased patient load.

The issue has caused particular concern among families of patients suffering from chronic

respiratory conditions such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), for whom any interruption in oxygen support can become critical.

Hospital staff and attendants have also expressed concern over the repeated transportation and replacement of oxygen cylinders in various wards. They said the arrangement requires constant monitoring and movement of cylinders and may become challenging during busy periods when multiple patients simultaneously require oxygen.

The situation has also raised concerns about the hospital's preparedness to deal with emergencies involving several patients who may need continuous or high-flow oxygen support, particularly during critical cases and sudden increases in patient admissions.

They have sought attention of higher ups in this regard so that needy patients don't suffer anymore.

An official of the health department said that they have taken the issue with the concerned Mechanical and Hospitality Division for restoration of the oxygen generation plant. He said repair and restoration work was in progress and the facility was expected to become functional within the next 10-15 days—(KNO)

Chadoora bus stand likely to open next week: DC Budgam



Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Aug 29: The newly constructed bus stand in Chadoora is likely to become operational next week, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Athar Amir Khan said during his visit to the town on Saturday.

The DC, accompanied by Chadoora MLA Ali Mohammad Dar and SDM Chadoora Primrose Bashir, reviewed various ongoing development projects and public issues during visits to the Tehsil Office, new bus stand and Town Hall.

At the Town Hall, Khan said necessary directions had been issued to the SDM, police and traffic authorities to ensure that the new bus stand is made operational next week.

The move has brought cheer among local residents, as shifting and operationalisation of the new bus stand has been a long-pending demand of the people of Chadoora.

The DC also reviewed the ongoing work on the main Chadoora bridge and directed the concerned authorities to expedite its completion. The progress of the footbridge was also reviewed.

Issues related to street lights, water supply and frequent power cuts were also raised during the interaction, following which directions were issued to the concerned departments for early redressal—(KNO)

Khudwani Rice Centre takes global lead in climate crops: Prof Nazir



UMAISAR GULL GANIE

Kulgam: The Rice Research Station at Khudwani in South Kashmir's Kulgam District has emerged as a major centre for developing high-yielding, disease-resistant and climate-resilient rice varieties, with its research pushing the region's productivity potential from around one tonne to nearly 10-12 tonnes per hectare.

Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganaie, while speaking at a function here said, "The research at the station over the past three to four decades has enhanced rice productivity, with some varieties now showing a potential of up to 12 tonnes (120 quintals) per hectare."

He said, "On one side, our population is increasing, agricultural land is shrinking, and climate change and global warming are creating new challenges. On the other, our food requirements are increasing. Therefore, our focus is on developing varieties that are

high-yielding, disease-resistant and climate-resilient."

Prof Ganaie said the centre also serves as a national blast reference facility, where rice varieties released across the country are evaluated for resistance against blast disease. "Most nationally released varieties and landraces have succumbed to blast, whereas our released varieties have shown resistance," he said, adding that blast infestation can cause nearly 50 to 100 per cent yield losses.

Ganaie said the university's scientists have also worked to recover the traditional Mushkudji rice variety, which was once susceptible to blast disease and had virtually disappeared, by breeding it for blast resistance.

He said Kashmir's premium red rice, known for its nutritional value and higher iron and zinc content, has been bred for resistance against blast disease, strengthening its potential for nutritional security.

The Vice Chancellor said the station has also developed Kashmir Basmati, a medium-grain aromatic rice variety with a yield potential of around 8-9 tonnes

per hectare. He said the university is simultaneously focusing on reducing water and labour requirements through new cultivation technologies, including Direct-Seeded Rice (DSR). "Through direct-seeded rice, we are saving huge amounts of water and labour. This is one of the new technologies introduced by the university," he said.

Ganaie said rice productivity in Kashmir is already around three times the national level, with the country's average at nearly 30 quintals per hectare compared to more than 100 quintals in the Valley.

He said the research in the centre is particularly important because rice varieties have to be developed and evaluated for Kashmir's diverse altitudes, ranging from low to medium- and high-altitude areas. "Varieties suitable for low altitudes do not necessarily mature at high altitudes. Therefore, our research has a very important and multifaceted role," he said.

Ganaie said the Khudwani facility is comparable in resources and research importance to the International Rice Research Institute's resource facilities in the Philippines. He said the university has conveyed the centre's achievements to senior rice-breeding scientists in the Government of India and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). "Our aim is not only to increase rice productivity but also to improve farmers' profitability, reduce the cost of production and make rice cultivation climate-resilient," he said.

Ganaie further said the university is transforming the facility into a Postgraduate College of Agriculture for South Kashmir, where Master's and PhD programmes in agriculture are being introduced from this year. He said academic and laboratory infrastructure, along with separate hostel facilities for boys and girls, is also being developed at the campus. "Our focus is to develop this into a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence for rice research in South Kashmir," he said—(KNO)

Essential emergency medicines unavailable at GMC Baramulla

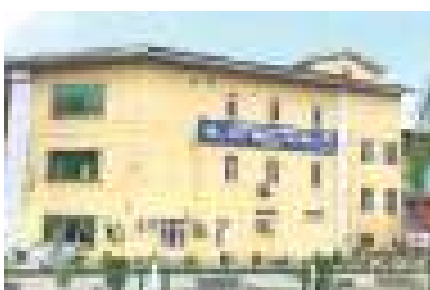
Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 29: The unavailability of essential and emergency medicines at Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, a major tertiary-care referral institution catering to patients from across North Kashmir, has raised concerns among the patients.

According to details obtained, several essential drugs remain unavailable at the associated hospital, including medicines used in emergency and critical-care situations.

The shortage has caused concern among patients and attendants, particularly those who depend on the government facility for immediate treatment during medical emergencies.

Among the medicines unavailable are



Atropine, Hydrocortisone and Adiline (Isosuprine), while shortages of certain anaesthetic drugs have also been reported. These medicines are used in different clinical situations and their availability becomes particularly important in a

tertiary-care hospital where patients are frequently referred in serious or unstable conditions.

GMC Baramulla receives patients not only from the district but also from several other parts of north Kashmir after being referred from district hospitals and other health institutions. With the hospital functioning as a higher-level referral centre, patients and attendants said uninterrupted availability of essential medicines should be treated as a basic requirement rather than an issue that can be allowed to linger.

"This is a tertiary-care hospital serving the population of entire North Kashmir. Patients are referred here when their condition requires specialised and immediate treatment. If essential emergency

medicines are not available, it can create additional difficulties for families already dealing with a medical crisis," said Bilal Ahmad an attendant at the hospital.

Another attendant said that people visiting government hospitals generally depend on the institution for medicines, particularly during emergencies, and any disruption in the supply chain puts additional financial and logistical pressure on families.

"Patients come here with the expectation that emergency treatment and medicines will be available. They should not be asked to arrange basic drugs from outside when they are already struggling with a serious health emergency," he said.

Continued on
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Two major sporting events mark NSD in Budgam

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Aug 29: Two major sporting events were held in Budgam on Saturday to mark National Sports Day (NSD), drawing participation from hundreds of young players and sports enthusiasts.

The District Budgam Tennis Ball Championship 2026 was inaugurated at Sports Stadium Budgam, with school students from different educational institutions participating in the event.

Organised by the District Budgam Tennis Ball Cricket Association under the supervision of Organising Secretary Abdul Rashid Lone, the championship witnessed the participation of around 300 boys and girls from several schools in the inaugural programme.

Organisers stressed the importance of sports in keeping youth physically

active, disciplined and focused. He said greater participation in sporting activities could help steer youngsters away from drug abuse and other social challenges.

Students participating in the championship said the event gave them an opportunity not only to learn and improve their sporting skills but also to aspire to compete at higher levels in the future.

They said consistent participation and good performance could open opportunities for young players while also helping them stay away from drugs and encouraging them to positively influence others.

The two-day championship will conclude on August 30, 2026, providing young sporting talent with an opportunity to showcase their skills and

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Nuclear Energy Technology In India: Sustainable And Self-Reliant Future

As the nation progresses towards Viksit Bharat, nuclear energy will continue to complement other clean energy sources, supporting economic growth, environmental sustainability and long-term energy security

Press Information Bureau

India's nuclear programme is guided by a strategy of technological self-reliance, developed to overcome historical fuel embargoes while harnessing the country's vast thorium reserves. At its core is the indigenously designed three-stage nuclear power programme, which enables a gradual transition from uranium- to thorium-based fuel cycles. By advancing indigenous innovation, expanding clean and reliable electricity generation, and ensuring long-term energy security, the programme is contributing to India's vision of sustainable development and achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047.

Nuclear Energy Supporting India's Sustainable Energy Security

India is committed to building a secure, sustainable, and self-reliant energy future to support its journey towards Viksit Bharat. Recognising the growing demand for clean, reliable and stable baseload electricity, the Government of India has placed nuclear energy at the core of its long-term energy strategy. Nuclear power provides round-the-clock, low-carbon electricity, complementing renewable energy while ensuring grid stability. It also reduces dependence on imported fossil fuels and supports India's climate commitments. Guided by the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Government of India is developing robust indigenous capabilities across the entire nuclear fuel cycle, including reactor design, fuel fabrication, waste management, and advanced technologies.

India currently operates 24 nuclear power reactors with a total installed capacity of 8.78 GW. Nine reactor units, with a combined capacity of 7.5 GW, are under construction. The Government has also approved 10 indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) in fleet mode and pre-project activities for two 500 MW Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR). Recent policy initiatives, including the Nuclear Energy Mission (2025–26) and the SHANTI Act, 2025, are accelerating capacity expansion, strengthening domestic manufacturing, promoting innovation and enabling greater private sector participation. Together, these initiatives are creating a resilient nuclear ecosystem that supports sustainable development and advances India's goal of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047.

Baseload Electricity

Stable baseload electricity is the minimum, uninterrupted amount of power an electric grid needs to remain operational. It acts as the backbone of our power supply, ensuring reliable electricity for hospitals, communication networks, defence



establishments, industries, and other essential services. Reliable baseload power is essential for economic growth, national security, and disaster resilience.

Understanding Nuclear Energy: An Overview

Nuclear power plants generate electricity by harnessing heat released through a carefully controlled process called nuclear fission. The heat converts water into steam, which drives a turbine connected to a generator. The generated electricity powers homes, industries, and essential services. The entire process operates within multiple engineered safety barriers and a robust regulatory framework.

Nuclear Fuel

Nuclear fuel is the material placed inside a nuclear reactor to generate electricity. Its atoms split through nuclear fission and release large amounts of heat. The heat converts water into steam. The steam drives turbines to generate electricity.

Nuclear reactor fuels can be fissile, which directly sustain the chain reaction or fertile, which are first converted into fissile fuels inside the reactor. The most common nuclear fuels are Natural Uranium, Uranium-235 (U-235), Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU), Plutonium-239 (Pu-239), and Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel.

Most countries, including the United States, France, China, Japan, South Korea, Canada, and Russia, use Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU) in Light Water Reactors. India mainly uses Natural Uranium in Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), which do not require uranium enrichment. India also uses MOX fuel in its Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR).

India's uranium reserves are of low grade and therefore need to be supplemented through imports. India, however, has abundant reserves of thorium (Th-232). This is a fertile rather than fissile radioactive material, found mainly in the coastal sands of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand. Inside a reactor, Th-232 absorbs a neutron and transforms into Uranium-233, which is fissile. India's long-term nuclear strategy is centred on utilising its abundant thorium reserves, through its three-stage nuclear power programme.

India's Three-Stage Nuclear Programme

Dr. Homi J. Bhabha proposed the three-stage nuclear power programme in 1954 to maximise the use of India's indigenous resources and achieve long-term energy security. India achieved a major milestone in April 2026 when the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam attained first criticality. A breeder reactor is one that produces more fissile material or fuel while generating electricity. This marked the beginning of the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear power programme. The milestone brings India closer to harnessing its abundant thorium resources for long-term, clean, and self-reliant energy security. To read further: A New Chapter in India's Nuclear Journey

In the first stage, Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) use natural uranium to generate electricity. The spent fuel is reprocessed to recover plutonium, which becomes the primary input for the second stage. In the second stage, Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) use this plutonium to generate electricity while breeding additional

fissile material. They also produce uranium-233 from thorium, laying the groundwork for the third stage. In the third stage, thorium-based reactors use uranium-233 to harness India's abundant thorium reserves. Each stage feeds into the next, unlocking long-term energy security.

The Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) led the design, development, testing, safety assessment, commissioning and indigenisation of India's Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR). Through close collaboration with Indian industry, IGCAR achieved nearly 90 per cent domestic manufacturing of the reactor's equipment and systems, strengthening India's self-reliance in advanced nuclear technology and supporting the country's second stage of the Three Stage Nuclear Power Programme.

Nuclear Reaction

A nuclear reaction releases energy from the nucleus of an atom. The two main types are nuclear fission and nuclear fusion. Nuclear power plants use nuclear fission.

In a nuclear reactor, a neutron strikes the nucleus of a uranium or plutonium atom, causing it to split into two smaller atoms. This process, known as nuclear fission, releases a large amount of heat and additional neutrons. These neutrons trigger further fission reactions, creating a carefully controlled chain reaction. The heat generated is used to convert water into high-pressure steam. The steam drives a turbine, which is connected to a generator. As the turbine rotates, the generator produces electricity.

Nuclear Fusion

Nuclear fusion combines two light atoms to form a heavier atom. Fusion powers the Sun and stars. It can produce much more energy than fission. However, fusion technology is still under development for commercial electricity generation.

Nuclear Reactors

The nuclear reactor is the heart of a nuclear power plant, where the process of nuclear fission is safely controlled to generate heat. It contains nuclear fuel, such as uranium or plutonium, control rods to regulate the fission reaction, a coolant to transfer the heat produced, and multiple safety systems to ensure safe and reliable operation.

India primarily uses Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), which operate on natural uranium. The country also operates Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs) and Pressurised Water Reactors (PWRs). India is advancing Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) to utilise plutonium and support the transition to thorium-based reactors. India is also developing Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as the next generation of nuclear technology.

Small Modular Reactor

SMRs typically generate up to 300 MWe through nuclear fission. Their compact, modular design enables factory-based manufacturing, faster construction, improved quality, and phased deployment. Under the Nuclear Energy Mission, announced in the Union Budget 2025–26, the Government has allocated 20,000 crore for the research, design, development, and deployment of indigenous SMRs. India is developing the 220 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200), jointly designed by BARC and NPCIL, the 55 MWe SMR-55, and a High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor for hydrogen production. The Government aims to operationalise at least five indigenous SMRs by 2033.

Classification of Nuclear Reactors

Nuclear reactors are designed for different applications. Large conventional reactors (700–1,600 MW) supply continuous baseload power to national grids, cities, and industries. Small Modular Reactors (up to 300 MW) and Micro Reactors (up to 20 MW) serve remote areas, replace retiring coal plants, supply industrial process heat, and support hydrogen production.

Nuclear Waste

Nuclear waste is the radioactive material generated during the operation of a nuclear power plant. It includes used nuclear fuel and other materials, such as protective clothing, filters, tools, and equipment, that become radioactive after being used in the plant. Since it emits radiation, it is managed under strict safety standards to ensure the protection of people and the environment.

India follows a closed nuclear fuel cycle, where spent nuclear fuel is reprocessed to recover valuable materials for reuse in future reactors. The remaining high-level radioactive waste is immobilised and safely stored, reducing waste and supporting India's three-stage nuclear power programme.

Vitrification Technology

India is among the few countries with vitrification technology for high-level radioactive waste. The process converts high-level radioactive waste into a stable glass form, making it safer for long-term storage, transport, and eventual disposal.

Powering India's Clean Energy Future

India's nuclear energy programme reflects the country's commitment to innovation, sustainability and self-reliance. By combining advanced technologies with rigorous safety standards and indigenous capabilities, nuclear energy is helping build a secure and resilient energy future. As the nation progresses towards Viksit Bharat, nuclear energy will continue to complement other clean energy sources, supporting economic growth, environmental sustainability and long-term energy security.

Water-Smart Farming With Per Drop More Crop Transforming Indian Agriculture Through Water Efficiency

Press Information Bureau

Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) promotes micro-irrigation to improve water use efficiency and enhance agricultural productivity. The scheme has brought over 115 lakh hectares under micro irrigation as of July 2026. Financial assistance through direct benefit transfer and digital implementation has improved transparency and farmer access to affordable micro-irrigation facilities. Independent studies report higher yields, significant water savings, lower cultivation costs, and increased farmers' incomes. PDMC is strengthening resource-efficient, sustainable agriculture by using every drop of water efficiently.

Improving Irrigation Efficiency with Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)

More than 80% of India's available water resources are used for agricultural irrigation. However, only about 50% of the net sown area has irrigation facilities. Improving water use efficiency has therefore become a national priority. Micro irrigation delivers water directly to crops with minimum losses. The government is implementing the PDMC scheme to promote efficient water use at the farm level. It is a centrally sponsored scheme supporting drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation.

Under this scheme, the government provides financial assistance of up to five hectares per beneficiary. Small and marginal farmers receive 55%, and other farmers receive 45% financial assistance. Central assistance of 8,123.24 crore has been released in the last three years. Some state governments

also provide additional subsidies. Farmers can receive assistance again for the same land after seven years.

Evolution of the Scheme

The initiative originally began in January 2006 as the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Micro Irrigation. It was upgraded to the National Mission on Micro Irrigation in 2010-11. During FY 2014-15, it became part of the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture under the "On Farm Water Management" component. From FY 2015-16 to FY 2021-22, it was officially named PDMC under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Since 2022-23, PDMC has been implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY).

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)

Launched in 2007–08, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana promotes holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors. The scheme was restructured as PM-RKVY in October 2024 to promote sustainable agriculture, acting as an umbrella scheme merging nine schemes. It includes components such as PDMC, agricultural mechanization, soil health management, crop diversification, and an accelerator fund for agri-startups. A key feature is that it gives state governments flexibility to re-allocate funds based on local agricultural requirements. During 2025-26, 8,957.72 crore has been released for PM-RKVY, including 3,226.36 crore dedicated to PDMC.

Strategic Focus Areas and Benefits of PDMC

The PDMC scheme promotes precision

water management to enhance crop productivity and increase farmers' incomes. It also promotes fertigation (applying fertilizers with irrigation water) and prioritizes water-scarce and groundwater-stressed regions. PDMC supports integration of micro irrigation with tube wells, river-lift irrigation, and solar-powered irrigation systems.

Micro-irrigation delivers water directly to the plant root zone, reducing wastage and improving irrigation efficiency. It lowers the use of water, energy, fertilizers, and labour while supporting better crop growth. The technology encourages cultivation of horticultural crops, improves cropping intensity, and brings marginal lands under productive use.

Progress in Scaling Micro Irrigation

Since its inception, PDMC has brought 115 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation as of July 2026, accounting for about 8.11% of India's net sown area. In 2025-26, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Rajasthan recorded the highest areas covered. 12.30 lakh farmers were benefitted, with around 20% being women.

Success Story: From Flood Irrigation to Drip Irrigation

LAM Srinivasa Rao, a farmer from Palnadu, Andhra Pradesh, adopted drip irrigation under PDMC in his two-acre acid lime orchard, replacing traditional flood irrigation. Yield increased from 90 to 105 quintals per acre. Cultivation cost declined from 3.0 lakh to 2.4 lakh. His net income increased from 1.5 lakh to 2.85 lakh, earning an additional 1.35 lakh.

New Flexibilities for Water Conservation

The government has introduced new flexibilities under PDMC, empowering states to undertake micro-level water storage and conservation activities such as diggias and water harvesting systems. Earlier, funds for such activities were capped at 20% of total allocation for general states and 40% for North Eastern, Himalayan states, and J&K and Ladakh. Now, states have flexibility to exceed these limits based on local requirements.

Types of Micro Irrigation Systems

Drip Irrigation System: Delivers water slowly and directly to plant roots through emitters. Types include:

- On-line drip irrigation: Suitable for crops with uneven spacing
- In-line drip irrigation: Drippers built into the pipe at fixed intervals
- Sprinkler Irrigation System: Discharges water under pressure through nozzles, simulating rainfall. Types include:
 - Portable Sprinklers
 - Micro Sprinklers (for leafy vegetables, nurseries)
 - Mini Sprinklers (for groundnut, potato, onion)
 - Semi-Permanent Sprinklers
 - Large Volume Sprinklers (Rain-Guns)

Implementation Framework

PDMC is implemented under PM-RKVY's institutional architecture. At the national level, the National Stewardship Council provides strategic direction. At the state level, the State Level Sanctioning Committee approves plans, and the Inter-Departmental Working Group coordinates implementation. At the district level, the District Level

Implementation Committee oversees execution.

Impact Assessment Studies

An evaluation by NITI Aayog during 2020-21 reported income gains ranging from 10% to 69%. Water use efficiency improved by 30%-70%. The scheme also created direct and indirect employment opportunities.

The Economic Survey 2020-21 quantified resource benefits: water savings of 20% to 48%, energy savings of 10% to 17%, labour cost reductions of 30% to 40%, fertilizer savings of 11% to 19%, and crop yield increase of 20% to 38%.

A 2023 study by IIM Ahmedabad confirmed that farmers predominantly adopt micro-irrigation to address declining groundwater levels, suit crop requirements, and achieve long-term agricultural benefits. Building a Water-Efficient Future for Agriculture

PDMC has transformed India's irrigation approach by promoting efficient water use through micro-irrigation technologies. The scheme has expanded access to modern irrigation while improving water use efficiency, crop productivity, and farmers' incomes. Supported by robust institutional mechanisms, digital implementation, and convergence with other programmes, PDMC plays an important role in advancing resource-efficient, sustainable agriculture as India faces increasing pressure on its water resources.

Disclaimer: This is an abridged version of the original PIB article. All significant points and key messages have been retained. For complete details, please refer to the full article on PIB website.

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3rd National Lok Adalat

Chairman DLSA Ganderbal conducts preparatory meeting

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 29: In preparation for the upcoming 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026, scheduled to be held on 12th September 2026, a preparatory meeting was convened Saturday under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, District Legal Services Authority), Ganderbal.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was held to review and finalize the arrangements for the smooth and effective conduct of the National Lok Adalat in the district. Detailed discussions were held regarding the identification and processing of suitable cases, coordination among the concerned stakeholders, issuance of notices to the parties, and other necessary arrangements to ensure maximum participation of litigants and effective disposal of cases through amicable settlement.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of the National Lok Adalat as an effective mechanism for providing speedy, accessible and cost-effective



justice to litigants while reducing the burden of pending cases on the courts. The Judicial Officers were directed to identify suitable and eligible cases for being taken up in the National Lok Adalat and to make all necessary efforts for their effective placement before the Lok Adalat, so as to facilitate amicable settlement

of disputes. The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal is making all necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the 3rd National Lok Adalat and is coordinating with all concerned stakeholders to ensure maximum participation of litigants and effective disposal of eligible cases.

National Sports Day celebrated with enthusiasm in Anantnag



KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 29: National Sports Day 2026 was celebrated with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit across District Anantnag, with vibrant activities organised in all 12 Zones of the Department of Youth Services & Sports.

The celebrations, as per an official statement, were organised to commemorate the

birth anniversary of Hockey legend Major Dhyani Chand, whose extraordinary contribution to Indian hockey continues to inspire generations of sportspersons.

As many as 21828 boys and girls enthusiastically participated in various sports and fitness activities organised across the district. The impressive participation reflected the growing interest of young people in sports

and the commitment of the Department towards promoting a healthy, disciplined and active lifestyle among youth.

The celebrations provided a platform for young participants to showcase their sporting talent while promoting the values of discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, fitness and fair play.

The National Sports Day celebrations also highlighted

the important role of sports in youth empowerment, nation-building and creating a positive and drug-free environment for the younger generation.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports, District Anantnag, reaffirmed its commitment to providing greater opportunities to every young boy and girl to participate in sports and pursue excellence at higher levels.

Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, comes together to grieve loss of its former Director, Gazanfar Ali



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 29: The Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Saturday held a condolence meeting to mourn the death of Gazanfar Ali, former Director, Handicrafts, who passed away on Thursday night in Srinagar.

Officers and officials of the Directorate attended the meeting, expressing deep grief over his demise. Participants prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Recalling his distinguished service, attendees, as per an official statement, remembered Gazanfar Ali's tenure in the Handicrafts Department for his friendly and caring nature. They also acknowledged his role in strengthening the sector's

institutional framework, noting his professional conduct and dedication as key parts of his legacy.

The meeting observed that his passing is a loss not just to his family and friends, but to all who worked with him.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, expressed deep anguish over the loss, saying Gazanfar Ali Sahib would be remembered for his dedicated service, professional integrity and commitment. He noted that his contribution to public service and the promotion of traditional crafts would remain part of the department's institutional memory, and conveyed his condolences to the family, praying for strength to bear this irreparable loss.

Directorate stands with the bereaved family in this difficult hour, sharing in their grief.

Ek Ghanta Maidan Mein

SKUAST-K celebrates National Sports Day at Shalimar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 29: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) celebrated National Sports Day at its Shalimar Campus with a series of sporting activities centred around the theme "Ek Ghanta Maidan Mein", encouraging students to devote at least one hour every day to physical activity and sports.

The programme, as per an official statement, was organized at the Sports Ground of the Shalimar Campus to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyani Chand, the legendary Indian hockey player and one of the country's greatest sporting icons.

The programme was inaugurated by Dean Students Welfare, Prof. S. A. Gangoo, who interacted with the participating students and encouraged them to make sports and physical activity an integral part of their daily routine.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Gangoo highlighted Major Dhyani Chand's remarkable contribution to Indian hockey and his enduring sporting legacy. He stressed that regular participation in sports is vital for physical fitness, a healthy lifestyle and mental well-being, urging students to spend at least one hour every day on



the sports ground.

The celebration featured a volleyball match and a tug-of-war competition between student teams from the Faculty of Horticulture and Agricultural Engineering. The Faculty of Horticulture team emerged victorious in volleyball, while the Agricultural Engineering team won the tug-of-war competition.

The winning teams and participants were felicitated with medals in recognition of their sporting performance and spirit. Dr. Mudassir Ali and Dr. Owais, along with many students

and spectators, witnessed the matches and cheered on the participating teams.

The programme was organized by Students Welfare Officer Dr. Seemi Lohani, who said such activities provide students an opportunity to engage beyond the classroom while promoting teamwork, discipline, fitness and sportsmanship. The celebration, she added, contributes towards creating a vibrant, healthy and dynamic campus environment and encourages students to adopt an active and balanced lifestyle.

NALSA JAGRITI Scheme

DLSA Ganderbal continues legal awareness campaign

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 29: Continuing the legal awareness campaign started from 24 August 2026 under the NALSA (JAGRITI) Scheme, 2025. "Empowered Youth, Stronger India", the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, Saturday conducted two legal awareness programmes at Sindh Valley Educational Institute, Kangan, and Royal Public High School, Badampora, Ganderbal.

The campaign, as per an official statement, is being conducted under the guidance of the Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal, and under the supervision of the Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain, with the objective of promoting legal literacy, awareness of rights and responsibilities, and empowering young persons and students.

The programme at Sindh Valley Educational Institute, Kangan, was conducted on "Empowering Youth for Evolving Future." The session was conducted by Adv. Tariq Ahmad Raina, Member, JAGRITI Unit, who sensitised the students about the important role of youth in shaping an informed, responsible and progressive society. He emphasised the importance of education, awareness, confidence and

responsible decision-making in enabling young people to contribute meaningfully towards society.

At Royal Public High School, Badampora, Ganderbal, awareness programme was conducted on "Constitutional Values, Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties." The session was conducted by Adv. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Member, JAGRITI Unit, who apprised the students about the significance of constitutional values and the Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties of citizens.

The students were sensitised about the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, along with the importance of respecting the rights of others and fulfilling their constitutional responsibilities. The session aimed at fostering constitutional awareness and promoting responsible citizenship among the students.

Both programmes witnessed active participation from the students and faculty members and provided an interactive platform for enhancing awareness regarding legal rights, constitutional values and civic responsibilities.

That the awareness campaign, which has started on 24 August 2026, is being carried forward through a series of programmes focusing on youth empowerment, legal literacy and awareness of rights and responsibilities.

SWD Budgam organises Training Programme on PCPNDT Act

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, AUGUST 29: The Social Welfare Department (SWD), through SANKALP - Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti Budgam, organised a training programme on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 at Government Degree College (GDC), Budgam.

The programme, as per an official statement, was organised for In-charge personnel of Ultrasound/USG and diagnostic centres with the objective of strengthening their understanding of the provisions of the PCPNDT Act, ensuring strict compliance with statutory requirements and promoting responsible practices aimed at preventing the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex selection.

Dr. Masroofa Majeed, Gender Specialist, SANKALP-HEW, in her address, highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in addressing gender discrimination and preventing sex selection.

Afroza Ahad, District Mission Coordinator (DMC), Mission Shakti Budgam, provided an overview of Mission Shakti,



elaborating on its objectives, vision and key components. She emphasised the importance of convergence, awareness and effective implementation of women-centric initiatives at the grassroots level.

The technical session on the PCPNDT Act, 1994 was conducted by Adv. Lateef Ahmad, who provided detailed training on the key provisions of the Act, regulatory requirements for diagnostic centres, responsibilities of centre in-charges and personnel, maintenance of mandatory records and registers, and the legal consequences

of violations. The session also emphasised the need for strict adherence to prescribed procedures and documentation.

An interactive session was also held, during which participants actively engaged in a question-and-answer session with the resource person. The participants raised queries regarding various provisions of the PCPNDT Act, compliance requirements, documentation and their responsibilities as personnel associated with USG and diagnostic centres. The queries were addressed comprehensively, making the session

informative and participatory.

The training provided an important platform for the participants to enhance their knowledge of the legal framework and reinforce their commitment towards strict compliance with the PCPNDT Act.

The programme reaffirmed the commitment of the Social Welfare Department, SANKALP-HEW, Mission Shakti Budgam towards strengthening awareness and compliance with the PCPNDT Act and contributing to the larger objective of promoting the dignity, rights and equality of the girl child.

BBBP: SWD Srinagar organises awareness cum career counselling session

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 29: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar organised an Awareness-cum-Career Counselling Session at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Tailbal, Srinagar.

The session was aimed at sensitizing students about various opportunities available for their educational and career development. The officials, as per an official statement, from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar interacted with the students and provided guidance on career planning, skill development, vocational education and different avenues available to them after completing their schooling.

The students actively participated in the interactive session and raised questions regarding career choices, educational opportunities and skill-based courses. The Officials from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar encouraged the students to identify their interests and abilities and make informed decisions while choosing their future career paths.



The Social Welfare Department emphasized the importance of such awareness and counselling programmes in empowering young students with relevant information and helping them make confident

and informed career choices.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion, with students expressing their appreciation for the initiative and the guidance provided during the session.

Education that merely provides degree without developing character has little value: Rajnath

PTI
Lucknow, Aug 29: Education that merely provides a degree without developing character has little value and is incomplete, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.
Addressing the 11th convocation ceremony of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University here, Singh said achievements become meaningful only when they are rooted in values.
"When education only gives

a degree but does not develop character, such education has no value, it is incomplete," the member of Parliament from Lucknow said.
He urged students to cultivate a broad mind and avoid jealousy, saying a person's happiness and fulfilment increase with the broadening of his outlook.
"A pure mind belongs to one whose mind is broad. A person with a narrow mind can never have a pure mind," he said.
Recalling former prime

minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's words, Singh said, "No one becomes great with a small mind, and no one can stand with a broken spirit."
He also referred to the struggles faced by B R Ambedkar and said the social reformer chose education rather than violence or blaming his fate, despite facing discrimination.
"Dr Ambedkar was not allowed to drink water from the tap from which all the children drank. Despite suffering so

much injustice, instead of cursing his fate or choosing the path of violence, he chose the path of education and returned to India to inspire people to bring about change," he said.
Singh said the world today is amazed by India's success and its space capabilities, and the transformation has not happened because of "any miracle", but is a result of the hard work and dedication of young people, scientists and engineers.
The senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said the journey to success often passes through four stages -- "people

first ignore you, then laugh at you, oppose you and finally, praise your success".
He urged students not to be discouraged by people who may ignore, ridicule or create obstacles for them and instead, to move forward with confidence.
"I assure you that no power in the world can stop you from succeeding," he said.
The defence minister said the quality, accessibility and affordability of education have improved in the country over the

last 12 years, while the research-and-development infrastructure has also expanded.
He said young Indians are winning medals at physics, mathematics and biology Olympiads, setting up startups and developing technologies, such as hydrogen trains and drones, while the number of registered patents in the country has increased manifold. India, which previously had little presence in the startup ecosystem, is the world's third-largest startup ecosystem now, he said.

made to affix his thumb impression on blank paper.
"These allegations cannot be treated as an isolated or incidental episode, particularly when they arose after the minor's pregnancy came to light," she said.
According to the petition, after the pregnancy became known, people allegedly associated with the main accused became involved and a panchayat was convened.
The plea seeks identification and examination of all persons present at the gathering, the circumstances in which the document was prepared and the thumb impression obtained, and the source and purpose of the money allegedly offered.
The family has claimed that they came to know of the pregnancy only when the girl developed a serious medical condition.
The petition traces a series of events beginning at her examination at a local public health centre, ultrasound, and treatment at the district hospital, her transfer to Doda, delivery of a dead male child, and subsequent transportation to Punjab, culminating in her death.
It seeks investigation into the alleged attempts to terminate the pregnancy, the procurement and administration of medicines, the role of persons who transported or accompanied the girl, the treatment provided at different health facilities and the circumstances surrounding her death.
Nath said the petition seeks preservation and examination of hospital records, ultrasound reports, medical prescriptions, ambulance records, GPS/location data, CCTV footage, call-detail records, electronic communications, financial records and forensic/DNA evidence.
The minor was recorded in hospital records as the wife of a 13-year-old boy, the petition claims, and seeks the identification of the person or persons responsible for furnishing such information.
A scrutiny has been demanded into possible administrative, institutional or statutory lapses concerning the girl's safety at her school.
"Our fight is far from over. We will continue to pursue every legal remedy and stand with the grieving family until justice is delivered to their daughter and accountability is ensured," Nath said on X.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

True measure of

treats illness to one that protects and promotes health. We must prioritise regular screening, easy access to primary healthcare services and timely treatment," the Lieutenant Governor said.
He also emphasized expanding training capacity, supporting wellbeing of medical staff and leveraging telemedicine to extend reach.
"We need to expand training capacity in medical and nursing education and ensure access to health services in rural and remote areas through telemedicine. Most importantly, we must also take care of the wellbeing of our health workers. Better staffing, reduced administrative burden and mental-health support are fundamental requirements of a strong health system," he said.
The Lieutenant Governor said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi accessibility, affordability and universal insurance coverage has been ensured and health inequality has been eliminated.
"Under the leadership of PM Modi efforts are being made to link health records across the country through a secure digital system. This will enable any authorised doctor, wherever they may be, to access a patient's health history within moments. At the same time, patients retain control over who can view their information and how much information they can access," he said.
The Lieutenant Governor noted significant progress in Jammu Kashmir's healthcare infrastructure including 2 new AIIMS institutions, 10 new medical colleges, 2 State Cancer Institutes, specialized hospitals including Bone & Joint and Paediatric facilities, 52 nursing colleges, 23 paramedical colleges and 5 pharmacy colleges, which are historic steps towards social justice and equitable healthcare.
The Lieutenant Governor urged the conclave to deliberate on key priorities of developing modern primary health centres in every village linked to district networks, harnessing AI for early detection of diseases while supporting doctors' decisions, strengthening disease surveillance, genomic capacity, and local manufacturing of diagnostic kits and building a robust health workforce through nursing and paramedical institutions, continuous skill development and strong collaboration between government and private sector.
"Private hospitals and industries associated with the health sector must also join this effort, recognising it as an important task of nation-building. I believe that the strongest health systems are those in which the government and the private sector work together for public welfare, combining their capabilities, speed and innovation," the Lieutenant Governor said.
Iqram Ali Shafiee, Chairman, CII J&K UT Council; Dr. Shuchin Bajaj, Founder Director, Ujala Cygnus Hospitals; Siddhant Choudhary, Vice Chairman, CII J&K; Dr. Pervaz Ahmad Sofi and Arafat Ahmad Bhat, Members, Board of Directors, Peace and Wellbeing Foundation; Sajad Hussain Lone, members of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and healthcare professionals attended the inaugural ceremony.
Dr. GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar and senior officials were also present. (KNO)

Sports most 'honest

in sports over the past six years prove that if young people are prepared for sports with dedication, the region will create an entire era of champions," the Lieutenant Governor said.
Calling upon youth to contribute to building Viksit Bharat of 2047, the Lieutenant Governor stressed that champions are forged through discipline and effort, not shortcuts. He urged corporate houses to support athletes at the stage of talent recognition, rather than only after they win medals. He emphasized the collective responsibility of society, coaches, support staff, and parents in shaping champions.
OUTLINES THREE DUTIES FOR YOUTH
The Lieutenant Governor outlined three duties for youth, calling them to lead by example, compete with dignity, accept defeat gracefully, and inspire future generations.
He asked the youth to use the unity of sports to transcend differences of language and faith. The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth to give Back to Society by guiding and mentoring the next generation, repaying the community that supports every athlete.
He commended the youth for their participation in the Drug-Free Campaign, setting an example for the nation. He reiterated that development is not measured by GDP alone but by the health, energy, and confidence of citizens.

HEALTHY AND SPORTING INDIA IS A CONFIDENT INDIA
"A healthy India is a fearless India. A sporting India is a confident India. And a confident India is an invincible India. Major Dhyan Chand, the wizard of hockey, gave the entire world one message to find your goal. That must be our message today as well. Whatever field we stand in, whether it is the field of sports, science, or public service we must identify our goal, move towards it, and achieve it together," the Lieutenant Governor said.
On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the National Sports Day pledge and felicitated the top-performing sportspersons of the 69th National School Games.
MoUs were also exchanged between the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, and Abhinav Bindra Foundation, Dani Sports Foundation and Common Services Centres, for promotion of sports in J&K.
Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sujit Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services and Sports; senior officials, representatives of Abhinav Bindra Foundation, Dani Sports Foundation, Common Services Centre, sportspersons and youth in large number attended the celebrations at Shalimar Campus, SKUAST Kashmir. (KNO)
Ensure smooth IFFJK:
of events and detailed crowd-management plans at SKICC and INOX.
He also reviewed arrangements for night screenings, floating cinema, the gala dinner and other proposed activities and issued necessary directions for their smooth and successful conduct.
The Tourism Department was directed to finalise brochures and audio-visual content showcasing the tourism potential of Jammu & Kashmir for promotion during the festival. The Handicrafts & Handloom Department was asked to prepare and share brochures containing relevant information for guests and participants regarding stalls, craft and artisans.
The Higher Education Department was directed to establish dedicated registration desks for students participating in the festival, while the RTO Kashmir was asked to sensitise hired drivers regarding the festival schedule, sightseeing packages for guests, tour packages and timely participation in scheduled programmes.
The meeting was informed that films from 40 countries will be screened during the festival, underlining its international character and significance.
The Divisional Commissioner directed all

departments to extend full support to the event management team and emphasised the need for effective micro-traffic management and robust security arrangements while ensuring minimum inconvenience to guests, participants, filmmakers and the general public.
He further directed the concerned agencies to ensure comprehensive arrangements at the airport and establish attractive selfie points at the SKICC back lawns and INOX premises.
For effective inter-departmental coordination, the Director Information was directed to ensure close coordination among all concerned departments. The Joint Director Information Kashmir was asked to remain stationed at SKICC as the single-point Nodal Officer for co-ordination and communication.
The Divisional Commissioner also stressed the need for conducting a comprehensive dry run ahead of the festival to identify and address any gaps in arrangements. He called for a seamless and horizontal flow of communication among all stakeholders for the smooth execution of the festival.
The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Information, Heads of Departments and designated Nodal Officers.
Later, Div Com Kashmir along with DC Srinagar, VC LCMA, Director Info and others conducted inspection of Dal Lake in a motor boat to assess the cleaning of the lake for aesthetic presentation and attraction of film makers.
Perception towards
can help identify, nurture and develop the capabilities of children with disabilities.
He said modern medical technology can help identify certain disorders or defects during pregnancy, while advances such as gene sequencing can also play an important role in early identification and management.
Singh said awareness about scientific facilities and government schemes should be increased, describing the Matri Shakti Conference organised by Saksham as an important initiative in this regard.
On development in the Hiranagar area, Singh said the proposed national-level Arun Jaitley Stadium has made significant progress and formalities related to land transfer are almost complete.
He said efforts had also been made by former MLA Rajiv Jasrotia in connection with the project and added that a plan for laying the foundation stone would be prepared soon.
Singh further said the work on the Express Corridor is almost complete and road connectivity has reached up to the border and Zero Line. He added that mobile towers have also been installed and bunkers constructed in the border areas. (KNO)
Hot, humid weather

landslides during August 31 and September 1-2. Farmers have been advised that they may continue harvesting and other agricultural operations.
Meanwhile, temperatures remained above normal across several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius, which was 4.6 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature was 19.6 degrees Celsius, 3.6 degrees above normal.
Jammu recorded a maximum of 34.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 26.2 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara registered a high of 34.2 degrees Celsius.
Qazigund recorded a maximum of 32 degrees Celsius, followed by 31.2 degrees Celsius at Kukernag and 30.4 degrees Celsius at Banihal.
In the tourist destinations, Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 28 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.2 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg registered a maximum of 24 degrees Celsius and the lowest minimum temperature in the valley at 12.2 degrees Celsius.
Katra recorded a maximum of 30 degrees Celsius and received 84.2 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending 8:30 am on Saturday, the highest rainfall among the stations listed by the department.
The Met Centre advised people to remain cautious in areas vulnerable to flash floods, mudslides and landslides during intense showers. (KNO)
Kishtwar girl's
later spoke to Sinha on the phone, requesting that the case be transferred to the Crime Branch.
"The case has now been formally transferred to the Crime Branch, with SSP Sanjay Kumar Parihar and DySP Javed Iqbal Chowdhary set to head the investigation. I am highly thankful to the lieutenant governor for personally assuring and facilitating the transfer of the case to the Crime Branch," the former minister said.
Earlier in the day, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh admitted a writ petition filed by the victim's father seeking a Crime Branch probe into the incident.
"The matter has been listed for hearing on Monday," senior advocate Deepika Pushkar Nath, who represents the family, told PTI.
Nath said, among other things, the plea seeks a probe into alleged panchayat intervention and an attempt to pressure the girl's father for a compromise.
"We have sought an independent investigation not only into the alleged rape of the minor but also into the entire chain of events that followed, leading to her death," she said.
The lawyer said that the role of the panchayat assumes importance in the case considering the girl's impoverished and illiterate father was allegedly offered money to remain silent and

made to affix his thumb impression on blank paper.
"These allegations cannot be treated as an isolated or incidental episode, particularly when they arose after the minor's pregnancy came to light," she said.
According to the petition, after the pregnancy became known, people allegedly associated with the main accused became involved and a panchayat was convened.
The plea seeks identification and examination of all persons present at the gathering, the circumstances in which the document was prepared and the thumb impression obtained, and the source and purpose of the money allegedly offered.
The family has claimed that they came to know of the pregnancy only when the girl developed a serious medical condition.
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The minor was recorded in hospital records as the wife of a 13-year-old boy, the petition claims, and seeks the identification of the person or persons responsible for furnishing such information.
A scrutiny has been demanded into possible administrative, institutional or statutory lapses concerning the girl's safety at her school.
"Our fight is far from over. We will continue to pursue every legal remedy and stand with the grieving family until justice is delivered to their daughter and accountability is ensured," Nath said on X.

2000-year-old Buddhist

the Zehanpora site was uncovered in 2025 following systematic excavation and survey work. The investigations revealed Buddhist stupas, monastic structures and remains of an urban-style settlement dating primarily to the Kushan period.
The discovery had also drawn national attention, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing the finding as a proud moment and highlighting its historical significance. (KNO)

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ONE CHAMPIONSHIP ONE LEGACY

Nepal praises India's efforts in times of crisis; calls PM Modi 'exceptionally generous'



PTI

Kathmandu, Aug 29: Nepal on Saturday praised India's efforts towards helping it in times of crisis, and described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "exceptionally generous", in the wake of the devastating flood in the country that has killed more than 600.

Speaking to PTI Videos, Nepal Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle said that New Delhi has indicated it would provide generous assistance for reconstruction. An ice-rock

avalanche following a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border sent a torrent of water, mud and debris downstream through central Nepal on Wednesday, devastating towns and villages, washing away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges, and damaging hydropower projects.

More than 2,400 people remained missing, while nearly 2,500 people were evacuated as rescue teams raced against time amid on-and-off rainfall in the flood-affected regions. Since Wednesday,

India has dispatched 57.6 tonnes of relief material to the flood-ravaged areas of Nepal. An 11-member Indian team comprising medical personnel and tunnel rescue experts also arrived in Nepal to assist local authorities, following a request from Kathmandu.

Wagle said Nepal was dealing with the crisis "in phases." "The immediate priority is to rescue people who can be saved, including those stranded or trapped in hydropower plants," said the finance minister, adding that the Nepal Army

has airlifted 1,930 people.

He further said efforts were underway to airlift relief supplies to areas such as Dhunche, Rasuwa and Syapru Besi, which had been cut off after roads were damaged.

"The next phase will focus on early recovery, including temporary shelters and cash-for-work programmes, followed by the daunting task of reconstruction," he added.

More than 11,000 security personnel, including over 5,000 Nepal Army personnel, have been mobilised for search and rescue operations.

Asked whether Nepal would seek help from other countries, Wagle said it would, while highlighting India's support.

"The Government of India and Prime Minister Modi have been exceptionally generous. I was in the government when the 2015 earthquake struck, and I recall the generosity of the Indian government was really noteworthy," he said.

Wagle said special supplies had also been flown in from New Delhi following floods and that India had indicated it would provide "very generous assistance for reconstruction."

The finance minister added, "such support has also been forthcoming from all our neighbours."

India worried about flood crisis in Nepal: Rajnath

PTI

Lucknow, Aug 29: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India too is worried about the crisis in Nepal and that relief material is being sent to the flood-ravaged country.

The death toll from flash floods in Nepal reached 669 on Saturday, while nearly 2,000 people are still missing.

Speaking to reporters in Lucknow, Singh said, "It is not only Nepal that is concerned about the crisis that has arisen there, India too is concerned. Our prime minister has said India is ready to provide whatever assistance is required. Relief material from here is being sent to the flood-ravaged country."

Bodies have been found from all the eight affected districts in Nepal as search-and-rescue operations continue on a war footing.

An ice-rock avalanche following a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border sent a torrent of water, mud and debris downstream, wiping out towns and villages, damaging crucial infrastructure and washing away hydropower stations through central Nepal on Wednesday.

Rescuers are working round the clock, braving rain in some places and digging through drying mud in others in their search for those missing.

India on Friday dispatched



a third tranche of 10 tonnes of relief supplies to Nepal, alongside an 11-member team of doctors and paramedics, as well as a reconnaissance crew to assess tunnel-rescue operations.

New Delhi had dispatched 10 tonnes of HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) materials to the neighbouring country on Wednesday, while another consignment of 37.5 tonnes of relief supplies was sent on Thursday.

"A third flight carrying 10 tonnes of humanitarian assistance has departed for Kathmandu. The assistance includes portable generator sets, dignity kits, food packets and water purification tablets," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

"An 11-member team of doctors, paramedics and rescue team for tunnel rescue operations is also on-board.

India continues to support Nepal's ongoing relief and rescue efforts," he said on social media.

The first tranche of relief materials was sent hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to his Nepalese counterpart, Balendra Shah, on Wednesday and assured him of all possible humanitarian assistance to deal with the situation.

"The people of India stand in solidarity with their sisters and brothers in Nepal at this difficult time," Modi had said on social media after the conversation.

"India is ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance to Nepal. Our teams are coordinating closely on rescue and relief efforts," he had said.

The relief supplies include emergency items, such as temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and medicines.

Indian tunnel rescue experts join effort to reach trapped workers in Nepal's hydropower projects

PTI

Kathmandu, Aug 29: An 11-member Indian team, comprising medical personnel and tunnel-rescue specialists, arrived in Nepal on Saturday to provide specialised technical assistance to ongoing effort to rescue workers trapped or unaccounted for inside hydropower project tunnels following devastating flash floods. The team, sent at the request of the

Nepal government, reached the Trishuli area after conducting an aerial reconnaissance of the Chilime and Langtang areas and began assessing the situation for rescue operations, according to Nepalese authorities.

An 82-member joint security team comprising Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police personnel has been working since Friday night to clear debris and reach people believed to be trapped inside a tunnel

at the Trishuli-3A Hydropower Project in Rasuwa near the Nepal-Tibet border.

Rescue efforts have been complicated by mud and debris blocking the tunnel entrance and adverse weather conditions.

Nepali security forces have so far rescued 191 workers from tunnels at various hydropower projects, according to the Nepal Army.

However, a large number of workers remain unaccounted for. More than 100 people are

believed to be trapped inside a tunnel at the under-construction Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project in Rasuwa, where rescuers have been struggling to clear mud and debris.

The flash floods swept through the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river corridors on Wednesday, killing hundreds of people and damaging roads, bridges, settlements and hydropower infrastructure. The disaster has left thousands of people missing and severely

disrupted access and communications in the affected areas. Nepal has sought foreign expertise for DNA testing, forensic work and other specialised tasks.

Kathmandu has also requested India and China to help construct 42 Bailey bridges to resume transport services in the flood-hit areas. The portable bridges are designed for fast assembly without heavy machinery or special tools.

Op Sindoor marked significant shift in India's approach towards Pak: ex-Army chief Naravane



PTI

Vadodara, Aug 29: Operation Sindoor marked a "very significant shift" in India's approach towards Pakistan as the strikes targeted not only terrorist hideouts near the border but also their supporters deep inside the neighbouring country, former Army chief General M M Naravane said on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters after attending a private event in Vadodara to promote the start-up ecosystem, he said the operation, carried out following the Pahalgam terror attack a year ago, demonstrated that those providing support to terrorists could not escape Indian action regardless of where they were located.

"Operation Sindoor, which took place after the Pahalgam attack, was a very necessary action," said Naravane, who had served as the 28th Chief of the Army Staff.

Earlier, India's military response had largely been

focused on terrorist hideouts located close to the border, he said, referring to earlier terror attacks, including in Uri and Pulwama.

"Previously, whenever such attacks occurred -- like after Uri, and Balakot strikes after Pulwama -- we were mostly targeting terrorist hideouts close to the border.

"But this time, the strikes carried out targeted their supporters and those who provide them backing, wherever they may be -- not just near the Line of Control, but deep inside Pakistan, in Muridke and Bahawalpur, from where they receive this support," said general Naravane (retd).

He said India demonstrated that those providing support to terrorism "anywhere cannot escape".

"As our Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had said, 'we will enter their territory and eliminate them', and there will be no protection for them. So, this was a very significant shift in our modus operandi," the former Army chief said.

Asked about reports that Pakistan had become more active in the Sir Creek sector and was carrying out "Operation Ababil", general Naravane (retd) said such activities happen, adding that he did not have complete information about the reported operation.

"These kinds of activities keep happening. I don't have complete information about this right now since I am retired," he said.

However, Indian armed forces remained vigilant and would take appropriate action if required, he added.

"I would like to say that whatever activity takes place, our forces always keep a close watch on it. There is nothing to panic about, and whatever action needs to be taken, appropriate action will be taken at the right time," the former Army chief said.

Asked whether Pakistan was capable of taking on India, the former general said, "In my opinion, no."

On India-China relations, general Naravane (retd) said the recent talks between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi should be viewed in the context of the long-standing boundary dispute between the two countries.

He said the meeting was the 25th round of Special Representative-level talks and was not taking place for the first time.

"This discussion that took place -- the 25th round of Special Representative-level talks between Ajit Doval from our

Sky is not the limit: Shubhanshu Shukla urges students to dream beyond boundaries



PTI

New Delhi/Ghaziabad, Aug 29: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to visit the International Space Station (ISS), on Saturday urged students to dream beyond conventional career goals and contribute to the country's transformation, saying "the sky is not the limit" for them or India.

The Ashoka Chakra awardee was speaking at Seth Anandaram Jaipuria School in Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, where he delivered the sixth Dr Rajaram Jaipuria Memorial Lecture on the theme "The Indian Century: Youth, Innovation and Nation Building -- Nai Soch, Nai Udaan."

"The sky is not the limit, not for me, not for you, and not for Bharat," Shukla told the students.

Sharing experiences from his space journey, Shukla gave students a glimpse into life beyond Earth and encouraged them to cultivate curiosity and develop a scientific understanding of the universe.

"From space, Bharat looks like 'Saare Jahan Se Achha'," he said, drawing applause from the audience.

Moving beyond space science, Shukla spoke about ambition, failure and resilience, urging students to set goals that went beyond merely securing a job.

"Do not just think, 'I want to get a job.' ...Think, 'I want to change India,'" he said.

FSSAI bans Everest Food Products, Laljee Godhoo from selling hing powder



PTI

New Delhi, Aug 29: Food regulator FSSAI on Saturday said it has prohibited Everest Food Products Pvt Ltd and Laljee Godhoo from selling hing powder, which it found to be sub-standard.

In a social media post, the Food Safety and Standards

Authority of India (FSSAI) informed that it has issued prohibition orders against Everest Food Products and Laljee Godhoo and Company as their products 'hing powder' were found to be sub-standard.

In the case of Everest, FSSAI has prohibited the sale of compounded asafoetida

(hing powder) variants with immediate effect. "The samples of Compounded Asafoetida (Hing Powder) were found to be 'Misbranded and Sub-standard' by the Food Analyst of the primary food laboratory," the regulator said. The articles were found to be in contravention of the provisions of the FSS (Food Products and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, wherein the alcohol soluble extract obtained was 0 per cent against the prescribed standard of not less than 5 per cent. "The samples of Yellow Hing Powder (Compounded Asafoetida) and Black Hing Powder (Compounded Asafoetida) were also found to be Sub-standard, with Alcoholic Extract reported at 3.29 per cent and 4.4 per cent, respectively," it added.

FIR filed against Mamata over 'violation' of Cal HC order on TMCP meeting

PTI

Kolkata, Aug 29: The Kolkata Police have registered a suo motu FIR against former West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress supreme Mamata Banerjee for alleged violation of Calcutta High Court-imposed conditions for holding a TMCP foundation day event here, a senior officer said on Saturday.

The FIR was filed on Friday at the Hastings Police Station against Banerjee as well as the organisers of the meeting of the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP), an officer said.

"The FIR has been registered for the alleged violation of the court's order.

The role of all those involved in the violation will be examined during the course of the investigation. The case was registered under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on August 28," he said.

The case was registered after examining the conditions imposed by the court for holding the TMCP meeting at Cathedral Road in central Kolkata on Friday, the officer said.

"The FIR was based on a complaint lodged by sub-inspector Apu Baidya, posted at the Hastings Police Station. It was alleged that Banerjee and the organisers entered into a criminal conspiracy and, in furtherance of it, violated the high court's order," he said.

Rescuers claw through mud as missing toll from Nepal, China flood nears 3,000



AFP

Bidur (Nepal), Aug 29: Rescuers in Nepal and China were battling on Saturday to locate thousands of people missing days after a deadly, tsunami-like wall of water and debris swept through the Himalayan region, engulfing entire villages.

Figures from both countries put the number of missing close to 3,000, with 682 bodies recovered — and reports of some dead possibly swept downstream as far away as India.

Rescue worker Kawan Koirala, from the Nepal Scout Disaster Response Team, said they were struggling in thick, leg-sucking mud.

"People want their family member's body back, either dead or alive, but we cannot find them... you can see the mud," he told AFP, exhausted after an 18-hour shift.

"It is very traumatic for me too. It is my first time seeing these types of things. Everywhere is mud. We faced flood in Nepal before, but not like this."

The US Geological Survey said the disaster on the Tibet-Nepal border on Wednesday was caused by a glacial collapse that created a torrent of debris downstream.

While the exact cause of the collapse is unclear, climate change is causing glaciers to melt worldwide, increasing the risks of such disasters.

'Nothing left'

Survivors face an agonizing wait to learn the fate of missing relatives, and the prospect of rebuilding their lives from nothing.

"All the settlements near the river were swept away," Buddhi Ram Dangol told AFP in Nepal's Nuwakot district. "There is nothing left."

At Bidur's army base, a key rescue hub in the same district, relatives crowded around lists of rescued people pasted on a wall.

"I have come here looking for my son," said Kalka Sharda, scanning the list in desperation. "He was a laborer at the hydropower plant, but I can't find his name, and the authorities are not saying anything."

In an area home to vast energy infrastructure projects, Nepal's disaster authority listed 933 hydropower workers among the missing, along with 517 foreigners, including trekkers and Hindu pilgrims to Tibet's sacred Mount Kailash.

'Enormous' trauma

The trauma of Wednesday's catastrophe has been "enormous," and as many as 93,000 people may have been affected, the Red Cross said, with the death toll expected to rise.

Nepal's reconstruction bill could run into "billions of dollars," Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said Saturday.

"The urgency is on rescue and saving lives as much as we can,"

he said, appealing for specialized assistance, including heavy-lift drones and technology to help locate people who are trapped.

He also called for forensic testing kits to identify bodies and freezer units to store them, saying bodies that have been in water could decompose at a faster rate.

"Our own health care capacity is very limited to put these bodies in a frozen state for a long time," he said.

Emergency teams worked flat-out to find survivors as widespread devastation left communities short of food and water. Fears of further flooding have compounded the search for the missing.

The deluge of ice and mud caused huge lakes, and one of these formations has become a risk of further floods.

In Tibet, where Chinese authorities are the only source of information, Beijing had paused its rescue operation at the hardest-hit area of Gyirong over the risk of renewed flooding.

On the Nepali side, soldiers were trying desperately to drill through to 100 people trapped in tunnels at multiple hydropower projects on Saturday.

The prime minister's office said teams had begun "clearing mud and debris" to open the entrance, while a specialized Indian tunnel rescue unit had arrived to help, with a Chinese team on its way.

Nepal FM expresses gratitude to int'l community for support

PTI

Kathmandu, Aug 29: Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal on Saturday expressed gratitude to the international community, including India, for the support and assistance provided following devastating flash floods that have killed more than 650 people. Khanal also rejected reports circulating in national and foreign media that Nepal rejected international assistance and support.

The minister, during his first press briefing at Singhdurbar since the disaster, said, "We have seen some false reports circulating in national and foreign media that Nepal rejected international assistance and support."

"The support and assistance are required, not just in the phase of rescue and relief, but more so in the phase of reconstruction, seeing the scale of devastation," he added.

The minister also thanked the international community for their support and assistance.

"We are deeply grateful to our friends and partners for their solidarity, goodwill and generous efforts of support at this difficult time," Khanal said.

"From India we received more than 57 tonnes of relief materials. Essential items are also being received from China, Japan, Australia and other friendly nations on Saturday," he added.

The minister said that as relief operations continue, further assessments are being made and Nepal will reach out to its neighbours and international partners for additional assistance and support.

To a question whether Nepal needs foreign assistance for search and rescue operations, he said that the government will accept specific and specialised assistance from friendly countries.

On Friday, Khanal had said, "International assistance was not rejected, but the rescue strategy was decided based on national capacity, immediate need and Nepal's unique geographical situation."

"Since deploying an external rescue team in unfamiliar terrain can add complexity to coordination and technical management and may also create unforeseen risks, rescue operations were carried out using the available national capacity," the minister had said.

PM Modi arrives in Uzbekistan on two-day official visit



PTI

Tashkent, Aug 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Uzbekistan on Saturday, where he will hold delegation-level talks with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, aiming to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

President Mirziyoyev welcomed PM Modi on arrival at the airport in Tashkent. This is PM Modi's fourth visit to Uzbekistan. "Landed in Tashkent to a warm welcome by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Grateful to him for the special gesture. This is my fourth visit to Uzbekistan, reflecting the depth and growing momentum of our bilateral relations," PM Modi posted on X after arrival.

He visited Yangi Uzbekiston Park and laid a wreath at the Independence Monument after arrival. President Mirziyoyev accompanied Modi to the monument established on the 30th anniversary of the country's independence, symbolising the ideals of freedom and goodness.

Modi is in Tashkent on the first leg of his two-nation visit that also

includes the Kyrgyz Republic, aiming to strengthen India's strategic partnerships in Central Asia and deepen the civilisational connect with the region.

During his two-day visit to Uzbekistan, Modi will discuss cooperation in trade, investment, digital connectivity, defence, and energy sectors with President Mirziyoyev.

"I look forward to my discussions with President Mirziyoyev on further deepening our cooperation in trade and investment, digital connectivity, defence, energy, and on advancing our shared visions of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Yangi Uzbekistan'," Modi said in his departure statement.

Modi said he will also visit the Shastri Memorial and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, a tribute to the close cultural and people-to-people ties that bind the two countries.

From Tashkent, the prime minister will travel to Bishkek to participate in the 26th SCO Summit, at the invitation of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Sadyr Zhaparov.

Within 48 hours of SL series, India's top players summoned for mandatory fitness test

PTI

Bengaluru, Aug 29: India's top centrally-contracted cricketers reported at Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Saturday for fitness test ahead of the fresh home season, less than 48 hours after completion of a gruelling two-Test away series against Sri Lanka. Having been at a stretch on the field for three days, it was impressive to see some of the Test team regulars marking their pre-season fitness parameters ahead of what will be a gruelling eight-month period concluding with 2027 Indian Premier League. The likes of senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal were seen sweating it out along with T20I skipper Shreyas Iyer, shortest format specialists Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson and Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad among others.

The mandatory fitness tests include 'Bronco Test', 2k run, YoYo test and some of the cricket specific drills like running between the wickets.

Chhetri 'a little jealous' as India prepare to face Brazil, Uruguay



PTI

Kolkata, Aug 29: Former India captain Sunil Chhetri admitted he feels "a little jealous" watching the current generation get an opportunity to face footballing giants Brazil and Uruguay, saying he never got a chance to play against teams of such stature during his long international career.

Chhetri, who was the face of Indian football for more than two decades before retiring from international football, said the prospect of India taking on top-ranked opposition was exciting but also made him envious as a spectator.

"I feel a little jealous as a

spectator. In my 24-26 years as a professional and nearly 20 years with the national team, I never got an opportunity like this," Chhetri told the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

With India set to come up against Brazil and Uruguay in September, Chhetri hoped the players remain fit, compete with determination and make the most of the opportunity.

The former striker also backed head coach and the coaching staff when asked about team selection and the exclusion of certain players, saying the coach was best placed to assess the team's requirements.

"The coach has to answer that. I'm just a fan now,

watching like everyone else," he said. Chhetri, who recently returned to training, also ruled out any immediate thoughts of making a comeback with a touch of humour.

"I just trained for 20 minutes. I'm around 42 now, I can barely run properly and I'm struggling," he joked.

Despite being away from the national team set-up, Chhetri said he had complete faith in the current crop of players and backed the young talent in the squad to seize their opportunities.

"This is their time. There are so many talented youngsters in the team. Everyone gets their opportunity; just like I got mine 20 years ago," he said.

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