



Flood Threat Looms Jammu As Rivers Swell Amid Heavy Rain

FE NEWS NETWORK

Water bodies swell beyond alarm levels; lightning strike claims life in Kokernag.

MeT predicts more heavy rains till today, says cloudbursts, flash floods likely

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: In a week, the water bodies across Jammu have once again swelled, crossing the alarm mark at multiple places, prompting authorities to issue an advisory urging people to stay away from vulnerable spots. However, a teenage boy lost his life after being struck by lightning in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

According to details, the Jammu region has witnessed extreme weather conditions since August 14, 2025, leading to the loss of over 100 lives, including 65 in the Kishtwar cloudburst incident and 35 in landslides along the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) route. One more life was lost in a natural calamity in Anantnag district today. A 16-year-old boy lost his life after be-

ing struck by lightning in Kokernag. Officials informed that Dilawar Ahmad Bhokad (16), son of Mohammad Sardar Bhokad, a resident of Soim Wangam, Kokernag, was hit by lightning at Nawkhan near Margan Top,

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Heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours has triggered a **critical flood situation** across Jammu, with the River Tawi, Jh, Basanter, Chenab, and Ravi rivers breaching **alert and danger levels**, prompting heightened **vigilance** from authorities.

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resulting in his on-the-spot death. Meanwhile, as moderate to heavy rainfall was witnessed in the Jammu region from late Monday evening, water bodies in Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, and other places saw an unprecedented rise, leading to flood threats in the Jammu region again.

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Admin on High Alert Over Inclement Weather: DC Sgr

FE NEWS NETWORK

Says all festivals pass off peacefully; heritage sites to be upgraded

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday said that all the religious occasions in the district, from Muharram to Ganesh Chaturthi, are being celebrated with peace and joy, reflecting Srinagar's spirit of communal harmony. Speaking at Indra Nagar Srinagar, where he joined the Kashmiri Pandit community in Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, DC Akshay Labroo said, it is a matter of great happiness that every festival in Srinagar is being observed with enthusiasm.

“Today, we joined our Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters in Ganesh Pooja, and it is heartening to see everyone celebrate with harmony,” he said. He also highlighted that the recently

concluded Amarnath Yatra passed off peacefully, underscoring the administration's commitment to ensuring security and public order.

On preservation of cultural and religious heritage, the DC said Srinagar is witnessing dedicated efforts to restore heritage



sites. “We have schemes under which temples, shrines, churches and other religious places with heritage value are being taken up for restoration. Under the Smart City project

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JKBOSE Postpones Class 10th, 11th Exams Scheduled For Sep 3

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Tuesday announced the postponement of Class 10th and 11th exams scheduled for September 3, citing prevailing circumstances. In a post on X, the office of J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE) announced



that all examinations of Class 10th and 11th scheduled for September 3, 2025, have been postponed.

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IGP Calls For Audit Of Buildings For Emergency Preparedness

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Police chief V K Birdi on Tuesday called for conducting safety audit of buildings to ensure prepared-



ness and evacuation in case of flash floods and cloudbursts in view of the inclement weather forecast.

Kashmir IGP Birdi was speaking at a security review meeting at the Police Control

Room Kashmir, called to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrations.

Taking note of the current weather forecast, Birdi directed officers to take proactive measures to mitigate any possible disruptions.

The police chief of the Valley stressed the need for police to conduct a safety audit of buildings and ensure preparedness and evacuation in case of flash floods, cloudbursts, waterlogging, or inundation.

He instructed that disaster management teams remain on high alert, with adequate manpower and equipment in readiness to respond to emergencies.

While reviewing the security preparedness ahead of the Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrations in the Valley, Birdi asked police to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the

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28 BJP MLAs Contribute Rs 28 Cr For Relief Efforts: LoP Sharma

FE NEWS NETWORK

Says NC Govt failed people, BJP stands with flood-affected families

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly, Sunil Sharma Tuesday expressed deep concern over the widespread devastation caused by incessant rains, cloudbursts and flash floods that have disrupted normal life across the Jammu region.

Addressing a news conference at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, accompanied by Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary & MLA, Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North, and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh, LoP Sharma informed that the disaster began with the cloudburst in Chashoti village on August 14, followed by another in

Kathua on August 16, and further aggravated by continuous rains from August 24 to 26, leading to severe destruction in Jammu,



Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, and other districts.

Highlighting the proactive role of BJP representatives, Sharma said, “BJP leaders and MLAs have stood shoulder to shoulder with the people, participating in rescue and relief operations. This is not a

favour but our duty towards society.” He added that BJP representatives have consistently taken up the public's concerns with the govern-

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He added that **BJP representatives** have consistently taken up the public's concerns with the **government and coordinated** with officials of the concerned departments to ensure prompt **relief measures**.

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ment and coordinated with officials of the concerned departments to ensure prompt relief measures. However, Sharma strongly

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CM Omar Thanks Delhi, Haryana CMs For Flood Relief Support



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the chief ministers of Haryana and Delhi for extending support to the Union Territory's flood

relief efforts.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini contributed Rs 5 crore towards the relief fund, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta called Abdullah to offer her government's support for the flood-affected Union territory.

“Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Haryana Government @NayabSainiBJP for contributing Rs 5 Cr. to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund,” according to a post shared by the official X account of the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister.

Abdullah said this generous support will strengthen ongoing

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Bottimline

Rapid Restoration...

Jammu's Power Comeback Post-Floods

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Power Development Department (PDD) has issued a handout providing an overview of the power restoration works undertaken following the incessant rainfall and flash floods that caused severe damage to power infrastructure in the Jammu region on August 25 and 26. What made the restoration Efforts truly exceptional was the strong teamwork and synergy between the Department and various state and central agencies such as NHPC, PGCIL, NHAI, and Police.

The PDD closely coordinated with these agencies, which provided timely assistance and logistical support wherever needed to ensure the swift and uninterrupted execution of restoration work across all affected districts.

As a result, the Department successfully restored electricity supply across Jammu region within a record time, despite the scale of

destruction being so widespread that no district was spared from the damage. The torrential rains, coupled with overflowing River Tawi, local nallahs, and landslides, caused unprecedented damage particularly to the transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Several transmission towers collapsed, foundations were submerged, and receiving stations were inundated with water. According to reports, with most feeders down, the power load in the region plummeted to just 299 MW on August 26, compared to the normal demand of around 1,050 MW.

Despite the daunting challenges posed by inclement weather, the restoration teams of PDD swung into action immediately, working around the clock under extremely adverse con-

ditions. By isolating faulty network elements and sourcing power through alternate arrangements wherever possible, the department managed to restore the load to 725 (70% of normal load) MW by 7 PM on August 27 and further to 960 MW

Executive Directors of PGCIL, Tarun Bajaj, and NHPC, Ram Swaroop, extended full technical and logistical support, playing a crucial role in accomplishing the mammoth task of power restoration under these extremely challenging circumstances.

(92% of normal load) by the evening of August 28. The restoration drive was carried out through close coordination among all J&K power corporations—JKPDC, JKPTCL, and JPDCCL under

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CS Dulloo Reviews Post-Flood Restoration Measures In Jmu

FE NEWS NETWORK

Stresses on urgent action on HM's directions

JAMMU: In the aftermath of the visit of the Union Home Minister,



Amit Shah to Jammu yesterday to personally assess the extent of damage caused by the recent flash floods, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting with Administrative Secretaries and Divisional Administration to review the swift and time-bound implementation of the directives issued by the visiting Minister.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need for seamless inter-departmental coordination to bring immediate relief to the affected people and ensure early restoration of essential services, including power supply and potable water, in the shortest possible timeframe.

Placing particular emphasis on connectivity, he directed that all efforts be undertaken on a war-footing to restore damaged road links at the earliest, as road connectivity forms the backbone for other relief, rehabilitation, and restoration measures.

He instructed the respective Divisional and District administrations to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the restoration of damaged infrastructure across the flood-affected areas, ensuring strict adherence to timelines.

Highlighting the importance of public health, the Chief Secretary directed that all water sources be tested for contamination

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GST Council Meets Today; Tax Cuts on Essentials Expected

NEW DELHI: The Centre is likely to push for a 5 per cent tax on EVs when its ambitious overhaul of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to lower tax rates on daily use items ranging from butter to electronics is considered by the all powerful GST Council in a two-day meeting starting Wednesday.

The Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising ministers from all states, will discuss the Centre's 'next-gen' GST reform proposal of having just two tax rates of 5 and 18 per cent by moving products from the current 12 and 28 per cent slab to lower rates. A special 40 per cent rate has been proposed to be levied on select few items.

While the pruning of the tax slabs and the resultant expected fall in prices have been welcomed, opposition ruled states are seeking compensation for any loss of the revenue that may occur because of the rejig.

A 4-tier GST structure of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent was implemented from July 1, 2017, when the Centre and states

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Shailendra Kumar visits MRCFC Khudwani, participates in Live Exhibition of Temperate Rice Biodiversity

KULGAM: Principal Secretary Agriculture Production, Shailendra Kumar, visited Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops (MRCFC) Khudwani, SKUAST-Kashmir and participated in Live Exhibition of Temperate Rice Biodiversity.

During the visit, Principal Secretary undertook a detailed tour of the research trials and was briefed about the centre's ongoing research & seed production programmes. He was apprised of the centre's remarkable contributions over the past eight decades in rice and other field crops, with a special emphasis on the meticulous germplasm conservation program.

The Principal Secretary was accompanied by Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir; Director Agriculture Kashmir; Director Research; Director Planning; ADC Kulgam; Chief Agriculture Officers; Scientists from MRCFC-Khudwani; Programme Coordinators of South Kashmir KVKs and officers from various line departments.

Interacting with the officers during the visit,

Shailendra Kumar stressed on the need for demand-driven and development-oriented research to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of food grains in J&K. He also emphasized on scaling up oilseed production



capacity to meet the ambitious target of area expansion to 3 lakh hectares under oilseed cultivation.

The Principal Secretary called for popularization of advanced, proven technologies among farmers through frontline demonstrations. He further assured support for upgrading the centre's research, development and educational role through adequate funding.

On the occasion, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Vice

Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir, congratulated the Khudwani centre for serving as a role model and for gaining recognition at prestigious national and international platforms.

Addressing the critical issue of rice blast disease, Professor Ganie highlighted that MRCFC, Khudwani serves as Nodal Centre for Rice Blast Screening in India, underscoring its national significance in crop protection research.

Head of MRCFC Khudwani, Dr. Najeeb ul Rehman Sofi presented a comprehensive progress report detailing the centre's remarkable journey and achievements since its establishment in 1942. He also highlighted the centre's pivotal role in developing rice, rapeseed and wheat varieties, which have contributed significantly to improvements in productivity, quality, and area coverage.

Dr. Najeeb also briefed the Principal Secretary on how the institution has evolved into a premier research facility over more than eight decades of dedicated service to agricultural science.

DLIC Kupwara approves 554 cases under Mission YUVA scheme

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasahab Suse chaired the meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) and approved 554 cases under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme.

The aim of the meeting was to review and approve applications submitted by young aspiring entrepreneurs under the Mission YUVA initiative, which aims to provide financial assistance and capacity-building support to youth for starting and sustaining their businesses so that they can earn their livelihood.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the applications received. After careful scrutiny and

discussions, the Committee approved 554 eligible cases

youth and encourage their participation in the scheme.



for further financial support and guidance. Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the importance of Mission YUVA in empowering local youth and helping them build sustainable livelihoods.

He emphasized the need for intensifying the awareness campaigns and directed the concerned departments to reach out to more eligible

He also reviewed the bank branch wise performance about already sanctioned cases and stressed upon the concerned branch heads to ensure speedy disbursement of the cases.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Kupwara, General Manager DIC, Assistant Director Employment, LDM, officers from, Social Welfare, JKEDI and other concerned officials.

DC Kathua orders safety audit of govt buildings post torrential rains



KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua has directed immediate safety audit of all government buildings in the district in view of incessant rainfall. The order encompasses school buildings, health institutions, college buildings, hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to ensure that structures are safe before being put to use. According to the order, the district heads have been asked to oversee the conduct of the safety audit prior to the functioning of such buildings. Heads of educational institutions, in coordination with Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), have been instructed to complete safety checks before resuming classes, with the Chief Education Officer supervising the process for schools. The Chief Medical Officer has also been tasked with ensuring audits of all hospital and health centre buildings in the district. The initiative aims to safeguard the lives of students, staff, and the general public by preempting hazards arising from rain-induced structural damage. The Deputy Commissioner has emphasized strict compliance with the order for the welfare of all concerned.

MLA Sonawari inaugurates two-day training programme on Rainfed Area Development at Sumbal

BANDIPORA: A two-day capacity building training programme under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was inaugurated today at Sumbal, Bandipora by Hilal Akbar Lone, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Sonawari constituency.

The programme, organized by the Dryland Agriculture Research Station Rangreth (DARS), SKUAST-Kashmir, is being conducted under HADP Project No. 15 titled 'Rainfed Area Development', with a thematic focus on 'Integrated Farming System Modules under Diverse Ecologies of Kashmir Himalayas.'

In his address, MLA Lone commended SKUAST-K and the Agriculture department for their efforts in promoting sustainable

and climate-resilient farming practices in rainfed regions. He

in his address highlighted the need of such training programmes



stressed the need for empowering field-level officers with advanced technical knowledge to support farmers in adopting integrated and eco-friendly agricultural systems.

Dr. M. Ashraf Bhat, Associate Director Research, DARS, Rangreth

and emphasized on the relevance of SKUAST-K technologies and their role in catering climate oriented challenges.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of farmers, officers from the Agriculture department including

Agriculture Extension Officers, Assistant Agriculture Officers, Junior Agriculture Extension Officers, Junior Agriculture Officers and other concerned officers.

A series of lectures were delivered by experts from SKUAST-Kashmir covering a range of topics designed to strengthen the participants' understanding and implementation of integrated farming systems suitable for the diverse agro-ecological conditions of the Kashmir Himalayas.

During the programme, a number of publications on millets titled, 'An introduction to millets' and 'millet farming, processing and value addition-an introduction' besides training pamphlet was released.

...Inclement weather

SDM Mahore directs Field staff not to leave station

MAHORE: Sub-Divisional Magistrate Mahore Shafiqat Majeed Bhat has directed the field staff of all departments to remain stationed at their duty locations and actively address public grievances as per rules.

"Reports of damage to roads, houses, crops, property and public infrastructure have been received from various parts of Sub Division Mahore.

To ensure timely assistance and effective response, the field staff of all departments shall remain stationed at their duty locations and actively address public grievances as per rules," the SDM has ordered.

The administration has further advised the public to exercise caution.

"In case of any imminent threat to houses or property due to rain or floods, residents are urged to immediately shift to safer locations, including nearby government buildings such as schools or Panchayat Ghars, in consultation with field staff of Revenue, RDD, Education and other departments.

The public can contact the Subdivision Mahore control room on -8493922848/9469826766," the order reads.

The authorities have assured that all possible measures are being taken to minimize risks and extend necessary support to affected families.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam holds public darbar at Khag

Reiterates commitment to address public grievances at grassroots level

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, held a public interaction programme (Public Darbar) at Tehsil Office Khag.

While interacting with the large gathering, DC said that holding such public outreach programmes is aimed at bringing the administration at the doorsteps of the people.

He stressed that the basic motive is to listen to the day-to-day issues of the common citizens and ensure that their genuine demands including drinking water, electricity supply, road connectivity, irrigation facilities and healthcare are addressed on priority.

DC assured that the administration is fully committed to provide better services to the people, adding that sustained efforts are being made to improve essential amenities across all areas. He emphasized that public darbars not only bridge the gap between people and government but also create a platform for participatory governance.

On the occasion, locals from adjacent areas of Shunglipora, Drung, Lassipora, Khapora, Naserpora, Sugan, Zoogyari,

Malpora, Khag, Bathipora Sitharan, and Hamchipora, also participated and put forth their demands before the district administration. Multiple demands were raised including construction and upgradation of Sitharan-Khag main road, establishment of irrigation



facilities, receiving station at Khag, augmentation of health infrastructure including PHC, and development of playgrounds for youth.

Responding to the demands, DC directed concerned officers to take up the works on priority and ensure execution in a time-bound manner.

He particularly stressed on the immediate development of playgrounds in every panchayat, observing that "youth are our future and we need to strengthen them by engaging them in recreational and productive activities."

He added that creating avenues for sports and recreation

will help keep the younger generation away from the menace of drugs and other social evils.

Dr Bilal urged parents and elders to remain vigilant and guide their children to stay away from the menace of drugs, assuring that the district administration will continue to



work tirelessly for a drug-free and progressive Budgam

The DC reiterated that the district administration is working with a vision of holistic development, with equal focus on infrastructure creation, social welfare and youth empowerment.

He called upon locals to extend cooperation in government initiatives and assured that no genuine grievance will go unheard. The public interaction programme was attended by CPO Budgam, SDM Beerwah, Tehsildar Khag, BDO Khag and other district and sectoral officers, who also took note of area-specific issues projected by the public.

J&K Bank, Rajouri admin host Udyami Yuva Day

30 loan sanction letters handed over to beneficiaries



RAJOURI: Jammu and Kashmir Bank in collaboration with district administration Rajouri organized the Udyami Yuva here at Dak Bungalow, with a focus on empowering aspiring entrepreneurs under the Mission Yuva initiative.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Chander Prakash was the chief guest. He commended J&K Bank for its efforts in processing approved cases under Mission Yuva and encouraged the youth to utilize the opportunity to emerge as budding entrepreneurs and create employment opportunities for others. Emphasizing the importance of financial discipline, he urged beneficiaries to avoid defaults and strictly adhere to scheme guidelines.

Deputy Director Employment, Mohammad Nawaz also addressed the gathering and briefed participants about the benefits of Mission Yuva scheme. He highlighted the importance of utilizing the Mission Yuva app to access services and maximize the scheme benefits.

An interactive session with beneficiaries was also held, where participants appreciated the paperless nature of the scheme and the support received in preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). They expressed gratitude for not having to run from office to office while applying for loans under Mission Yuva.

On the occasion, 30 loan sanction letters were handed over to beneficiaries, marking a significant milestone in supporting youth-led entrepreneurship in the district.

Prominent attendees included General Manager J&K Bank Mohammad Muzaffar Wani; Zonal Head Rajeev Kumar Digra; Cluster Head Deepak Sharma; Lead District Manager (LDM) Ravinder Singh and heads of different branches operating across Rajouri district.

Div Com Jammu visits flood affected areas, relief camps in Samba District

Takes stock of restoration of damaged roads, resumption of essential services

SAMBA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today conducted a tour of the flood-affected areas in Samba district to assess the situation and the scale of damage to public infrastructure and private property. He also visited the relief camps where the affected families have been provided shelter and amenities.

Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan, officials of District administration, NHAI, BSF and concerned line departments accompanied him during the tour.

The Divisional Commissioner commenced the tour with inspection of Vijaypur Bridge near AIIMS. He enquired from the officials of National Highway Authority of India about the cause of its damage and directed to expedite restoration work. It was informed that immediate measures are being taken for restoration, including

strengthening of crates and embankments to prevent overflow of water.

Later, the Div Com inspected relief arrangements put in place at Samba Bus Stand and Municipal

areas to ensure integrated flood management efforts. It was informed that the power supply is being provided to multiple affected locations through alternate means. However,



Community Hall, where flood-affected families have been provided temporary shelter.

The Div Com interacted with the flood affected families, addressed their concerns, and assured timely relief measures and continued administrative support. He directed the concerned officials at the relief camp to provide all facilities to the inmates of the relief camps.

The Div Com also met with Border Security Force (BSF) officers stationed in the affected

they said, work is on to restore permanent power connections at the earliest possible timeline.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasised the critical need for immediate implementation of preventive measures and comprehensive long-term flood mitigation strategies.

All concerned departments were directed to maintain high alert status and ensure swift assistance and support to affected families during the recovery phase.

MLA Daleep Singh Parihar inaugurates maternity waiting home at SDH Bhaderwah

BHADERWAH: Member Legislative Assembly Daleep Singh Parihar inaugurated the

The inauguration of the facility marks a significant step towards strengthening maternal

expectant mothers, particularly those from far-flung and hard to reach areas, ensuring timely access to institutional deliveries and quality healthcare services.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA appreciated the efforts of the health department in improving healthcare infrastructure and reiterated the government's commitment to maternal and child health. BMO Dr. Versha Sharma also highlighted the importance of the facility in reducing maternal and neonatal risks.

The event was attended by senior health officials, staff members and locals who welcomed the initiative.



Maternity Waiting Home (Matri Ghar) at Sub District Hospital Bhaderwah in the presence of Dr. Versha Sharma.

and child healthcare services in the region. The Maternity Waiting Home will provide a safe and supportive environment to the

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur reviews relief, rescue, rehabilitation and restoration measures

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today convened a meeting of officers from line departments to review the relief, rescue, rehabilitation and assessment of rain induced damages.

The meeting, held in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; IAS Probationer Seerat Baji; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, besides other officers of line departments.

During the meeting, the DC took detailed feedback

from the concerned officers regarding the extent of damages, rescue operations, relief distribution, rehabilitation measures, restoration of essential services, losses to infrastructure and the immediate steps taken on ground.

She emphasized the need for timely assessment and submission of detailed reports so that necessary relief and restoration works could be initiated without delay.

The DC directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure prompt restoration of essential services in the affected areas.

She directed the officers to activate men and machinery at full scale to ensure the early restoration of drinking water supply, power supply, road connectivity and other essential services.

With regard to the restoration of road connectivity, the DC instructed the concerned departments to deploy at least 100 JCB machines for repairing and restoring all damaged roads.

Besides, the DC directed that the disbursement of relief material and assistance be carried out on a daily basis to ensure immediate support to the affected families.

Sakeena Itoo reviews modalities for preparation of J&K Private University Policy-2025



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo chaired a meeting to review the modalities for the preparation of the J&K Private University Policy-2025, a landmark framework aimed at strengthening higher education opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shantamanu; Special Secretary, Higher Education department

and other senior officers of HED attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister held comprehensive deliberations focusing on ensuring that the policy draft is both progressive and pragmatic, balancing the growing demand for quality education with the need for robust regulatory safeguards.

The Minister emphasized that the policy must create an enabling environment for reputed private institutions to establish universities in Jammu and Kashmir while upholding academic

integrity, transparency and accountability. "Government's objective is to upgrade higher education, promote innovation and provide local students access to world-class learning facilities without compromising on quality," the Minister stated.

The Minister further called upon the officers that the draft policy should be framed in consultation with all stakeholders, including students, academicians, civil society and other experts.

She also asked the officers to consult other departments like Revenue, Industries and Commerce, Finance and other departments for draft formulation of the policy.

The Minister stressed upon the officers to develop transparent guidelines and put them in public domain for the feedback of general population and make changes accordingly which seem necessary.

She highlighted that the J&K Private University Policy 2025 should serve as a guiding framework for establishing credible private universities in the Union Territory, positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging hub of knowledge, innovation and skill development across the country and abroad.

Div Com Kashmir reviews functioning of Horticulture & allied department

Urges officers to loop in local associations to utilize train services for transportation of fruit crops

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Tuesday chaired a review meeting of Horticulture and Horticulture Marketing & Planning departments, to assess their functioning, implementation of schemes, and achievement of targets.

The meeting was attended by Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing (HP&M) and Joint Director Horticulture department along with technical officers.

On the occasion, Joint Director Horticulture presented an overview of the role of the department regarding annual income generation, contribution to UT GDP, employment generation, area brought under High-Density Apple Plantation, CA Storages,



Food Processing Units and other vital activities.

He also shared information regarding interventions of the department to boost the Horticulture production with modern technology &

incentives. Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jeelani presented activities & schemes under HADP, CAPEX Budget, NABARD, JKICP and e-NAM.

He also presented in length regarding Post Harvest Management, Development of Market Infrastructure, Market Intelligence, Marketing / Promotions, Training for Grading & Packing and Survey & Market Studies.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com instructed for encouraging stakeholders to come forward to establish CA Storages & Cold Stores.

Also, he emphasized on reducing the dependency on import of

plant material from outside the country and stressed on development of local stock material of plants.

Besides, he urged for looping in local associations for utilization of train services for transportation of local crops to various markets of the country so the farmers can earn maximum benefits.

KVK Pulwama organizes Rural Credit Workshop at Wachi Zainapora

Chairperson DDC appreciates efforts towards raising awareness on agriculture sector initiatives



FE News Network

SHOPIAN: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian, in close coordination with the Agriculture and allied departments organized a Rural Credit Workshop at Wachi in block Zainapora, under the Jammu & Kashmir Comprehensive Integrated Project (JKCIP).

The programme was chaired by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Shopian, Bilqees Jan, while DDC Member Zainapora-II, Aijaz Ahmad Mir; DDC Member Hermain-II, Abdul Rashid Lone; Members from Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, over 100 progressive farmers along with champion farmers also attended the workshop.

Besides, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Shopian, Prof. Zaffar Afroz Badri; Chief Horticulture Officer, Muneer Ahmad and representatives from Sericulture, Fisheries, JKHPMC, scientists of the Kendra, officers and

officials from allied sectors were also present.

In her address, Chairperson DDC appreciated the efforts of KVK scientists for reaching every corner of the district and sensitizing farmers about various schemes launched by the UT Government for their welfare.

Earlier, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Shopian presented an overview of the programme, highlighting the implementation

of various schemes for the larger benefit of the farming community.

The workshop aimed to enhance farmers' understanding of financial, technical, and institutional benefits available under JKICP. Discussions focused on pre-production interventions to improve productivity and achieve high yields, processing and value addition of farm produce, including grading, packaging, and viable transportation methods to extend shelf life, market linkages with national and international Mandis and the infrastructure needed to achieve profitable outcomes.

Representatives from the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, and JKHPMC briefed about their schemes and services, encouraging farmers to avail opportunities for better productivity and profitability.

The event concluded with an interactive session, where farmers clarified their queries and shared their experiences.

DC Srinagar initiates infrastructure upgradation works at DC office complex

Emphasizes quality work within set timelines to facilitate incoming public



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday initiated renovation and infrastructure upgradation works at the DC office complex, here.

These works are aimed to further improve the facilities and provide a more comfortable environment for visitors and the staff in the DC office and other subordinate offices.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner,

Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildar South, Tehsildar Recovery and other concerned.

Work was initiated on construction of a new Public Toilet Complex for both Male & Female incoming visitors, making existing defunct Toilet units functional, work was also started on a specific dedicated toilet for female employees of the DC office, seating for incoming public, upgradation of Video Conferencing Hall, upgradation of Additional District Development Commissioner complex etc.

He also visited the Tehsildar South and Tehsildar Recovery offices.

Additionally, DC assessed ongoing efforts to augment and enhance public convenience facilities within the office compound.

On the occasion, DC directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work and stressed the importance of maintaining high-quality standards while strictly adhering to the set timelines.

Javed Rana calls for strict forest protection measures

FE News Network

JAMMU: Minister for Forests, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana convened a review meeting in Jammu to take stock of the Jammu's environmental challenges and the progress of key forest and conservation initiatives.

Forest Conservators and Divisional Forest Officers attended the meeting, which focused on forest degradation, biodiversity loss and pollution concerns in Jammu division.

The Minister called for strict measures for forest conservation efforts in the region and urged enforcement agencies to adopt stricter monitoring and control mechanisms.

He also directed agencies to strictly monitor pollution levels, especially in areas near forests and water bodies.

During the meeting, concerns were also raised over soil erosion and landslides in hilly areas of Chenab Valley, Reasi, and Udhampur where fragile terrains are under pressure.

Officials presented ongoing afforestation and slope stabilization works, with the Minister urging scientific planning and better coordination with geotechnical experts.

The Minister also reviewed the progress under CAMPA and other plantation schemes while stressing the importance of survival rates and community involvement. He appreciated the growing role of local institutions and volunteers in forest drives and awareness campaigns.

Promoting eco-tourism was identified as a key opportunity for sustainable development, with a clear directive that all tourism efforts must protect natural habitats and involve local communities. The Minister also underlined the need for increased environmental awareness, particularly among youth.

He praised outreach programmes in schools, villages, and the contribution of Van Mitras and NGOs in spreading environmental education and mobilizing local support.

Calling for stronger inter-departmental coordination, the Minister urged joint efforts from Rural Development, Tourism, PWD, Pollution Control Board, and Urban Local Bodies to address environmental issues comprehensively.

DC Gbl visits Qamar-U-Din shrine, Jamia Masjid Beehama Reviews Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) arrangements

FE News Network

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore visited Qamar-U-Din Shrine and Jamia Masjid Beehama to personally inspect the arrangements being made for the smooth observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) and the Friday following in the district.

During the visit, Intezamia Committees apprised the DC about the preparations and requirements for ensuring hassle-free conduct of the religious gatherings.

DC issued on-spot directions to the concerned officers for ensuring all necessary facilities including uninterrupted water and electricity supply, proper sanitation, health care facilities, and other essential services well in advance to facilitate the devotees.

DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Syed Fahim Bihagi; Chief Medical Officer, Tehsildar Ganderbal, and officials from other concerned departments.

J&K Startup Idea Challenge

JKEDI holds boot camp at HKM Degree College Bandipora

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: As part of the J&K Startup Idea Challenge, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Tuesday conducted boot camp at HKM Government Degree College Bandipora.

The event, held under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and faculty members.

The boot camp conducted by a three-member team of JKEDI, witnessed participation from more than 100 students from the college as well as the Government Polytechnic College Bandipora, showcasing their enthusiasm for exploring entrepreneurship as a viable career choice.

Out of these students, 16 participants pitched



their startup ideas before the panel of experts designated from the college and officers/officials of JKEDI. The panel appreciated their creativity and provided constructive feedback.

The session concluded with an interactive exchange of ideas, where students received encouragement and insights from the distinguished panel.

DC Kupwara reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar- Muft Bijli Yojna

FE News Network

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress achieved under PM Surya Ghar- Muft Bijli Yojna.

During the meeting, Executive Engineers of KPDCL Handwara and Kupwara were directed to give special focus to increasing the pace of the installation of rooftop solar panels so that maximum households are benefitted with the scheme which aims to reduce the power bill of the consumers.

On the occasion, various vendors raised their issues before the chair about pendencies from different bank branches in disbursement of the loan applications. DC directed the Lead District Manager to ensure clearing of all pending cases within a



weeks' time positively. He directed the KPDCL to hold door to door surveys to know the interests of the people who have applied under the scheme so that the interested households are facilitated.

The meeting was attended by CPO, Executive Engineers of PDD Kupwara and Handwara, AEEs, LDM, CSC Manager and registered vendors.

It was informed that 16000 applications have been received in the district so far out of which 403 solar rooftops have been installed.

DC Budgam chairs public darbar at Beerwah, listens to public grievances

Directs officers to ensure real-time redressal, identification of land for playfields

FE News Network

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat chaired a public darbar at Town Hall of Beerwah sub-division, to take stock of public grievances and demands from locals and representatives of various organizations.

During the public interaction programme, locals from Beerwah and its adjacent villages including Chewdara, Sail, Rathsun, Aripathan, Warihama, Otligam and Sonpah projected various demands before the DC.

The demands included uninterrupted electricity supply, establishment of a full-fledged PHC, early completion of pending

school and PHC buildings, macadamization of interior and link roads, and development of playing fields.

Bar Association Beerwah also raised the demand for construction of a Court Complex at Beerwah, besides a toilet complex within the existing premises. Similarly, the Head Granthi of Gurdwara Beerwah highlighted the issue of encroachment on the road leading towards the

Gurdwara and requested timely intervention.

Giving a patient hearing, DC assured that all genuine demands will be taken up with the concerned authorities for prompt redressal. He said that the feasibility of all other roads, including inner links in the adjoining areas, shall be assessed for upgradation, restoration

and macadamization.

DC further assured that improvement works under Jal Shakti, KPDCL, Health, and Education sectors have been duly noted and shall be addressed under the relevant heads.

He directed the concerned officers to expedite the completion of ongoing and pending projects, particularly school and health infrastructure, so that locals get timely benefits.

On the occasion, DC also directed sectoral officers to conduct special awareness-cum-registration camps under HADP, PM Vishwakarma and Mission Yuva in Beerwah sub-division, urging locals to participate actively and avail maximum benefits under these government schemes.

DC further directed all officers of the district to frequently visit different areas and provide real-time solutions to the genuine demands of the public.

He instructed the ACD Budgam to identify land for playfields so that every Panchayat has its own playing facility.

He also emphasized that officers must maintain close liaison with the public to ensure better education and awareness regarding various social security and employment generation schemes of the government.

Among others, CPO Budgam, SDM Beerwah, ACD, CMO, CEO, Tehsildar Beerwah besides all district and sectoral officers were present on the occasion.

Editorial

Of Deluge And Disregard

Once again, the waters have risen in Jammu, exceeding alarming parameters and triggering the authorities' now-familiar pattern of communication, advisories and alerts. The news of a 16-year-old boy struck by lightning in Kokernag adds a tragic punctuation to an already devastating season. It is not just the case of one boy; it is part of a grim tally that continues to add up. More than 100 people have already died because of cloudbursts and landslides since mid-August. This repetitive narrative, swollen rivers, breached alert levels, frenzied notifications are about more than just a weather announcement, they are an editorial about our collective failure to create resilience to a changing climate. To get the immediate facts of the situation, there are alarming threats for the Tawi, Ujh, Basanter, Chenab and Ravi rivers which all seem to exceed alert levels. Udhampur received 60.4mm of rain, Rajouri 56.4mm of rain. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has issued an alert in an already bewitched state. Schools have been closed, and railways have also been disrupted. The official response, which is to issue advisories, shut down trains, and call for caution, is not only necessary, but also fundamentally reactive. This is a reaction to a crisis already about to happen. It is a response to crisis that is about to knock on our door; it is not a proactive response to prevent our door from being knocked on.

While there is now potentially more accurate weather information available, with heavy spells being potentially picked up days earlier, there has actually been no change in the threat of flash floods on the ground. The Director of MeT department provided a ten-day forecast, which extended beyond September 11. The best this vital information has managed to end up as is a social media post telling people to "stay away". While that is where we need to get to, it is the bare minimum of what we need! But we cannot determine the effectiveness of a system simply on its ability to warn but also on protection. Ultimately, the key question is this: after being battered time and again by local disasters on an annual basis, why are our communities so vulnerable? Why do the villages along the Ravi River still remain severely at risk from flooding? Why does a cloudburst in Kishtwar or a landslide on the route to Vaishno Devi continue to claim numbers in score? A lack of long term climate-aware infrastructure and planning.

The death of a young Dilawar Ahmad Bhokad due to a lightning strike is a tragic reminder that natural disasters are not just events; they destroy individual lives and families. The government has taken all efforts to close schools and institutions to avert danger, and the Army's indirect rescue efforts are yet again timely. Will we again use such time to rebuild, as prior, knowing we're repeating a cycle of disaster, again to slip back into the pattern of loss after a year? Or will we commit to what we have long argued must happen even if we know it will require funds, time and commitment to build a resilient Jammu and Kashmir. We have passed the emergency mark with floods. It is time to pass that mark in our response.

Lost Lesson: How Education Sold Morality for Marks



Priyanka Saurabh

"Education, culture and social responsibility: changing student-teacher relationship and the search for the right direction"

The school, which is called the mirror of the society, has become a matter of grave concern today. While earlier education did not mean only knowledge but also culture, discipline and morality, now some incidents

in many places, the teacher-student relationship is getting sour. Earlier, students used to consider the scolding of the teacher as love and guidance, but today the same scolding seems like an insult or torture. Mobile and internet have given freedom to the students, but at the same time, it has also increased arrogance and indiscipline in them.

The foundation of any child's personality is laid at home. If there is an atmosphere of discipline, culture and dignity at home, then the child will learn the same. But in today's fast-paced life, parents are not able to give time to children. Television, mobile and social media have become the 'gurus' of children. Students have easy access to tendencies like drugs and violence. The

A student attacking his teacher is not just an attack on an individual, but it is shameful for the entire education system and society. It can have far-reaching consequences. Teachers will hesitate to discipline students, the dignity of the school will be hurt and a wrong message will be sent to the society that if students themselves do not respect teachers, then how will respect for seniors and elders be maintained in the society.

Such incidents are not just a school level problem but are also related to law and order. Immediate and strict action should be taken in such cases so that both students and parents understand that indiscipline will not be tolerated. It should also be ensured that there is a provision for rehabilitation

mentality of the children. Instead of scolding or fear, they will have to explain and assure. Counseling rooms should be mandatory in schools and children with aggressive tendencies should be given timely psychological help. Society and media will also have to play their role, reduce the impact of violent and negative content and present positive ideals.

"In which direction are the students going?" This question is not just a question arising from an incident, but a deep reflection



are forcing us to think about in which direction our students are going. The recent incident in the Government Senior Secondary School of Dhana Ladanpur village in the Bhiwani district of Haryana, where a student attacked his own teacher, makes this question even more serious. This incident is not just a dispute between a teacher and a student but is a warning for the entire education system and society.

In Indian tradition, the guru has been given a higher status than God – Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu, and Guru Devo Maheshwarah. But today's reality is that

result is that when a teacher tries to show the child the right path, the student considers it a restriction or bondage and rebels.

The biggest crisis of the current education system is that the objective of education is limited to only jobs and marks. The emphasis on moral education, life values and character building has almost ended. Children are being taught 'what to become', but 'what kind of person to become' has been lost somewhere. In the race of competition, the pressure on students has increased so much that impatience and aggression have replaced tolerance and patience in them.

and counselling of such children.

If we have to take students in the right direction, it will not be possible only by punishment or fear. For this, multi-dimensional steps will have to be taken. The family will have to increase communication with the children and create an environment of discipline and culture at home. There is a need to improve the education system, moral education, value-based education and character building activities should be made compulsory in the curriculum. The teacher will also have to change the style of communication by understanding the

The biggest crisis of the current education system is that the objective of education is limited to only jobs and marks. The emphasis on moral education, life values and character building has almost ended. Children are being taught 'what to become', but 'what kind of person to become' has been lost somewhere. In the race of competition, the pressure on students has increased so much that impatience and aggression have replaced tolerance and patience in them.

tion on the condition of the entire society. If we do not show the right path of discipline, respect and culture to the children today, then both the teacher-student relationship and the structure of the society will become weak in the coming generation. The solution lies in the joint efforts of the family, school, society and administration. Education should not be just a means of getting a degree but should become a means of character building and inculcation of life values, only then will we be able to say that our students are going in the right direction.

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Regular Exercise: A Key To A Healthy Heart



Dr. Bimal Chhajer

In a world increasingly grappling with the repercussions of a global pandemic, it's easy to forget about another silent killer that continues to claim countless lives every year—heart diseases. The recent data suggests that around 1.2 crore people have been infected globally, with a mortality rate of 5.4 lakh. India accounts for 7.4 lakh cases with a mortality of 20,000 till now. The statistics, when compared to the impact of Coronary Artery Diseases (CAD) and other heart ailments, seem evidently low. On an average, around 20 crore people succumb to some form of heart ailment with a mortality rate of 10%, accounting for 2 crore lives lost. India, as the present-day leader in terms of the number of heart disease patients across the world, attributes to a massive 6 crore people being diagnosed every year. As the numbers continue to rise exponentially, an estimate of 9000 per day seems to lose their lives suffering from heart problems, which, in this current scenario, seems to be avoidable.

In the realm of health and well-being, the relationship between exercise and heart health is a topic of paramount importance. Contrary to a popular myth, exercising in the late evening or night is not detrimental to sleep; in fact, it can be a crucial element in promoting a good night's rest.

One of the most common questions is how much exercise is safe and recommended for the heart. According to the American government's recommendations, engaging in 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week is ideal. This translates to 30 minutes of exercise for five days a week, allowing for rest on weekends.

Moderate exercise involves finding the right intensity, avoiding excessive heaviness or sprint-

ing, which can strain the heart. This duration is sufficient for gradually improving fitness levels and promoting general well-being.

Certain other natural methods to good heart

ventional Cardiologists. In India, more than 5 lac stents are being put every year, and some 60,000 Bypass surgeries are being done in the heart Hospitals, with 85% of them done on stable



health are as follows -

Tip 1: Natural Bypass Technique - A Better Alternative

Hospitals in India perform more than 2 lakh open heart surgeries annually, and the number is increasing annually by 25%. However, the cases of heart attacks are not decreasing. This raises a significant question about the use of unnecessary Angioplasties and Bypass surgeries in India and the 10,000 Heart Hospital Industry driven by greedy Heart Surgeons and Inter-

heart patients – which can be easily avoided. Present-day Cardiologists are in the wrong track by emphasizing more use of Bypass surgery or Angioplasty, medicines, emergency treatments – but they are overlooking the real cause of heart attack and heart disease.

Tip 2: External Counter Pulsation (ECP) - A Natural Bypass Technique

External Counter Pulsation (ECP), also known as Natural Bypass technique, is an approved mechanical process that dilates blood vessels

and enables the body to grow new blood vessels, much like bypass and stem cell therapy. Most patients can walk longer distances and faster, have fewer episodes of chest pain, and require less medication after the therapy. The therapy results in better quality of life, decreased chest pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, tiredness, and a significant improvement in exercise tolerance and energy. Medication is reduced in almost all patients, and advanced tests can confirm the improved cardiac status.

Tip 3: Lifestyle Management is Key

Yoga and Diet-based Lifestyle management, along with Optimum Medical Management, hold the key to preventing heart diseases. These approaches are not only highly effective for maintaining a healthy heart but also for preventing the need for Bypass surgery or Angioplasty. SAAOL (Science and Art of Living) has been treating heart patients successfully for the last 25 years, and its theory is now being proven correct by the most modern medical research. To avoid heart attacks, all patients need is thorough training on lifestyle and the appropriate use of Allopathic medicines.

Tip 4: Zero Oil Cooking - A Heart-Healthy Diet

Zero Oil Cooking is a crucial aspect of heart health. Triglycerides, a form of oil, can form blockages in the coronary arteries, leading to various cardiac ailments. By eliminating oil from our daily diet, we can indirectly protect ourselves from these blockages. Fortunately, there are more than 1000 recipes that don't require oil and are equally tasty. Nature has packed some fats/triglycerides in every food like rice, wheat, pulses, fruits, and vegetables to meet our basic fat requirements.

Tip 5: Safety Circle - A Comprehensive Approach

The concept of 'Reversal of heart diseases' through regular monitoring of heart health via a 'SAAOL Safety Circle' can guide every adult in the country to take steps to reverse and prevent heart disease. This technique has benefited over 2 lakh heart patients in the past 24 years with non-invasive treatment modules like lifestyle

change, US FDA approved EECP, and a combination of Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, and Detoxification. The SAAOL Safety Circle has three circles and 12 factors to control, with six parameters related to medical and four each related to a healthy diet and lifestyle habits.

The burden of heart diseases on society and

Yoga and Diet-based Lifestyle management, along with Optimum Medical Management, hold the key to preventing heart diseases. These approaches are not only highly effective for maintaining a healthy heart but also for preventing the need for Bypass surgery or Angioplasty.

individuals is immense, but it is not insurmountable. By adopting these lifestyle tips, we can take proactive steps to prevent heart diseases and promote heart health. It's time to prioritize our well-being and make the necessary changes to protect our hearts from this silent epidemic that claims millions of lives every year. Remember, a healthy heart leads to a happier and longer life.

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Rana Reviews Restoration Efforts In Poonch

Stresses Efficient Execution And Coordinated Response

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In the aftermath of the recent floods that caused significant disruption across Poonch district, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, conducted a detailed virtual review of the relief and restoration efforts underway.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized the urgent need for efficient planning and execution of restoration measures. He directed all concerned departments to ensure that restoration work is carried out without delay and that departmental heads personally oversee on-ground operations to accelerate progress.

He underlined that the focus must remain on quick resumption of essential services, including water supply, power, road connectivity and the distribution of food grains and other critical commodities, particularly in remote and vulnerable areas.

The Minister called for a comprehensive and inclusive rehabilitation strategy for affected families, along with the implementation of long-term preventive measures to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

He urged officials to ensure that compensation and relief support are delivered swiftly and fairly, with special attention to the most affected and at-risk populations.

Highlighting the need for safety in educational institutions, Rana stressed the

importance of conducting thorough structural audits of schools in flood-hit areas.

He directed the concerned departments to identify vulnerable school buildings, carry out urgent repair works and ensure



that learning institutions are safe for students and staff.

As part of the damage assessment, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma briefed the Minister on the overall impact of the floods on infrastructure. He informed that 18 schools in the district sustained damage, primarily involving boundary walls, and that four schools require immediate restoration to ensure operational safety. These schools have been prioritized for repair to ensure the timely resumption of academic activities.

Regarding road infrastructure, the Minister was informed that of the 71 roads damaged in Mendhar subdivision, 65 have already been restored to motorable condition, with the remainder under active repair.

In Surankote Sub-Division, 10 roads

were reported damaged, with restoration work underway on a priority basis. It was further shared that a majority of roads under the PMGSY scheme have also been restored.

Recognizing the extent of damage to housing and protection works in rural areas, Rana instructed that repair and rebuilding be taken up by the Rural Development Department, as a special case, to expedite relief and recovery in the most impacted villages.

Recognising the healthcare response to the floods, Deputy Commissioner informed that medical camps will be organized in flood-affected and other vulnerable areas over the next two to three days. To further strengthen medical outreach, the Minister proposed the deployment of Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) on a 10-day rotational basis in Mendhar, Surankote and Haveli, ensuring that people in remote or inaccessible regions have timely access to essential health services.

The Minister placed particular emphasis on the restoration of power supply, noting that interruptions in electricity directly affect water availability, as many water supply systems are electrically operated.

It was reported that out of 162 water supply schemes affected by the floods, a majority have been partially restored, with full restoration in progress.

He further emphasized the critical importance of inter-departmental coordination to ensure a unified and effective disaster response. He called on all departments to work seamlessly and adopt a mission-driven approach to rebuilding and service restoration.

The Minister also stressed the need for maintaining adequate buffer stocks of food and essential supplies, particularly in cut-off areas, to avoid shortages during future emergencies.

In addition, Rana called for the scientific mapping of vulnerable zones and high-risk habitations, stating that such data-driven approaches are essential to guide future mitigation strategies, minimize disaster risk and enable timely and targeted interventions.

The Minister reiterated the Omar Abdullah Government's unwavering commitment to the people of Poonch, stating that all efforts will be directed towards rebuilding stronger, safer and more resilient communities.

DC Bandipora inaugurates Aadi Karmayogi BLMT orientation program at Chitternar

FE NEWS NETWORK

Our core mandate is to build skills and fill gaps that empowers the tribal communities to progress: Indu

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, inaugurated the three-day Block Level Master Trainer (BLMT) orientation program under the Aadi Karmayogi – Responsive Governance programme at the Forest Training & Research Institute Chitternar, Bandipora.

The orientation program that is scheduled to culminate on 4th September 2025, is part of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' initiative aimed at empowering individuals and institutions for tribal transformation. The training is designed to build the capacity of master trainers in facilitating participatory planning, responsive governance, and holistic tribal development.

Addressing the gathering, DC emphasized the significance of responsive governance and community-led planning for sustainable development in tribal areas. She highlighted

ed that the workshop would enable stakeholders to prepare village-level development plans focusing on infra-

the administration's commitment to making tribal villages self-reliant, socially empowered, and digitally



structure, education, healthcare, digital access, and livelihood opportunities, while preserving traditional knowledge and indigenous practices.

She further underlined the importance of skill development and the creation of intangible assets which can prove to be a boon during uncertain and hard times. She also stressed that the core mandate of the Aadi Karmayogi scheme should remain the guiding motive behind all efforts at the grassroots.

Praising the role of participating officers and volunteers, DC reaffirmed

connected.

On the opening day, District Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, underscored the importance of mapping basic infrastructure needs such as roads, water, electricity, and healthcare besides promoting sustainable livelihoods through agriculture, livestock, fisheries, eco-tourism, and forest-based enterprises.

The program will continue over the next two days, featuring focused sessions on the preparation of block-level vision and action plans under the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan.

DC Conducts Extensive Tour Of Bandipora Tehsil, Inspects Institutions And Public Facilities

FE NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, undertook a comprehensive tour of Bandipora Tehsil to assess the functioning of various key institutions and public facilities.

The visit commenced with an inspection of the Block Medical Office Bandipora and the District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC). CMO and BMO were directed to manage the office in a manner that ensures the timely availability of medicinal supplies.

DC also visited the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) and Polytechnic College Bandipora to review the training infrastructure and facilities available for students. During interaction with the staff, she underlined the importance of strengthening skill development initiatives to empower youth with industry-relevant competencies. She emphasized that merely offering diploma or certificate courses without practical exposure would not serve the purpose.

Later, DC inspected the Auditorium at Kaloosa and

took stock of the amenities available for public events and cultural programmes. She instructed the concerned officials to ensure regular maintenance and effective utilization of the facility for community-centric activities.



The visit also included an inspection of the Dak Bungalow at Ayathmulla, where DC reviewed the infrastructure from the perspective of necessary repairs. It was observed that, to ensure optimal use of such buildings, a strategy for introducing a pay-and-use model needs to be adopted.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of development works under CAPEX, CDF & flagship schemes

FE NEWS NETWORK

Calls for timely execution of projects to speed up developmental works

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the status of ongoing development works across various sectors, including CAPEX, MPLADS, Constituency Development Fund (CDF), Heritage, Tribal Affairs, Revenue Capex, and the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY).

During the meeting, DC took sector wise review of all the developmental works taken up for the current fiscal. He also assessed the progress made in the execution of works for various components under the District Capex Budget and other sectors for the current financial year.

Emphasizing the importance of timely action, DC urged all departments to ex-

public and improving infrastructure and basic amenities across the district.



pedite the tendering of pending works and ensure its timely allotment to avoid delays, besides timely completion of projects.

He stated that prompt execution is vital for delivering tangible benefits to the

On the occasion, DC directed line departments to accelerate the pace of work on all ongoing projects to ensure their timely completion. He directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to adopt a proactive approach, maintain

inter-departmental coordination and ensure quality and transparency in the execution of all development works.

DC further emphasized to ensure early completion of under-construction buildings for Revenue offices across the district. He called upon all Engineering and Planning divisions to work in coordinated manner to meet public aspirations by achieving 100% execution targets in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of PHE, R&B, SMC, PDD, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Mineral Officer and other concerned Officers.



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DC Shopian reviews social security schemes

FE NEWS NETWORK

Calls upon departments for coverage of maximum population

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta convened a meeting at Mini-Secretariat here to review the implementation of action plan for saturation of the social security schemes in the district.

At the outset, LDM apprised the chair about the achievements/progress made so far with regard to the registration under PMJDY, PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY.

DC held a threadbare deliberation on implementation of these banking and pension / insurance oriented schemes, and took a comprehensive review of enrollment process, role of banks and progress made till date.

Gupta stressed upon the concerned officers to conduct more vigorous and result oriented IEC campaigns across the district for maximum coverage of beneficiaries under these schemes. He exhorted banks and others concerned to convince the beneficiaries about the benefits and importance of these schemes. He also emphasised to dedicate their staff for enrollment drives in the district and focus on the most vulnerable sections of society.

Targets were set among the departments and instructions issued to submit the weekly work done reports on new registrations.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; LDM, Tehsildars, BDOs, Bank officers and other concerned.



ICMR–DHR sponsored Research Methodology Workshop commences at GMC Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Multidisciplinary Research Unit (MRU) of the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today inaugurated a three-day Research Methodology Workshop, sponsored by the Indian Council of Medical Research – Department of Health Research (ICMR–DHR).

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan, Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar, and Prof. Sabhiya Majid, Nodal Officer, MRU.

In her address, Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah lauded the MRU's pivotal role in strengthening the research ecosystem at GMC Srinagar. She highlighted that in March 2025, the MRU was recognized by the Department of Health Research as one of the best-performing units nationwide.

She further underlined the significance of the unit's academic collaboration with the ICMR-Collaborating Centre of Excellence (CCoE), St. John's Research Institute, Bengaluru, under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Prem Kumar Mony, which continues to provide robust academic and technical support.

The workshop has drawn eminent experts from GMC Srinagar, St. John's Research Institute Bengaluru, ICMR–DHR New Delhi, and faculty from leading medical colleges of the North Zone, including GMC Patiala, GMC Chandigarh, and Guru Gobind Singh Medical College Faridkot.

The inaugural function was also attended by senior officials, including Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator; Tahleela Asmat, Financial Advisor; Prof. Salim Itoo, Deputy Registrar Academic, and Shabir Ahmad, Deputy Director Planning, who appreciated the initiative and assured institutional support for promoting a culture of research.

Over the next three days, the workshop will cover research design, biostatistics, ethics in health research, and critical appraisal of scientific literature, aiming to build research capacity among faculty and young scholars for undertaking high-quality, evidence-based studies.

The sessions will be led by renowned experts, including Prof. (Dr.) Prem Mony, MD – Vice-Dean, St. John's Research Institute; Professor of Epidemiology & Population Health; Joint Director, ICMR-CCoE, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences; Prof. (Dr.) Tinku Thomas, MSc, PhD – Professor of Biostatistics, St. John's Research Institute; Dr. Sumithra Selvam, MSc, PhD – Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, St. John's Research Institute; Dr. Deepika – Scientist C, Department of Health Research, MoHPW, Government of India; Sunil Pant – Finance Manager, Department of Health Research, MoHPW, Government of India; Dr. Tanu Anand – Scientist E&MRU/MRHRU Nodal Officer, Division of Development Research, ICMR Headquarters; Prof. (Dr.) S. M. Salim Khan – President, J&K Medical Council and HoD department of Community Medicine GMC Srinagar, and Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmad Shah – GMC Srinagar.

The workshop is expected to serve as a dynamic platform for collaboration, networking, and knowledge exchange, thereby further strengthening the culture of evidence-based medicine in the region.



Flood Threat

The water level in Kashmir’s water bodies was flowing well below the flood alert mark at the time the report was last filed.

The details indicate that the water level crossed the flood alert mark today, with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) issuing an urgent advisory, advising residents to stay away from the banks of the River Tawi and other swollen rivers in the Jammu region. Heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours has triggered a critical flood situation across Jammu, with the River Tawi, Ujh, Basanter, Chenab, and Ravi rivers breaching alert and danger levels, prompting heightened vigilance from authorities.

Udhampur recorded the highest precipitation till this morning, with the figures revealing a total of 60.4 mm of rainfall at the station. Rajouri recorded a rainfall of 56.4 mm till this morning.

Batote station witnessed a rainfall of 55.1 mm since morning till evening, while 17.6 mm rainfall was recorded at the station till this morning.

Bhaderwah saw a rainfall of 42.6 mm since morning, while Katra recorded 32.7 mm till 5:30 PM. The data reveals that Jammu recorded a precipitation of 11.4 mm since morning and 17.8 mm till this morning.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, the highest rainfall of 15.4 mm was recorded since this morning, followed by 13.2 mm in Kokernag.

During the fresh wet spell, Jammu city’s River Tawi experienced a rapid rise in water levels, approaching the danger mark.

The SDRF reported that the Tawi has crossed the flood alert level, raising concerns about potential inundation in low-lying areas.

The District Magistrate of Jammu has reiterated warnings for residents to avoid the riverbanks, saying there is an imminent risk of flooding. A recent post on X by the District Magistrate said, “Citizens of Jammu are requested to stay away from Tawi River banks. The water levels may reach the danger mark within a short period of time.”

The Tawi’s rising levels follow a similar trend observed in Udhampur, where the river had previously crossed the evacuation level of 24.975 ft on August 26, 2025, surpassing both danger and evacuation thresholds. Authorities warn that continued rainfall could push the Tawi in Jammu city past the danger mark in the coming hours, potentially leading to evacuations in vulnerable areas.

Kathua’s Ujh River at Panjirthi has also crossed the flood alert level, with a recorded discharge of 59,750 cusecs, surpassing the alert threshold of 48,000 cusecs. While it remains below the danger level of 88,000 cusecs, officials are closely monitoring the situation due to the steady upward trend.

Similarly, the Ravi River in Kathua has breached its flood alert level, with the water level recorded at 524.97 meters above mean sea level (MSL), exceeding the alert level of 523 meters.

The danger level for the Ravi stands at 527.91 meters, and authorities have warned that further increases could lead to severe flooding in villages such as Bagthali, Massos Pur, Keerian Gandial, Barni, Dhanna, Dhanore, Karyali, and adjoining areas.

The SDRF, alongside local disaster management teams, have been placed on high alert across Jammu, Kathua, and Samba districts.

Meanwhile, the weatherman here has predicted heavy rainfall until tomorrow, saying that generally cloudy weather is expected with one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thunder at many places during the daytime, with the possibility of heavy to very heavy rain over Kathua, Jammu, Udhampur, and Reasi, along with moderate to heavy rainfall over Doda, Samba, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, Kishtwar, Anantnag, and Kulgam, mainly towards late tonight and early tomorrow, continuing till late afternoon.

Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that from September 4 to 7, a brief spell of rain and thunder is expected at a few places. From September 8 to 11, a spell of moderate rain is expected over a few districts of Jammu division during the night of September 8 and the 9th, with improvement thereafter until the 11th evening.(KNO)

Avoid travelling

worsened on Tuesday morning.”

He said, “Our priority was to allow trucks carrying essential supplies to the Valley. But since this morning, no work could be taken up for restoration as continuous landslides are hampering clearance operations.”

Traffic movement has remained suspended, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded. The IGP urged commuters to avoid unnecessary travel and to confirm the status of the road before embarking on any journey.

On the issue of fruit transportation, IGP Chaudhary clarified that trucks with more than six tyres are not being allowed to ply on Mughal Road. “We have already advised truckers. Over the past two to three days, more than 1,500 fruit-laden trucks were allowed to move towards Jammu. Currently, there are about 1,500 to 1,600 trucks stranded at Qazigund, though very few of them are carrying fruit,” he said.

The IGP Traffic assured that efforts are underway to restore connectivity, but added that the safety of travellers remains the top priority and they should avoid embarking on any journey till the restoration works are completed—(KNO)

DC Sgr

too, religious places are being preserved to protect our shared heritage,” he said.

Meanwhile, the DC also shared that the administration is on high alert for the next 15-30 days in view of changing weather conditions. He said advisories are being issued at regular intervals to safeguard the public.

“We are on high alert and people must follow advisories. Yesterday, we cautioned about gusty winds and advised residents to stay away from electric poles and cables. As of now, the water level in the Jhelum and other water bodies is well below the danger mark,” DC Akshay Labroo said.

He also assured that the administration will continue to issue timely weather advisories to ensure public safety—(KNO)

CM Omar

relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Earlier in the day, Abdullah expressed gratitude to Gupta for offering support for the flood victims.

“Chief Minister thanked Hon’ble Chief Minister of Delhi, @gupta_rekha Ji, for her call expressing solidarity with the flood victims of J&K and for extending her generous offer of support from the Delhi Government,” the J-K CM’s office said on X.

Abdullah said, “Such gestures of cooperation and goodwill strengthen our resolve in these difficult times.” Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an unprecedented monsoon onslaught with more than 130 people killed and 33 missing in cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods in Kishtwar, Kathua, Reasi and Ramban districts since August 14. The dead include 34 pilgrims who were hit by a landslide en route to the Vaishno Devi shrine on August 26.

Record rainfall on August 26-27 caused flash floods in low-lying areas in Jammu and other plains, causing heavy damage to infrastructure. (PTI)

Jammu’s Power

the supervision of Principal Secretary, PDD, Sh. H. Rajesh Prasad.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah and Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo closely monitored the progress of the restoration works and remained consistently updated on the situation. Their intervention played a crucial role in arranging necessary resources from various agencies including central PSUs which significantly contributed to quick and effective restoration of the system.

The transmission lines damaged by the torrential rains traverse extremely challenging terrain, including hilly slopes, river crossings, and remote areas with poor road connectivity. On the first day of rainfall, many transmission tower structures along the 132 kV line at the River Tawi crossing collapsed one after another in a cascading manner. Additionally, towers on key transmission lines—such as the one feeding power to Kishtwar district and the 132 kV Hiranagar–Battal–Manwal Transmission Line supplying power to Batal and adjoining areas, including electric traction systems also collapsed. Likewise, 220 kV Barn-Kishanpur transmission line also suffered extensive damage, affecting power supply to Districts of Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi and Jammu. The towers on these lines were situated on difficult-to-access hilly slopes, complicating restoration efforts and causing widespread blackouts and a panic-like situation for the department.

To overcome the formidable challenges, the MD JKPTCL, Rahilla Wani and her team deployed special measures and innovative solutions to restore power swiftly. For instance, the collapsed tower on the Hiranagar–Battal Manwal line was replaced using the Emergency Restoration System (ERS)—a modular-type special tower structure designed for quick deployment with the support of PGCIL. Unlike conventional towers, which can take months to erect, the ERS enables restoration within 24 hours. However, despite the tower collapse, power supply to most of the affected areas was restored immediately through alternative receiving stations by the JPDCIL teams working in tandem, preventing a prolonged outage.

High-strength cranes and specialized equipment were used to string conductors on the towers of damaged 220 kV Barn-Kishanpur transmission line near Nagrota. The damaged tower on the Kishtwar line was also restored in record time despite its location in the tough hilly terrain of Doda district. In areas where roads had been damaged or washed away, materials had to be offloaded and carried head load over steep hills. Despite harsh weather conditions and limited connectivity, restoration teams demonstrated remarkable dedication working round the clock under the close supervision of senior officers to ensure timely completion of the work.

Executive Directors of PGCIL, Tarun Bajaj, and NHPC, Ram Swaroop, extended full technical and logistical support, playing a crucial role in accomplishing the mammoth task of power restoration under these extremely challenging circumstances.

The situation was even more alarming in the distribution sector, where out of 1,349 feeders, only 364 were functional by the evening of August 26. Nearly 19,000 distribution transformers, out of a total of 49,000 in the region, were affected, in addition to hundreds of damaged poles and conductors—making it one of the worst outages ever witnessed.

The immediate action taken by the Managing Director JPDCIL Sh. G. P Singh and his team was to restore power supply to essential installations, including Defence Installations, Jal Shakti, AIMS & GMC Jammu, and other major hospitals in the city. These critical installations were given top priority, and electricity was successfully restored to most of them on the very first day of the rainfall.

Restoration work continued day and night. Through continuous monitoring, swift deployment of manpower and machinery, and the use of short-term measures and innovative approach, full restoration was achieved well ahead of the anticipated timeline.

The heavy rainfall also impacted power generation severely. Amid heavy downpour, flooding of Power Houses, damage to access roads, and excessive silt load had forced shutdown of all hydroelectric projects of JKSPDC in Jammu Division. Amidst these challenges, the 900MW Baglihar Hydroelectric Project was restored to generation within 60 hours of shutdown. Operations were halted on 26th

August due to dangerously high silt levels in the Chenab River. Through round-the-clock efforts involving road clearance, dewatering, cleaning of the powerhouse, testing of critical components, and continuous silt monitoring, MD JKSPDC Rahul Yadav and his team successfully brought the first unit online by 28th August evening, and all units were synchronized by 29th August to secure energy supply for the region.

Beside this close coordination was maintained with upstream and downstream projects, the Divisional and District Administration for regular discharge date to mitigate flood impacts and alert generation.

While temporary restoration has been completed by the department, permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure, including towers, poles, and substation equipment, would require considerable time, even several months. Accordingly, the department has already conducted a parallel assessment to determine the requirements and plan for permanent power restoration, which would be conducted in due course as and when the weather conditions normalize.

The extraordinary efforts of the PDD workforce, coupled with timely support from central agencies, turned what seemed an impossible task into a success story for Jammu region. (DIPR)

28 BJP MLAs

criticized the NC-led J&K government for its lack of seriousness and inadequate response, terming their efforts as mere “lip service” and “eyewash.” He said that the government demonstrated a perfect example of step-motherly treatment with the Jammu region in this tragedy. He said that despite having control over essential departments like electricity and water supply, the government failed to act on a war footing.

In contrast, Sharma praised the Union Government and the LG administration for their prompt and committed response as was evident in timely rescue operations in Mata Vaishno Devi route tragedy. He recalled that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the region recently, and now, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Ji, accompanied by senior officers of the Army, Police, CAPFs, and civil administration personally reviewed the ground situation. The Union Home Minister also met affected families, local MLAs, and BJP leaders to chalk out a comprehensive relief strategy.

Outlining the immediate measures, Sharma informed that the Union Home Minister directed the MLAs and senior leaders to interact with affected families on September 4-6, organize medical camps on September 9, and conduct cleanliness drives on September 10-11. He further added that rehabilitation of nearly 200 families affected by the cloudburst in Margee village of Warwan has been requested.

In a significant announcement, Sharma revealed that all 28 BJP MLAs have contributed Rs 1 crore each, amounting to Rs 28 crore, for relief efforts. Additionally, BJP MPs have also pledged Rs 2.5 crore each, taking the total to Rs 35.5 crore.

The Union Government has already released Rs 209 crore to the UT Disaster Response Fund (UTDRF) and constituted a high-level committee to submit a report within two days, following which a relief package will be finalized and released within the shortest possible time. The Union Home Minister has also asked the CMs of other states to contribute economically to recover from this tragedy, said Sunil Sharma.

Sharma further said that the Army, CAPF, and others will promote the people of health on a mission basis. He stressed that the Union government has made it absolutely clear that every possible maximal help will be provided to the people.

He also shared that a request has been made to allow the farmers to sell the accumulated aggregates on their fields on their own. The free ration to all the affected people is requested, which will be conveyed to FCI by the Union Home Minister. He added that all the union ministers of departments related to flood affected fields, will visit and organize meetings with the J&K government.

Sharma reiterated that the NC government in J&K has miserably failed the people in their hour of crisis, while the BJP, Union Government, and LG administration remain fully committed to ensuring maximum relief and rehabilitation.(KNO)

GST Council

agreed to subsume most of their taxes like excise duty and VAT into one uniform tax. A compensation cess in the range of 1 to 290 per cent is levied on luxury and demerit goods to

create a revenue pool for compensating states for the loss of revenue occurring from the exercise.

However, the compensation mechanism was for initial 5 years ending June 2022.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in his Independence Day speech on August 15 unveiled the plan for GST reforms. Shortly thereafter the central government shared a blue print of the planned reform with a Group of Ministers (GoM) from different states for initial vetting.

The GoM has consented to Centre’s proposal of doing away with the 12 and 28 per cent slabs, and reducing tax rates to benefit common man. Its recommendations are to be considered by the Council on September 3 and 4. (PTI)

CS Dulloo

prior to supply, so as to prevent any outbreak of water-borne diseases.

He further instructed the Health Department to organize health camps in all affected villages, with medical teams conducting vital health checks and ensuring the availability of essential medicines to the local population.

In addition, he called for a detailed safety audit of all public infrastructure in the flood-hit regions, particularly educational and health institutions, bridges, and government offices, to ensure structural stability and safeguarding of human lives.

Stressing that these measures hold the highest priority, the Chief Secretary made it clear that the directives emanate directly from the Union Home Minister and must, therefore, be implemented with the utmost urgency and seriousness.

The Chief Secretary further reiterated the government’s commitment to not only providing immediate relief and rehabilitation to affected families but working towards long-term resilience through better infrastructure planning, disaster preparedness, and preventive measures to mitigate the impact of such calamities in the future. (DIPR)

IGP

upcoming festival.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION PATTAN.
FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No. 30 OF RNB/Pattan/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/R&B 2050-55 DATED 02.09.2025

The Upper Sealing for Inviting Stage Serial No-1 Contract Shall Be Kept as Restricted 08.00 Lac and For Serial No: 2 Contract Shall Be Kept as Restricted 08.00 Lac

For and on behalf of the Government of UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on **Percentage Rate Basis** from Eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Earnest money (In Rs)	M/H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Repair and Routine Maintenance of roads pertaining to RnB Sub Division Pattan Under Performance based Maintenance Stage contract for the year 2025-26	300/-	FY 2025-26	16000/-	M&R	CD	R&B
2	Repair and Routine Maintenance of roads pertaining to RnB Sub Division Khatpura Under Performance based Maintenance Stage contract for the year 2025-26	300/-	FY 2025-26	16000/-	M&R	CD	R&B

Position Of AAA: **Accorded**
Position of T.S: **Accorded**

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	03-09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	10-09-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	11-09-2025 11:00 AM Office of The Executive Engineer RnB Division Pattan

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in **M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender inviting authority) Falling under The Competence of under sign.**
- All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to **2% of advertised cost** in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to **Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority)** as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period for different nature of works i.e. for M&R works six months (6 months) Bituminous works Three Years (03 Years) and Building works Eighteen Months (18 months) etc as per Physical nature of work.
- 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 R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority).
- The earnest money/ Bid security in favor of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.**
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, i.e.:-**
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" option on website www.jktenders.gov.in to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get' Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.**

No: R&B / Divn./ 2050-55 Dated: 02-09-2025

Sd/-Ex.Engineer

DIPK-5819/25 Dt: 02-09-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Bandipora.
CORRIGENDUM

Subject:1. Restoration of Kaloosa Khayar& Kaloosa Panzigam road by way of 50mm Thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick Seal coat (Machine mix laid with paver).
2. Restoration of Mantrigram-Kralpora Main Road including Inner Links by way of P/L 75mm thick wet mix macadam, 50mm thick bituminous macadam and 25 mm thick-semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat (Machine mix laid with paver)

Ref:-e-NIT No: 26 of 2025-26 Dated:-25-08-2025

Due to Poor-Response, the bid submission end date of above subjected works advertised vide this office e-NIT No. referred above is hereby extended up-to03-09-2025 at 4:00 PM and the same shall be opened on 04-09-2025 at 10:00 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (Tender Receiving Authority). All other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain unchanged.

No.:-EE/R&B/Bandi/3259-65
Dated:-01-09-2025.

Sd/= Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora.

DIPK-5808/25 Dt: 02-09-2025

Time To Align Dogra Legacy With India's Mainstream Global Journey: Dr Jitendra

JAMMU: Delivering the 6th “Kunwar Viyogi Memorial Lecture” at University of Jammu today, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is time to align Dogra legacy with India's mainstream global journey.

The Minister said, India is now following the same global strategies that are being followed by the other developed countries. He said, the country is now living up to global benchmarks. Therefore, he said, if the Dogra region and the Dogras also align with this mainstream global journey, then that would be the true long-term sustainability of the Dogra culture and pride.

Stressing on the need to promote Dogri language through contemporary mediums and curricula, Dr Jitendra Singh urged the educational institutes like Jammu University to take up the task. He said, the linguistic pride cannot be dependent only on Constitutional safeguards.

Dr Jitendra Singh said although Dogri has been included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and introduced as a subject in educational institutes, but it seems to have done little for its promotion on the ground level. Making

a strong case for promotion of Dogri among the youth, the Minister stated that imposition and sermonizing would



not help promote the language as little written communication is done in Dogri. Cryptically, Dr Jitendra Singh said, after abrogation of Art 370, Dogri was made an official language in J&K, and asked how many in this hall have ever even once written a letter or application addressed to any government office in Dogri language. The Minister asked such persons to raise their hands but not a single hand went up.

Dr Jitendra Singh said there is a need to see Dogri as a legacy asset to move on with new contemporary trends

rather than treat it as a liability, and also need to connect it with livelihood stakes.



Dr Jitendra Singh said that ever since PM Narendra Modi took over, Union Government has sought to bridge the gap between Jammu Division and Kashmir Valley, but we are still not able to liberate ourselves from the earlier mindset.

Addressing the students, the Union Minister said the National Education Policy is a game-changer because it has liberated them and provided greater choices. Earlier, most of them were prisoners of their parental choices when it comes to choosing subjects. Now, they

have the freedom to choose and juggle with subjects as per their aptitude, he explained.

Dr Jitendra Singh urged the students to harness mobile technology, and called upon them to join agri-startups after they pass out. The Minister said agri-startups are offering sustainable livelihood. He said more than 4000 youth left their jobs to become part of the Purple Revolution which catapulted Bhaderwah town of district Doda to the global map of startups. He said the Dogra youth too will have to come out of the government employment mindset and take to these new avenues.

The Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir is rich in bio-resources, such as lavender. He also called for promoting Khadi, informing that the government is providing nearly 40 per cent subsidy on loans to encourage production and sale of Khadi products. Dr Singh also spoke about PM Vishwakarma Yojana. He said it is not only a source of livelihood but promotes traditional craft by providing end-to-end support to artisans and crafts persons. The Minister said it aims at onboarding the beneficiaries as entrepreneurs. (PIB)

HP Assembly Achieved 98 Per Cent Productivity During Monsoon Session: Speaker

SHIMLA: The Himachal Pradesh Assembly achieved 98 per cent productivity in the Monsoon session, which saw 12 sittings



and concluded on Tuesday, according to Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania.

The session began on August 18.

The House worked for 59 hours of the allotted time of 60 hours during the session, achieving 98 per cent productivity. A total of 509 starred and 181 unstarred questions were asked, Pathania said.

Apart from this, 12 subjects were discussed under Rule 62 and one subject under Rule 63. Three resolutions were discussed under the Private Member's Day. While two of these were withdrawn, one was passed.

Through the government resolution passed under Rule 102, it was urged to declare the natural disaster in Himachal Pradesh a national disaster, the Speaker said.

He said six subjects were discussed under Rule 130 and 11 bills were also passed while one bill was withdrawn by the government. Five subjects were raised under Rule 324.

During Zero Hour, 43 issues were raised in the House, he added.

Under Rule 67, there was a long discussion in the House on the opposition's adjournment motion. Various committees of the House presented 47 reports in the House.

The session saw Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu present his views for 4.55 hours, while Leader of Opposition (LoP) Jai Ram Thakur presented his views for 2.55 hours, according to the Speaker.

Meanwhile, Sukhu suggested that the Monsoon session should be held in September in future so that there is no disruption due to rain.

He said Himachal Pradesh is currently going through a terrible disaster and urged the opposition to go to Delhi to ask the Centre for a special package for the state.

Thakur advised Sukhu to move forward with positive thinking and stop cursing the opposition.

The government has passed three years cursing the opposition and now it is time to move forward, the LoP said.

He said the state is going through an economic and natural disaster and it is the opposition's job to raise questions. (PTI)

Piyush Goyal Highlights India's Global Sustainability Leadership at CII Summit

NEW DELHI: India is one of the best-performing G20 nations in meeting our sustainability commitments. This was said by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, at CII's 20th Global Sustainability Summit in New Delhi, today.

Remarking on the role played by India for the cause of environment, Goyal noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had played a decisive role in making COP21 a success. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a very important role in making COP21 a success. Without his active participation, without him weighing in with the developed nations to contribute to the sustainability efforts of the less-developed countries, probably COP21 could not have come to fusion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had got the whole global south together, that this should be a collective responsibility of every country in the world,” he said.

Goyal emphasised that India continues to remain firmly committed to its sustainability goals, upscaling renewable energy targets five-fold since 2014 and successfully creating a national interconnected grid under the principle of “One Nation, One Grid.”

Highlighting achievements in the power sector, Goyal noted that India is achieving renewable energy goals well ahead of schedule, with 50% renewable energy capacity already installed. He highlighted that India aims to reach 500 GW by 2030, powered by Make in India products, self-reliant manufacturing and rapid innovation. He pointed out that renewable power is now available in India at globally unmatched prices, around Rs. 4.60 to Rs. 5.00 per kWh for 24-hour clean energy supply. He added that there was no contradiction in simultaneously pursuing coal and renewables, and that transparent bidding processes reduced the price of solar power from Rs. 7-8 to Rs. 2.41. He noted that India now has the ability to offer renewable energy round-the-clock at highly competitive rates unmatched globally.

The Minister called on startups to innovate solutions for challenges such as water harvesting and energy efficiency. Citing the UJALA scheme launched in 2015, he said

India had replaced incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs, showcasing how small steps can have transformational impacts.

Goyal further said that India's supply chains are resilient, and the nation is not at the



mercy of any other country choosing to switch on or switch off the tap. This, he said, is making India Atmanirbhar and self-reliant, building the confidence of young India to take on any challenge the world wants to throw at it.

Highlighting the role of every section of society, the Minister said that young men and women, startups, entrepreneurs, corporates, farmers, hawkers, kirana stores and shopkeepers—every player—collectively contributes to the nation's 7.8 percent GDP growth in the first quarter of this year. He said that being the fastest growing large economy in the world could not have happened without the conviction and resolve of 1.4 billion people.

Goyal stressed that with India contributing 18% to global growth, soon to become the world's third-largest economy and already a \$15 trillion economy in purchasing power parity terms, the country is engaging with the world from a position of strength. He said that India's future rests on sustainability, high quality, cost competitiveness and inclusive growth that reaches the last person at the bottom of the pyramid.

Referring to GST reforms widely anticipated to boost consumption expenditure and demand, Goyal said that with government continuing to support infrastructure creation through huge resource allocation, India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals will enable it to beat every estimate that economists or pessimists may come up with. He noted that challenges will arise, but India's ability to take on volatile and uncertain times has only increased. (PIB)

North Korea's Kim Jong Un arrives in Beijing for military parade alongside Putin, Xi

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Beijing by train on Tuesday to attend a military parade with his Chinese and Russian counterparts, an event that observers say could potentially demonstrate three-way unity against



the United States.

Kim and Russian President Vladimir Putin are among the 26 world leaders who will join China's President Xi Jinping at Wednesday's massive military parade in Beijing that commemorates the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and China's fight against Japan's wartime aggressions.

It's set to be Kim's first time attending a major multilateral event during his 14-year rule, and the first time Kim, Xi and Putin, all key challengers of the US, have gathered at the same venue. None of the three countries have confirmed a private trilateral leaders' meeting.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim was greeted at Beijing railway station by senior Chinese officials. Kim was cited as saying he was pleased to visit China and expressing thanks to Xi and his government for their cordial hospitality.

China's state-run Xinhua news agency issued a photo of a smiling Kim, dressed in a black suit and red tie, stepping off his train at the station. Bilateral meetings

In a closed-door briefing to lawmakers earlier Tuesday, South Korea's National Intelligence Service said that Kim will likely receive special protocol and security measures on par with those given to Putin, according to Lee Seong Kweun, a lawmaker who attended the meeting.

The spy agency said Kim may stand alongside Xi and Putin on the rostrum at Tiananmen Square during Wednesday's parade, and anticipated that he will hold bilateral meetings

Empowerment of farmers, rural economy should be banks' priority: President Murmu

CHENNAI : The empowerment of farmers and the rural economy should be a priority of India's banking sector, President Droupadi Murmu said while addressing the 120th foundation day celebrations of City Union Bank at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on Tuesday.

President Murmu also said that banks can play an important role in transforming MSMEs into the engines of growth.

“From start-ups to smart cities, there is a whole range of areas in which banks can help. Banks can become active partners in the making of a developed India,” she said.

The President said that despite progress in the area of financial services, several challenges are still faced in terms of digital literacy, internet access, and financial awareness.

“Payment banks, digital wallets, and banking correspondents have taken financial services to the doorsteps of remote villages. Despite progress in this area, several challenges are still faced in terms of digital literacy, internet access, and financial awareness,” she said.

“The Indian Economy is among the fastest-growing large economies in the world, and the banking industry plays a pivotal role in its growth story,” she said.

with the Chinese and Russian leaders and interact with other heads of state at a reception and cultural performance as he seeks to further break out of isolation and expand his diplomatic footing, Lee said.

It is Kim's first visit to China since 2019 and the fifth visit in total since he inherited power upon his father's death in late 2011.

Putin arrived in China on Sunday to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a regional summit, as well as the Beijing parade. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told Russia's Tass news agency on Sunday that a meeting between Putin and Kim on the sidelines was “under consideration.”

North Korea observers are paying keen attention to Kim possibly meeting Xi bilaterally as well and holding even a trilateral meeting with Xi and Putin. The three leaders have met bilaterally previously but have yet to hold a trilateral meeting.

Kim to restore China ties

North Korea's foreign policy priority has been Russia in recent years as it has been supplying troops and ammunition to support Moscow's war against Ukraine in exchange for economic and military assistance.

According to South Korean assessments, North Korea has sent around 15,000 troops to Russia since last year. In its latest briefing to lawmakers, the South Korean spy agency said it believes roughly 2,000 of them have so far died in combat, Lee said. Kim has also agreed to additionally send thousands of military construction workers and deminers to Russia's Kursk region, and the agency assesses that the first 1,000 are already in Russia, Lee said.

North Korea's relations with China have reportedly turned sour in recent years, but experts say Kim likely hopes to restore ties as China is North Korea's biggest trading partner and aid benefactor and he would want to brace for the end of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Kim developing partnerships

Since aligning with Russia, North Korea has become more vocal in international affairs beyond the Korean Peninsula, issuing diplomatic statements on conflicts in the Middle East and in the Taiwan Strait, while portraying itself as a part of a united front against Washington. (PTI)



Earlier in the day, Governor of Tamil Nadu RN Ravi and Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin received President Droupadi Murmu on her arrival at Chennai.

On Monday, President Murmu attended the diamond jubilee celebrations of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) in Mysuru, Karnataka, and lauded the institute's significant contributions in education, medicine, and research related to speech and hearing.

“It gives me immense pleasure to be present among all of you at the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of this prestigious institution, which has made significant contributions in the fields of education, medicine, and research in speech and hearing,” Murmu said in her address.

She further extended her congratulations to all former and current directors, faculty members, administrators, and students associated with AIISH for their valuable work.

“On this historic occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the former and current directors, faculty members, administrators, and students associated with this institution for their valuable contributions in the diagnosis and treatment of communication disorders,” she added. (ANI)

India Showcases Resilient, Regenerative Growth at Global Sustainability Summit

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav said that India has successfully integrated economic growth with ecological protection, making it a model for the Global South in balancing development with sustainability.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the 20th Global Sustainability Summit, organised by the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development in New Delhi.

Addressing participants from more than ten countries, Yadav underlined that India's development framework stands on the three pillars of resilience, regeneration, and responsibility. He said India is the only major economy that has not only met but also exceeded several commitments under the Paris Agreement ahead of dead-

lines, while simultaneously emerging as the world's fastest-growing large economy.

Press Information Bureau (PIB) reported that the minister highlighted three major policy steps announced in recent days by the government to strengthen climate action and promote sustainable development.

On August 29, the Centre notified the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, introducing a robust two-tier auditing mechanism with the creation of a new oversight agency to ensure accountability and transparency in environmental assessments.

On the same day, the methodology for the Green Credit Programme was revised, making it more accessible for private sector participation, while mandating minimum eco-restoration requirements to mobilise additional fi-



nancial resources for environmental projects.

Further, on August 31, the ministry amended the Forest (Conservation and Augmentation) Rules, 2023, to simplify approvals for the extraction of critical minerals under the National Critical Minerals Mission. Yadav noted that the mission has identified 24 critical and 29 important minerals essential for India's economic growth, clean energy transition, and national security.

The minister also announced that the government will soon unveil the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which will serve as a blueprint for embedding climate resilience into national policies across agriculture, industry, and urban development. He emphasised that India's progress in renewable energy expansion, waste

management reforms, afforestation drives, and adoption of green technologies reflects its leadership in global climate action.

“India's integrated approach offers valuable lessons for the world, particularly the Global South. We have shown that it is possible to achieve rapid economic growth while meeting sustainability goals,” Yadav said, urging industries and policymakers worldwide to mainstream sustainability in their strategies.

The two-day summit is being attended by senior government officials, industry leaders, environmental experts, and global stakeholders. It is expected to deliberate on transformative pathways for inclusive and sustainable growth in line with India's vision of harmonising development with ecological responsibility. (PIB)

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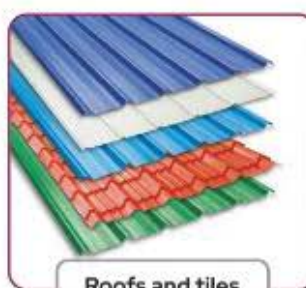
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