



79th Independence Day

GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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Independence Day

LG Sinha Salutes Soaring Tricolour, Vows Terror-Free J&K

Extends Greetings, Reaffirms Resolve for Peace in J&K

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people of J&K UT on



the occasion of 79th Independence Day. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor wrote: "My dear brothers and sisters of Jammu Kashmir,

On the sacred occasion of our 79th Independence Day, I convey my heartiest greetings and good wishes to all of you. This is a day we salute our tricolor and feel pride in watching it fly high in the sky. I also join every citizen in paying homage to all the freedom fighters and founding fathers of the nation, who made great sacrifices to realize the dream of an Independent India.

On this momentous occasion, let us solemnly remember all the martyrs. The remembrance of their martyrdom will forever live on in our hearts. Their sacrifices have left a lasting impression that transcends time and will always inspire us. I pay tribute to civilian martyrs, who were brutally killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22.

While the country is celebrating the festival of Independence, my heart also goes out to the families affected by cloudburst in Chashoti, Kishtwar. I am devastated by this natural calamity and express my condolences to the bereaved families. We are working with the Whole of Government

Approach to bring the situation under control and provide all the necessary assistance to the affected families.

Today, on this auspicious day of Independence, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to our armed forces, the CAPFs and Jammu Kashmir Police whose eternal vigil and protection of every citizen under challenging circumstances have ushered in peace enabling all of us to work towards future progress, prosperity and inclusive development of this beautiful Union Territory.

■ See On P/6

Over 50 dead, 200 missing

As Cloudburst In Kishtwar Triggers Flash Flood

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SRINAGAR: A massive cloudburst hit Kishtwar district on Thursday leaving at least 50 persons dead and 120 injured. Over 200 people are reported missing.

The cloudburst hit Chashoti area in Kishtwar this afternoon.

An official said, "The rescue operations were launched immediately and the death toll could rise as many people remained displaced. Massive search efforts are underway."

Following the cloudburst the flash flood struck the Chashoti area in Kishtwar, a key point along the route of the annual Machail Mata Yatra. The pilgrimage, which began on July 25 and is scheduled to continue until September 5, draws thousands of devotees each year to the revered Chandi Mata temple in Machail, located in the remote Paddar Valley.

"So far, 50 bodies have been recovered. Nearly 120 are injured, and around 200 are still missing. Rescue teams are facing difficulty due to damaged



roads, but operations are continuing round the clock," the official said, adding that the property worth crores including vehicles and residential structures have been damaged.

Officials said the disaster washed away 10 houses, four temples, four government offices, and a bridge that was crowded with pilgrims.

■ See On P/6

LG Sinha speaks to HM, briefs him on Rescue, Relief Ops

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha spoke to the Home Minister Amit Shah and briefed him about the on-going Rescue and Relief Operations. The Union Home

Minister has assured all possible assistance, an official spokesman said here.

Notably, a tragic cloudburst incident has occurred in the Chashoti area of Kishtwar District on Thursday.

The Lieutenant Governor is constantly monitoring the situation. He has directed the officials of Civil Administration, Police, Army, NDRF and State Disaster Response Forces to strengthen the rescue and re-

lief operations and ensure all possible assistance is provided to the affected persons.

Rescue and Relief Operations are in full swing. Men and machinery have been put at the site. Other teams have also been rushed and the Air Force has been alerted for evacuation.

The Lieutenant Governor has extended his heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost

■ See On P/6

Situation being monitored closely: PM Modi

SRINAGAR: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed heartfelt thoughts and prayers for those who have been affected by the cloudburst and flooding in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

■ See On P/6

DC Kathua chairs maiden meeting on Vibrant Village Programme 2.0

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, chaired the maiden meeting to review the implementation of the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) 2.0 in the district.



Additional District Development Commissioner Kathua Surinder Mohan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur, Assistant Commissioner Development Akhil Sadotra and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

It was informed that six border villages in Block Marheen have been identified under the programme. Village Nodal Officers have been appointed for each village to oversee execution, coordination and monitoring of activities.

The meeting discussed preparing a Convergence Plan based on thematic survey findings to ensure saturation of eligible schemes. A gap analysis will be conducted to address shortfalls in infrastructure, services and beneficiary coverage.

SDM Hiranagar has been designated District Nodal Officer for VVP 2.0. He informed that all four basic indicators in the identified villages are already saturated, providing a foundation for further development.

The Deputy Commissioner directed Village Nodal Officers to maximise coverage of centrally sponsored schemes and work closely with line departments to improve livelihoods, connectivity, education, health and civic amenities. He stressed the importance of community participation in making border villages vibrant, self-reliant and better integrated with mainstream development.

An action plan will be implemented in a time-bound manner to achieve VVP 2.0 objectives in Kathua district.

DDC Reasi reviews progress of financial inclusion and social security schemes

REASI: District Development Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a meeting to review implementation of financial inclusion and social security schemes in the district.



Schemes reviewed included Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, RuPay Debit Card distribution, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Scheme, Marriage Assistance Scheme and Smart Kisan Credit Card (KCC).

The DDC directed the Lead District Manager and Cluster Head to expedite issuance of RuPay Debit Cards and Smart KCC Cards and to hold joint awareness camps with agro and allied departments to ensure saturation of the Smart KCC scheme.

On the JKBCOWWB Welfare Scheme, the DDC instructed the Assistant Labour Commissioner to bridge the gap between registered and active workers and to coordinate with BDOs and JEs for more registrations. She also called on the District Social Welfare Officer to intensify outreach for the Marriage Assistance Scheme.

She urged all departments to coordinate efforts to improve coverage and effectiveness of these schemes. The meeting was attended by CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, the LDM, representatives of J&K Bank, DSWO, ALC and other officers.

DC Doda chairs CLU meeting, reviews 14 land use cases

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh chaired a meeting of the Change of Land Use (CLU) Committee to review applications received from across the district.

A total of 14 cases were discussed to ensure compliance with the Land Revenue Acts and other regulations. The DC stressed transparent and time-bound processing of CLU applications to promote planned development and prevent unauthorised land conversion.

He directed departments to expedite verification, maintain proper documentation and improve inter-departmental coordination. He also highlighted the need to balance development with environmental sustainability and protection of agricultural land.

Officers from the Revenue Department, Engineering wing and other line departments provided inputs on the pending and approved applications.

The meeting was attended by the CEO Baderwah Development Authority, ACR Doda, DFO Doda/Baderwah, CAODoda, Deputy Director Employment Doda, concerned Tehsildars, XENs and revenue officials.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu inaugurates exhibition on partition horrors remembrance day at Abhinav Theatre

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JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar inaugurated an exhibition on "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" at Abhinav Theatre, depicting the immense human tragedy of India's

Art, Culture and Languages under the aegis of the Department of Culture, Jammu and Kashmir.

A documentary on the tragedies of Partition was screened at K.L. Saigal Hall, recalling the plight, trauma and suffering endured by people during the period.

traditions of POJK displaced communities.

In the keynote address, Dr. Nitin Sharma discussed the challenges faced by displaced and migrant communities, highlighting their struggles, resilience and contributions despite deep losses.

The exhibition featured 45 slides covering themes such as the violence in Bengal intensified by H.S. Suhrawardy, accused of inciting the 1946 Calcutta riots and Noakhali massacres; Mahatma Gandhi's peace marches in Bengal and the role of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in ensuring West Bengal remained part of India, among other historical narratives.

In her welcome address, Sonali Arun Gupta said the objective of the exhibition is to highlight one of the greatest human tra-

gedies in history, which displaced nearly 20 million people and claimed the lives of 12-15 lakh innocents, particularly in Punjab and Bengal. She reiterated that the aim of the programme was to recall this painful chapter and its enduring lessons.

Dr. Javaid Rahi presented the vote of thanks on behalf of the Secretary, JKAA-CL, acknowledging the contributions of all dignitaries, participants and attendees in making the event a meaningful tribute to the victims and survivors of Partition.



1947 Partition.

Deepika Sharma, Secretary, Department of Culture; Sonali Arun Gupta, Additional Secretary, JKAA-CL; Dr. Javaid Rahi, Divisional Head, JKAA-CL Jammu and Dr. Nitin Sharma, Faculty, Department of Law, University of Jammu were present.

The inauguration was followed by a commemorative programme on the Partition horrors attended by artists, writers and intellectuals. The event was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of

In his address, the Divisional Commissioner said the tragedy of Partition continues to haunt the nation. He noted that in Jammu and Kashmir, the POJK displaced persons and West Pakistani refugees were among the worst affected communities, many of whom still face the consequences of Partition.

He assured that the Government is making all efforts to alleviate their hardships. On preserving cultural heritage, he informed that a museum is being established at Nagrota, Jammu to showcase the rich

Stakeholders meeting on Poultry Dressing Units, Waste Management SOPs held at SMC Hq.

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 14: On the directions of Commissioner SMC, a meeting on the Poultry Dressing Units, and Waste Management SOPs was today held under the chairpersonship of Joint Commissioner (Adm) Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Nuzhat Qureshi.

Meeting discussed threadbare supply of clean, hygienic, and wholesome poultry meat in Srinagar. Adherence to Solid Waste Management SOPs also came under discussion on the occasion.

Joint Commissioner (Adm) instructed for strict implementation of uniform hygiene, sanitation, and biosecurity protocols across all poultry dressing units, with clear inspection checklists and standard operating procedures.

"Waste-management practices must be strengthened, including segregation at source, proper disposal, and regular monitoring," she added.

During the meeting, Joint commissioner said that a coordinated framework will be established for timely information sharing, grievance redressal, and rapid response to non-compliance.

She said public awareness campaigns will be launched on safe handling, storage, and

cooking of poultry products to protect consumer health.



In order to ensure proper hygiene and waste management, Qureshi assured scheduling regular training sessions for workers and farmers on hygiene, safety, and waste-management best practices.

Attendees agreed on strengthened waste-

management compliance, enhanced coordination among traders, farmers, and authorities, besides public awareness initiatives to safeguard public health and the integrity of Srinagar's poultry supply chain.

He said that the atmosphere of festivity and celebration joined in by all around the area is a very heartening sight. It is always a pleasure to be part of such spiritual gatherings.

Municipal Veterinary Officer and senior officers of SMC, besides representatives of the Poultry Retail Dealers Association and the Urban Poultry Farmers Association, among other stakeholders attended the meeting.

Rana pays tributes to Hazrat Mian Bashir Ahmed Larvi

POONCH: A solemn and dignified commemorative programme was held in Poonch to mark the 4th death anniversary of the revered spiritual luminary,

and Tribal Affairs, attended the event as the chief guest and paid rich tributes to Mian Bashir Larvi.

In his address, the Minister hailed Mian

life was a testament to the power of selfless service and his legacy continues to inspire the generations to walk the path of righteousness, compassion and unity.

He emphasized the enduring relevance of Mian Bashir's message in today's times, urging the society to draw strength from his teachings and values.

"In an era of division and uncertainty, his vision of inclusive harmony and empowerment remains more important than ever," he added. The event was attended by Administrator Zia Ul Uloom, Maulana Syed A. Habib, historian and columnist K.D. Maini, Advocates Mahroof Khan, Zaman Mir, Nazir Choudhary and Taj Mir, Editor of Halla Bollé Dr. Zamurad Mughal, Chairman of Sarimastan Foundation Ch. Muhammad Asad Noomani, Dr. Anwar Khan, Haroon Rathore, Sardar Surjan Singh and Mohammad Sayeed, among others.

Attendees reflected on Mian Bashir Ahmed Larvi's monumental contributions to spiritual life, community upliftment and social harmony.

The gathering collectively resolved to carry forward the values of peace, service and justice that defined his life.



Hazrat Mian Bashir Ahmed Larvi (RA).

The event was organised by Halla Bollé, drawing a large gathering of scholars, community leaders and admirers of the late spiritual leader.

Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment

Sahib as a towering spiritual figure and an unwavering champion of humanity, compassion and social justice.

"Mian Bashir Sahib was not just a religious leader, but a beacon of hope for the oppressed and a tireless advocate for dignity and equality," Rana said. "His

Sea of Tricolour in Kathua: District administration leads grand Tiranga rally

KATHUA: District Administration Kathua, led by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, organised a Tiranga Rally at the district head-



quarters as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign to mark the 79th Independence Day.

Students, security personnel, senior citizens, women and youth participated in large numbers, creating a vibrant display of unity and patriotism. The rally was flagged off by DC Rajesh Sharma from the Sports Stadium Kathua and passed through key points in the town.

Participants carried the national flag while chanting "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram." Residents, shopkeepers and passers-by joined in, adding to the patriotic spirit.

Addressing the gathering, the DC commended the citizens' participation and thanked security forces, students and civil society members for their support. He said the rally symbolised respect for the Tricolour and reflected the deep-rooted patriotic sentiment in Kathua.

The Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, aims to encourage citizens to hoist the national flag at home, fostering pride in the national identity.

The rally concluded at the Sports Stadium with cultural performances by school children, including songs, dances and skits on unity and sacrifice.

DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range and DC flag off mega Tiranga rally in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: District Administration Udhampur organised a mega Tiranga rally under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, jointly flagged



off by DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range, Sarah Rizvi, and Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, from the mini stadium, Town Hall, Udhampur.

DDC Chairperson Udhampur Lal Chand, Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, DDC members, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, PO Poshan Subash Dogra, GMDIC Kishore Singh Katoch, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan, other district officers, prominent citizens, civil society members, students and the public attended the event.

Hundreds of school children, staff members, civil and police officials and citizens carried the National Flag and chanted patriotic slogans. A 1,600-metre-long Tricolour symbolising unity and national pride was carried by participants through Bus Stand, MH Chowk, Devika, Shiv Nagar and Dak Bungalow, culminating at Tiranga Junction, Omarah Morh.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairperson and Deputy Commissioner said the rally aimed to spread awareness about Har Ghar Tiranga and emphasised celebrating Independence Day with patriotic spirit while honouring martyrs, freedom fighters and the contributions of the nation's founders.

District administration Reasi organises Tiranga rally at world's highest Chenab Railway Bridge

REASI: District Administration Reasi organised a Tiranga Rally at the world's highest rail bridge - the Chenab Bridge - as part of the nationwide Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2025.

The event was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Reasi Ms Nidhi Malik.

Students, youth, prominent citizens and officials participated, carrying the Tricolour across the Chenab Bridge and creating an atmosphere of patriotism against its scenic backdrop. DC Reasi Nidhi Malik said the Chenab Bridge, a symbol of engineering achievement and national pride, reflects the spirit of unity. She said the rally at this historic site demonstrates the commitment of the people of Reasi to national ideals and urged residents to ensure every home hoists the Tricolour under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

The event concluded with patriotic slogans echoing through the Chenab valley. SDM Tariq Aziz, the concerned ZEO and officials from the administration and police were present.

3-tier security cover in place for 79th Independence Day celebrations in J&K

Sharpshooters, drones, patrols deployed at main venues, forces on alert along LoC, International Border

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is set to celebrate the 79th Independence Day under a three-tier security cover on Friday.

Officials said, that the main official event in Kashmir will be held at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar, while M A Stadium will host the central function in Jammu.

Celebrations are scheduled at all district and block headquarters, government offices, and educational institutions, they said, adding that public representatives, Deputy Commissioners, and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions will hoist the national flag at various administrative levels, including sub-districts, tehsils, and panchayats.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the events, authorities have implemented heightened security across the Union Territory.

A senior police officer said that both manpower and technology will be deployed to prevent any untoward incidents.

High-rise buildings around the main venues in Srinagar and Jammu have been secured by sharpshooters from the Police,



CRPF and other forces, he said.

The officials said that these locations remain under constant observation, with drone surveillance being carried out to monitor the ground situation.

In Srinagar, detailed checks and identity verifications are being conducted on roads and highways, the officials added.

Security forces are carrying out random frisking of commuters and vehicles. Similar arrangements have been made in Jammu,

where multiple security layers are in place at key points.

Officials in Jammu said coordination between various security agencies is ongoing to maintain order. People have been urged to cooperate with security personnel for the safety of all.

Security has also been stepped up in border areas, particularly in North Kashmir sectors like Gurez, Uri, Karnah, and Tangdhar, as well as in the Sunderbani

sector of Jammu.

Along the International Border in Jammu, BSF personnel are conducting regular patrols and using digital surveillance tools to maintain constant vigilance.

The officials said surveillance and patrolling along the Line of Control (LoC) have been intensified. Forces remain on alert to respond to any infiltration attempts or ceasefire violations.

The Army has employed smart fencing and robotic surveillance systems in difficult terrains to ensure continuous monitoring.

Quadracopters and drones with night vision and high-resolution capabilities are being used to gather real-time intelligence.

Troops have access to bulletproof and all-terrain vehicles for quick movement in mountainous regions.

Security personnel are also undergoing training exercises simulating potential threats to improve operational preparedness.

The officials have appealed to the public to participate in the Independence Day events and assured them that all necessary arrangements are in place for their safety—(KNO)

Chief Secretary reviews implementation of IRS in J&K



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: In a decisive step towards strengthening the disaster preparedness and response, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation of Incident Response System (IRS) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, the IRS is a structured and standardized mechanism aimed at replacing the ad-hoc measures with a well-coordinated, accountable and efficient disaster response framework.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, DMRR&R; Principal Secretary, PWD; Director General, Fire & Emergency Services; Commissioner Secretaries of FCS&CA and Information Department; Secretary, Transport; Director, Information; DG, Codes; DG, Budget and other senior officers while Deputy Commissioners from across the UT joined virtually.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of resource mapping at the district level. He directed the Disaster Management Department to provide necessary formats and guidelines to facilitate the process.

Highlighting the UT's vulnerability to natural and anthropogenic disasters, he called for full operational readiness through regular mock drills, periodic assessments and seamless coordination to ensure timely and effective response during emergencies.

Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, informed that the primary objective of the IRS is to establish a unified chain of command and clearly defined roles for disaster response teams to minimize loss of life and property. He noted that the system comprises of trained composite teams capable of handling all aspects of disaster response, thereby enhancing the accountability and operational efficiency.

About the key milestones in IRS implementation, it was revealed that a UT-level notification was issued on June 24, 2025,

assigning roles and responsibilities to the Incident Response Team.

Further a one-day workshop was held on July 18, 2025, in Srinagar, for the officers to familiarize them with their roles under IRS which also saw the launch of an IRS handbook designating in detail the mechanism, the roles and responsibilities for each of them. Additionally, the district-level training sessions are scheduled across Kashmir and Jammu divisions from August 19 to October 6, 2025.

Moreover, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines were circulated to the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) and concerned departments.

With respect to the key IRS Designations in J&K, the meeting was apprised that the Chief Secretary had been designated as a Responsible Officer Administrative Secretary, Power Development Department (Incident Commander), Director General of Police (Operations Section Chief), Administrative Secretary, DMRR&R (Planning Section Chief) and Divisional Commissioners (Logistics Section Chief for respective Divisions).

On account of the effective implementation, it was laid out that notification of IRS structure at divisional and district level are going to be done soon in consultation with the DDMAs and NDRF.

It was added that the focus is on sensitizing the concerned DDMAs to notify IRS structures at divisional and district levels, frame Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for system activation, convene monthly meetings of Incident Response Teams, conduct regular mock drills, audit and update resources on the IDRN portal, and ensure mandatory training and role-awareness sessions for all designated officers.

The Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) remains committed towards fostering resilient and disaster-ready Jammu and Kashmir through structured systems, capacity building and community engagement.

Sakeena Itoo visits Natnosa Handwara, inspects site for construction of GMC

FE News Network

HANDWARA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, visited Natnosa, Handwara and undertook comprehensive inspection of site identified for construction of Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Trehgam, Mir

Medical College here will not only provide advanced healthcare services to our people but will also create new avenues for medical education and employment. Our aim is to ensure that the location chosen is ideal in terms of patient access, medical logistics and future expansion," she said.

The Minister also interacted with the local residents, during the visit, to gather their views and ensure that the

Jal Shakti, Chief Engineer R&B, Principal GMC Handwara and other district officers were also present in the meeting.

Speaking during the meeting, the Minister underlined that GMC Handwara is a prestigious project and all the stakeholders need to work in tandem for timely construction of the project. She directed the officers of concerned departments to expedite technical evaluation reports and submit a comprehensive project report within weeks time. She also asked the Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti and KPDCI to make necessary arrangements regarding electricity and water supply for this prestigious project.

The Minister also highlighted that the existing site of GMC Handwara, selected by previous administration, was not feasible as it was flood prone. She added that enquiry has already been initiated regarding selection of the earlier site for construction of this project which has led to a significant loss to government exchequer.

During the meeting, the Minister also highlighted that in an earlier meeting with MLAs of Kupwara district regarding the change of site for GMC Handwara, it was decided that the Natnosa will be feasible for construction of this project and accordingly necessary formalities were carried out. She asked the MLAs of Kupwara district to work in coordination so that this prestigious project can be taken to its logical end, benefitting the people of this frontier district.

The Minister, further said that the new site at Natnosa is central to Kupwara district and will be accessible to people of all frontier areas like Karnah, Lolab, Keran and other areas of the district.

Javid Dar attends virtual meeting with Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department, and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, attended a virtual meeting with the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The meeting focused on crucial agricultural issues, including fertilizer availability, crop loss or damage and initiatives like Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan and National Mission of Natural Farming.

The Union Minister emphasized the importance of providing fertilizers to farmers in a timely manner, ensuring they don't suffer due to market shortages. Strict action will be taken against those involved in black marketing of fertilizers, seeds and pesticides, he added.

He asked the Principal Secretaries to motivate the farmers to adopt natural/organic farming practices. He also directed for collecting accurate data on crop damage through proper surveys to ensure timely compensation for farmers.

The Union Minister stressed that the approved fertilizer list will be published to inform the farmers about the substandard fertilizers.

He invited all the Agricultural Ministers of States to participate in the upcoming Rabi Conference to be held at on September 15th and 16th, 2025. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah and other senior officers.



Saifullah; MLA Karnah Javid Ahmad Mirchal; MLA Langate, Sheikh Khursheed; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; ADDC Kupwara, Chief Engineer, KPDCI, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti, Chief Engineer R&B, Principal GMC Handwara, ADC Handwara, Medical Superintendent District Hospital and other district and sectoral officers accompanied the Minister during the visit.

During the visit, the Minister conducted an on-ground inspection to evaluate the site's accessibility, topography and suitability for large-scale medical infrastructure.

Interacting with different officers on the occasion, the Minister said that the establishment of GMC in Handwara will be a transformative development in terms of healthcare landscape of the region. "A Government

project aligns with the local community needs.

The officials present on the occasion briefed the Minister about the preliminary surveys and other statutory requirements needed for the project.

Later, the Minister also held a meeting at Dak Banglow Kupwara to finalize the requirements for timely construction of GMC Handwara at the newly identified site at Natnosa.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Trehgam, Mir Saifullah; MLA Karnah Javid Ahmad Mirchal; MLA Kupwara, Mir Mohammad Fayaz; MLA Lolab, Qaysir Jamsheed Lone; MLA Langate, Sheikh Khursheed; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse; Chief Engineer, KPDCI, Chief Engineer

Minister Sakeena Itoo conducts surprise inspection of SDH Pattan

FE News Network

PATTAN: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, conducted surprise inspection of Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Pattan to review the healthcare facilities available there for the general public.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani also accompanied the Minister during the surprise inspection. During the inspection, the Minister minutely assessed different sections of the hospital including OPD, Casualty ward and other units. She also inspected the drug store, pharmacy and other critical sections of the hospital. Interacting with the doctors and other staff, the Minister took detailed inputs from them about the facilities available and the scope for uplifiting the necessary facilities.



She directed them to provide 24x7 healthcare services to public at the hospital and the duty roster should be duly followed so that there is no inconvenience to public.

During the visit, the Minister also engaged with the locals, patients and their attendants during the inspection to gather first-hand insights about the services available at the hospital.

Satish Sharma launches Mascot, Logo, Anthem, Jerseys for Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Zaidibal, Tanvir Sadiq, on Thursday released the logo, mascot, anthem, jingle and jerseys for the athletes and support staff, volunteers and officials of the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025.

In a historic first, the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 is being hosted by Jammu and Kashmir on the pristine water of the Dal Lake in Srinagar from August 21 to 23.

Himalayan Kingfisher inspires the vibrant mascot of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025. Swift, fearless and at home on the water, it embodies the spirit of adventure, nature and competition on Dal Lake. With its bold orange and blue, it represents energy, tranquility and the beauty of Kashmir. More than a symbol, it's the festival's ambassador, promoting eco-friendly sports, tourism and youth engagement nationwide.

The Khelo India Water Sports Festival logo captures the essence of Kashmir, featuring a Shikara gliding on Dal Lake, framed by snow-capped mountains and pine trees.

Its calm reflections mirror the beauty of Kashmir while the Khelo India colours unite tradition, nature and the energy of sport.

The anthem and jingles for the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 celebrate the region's breathtaking beauty, youthful energy and spirit of sportsmanship. These blends Kashmiri, Urdu and Hindi verses to showcase Dal Lake's shimmering waters, the colourful stories cradled in Kashmir and the cultural charm of the region. The lyrics evoke pride and unity, sporting a caravan of dreams that inspire athletes to turn their aspirations into reality. The tracks fuse soulful imagery with uplifting beats, creating an anthem that mirrors the beauty, passion, and togetherness of the games.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister, who also performed the host city activation of the event, said that the 800 athletes and hundreds of other visiting officials from 28 states and eight union territories, who would participate in the Khelo India Water Sports Festival would return as the brand ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that hosting of the first-ever Khelo India Water Sports Festival will go a long way in promoting not just sports but also tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.



Speaking on the occasion, MLA Zaidibal, Tanvir Sadiq, said that hosting major event like Khelo India Water Sports Festival will help in uplifting the economy of the region, besides promoting sports and tourism.

The Khelo India Winter Sports Games have already crowned Gulmarg as India's winter sports capital. With the launch of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival on Dal Lake, we are set to redefine the region's sports landscape and establish it as a national water sports hub," Sadiq said, proudly highlighting

the significance of this moment for Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, while briefing the dignitaries about the Khelo India Water Sports Festival, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare and Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez said the different stakeholders like the hoteliers, shikarawalas, travel agents and various departments had been roped in to make the event a success.

Sarmad Hafeez said that the festival would showcase the diverse culture of

Jammu and Kashmir, including Kashmiri, Gujjar and Bakerwal, Dard Shina and Dogri. He said that the registrations for the event were being done by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) while Doordarshan would provide live coverage.

Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, presented the vote of thanks.

Pertinently, the maiden Khelo India Water Sports Festival, 2025, will be inaugurated in Dal Lake on August 21. This marks a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir, bringing national sports attention to Dal Lake and its athletes.

The event will present a unique opportunity to showcase Kashmir's diverse charm on a national platform and transform into a grand celebration of local tourism, handicrafts, art and culture.

All concerned departments including Tourism, Power Development Department (PDD), Jal Shakti, Traffic, Hospitality and Protocol, Civil Aviation,

Airports Authority, Lakes and Waterways Management Authority (LCMA), Handicrafts and Handloom, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Health, and Fire and Emergency Services have been instructed to deliver their responsibilities with the highest standards

of efficiency.

Kashmir, which has already hosted all five editions of the Khelo India Winter Games, is ready with robust arrangements to welcome around 800 athletes and officials from 28 states and eight Union Territories, competing across five water sports disciplines over the three days event.

The competitions will include Kayaking, Canoeing and Rowing, along with demonstration sports such as Dragon Boat, Water Skiing and a unique Shikara Race. Besides, Coordination Committees have been formed for various functional areas, with a dedicated State Liaison Officer (SLO) assigned to each team for seamless facilitation.

An elaborate opening ceremony is set to feature a drone light show, traditional folk dances, celebrity performances and stalls showcasing local street cuisine, art, culture and Self-Help Group (SHG) products.

Being organised by the J&K Sports Council in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India (AI), the festival is poised to be a landmark event celebrating Kashmir's natural beauty, adventure spirit and cultural richness.

Editorial

When Nature Strikes

The tragic cloudburst in Kishtwar, which has claimed at least 50 lives, left 120 injured, and 200 others missing, is a grim reminder of the increasing vulnerability of Himalayan regions to extreme weather events. The flash floods swept away homes, temples, and other critical infrastructure. While rescue operations involving the Army, NDRF, and local authorities are commendable, this disaster underscores the urgent need for better disaster preparedness and climate resilience in ecologically fragile zones.

Kishtwar's catastrophe is not an isolated incident. Over the past decade, similar tragedies have struck Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and other parts of UT. Climate scientists have long warned that rising temperatures are making cloudbursts and flash floods more frequent and intense. Yet, despite these warnings, infrastructure development and pilgrimage routes often lack adequate safeguards. The washed-out bridge and damaged roads in Chasothi highlight how poor planning exacerbates disasters, leaving rescue teams struggling to reach survivors.

The immediate priority must be to intensify search operations, provide medical aid, and rehabilitate the displaced. However, long-term solutions cannot be ignored. Authorities must invest in advanced early warning systems, reinforce vulnerable infrastructure, and enforce stricter regulations on construction in flood-prone areas. Pilgrimage routes, which attract large crowds in risky terrains, need emergency evacuation plans and weather monitoring stations.

Moreover, the government must address the broader climate crisis. Deforestation, unchecked construction, and hydro projects in fragile ecosystems contribute to such disasters. Sustainable development policies, coupled with community awareness, are essential to mitigate future risks.

The bravery of rescue personnel and the solidarity of locals offer hope amid this tragedy. But hope alone is not enough. Kishtwar's suffering should serve as a wake-up call for policymakers to act before more lives are lost to nature's fury. The time for reactive measures is over; proactive resilience is the need of the hour

79th I-Day: The Path to Unstoppable



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

79 years ago, when the clock struck midnight, history took a turn. A new era was born from the womb of darkness. This country, bound in the shackles of slavery, sud-



denly bathed in the sunshine of freedom. The tricolour fluttered not only on the ramparts of the Red Fort, but also in the hearts of crores of people. That day was not only the proclamation of political freedom, but also the beginning of the restoration of self-respect, self-reliance and self-confidence. But today, when India has entered the 69th year of its independence, we have to ask this question - have we preserved that freedom only as a memory or have we resolved to turn it into the strongest power in the world?

The value of freedom is measured not only in history books but in everyday life. When a farmer sows seeds in his field believing that he will reap the rewards of his hard work, when a student dreams in school that he can scale new heights in science, literature, art or sports, when a woman fearlessly steps out of her home - only then the true meaning of freedom is realized.

India today is the world's largest democracy, with a population of over 140 million. This number is not a mere statistic but a living energy. This energy, if channelled and given the right vision, can make us the strongest and most respected nation in the

world. We are the fifth largest economy, and have unparalleled strengths in science, technology, space research and cultural heritage. Yet, to assume that we have already reached a world-leadership position will be the greatest impediment to our progress.

Today's power does not mean only winning on the battlefield. True power lies with a nation that is economically self-reliant, a leader in technological innovation, an example in environmental protection and gives a new direction to the world by con-

nation in the defence industry.

Fourth, in the field of energy, we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and become leaders in solar, wind and bioenergy. Leadership in clean energy will not only save our environment but will also give a secure future to the coming generations.

Fifth and most important, we must maintain social unity. Divisions based on religion, language, caste or region can become our biggest weakness. A nation becomes strong

21st century, India will not only remain a part of the world, but will become the power that will decide the direction of this century.

When we hoist the tricolour, its saffron colour gives us the message of courage - courage not only in the battlefield, but also in making the right decisions, implementing tough reforms and standing up against injustice. The white colour reminds us of truth and transparency, which are the soul of democracy. The green colour inspires us to move towards sustainable development, and the Ashoka Chakra gives us the message

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necting with its cultural roots. India will have to prove in the coming years that it can not only protect its borders but also become a center of balance and peace for the entire world.

Education should be our top priority. Going beyond mere literacy, we must create a system of knowledge, skills and research that enables our youth to compete in any corner of the world. It is essential to encourage a culture of innovation and research in schools and universities.

Second, we have to redefine self-reliance in both agriculture and industry. 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' should not be just a slogan but a concrete policy that includes rural development, urban technology and environmental balance together. Only when our farmers get modern equipment, scientific farming methods and a guarantee of fair price in the market, the foundation of the country will be strong.

Third, in the defence sector, we must move beyond being an importer of foreign technology to becoming a leader in manufacturing indigenous weapons and systems. This will not only ensure our security, but will also give us recognition as an exporting

only when its citizens live the spirit of unity in diversity not just in books but in their behavior and decisions.

India has a unique civilisational capital—a spirit of tolerance, compassion and cooperation. If we put these values at the centre of our policies and international relations, we can establish a global leadership that is driven not by force, but by trust and inspiration.

This journey of 79 years teaches us that progress is not a momentary achievement but a continuous effort. The 24 spokes of the Ashoka Chakra remind us that the nation's progress should never stop. Today's India is touching Mars and the Moon in science, raising its flag on the world stage in sports, and attracting the world towards itself in art and culture. But to make these successes permanent and widespread, we need a long-term vision and unwavering willpower.

On the 79th Independence Day, we should not limit ourselves to merely paying tribute to the sacrifices of our ancestors, but we must make those sacrifices meaningful through our actions and resolve. We must decide that in the remaining years of the

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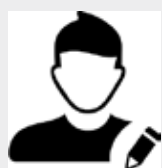
On the 79th Independence Day, we should not limit ourselves to merely paying tribute to the sacrifices of our ancestors, but we must make those sacrifices meaningful through our actions and resolve. We must decide that in the remaining years of the

of being constantly dynamic.

It is time for India to take inspiration from its past, accept the challenges of the present and resolve to shape the future. We must believe that this is not just the development of a nation, but the creation of a new direction for humanity. In this journey of 79 years, we have reached the threshold of world leadership - now we just have to take that step forward. India's time is now.

Author is an Independent columnist and social analyst. He can be mailed at kavitaniketan333@gmail.com

Torch Of Independence Burning Bright



Vinod Chandrashekhkar Dixit

All over India people will celebrate the Independence Day of India on 15th August. India will celebrate its 79th Independence Day to pay trib-

ish Rule at the stroke of midnight as India moved towards August 15, 1947.

The midnight of August 15, 1947 is one of the most memorable for every Indian on earth, as it is the time, when India gained independence from the stranglehold of the mighty British. The day is a celebration and to realize our freedom. Thousands of our freedom fighters sacrificed their lives and millions of them struggled in order to drive away British rulers and constituted a system of democracy centered around us. How our nation has fared over the last 69

British rule after long years of slavery. This is a special day when we remember the great sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Raj Guru, Gandhiji and other dared freedom fighters for their unforgettable contribution in the independence of India.

Don't we forget the importance of this day soon after the evening? Aren't we attaching too much importance to our individual freedom rather than to the national independence? Why is there little sense of pride in the country about what our parents and grandparents managed to

were already a cause of concern for the British.

It was Lord Mountbatten who had personally decided the date of Aug 15 because he had considered that date to be "very lucky" for his career. During the World War II, it was on Aug 15, 1945 (Japan time zone) that the Japanese Army had surrendered before him (Lord Mountbatten was the commander of the allied forces).

In the midnight of 15 August 1947, India was proclaimed as independent country by the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru where he gave his speech over "Tryst with destiny". He said during his speech that "Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we will redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes, but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. We end today a period of ill fortune, and India discovers herself again." Today our country is a well established democratic country all over the world. Gandhiji was great leader who taught us about effective way of freedom like ahimsa and sathyagraha methods. Gandhi dreamed of an independent India with the non violence and peace.

It was not so easy for the India to get freedom from the Britishers however; various great people and freedom fighters of India made it a truth. Let us be grateful to those events responsible for the freedom in India. Indians were treated more badly than slaves by the Britishers just to fulfill their meaningless orders. Let us ensure that we exercise our rights and proudly participate in our democracy so that our nation heads in the right direction. The Celebration of Independence day is the same throughout the country and this is the day when we find whole country celebrating and rejoicing but the real celebration is to worship those patriots who shed their blood for achieving Freedom.

The Author Can Be Mailed At dixitpatrakar@yahoo.in



ute and remember all the freedom fighters who had contributed a lot and fought for the Independence of India. Everyone knows that our country got freedom from the 300 years of Brit-

years is something we cannot change but the future is in our hands. India's Independence Day is a day of great significance for the people of India. At this day India got freedom from the

achieve against all odds? The awakening of masses by Gandhi and the activities of Bose behind the scenes (of strengthening Indian National Army) which had intensified during 1940s

”
The midnight of August 15, 1947 is one of the most memorable for every Indian on earth, as it is the time, when India gained independence from the stranglehold of the mighty British. The day is a celebration and to realize our freedom. Thousands of our freedom fighters sacrificed their lives and millions of them struggled in order to drive away British rulers and constituted a system of democracy centered around us
”

CS assesses CITaG's Roadmap For Development, Governance In J&K

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to review the preliminary roadmap of the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG), aimed at accelerating the economic growth, improving governance and reforming the planning process in Jammu & Kashmir.

The presentation, made during the meeting, highlighted significant strides in Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), governance transformation and institutional capacity building across the UT.

Besides the ACS, Planning and Tourism Departments the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, PWD; Principal Secretary, Culture; Principal Secretary, Finance; Director, IIM Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Secretary, S&T; Secretary, L&E; MD, J&K Cable Car Corporation; Representative from NHLML and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary underscored the significance of CITaG in framing a futuristic roadmap for all-round development of J&K. He highlighted its role in conception, identification and implementation of high impact projects in PPP mode for giving boost to key sectors like Industries, Tourism,

Agriculture, Urban Planning, Handicrafts and others here.

The Chief Secretary also advised the Planning Development & Monitoring Development to take steps to acquaint all the



Departments with the role of CITaG. He called for holding brainstorming sessions with these departments to have acquaintance and awareness about their collaboration with CITaG in implementation of their projects and plans.

He impressed upon the CITaG team to come up with implementation strategy for the best practices and focus on few at a time for their effective grounding. He pointed out several of the important projects that could be focussed upon initially including development of an Industrial estate in a PPP mode as there is a vast land bank created across the districts of the UT.

The other participants also gave out their suggestions to make the working of

CITaG more efficient and outcomes in their departments more effective and time-bound.

Some of the suggestions which were postulated included development of sustainable tourism, solar parks, waste management, handholding and capacity building of government officials and other developmental plans.

The meeting focused on CITaG's work since its inception, with a particular emphasis on Public-Private Partnership projects.

CEO, CITAG, Dr Sandeep, in his presentation listed out a total of 63 PPP projects representing a tentative investment of over Rs21,988 Cr. Currently, 21 of these projects are active, with 42 others on a development shelf.

The key projects under active consideration included the adaptive reuse of the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex in Jammu for developing a heritage hotel, enhancing tourism infrastructure at scenic tourist destinations, establishment of a new ropeway projects and solar parks here.

The CEO confirmed that preliminary site assessment reports and stakeholder consultations are underway for these and other projects, laying the groundwork for future investment and development.

In addition to PPPs, it was divulged that CITaG's broader mandate includes 65 devel-

operables spanning several key areas of governance and economic development.

The meeting reviewed progress on various initiatives, including the preparation of new PPP policy for Jammu & Kashmir, measures for increasing revenue generation, and strategies for promoting entrepreneurship and export promotion.

The Chief Secretary was also briefed on the ongoing recruitment for CITaG's team. It was given out that the first phase of the recruitment process had been completed, with the selection of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), four Specialists, and four Young Professionals through IIM Jammu.

The recruitment for Phase 2nd, which included positions for Specialists in Infrastructure, Social Sector, HRD, and IT, among others, is currently ongoing to be culminated till the end of this month. This expansion of the team is aimed at accelerating the implementation of the administration's vision for a "Future Ready Governance" model here.

The review meeting concluded with a directive from the Chief Secretary to maintain the momentum on these transformative projects, reinforcing the administration's commitment to drive economic growth and enhancing public services through strategic partnerships and innovative governance models across all the sectors in J&K.

Kishtwar Tragedy Speaker, Ministers, NC President expresses grief

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather Thursday expressed deepest shock and grief over the tragic Kishtwar cloudburst.

The Speaker urged the government authorities to ensure all possible help and support to the affected families

district.

In her condolence message, Sakeena Itoo described the incident as a heartrending tragedy that has plunged the entire Jammu & Kashmir into mourning. She extended her deepest condolences to the bereaved families and also prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls.

The Minister said that the Health department has been asked to ensure proper medical care for all the injured persons. She also asked for timely evacuation of patients for advanced treatment to the advanced health facilities.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic incident of cloudburst that struck the Chositi area along the Machail Mata Yatra route in Kishtwar, leaving several people feared dead.

In his message, the Minister said, "I am deeply pained by the loss of precious lives in the unfortunate cloudburst during the sacred Machail Mata Yatra. My heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved families and I pray for the speedy recovery of all those injured."

Satish Sharma lauded the swift response of the district administration,

rescue teams and volunteers who immediately rushed to the spot to carry out relief and evacuation operations. He assured that the government is closely monitoring the situation and that all necessary assistance, including medical support and rehabilitation measures, will be extended to the affected people.

The Minister further appealed to yatis and locals to cooperate with the administration and follow safety advisories being issued from time to time to ensure smooth and secure conduct of the yatra.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of lives due to cloudburst in Kishtwar.

Extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, Rana said it is a tragic incident. "I extend my condolences to the bereaved families of the deceased and pray for the speedy recovery of all those injured in the calamity," he said.

In response to the incident, the Minister immediately spoke with the Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar and directed for swift, coordinated and effective rescue and relief operations to minimize further loss and provide urgent support to the affected population.



who lost their loved ones in such an unfortunate incident. He said that the entire nation is in deep grief over this irreparable loss and stands in solidarity with the affected families.

He also appealed to the voluntary organisations and the public to come forward and extend every possible assistance to those in distress.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, has expressed deep grief over the tragic loss of lives caused by the devastating cloudburst in the Chositi village of Kishtwar

Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan: Cultural Unit Srinagar organises multi-institution awareness drive

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In continuation of the ongoing 'Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan,' Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the district administration Srinagar, organised a series of impactful awareness programmes across multiple educational institutions in the city.

The day's events were hosted at GGHS Drugian Dalgate, Green Valley School, GBHS Brane Nishat, and GGHS Narwara Srinagar, under the supervision of the respective Heads of Departments and Principal.

Each programme featured theme-based short plays performed by local artist groups, vividly portraying the harmful consequences of substance abuse and urging youth to embrace a healthy, responsible lifestyle.

The performances resonated strongly with the audience, sparking meaningful conversations on preventive measures.

Addressing the gatherings, the respective Heads of Departments and Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer, underscored the urgent need for community-wide participation in combating drug abuse.

A solemn anti-drug pledge was administered at each venue, with students, staff, and faculty committing themselves to remain drug-free and to actively spread awareness within their neighbourhoods. The initiatives drew enthusiastic participation from students and teachers, reaffirming a shared resolve to build a drug-free, healthy, and progressive Jammu & Kashmir.

Carrying forward the message of Nasha Mukt J&K, the programmes also embodied the spirit of Independence Day, inspiring citizens to contribute towards a stronger, cleaner, and united nation.



GMC Srinagar hosts first National Emergency Life Support Training

SRINAGAR: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Medicine, JPNATC, AIIMS New Delhi, and the Disaster Management Cell, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, successfully hosted the first Training of Trainers (ToT) program for the National Emergency Life Support (NELS) course for paramedics.

The three-day workshop, held from August 12-14, 2025, at GMC Srinagar, brought together 24 senior doctors and nursing supervisors from GMC Srinagar, associated hospitals,

and the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir. These medical professionals were trained and certified in the NELS course, enhancing their skills in emergency medical care.

Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal, GMC Srinagar, emphasized the significance of such training programs



in improving healthcare and patient care systems in the region. "This training will go a long way in enhancing our emergency response capabilities and ultimately benefiting our patients,"

she said. The program was coordinated by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Omid Nodal Officer, NELS Skill Centre, GMC Srinagar. Other key officials who attended the program include Mohamad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator Associated Hospitals GMC Srinagar; Prof. Dr. Hina Bashir, HOD Anesthesiology; Prof. Dr. Rakesh Koul, Head of Department, Medicine; faculty members, Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital, Dy. MS, GMC Srinagar, Medical Officers from GMC Srinagar and associated hospitals

This initiative marks a significant milestone in strengthening emergency medical services in Jammu and Kashmir, aligning with the Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare's efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure and services across the country.

The training program was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Department of Emergency Medicine, JPNATC, AIIMS New Delhi, a WHO Collaborating Centre for Emergency and Trauma Care, and the Disaster Management Cell, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government hospitals. The course faculty from JPN Apex Trauma Centre AIIMS New Delhi, were Dr Ankit, Dr Charu, Dr Soresh and Dr Hannah who conducted the structured workshop with utmost zeal. The workshop was followed by a brainstorming session across the strata of medical fraternity with renewed enthusiasm about setting and coordination between various stakeholders to try to deliver and enhance our approach towards disaster and trauma management.

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Har Ghar Tiranga campaign: Mega Tiranga Rally held at Anantnag

FE NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, a mega Tiranga Rally led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, S F Hamid was held at Anantnag.

SSP, Amritpal Singh, ADCs, ACR, ACD, and other senior officers from civil and police administration, besides engineering wings also participated in the event.

Witnessing enthusiastic participation from thousands of citizens coming from diverse walks of life, the rally commenced from Sports Stadium and culminated at Janglat Mandi. The colorful and vibrant rally signified a spirited and vibrant show of patriotism, unity and collective resolve to uphold dignity of the nation.

As the grand rally passed through Mehdi Kadal, Lal Chowk and Ganjiwara, before culminating at Janglat Mandi; the participants marched with pride and honor with the Tricolour held aloft and high reflecting a sense of collective pride and resilience.

During the rally, songs glorifying freedom fighters and on patriotic themes were played lending the streets a lively and jubilant ambience.

Notably, 1.5 km Tiranga was also carried by the participants and the volunteers all along which created an incredible spectacle as the rally marched ahead.



DC Conducts Spot Assessment Of Arrangements For I-Day 2025 Celebrations At Sports Stadium Budgam

FE NEWS NETWORK

Stresses coordinated efforts for smooth & grand celebration across district

BUDGAM: In view of the Independence Day celebrations 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, conducted a comprehensive review and on-spot assessment of arrangements at Sports Stadium Budgam, the main venue for the district-level function.

During the inspection, DC interacted with concerned officers and took stock of the facilities being put in place to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the celebrations.

He emphasised the need for inter-departmental coordination and timely completion of all preparatory measures.

DC issued a series of directives to the departments involved. He instructed the R&B department Budgam to ensure proper seating arrangements. Municipal Committee Budgam was directed to carry out intensive sanitation drives and place sufficient dustbins in and around the venue to maintain cleanliness and hygiene.

Jal Shakti department Budgam was directed to keep water tankers readily available and ensure uninterrupted tap water supply to public convenience blocks at the stadium. KPDCI Budgam was asked to check and ensure the uninterrupted electricity supply during the celebrations.

Information Department Budgam was tasked with ensuring the proper installation and functioning of the Public Address System (PAS) for smooth conduct of the event proceedings.

Chief Medical Officer Budgam was instructed

to deploy an adequate number of paramedical staff, ambulances to respond swiftly to any health emergencies during the event.

DC underscored the importance of a dedicated and meticulous approach by all departments, keeping in view the significance of the day.

He directed all line departments to work in close coordination and ensure all arrangements



are completed well ahead of time.

District administration Budgam has invited the people of the district to participate in the Independence Day celebrations at sports stadium Budgam and appealed for their full cooperation to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

DC was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, all Executive Engineers, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Committee Budgam, and DIO Budgam besides other concerned officers and officials during his visit.

LG Sinha

I also thank our armed forces, our brave soldiers, security, intelligence agencies and every personnel involved in 'Operation Sindoor' for their bravery and commitment to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack. It is also a day to salute our valiant soldiers of Army, CRPF and Jammu Kashmir Police for successful 'Operation Mahadev' and send them good wishes for their dedication in the service of the nation. India has drawn a new red line. Any act of terror will be considered as an act of war and we will give the enemy a fitting response. On this day, let us also take a pledge to foil the efforts of terrorists, dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorism to make Jammu Kashmir terror-free.

Today, I also extend my felicitations to farmers, workers, teachers, professionals, scientists, business communities, youth and Nari Shakti for their tremendous contributions towards socio-economic growth of Jammu Kashmir. I have full faith in their abilities in building Viksit Bharat. The 21st Century is a century of India and Jammu Kashmir is deeply connected to the aspirations of our great nation. Tiranga Yatra is now one of our biggest festivals and entire Jammu Kashmir participates in Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan. The patriotic fervor and involvement of men, women, youths and senior citizens holding the glorious Tricolour across the UT is an inspiration for the country.

Jammu Kashmir has received a strong development thrust in the past five years and we have built a Union Territory which is prosperous, peaceful, just, humane and treating all its citizens as equal. Democracy has become stronger in the Union Territory. Today, Jammu Kashmir is on the move full of self-confidence and ready to contribute in nation building. We are marching together with just one identity as Indian and determined to serve Mother India till the last breath.

Having walked seventy-nine long years since independence, it is time for every section of society to introspect on the goals achieved so far and contemplate future course of action. Pujya Mahatma Gandhiji had once said about his dreams of an Independent India. Gandhiji had said, "I will work for an India where the poorest of the poor feel that this country and this nation belongs to them and that they have a major role in its construction". In the past five years, my effort was to build Jammu Kashmir of Pujya Gandhiji's dream. We have excelled in many areas. Kashmir is now connected to India's rail network and the dream of Kashmir to Kanyakumari rail connectivity is now a reality. Industrial development has taken deep roots. The benefits of unprecedented economic growth have reached all sections of society. Ease of living has been ensured for both urban and rural population. Women, youth and farmers have been empowered. The entire world is witnessing the transformation of Jammu Kashmir and it is my firm belief that with collective participation of people we will create a bright and peaceful Jammu Kashmir.

Let all of us reaffirm our commitment to work shoulder to shoulder and build a Viksit Bharat. I appeal to all to contribute their fullest to this momentous task. With these words, I once again greet everyone on the occasion of Independence Day".

Jai Hind!
Jai Bharat!

(DIPR)

Over 50 dead

"Joint rescue efforts are being carried out by the Civil Administration, Police, Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), with a focus on tracing the missing and providing treatment to the injured," they added.

"Efforts are also underway to restore access routes and bring additional medical teams and supplies to the affected area," they said.

Meanwhile, Indian Army soldiers from the 16th Corps have been mobilized for rescue and relief operations, officials said. Additionally, the Air Force has been placed on alert for evacuation efforts.

DIG Shridhar Patil of the Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban Range said his message to the people is to remain calm and to call the helpline numbers if any relative or family member is missing. He assured them that they will ensure their safe return.

Army joins rescue operation
The Army has joined the relief and rescue operation at the cloudburst-hit Chisoti village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, where at least 50 people have died and over 200 are missing.

"In the aftermath of a cloudburst at the Chisoti village in Kishtwar, troops of the White Knight swiftly mobilised for relief and rescue operations," a Jammu-based Army PRO said.

The efforts are centred on safeguarding lives and aiding survivors, the spokesperson said, adding that the search for the missing continues.

The Army said that relief stores, medical teams and rescue gear have been rushed to the site.

Over five columns of 60 personnel each, totalling 300 troops, and medical detachments of White Knight Corps are on the ground, working with police SDRF and other civilian agencies to save lives, the PRO added.

"Search for missing is underway with medical aid and support reaching affected families," the PRO said.

BJP MLA from Paddar and Leader of the Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, along with Kishtwar BJP MLA Shagun Parihar, visited the site of the devastating cloudburst.

Speaking from the scene, Sharma estimated that between 1,000 and 1,200 people were in the area when the disaster struck. He described the situation as grim, noting that the death toll is significantly high and that recovery efforts are still ongoing as more bodies continue to be found.

As rescue teams continue to clear debris and conduct search operations in the aftermath of the cloudburst, families of the missing individuals endure a night filled with uncertainty and apprehension. For them, this night represents not rest but a relentless wait against time.

Witnesses said that some hold photographs of their loved ones, while others repeatedly trying to contact them via mobile phones, receiving no response. They added that there is no information or confirmation about their whereabouts—(KNO)

LG Sinha

their loved ones in this tragic incident.
"I want to assure all the affected families that the Government stands shoulder to shoulder with them in this hour of crisis," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor has posted on X: "Anguished by cloudburst in Kishtwar. Condolences to bereaved families and prayers for quick recovery of injured. Directed Civil, Police, Army, NDRF

...79th I-Day eve

Prez Murmu says India's befitting reply to Pahalgam terror attack sent a clear message

NEW DELHI : Terming April 22 Pahalgam terror attack as "cowardly and inhuman", President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said that our befitting reply made it clear to the world that India won't succumb and terrorism won't be tolerated.

President Murmu, while addressing the nation on the eve of 79th Independence Day, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), condemned the scourge of terrorism that struck the country this year, describing the killing of innocent holidaymakers in Kashmir (Pahalgam) as a barbaric act aimed at dividing the nation. "India responded with remarkable unity, sending a message to the world," she added.

"India responded in a decisive manner and with steely resolve by launching Operation Sindoor," she said, adding, "It (Operation Sindoor) demonstrated that our armed forces are prepared to meet any eventuality when it comes to guarding the nation."

The President described the 'Operation Sindoor' a significant landmark in the global fight against terrorism. "With strategic clarity and technical capability, our armed forces destroyed terrorist hubs across the border," she said.

"In our response, what was most noticeable was our unity, which is also the most befitting

response to those who wanted to divide us. Our unity was on display also in the multi-party delegations of the Members of Parliament that reached out to various nations to explain India's



position. The world has taken note of India's stance, that we will not be the aggressor, but we will not hesitate to retaliate in defence of our citizens," she said.

She linked this success to growing domestic capability under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. "Our indigenous manufacturing has achieved the critical level that makes us self-sufficient in meeting many of our security requirements."

She said, "India responded with unity post-terror attack which was the most befitting response to those who wanted to divide us."

"Operation Sindoor was not only a military success but also a test case for India's defence self-reliance. The outcome has proved we are

& SDRF officials to strengthen the rescue and relief operations and ensure all possible assistance is provided to the affected."

Rescue and Relief Operations at Chashoti are in full swing. Men and machinery have been put at the site. Other teams have also been rushed. Briefed Hon'ble Union Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah Ji on rescue and relief Ops by various agencies. He has assured all possible assistance.

I want to assure all the affected families that Government stands shoulder to shoulder with them in this hour of crisis. Air Force has also been alerted for evacuation. I am constantly monitoring the situation." (DIPR)

Situation

The PM Modi said that situation is being monitored closely while rescue and relief operations in the area are underway.

He also assured that every possible assistance will be provided to the victims of the disaster.

"My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the cloudburst and flooding in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir. The situation is being monitored closely. Rescue and relief operations are underway. Every possible assistance will be provided to those in need," PM Narendra Modi said on X.

It is worthwhile to mention that large-scale rescue and relief operations have been launched after a massive cloudburst struck a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday, killing at least 17 people and leading to widespread damage, officials said.

The disaster hit Chositi, the last motorable village en route to Machail Mata temple, between 12 noon and 1 pm, when a large number of people had gathered for the Machail Mata yatra.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD SPILL CHANNEL DIVISION NARBAL
PIN No.193401
Notice inviting e-Tender
e- NIT No. 08 of 2025-26 Dated: 13/08/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following works to be received by the Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal.

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H Account
01	Construction of Flood Protection work by way of Concrete protection wall on Gogaldara Nallah at RD 12500m right side, RD 13290m and RD 16010m right side. Under Treatment of critical reaches of gogaldara Nallah and its tributaries (Scheme Code:IRSS2022100324)	₹.27.29 Lacs	54580/-	800/-	50days	AAV & BEE	4711 Flood Control Sector Capex Budget
02	Balance work of raising and strengthening of Peripheral bunds and Gund Hassi Bund of Hokarsar Wetland at spots RD 520 m to RD 565 m. Under Re-construction of Damaged sluice gates for various Nallahs on Soubag side of Hokarsar Wetland including strengthening of peripheral bunds. (Scheme Code:IRSS2021100319).	₹.3.07 Lacs	6140/-	300/-	20days	DEE	4711 Flood Control Sector Capex Budget

Position of AAA =Accorded, Position of TS = Sanctioned ,Position of funds: (100% Budgetary provision 2025-26)
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13-08-2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13-08-2025 from 1800 Hrs
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13-08-2025 from 1800 Hrs
4.	Bid Submission End Date	25-08-2025 upto 1600 Hrs
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	26-08-2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal.
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	The bidder has to provide 5% of Adv. Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid.

Note:-
1):- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall if any found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected
2)As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectt. Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd. 07-06-2018 which reads as under :-
c) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of E-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
b) The Cost of tenders should be collected by uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.
1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (debiting to M.H.0701 -Rev. Misc) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly. The issuing date of CDR/FDR uploaded must be between issuing date to Bid Submission end date of NIT. CDR/FDR (Earnest money/Bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal.
3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
4. The normal deposits to be deducted as per GFR 2017 rules from running bills to be released after DLP of the work is over.
5. The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reason thereof.
6. Defect liability period of the work shall be commencing six months after completion of work.

Sd/-
Er. Javaid Ahmad Kurpal
Executive Engineer
Flood Spill Channel Division
Narbal.

No. FSCDN/CS/2950-63
Dated: 13/08/2025

DIPK-5205/25 Dt: 14-08-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No. 17 OF R&B/QAZIGUND/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/2120-35 DATED:13-08-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territories of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs)	Basic Cost (In Rs)	GST Amount (In Rs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (InRs)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of 1x5 Meter Span RCC Culvert over Bahawadar Cheerdar Road.	1495730.57	1267568.28	228162.29	600/=	29915/=	60 Days	3054 M&R	BEE, CEE & DEE Class

Position of AAA = Accorded vide authorization No.ARD/CESK/2025-26/21 Dated: 28-06-2025
Position of TS = Accorded vide order No.CE(R&B)SK/TS/63 of 2025-26 Dated: 12-08-2025
The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13.08.2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 14.08.2025 (11:00 AM)
		To 25.08.2025 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 14.08.2025 (11:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 25.08.2025 (04:00 PM)
		26.08.2025 (11:00 AM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND Tender Inviting Authority (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt. 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND (Tender receiving Authority).
2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD @ 2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD @ 2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @ 5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST. GST @ 18 Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.
5. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.
6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
7. The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
c) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
d) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.
8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a. Bidders are advised to download the submission manual from the Downloads "options as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b. To participate in bidding process bidder shall have to upload Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
c. The bids are to be submitted in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of tenders.
10. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
11. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Materials) contents. In case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
12. Price escalation and all taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
13. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

No. 2120-35
DATED:13-08-2025

Sd/-
Ex.Engineer

DIPK-5191/25 Dt: 14-08-2025

Union Agriculture Minister Charts Roadmap for Rabi Season, Fertiliser Supply

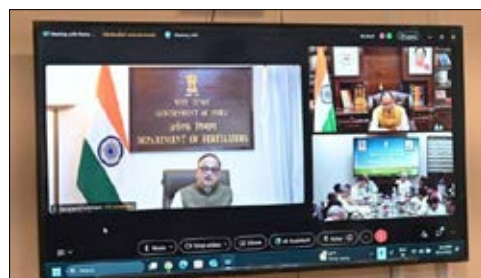
NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting in the national capital with state agriculture ministers, senior officials, scientists, and representatives from across the country to review preparations for the upcoming Rabi season and address pressing issues in the farm sector.

According to the Press Information Bureau (PIB) the meeting, attended by Agriculture Secretary Shri Devesh Chaturvedi, ICAR Director General Dr. M.L. Jat, and state agriculture ministers from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, as well as representatives from Gujarat and Punjab, covered a wide range of subjects — including fertiliser availability, certification of bio-stimulants, natural farming, production of pulses and oilseeds, crop insurance claims in disaster-hit regions, and the ministry's long-term agricultural action plan.

Chouhan announced that the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan for the Rabi crop will be formally launched on October 3, 2025 — coinciding with Vijay Parv — and will run until Dhanteras on October 18. A two-day national conference on September 15-16 in New Delhi will precede the launch, bringing together state agriculture

ministers, senior bureaucrats, and experts to finalise strategies.

The minister urged states to come prepared with accurate data on fertiliser requirements for



the season and confirmed that he would personally write to Chief Ministers to ensure high-level participation in the conference. "We must work collectively to ensure the Rabi campaign begins with full preparedness," he said.

One of the central themes of the meeting was fertiliser management. Several states, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, and Punjab, raised concerns about urea shortages. Shri Chouhan acknowledged that the heightened demand could be due to increased sowing following good monsoon rains or possible diversion of urea for non-agricultural purposes.

"If the demand is genuine for farming, the government will ensure full supply," he assured. "However, misuse or black marketing will not be tolerated. State governments must form monitoring committees and take strict action if any irregularities are found."

He also directed that only the 600 bio-stimulants certified so far should be sold to farmers, warning against forcing farmers to purchase additional products with fertilisers. "Earlier, nearly 30,000 bio-stimulant products were in circulation without proper certification. This must end," he said.

The meeting reviewed preparations for the National Mission on Natural Farming, which will be launched by the Prime Minister on August 23. Shri Chouhan asked states to meet mission targets and step up promotion of natural farming practices.

On pulses and oilseeds production, he called for state agriculture ministers to personally lead campaigns, noting that increasing domestic output is essential to meeting national consumption needs and reducing imports.

With states like Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh reporting flood-related crop damage, the minister emphasised swift settlement of claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. He reiterated the government's policy

that if any insurance company or state delays claim settlements, farmers will be compensated with an additional 12% interest, credited directly to their bank accounts through digital payment systems.

The minister urged states to come prepared with accurate data on fertiliser requirements for the season and confirmed that he would personally write to Chief Ministers to ensure high-level participation in the conference. "We must work collectively to ensure the Rabi campaign begins with full preparedness," he said.

Chouhan directed the preparation of a five-year agricultural action plan incorporating inputs from progressive farmers, experts, and other stakeholders. He also stressed the importance of widely publicising the ministry's toll-free helpline for resolving farmers' grievances. (PIB)

NeGD, IIM Ahmedabad Train 27 Officers on Digital Transformation in Governance

AHMEDABAD: In a move to strengthen the nation's digital governance capabilities, the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information



Technology (MeitY) organized a four-day capacity building programme on "Digital Transformation of the Organization & Economy" at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, from August 11 to 14, 2025.

According to the Press Information Bureau (PIB), the initiative forms part of the broader Digital India vision, aimed at equipping government officials with the knowledge and tools needed to drive technology-led governance reforms.

The programme brought together 27 officers from diverse Central Ministries, State Governments, and Union Territories, representing regions such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, New Delhi, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. This multi-state participation underscored the central government's emphasis on uniform capacity building across the country.

The training was formally inaugurated on August 11 by Rajnish Kumar, Chief Operating Officer and Director, NeGD, MeitY. In his opening address, Shri Kumar lauded India's pioneering efforts in building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) — including identity, payments, and data exchange platforms — and their role in delivering citizen-centric services. He called upon participants to focus on developing case studies, policy frameworks, and robust impact assessments to guide the next phase of the nation's digital transformation journey.

Structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of the digital economy's dynamics, the programme's curriculum combined thematic modules, expert lectures, case study discussions, and hands-on exercises. Core focus areas included responsible digital transformation, leveraging data for informed decision-making, inclusive service delivery models, and harnessing emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence for governance. Participants were encouraged to examine real-world applications in critical sectors, from healthcare to public administration, to bridge theory with practical implementation.

By integrating academic insights with operational realities, the sessions aimed to foster innovation-oriented thinking among officials, enabling them to design, lead, and execute e-Governance projects with measurable impact. The training also stressed the strategic value of digital technologies in enhancing efficiency, transparency, and citizen trust in public service delivery.

The capacity-building efforts align with the Digital India Programme's long-term goal of creating a skilled cadre of government professionals capable of conceptualizing and implementing digital governance initiatives at all levels. According to NeGD, sustained outreach and tailored training programmes are being deployed nationwide to ensure that the benefits of digital transformation reach every administrative tier and citizen demographic.

With the successful conclusion of the IIM Ahmedabad programme, MeitY and NeGD reaffirmed their commitment to fostering a digitally empowered governance ecosystem, positioning India as a global leader in technology-driven public administration. (PIB)

PM Oli to visit China for SCO summit

KATHMANDU: Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli will visit China later this month to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping among others.

Oli will embark on August 30 for a five day visit to China to attend the Tianjin Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), according to sources close to the Prime Minister.

The Tianjin Summit of the SCO will be held from August 31 to September 1.

However, there is no official announcement of the visit as yet. Oli's visit to China comes weeks ahead of his scheduled visit to India towards mid-September. The visit to New Delhi, too, is yet to be announced officially.

Raghubir Mahaseth, head of foreign affairs of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) party, confirmed Oli's travel to China on August 30. Mahaseth, however, gave no details.

Oli is also likely to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to the northern neighbour, sources said.

Nepal joined SCO as Dialogue Partner after signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SCO Secretariat on March 22, 2016. The MoU defines scope of Nepal's engagement with SCO in the field of trade, transit and investment, energy, agriculture, small and medium business; security issues; legal and customs affairs; transport and communications; science and technology, education, health, culture and tourism, and disasters.

The prime minister had earlier paid an official visit to China in December 2024, months after assuming office for the fourth time last year. (PTI)



Zelensky meets with UK's Starmer as Europe braces for Trump-Putin summit

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to London on Thursday, a day before a critical US-Russia summit in Alaska. The two embraced warmly outside Starmer's offices at 10 Downing Street, without making

any comments. Zelensky's trip to the British capital comes a day after he took part in virtual meetings from Berlin with US President Donald Trump and the leaders of several European countries.



Those leaders said Trump had assured them he would make a priority of trying to achieve a ceasefire in Ukraine when he meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday in Anchorage.

Ahead of Thursday's meeting, Starmer said further sanctions could be imposed on Russia should Putin fail to engage.

"It is important to remind colleagues that we do stand ready also to increase pressure on Russia, particularly the economy, with sanctions and wider measures as may be necessary," Starmer said.

Both Zelensky and the Europeans have worried the bilateral US-Russia summit would leave them and their interests sidelined, and that any conclusions reached could favour Moscow and leave Ukraine and Europe's future security in jeopardy with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine now in its fourth year.

Yet some of those leaders, like German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron, praised Wednesday's video conference with Trump as constructive.

Speaking after the meetings to reporters, Trump warned of "very severe consequences"

Kyiv has long insisted that safeguards against future Russian attacks provided by its Western allies would be a precondition for achieving a durable end to the fighting in Ukraine. Yet many Western governments have been hesitant to commit to engaging their military personnel.

Speaking after the meetings to reporters, Trump warned of "very severe consequences"

Territorial integrity

Starmer on Wednesday said the Alaska summit would be "hugely important," and could be a "viable" path to a ceasefire in Ukraine.

But he also alluded to European concerns that Trump may strike a deal that forces Ukraine to cede territory to Russia, and warned that Western allies must be prepared to step up pressure on Russia if necessary.

During a call Wednesday among leaders of countries involved in the "coalition of the willing" — those who are prepared to help police any future peace agreement between Moscow and Kyiv — Starmer stressed that any deal reached on bringing the fighting to an end must protect the "territorial integrity" of Ukraine.

"International borders cannot be, and must not be changed by force," he said. "Any talk about borders, diplomacy, ceasefire has to sit alongside a robust and credible security guarantee to ensure that any peace, if there is peace, is lasting peace and Ukraine can defend its territorial integrity as part of any deal."

Macron: Trump willing to share in security guarantees

Kyiv has long insisted that safeguards against future Russian attacks provided by its Western allies would be a precondition for achieving a durable end to the fighting in Ukraine. Yet many Western governments have been hesitant to commit to engaging their military personnel.

Countries in the "coalition of the willing," which include France and the UK, have been trying for months to secure US security backing should it be required.

Following Wednesday's virtual meetings, Macron said Trump told the assembled leaders that while the NATO military alliance must not be part of future security guarantees, the US leader agreed that "the United States and all the parties involved should take part".

"It's a very important clarification that we have received," Macron said.

European Council President Antonio Costa also welcomed "the readiness of the United States to share with Europe the efforts to reinforce security conditions once we obtain a durable and just peace for Ukraine." (PTI)

Rajnath Singh Meets Tribal Students from Andaman & Nicobar Islands in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday interacted with 30 meritorious higher secondary students from tribal communities of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands at South Block, as part of Aarohan: Dweep to Delhi, a seven-day national integration tour organised by the Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC).

A Defence Spokesperson told the Press Information Bureau that the students will witness the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort on August 15.

Singh urged the students to focus on character building along with academic excellence, stressing the importance of human values. He encouraged them to face challenges with confidence and contribute to making India stronger in the future.

The Defence Minister offered sweets to the students and received a traditional handcrafted souvenir from tribal artisans. He praised the initiative, supported by the Integrated Defence Staff, HQ Delhi Area, and the civil administration of the Islands.

The tour aims to expose island youth to India's culture, heritage, infrastructure, and academic opportunities, with visits planned to landmarks such as the Red Fort, India Gate, National War Memorial, Taj Mahal, Delhi Technological University, and the National Science Centre. (PIB)



Putin praises Trump's efforts to end Ukraine war ahead of Friday summit in Alaska

LONDON: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday praised US President Donald Trump's efforts to end the war in Ukraine, more than three years after Moscow launched its invasion, as the two leaders prepared for a pivotal US-Russia summit Friday in Alaska.

Following a meeting Thursday with top government officials on the summit, Putin said in a short video released by the Kremlin that the Trump administration was making "quite energetic and sincere efforts to stop the hostilities" and to "reach agreements that are of interest to all parties involved."

Putin also suggested that "long-term conditions of peace between our countries, and in Europe, and in the world as a whole," could be reached under an agreement with the US on nuclear arms control.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and other European leaders worked to ensure their interests are taken into account when Trump and Putin meet in Anchorage.

Uncertainty for Europe

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed Zelensky to London on Thursday in a show of British support for Ukraine a day before the critical Trump-Putin meeting. The two embraced warmly outside Starmer's offices at 10 Down-

ing Street without making any comments, and Zelensky departed about an hour later.

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Zelensky's trip to the British capital came a day after he took part in virtual meetings from Berlin with Trump and the leaders of several European countries. Those leaders said that he would make a priority of trying to achieve a ceasefire in Ukraine when he meets with Putin.

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Trump had assured them that he would make a priority of trying to achieve a ceasefire in Ukraine when he meets with Putin.

Speaking after the meetings to reporters,



Trump warned of "very severe consequences" for Russia if Putin doesn't agree to stop the war against Ukraine after Friday's meeting.

While some European leaders, including German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron, praised Wednesday's video conference with Trump as constructive, uncertainty remained over how the US leader — whose rhetoric toward both Zelensky and Putin has evolved dramatically since retaking office this year — would conduct negotiations in the absence of any other interested parties.

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

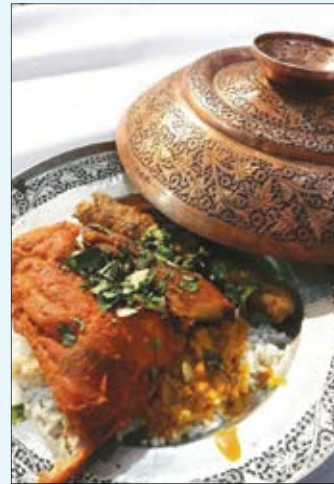
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