



Art 370 abrogation fueled J&K's 'renaissance': LG Sinha in Chicago

» Says region transformed from isolation to integration » Highlights India's rise on global stage under PM Modi's leadership

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 07: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday highlighted Jammu and Kashmir's ongoing transformation and India's emergence as a global power under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the IIT (BHU) Global Alumni Meet in Chicago, Illinois, USA, the Lieutenant Governor also discussed the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence, asserting that AI will be a key driver of economic growth by integrating human potential with machine intelligence. He called for Responsible AI, stressing the importance of ethics, core values, and human oversight to ensure technology benefits society collectively.

Addressing India's broader trajectory, Sinha spoke of a "new India"—a nation stronger domestically, confident internationally, and poised to shape the future of humanity. He lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in building



India's global stature, asserting, "This is India's moment. This is India's century. The rise of a civilizational power that is confident, compassionate, and innovative."

He highlighted Jammu and Kashmir's recent progress, describing the region's journey as a "renaissance" fueled by the abrogation of Article 370. "Over the last six years, J&K has transitioned from shadows of fear

to the light of opportunity, from isolation to integration, and from despair to destiny," Sinha stated. He called this period a historic phase of development, investment, and new avenues of growth in the region.

Recalling Swami Vivekananda's iconic 1893 address in Chicago, the LG acknowledged the significant contribution of IIT (BHU) alumni and the

J&K to remain largely dry till Sep 19: MeT

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 07: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience generally dry weather over the next two weeks, with brief spells of rain or thundershowers expected at isolated and scattered places, the Meteorological Centre here said on Monday.

According to the forecast, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Union Territory will remain generally dry from September 8 to 12, with brief spells of rain or thundershowers possible at isolated places.

From September 13 to 15, brief spells of rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered places, particularly during the early morning and afternoon hours, the Met Centre said.

The weather is expected to remain generally dry again from September 16 to 19, although isolated brief spells of rain or thundershowers cannot be ruled out.

The Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting apples and paddy, along with other agricultural operations.

Meanwhile, temperatures

remained relatively moderate across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 27.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14 degrees Celsius, with the minimum temperature 1.2 degrees below normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 26.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 12.2 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 23.9 degrees Celsius and 10.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In north Kashmir, Kupwara recorded a maximum of 28.7 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 12.2 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 18.6 degrees Celsius, while the minimum settled at 8.4 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum of 32.7 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 23.2 degrees Celsius. Kathua was the warmest among the listed stations, recording a maximum of 32.9 degrees Celsius. Kathua also received the highest rainfall in the past 24 hours, recording 21.8 mm, while Jammu received 0.2 mm and Katra 0.8 mm. | [More on P6](#)

Autumn session of J&K Assembly to be packed affair

650 questions, 16-17 bills, 50 resolutions submitted

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 07: The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is shaping up to be a packed affair, with legislators submitting 650 questions, 16-17 Private Member Bills, and around 50 resolutions, sources disclosed.

Officials disclosed to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the Assembly Secretariat has received around 650 questions from MLAs. Each legislator was permitted to submit eight questions—four starred and four unstarred—for the upcoming session beginning September 21.

According to sources, MLAs from both treasury and opposition benches have submitted 16-17 Private Member Bills. While members are entitled to introduce bills, such proposals rarely pass due to time constraints, as only one or two days are reserved for Private Member Bills during a session. In contrast, government bills - | [More on P6](#)

LIGHTS, CAMERA, KASHMIR

First international film festival rolls in Srinagar

CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates 4-day event | Filmmakers, actors, cinema personalities join ceremony

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 07: The administration on Monday rolled out the red carpet for cinema as the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) formally opened in Srinagar, bringing filmmakers, actors, directors and cinema professionals together for a four-day celebration of films and culture.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the festival at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on the banks of Dal Lake here.

As per the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the opening ceremony brought together several prominent names from the film industry, including filmmakers, actors and other members of the creative fraternity, marking a significant moment for Jammu and Kashmir's association with cinema.

Earlier in the day, the festival



had a ceremonial opening at INOX Srinagar, where Chief Secretary Atal Dooloo and Director Information and Public Relations formally set the festival in motion.

The evening programme at SKICC featured musical and cultural performances, with the venue illuminated for the opening celebrations as guests

and delegates gathered for the festival.

The festival, being organised by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), is being held from September 7 to 10 under the theme "Rang-e-Cinema".

INAUGURAL EDITION FEATURES 135 FILMS FROM 41 COUNTRIES

Importantly, the inaugural edition features 135 films from 41 countries, including feature films, documentaries, shorts and regional cinema, with screenings and programmes scheduled across Srinagar, Jammu | [More on P6](#)

'For me, it's homecoming': Vidhu Vinod Chopra



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 07: Acclaimed filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra on Monday described his participation in the International Film Festival of Jammu Kashmir (IFFJK) as an emotional homecoming, recalling his childhood and education in Kashmir and urging local youngsters to believe in their talent.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines | [More on P6](#)

Omar invites global filmmakers to explore J&K's stories, culture

Says govt building world-class filmmaking ecosystem with single-window, incentives

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday invited filmmakers from across the world to look beyond Jammu and Kashmir's mountains and explore its stories, culture, artisans and musical traditions, saying the government was working to build a world-class filmmaking ecosystem in the Union Territory.

Addressing the inaugural edition of the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026, Omar, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the festival, which

has brought together filmmakers from more than 40 countries and is showcasing over 130 films, marked a new chapter in the long-standing romance between Jammu and Kashmir and the silver screen.

"To every filmmaker in this room today, I say, when you bring your camera to Jammu and Kashmir to create, do not just look for mountains. Seek out our stories, talk to our artisans, listen to our musicians, walk through our city lanes, and let our living culture infuse your narratives," Omar said.

From 'Yaahoo' to Kashmir Ki Kali Recalling | [More on P6](#)

Cultural festivals bring people together: Fatima Sana Shaikh



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 07: Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh, who played wrestler Geeta Phogat in the Bollywood biopic Dangal, on Monday said cultural festivals are important platforms that bring people together, provide opportunities to youth and promote regional cinema.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026, Fatma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), | [More on P6](#)

'IFFJK to reconnect J&K with global world of cinema'

Over 11,00 entries from 80 countries; 135 films shortlisted

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 07: Stating that the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) would help the region to reconnect with the global world of cinema, Chief Secretary Atal Dooloo on Monday said that the event will open new vistas and create opportunities for local talent in various fields of filmmaking.

According to the details



available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the festival, being held from September 7 to 10, has received more than 1,100 entries from over 80 countries. Following the screening and selection process, 135 entries, including more than 60 | [More on P6](#)

Rani Hazarika casts spell on audience

Playback singer wins applause with 'Salami Wazwaani'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 07: The back lawns of the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) came alive with music and lights on Monday evening as playback singer Rani Hazarika took the stage during the opening celebrations of the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK).

Hazarika added a distinct Kashmiri touch to the evening with her rendition of 'Salami



Wazwaani', drawing applause from the gathering of filmmakers, actors, artists and cinema enthusiasts.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), she shifted gears to popular | [More on P6](#)

I stay in touch with HM Amit Shah to discuss various J&K issues: CM Omar

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 07: Asserting that he stays in touch with Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss various issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said there is continuous communication between the J&K Government and the Centre over several matters, including restoration of statehood, business rules, reservation and the appointment of an Advocate General.

Talking to reporters here, CM Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "I stay in touch with the Home Minister. There are many issues between Jammu and



Kashmir and the Central Government that need to be discussed. Be it about statehood or business rules."

He said Jammu and Kashmir has been without an Advocate General for nearly two years. "It is almost two years since our Advocate General was appointed. He

hasn't been appointed yet," the Chief Minister said.

On the reservation issue, CM Omar said the response that had to be sent by the J&K Cabinet to the Government of India has already been prepared, but remains pending. "The reservation issue, | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir holds my favourite memories: Anil Mehta



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 07: Acclaimed cinematographer and filmmaker Anil Mehta on Monday said Kashmir holds some of his favourite memories and described the presence of filmmakers | [More on P6](#)

Festival to revive Bollywood's old association with Kmr: CM's Advisor

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 07: Chief Minister's Advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani on Monday said the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) would help revive the region's long-standing association with Bollywood while providing a platform to local filmmakers and artists.

"Bollywood has had a very old association with Jammu and Kashmir, with several films showcasing

different parts of the region and filmmakers regularly visiting the region for shooting during summer and winter," Wani said, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). "Even today, we want to rebuild that connection."

Wani said the maiden edition of the film festival provides an opportunity to showcase films made by local artists and also gives people in Jammu and Kashmir a chance | [More on P6](#)

Srinagar hosting IFFJK sends strong global message: Dr Jitendra



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 07: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Monday said Srinagar hosting the first International Film Festival of Jammu & | [More on P6](#)



Bollywood actors, producers and directors arrive in Kashmir for the first-ever IFFJK Photo: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Climate Adaptation Project Spring Shed Development Programme inaugurated in Zainapora

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Monday inaugurated the Spring Shed Development Programme for Climate Change Adaptation at Cluster Zainapora, a project funded by NABARD, aimed at rejuvenating and sustainably managing local springs and strengthening water security in the area.

The inauguration, as per an official statement, was held in the presence of Vikas Mittal, OIC NABARD J&K UT; Nasir Ahmad Lone, ADC Shopian, Bilal Ahmad, SDM Zainapora; and Zubair Wasil, DDM NABARD Shopian, besides representatives of the Village Springshed Committee, facilitating NGO VOSEEP and local residents.

The project has a total financial outlay of 87.38 lakh, comprising NABARD contribution of 81.33 lakh and community contribution of 6.05 lakh. The project will be executed by the Village



Springshed Committee, Zainapora, with VOSEEP serving as the facilitating NGO.

Under the three-year implementation programme, 12 springs will be treated, covering a total area of approximately 300 hectares in eleven villages across the Zainapora Block. The initiative is based on the core principles

implementing agencies for taking up the important initiative in Zainapora. He stressed the need for community participation and scientific management of spring sources to ensure their sustainability and availability of water for future generations.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the project will have a direct impact on livelihood security in the cluster. With rejuvenation of springs and improved moisture regime, irrigation facilities will be augmented, ensuring assured water for agriculture even during lean periods. This will enable diversification of crops, promotion of high-value and climate-resilient crops and increase in cropping intensity, thereby enhancing farm incomes.

He further added that the project will ensure sustainable drinking water availability for local habitations, reduce drudgery of women, and create livelihood opportunities through watershed works, nursery raising and afforestation. The works will be

converged with VB-G RAM G and other schemes of Agriculture, Horticulture and Rural Development departments for asset creation and income generation.

He emphasized on public ownership and Jan Bhagidari to take the project ahead, so that the created assets are protected and maintained by the community itself for long-term sustainability and climate adaptability of the agrarian economy of Zainapora.

He called upon the concerned stakeholders and local communities to ensure effective implementation of the project and protection of the treated areas so that the intended benefits reach the people in a sustainable manner. The project, sanctioned on 05 August 2026, is expected to make a significant contribution towards spring conservation, water security, ecological restoration and climate change adaptation in the Zainapora area.

Among others, LDM, officers and officials of allied departments, besides a large number of farmers, were present on the occasion.

JK SAMADHAN Grievances: ADC Anantnag reviews progress

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 07: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, Monday chaired a review meeting at DC Office to assess the progress of grievances and complaints received through the JK SAMADHAN Portal.

During the meeting, the ADC, as per an official statement, reviewed the status of pending grievances and sought detailed feedback from officers on the action taken on complaints registered through the portal. Special focus was laid on quality grievance redressal and citizen satisfaction besides resolution of complaints pending for more than 28 days and above 60 days. The public must get the benefits of responsive governance which focuses on expeditious and quality grievance redressal, he remarked.

Ahlawat directed



all concerned officers to furnish updated status reports and ensure timely disposal of pending grievances. He stressed the need for prompt, effective and citizen-centric grievance redressal, directing departments to resolve complaints within the stipulated timelines. He further emphasized that JK SAMADHAN serves as an important mechanism

for strengthening citizen-centric governance and ensuring that public grievances are addressed efficiently and transparently.

The meeting was attended by SE Hydraulics, SDM Pahalgam, CMO, CAO, CAHO, CHO, DySP HQ, ARTO, Tehsildars, AD Tourism, Exens of various engineering wings, DYSSO, Tehsildars and officials from various concerned departments.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of Khelo India Scheme

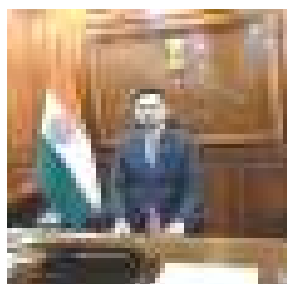
KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Monday chaired a meeting to review the implementation and monitoring of the Khelo India Scheme for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31 in the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Viqar Ahmed Giri, Chief Planning Officer Malik Suheel, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Assistant Commissioner Development Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, besides officers from the Department of Youth Services & Sports and other concerned departments.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on various aspects concerning the roll-out of the Scheme in the district, including identification of eligible institutions, development of sports infrastructure and effective convergence among the concerned departments.

The Deputy Commissioner informed the participants that the Government of India has approved the Khelo India Scheme for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31 with the objective of establishing an integrated grassroots-to-elite talent development pathway for nurturing sporting talent across the country.



The meeting also discussed the proposed upgradation of eligible schools into Khelo India Excellence Schools, Khelo India Feeder Schools and Khelo India Centres. The participants deliberated on the scope for identifying gaps in sports infrastructure at the district level and proposing them for funding under the Scheme, subject to the issuance of operational guidelines by the Ministry.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of existing sports infrastructure and identify eligible institutions with potential for inclusion under the Scheme. He called for timely preparation of proposals for their submission through the appropriate UT-level channel.

Shahzad Alam stressed the importance of coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme and to create enhanced opportunities

Participation in sports inculcates discipline, teamwork, leadership, confidence, perseverance: DC Kathua



KT News Desk

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Monday inaugurated the Inter-District Division Level Kho-Kho Tournament (All Age Group Girls)-2026, organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K UT, at Trikuta Palace, Dayala Chack, here Monday.

Under-17 Kho-Kho teams from various districts of Jammu Division, including Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Doda, Jammu, Kishtwar, Kathua, Poonch and Ramban, participated in the tournament along with Physical Education Teachers and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, appreciated the initiative of the Department

of Youth Services and Sports and said that such sporting events provide valuable exposure to young athletes besides providing them a platform to nurture and showcase their sporting talent. He said that participation in sports inculcates qualities such as discipline, teamwork, leadership, confidence and perseverance. It also teaches players to respect others, follow rules and accept both victory and defeat gracefully. Sports further contribute to physical fitness, mental strength, decision-making skills and a positive attitude, helping young players grow into responsible, confident and successful individuals.

Earlier, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Sunil Kumar welcomed the Chief Guest, other guests, participating players and their accompanying teachers.

Directorate of Colleges releases JK_SIGMA application for students of J&K colleges

Application allows a student to receive official bulletins from Department as well as from his or her own college

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 07: Director Colleges, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Monday released JK_SIGMA, the mobile application of the Students Integrated Grievance and Messaging Application (SIGMA), developed in-house.

The release, as per an official statement, extends to smartphones a platform that has, since June 2025, been serving students of Government Degree Colleges across the Union Territory through the Directorate of Colleges website.

SIGMA was launched by the Higher Education Department in June 2025 as part of a set of ICT initiatives centred on the Directorate's policy planning and development portal, www.directorcollegesjk.in. This initiative was necessitated for Higher Education towards student empowerment by giving them a confidential and dependable channel to raise concerns that remain unresolved at the college level, and ensuring that official information reaches every student directly. Since its launch, a substantial number of grievances have been received and resolved on the platform, where around 1.6 Lakh students across 142 colleges are presently registered on the platform.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Colleges said that the move to a mobile application removes the last barrier between a student and the department. The application is available free of charge on the Google Play Store

and can be accessed by visiting <https://directorcollegesjk.in/sigma/app>.

The application allows a student to receive official bulletins from the Department as well as from his or her own college, to submit a grievance and follow its progress through to resolution, and to rate the quality of the response received—a feedback loop that allows the Directorate to monitor institutional responsiveness rather than merely count complaints. Bulletins remain available on the device even without an active internet connection.

On the administrative side, the application provides role-based access to college and Directorate functionalities, with statistical dashboards and alerts flagging grievances that have remained pending beyond the prescribed period. Access is restricted to students already enrolled on the SIGMA Portal, and the identity of a student raising a grievance is not disclosed to the college except with the student's consent.

These initiatives underscore the Higher Education Department's commitment to a responsive, transparent and student-centric system, in furtherance of its overarching goal of Academic Excellence.

Colleges have been directed to verify student records on the Directorate Portal, conduct awareness campaigns, and ensure that grievances received through the platform are addressed within two days.

US tourists hail Kashmir's safety, hospitality

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 07: Kashmir's tourism sector is showing signs of revival, with foreign tourists returning to the Valley alongside local and domestic visitors following the Pahalgam attack.

The tourists spoke during their visit to Wular Lake, located between Bandipora and Sopore in north Kashmir. They praised the region's natural beauty, hospitality, food and tourism infrastructure, while also recommending Kashmir to international travellers.

Dan Richardson from West Virginia, USA, who was visiting the Valley for the first time, said he found the experience highly enjoyable, praising both the country and its people.

"I'm going to recommend Kashmir to international people highly," Richardson said. He praised the tourism infrastructure and hospitality, saying the people were among



the most appealing aspects of his visit.

"Tourism infrastructure and hospitality are awesome, and people too are very comfortable. That's what is most lovable," he said.

Richardson said he did not face any concerns during his visit. "I didn't find any concern here, especially when I'm in a group, and I felt it safe all over as people are protective," he said.

Tina Thuermer, also from Virginia, USA, said she has been visiting India for the past eight years and first visited Kashmir when she was 10 years old.

Describing her experience, Thuermer praised the people and food of Kashmir and said she would continue recommending the Valley to others.

"Wonderful people, wonderful food and I'm going to recommend it as usual," she told KNO.

Thuermer said she particularly enjoyed

observing everyday life on the streets and interacting with the surroundings. "What's most beautiful is everybody's life on the streets and everything can be viewed, which is lovely," she said.

The tourist said she had never been concerned about travelling to India or Kashmir and said she planned to return soon.

"I'm going to return here soon," she said.

Thuermer urged tourists to look beyond the Valley's most popular destinations, saying places such as Wular Lake are also worth visiting.

"Not only Gulmarg or Pahalgam, but other places like Wular and others are worth visiting," she said.

For the tourism sector, the return of international visitors alongside domestic and local tourists offers a positive sign as Kashmir seeks to regain its position as a major travel destination—(KNO)

UNICEF delegation calls on CM Omar

Discusses strengthening collaboration in child-focused development



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday met a delegation of UNICEF India, representatives of the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India (ADTOI), Business Network International (BNI) Jammu Kashmir and the organising team of TEDx NIT Srinagar here at Raabita.

The UNICEF delegation comprising Deputy Representative, Programme, UNICEF India, Jesper Moller; Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF India Country Office, Sharmila Ray; and Child Protection Specialist and J&K Outpost Coordinator, Hilal Ahmad Bhat, called on the Chief Minister to discuss

strengthening collaboration between UNICEF and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir in child-focused development.

The discussions focused on child protection, prevention of violence and exploitation, juvenile justice and family-based care, adolescent welfare and strengthening service-delivery systems for vulnerable children. Opportunities for expanding UNICEF-supported programmes across Jammu & Kashmir were also discussed.

A delegation of the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India (ADTOI), led by its Chairman, J&K Chapter, Mir Anwar, also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of the

organisation's tourism initiatives, including the proposed pan-India "Train to Valley" FAM Tour scheduled to be held from September 25 to 28, 2026.

A delegation of Business Network International (BNI) Jammu Kashmir, led by Executive Directors CA Raghav Gupta and CA Dimpi Gupta, also called on the Chief Minister to discuss various initiatives being taken by BNI.

Meanwhile, a delegation associated with TEDx NIT Srinagar 2026, comprising Coordinator In-charge, NIT Srinagar, Umar Majid, also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of the upcoming TEDx event scheduled to be held this month in Srinagar.

MBBS, BDS interns begin 48-hour hunger strike



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 07: The agitation by MBBS and BDS intern doctors across Jammu and Kashmir intensified on Monday as protesting interns launched a 48-hour hunger strike, reiterating their demand for an enhancement in the monthly stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000.

The interns, who have been on strike for over a week, said the hunger strike was initiated after repeated rounds of discussions with the government failed to yield a formal written order on the proposed stipend enhancement.

The protesting doctors said the agitation was completely apolitical, asserting that they were neither affiliated with nor acting at the behest of any political party. They said their sole objective was to secure a

fair and long-pending revision of the stipend, citing extended working hours, emergency duties, workload and increasing living expenses.

"We are not against anyone, and this protest has nothing to do with politics. Our only demand is a written government order regarding the stipend hike," an intern representative said.

The interns have sought issuance of a formal and prospective government order by September 15, saying that verbal assurances are no longer sufficient after the issue has remained pending for several years.

One of the protesting interns, Dr Faraz, said the interns had already waited for a considerable period for the government to act on the matter. "Our strike is indefinite. It will not stop until we receive an official order. More than a week has passed

since the strike began, and if the government takes an issue seriously, it should not take this long to issue an order," he said.

Dr Faraz said two to three interns from each participating college had volunteered to sit on the hunger strike as a means of mounting sustained but peaceful pressure on the authorities.

"The recommendation was made in 2023. Even if we assume that the government started taking the matter seriously only after the strike began, several days have passed, and there is still no order," he said, adding that assurances of resolving the matter in another month or two were unlikely to satisfy the protesting interns.

The interns also alleged that some college administrations had attempted to intimidate or pressure them against continuing their agitation.

They maintained that they would not be deterred from pursuing what they described as their legitimate demand.

Another intern, Dr Musharaf, said that although negotiations with the government had not completely failed, a final solution was yet to emerge.

"Our subsequent dialogue will continue moving forward, so we will not say that it has entirely failed," he said, adding that the interns had decided to undertake a 48-hour hunger strike for now and would decide their subsequent course of action depending on developments.

The interns appealed to political parties and other stakeholders to refrain from politicising their agitation. They urged the government to avoid any pressure tactics and instead engage with the representatives through constructive dialogue.

The interns said they remained open to negotiations and hoped the issue could be resolved amicably through the issuance of a written executive order.

Health activist and AIMS President J&K Dr Mohammad Momin Khan urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to personally intervene in the matter and facilitate an early resolution, amid the intensification of the protest—(KNO)

Kerala media delegation begins 7-day J&K tour

PIB

Srinagar, Sep 07: A 13-member media delegation from Kerala has embarked on a seven-day press tour to Jammu and Kashmir from September 6 to 12, 2026.

The tour is being organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Kochi, with the objective of providing journalists from Kerala an opportunity to gain first-hand insights into the developmental initiatives, infrastructure projects and achievements in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the first day of the tour, the delegation visited the Press Information Bureau office in Srinagar. Quazi Salman, Director, PIB Srinagar, welcomed the members of the delegation and provided an overview of the media and communication landscape in Kashmir.

He also interacted with the visiting journalists and shared insights into the functioning of PIB in the region.

Later in the day, the delegation visited Gulmarg, the picturesque hill station located in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, and experienced the region's rich natural landscape and scenic beauty.

During the week-long tour, the media delegation will visit various developmental projects and important locations across the Union Territory.

The press tour aims to familiarise the participating journalists with the developmental transformation taking place in Jammu and Kashmir and provide them an opportunity to interact with the stakeholders.

The press tour is part of PIB's efforts to facilitate wider awareness and informed reporting on significant developmental initiatives being undertaken across different regions of the country.

PCOS, PCOD top infertility causes in Kashmir

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 07: As fertility rates continue to decline in Jammu and Kashmir, doctors and health experts have raised concern over a growing burden of infertility, with conditions such as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and Polycystic Ovary Disease (PCOD) increasingly being reported among women of reproductive age.

Health experts say the changing social and lifestyle patterns of the younger generation are contributing to reproductive health problems. Delayed marriages, increasing obesity, sedentary routines, unhealthy dietary habits, stress, inadequate sleep and limited awareness about reproductive health and contraception are being identified as some of the factors that may adversely affect fertility.

Dr Rakshanda Akhter, a gynaecologist at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), said infertility is influenced by several biological as well as social factors, with delayed marriage being one of the important concerns.

"Late marriage has become



one of the common factors we encounter. Female fertility naturally declines with advancing age, particularly as ovarian reserve and egg quality decrease. Many women are now entering marriage in their late 30s or even after that, which can have implications for their reproductive potential," she said.

She attributed the trend towards delayed marriages

to several socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, prolonged pursuit of government jobs, financial pressures, expensive wedding arrangements and social expectations.

Dr Akhter said PCOS is among the common hormonal disorders affecting women of reproductive age and can significantly interfere with conception when

ovulation becomes irregular or absent.

"PCOS is increasingly being seen among women of reproductive age. Obesity, sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy food habits, stress and metabolic problems can aggravate the condition. Since PCOS can result in irregular or absent ovulation, it can make conception difficult," she said.

PCOS is a hormonal and metabolic disorder in which women may experience irregular menstrual cycles, excess androgen levels and problems with ovulation. Not every woman with PCOS is infertile, doctors point out, but the condition can reduce fertility because of irregular ovulation. With appropriate treatment and lifestyle modification, many women with PCOS are able to conceive.

Doctors say insulin resistance, excess weight, hormonal imbalance, genetic predisposition, physical inactivity, unhealthy dietary patterns, stress and inadequate sleep can all contribute to the development or worsening of PCOS.

Dr Akhter stressed the need for greater awareness about reproductive health and urged young people to adopt healthier lifestyles, including

regular physical activity, balanced diets and weight management.

Another gynaecologist, Dr Shagufta from DHSK said that infertility cannot be attributed to PCOS alone and that infections and complications arising from unsafe reproductive-health practices can also have serious consequences.

She said pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), particularly when associated with untreated sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea, can damage the reproductive organs and affect fertility.

"Pelvic infections, if left untreated, can cause damage to the reproductive tract and may subsequently result in infertility. Unsafe abortions and procedures carried out at unregistered facilities or by untrained persons can also lead to severe complications," she said.

Dr Shagufta said severe infections following unsafe abortions can cause damage to the uterus and fallopian tubes, potentially affecting a woman's ability to conceive in the future.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Dr Twinkle Suri is new Director Colleges, J&K

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 07: The government on Monday appointed Dr Twinkle Suri as Director Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir for a period of two years.

The government in an order said that the appointment was made on the recommendation by the selection committee and as per approval of the competent authority.

"As recommended by the selection committee and as per approval of the Competent Authority, Dr Twinkle Suri, (Principal) Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Jammu is hereby transferred and posted as Director Colleges, J&K with immediate effect relieving Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Professor, Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, IUST from the additional charge of the post," it reads.

Stating the terms and conditions, the government said that the term of Director Colleges shall be for a period of two years extendable by one year, subject to the satisfactory performance and the work and conduct of the department may conduct a fresh selection for the said post.

"The administrative department shall reserve the right to terminate the term of director colleges, prior to the completion of the tenure, in case, the

performance or work and conduct of the incumbent is not satisfactory, after according an opportunity of being heard," reads the order.

Pertinently, Dr Twinkle in the year 2025 was appointed as Dean, Academic Affairs for Cluster University of Jammu for a period of one year.

She has an enriching teaching and administrative experience of 31 years. She has served as Founding Dean Students Welfare and Head of Department, English, Cluster University of Jammu for 7 years and has served as Principal, Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba for more than 2 years.

Dr Twinkle has also served as Deputy Director, Academics at the J&K Board of School Education.

An Eng. Hons Graduate from Sophia College, Ajmer Dr Twinkle is one of the first scholars to research on Black Women's Writing with special focus on African women.

Her book entitled 'A Room of Their Own: Women's Voices in Africa' has been appreciated in literary circle at international level.

Dr Twinkle is currently working on a comparative study of the 'Afro-Indian Women's Writing' and also on a few case studies depicting the fearless stories of 'Women Crusaders in Conflict Zone'—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

India’s Firm Stance On Territorial Integrity

India's recent assertion before the United Nations that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh must be depicted in accordance with the country's official map reaffirms the nation's unwavering commitment to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. New Delhi sent a clear message that any inaccurate or misleading depiction of India's territory is unacceptable. The resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly, titled "Correct the Map: Rebalancing

Global Cartographic Representation," was intended to promote equal-area map projections. India voted in favour of the resolution while making it unequivocally clear that this endorsement does not legitimise any specific map that misrepresents its borders. This was a masterful diplomatic move—supporting the broader cartographic principle while safeguarding national interests. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal's

statement that India's position on sovereignty and territorial integrity is "clear, consistent and non-negotiable" reflects a mature and confident foreign policy. It reminds the international community that India's territorial boundaries are not subject to reinterpretation or negotiation by any external body, including the United Nations. The timing of this assertion is significant. The resolution was adopted on September 4, and India's swift clarification

underscores its vigilance in protecting its territorial claims. By emphasising that the resolution neither adopts nor authenticates any particular world map, India has preemptively neutralised any potential attempts to misrepresent its borders under the guise of cartographic reform. This is about the principle of national sovereignty. India's stance sends a strong message to those who seek to challenge its territorial integrity. It also reassures

the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh that the nation stands firmly behind them. In an era where international bodies sometimes overstep their mandates, India's firm and principled stance is commendable. It reinforces the belief that while India is committed to global cooperation, it will never compromise on matters of national pride and territorial integrity. This is the hallmark of a confident and self-respecting nation.

Vibrant Villages Programme

Strengthening India's Frontiers Through Inclusive Development

The Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) has redefined the role of India's border villages. They are no longer remote outposts. They are now strategic partners in national security and development. The programme is implemented through VVP-I and VVP-II, with a combined outlay of Rs 11,639 crore. It is expanding road connectivity, electricity, telecommunications, healthcare, education and livelihood opportunities across villages along India's international land borders. VVP seeks to build vibrant, resilient and prosperous border communities. It improves quality of life and creates sustainable economic opportunities. In doing so, it strengthens India's border security by sustaining thriving communities along its frontiers.

Press Information Bureau

Why the Border Village Matters
India shares over 15,000 kilometres (km) of international land border with seven neighbouring countries. The longest stretch runs 4,096.7 km along the border with Bangladesh. China follows at 3,488 km and Pakistan at 3,323 km. Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan and Afghanistan account for the remainder.

For decades, many border villages remained isolated by difficult terrain, weak connectivity, limited infrastructure and few livelihood opportunities. These challenges triggered out-migration, leaving several frontier areas sparsely populated. To address these longstanding issues, the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) was launched in 2023. It seeks to accelerate the comprehensive development of selected villages along India's borders. Recognising border residents as the eyes and ears of the border guiding forces, it aims to build vibrant, secure and prosperous frontier communities. The programme also marks a shift in perspective by treating these settlements not as the nation's last villages, but as its first.

Starting with northern border villages, the Government has expanded the programme across the entire land frontier in phases. Empowered border communities form the foundation of a secure and strong Viksit Bharat@2047.

Did You Know? The first warning of the 1999 Kargil intrusion did not come from a radar or a patrol. On 3 May 1999, local residents were the first to report suspicious movement in the Kargil sector. This underscores the importance of border communities as the first line of defence for the nation.

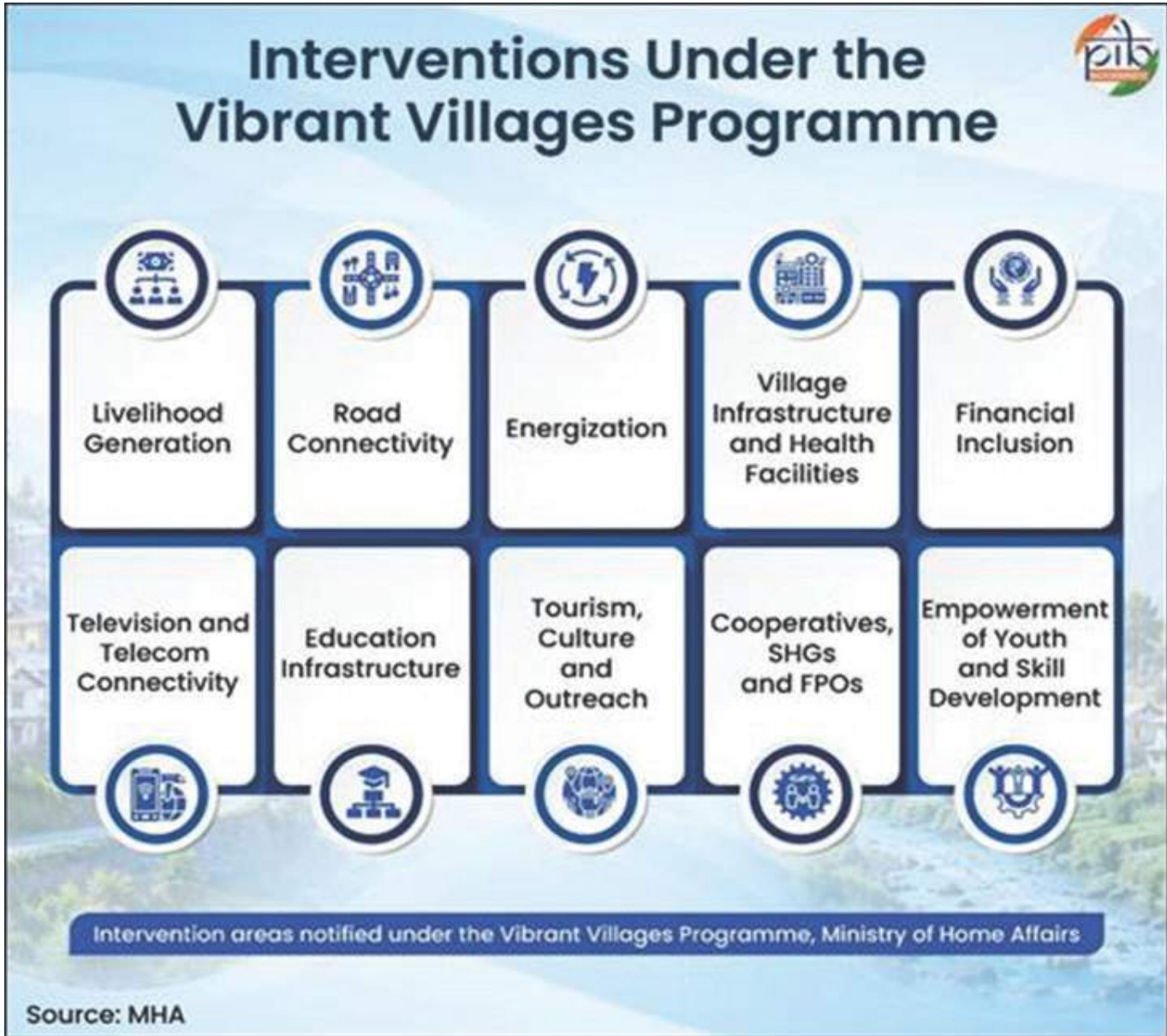
Two Phases, One Frontier Mission
The Government is implementing the Vibrant Villages Programme in two phases that together cover India's entire international land border. VVP-I covers villages along the northern border. VVP-II extends the same approach to the other international land borders. Together, the two phases aim to cover more than 2616 villages with a combined outlay of Rs. 11,639 crore.

The two phases differ in design but share a single purpose. VVP-I is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented with the States, while VVP-II is a Central Sector Scheme funded fully by the Centre. Both phases of the initiative aim to improve living conditions, generate local livelihoods and empower border communities. They work to strengthen the nation's border security by developing "first villages" as vibrant centres of growth.

VVP-I: Strengthening Northern Border Communities

The first phase of the VVP was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 for villages along the northern border. It was launched at Kibithoo in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh on 10 April 2023. The villages in 46 blocks abutting northern border in 4 States and 1 UT in 19 Districts were identified out of which 662 strategic villages were taken on priority for comprehensive development covering a population of about 1.42 lakh. These are Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and the Union Territory of Ladakh. The scheme was approved with an outlay of Rs 4,800 crore. This covers the financial years 2022-23 to 2026-27. Out of this amount, Rs 2,500 crore was earmarked for road connectivity. The programme aims to bridge the development gap in remote border villages. It strives to provide quality infrastructure and essential services to them comparable to those available elsewhere in the country.

Did You Know? Kibithoo was chosen to launch the VVP due to its strategic location, history and development needs. Located in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district, it is among India's easternmost inhabited



villages. The area witnessed fierce fighting during the 1962 India-China War. Remote terrain, sparse connectivity and out-migration have long constrained development. Launching the Programme from Kibithoo reflected the Government's vision of bringing development first to the nation's frontier.

Key interventions under VVP-I
The programme supports all-weather roads, drinking water, reliable electricity, mobile and internet connectivity, and essential healthcare and education infrastructure. It also promotes tourism facilities and multi-purpose community centres to improve livelihoods and the overall quality of life. Livelihood support is organised on a hub-and-spoke model. It encourages social entrepreneurship, the empowerment of youth and women, the promotion of tourism and local culture, and one-block-one-product enterprises. By creating convergence, VVP-I established the delivery model that the second phase now carries to the rest of the land border.

Did You Know? India has been supporting border villages for nearly four decades. The Border Area Development Programme (BADP) was launched in 1986-87 along the western border. It was later expanded to cover villages within 10 km from the first habitation from international border. It covered 111 districts across 16 States and 2 Union Territories, and sanctioned over 39,000 development works since 2004-05. The programme is now in its sunset phase. Building on this foundation, VVP focuses on selected border villages. It ensures they receive every applicable government scheme, helping people stay in their villages and strengthen border security.

VVP-II: Extending the Model to All Land Borders
The Union Cabinet approved VVP-II on

2nd April, 2025. Unlike the first phase, VVP-II is funded entirely by the Centre and implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It was formally launched on 20th February, 2026 at Nathanpur village in Cachar district of Assam. The scheme carries an outlay of Rs. 6,839 crores till financial year 2028-29.

It has identified 1,954 villages for comprehensive development in 334 blocks abutting the international land borders. These blocks lie in 15 States and 2 Union Territories. The States/UTs are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir (UT) and Ladakh (UT). Blocks on the northern border, already covered under VVP-I have been excluded to avoid duplication of efforts.

Interventions under VVP-II
The Government of India approved a comprehensive package under VVP-II to strengthen border villages. The scheme supports infrastructure, value chains through cooperatives and self-help groups (SHGs), SMART classrooms, tourism circuits and sustainable livelihoods. It also promotes road connectivity, healthcare, financial inclusion, skill development, and telecom connectivity. The objective is to improve living conditions, generate livelihoods and encourage people to stay in border villages. It extends the Vibrant Villages Programme to India's entire land border under a unified development framework.

Did You Know? VVP-II seeks to build prosperous and secure border areas. It places special emphasis on preventing and controlling trans-border crime through stronger border communities.

Delivering Development Through Scheme Convergence

The VVP implementation is guided by Village Action Plans. This is to be achieved through border-specific, State-specific and village-specific interventions based on local needs. The programme follows a convergence-based approach, ensuring saturation of schemes under existing norms. All-weather roads are being developed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-IV of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Since the border villages face unique challenges, a High-Powered Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary may recommend relaxations in scheme guidelines to address them. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry. It works closely with State Governments, district administrations and border guarding forces for coordinated planning and implementation.

Impact on the Ground
Since its launch, Vibrant Villages Programme-I has laid the foundation for inclusive and sustainable development in northern border villages.

As of July, 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs has sanctioned 1,248 projects with an outlay of Rs. 3,020.32 crore. A further 1,655 projects have been sanctioned by Central Ministries and Departments under convergence. An amount of Rs. 953.47 crore has been released to the States and the Union Territories, while 283 projects have been reported completed by them. A state/UT wise table for the sanctioned projects is given below.

Projects sanctioned by MHA and State or Union Territory
Arunachal Pradesh (832)
Himachal Pradesh (98)
Ladakh (UT) (79)
Sikkim (87)
Uttarakhand (152)
Total (1,248)

Connectivity: roads and long span bridges
In all, 111 road projects with an outlay of Rs. 2,481.93 crore have been sanctioned. These roads will connect 134 villages that had no road access earlier. A total of 35 long span bridges were also sanctioned under these projects. Better roads are expected to ease travel, widen local markets and support tourism in these villages.

Tourism as a new source of income
Tourism has become one of the most visible components of the programme on the ground. Under VVP-I, 327 tourism projects with an outlay of Rs. 145 crores have been approved. These include viewpoints, adventure tourism, eco-tourism, eco-resorts, trek routes and tourist centres.

Outreach and service delivery
More than 8,800 activities were held up to 31st July, 2026. These include awareness drives, service delivery camps, health and veterinary camps, and skill training. Arunachal Pradesh recorded 2,990 activities, and Ladakh recorded 2,221 activities. Uttarakhand held 2,038, Himachal Pradesh 1,037 and Sikkim 530 activities.

Did You Know? The Viksit Vibrant Village Programme transforms border villages into living classrooms for India's youth. In 2026, over 400 volunteers from every State and Union Territory spent a week in 74 border villages across Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. They engaged in community service, cultural exchange and grass-roots development.

VVP: Impact Beyond Infrastructure
The impact of the Vibrant Villages Programme extends beyond infrastructure to strengthen security, livelihoods, governance and community resilience.

Security: A populated and confident border belt supports the work of the border-guarding forces. Both phases seek to create a strong frontier population acting as a strategic asset to the nation.

Demography & Reverse Migration: Livelihood opportunities and improved connectivity give families reason to remain in the border villages. In Arunachal Pradesh, people of border villages of Kurung Kumey, Dibang Valley and Shi-Yomi districts are returning to their villages. This signifies the impact of the programme.

Economy: Border tourism, cooperatives, SHGs and Farmer Producer Organisations are creating a local income base in areas where economic opportunity was previously limited. Local procurement by the border guarding forces adds an assured market within the village itself.

Governance: The saturation approach brings every eligible household in these villages within the reach of existing Central and State schemes. Village Action Plans give the district administration a single instrument for sequencing that work across several departments.

Collectively, these four strands describe a single idea: that development and security are not competing claims on the frontier but reinforce one another.

Did You Know? In Arunachal Pradesh, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) procures milk, vegetables, eggs and grains directly from vibrant villages. A border post thereby becomes a dependable customer for the farms beside it.

Towards a Connected and Self-Reliant Frontier

The Vibrant Villages Programme is a promise that India's frontier communities will share fully in the nation's progress. Better infrastructure, sustainable livelihoods and convergence of government schemes are creating opportunities closer to home. At the same time, border tourism and local enterprise are unlocking the region's potential. As these villages become more vibrant, prosperous and self-reliant, they will continue to strengthen India's borders and advance the vision of a secure, inclusive and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

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

SKUAST-K, Bio-Enzyme Academy join hands to turn Waste into Wealth in J&K

Week-long training will cover bio-enzyme preparation, quality control, packaging, branding, business planning, marketing

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 07: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) has joined hands with the Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurs Academy of India, Bengaluru, to promote bio-enzyme entrepreneurship as a waste-to-wealth opportunity and create avenues for self-employment among students, farmers and rural entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

A one-week Certificate Course, as per an official statement, on "Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurship" was inaugurated Monday at the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat, Shalimar Main Campus. Organised by the SKUAST-K Innovation and Incubation Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIE) in collaboration with the Academy, the programme focuses on hands-on training in bio-enzyme production, value addition and marketing, with an emphasis on developing sustainable micro-enterprises.

The inaugural function was attended by senior officers and faculty members of the University, along with



academicians, scientists, entrepreneurs and trainee participants. Guests of Honour included Priti Rao, President, Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurs Academy of India; Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension; Prof. M. Altaf Bhat, Director Education; Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar; Er. Ab Rashid Bhat; Mahendra Pyati, and B.C. Kiran.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor appreciated SKIIE for introducing the innovative programme and stressed the potential of converting agricultural and kitchen waste

into value-added, eco-friendly products. He said such initiatives align with the University's mandate of translating research and knowledge into entrepreneurship and self-reliance, and encouraged participants to use the training to establish enterprises and contribute to the green economy.

Priti Rao highlighted the national scope of bio-enzyme-based enterprises and apprised participants of the technical and market support available through the Academy.

During the event, the University and the Bio-Enzyme

Entrepreneurs Academy of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in the field. A booklet titled "A Genuine Startup Dosage: Hazrat Sheikh ul Alam (RA) Entrepreneurship Model," authored by Naveed Hamid, CEO, SKIIE Centre, was also launched.

The event further witnessed the launch of startup products of M/s XYVA Naturals Pvt. Ltd. and the SKUAST-K SAFART Passport, conceptualised by Naveed Hamid and developed by Muaoim, B.Tech Biotechnology student.

Strengthen connectivity in remote areas: DC Ramban Reviews Telecom Services scenario

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee to review the overall telecom services and signal coverage scenario in the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, focused on strengthening reliable and uninterrupted telecom connectivity, particularly in remote and uncovered areas, along the National Highway-44 and at other strategically important locations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Dy. SP Police Telecom Mushtaq, Tehsildars, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) and JPDCL, senior Army officers, engineers of BSNL and other concerned officers. Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, departmental officers and representatives of private telecom service providers participated virtually.

While reviewing the status of ongoing telecom infrastructure projects, the Deputy Commissioner directed BSNL



and private service providers, including Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel to expedite measures for providing reliable signal coverage in all identified shadow areas. Special emphasis was laid on improving connectivity inside tunnels along NH-44 and at other important locations identified by the district administration in coordination with Police, Army and other departments.

The DC stressed the need to strengthen telecom connectivity along the entire NH-44 stretch from Nashri to Banihal, besides vulnerable and strategically important locations across the district. He also directed telecom operators to reassess the coverage range of existing towers and explore measures to maximize their service outreach and improve network availability.

Army officers apprised the meeting of issues related to poor mobile signal coverage in certain areas. Taking note of the concerns, the Deputy Commissioner directed telecom operators to take immediate corrective measures to address the identified gaps and ensure better network connectivity. The Deputy Commissioner further instructed telecom operators to ensure adequate power backup and fuel arrangements at all telecom tower sites to maintain uninterrupted services during adverse weather conditions and natural calamities. He emphasized that robust telecom infrastructure and uninterrupted communication services are essential for effective coordination and timely response during emergencies.

DC reviews implementation of district plan, restoration works in Poonch



KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Monday chaired a meeting to review the progress of works taken up under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 and assess the status of temporary and permanent restoration works necessitated by the heavy rains and flash floods witnessed in July 2026.

The meeting, as per an official statement, reviewed the updated status of Administrative Approval and Allotment (AAA), tendering, allotment and execution of works by various departments, besides discussing the restoration of infrastructure damaged during the recent heavy rains and flash floods.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed department-wise review and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of approved works. He stressed close coordination among executing agencies and field-level functionaries to promptly resolve bottlenecks affecting

implementation.

Reviewing the restoration works, the DC directed the concerned departments to prioritize the restoration of essential public infrastructure and services. He emphasized that temporary restoration measures should be followed by permanent works wherever necessary.

The DC stressed regular field inspections and effective monitoring to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of sanctioned restoration measures, particularly in areas where public connectivity and essential services have been affected.

He directed Executive Engineers and other field officers to submit updated progress reports and complete all pending procedural requirements, including tendering and allotment, without unnecessary delay.

The Deputy Commissioner also called upon Block Development Officers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers to closely monitor works at the ground level and regularly report the actual physical and financial progress.

District Level Task Force meeting on mining held in Reasi

KT News Desk

REASI, SEPTEMBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek Monday chaired a meeting of the Multi-Departmental District Level Task Force Cell for Mining to review the implementation of directions issued under Government Order No. 1569-GAD of 2018 dated October 22, 2018 and Mining Department Notification S.O. 61 dated March 6, 2026.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by officers from the Revenue, Forest, Irrigation & Flood Control and Mining Departments, besides concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrates through Video Conferencing. The Task Force reviewed the agenda-wise Action Taken Report, with particular focus on prevention of illegal mining, regulation of minor mineral transportation, enforcement measures and protection of water resources and public infrastructure.

The enforcement performance of the Mining Department was also reviewed. During 2025-26, action was taken against 357 violators, resulting in realization of 6.41 crore, while during 2026-27, up to August 2026, 126 violators have been proceeded against and 2.68 crore realized.



The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards illegal extraction, transportation and storage of minor minerals and strengthen surveillance at vulnerable locations. He called for coordinated enforcement and regular inspections of crushers, hot mix and wet mix plants, with strict action against violations.

The meeting was informed that new Minor Mineral Blocks have been identified in the district. Measures for protection of important water sources were also reviewed, particularly Jhajar-Kotli Nallah, which supplies drinking water to Katra town and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and Anji Nallah, an important water source for Reasi town.

The status of weighbridges was reviewed, with operators directed to ensure proper

weighment and maintenance of authentic records. The Task Force reiterated strict compliance with the e-Challan and GPS-based monitoring mechanism. Fortnightly reports from Tehsil-Level Multi-Departmental Task Forces on illegal mining, transportation and storage, including inspections, seizures and penalties, were also emphasized.

The cooperation of the Police Department in intercepting illegal transportation was acknowledged, while enhanced assistance was sought at vulnerable locations, including Jhajar Kotli Nallah, Jerri, Mahore and Chassana, particularly during odd hours and joint enforcement drives. The Mining Department was directed to facilitate joint enforcement teams with necessary POS machines for on-the-spot verification and realization of applicable penalties and revenue.

Awareness programme on Eye Donation held in Doda

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 07: An awareness programme, under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) and as part of the ongoing 41st National Fortnight on Eye Donation, was organized Monday here at Government ANMT School.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma and attended by Senior Ophthalmologist, GMC, Dr. Farooq Runyal, Principal ANMT School and other staff members of CMO Office.

During the awareness programme, Dr. Farooq Runyal educated the students and staff about the importance of eye donation and encouraged people to come forward and pledge their eyes after death. He explained that eye donation is a noble act through which an individual can help restore the gift of sight to persons suffering from corneal blindness.

Speaking on the occasion,



the CMO said that eye donation is one of the noblest forms of service to humanity as it can give someone the precious gift of sight even after a person's death. He urged the students, staff and the general public to dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding eye donation and spread awareness about this noble cause.

In a significant gesture, Dr. Vinod Sharma formally announced to donate his eyes after death, setting an inspiring example for others and emphasizing that a person can continue to serve humanity even

after life.

The CMO further appealed to people to discuss eye donation with their families and motivate eligible individuals to take a pledge for this noble cause. He emphasized that collective efforts and increased public awareness can help reduce avoidable blindness and bring hope to those waiting for the gift of sight.

The participants were urged to spread awareness about eye donation among their families, friends and communities and motivate more people to come forward and take a pledge for eye donation.

Mission YUVA: Review meeting held in Baderwah

KT News Desk

BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 07: A meeting to review the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA was held Monday here in the office chamber of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baderwah.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and Joint Director Employment Jammu Paramjeet Singh jointly chaired the meeting attended by Employment Officer DECC Imtiyaz Ahmed; BHD Head, AEO Gatha, AEO Saringal, BHD Lead, BHD Coordinators, besides Branch Managers of all J&K Bank branches operating in Sub-Division Baderwah.

The meeting, as per an official statement, held detailed deliberations on the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA, with emphasis on expediting the processing and sanctioning of eligible cases, strengthening coordination between the Employment Department and banking



institutions and facilitating eligible youth in establishing sustainable self-employment ventures.

The Joint Director Employment, Jammu appreciated the performance of BHD Baderwah and acknowledged the efforts being made towards effective implementation of Mission YUVA and extending its benefits to aspiring young entrepreneurs.

The officers and bank representatives assured coordinated and time-bound efforts to ensure smooth processing of cases and timely financial support to eligible beneficiaries.

Director Agriculture Jammu reviews progress of Digital Crop Survey

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 07: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta Monday chaired a review to assess the progress, implementation and field-level issues related to Digital Crop Survey (DCS) in Jammu Division.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Sanjay Anand, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Idrees Bashir Ahmed, District Agriculture Officers, District Nodal Officers (DCS) and other officers and staff of the

Directorate.

The Director reviewed the district-wise progress, status of targets and issues being faced by the field teams. He directed the District Nodal Officers to maintain close monitoring and coordination with field surveyors for timely resolution of operational and technical issues.

It was informed that districts have been provided additional computer systems to strengthen the Digital Crop Survey operations and ensure efficient monitoring, timely data compilation and smooth implementation of the survey.

Medical camp held at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 07: A Mega Medical Camp was conducted on Monday at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Kulgam, by RBSK Team B, Medical Block Kulgam, under the directions of the Worthy Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, and the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer and Block Medical Officer, Kulgam.

The camp, as per an official statement, aimed to ensure comprehensive health screening and promote the overall health and well-being of the students. Various services, including general medical check-up, eye screening, blood investigations wherever required, provision of medicines as advised, and health and wellness counselling, were provided during the camp.

The medical team comprised Dr. Masood Mufti and Dr. Tabasum, Medical Officers (RBSK); Pharmacists Muzamil Hameed and Bilal Ahmed; Andleeb, Lab Technician; and Nasreena, FMPHW.

The dedicated efforts of RBSK Team B and the support extended by JNV Kulgam contributed significantly to making the camp a meaningful initiative towards promoting the health and well-being of the students and building a healthier future for our children.

The JNV Kulgam administration sincerely expresses its gratitude to the Worthy Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Chief Medical Officer, Block Medical Officer, RBSK Team B and the entire medical team for their valuable guidance, support and dedicated services in ensuring the health and well-being of the students.

Inter-District Division-Level Girls Chess Competition concludes in Chanderkote



KT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 07: The Inter-District Division-Level Chess Competition for Girls, organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, concluded Monday at Chanderkote with participation from young chess players from across the Jammu Division.

Around 132 girl players representing 10 districts—Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Doda, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi and Ramban—participated

in the Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories.

Kathua emerged the winner in U-14 Girls, while Jammu bagged both - U-17 and U-19 titles.

During the closing ceremony, DYSSO Nazir Hussain presented medals and trophies to the winners and runners-up and congratulated the participants for displaying talent, discipline, sportsmanship and competitive spirit. He encouraged the young players to continue their efforts and excel at higher levels.

Five-day NABL assessor training program commences in Srinagar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 07: A "Five-Day NABL Assessor Training Programme on ISO 15189:2022-Strengthening Medical Laboratory Quality Assurance in J&K," has commenced at the Srinagar as a capacity-development initiative being conducted in collaboration with the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir; State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K (SAHC-JK); and the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, a constituent Board of the Quality Council of India (NABL-QCI) under DPIIT, Government of India.

The programme forms part of the structured quality and capacity-building initiatives



under the 'Gunvatta Chakra' framework of the Quality Council of India, facilitated in the Union Territory by the State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K. The progression from 'Gunvatta Yatra' and 'Gunvatta Pathshala' to Assessor Training represents a structured continuum from awareness and capacity building to assessor development, aimed at

strengthening the medical laboratory quality assurance and accreditation ecosystem in the UT.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Sabhiya Majid, Chairperson, State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K, and Prof. (Dr.) Tanveer Ali Dar, Head, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir. Prof. (DE) Fouzia

Rashid, Professor, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir, is the Organising Secretary of the programme.

The training programme is being attended by senior and distinguished medical faculty and professionals from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as well as other parts of the country.

This initiative is being attended by clinical doctors from prestigious institutions including AIIMS, Government Medical Colleges, and other state government organizations.

The programme aims to develop a strong pool of trained assessors and resource faculty for assessment of government and private medical laboratories in accordance with applicable NABL standards.

Indian Embassy in China requests families to provide DNA samples to identify flood victims

Press Trust of India

Beijing, Sep 07: The Indian Embassy in China on Monday urged families of Indians missing since the August 26 flash flood in the Tibet-Nepal border region to provide DNA samples to help identify them.

The Indian mission made the request after Chinese authorities confirmed that they were now able to receive DNA samples from families of Indian nationals listed as missing in the disaster, an Embassy press release said.

Families willing to provide DNA information have been asked to submit the relevant data in the internationally recognised CODIS format, it said.

The Embassy will forward the data to the concerned Chinese authorities for comparison.

"The Embassy will be notified, and will in turn inform the family, should a match be confirmed", it said.

"Blood samples can be collected from the parents of the missing foreign national or the spouse and children (samples from multiple children should be collected wherever possible)," the Indian mission said.

"If the missing person has no living parents or children, kindly collect blood samples from siblings (collecting samples from all siblings is preferred)," it said.

The Indian mission said that if necessary, samples can be collected from other maternal relatives (e.g., cousins on the maternal side) and paternal relatives (e.g., cousins on the paternal side) with specified details of the relationship.

"DNA STR data for the aforementioned samples is required;

for males, Y-STR data must also be included. Data should be stored in the internationally recognised CODIS format", it said.

The embassy said that the samples should be well labelled with the nationality, name and passport number of the missing person, name and passport number of the family member and sample ID number.

"Families may contact the Embassy of India at the following for further guidance: Telephone: +86 18514284905 Email: cons1.beijing@mea.gov.in", it said.

The disaster was triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, sending a massive surge of water and debris downstream through the Bhotekoshi River and devastating settlements in northern and central Nepal.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Art 370 abrogation

Indian diaspora in global upliftment. He urged alumni to actively participate in India's civilizational and economic resurgence.

Sinha outlined a four-point roadmap for alumni engagement: investing in India's next-generation institutions through mentorship and capital, fostering strategic partnerships between Indian and American educational bodies, sharing an accurate narrative of India's transformation, and reconnecting with their roots by bringing back their wealth of knowledge and experience to India.

In his remarks, the LG paid tribute to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, highlighting his visionary contributions to engineering education and India's industrialization.

Sinha emphasized that Malaviya's ideals continue to inspire efforts to advance technology, strengthen the economy, and serve society.

The event was attended by members of the IIT (BHU) Global Alumni Association and prominent citizens from diverse fields, reaffirming the growing global engagement with India's developmental journey and Jammu and Kashmir's path of progress.

First international film

and Gulmarg. The festival also includes masterclasses, industry interactions and discussions aimed at connecting emerging filmmakers with established names from India and abroad.

Among the prominent cinema personalities associated with the festival are Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Ramesh Sippy, Imtiaz Ali and Pankaj Tripathi, besides actors including Fatima Sana Shaikh, Sadia Khateeb, Vedang Raina and others.

The festival is being projected as an effort to revive Jammu and Kashmir's longstanding connection with cinema and promote the region as a destination for filmmaking, cultural exchange and film tourism. (KNO)

'For me, it's homecoming

of IFFJK 2026, Chopra, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said Kashmir was home to him and recalled studying at SP College. "I am from Kashmir, as you know. I studied at SP College and for me, it is a homecoming," he said.

Recalling his father's reaction when he told him about studying at SP College, Chopra said, "When I told my father that I used to study at SP College, my father slapped me."

Chopra urged Kashmiris not to underestimate themselves, saying he could see immense talent in the region. "I want to tell Kashmir: don't let yourself down. I see such talent here. My request is, show the world what you can do. The film festival is a great appreciation of that talent," he said.

Describing his participation in the festival as an emotional moment, Chopra recalled his journey from Amira Kadal to where he is today in the film industry. "For me, this is an emotional moment. I travelled from Amira Kadal to where I am sitting here," he said.

Chopra said the festival could provide a major opportunity for young filmmakers and help bring films and filmmakers from across the world to Kashmir. "It is an opportunity for youngsters. I see this festival as an opportunity. So many films and filmmakers can come here," he said.

Reflecting on his own journey, Chopra said his education in Kashmir helped shape him and noted that he learnt English in school in the Valley. "There is such talent here. Please understand, I am speaking English and I learnt it in school in Kashmir. And here I am. This is an opportunity for all," he said.

Asked about his return to Kashmir through cinema, Chopra said the Valley has its own stories that deserve to be told. "I am here. I have made many films. If a festival like this happens in Kashmir, then the stories of Kashmir will be told. We have our own stories," he said.

Emphasising his personal connection with the region, Chopra said he remains deeply rooted in Kashmir. "I come from Amira Kadal. I am a Kashmiri. I know Kashmiri. There is hope," he said. (KNO)

Omar invites global

the long association between Kashmir and Bollywood, the Chief Minister said the region had played a defining role in shaping the visual imagination of generations of Indian cinema-goers. "In the golden era of Indian cinema, to

fall in love on screen meant falling in love in Kashmir," he said.

He recalled Shammi Kapoor's iconic "Yaahoo" sequence, Kashmir Ki Kali with Sharmila Tagore against Dal Lake, and films by Yash Chopra that developed a visual language around the region. "From the vivid greens of spring, the golden hues of autumn and the quiet white of winter, Kashmir could mirror the entire spectrum of human emotion," he said.

Abdullah also recalled more recent films including Mission Kashmir, Haider, Rockstar, Highway and Bajrangi Bhaijaan, saying filmmakers had increasingly used the region to tell more nuanced and complex stories instead of relying only on its scenic beauty.

'Cinema is More Than Landscapes'

Omar said the true appeal of Jammu and Kashmir could not be reduced to mountains, lakes and snow. "Because cinema is more than landscapes, cinema is culture, and the true beauty of Jammu and Kashmir lies in its soul, its culture and ethos, built on Kashmiriyat, warmth, hospitality and a rich artistic tradition," he said.

He described Jammu and Kashmir as a "land of storytellers," referring to its musical traditions, including the santoor and rabab, Sufi music, oral traditions, and traditional craftsmanship such as walnut wood carving and carpet weaving. He urged filmmakers to engage with these cultural traditions rather than treating the region simply as a scenic backdrop.

'Nostalgia Alone Cannot Build an Industry'

Moving from cinema's history to the government's plans for the future, the Chief Minister said the administration was conscious that nostalgia alone could not create a sustainable film industry.

"As an administration and as a society, we recognise that nostalgia alone cannot build an industry. To welcome the future of filmmaking, we must build a world-class ecosystem, and that is precisely what we are doing," he said.

He said the government's comprehensive film policy was aimed at transforming Jammu and Kashmir into one of the most filmmaker-friendly destinations, with a single-window mechanism to reduce bureaucratic delays, a dedicated online portal for permissions, and financial support to filmmakers based on shooting days and local expenditure.

Local Employment, Post-Production Facilities

CM Abdullah said the government wanted productions to employ local artists, technicians and crew members. "If your film features local talent or highlights the rich heritage of J&K, additional incentives are provided," he said.

He said the objective was to create a robust local workforce of cinematographers, line producers, sound engineers and actors so that filmmakers could find the necessary talent within J&K. The government was also planning investments in modern post-production facilities, equipment banks, film studios and film education institutions.

"We are building a robust local workforce of cinematographers, line producers, sound engineers and actors, so that we can arrive at the script and find everything else right here," he said.

'Festival Belongs to Young People Too'

Omar said the four-day festival was not only an opportunity for international filmmakers to showcase their work but also a platform for young people in J&K who aspire to enter cinema.

"Look at the young boys and girls in the audience. Passionate, creative, beautiful natives whose eyes are filled with dreams of writing, directing and acting. This festival belongs to them as much as it belongs to our distinguished international guests," he said.

He urged visiting filmmakers to carry the message of J&K's openness and hospitality back to their countries. "Tell your fellow filmmakers that Jammu and Kashmir is open, safe, vibrant, and eager to welcome your crews," he said.

The Chief Minister described cinema as a universal language capable of connecting people across borders. "Let us celebrate the magic of cinema. The universal language that knows no borders, requires no translation of the heart, and reminds us of our shared humanity," he said. (KNO)

Cultural festivals

said she is excited to attend the festival after a long time.

"It has been a long time since I attended a festival like this, so I am very excited. There

are so many things happening. Cultural events like this are very important because they bring people together," she said.

She said such platforms are particularly important for the youth, giving them opportunities to participate in cultural activities and showcase their talent.

"It is very important for the youth. People come from outside and they deserve these opportunities. People often look at things from the wrong perspective, but I am so proud that this is happening, that the youth are moving forward and participating in cultural activities. It makes me very happy to see people progressing," she said.

On regional cinema, Fatima said cinema can help showcase the culture, poetry and artistry of different regions. "Regional cinema is important. Through cinema, poetry, culture and artistry can be showcased. These things have existed for centuries. Spoken words, artistry and all of this are part of our heritage," she said.

Fatima also said an international film festival could open doors for international filmmakers and create more opportunities for film shoots in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It will open doors for international filmmakers. Film shootings happened here earlier and they are happening now as well. It depends. With an international festival taking place, they will also understand what can be done here and what the people are like," she said.

Asked about her Dangal co-star Zaira Wasim, Shaikh said they had not been in touch for several years, while recalling her experience of working with her.

"No, I haven't spoken to her for several years. I really enjoyed working with her. It is nice to see people find their own path," she said.

Speaking about Kashmir, Shaikh also reflected on the region's natural beauty and water. "There is water everywhere here. What is it about the water here that makes it different?" she said. (KNO)

Rani Hazarika casts

Bollywood numbers, performing 'Mahi Ve Mohabbata' and 'Zindagi Mein Koi Aaye Na Rabba', taking the audience through familiar melodies.

Her voice blended with the sounds of Kashmir and Bollywood, with the open-air venue turned into a lively musical space, with lights illuminating the lawns and guests enjoying the performances.

Pertinently, the evening featured live music and band performances, creating a relaxed and festive atmosphere as the four-day film festival got underway. Hazarika's performance brought together Kashmiri melody and Bollywood nostalgia, adding a musical warmth to the opening celebrations at SKICC. (KNO)

'IFFJK to reconnect

foreign films, have been shortlisted for screening during the festival.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the event the Chief Secretary Dulloo said Jammu & Kashmir and cinema share a "long and beautiful relationship", with the region's mountains, valleys and landscapes inspiring filmmakers for decades.

He said the festival seeks to take this relationship forward by showcasing the region's rich heritage, crafts, cuisine, music and living culture to filmmakers, artists and visitors from across the world.

"We want Jammu and Kashmir not only to inspire cinema, but also to become a place where cinema is created, celebrated and experienced," he said.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the function the Chief Secretary said the overwhelming response from filmmakers across the world reflected the growing interest in Jammu & Kashmir as a destination for cinema.

"This is an opportunity to connect, or rather reconnect, Jammu and Kashmir with the world of cinema," Dulloo said.

He invited filmmakers and the film industry from India and abroad to explore Jammu & Kashmir for film shooting, highlighting its culture, cuisine, heritage and scenic landscapes.

The Chief Secretary said the festival would also provide a platform for the talented and aspirational youth of Jammu & Kashmir to learn, grow and showcase their abilities in different fields associated with cinema.

He said opportunities would be created for local youth in photography, direction, technical

work, acting, music, lyric writing and other aspects of filmmaking.

"We hope this festival will open new doors for them and connect them with the wider world of cinema," he said.

The Chief Secretary said the administration's endeavour is to establish Jammu & Kashmir once again as a prominent and permanent destination for filmmaking and film tourism while creating greater opportunities for local talent.

"This is a win-win situation for both cinema and Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding that the administration wants to establish the connect with the film industry and take it from strength to strength year after year.

Dulloo expressed hope that the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir would become an annual event and grow into a major celebration of cinema, creativity, culture and collaboration.

He said such initiatives would help revive Jammu & Kashmir's association with the film industry and create lasting connections between the region and the global world of cinema. (KNO)

Kashmir holds

at IFFJK as "useful and important."

Addressing the gathering at the festival at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Mehta, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "I'm happy to be here. I have been here many times. My favourite memories are here. It is useful and important for filmmakers like us to be here."

Pertinently, Mehta is known for his cinematography in several acclaimed Hindi films, including Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, Lagaan, Kal Ho Naa Ho, Veer-Zaara, Rockstar and Highway. His work in Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam earned him the National Film Award for Best Cinematography.

He also directed Aaja Nachle, starring Madhuri Dixit and has been associated with several prominent films across genres.

Pertinently, the first-ever IFFJK is being held in Srinagar from September 7 to 10, has brought together filmmakers, actors and cinema professionals from across the country and abroad. (KNO)

Festival to revive

to watch renowned films from outside the region on a competitive platform.

"The festival would bring greater visibility and publicity to Jammu and Kashmir and provide an opportunity to promote the region's rich cultural and creative potential," he said.

On regional cinema, the CM's Advisor said further steps were needed to promote local talent. He said the existing film policy needed to be modified and further improved to provide greater opportunities to aspiring filmmakers and artists.

"Our effort is to ensure that the talent we have gets an opportunity to come forward, make films, showcase them to the world, earn recognition and bring glory to the name of Jammu and Kashmir," Wani said. (KNO)

Srinagar hosting

Kashmir (IFFJK) has sent a "very strong message" across the country and the world about the improved situation in the Union Territory.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the festival in Srinagar, Singh, according to the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the improved situation that has enabled Jammu and Kashmir to host an international-level film festival.

"We are grateful to PM Modi that the situation here has improved to such an extent, enabling us to organise such a programme here," he said.

The Union Minister also acknowledged the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir government, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his team in facilitating the festival.

He said the event demonstrates that cinema remains as popular in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Kashmir Valley, as it is in other parts of the country.

Singh recalled Kashmir's historic and close association with the Indian film industry, saying there was a time when film shootings were a common sight across the Valley, with streets, lanes, gardens, hotels and houseboats witnessing the presence of the film fraternity.

"I say this with particular emphasis because we have seen the time when, gradually, one

cinema hall after another began to shut down. For nearly 20 to 25 years, we were deprived of cinema," he said.

He said Kashmir has always shared a close relationship with Indian cinema and expressed hope that the revival of the industry in the region would bring new opportunities for the people, particularly the youth.

Singh said the festival would not only create avenues for income generation but also open up new opportunities for young people in Jammu and Kashmir across various fields associated with cinema.

The first IFFJK has brought together filmmakers and cinema enthusiasts from different parts of the world and is showcasing a wide range of films, marking a significant cultural event in the Valley. (KNO)

J&K to remain

according to the weather data.

The Met Centre said no major weather activity is expected during the forecast period, though brief spells of rain or thundershowers may occur at isolated or scattered places. (KNO)

Autumn session

introduced by ministers- are not fettered by time limits and usually pass in the House.

The Secretariat has also received 50 Private Member Resolutions from MLAs. As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Assembly, seven resolutions will be chosen through a draw of lots to be listed for introduction in the House. These resolutions will first be examined to determine whether they are admissible under the Rules. (KNO)

I stay in touch

which the Cabinet had to answer to the Central Government, has been prepared. But that answer has not yet been sent to the Government of India," he said.

"So, there were many issues that I met the Home Minister about," Omar added.

ON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Welcoming the first International Film Festival being organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Government, CM Omar said the event would provide exposure to international cinema as well as the local film industry. "It's a good thing. The first International Film Festival is being organised by the Government," he said.

CM Omar said the festival would expose local audiences, including film enthusiasts and students of mass communication, to films from around the world. "The first is to give exposure to the films of the world. The people here are either fans or students of mass communication. To give them this kind of exposure," he said.

He added that the festival would also help provide exposure to the local film industry and revive Kashmir's historic association with cinema. "Then our local film industry also gets exposure. We are trying to remind the film industry of the past. Before Switzerland and other countries, films were made in Kashmir," CM Omar said.

"We would like that to happen again," he added.

On reports that two women journalists were assaulted by Delhi Police, Omar termed the incident unfortunate. "What can one say? It's an unfortunate situation," he said, adding, "It's a pity. It shouldn't have come to this," he added.

ON PROTESTING INTERNS

On the issue concerning protesting interns, Omar said the matter falls under the Health Department and that the government would act after the department takes a decision. "But it is a matter of the Health Department. Until the Health Department takes a decision, no other department can do anything," he said.

CM Omar said Health Minister Sakina Itoo has spoken to them and has assured them that their issues will be resolved.

"I would like this matter to be resolved as soon as possible. It's not in anyone's interest. First of all, their work is suffering. Their internship is suffering," the Chief Minister said.

"And we don't want our children to do this. But in the end, the Health Department will have to take a decision first. After that, the Government will take a decision," he added.

On threats to migrants, the Chief Minister said the security establishment should take such threats seriously and investigate them. "This is something that obviously the security establishment needs to take seriously. It's not something that should be ignored," CM Omar said. (KNO)

US, India moving beyond cooperation in space sector: Sergio Gor



PTI

Bengaluru, Sep 7: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Monday said that the United States and India were moving beyond cooperation in the space sector towards "co-creation", with the two countries jointly designing instruments, funding startups and co-authoring the future of human discovery.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the ninth edition of the Bengaluru Space Expo (BSX), being organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with ISRO, IN-SPACE and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), from September 7 to 9 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC).

Referring to the ninth US-India Civil Space Joint Working Group recently held in Bengaluru, the US Ambassador said that those discussions affirmed that our partnership is no longer just about cooperation; it is about co-creation.

"We are no longer just sharing data; we are co-designing instruments, co-funding startups, and co-authoring the future of human discovery," he said.

Reflecting on the US-India partnership in space, he said that the United States brings world-class private capital and mature commercial ecosystems, while India brings world-class engineering, extraordinary scientific talent and a fearless

startup sector.

"The resulting partnership creates a new dream team that can and will do wonders," he said.

He noted that US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recognised this synergy when they established the TRUST initiative -- Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology.

The US envoy also said they were expanding the US Commercial Service in Bengaluru to build a direct commercial corridor between American industry and Indian innovators.

"Pick any sector, and the United States and India are working on it, and working at levels that were previously unthinkable. Whether that's our bilateral trade, which today exceeds USD 240 billion, whether that's the pharma, technology, military cooperation, or anything else, we are working hand in hand," he said.

Referring to NISAR, the joint NASA-ISRO Earth observation satellite, Gor said the mission did not build a monument to scientific theory; they built a lifesaver.

"When a devastating earthquake struck Venezuela just two months ago, NISAR's radar data penetrated dense cloud cover and dust to guide emergency responders directly to ground zero. That is an example of what great things can happen when we work together. That is joint technology saving human lives in real time," he said. He also

recalled that last year, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla flew to the International Space Station in a landmark moment for India, made possible through American partnership.

"Following the Axiom-4 mission and five joint science investigations, we are now looking at docking standards, interoperability, and astronaut training. TRUST creates capability. Capability creates ambition," Gor said.

He said India was a proud signatory of the Artemis Accords and that NASA had officially invited ISRO to join the Moon base programme.

"Make no mistake: we're going back to the Moon, and we want India by our side on the lunar surface," Gor said.

He said India's space sector reforms had ignited a commercial awakening, with startups emerging in areas, including Earth observation, space situational awareness and launch technologies.

"The Moon may be our destination, but the engine of this journey is ground-level innovation, right here in our labs, startups, and commercial markets," he said.

Pointing out at Indian space entrepreneurs, the US envoy said that the American market is open for them.

"Our investors are watching you. Our ecosystems welcome you. We are here to help you make that leap," he said.

Gor said the two countries were also working together on global space governance, including space traffic coordination for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference in Shanghai.

"Washington and Delhi are standing shoulder to shoulder to protect open, rules-based space governance against authoritarian dominance," he said.

"So from Bengaluru, let us look upwards. Let us work together to build a global space economy. Let us return to the Moon together and let us prove to the world that when free nations lead in space, the entire world looks up with hope and further aspirations," he added.

Research must drive inclusive dev, address community issues: Vice Prez at Gauhati University



PTI

Guwahati, Sep 7: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Monday urged research scholars to choose topics that address community problems and promote inclusive development, saying education should foster critical thinking and innovation rather than serve merely as a means of employment.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone of a Rs 110-crore infrastructure development project at Gauhati University on the final day of his two-day visit to Assam, he said the ranking of an institute, though important, does not tell the full story. The true measure of a

university lies in the lives it transforms, the knowledge it creates and the contribution it makes to society, the vice president said. "Universities are not just classrooms, but centres of excellence, innovation and social responsibility," he asserted.

Radhakrishnan highlighted that the majority of gold medallists in universities across the country are women. "This is a welcome development for Nari Shakti. A silent revolution has taken place, and it will go a long way in achieving the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat'."

Pointing out that Gauhati University is the oldest in the northeast, the vice president said it has emerged as a premier institution of not only the region but the

entire country.

"It stands as a testimony to perseverance and public aspiration, playing a pioneering role in various fields in this era of rapid technological development."

"Education is not just a means for employment. It should lead to critical thinking and innovation. Scholars should research topics that address the community problems and lead to inclusive development," Radhakrishnan said.

He urged students to fix their goals and strive to achieve those at their own pace, as no two individuals are the same.

The vice president also appealed to them to say no to drugs. A pledge against using drugs was also taken on the occasion. About the infrastructure development project, Radhakrishnan said it would boost the university's intellectual infrastructure.

The foundation stone laying event was attended by Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Education Minister Ranaj Pegu, University Vice Chancellor Nani Gopal Mahanta and senior officials.

The key components of the project include an academic building, a boys' hostel, a modern mess building, an international students' hostel, Krishna Kanta Handique Library-seminar hall renovation, upgrading the Birinchi Barua auditorium and construction of residential quarters for D-Grade staff.

On the occasion, Radhakrishnan also released two books -- Dr Bhupen Hazarika: 100 years of a Wandering Song, and the fifth edition of Chandrakanta Abhidhan, published by the university.

PM to visit Gujarat, Maharashtra; to launch dev projects



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate development projects and inaugurate the Global Fintech Fest during his visit to Gujarat and Maharashtra on Tuesday.

Modi will first visit Vadodara where he will lay the foundation stone, and inaugurate and dedicate to the nation various development projects. He will also address the gathering, an official statement said.

Among the projects the prime minister will dedicate to the nation include three important sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), covering 326 route km and developed at a cost of more than Rs 20,700 crore.

These include the Sanand (N)-Makarpura, New Umbergaon-New Saphale and New Saphale-JNPT sections.

The direct connectivity of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) will facilitate faster movement of EXIM cargo, strengthen connectivity between industrial centres and ports, reduce logistics costs and help decongest Mumbai's railway network.

With the commissioning of these sections, the Dedicated

Freight Corridor (DFC) network will stand fully operational across its entire length.

The prime minister will also flag off freight train services from New Sanand (North), New Makarpura, New Umbergaon and New JNPT, Mumbai.

In addition, he will flag off a new train service between Vadodara and Tandra Road, benefiting the people of Vadodara, Chhota Udepur and Alirajpur districts.

Modi will lay the foundation stone for three railway projects spanning 329 km and costing more than Rs 9,700 crore. These include the Vadodara-Ratlam third and fourth lines, Miyagam Karjan-Choranda-Malsar gauge conversion and the Vishwamitri-Dabhoi doubling project.

He will lay the foundation stone for three national highway projects costing around Rs 1,780 crore.

Modi will also lay the foundation stone for and inaugurate various Gujarat government projects worth around Rs 2,600 crore.

In Mumbai, the prime minister will inaugurate the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026, one of the world's largest and most influential annual fintech conferences.

Women have always been change-makers in India's history: LS Speaker



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 7: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said women have always been change-makers in India's history and heritage, and taking the country forward.

Addressing a two-day capacity-building workshop for women legislators organised by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in Faridabad, Birla said women have made remarkable contributions to India's institutional framework as well as its spiritual, religious and cultural traditions.

"Women have always been change-makers throughout India's history and heritage -- from the freedom movement to nation-building, from the making of the Constitution to taking the country forward," he said.

"From India's institutional framework to its spiritual, religious and cultural traditions, the contribution, respect and leadership of women in India have always been remarkable," he said.

Birla said women today have not only emerged as change-makers but have also demonstrated unprecedented achievements and leadership across various fields. He said there was a need to provide opportunities to further strengthen the leadership capabilities of women.

"Both these aspects -- empowering women and conducting capacity-building workshops for women -- are extremely important," Birla said, congratulating NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar for organising the workshop.

27 lakh people in 13 Bihar districts hit by floods

CM inspects community kitchens



PTI

Patna, Sep 7: Around 27 lakh people have been affected as rivers overflowing in Bihar inundated 13 districts, prompting Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary to direct officials on Monday to ensure prompt relief and rescue operations while inspecting community kitchens for flood victims in Vaishali and Bhagalpur.

Officials said 190 community kitchens were being run in various flood-hit districts, while 1,429 boats have been pressed into service for relief and rescue operations. CM Samrat Choudhary and his deputy Vijay Kumar Choudhary inspected the community kitchens in Vaishali and Bhagalpur, and directed the local authorities to continuously monitor river embankments and keep a close watch on vulnerable areas.

Sensex down 173 points in early trade, Nifty below 23,850



PTI

Mumbai, Sep 7: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty drifted lower in early trade on Monday as elevated crude oil prices, escalation in US-Iran hostilities and concerns over a possible US interest rate hike weighed on investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 172.77 points to 76,342.66 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 63.30 points to 23,832.60.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services and UltraTech Cement were among the major laggards.

Eternal, Bharti Airtel, Bharat Electronics and Larsen & Toubro

were among the winners.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.78 per cent higher at USD 97 per barrel.

"Friday's US jobs report came in far stronger than expected, reviving concerns over a possible interest-rate hike, while fresh attacks in the US-Iran conflict are keeping oil prices at elevated levels, posing a key overhang for domestic investor sentiment," Hariselman Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a research analyst firm, said.

The next major catalyst comes on Friday with the release of US inflation data, which is expected to influence Federal Reserve rate expectations and, consequently, global risk sentiment, he added.

SC refuses Aravalli panel extension request for final report

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 7: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to grant six months extension to the High-Powered Committee for submitting its final report on definition and protection of the Aravalli Hills.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana directed the panel to submit its report by November 30, and warned that in case of failure it will reconstitute the committee.

"Let the panel work day and night to submit a report on the Aravalli issue. If they are unable to do that in two months, we will reconstitute the whole panel," the CJL observed.

The apex court-appointed Aravalli High-Powered Committee (HPC) had asked the top court to extend the deadline for submission of its final report by six months, saying it needs more time for a "comprehensive and defensible" assessment of the Aravalli range.

Amid a row over the definition of Aravalli hills approved by it, the top court had taken suo motu cognisance of the issue in December last year.

Maruti Suzuki hikes prices by up to Rs 20,000 on select models

Third increase since May

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 07: Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest car-maker, has announced a price hike of up to Rs 20,000 on select models, marking its third increase since May amid rising input costs and persistent inflationary pressures.

The latest price revision will take effect from September 2026, the company said in a regulatory filing.

The previous two price hikes announced by Maruti Suzuki covered models across its portfolio.



In the regulatory filing, Maruti Suzuki India said, "In view of the continuous sustained increase in input costs, the company has decided to increase the prices on selected models by up to Rs 20,000. This increase in prices would come into effect in September 2026".

The automaker said it has taken continuous cost-reduction measures over the past few months to limit the impact of higher input costs. "However, with inflationary burdens at elevated levels and the adverse cost environment enduring, the company is constrained to pass on a portion of the increased costs to the market, while continuing to

ensure that the impact on customers is kept to the minimum extent possible," Maruti Suzuki India added. Targets 20% women in executive workforce by 2030

Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Monday said it is targeting increasing women's representation in its executive workforce to 20 per cent by 2030 as part of its efforts to build a diverse and future-ready talent pipeline.

Women currently constitute more than 8 per cent of Hyundai Motor India Ltd's (HML) total executive workforce of over 4,000 employees, the company said in a statement.

Iran to announce new restricted zone in Gulf in coming days



REUTERS

Dubai, Sep 7: Iran said it will announce a new restricted zone in the Gulf in the coming days, along with maps of a new shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz, as a weekend exchange of strikes on shipping sent oil prices higher on Monday.

The new restricted zone will begin from where the U.S. blockade of Iran begins and extend into areas of the Gulf, Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Sunday in an interview with state TV.

Few details were provided on the plan, but Rezaei said any ship entering the new zone would be added to a sanctions list.

In addition, maps detailing passage routes for the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy conduit largely closed to tanker traffic, would also be approved soon, Rezaei said.

"The maps of a new international corridor which lies in Iranian and Omani waters and in which Iran will have management have been agreed

and should be signed in the coming days," he said.

"We will only commit to the Strait of Hormuz being open when they (the Americans) stop the sabotage, threats and attacks on Iran," Rezaei added.

Six months after U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran sparked the war, the conflict appears to be at a stalemate. A preliminary ceasefire accord reached in June has unraveled, and little progress has been made in diplomatic efforts to get the peace process back on track.

After a pause in military action for much of August, tit-for-tat strikes have resumed. U.S. forces struck three Iranian oil tankers on Saturday, U.S. Central Command said, including one off Kharg Island, Iran's key oil export hub, following attacks by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on U.S. warships in the region.

Tehran has shown it retains the capability to attack U.S. interests in neighboring countries and to shut down oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of global oil supplies flowed prior to the conflict. An average of 10

commodity ships transited the Strait per day in the past 10 days, the lowest since May, according to shipping data on Monday. That helped oil prices extend last week's big gains, with Brent crude up 0.8 percent above \$97 a barrel.

Sanctions, oil blockade squeeze economy

Iran has said it will step up efforts to tackle problems created by U.S. sanctions that are crippling its economy.

However, the U.S. campaign to throttle Iran's economy by blockading its oil exports and stopping sanctions evasion is growing increasingly difficult to withstand, three senior Iranian sources have said.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Sunday that the U.S. should understand that the rules of the game have changed "before it is too late".

"From now on, any attack against Iran's interests and security will receive a faster, heavier and more painful response," he said in a speech published on his Telegram channel.

Qalibaf said that alongside the military front, Iran's main battle was now over production and people's livelihoods.

He cited sharp currency fluctuations, inflation, unemployment and market management as major challenges, adding Iranians could tolerate hardship but not mismanagement or inaction and expected the government to act quickly.

Iran's Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh said Tehran planned to respond to U.S. economic pressure with reforms and rejected the notion that sanctions would cause it to change course, according to state media on Sunday.

"They speak of economic pressure and isolation, of breaking off financial ties and they think that by pressuring the economy of a country they can change the decisions of its people," Madanizadeh said.

Qatar says Gulf cannot rely on US alone for security

AFP

Abu Dhabi, Sep 7: Gulf nations cannot rely solely on the United States and other international alliances for their security and need to be more self-sufficient, Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman said in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

"We need to realise in the Gulf that having international forces in the region, having a strategic alliance with the United States, is very important, but is not enough," he told the Hili Forum in the United Arab Emirates' capital.

"Self-sufficiency when it comes to security is the only way forward. Yes, we need our partners. Yes, we need our allies. But we cannot depend on them alone for our security," he added.

Qatar is a key mediator in the US-Iran war and has also sustained heavy Iranian attacks, especially on its energy infrastructure.

Qatar hosts the biggest US base in the Middle East. Throughout the war, Iran has responded to US attacks by attacking American military sites and the region's energy facilities.

After six months of conflict, the foes are at a stalemate, with Iran disrupting traffic in the strategic Strait of Hormuz and the US pressing a counter-blockade of Iranian ports.

Last month, Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani travelled to Tehran as part of the mediation efforts, after Iran and Oman, which border the key strait, said they were discussing a temporary shipping corridor and mine-clearing.

Israel intensifies strikes in Lebanon, killing 11 in latest attack



AFP

Jerusalem, Sep 7: The Israeli army demanded early Monday that residents of Deir Zahrani in southern Lebanon leave a specific zone ahead of strikes against Iran-backed Hezbollah. The army said that an explosive drone had been launched toward its forces and "Hezbollah's terrorist activity compels the IDF to act forcefully against it," without specifying whether any of its soldiers were wounded. It warned in a message in Arabic that it was targeting a "Hezbollah terrorist facility" and said those who remained in the area were at risk. Hezbollah's Al-Manar television channel later reported Israeli airstrikes on Deir Zahrani.

Israel on Monday accused Hezbollah of repeatedly violating a ceasefire agreement in recent days. "Repeated drone attacks. Weapons storage. Terror infrastructure. Command centres embedded in civilian areas. Hezbollah continues attempting to rebuild its military capabilities in southern Lebanon. These violations will not be accepted," Israel's foreign ministry wrote on X.

On Sunday, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun urged Washington and the international community to help stop Israeli attacks. Israel's army earlier issued its first evacuation notice in Lebanon in a month, warning residents near a building it called a Hezbollah facility in Arab Salim to leave ahead of an attack on the site. Lebanon was drawn into the wider Middle East war in March after

Hezbollah attacked Israel in support of its backer Iran. Israel responded with airstrikes and a ground invasion of Lebanon that Beirut says have killed more than 4,300 people. Violence has decreased since a US-Iran memorandum of understanding on the broader regional conflict in June and the Israel-Lebanon framework agreement later that month. Israeli forces are operating inside a self-declared "security zone" around 10 kilometers (six miles) deep inside Lebanon along the border.

Meanwhile, Lebanon state media reported that overnight Israeli airstrikes killed 11 people in the southern village of Kfar Rumman, including two infants and two rescuers who were in a targeted car. The strikes destroyed a three-storey residential building, as an AFP photographer saw school books and remnants of furniture strewn across the rubble. Rescue teams continued searching the debris on Monday morning.

Citizens of Kfar Rumman, who had returned following the June truce, expressed fear and uncertainty. "Since we returned here, we've lived in fear," said resident Fouad Chakaron, insisting the targeted building was inhabited by "peaceful people with no connection to anyone." Neighbours fled following the strike, which also damaged nearby buildings. The Israeli army reportedly released no warning before the strikes on Kfar Rumman but issued an evacuation order for Deir Zahrani 22 minutes before destroying a building there.

Sheetal in final, Sarita in bronze play-off as India eye multiple medals



PTI

Ahmedabad, Sep 7: Reigning world champion Sheetal Devi confirmed a medal for India by storming into the women's compound individual final on the third day of the World Archery Para Series (Stage III), here on Monday.

In an all-Indian semifinal, the armless archer from Jammu defeated Sarita 145-143 to book her place in the gold medal clash, where she will face Aizada Seidan of Kazakhstan.

Sarita will also have another opportunity to add to India's medal tally when she will take on Wang Huiting of China in the bronze medal match. The

women's compound event thus gave India one confirmed medal and another still in the hunt, with world number one Sheetal eyeing the top podium finish. In the compound men's section, reigning world champion and world number one Toman Kumar lost to top seed Ken Swagumilang of Indonesia 146-144 in the semifinal and will fight for the bronze medal against Abbas Kahdim of Iraq.

Earlier, Swagumilang ended the campaign of another Indian, Gurwinder Singh, in the quarterfinals, with the Indian losing 141-143. India's campaign ended in the W1 men's section after fifth seed Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari and ninth seed Nurudin

lost their respective quarterfinal matches. Adil lost to Czechia's multiple Paralympics-medallist David Drahoninsky 5-6 (8-10) in the shoot-off, while Nurudin went down 2-6 to top seed Yang Xupeng of China. The women, on the other hand, kept India's hopes alive in the W1 women's section, with second-seeded Indian Swati Chaudhary set to fight for the bronze medal. Swati lost to sixth seed Liu Jing of China 1-7.

Athletes classified as W1 usually have an impairment in the top and bottom halves of their bodies, torso and at least three limbs and some W1 athletes have an assistant to help them load the bow.

Al-Hilal hires Richard Hughes as sporting director after his Liverpool exit



AP

Riyadh, Sep 7: Richard Hughes has become sporting director of Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal just days after stepping down from the same post with Liverpool in the English Premier League.

Al-Hilal said its board has "finalized the contract" with Hughes who took over his role after arriving on Sunday.

The club said the move was meant to "contribute to raising the quality of technical work, developing recruitment and scouting processes, and enhancing integration across all aspects

related to the football sector."

Hughes had joined Liverpool in 2024 from Bournemouth and oversaw the appointment of head coach Arne Slot after celebrated manager Jurgen Klopp stepped down.

Liverpool went on to win the Premier League title the following season but endured a disappointing campaign last term despite spending around \$500 million on new signings. Slot was fired at the end of the season and replaced by Andoni Iraola.

Liverpool said Saturday that Hughes wanted to "seek a fresh challenge."

He departed less

than two months after Michael Edwards exited as CEO of football for Liverpool owner Fenway Sports Group.

Al-Hilal is Saudi Arabia's most successful team with 21 league titles and four Asian Championships.

It has recently

signed Brazil forward Gabriel Martinelli from Arsenal and England striker Ollie Watkins from Aston Villa.

In April, the Saudi Public Investment Fund sold a 70% stake in Al-Hilal to Kingdom Holding Company, the firm run by Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, a billionaire businessman and member of the Saudi royal family.

'You're not alone Nepal': UEFA announces tribute to flood victims at CL matches this week

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 7: Expressing solidarity with the victims of the devastating flash floods in Nepal, European football's governing body UEFA on Monday said a moment of silence will be held at all the Champions League matches this week to show support for those affected by the tragedy. The death toll in Nepal

surged to 1,355 on Monday as authorities recovered more bodies from the affected areas. Rescue teams are desperately searching for 4,996 people, including at least 589 foreign nationals, who remain missing. A total of 13,396 people have been rescued so far, according to Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

"A moment of silence will be

held, and a banner will be displayed as a sign of solidarity and support ahead of all UEFA Champions League matches this week. The banner will carry the message "You are not alone Nepal," UEFA posted on X.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said the entire European football family will stand together before this week's matches to express support to the people of Nepal.



Germany seeks to quash Gaza genocide case at top UN court



AFP

The Hague, Sep 7: Germany will Monday ask the top United Nations court to toss out a case brought against it by Nicaragua, which has accused Berlin of "facilitating genocide" with its support of Israel. Lawyers for Germany will kick off four days of hearings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the court based in The Hague that rules on disputes between countries.

The case dates back to 2024, following the start of Israel's offensive in Gaza. Nicaragua urged ICJ judges to impose emergency measures to force Berlin to halt all aid to Israel, in particular military equipment.

The court threw out Nicaragua's request in April of that year, saying "the circumstances, as they now present themselves" did not justify emergency orders.

The case is nevertheless ongoing and Germany is now seeking to have it removed, either by persuading judges they do not have the power to rule in the case or that Nicaragua's argument does not stack up.

Berlin has filed so-called "preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and to the admissibility of certain claims" presented by Nicaragua, according to an ICJ statement.

The detail of Berlin's case has not yet been made public.

Genocide claim
After Germany presents its case on Monday, Nicaragua will respond before both countries get another chance to address the court on Wednesday and Thursday.

It takes on average six months for the court to hand down a ruling in such cases.