



Indian Forces Showed Hard-Hitting Capability During 'Op Sindoor': Air Chief

FE NEWS NETWORK

CHENNAI: Operation Sindoor stands as a shining testament to India's unparalleled prowess and the Indian armed forces demonstrated its capability to deliver swift, precise and decisive blows to the enemy, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh has said.

Operation Sindoor showcased the exceptional coordination between three services, synergy and integration with the Armed forces and other agencies, he said after reviewing the Passing Out Parade of the Officers Training Academy here.

A total of 130 officer cadets and 25 women officer cadets were commissioned into various Arms and Services of the Indian Army while 9 and 12 women Foreign officer cadets from nine friendly countries successfully completed their training, fostering camaraderie and cooperation across international borders.

Addressing the gathering, Singh said, "As we look towards future, two things are certain — fast evolving character of warfare and the increasing relevance of military power." "Operation Sindoor stands as a shining testament to our unparalleled prowess. The Indian armed forces demonstrated their capability

to deliver a swift, precise and decisive blows to the enemy. You, as the future of these forces must understand that

emy," he said.

Appealing to the officer cadets, he said, "Remember our strength comes

has a vital role to play, he said, "Make sure that you understand your role and the role of others and give your best to bring glory to this Motherland."



"The professional conduct of these young officer cadets in their service career will be a strong reflection of these instructors' mentorship and the high training standard of this Academy," he said.

Complementing the officer cadets for their outstanding display of military and synchronized drill moment, he said, it shows the exceptional standards of the Academy.

Later, he presented the Sword of Honour and silver medal to Raj Biswas, the OTA gold medal to Parul Dhadwal and the bronze medal to Pranjal Dixit. (PTI)

Jammu-Srinagar Highway Likely to Reopen in 2 Days: Dr Jitendra

FE NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR : Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, on Saturday said the restoration work of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is going on at a war footing basis and it is expected to reopen within two days.

In a post on X, Dr Singh said, "Road restoration in the district is progressing fast! Out of 400 damaged roads, over 50% have already been restored, and many more will reopen soon."

He said, "Restoration work of the National Highway is going on despite constant rain and adverse weather conditions. It is expected to be operational soon—maybe in one or two days—depending on how favorable the weather remains to ensure speedy work."

The Jammu-Srinagar Highway in Udhampur has remained shut for more than ten days after it was badly damaged in

the district.

According to the officials an early morning downpour on Saturday derailed the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) efforts to restore traffic on the



Jammu-Srinagar National Highway today. "Efforts are on at a war footing to clear the 250-metre stretch of the highway at Thard in Udhampur district which was buried under a hill," said an official, adding, "What we had gained during

■ See On P/6

PModi calls on President Murmu

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

Her office shared a picture of the meeting in a post on X.

"Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu



at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the President's office said.

The meeting comes days

■ See On P/6

After 60-Hour Scare, Kashmir's Flood Alert Lifted

MeT predicts no significant weather activity till Sept 12

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The flood threat in Kashmir eased after 60 hours as the water level in the



Jhelum receded below the flood declaration mark on Saturday.

According to the details, Jhelum level fell below flood declaration mark at Pampore and Ram Munshi Bagh stations this morning.

Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng informed that the Sangam station witnessed a fall below the flood declaration mark after the gap of 42 hours.

Notably, Kashmir witnessed flood-like situation after heavy rainfall led to the rise in the water level in river Jhelum and other tributaries till September 4. However, some of the areas including Zoonipora, Shalina, Tailbal, Taigan and adjacent areas got submerged after the river water entered into the residential areas.

While the situation eased in Srinagar and southern parts of Kashmir, the Jhelum witnessed a rise in frontier town of Uri in North Kashmir's Baramulla district while the Wullar Lake also swelled in Bandipora District.

Keng informed that Wular Lake rose silently. "The rising rate has been

■ See On P/6

CM Omar Visits Flood-Hit Areas, Assures Relief, Rehabilitation

FE NEWS NETWORK

Visits Anantnag and Kulgam to assess flood damage

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah



on Saturday directed the formation of special teams to assess damages in flood-hit Anantnag and Kulgam districts and to prepare comprehensive proposals for seeking com-

pensation for the affected people from the Centre.

Interacting with the affected families, the chief minister assured that the government stands firmly with them and pledged all possible measures for their relief and reha-

isters Sakina Itoo and Javed Ahmad Rana, advisor to the chief minister Nasir Aslam Wani, and concerned MLAs of the district.

Chief Minister instructed officials to assess damages to agricultural land, horticultural crops, and stranded fruit-laden trucks stuck on highways, and to submit their reports in this regard.

Abdullah instructed officials to assess damages to agricultural land, horticultural crops, and stranded fruit-laden trucks stuck

■ See On P/6

GST overhaul a people's reform, touches every family: Sitharaman



NEW DELHI: In a gesture underscoring the spirit of cooperative federalism, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has written to finance ministers of all states, expressing gratitude for their support and active role in helping implement the landmark overhaul of the goods and services tax (GST) regime. In an interview with PTI, Sitharaman said states made their view on the proposal to reify tax rates but ultimately agreed that it was for the benefit of the common man, an argument that helped reach a unanimous decision at the GST Council meeting earlier this week.

The overhaul, which will from September 22 see rates of a wide swath

■ See On P/6

Bottimline

Faith, Fervor: Kashmir Celebrates Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi with Grand Rallies

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The famous Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar on Saturday turned



into the epicentre of spiritual devotion as thousands of people, from different parts of the valley, thronged the revered shrine to mark Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The shrine, nestled on the beautiful banks of Dal Lake, witnessed massive gatherings

from late Friday night as devotees from across Kashmir converged to participate in 'Shab-e-Khawani — night-long prayers', Qur'anic recitation and supplications.

overwhelming emotional responses.

As the relic was being displayed, the cries of "Allahu Akbar" reverberated across the shrine compound. Many devotees broke down in tears, raising their hands in prayers, while others quietly

The shrine, nestled on the beautiful banks of Dal Lake, witnessed massive gatherings from late Friday night as devotees from across Kashmir converged to participate in 'Shab-e-Khawani — night-long prayers', Qur'anic recitation and supplications.

recited verses, overwhelmed by the charged atmosphere of devotion and spirituality. "It is a blessed moment of our lives. Just one glimpse of the holy relic fills our hearts with peace and tears come

■ See On P/6

J&K Bank Presents Dividend Of Over Rs 130 Crore To UT Admin

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Initiating the payment of dividend to shareholders, Managing Director and CEO J&K Bank Shri Amitava Chatterjee today presented two dividend cheques of Rs 122.85 Crore and Rs 7.92 Crore to the UT Administration — the Bank's promoter and major shareholder — for the Financial Year 2024-25.

The dividend cheques were handed over to Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo; Principal Secretary, Finance, Shri Santosh D Vaidya; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, and Shri Mohammad Shafi Mir, Company Secretary J&K Bank were present on the occasion.

The dividend pay-out, which followed the Bank's approval of 215%

dividend at its 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM), underscores both the Bank's financial strength and its pivotal role in supporting the



region's economic development.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the entire team of Jammu Kashmir Bank and urged the Bank to continue to drive substantial and sustained growth and serve the people with excellence.

The Lieutenant Governor said that J&K Bank should continue its focus on financial inclusion by connecting people and it should promote

■ See On P/6

Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage likely to resume next week

JAMMU: The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district is likely to resume next week after a fresh review of the weather advisory, officials said on Saturday.

The yatra remained suspended for the 12th consecutive day on Saturday with the weatherman forecasting the possibility of moderate rain or thunder showers over a few districts of Jammu division towards late night or early morning hours on September 7 and 8.

"A decision to resume the yatra will be taken next week. The track is cleared of the debris and is getting a facelift after the recent damage due to landslides triggered by heavy rains," an official of the shrine board said.

The yatra was suspended hours before a landslide along the old track at Adhkuwari on August 26 claimed 34 lives and left 20 others injured.

The suspension is the longest since the COVID-19 restrictions, with authorities prioritising pilgrim safety and conducting restoration work on the damaged track and commercial structures in Katra.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) observed with religious fervor in Kishtwar

Civil, security arrangements ensured by administration; DC, SSP greet people

KISHTWAR: The people of Kishtwar celebrated the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) with great religious fervor, devotion, and enthusiasm.

The day was marked by religious gatherings and a grand procession, with thousands of devotees participating from Jamia Masjid Kishtwar to the Holy Shrine of Shah Farid-Ud-Din Sahib (RA).

The procession was taken out in a spiritual and peaceful manner under the leadership of Imam Sahib, Jamia Masjid Kishtwar, Head of the Majlis-e-Shoura Committee Kishtwar, along with religious scholars and community elders.

The event highlighted the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and spread the

of the festival, the district and police administrations made comprehensive



message of peace, love, and brotherhood. To ensure the smooth observance

arrangements, including security and logistical measures.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police, Naresh Singh were present on the occasion and personally oversaw the arrangements.

ADC Pawan Kotwal, ASP Pardeep Singh, ACR Idrees Lone, besides other senior officers from the civil and police administrations were also present to facilitate the celebrations.

On this occasion, the DC and SSP extended warm Eid greetings to the Muslim community and joined the religious procession.

They urged the people to uphold the noble teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and appealed for lasting peace, unity, communal harmony, and brotherhood across the district and the Union Territory.

DC inspects pace of restoration work on Kishtwar Thathri stretch of NH-244

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma conducted an extensive inspection of Kishtwar to Thathri stretch of NH-244 to review its condition, the pace of the ongoing maintenance works and traffic management arrangements.

The DC was accompanied by SSP, Naresh Singh along with other senior officers.

During the visit, the DC inspected vulnerable spots and directed the concerned departments to ensure timely repairs, removal of debris and smooth flow of traffic.

He stressed strict adherence

to safety measures, especially at landslide-prone and accident-prone locations and instructed

Commissioner about the current status of the reconstruction work on the bridge at Project Site that



to minimize risks. The DC also issued necessary directions to the NHIDCL authorities for proper upkeep and regular maintenance of the road. The Head of Project (HOP) Rattle HEP Drabshalla apprised the Deputy

was washed away in the recent flood. The Deputy Commissioner directed the HOP to expedite the construction of the bridge and mobilize all necessary resources to ensure its completion in a time-bound manner.

IAF, Udhampur Admin conduct emergency airlift of two critical patients from Latti-Marothi area

UDHAMPUR: In a swift humanitarian response, the District Administration Udhampur in collaboration with the Indian Air Force successfully airlifted two patients from the flood and landslide-hit region of Tehsil Latti-Marothi for urgent medical intervention.

The two patients namely Shiv Lal, resident of Sira and Diwan Chand, resident of Latti were in a critical condition requiring immediate medical attention.

Due to incessant rains and multiple landslides, road connectivity between Tehsil Latti-Marothi and Udhampur remained disrupted, making air evacuation the only viable option.

On receiving information from the Chief Medical Officer Udhampur, District Magistrate Udhampur Saloni Rai promptly coordinated with the Indian Air Force under the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief framework to ensure timely evacuation.

As part of the operation, one patient was shifted to Military Hospital Udhampur, while the other was admitted to Government Medical College Udhampur for specialized treatment.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring that all possible assistance, including emergency medical support, reaches people stranded in remote and inaccessible areas due to recent heavy rains and landslides.

JMC issues comprehensive health advisory amid post-flood challenges

JAMMU: Commissioner Municipal Corporation Jammu Dr Devansh Yadav has made an urgent appeal to the people of Jammu to remain cautious and adopt preventive measures as several areas of Jammu Municipal Corporation and district Jammu continue to recover from the aftermath of recent floods.

He emphasized that flood-hit regions are highly vulnerable to outbreaks of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, and immediate action is necessary to protect public health.

Speaking on the current situation, Dr. Yadav stated that contamination of drinking water is a major concern during such times and can lead to illnesses such as stomach infections, headaches, fever and diarrhea.

Alongside this, the ongoing season poses an increased risk of mosquito-borne diseases including dengue and chikungunya, which are more likely to spread in areas with accumulated stagnant water.

Issuing instructions to all residents to ensure the safety of their drinking water, Dr. Yadav advised the citizens to boil water for a minimum of 10 minutes before consumption to eliminate harmful microorganisms.

"Chlorine tablets should be used wherever possible, and water should be allowed to

settle for at least half an hour after adding the tablets before it is used for drinking or cooking purposes.

Residents are also urged to maintain their surroundings by removing stagnant water from rooftops, courtyards and nearby drains as such areas provide ideal breeding



grounds for mosquitoes" he advised.

To facilitate public health services and immediate assistance, the Health Department has activated the 104 helpline number.

This helpline will provide guidance and address any health-related queries from residents.

In addition, the Jammu Municipal Corporation has intensified its efforts to

conduct fogging and spraying activities across all wards of JMC to control mosquito breeding and minimize the risk of vector-borne diseases.

Appealing to the public, Dr. Yadav said if fogging and spraying activities have not yet reached their locality, they should promptly register their area and ward number on the JMC helpline.

This will help the authorities prioritize the areas that require immediate attention and ensure that every ward receives timely preventive measures, he added.

The health and well-being of our citizens is our top priority," said Dr. Devansh Yadav, adding that JMC is making every possible effort through coordinated actions involving our sanitation teams, health workers, and support staff.

The success of these measures greatly depends on the active cooperation of the public, he said and added that together, we can prevent the spread of diseases and ensure a healthy environment for everyone.

JMC is in continuous monitoring and proactive steps are being taken to safeguard the health of the people during this critical period of recovery, he maintained.

DC Reasi withholds salary of Naib Tehsildar for unauthorized absence

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik has taken strong note of negligence and dereliction of duty on the part of Naib Tehsildar JR Chakalhawalan, Tehsil Thakrakote.

"It has come to the notice of this office that, despite widespread heavy rains, thunderstorms, landslides and flash floods causing extensive damage to public and private infrastructure in the district, the said officer was not present at his station and failed to promptly report the damage in his jurisdiction.

The duty of the officer was to actively carry out damage assessment for facilitating relief disbursement, but his absence led to delays in the process," the DC noted.

Taking a serious view of the lapse, the officer has been served a show-cause notice directing him to explain why disciplinary action should not be initiated against him.

He has been given two days' time to respond, failing which action as warranted under rules shall be taken. Meanwhile, his salary has been withheld until further orders.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that during adverse weather conditions such as heavy rains, landslides, and thunderstorms, the physical presence of field officers and immediate reporting are mandatory to ensure timely response and relief measures.

She reiterated that dereliction of duty in times of crisis will not be tolerated and that officers must remain vigilant and responsive to safeguard the interests of the public.

40% of Budgam still without clean drinking water: Residents question efficacy of filtration plants

Water crisis hits district, livelihoods at risk amid official inaction

Srinagar: A severe shortage of clean drinking water has plunged central Kashmir's Budgam district into crisis, with nearly 40% of the population as per the official sources still deprived of potable water despite repeated pleas to

debris, and waste—rendering the water undrinkable and unfit for daily use.

Ironically, the Jal Shakti department continues to draw water from these very streams for its filtration plants, attempting



authorities.

Residents across the district have accused the Jal Shakti department of failing to provide basic water supply, raising concerns over the efficacy of filtration plants and the overall management of the region's water infrastructure.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Budgam has been grappling with an acute water crisis following several days of relentless rainfall. The heavy downpour has resulted in streams like Doodh Ganga Nallah and others becoming heavily contaminated with mud,

to treat and distribute it to households. However, residents say that the filtration process is failing to meet the community's needs, leaving nearly two-fifths of the district's population without access to safe water. The crisis has been particularly acute in several villages across Sub-Division Beerwah, Khad, and other areas, where both people and livestock are at risk.

"Even our animals are falling sick due to the contaminated water being supplied," one resident told KNO. Locals also report that broken pipes and poorly maintained infrastructure are compounding the problem.

"There is no proper filtration system in our area.

Pipes are broken in several places and go unrepaired for weeks, which lets dirty water seep in and leads to further wastage. We are forced to drink foul-smelling, contaminated water because we have no alternative," locals told KNO. The continued lack of a functional sanitation plant in many affected villages has resulted in a spike in waterborne illnesses. Despite repeated appeals from villagers and community leaders, no new sanitation infrastructure has been installed, and effective steps to address the crisis remain absent.

"The main purpose of the water supply scheme is to provide clean drinking water, but so far, the Jal Shakti department has failed to deliver on this basic promise. Officials are rarely available for explanation, and even when complaints are raised, no meaningful action is taken," locals told KNO.

As the water crisis deepens, affected communities are demanding urgent intervention from the government. "We urge the administration to act immediately and restore clean water supply to all affected areas," residents said, warning that continued inaction could lead to a public health emergency—(KNO)

Air warriors trained for Disaster Management



JAMMU: The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) 2nd Battalion successfully conducted six days Basic Disaster Management Course at its headquarters in Jammu, specifically tailored for personnel from 23rd Wing Air Force Station, Jammu.

As many as 32 Air warriors participated in the training that commenced on September 1 and culminated successfully on September 6, 2025. Designed to build capacity in disaster preparedness and response, the course offered a comprehensive blend of theoretical sessions and hands-on practical exercises. The curriculum focused on life-saving techniques and protocols essential for effective disaster management, aiming to empower participants with the knowledge and confidence to act swiftly and efficiently during emergencies. The course underscored the importance of inter-agency cooperation, reinforcing the strong collaboration between the Indian Air Force and SDRF in enhancing community resilience. The inaugural and valedictory ceremonies were attended by senior officers from both forces, including Zahid Manhas, Commandant SDRF 2nd Battalion, Gp. Capt. J S Sudan and Gp. Capt. Ambresh Pandit.

Zahid Manhas highlighted the growing need for preparedness in an era of increasingly frequent and complex disasters. "We are committed to strengthening our response capabilities through collaborative training initiatives like this. The knowledge and skills gained during this course will enable our Air warriors to act decisively and efficiently in critical situations," said Zahid Manhas during the valedictory function.

Reasi Admin releases 90 Lakh for disbursement of relief among rain, flood affected people

DC reviews restoration of roads, essential services

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a review meeting with the SDMs, XENs of PWD and PMGSY and other concerned officials to take a detailed assessment of the progress of relief and restoration works after the recent floods.

The DC emphasised that with weather conditions now clear, all SDMs and Tehsildars must expedite the damage assessment and submit final relief cases by tomorrow to ensure immediate assistance to the affected people. She informed that the District Administration Reasi has released around 90 lakh as relief for loss of life and livestock, besides Cattle shed damage.

Emphasising timely action, the Deputy Commissioner said that measures are being taken to provide prompt relief to affected families. The DC also reviewed ongoing restoration works across all subdivisions and directed officials to utilise the clear weather to fast-track repair and restoration activities.

She further directed all Executive Engineers of PWD and PMGSY to ensure adequate machinery is available for road clearance and restoration, and that work continues round-the

clock. The DC instructed SDM Dharmari to coordinate with the GREF department for immediate restoration of roads under their jurisdiction.

The Executive Engineer PMGSY Mahore was directed to prioritise the clearance of vital roads. Both PWD and PMGSY departments were asked to submit detailed reports on the



current status of all roads in their areas.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the ADC to obtain a report from Executive Engineer PWD Mahore by this evening on the number of roads made trafficable, while SDM Mahore was tasked with verifying the ground status. PMGSY Mahore was instructed to restore all roads by tomorrow, except those that are technically difficult to clear, while partially open roads must be made fully operational before schools reopen.

On reviewing power restoration efforts, the DC took

an update from JPDCL officials regarding areas where electricity has been restored and where it is still pending. She stressed timely repair of feeder lines and transformers to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

The DC also directed Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to ensure repair of all damaged pipelines and restoration of safe drinking water supply to the public.

She reiterated that all departments must work in close coordination to ensure speedy restoration, uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, and effective relief distribution in affected areas.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the status of houses damaged in Mahore due to land sinking. She directed SDM Mahore to ensure safe and prompt evacuation of affected families to safer locations or relief camps. She further directed that additional relief materials—including tents, mattresses and food supplies be dispatched immediately.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, XEN Jal Shakti and other concerned officers. The SDMs joined the meeting virtually.

...Colours of faith

Children Lead Eid-Milad Rallies Across Kashmir

Srinagar: Streets of Kashmir on Saturday transformed into rivers of devotion as people of all ages, from small children to young adults and the elderly, including women, joined the Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) rallies held across the Valley.

From the crowded markets of Srinagar to the quiet hamlets of North and South Kashmir, Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) processions filled every corner, carrying the colours of faith, love and unity.

According to details collected by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), children were at the heart of the celebrations. Wearing green headbands and with Islamic flags painted on their faces, they marched with tiny steps but immense spirit, drawing smiles from elders and parents alike. The melodious recitation of naats, gave the processions a rhythm

of innocence and reverence. In Srinagar's Alamgari Bazar, flags fluttered above rooftops as crowds swelled. The air was fragrant with rose water. Abdul Rashid, a father watching his 9-year-old wave a green banner



taller than himself, said his son insisted on painting the flag on his cheek today, as it made him feel part of

something bigger. Similar scenes unfolded in Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Budgam, Kupwara, and other districts. Villages that usually echo with silence in the evenings reverberated with loudspeakers praising the Prophet (SAW). Homes were decorated with lights, mosques adorned with banners, and shops offered free sweets and bread to passersby.

"This love has been carried through centuries," said Mohammad Yaseen, an elderly participant in Srinagar. "Seeing children lead today shows our devotion will never fade." Notably, the processions were not only spiritual but also social gatherings. Neighbours met on the streets, women watched from balconies, and travellers paused to join the chants. In some areas, local volunteers managed traffic, offered food, and maintained discipline, blending service with faith—(KNO)

CM Omar offers Magrib prayers at Hazratbal Shrine on Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

Prays for peace, harmony, prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah joined the devotees at the revered

Hazratbal Shrine here on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW). The Chief Minister offered Magrib Namaz (evening prayers) at the shrine, which

houses the sacred Moy-e-Muqaddas (Holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad, PBUH). After the prayers, he was blessed with a glimpse of the Holy Relic, along-with the congregation of devotees.

Former J&K Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, and MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq also participated in the congregational prayers at the shrine.

On this spiritually significant occasion, Omar Abdullah prayed for everlasting peace, communal harmony, and the well-being and prosperity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister extended warm greetings to the people on Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), urging them to uphold the noble teachings of the Prophet (SAW) as a guiding light for unity, compassion and service to humanity.

Water supply restored in around 80% affected areas of Jammu city

Private water tankers permitted to resume independent operations

FE News Network

JAMMU: After significant improvement in the water supply situation across Jammu city, private water tankers have been permitted to resume independent operations with immediate effect.

The services of private water tankers had earlier been placed under the regulatory control of the Jal Shakti Department, following directives issued by the Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, in response to a severe water shortage affecting several parts of the district.

This temporary measure was aimed at ensuring equitable distribution, price regulation and uninterrupted access to safe drinking water for all residents during the crisis.

With the dedicated and coordinated efforts of the Jal Shakti Department, supported by district authorities and ground staff, normal water supply has now been restored in approximately 80% of the affected areas.

In the remaining localities, alternative arrangements like deployment of water tankers, bore-well supplies and temporary water stations are functioning efficiently to



meet public demand.

Jal Shakti Minister has lauded the cooperation extended by private water suppliers during the period and acknowledged their contribution in stabilizing the situation during this critical phase.

As private operators resume their services, they are expected to operate in accordance with applicable guidelines, safety protocols and quality standards.

The Government will continue to closely monitor the water supply scenario to ensure there is no disruption or exploitation of services.

Jal Shakti Department reaffirms its commitment to providing safe, reliable and adequate drinking water to every resident and expresses gratitude to the public for their support, patience and cooperation throughout the period of difficulty.

DC Bandipora visits flood vulnerable sites of Sumbal subdivision

FE News Network

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday visited Sub-Division Sumbal to review the situation caused by rising water levels in Wullar Lake.

During the visit, the DC assessed the impact of rising waters on habitations and essential infrastructure. She interacted with locals and took firsthand feedback on the situation.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that inundation has been witnessed only in a few low-lying villages, which usually face such conditions even during normal times. She said the visit was aimed especially for the Irrigation & Flood Control Department to assess damage to bunds, seepage points and other related works.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner personally visited these areas to assess the situation. She said that People here are praising the efforts of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department for their timely response and continuous work. She also reviewed the arrangements made for shifting vulnerable families if needed and directed officials to remain alert and provide timely assistance. The DC stressed that departments including Revenue, Fisheries and I&FC are working in close coordination to respond effectively to any situation.

14 FIRs registered in Anantnag against violation of food safety norms

FE News Network

ANANTNAG: In a continued effort to uphold public health standards and ensure the safety of food being served and sold across the district, Anantnag Police on Saturday said to have launched a massive drive against restaurants and shopkeepers found violating food safety regulations and public health norms.

During the ongoing inspection and enforcement drive, several establishments were found to be operating in contravention of prescribed guidelines, a police spokesman said.

Consequently, strict legal action has been initiated by various police stations across the district including Police Station Bijbehara has registered four FIRs bearing numbers 170, 171, 172, and 173 of 2025 under relevant sections of law; Police Station Kokernag has also registered four FIRs numbered 97, 98, 99, and 100



of 2025; Police Station Achabal has registered two FIRs, bearing numbers 76 and 77 of 2025; Police Station Anantnag has filed two FIRs, numbered 173 and 174 of 2025 and Police Station Dooru registered two FIRs under FIR No's 79 and 80 of 2025.

All the cases have been registered under the relevant provisions of law applicable to food safety, public health, and hygiene standards. Further

investigations are underway and defaulters will be dealt with strictly as per legal provisions, the spokesman said.

Anantnag Police reiterated their commitment to ensuring the health and safety of the public and urges all food business operators to strictly adhere to the norms laid down by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and other regulatory bodies—(KNO)

Commr Secy YSS reviews performance, functioning of JKSC

FE News Network

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Yasha Mudgal chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the overall functioning and performance of the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC).

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary YSS, Director Finance YSS, Secretary JKSC, Executive Engineer JKSC and other senior officers of YSS and JKSC.

While reviewing the human resource issues of the department, the Commissioner Secretary underscored the need to expedite the process of filling all vacant positions. She emphasized that adequate staffing is essential for the optimal functioning of sports infrastructure across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the importance of youth engagement in sports, the Commissioner Secretary directed JKSC to conduct population-wise



analysis of youth participation in sports activities across J&K and analyse the same with respect to the national average. She further instructed that a comparative study be undertaken with other states that have demonstrated success in sports development, and adopt their best practices to boost sports culture across Jammu and Kashmir.

In order to enhance the competitive performance of athletes in J&K, the Secretary JKSC was asked to formulate a comprehensive plan aimed at increasing medal tallies in national and international competitions.

Highlighting the potential of J&K as an emerging global sports destination, the Commissioner Secretary advised the JKSC to examine the feasibility of hosting international sporting events, including World Championships, in the Union Territory, which will significantly contribute to enhancing the global visibility of Jammu & Kashmir as a sports destination. She also stressed on the importance of media visibility and directed the J&K Sports Council to ensure that all sports events receive adequate publicity before, during, and after their conduct.

Dir Agriculture conducts an extensive tour of Ganderbal district



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, conducted an extensive tour of Ganderbal district to review agricultural activities and engage with the farming community. The visit focused on promoting sustainable practices and strengthening agricultural initiatives, with interactions centered on apiculture, vegetable cultivation, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and organic farming in key areas, including Patishalbugh Organic Village, Zazna Village, and Kangan.

During the tour, Shah met with farmers

involved in apiculture, emphasizing the potential of beekeeping as a sustainable income source. He highlighted the department's commitment to providing technical support and quality assurance for apiculture products to access broader markets.

In the realm of vegetable cultivation, the Director interacted with farmers to promote crop diversification and modern farming techniques. He reviewed ongoing initiatives under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), encouraging farmers to adopt high-yield, climate-resilient vegetable varieties. He assured the provision of quality seeds, poly houses, and technical guidance to

ensure year-round production and improved livelihoods.

He also engaged with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Ganderbal, discussing their role in collective marketing, resource sharing, and value addition. He emphasized the department's support in strengthening FPOs through training, infrastructure, and market linkages to enhance their operational efficiency and economic impact.

A significant part of the tour included a visit to Patishalbugh Organic Village, where the Director assessed the progress of organic farming initiatives. He interacted with farmers adopting organic practices, praising their efforts in sustainable agriculture and encouraging certification to boost market access.

Director reiterated the department's commitment to empowering the agricultural community through technology, innovation, and financial support under HADP and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSS).

He urged farmers to leverage these initiatives for enhanced productivity and profitability, assuring close coordination with field functionaries for pre- and post-harvest support.

DC Budgam chairs meeting on relief & restoration measures in flood-affected areas

Stresses on transparent reporting, coordinated response, long-term flood resilience in District

FE News Network

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat convened a review meeting at the DC Office Meeting Hall to take stock of restoration measures and departmental response in the wake of the recent floods.

The meeting was attended by SE Hydraulic with all Executive Engineers including Executive Engineer FSC, SE R&B with all Executive Engineers, Executive Engineer PDD with AEEs, SDM Beerwah, SDM Chadoora, ACD, ACR Budgam, AO, ARA, Nazarat and personnel from the Relief section.

During the meeting, threaded discussions were held on Flood Analysis & Gap Assessment in which departments presented an overall analysis of the recent flood situation, challenges faced during relief operations, and gaps in infrastructure and manpower.

During the meeting a tentative lists of damaged assets and estimated financial losses suffered due to floods were shared for compilation.

Meanwhile, officers briefed the chair about immediate restoration measures



already executed to restore essential services in affected areas.

A Short-Term Restoration Plan was made in which works to be completed within the next 3-4 days were identified, with specific timelines and departmental responsibilities.

Under permanent measures, departments proposed long-term and permanent flood mitigation and disaster resilience works to be taken up in the future to prevent recurrence of such damages in the District.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC

underscored the importance of a coordinated and transparent response for timely restoration of all affected services.

Hestressed that the administration's focus must not only remain on immediate restoration but also on building long-term resilience against natural calamities.

The DC directed all line departments to submit real, fact-based reports on damages and restoration works undertaken. He impressed upon officers to work in close coordination and ensure that every intervention is need-based, timely and effective.

He further emphasized that upgrading infrastructure, strengthening manpower and adopting proactive planning are crucial to minimize the impact of such disasters in the future.

DC reiterated the commitment of the district administration to safeguard lives, property and livelihood of people, and assured that all possible measures will be taken for early restoration and sustainable flood mitigation in budgam.

Apple Harvest Delayed; Growers Seek Rail Solutions Amid Highway Closure

FE News Network

News Observer (KNO).

SRINAGAR: As Kashmir's famed apple season begins, fruit growers in lower areas, where the season starts early, are caught in a crisis yet again due to the frequent closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the valley's only all-weather road link with the rest of the country.

The disruption has forced many to delay apple picking, fearing heavy losses if their produce gets stranded en route to markets.

According to the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, around 800 vehicles carrying high-density apples and pears are currently stranded on the highway, putting the livelihoods of thousands of families at risk.

"This is extremely worrying," said Bashir Ahmad Basheer, Chairman of the Union, while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir

He said that every year, during harvest season, fruit growers face one crisis or another. This year, prolonged closures have already delayed transportation, and our perishable fruit cannot survive such conditions, he said.

"We strongly demand the intervention of the government to arrange goods trains for transportation or make arrangements for heavy vehicles on Mughal roads so that this crisis is not repeated every season," Basheer added.

Nearly 70 per cent of the valley's population depends directly or indirectly on horticulture, with apples being the backbone of the rural economy. Kashmir produces over 70 per cent of India's apples, contributing thousands of crores annually to the UT's economy.

Farmers fear that if the stranded produce



does not reach markets on time, the fruit will rot, and even those that make it will fetch far below the expected rates due to deteriorated quality.

"This is the peak season for gala varieties of apples and pears," said Basharat Ahmad, a grower from Sopore, one of the largest fruit trade hubs in north Kashmir. "The

longer our trucks remain stuck, the more we lose. Even if they somehow reach Delhi or other markets, their condition won't be the same, and we won't get the right price."

While the Mughal Road is seen as an alternative, growers say it has offered little relief. Current restrictions allow only six-tire vehicles, which limits the volume of fruit that can be transported. Moreover, such vehicles often do not make it beyond Delhi, leaving major southern and central Indian markets, such as Bangalore, Kanpur, and Chennai, out of reach.

"Without access to these major markets, our income potential shrinks drastically," said Ghulam Mohammad, an orchardist from Shopian. "This is why we need a long-term solution."

Many growers are now urging the government to explore railway transport as a permanent alternative. "If goods trains

are arranged, fruit growers won't be held hostage to road closures every year," said Mohammad Yousuf, a grower from Pulwama. "This sector is the backbone of J&K's economy. The least the government can do is ensure its survival."

The Srinagar-Jammu Highway has remained mostly closed over the last two weeks following landslides and road damage caused by heavy rains at several vulnerable spots. For fruit growers, this is not just a seasonal inconvenience but a recurring nightmare that threatens the very future of Kashmir's horticulture.

"We appeal to the government to treat this as an emergency," the growers said. "Without smooth transport, all our hard work will go to waste, and the valley's economy will collapse further. Immediate steps must be taken before the damage becomes irreparable."—(KNO)

Editorial

Of Floods and Vigilance

The sigh of relief across the Kashmir Valley is almost audible. After days, the Jhelum has finally receded below the official floodmark, allowing a nervous populace to step back from the brink. The crisis seems to have passed its peak for now. This reprieve is welcome, but it must not be mistaken for an all-clear. The events of the past week are not just a weather report, they show the struggles of our relationship with the environment and serve as a critical test of our preparedness. While Srinagar and South Kashmir see the waters retreat, the situation in Bandipora and Uri is different. Here, the Jhelum continues to swell, and the steady rise of Wular Lake is a strong reminder that nature's clock ticks at its own pace.

This reveals an important truth: in a region shaped by rivers and lakes, a crisis in one watershed affects everyone. This dual reality, with easing tension in one area and rising threats in another, highlights the complex and interconnected hydrology of Kashmir. It requires a response that is both local in its actions and broad in its outlook. The setup of control rooms and directives to officials are strong steps forward, reflecting lessons learned from past disasters. This proactive approach must become the standard practice.

The weather forecast shows no significant rain until September 12th. This is not a time to relax, but action is needed. The administration and citizens must also strengthen our defenses. Now is the time to check river embankments, clear drainage systems, and make sure communication networks for emergency alerts work well. Public awareness is critical, every citizen should understand the risks and protocols. A single call can save lives. Looking beyond response, we must restart longer conversation, because climate change is causing extreme weather events to happen more often and with greater intensity.

The fragile ecosystem of Kashmir, needs careful management and strong infrastructure that honors natural drainage patterns. Urban planning must focus on resilience instead of unchecked growth. As the waters recede, they leave more than just wet soil, they offer lessons, yes lessons to learn and act. Effectively managing a potential disaster is a shared success. It depends on the accuracy of forecasters, officials, and watchfulness of every citizen. As we enjoy the sunshine, let us remember the tension of the past 60 hours. Let that memory inspire our commitment to ongoing readiness, so the next time clouds gather, we are not just hopeful, but truly prepared, yes, truly, prepared.

Gst 2.0: Streamlining For A Sovereign India



PROF. MAHESH CHAND GUPTA

Fulfilling the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day, before Diwali, the government has given the public a gift in the form of GST reform, which will not only simplify the life of the common man but will also bring the dream of a developed India by 2047 to the ground more strongly. GST 2.0 is not just a tax reform but a map of India's next economic journey. While the countrymen are happy, this reform also has a deep international message. This reform is India's answer to the 50 percent tariff imposed by America in the form of its economic strength and self-reliance.

Farmers, women, youth, middle class, small traders and consumers will all benefit from GST reform. This step is not just an attempt to simplify the tax system but is a decisive turning point towards transforming India into a fast, strong and self-reliant economy. This reform will not only provide relief to the common people at the domestic level, but will also strengthen India's strong image at the international level.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also underlined the need for changes. Modi has said that if India has to get a proper place in the global scenario, then changes from time to time are very important. These reforms will give the country a double dose of support and growth. The poor, middle class, women, students, farmers and youth will directly benefit from this. The Prime Minister has also reiterated that this reform is not just a change in tax, but is a next generation reform for self-reliant India.

The government has not taken this decision in a hurry but it has taken special care of social balance in this reform. 40 percent tax has been imposed on tobacco products, cigarettes, alcohol, expensive cars, aircraft etc. but this will directly affect the rich class while the poor and middle class will get cheap essential commodities. The biggest impact of GST 2.0 will be that consumers will get cheaper goods and domestic consumption will increase. Economic experts believe that when consumption increases, the scope of production and trade will also increase. Companies will be in a position to hire more employees, which will increase employment opportunities. Thus GST reform and Pradhan Mantri Vikasit Bharat Rojgar Yojana together will give impetus to the economy. Consumers will get cheaper goods and the younger generation will get employment opportunities.

This balance will bring both short-term relief and long-term development. Historically, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) implemented on 1 July 2017 was the biggest indirect tax reform after independence. It created a common national market in the country by removing 17 central and state taxes and

man should be cheaper and their burden should not increase on the pocket of the common man. Consumers will be the biggest beneficiaries of GST 2.0. When essential goods become cheaper, the monthly savings of common families will increase. If farmers get equipment at low cost, production will

strategy will make India economically stronger.

India is dreaming of becoming a developed nation by 2047. GST 2.0 is an important link in that direction. This reform is not just a change in tax rates but a change in thinking. This is a thought that keeps the common man at the center and also prepares India to face global competition. In the rapidly changing economic conditions of the world, India will have to keep both its policy and vision updated. GST 2.0 is a solid start in this direction, the result of which will play an important role in keeping India the fastest growing economy in the coming years.

With GST reforms, the government has made it clear that now the goal is not only to make policy but to show results by implementing it on the ground. This reform matters for everyone from farmers to urban consumers, small shopkeepers to big industries. This is not just a tax reform, but a new chapter of India's economic self-reliance.

Although these reforms will cause an annual revenue loss of Rs 47,700 crore to the government, but everyone is confident of compensating it with the possibility of a boom in the markets. It is believed that while tax rates will be balanced, tax evasion will stop while tax rates will increase. SBI Research estimates that due to tax cuts, shopping will increase and consumption in the economy will increase by up to Rs 1.98 lakh crore. The country's leading industrialists and economists believe that this reform will further accelerate India's economic pace. This can take India's GDP growth rate above 8 percent. Economists believe that this is the perfect policy to increase demand and strengthen domestic production. India will now show what a dead economy looks like. Trump had described India as a dead economy. The government also claims that with a simple tax system, people will pay more taxes, which will increase revenue. When revenue increases, the government will have more resources to spend on development projects. There will also be a positive impact of increasing demand for Swadeshi. Modi has also called for adopting Swadeshi. However, it would be too early to assume that all problems will end with the mere announcement of GST reforms. The real challenge is its effective implementation. The consent of the state governments, the efficiency of the administrative system and control over preventing tax evasion will tell how successful this reform is. It will take at least six months for the expected results to come.

(The author is a renowned educationist, philosopher, thinker and speaker. He has been a professor at Delhi University for 44 years.)



implementing 'one nation one tax'. GST has continuously evolved in eight years and now through digitalization and rationalization, it has become the backbone of the Indian tax system. In view of the rapidly changing nature of the economy, it had become necessary to make the tax system simple and practical. Understanding this need, the government has put forward a reform in the form of GST 2.0 which is well thought out and public friendly from a broad perspective. The biggest change in GST 2.0 is the reduction in the number of tax slabs. Earlier there were four major rates i.e. 5 percent, 12 percent, 18 percent and 28 percent. Now these have been reduced to just two. There will be a 5 percent tax on essential goods and 18 percent on general goods. This will provide direct relief to consumers. Keeping farmers and rural economy in mind, tax on tractors, agricultural equipment, handicrafts and marble has been reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent. Its effect will be far-reaching because the cost of agriculture will be reduced, which will increase the vibrancy in rural markets. The government has kept some items out of the tax purview. Its purpose is that the basic necessities related to the life of the common

increase. Small traders and shopkeepers will get relief from the complexity of tax, which will make their business easier. Making life and health insurance tax free is a big step. Reducing tax on 33 life-saving medicines including cancer is also commendable.

Women will get household items at a lower price. New employment opportunities will be created for the youth, as increasing consumption will inspire industries to increase production. In this way, this reform will not be limited to figures but will bring positive change in the lives of every section.

This reform has come at a time when America has imposed a tariff of up to 50 percent on India. The Donald Trump administration has justified these tariffs in its national interest, but India has responded to this not with any political rhetoric but with solid economic reform. GST 2.0 is a symbol of the fact that India is on the path of making its economy self-reliant and strong. This step is a clear message to the global community that India is not afraid of challenges but is a country that turns them into opportunities. The possible loss caused by American tariffs can be compensated by strengthening domestic consumption. This

SCO 2025: India's Focus on Security, Connectivity, and Prosperity



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which was established in 2001, originally came into existence as a security-focused forum. For China, Russia and Central Asian countries, this organisation was a common platform for counter-terrorism and border stability. But in two decades, this organisation has gradually assumed a multidimensional form, in which issues such as economic cooperation, connectivity, cultural exchange and establishment of a multipolar world order have become prominent along with security. India, which joined it as an observer in 2005 and got full membership in 2017, sees opportunities in this organisation on the one hand and also faces challenges on the other. The Tianjin Summit of the year 2025, which was also the 25th anniversary of the organisation, was extremely important in this regard.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined India's engagement on this occasion in terms of three pillars—security, connectivity and opportunity. This was not mere rhetoric but a clear and balanced strategy by which India outlined its security concerns, sought to balance imbalances in the organisation and sought to establish itself as a future-shaping power. These three pillars were clearly echoed in the Tianjin Declaration, where for the first time the India-proposed vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" was formally incorporated.

The first pillar, security, is India's primary concern. Modi rejected double standards, reiterating the principle of "zero tolerance" towards terrorism. This clear message was directed at Pakistan, which presents itself as a counter-terrorism power despite providing shelter and support to terrorist organisations. India ensured that the Tianjin Declaration made explicit men-

tion of recent major terrorist attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan, including the Pulwama-Palgam attack in Kashmir. This was a diplomatic victory for India, as earlier declarations were often limited to general terms. India stressed the need to strengthen the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), enhance intelligence sharing, curb terror financing and measures to control digital radicalism. India also warned that if Afghanistan is not addressed, the entire region will be vulnerable to insecurity.



The second pillar, connectivity, is important for India both strategically and economically. Central Asia is an energy-rich and strategically important region, but India has limited direct geographical connectivity. Modi said India supports connectivity infrastructure that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity, citing projects such as the Chabahar port and the International North-South Transport Corridor. This was an indirect criticism of China's Belt and Road Initiative, particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which passes through the Indian territory of Gilgit-Baltistan. India made it clear that the path to development cannot be built by compromising the sovereignty of any country.

The Tianjin summit also saw a partial dialogue in India-China relations. The brief meeting between Modi and Xi Jinping discussed border stability, visa restoration and the possibility of resumption of pilgrimages like Kailash-Mansarovar. This indicates that for India connectivity is not limited to just physical infrastructure, but people-to-people relations, trade normalisation and cultural exchange are equally important.

The third pillar, Opportunities, reflects India's

farsightedness and creative approach. Modi said that SCO should not be limited to just security and geopolitics but should become a platform for innovation, youth empowerment and sustainable development. India proposed strengthening the SCO Startup Forum, cooperation on inclusive digital governance and responsible use of artificial intelligence. It also advocated environmental sustainability, green energy and joint efforts against climate change. Also, India suggested setting up a "Civilizational Dialogue

Platform" in the SCO to highlight the common cultural heritage of Asian countries. This pillar takes India beyond being a mere security-focused nation and gives it the role of a cultural and moral leader.

These initiatives of India were clearly echoed in the Tianjin Declaration. For the first time, the declaration adopted the Indian vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future". This is the same idea that India had presented during its G20 presidency. The declaration clearly condemned terrorist incidents and agreed to establish the SCO Development Bank, in which China promised to provide an initial capital of \$1.4 billion. Although this raises the fear of China's economic dominance, it is a step towards making the SCO a solid economic platform. The declaration supported multipolarity, UN reform and greater participation of developing countries. It also included a resolution to promote education, culture and civilizational dialogue, which matches India's initiative.

Despite these achievements of India, challenges remain. Pakistan constantly tries to raise the Kashmir issue on international forums, although it does not get the desired success.

The 25th SCO Summit 2025 held in Tianjin underscored India's active role. Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented India's three-pillar strategy—security, connectivity and opportunities—emphasizing zero-tolerance on terrorism, sovereignty-respecting connectivity, and promoting opportunities in technology and culture. The Tianjin Declaration included the India-proposed vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future", as well as condemnation of terrorist attacks and support for global reforms.

China's Belt and Road project still attracts many countries, due to which India's disagreeing stance creates contradictions in the organization. There is still no concrete collective strategy regarding the situation in Afghanistan. Also, India has to balance with Western forums such as Quad and Indo-Pacific initiatives while maintaining its strategic autonomy.

In the global perspective, the relevance of SCO is growing rapidly. This organization represents almost half of the world's population and one-fifth of the economy. At a time when Russia-Ukraine war, US-China competition and instability in West Asia dominate international politics, SCO has emerged as a symbol of multipolarity. India's active role gives this organization a democratic and development-oriented dimension.

The way forward: India will have to ensure that counter-terrorism cooperation does not remain only on paper but translates into concrete arrangements like intelligence sharing and financial monitoring. Alternative connectivity structures like Chabahar and the North-South Transport Corridor will have to be implemented soon. India's strength in the IT and startup sector can make the SCO relevant on the global stage. India can further strengthen its soft power through yoga, Ayurveda, education and cultural exchange. The most important challenge will be to maintain balanced relations with China and Russia, so that India can play an independent role while safeguarding its sovereignty.

Finally, the Tianjin Summit was not just the anniversary of the SCO but also a symbol of the maturity of India's diplomacy. Security, connectivity and opportunity—these three pillars combine India's national priorities and regional expectations. The inclusion of India's vision in the Tianjin Declaration is a testimony to this. Whatever the challenges, India is no longer just a participant but a key architect of the SCO's direction.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science. He can be mailed at priyankasaurabh9416@gmail.com

Eid Milad-un-Nabi...

Ehsaas Foundation Organises Free Tea Stall at Dargah Hazratbal Shrine

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a heartfelt gesture of service and devotion, the Ehsaas Foundation organised a Free Tea

mised mercy, compassion, and service to humanity. Thousands of devotees thronged Hazratbal to participate in the celebrations marking the birth an-

smooth service with warmth and care, reflecting the Prophet's (SAW) message of kindness and brotherhood.

The Co-Founder of Ehsaas Foundation, Sahil Bhat, in his message on Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), emphasized the importance of peace, humanity, and love in today's world. "The birth of the Prophet (SAW) is not only a moment of joy but also a reminder of his eternal message of mercy, compassion, and service to mankind. On this blessed day, we at Ehsaas Foundation reaffirm our commitment to spreading love, unity, and peace among all communities. Humanity was at the core of the Prophet's (SAW) teachings, and it must remain our guiding light," he said.

He further added that the Foundation will continue to undertake such community-oriented initiatives to serve society, especially the underprivileged, in line with the noble values of Islam.

Devotees and locals expressed their appreciation for the effort, praising Ehsaas Foundation for being consistently active in social, humanitarian, and welfare activities across the Valley. Many lauded the organisation's dedication to serving people selflessly and carrying forward the values of compassion and brotherhood. The occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), witnessed a spiritual atmosphere at Hazratbal, with thousands offering prayers, sending salutations upon the Prophet (SAW), and participating in various religious activities. The initiative by Ehsaas Foundation added to the spirit of unity, service, and devotion that defined the day.



Stall at the revered Dargah Hazratbal Shrine on the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) The initiative was dedicated to the memory and teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW), who epitom-

niversary of the Prophet (SAW), and the Free Tea Stall proved to be a blessing for many, especially those who had travelled long distances. Volunteers of the Foundation worked tirelessly throughout the day, ensuring

Div Com Jammu Inspects Protection Works On Ravi River Embankment At Lakhampur

FE NEWS NETWORK

Also reviews relief, flood damage restoration measures in Kathua district

KATHUA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today conducted an extensive inspection of

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner held threadbare discussions with all stakeholders including Kathua District Administration, Punjab Irrigation Department, NHAI and Army authorities to devise a multi-pronged strategy aimed at diverting the water flow, protecting critical

chinery have been mobilised and are working round the clock to raise crates and carry out strengthening works on vulnerable stretches of the embankment.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to maintain constant coordination and ensure timely completion of protective works. Stressing on the urgency, the Div Com called for deployment of adequate resources, regular monitoring of the situation and immediate plugging of weak points along the embankment.

The Div Com further emphasized upon exploring long-term measures to provide permanent protection against any threats caused by changes in river course. He urged close liaison between J&K and Punjab authorities to evolve a joint mechanism for flood management in the Ravi River basin.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the relief and restoration measures ongoing in the affected areas of the District. He asked the district administration to expedite the restoration works of road connectivity that were severely affected during the heavy rains. He directed for complete restoration of Power and water supply, wherever pending in the affected areas, if any.



the ongoing protection works along the Ravi River embankment near Lakhampur, which has suffered severe damages amidst the recent spell of torrential rains.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kathua, SSP Kathua, Project Director NHAI, senior officers of Punjab Irrigation Department and representatives of the Indian Army.

assets and minimizing risk to life and property.

DC Kathua briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the emerging situation and the measures being undertaken to safeguard vital installations including the Office of the DDC Chairman, Animal Husbandry Check Post and adjoining government buildings. He informed that men and ma-

Chittisinghpura delegation seeks fresh probe in massacre of 35 sikhs

■ Calls on LG Manoj Sinha

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A delegation of 35 Shaheed Singhs Welfare Organization, Chittisinghpura led by its Chairman S. Jagjeet Singh called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj

March 2000. They further put forth various welfare issues of the Next of Kins of the martyred civilians including compassionate appointment under SRO-43, extension of benefits at par with non-migrant Kashmiri

Pandits; reservation in admissions in different courses in Government universities/ Colleges, and financial assistance for the construction of memorial at Chittisinghpura Anantnag. The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed his commitment to deliver justice to families affected by terrorism in Jammu Kashmir. He assured that a thorough inquiry will be conducted and justice will be served.

He said the issues and grievances of families of the civilians martyred in the massacre will be addressed with the utmost sensitivity and on priority. He assured that the eligible family members will receive Compassionate appointments, and also financial assistance for self-employment.



Sinha.

The members of the delegation demanded a fresh probe into Massacre of 35 Sikhs at Chittisinghpura Anantnag by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists on 20th

Torrential Rain Hits Restoration Work On Jammu-Srinagar NH

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: An early morning downpour on Saturday derailed the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) efforts to restore traffic on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which remained closed for the fifth consecutive day, a senior official said.

NHAI Project Manager, Ramban sector, Shubam said efforts are going on at a war footing to clear the 250-metre stretch of the highway at Thard in Udhampur district which was buried under a hill.

"What we have gained during the day on Friday was washed away by intense half-an-hour rainfall this morning... we have mobilised the men and machinery and started the work afresh to ensure early reopening of the arterial road as soon as possible," the official told PTI.

He said they are expecting to clear the road later tonight or early next morning. Barring this four-lane highway stretch,

which is completely buried under a moving hill, the rest of the highway – the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with



the rest of the country – has been cleared for two-way traffic, the official said.

The highway was closed for traffic amid heavy rain across the Jammu division

early this week, following multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting stones from the hillocks overlooking the road besides



washing away of road patches at different places between Udhampur and Banihal.

The closure of the highway left hundreds of vehicles, mostly trucks, stranded on

both sides, officials said.

A traffic department official said the Mughal Road – an alternate link connecting Poonch and Rajouri districts with south Kashmir's Shopian district – is open for light motor vehicles. The Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road, another alternate link, remained closed for the fourth day despite a massive road clearance operation.

A meteorological department spokesperson said rain or thundershowers are likely at a few places on Saturday. Light rain or thundershowers at scattered to many places across J&K with a possibility of moderate rain or thunder over a few districts of the Jammu division towards late night or early morning on September 7 and 8. The weather office has also forecast a brief spell of rain or thundershower activity at a few places between September 9 and 12.

"Overall, there is nothing significant till September 12," the spokesperson said. (PTI)

DDC Vice-Chairperson Reviews Relief, Rehabilitation Efforts At Landslide Hit Sundla Village, Otr Parts Of Majalta

FE NEWS NETWORK

Directs for Long-Term Mitigation Measures

UDHAMPUR: In the wake of incessant rains, flash floods and landslides having unleashed devastation across Udhampur district, Vice Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Udhampur, Jui

slide's impact and potential future risks. This survey would help identify areas prone to landslides and facilitate the development of strategies to mitigate such disasters in the future.

The Vice Chairperson stressed the importance of restoring essential services, including electricity, drinking water, road connectivity, and healthcare facilities, to restore normalcy in the affected area.



Manhas Pathania carried out an extensive tour of severely affected areas including Sundla, Nakkhi, Khoon, Thati, Palnoo among others.

To take stock of the situation that arose after a devastating landslide reportedly affected residential houses in Sundla village- Majalta Tehsil, the Vice Chairperson visited the area and conducted a thorough review of the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

During her visit, Pathania observed that 20 houses have been reduced to rubble, while 50 others were vacated by the administration and local residents as a precautionary measure. Despite the challenges, the relief efforts were found to be satisfactory. A community kitchen, catering to the needs of around 200 people at a time, was running smoothly. Tents had been set up to provide temporary shelter, and fresh water facilities and bio-toilets were available. Medical care and sanitation facilities were also being provided, with the administration and local community working together to distribute essential items, including beds and sanitation kits.

Mrs. Pathania emphasized the need for a comprehensive geological survey of the affected area and surrounding regions to assess the extent of the land-

She directed the concerned departments to work towards ensuring equitable and transparent distribution of relief materials among all affected families.

Mrs. Pathania assured the local residents that the administration is committed to adopting long-term mitigation measures to minimize the impact of future disasters. These measures include strengthening infrastructure, slope stabilization, flood control works, and early warning mechanisms.

The visit aimed at taking stock of the ground situation, assessing damages, and reviewing the pace of ongoing relief measures.

The Vice Chairperson directed all line departments to remain fully geared up for relief and rehabilitation efforts, ensuring that damage assessments are carried out on priority, vulnerable and risk-prone areas are mapped, and precautionary steps are taken in areas where landslides and flash floods continue to pose recurring threats. She stressed upon adopting long-term mitigation and disaster-preparedness strategies including strengthening of infrastructure, slope stabilization, flood control works, and early warning mechanisms to minimize the impact of such calamities in the future.



30% Off
Limited time offer

Book Now

IT'S TIME TO Travel Kashmir



Book your Kashmir trip with way to destination and enjoy the scenic beauty of paradise and spend quality time with your loved ones.

**WAY TO DESTINATION**
WHERE DREAMS BECOME REALITY

Contact Us:
+91 7051183682

Mail us:
Info@waytodestination.net

Visit us:
www.waytodestination.net

LoP Sunil Sharma assures every kind of help to flood-affected families in Jammu

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEWDELHI: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the J&K Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma-



ma, conducted an extensive tour of flood-affected areas in Talab Tillo, Roopnagar and Muthi localities of Jammu city to assess the damage caused by the recent torrential rains and subsequent flooding.

Sunil Sharma was accompanied by Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta. During the visit, the LoP interacted with numerous families who have been severely impacted by the floodwaters, many of whom have lost personal belongings, homes, and essential infrastructure.

Expressing deep concern over the situation, Sunil Sharma conveyed his solidarity with the affected residents, assuring them of every possible assistance in relief and rehabilitation efforts. "This is a time for united action, and I want to reassure the people of Roopnagar and Muthi that they are not alone. We are committed to standing with them until normalcy is fully restored," Sharma stated during his interactions.

He further emphasized that his office will remain in constant touch with the administration to ensure that timely relief, medical aid, and compensation reach all those affected.

We have already urged the government to expedite the damage assessment process and disburse immediate financial assistance to those in need, he said, adding that special care should be taken for vulnerable sections including the elderly, women, and children.

The visit also included spot assessments of waterlogged streets, damaged infrastructure, and disrupted public utilities.

Jammu-Srinagar

the day on Friday was washed away by intense half-an-hour rainfall this morning. We have mobilised the men and machinery and started the work afresh to ensure early reopening of the arterial road as soon as possible.”

Jatinder Singh, Deputy Superintendent (DySP)-Traffic Udhampur-Reasi Range, said men and machinery are at work to restore the highway and blasting is being carried out on the stretch. “The work to restore the highway is underway. NHAI is doing their job so that people will not struggle to cross the highway on foot, and single-way traffic for small vehicles will be restored soon,” he said.

It may be recalled that the highway was closed for traffic amid heavy rain across the Jammu division early this week, following multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting stones from the hillocks overlooking the road besides washing away of road patches at different places between Udhampur and Banihal.

The closure of the highway left hundreds of vehicles, mostly trucks, stranded on both sides, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Mughal Road — an alternate link connecting Poonch and Rajouri districts with south Kashmir’s Shopian district — is open for light motor vehicles.

The Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road, another alternate link, remained closed for the fourth day despite a massive road clearance operation—(KNO)

GST overhaul

of products — from butter to chocolates and shampoos to tractors and air conditioners—come down, was agreed at a meeting of the GST Council on September 3.

The panel is headed by Sitharaman and includes representatives of all states and Union Territories. “Yesterday, I have written a letter to each finance minister thanking them, saying, you can have any number of intense discussion and argument, but finally, the Council rose to the occasion and gave relief to the people of India, to all people of India. And, I am grateful for that gesture. So, I wrote that letter,” she said.

She said the work at the Council was truly “remarkable”.

Despite apprehensions over loss of revenue from classifying most products into categories: 5 per cent for common use goods and 18 per cent for everything else, and doing away with 12 and 28 per cent slabs, the GST Council took a unanimous decision for the GST rejig.

The panel was to meet for two days starting September 3 to discuss the proposal made by the Centre but ended up approving it on the very first day after a marathon daylong meeting.

“So the sense of the house was, this is a proposal which is going to undoubtedly benefit the common man. There is no point in standing against it... Ultimately everybody came together for a good cause, and I’m truly very grateful,” Sitharaman said.

The minister said states were always in favour of rate reduction and their only concern was with regard to their revenue implications post-tax cuts.

“I even appealed to them, saying, for the sake of the people of India, Please. It’s not just the states. It’s even the Centre that is going to get affected by the reduction. But we’ll make up for it because once the rates come down, people are going to come out to buy, and that will take care of it (revenue impact). That’s how consensus was arrived at,” she said.

Sitharaman, speaking at a press conference following the GST Council meeting, had expressed her gratitude to the states for their cooperation and collaborative efforts in implementing one of India’s most significant tax reforms.

On Saturday, she noted that the Council had given a patient hearing to every comment and suggestion put forward by its members.

“All points were thoroughly deliberated before arriving at a consensus,” she said.

She also highlighted the inclusive nature of the discussions, adding that several ministers who wished to speak again after their initial points had already been debated were given the opportunity to do so.

“Their additional inputs were heard and taken into account,” the Finance Minister emphasised. She also credited states for their constructive participation in the GST Council and their commitment to driving tax reform. (PTI)

CM Omar

on highways, and to submit their reports in this regard.

During his visit to Anantnag, Abdullah inspected the flood-hit localities of Mehandi Kadal, Janglaat Mandi, Deva Colony, Ashajipora Bridge, and other areas of the district.

Residents of Ganjipwara raised demands for the early completion of the flood shed pump, along with repairs of interior roads and drainage works in Eidgah Colony, the spokesman said.

Later, the chief minister chaired a high-level review meeting with the concerned offices from the district.

Anantnag deputy commissioner presented a detailed account of the damages caused by the floods and the measures taken, including rescue operations, setting up shelter homes for evacuees, mobilising resources, deploying sandbags at vulnerable embankments, and initiating immediate restoration works.

The officer also briefed the chief minister on waterlogging issues, people affected due to floods and plans to mitigate similar situations in the future.

Addressing the meeting, Abdullah directed the

district administration to prioritise restoration works.

Highlighting the importance of long-term planning, he emphasised the need to explore the viability of a flood channel, dredging of rivers and streams, setting up dewatering pumps, and strengthening of river embankments.

The chief minister also visited the neighbouring Kulgam to personally take stock of the damages, restoration works, and the challenges faced by the people.

Abdullah called on the district administration to accelerate restoration works on a war footing while ensuring the uninterrupted supply of essential services in affected areas.

Later, at a meeting convened at the Mini Secretariat Kulgam, the deputy commissioner briefed the chief minister about the early evacuation undertaken to safeguard lives and presented details of damage to roads, bridges, and public utilities.

He also outlined the steps initiated for the fast-track restoration of services.

Lauding the efforts of the district administration in carrying out timely evacuations, Abdullah instructed departments, including PDD, Jal Shakti, and Irrigation & Flood Control, to work in a mission mode for the restoration of essential services.

Expressing concern over illegal mining in the district, the chief minister ordered strict enforcement to ensure a complete ban on the practice. (DIPR)

After 60-Hour

extremely slow, at nearly 0.5 inches per hour, during the recent hours. However, as the water level of the Jhelum at Asham has fallen by a couple of feet, it suggests that levels may stabilize soon,” he said.

Furthermore, the authorities in Uri issued an urgent public advisory after a significant rise in the water level of the Jhelum river, urging people to remain cautious.

The Jhelum, officials said was flowing at around 630 Cumecs and was expected to swell further in the coming hours, posing a threat to low-lying areas in the villages near Line of Control in Uri sector.

In an advisory, authorities strictly prohibited any movement near the Jhelum and other water bodies in Uri.

Residents living in vulnerable and low-lying areas were asked to remain on high alert and adopt precautionary measures. Besides, citizens were advised to stay indoors, remain attentive to official warnings and in case of emergencies, dial 112 immediately.

“All concerned departments have been directed to remain on maximum alert and ensure full readiness to deal with any emergent situation,” the advisory reads.

Meanwhile, the SDM Uri directed the Tehsildar Uri/Boniyar to restrict public movement near the river, while NHPC-I and II were asked to make announcements in flood-prone areas to alert the public.

A 24x7 Sub-Division Control Room was activated for assistance on helpline numbers: 7780940038 and 9103303428.

Moreover, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that no significant weather conditions are expected till 12th September.

He said that a brief spell of light rain is expected to occur at scattered places in the next six days.

In its advisory, the MeT said that there is a possibility of landslides and shooting stones at few vulnerable places, advising people to stay away from water bodies, nallas, river embankments and loose structures.

The farmers have been advised to resume farm operations forthwith & harvesting of paddy from 9th onwards—(KNO)

J&K Bank

small and micro-enterprises for manufacturing and services. He also observed that J&K Bank had witnessed complete turnaround after 2019. The Bank was in loss of Rs. 1139 Crore in the year 2019-20, however, it was transformed and within 4 years it reported a profit of Rs. 1700 Crore in the year 2023-24.

Shri Amitava Chatterjee, Managing Director and CEO, J&K Bank outlined the Bank’s performance and roadmap ahead. He reiterated the J&K Bank’s commitment to offering the best banking services while actively contributing to Mission YUVA for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable economic growth across J&K.

It was informed that J&K Bank has performed a hat-trick of historic earnings capped by its highest-ever net profit of Rs 2082 Cr in FY 2024-25. (DIPR)

Kashmir Celebrates

naturally,” said Mohammad Shafi, a devotee from north Kashmir’s Kupwara, who had reached Hazratbal on Friday evening.

For many, the experience was deeply spiritual and personal. “We come here with our families every year. The atmosphere, the prayers, the tears is our way of expressing love for our beloved Prophet (SAW),” said Ruqaya Jan, a woman devotee from downtown Srinagar.

Meanwhile, the authorities had made elaborate arrangements for the congregation, including traffic regulation, uninterrupted electricity, water supply and medical facilities. Security personnel were also deployed to ensure the smooth conduct of the gathering.

Similar congregations were reported from other shrines and mosques across the Valley, including Asar-e-Sharif Kalashpora, Khanyar,

Jinab Sahib Soura, Sonwar, Budgam, Bandipora and others where people participated in special prayers with equal fervour—(KNO)

PM Modi

after Modi returned from his visit to Japan and China.

He had participated in the 25th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in Tianjin, China, from August 31 to September 1, 2025.

The Summit witnessed productive discussions on SCO development strategy, reform of global governance, counter-terrorism, peace and security, economic and financial cooperation and sustainable development.

IAF Rescues 541, Airlifts 10,000 Kg Relief in Flood-Hit J&K, Punjab, Himachal

SRINAGAR : Officials said on Saturday the Indian Air Force (IAF) evacuated 541 people and airlifted over 10,000 kilograms of essential relief material across Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir in the aftermath of landslides and floods triggered by heavy rains.

According to the details shared by officials with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) IAF helicopters conducted operations in the Bharmor–Chamba sector of Himachal Pradesh, the Kullu and Kishtwar sectors, and other affected areas in Jammu & Kashmir.

“In a continuous 17-hour operation, four helicopters and 35 crew members evacuated stranded residents and delivered supplies, including food, medicines, and tarpaulin sheets, to remote locations such as Sainj Valley and Bharmor,” officials said.

“The operations in J&K focused on regions affected by landslides and cloudbursts, including areas along the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch and Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag routes,” they added.

Notably, multiple highways, including the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, remained closed due to damage caused by landslides and restoration work getting hit due to incessant rainfall. Officials said that in Udhampur, IAF helicopters carried out supply airdrops to families cut off by landslides. “Ongoing rescue and rehabilitation efforts are being coordinated with the Jammu & Kashmir administration to ensure timely assistance to affected people,” they added.

Pertinently, over 170 people have lost their lives in the past three weeks due to weather-related incidents, including landslides, cloudbursts, and floods.

The officials said that the IAF continues to maintain assets in the region for follow-up rescue missions and to deliver additional supplies as required.

They said the operations are ongoing, and all available resources remain ready to support disaster-affected areas in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Punjab.

The IAF, in coordination with local authorities, continues to monitor the situation and provide assistance where required, they said—(KNO)

Kullu HP Landslide: Amid tears, sobs, 3 Kashmiri labourers laid to rest

KANGAN: Grief and mourning engulfed Central Kashmir’s Kangan on Saturday as the bodies of three local labourers, who were killed in a devastating landslide in Himachal Pradesh’s Kullu district, were airlifted and brought back to their native villages.

Pertinently, at least eight persons including six Kashmiris were killed in a landslide incident at Inner Akhara Bazar in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh two days ago.

The deceased have been identified as Abdul Rashid Sheikh, son of Mohammad Jamal Sheikh of Kijpora Kangan, Mehraj-ud-Din Lone, son of Mohammad Sabir of Gundari Kangan and Sajjad Ahmad Wani, son of Abdul Ahad Wani of Gundari Kangan.

Emotional scenes were witnessed as the coffins arrived in Kijpora and Ari Guripora Kangan. Thousands of people joined the funeral prayers, with heart-wrenching cries echoing through the villages.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), locals carried the coffins through the narrow lanes before the victims were laid to rest.

MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali, SDM Kangan Nazir Ahmad, and Tehsildar Kangan Mubashir Amin expressed solidarity with the families and took part in the last rites.

Shabir, a resident of Ari, told KNO, “We sent them to earn a livelihood, but they returned in coffins. Our hearts are shattered.”

Political leaders across Jammu and Kashmir expressed their condolences.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah termed the tragedy heart-wrenching, while Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha described the incident as “unfortunate and saddening,” extending condolences to the bereaved families and praying for the safety of those still missing.

MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali said he had spoken to one of the injured labourers and assured the victims’ families of all possible support. (LNO)

Flood aftermath...

Rise in diarrhoea, fever, typhoid, skin infections in J&K

Doctors advise people to drink boiled water, urge authorities to strengthen measures to prevent further spread



A mild but noticeable rise in cases of diarrhoea, fever, typhoid, and skin-related infections has been reported from several parts of Jammu and Kashmir following recent foodborne conditions that have affected the region.

Doctors across different hospitals and private clinics have observed an uptick in patients complaining of abdominal discomfort, high-grade fever, vomiting, and skin rashes.

Health experts, who spoke to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the surge is due to the consumption of contaminated food and unsafe drinking water during the humid weather spell, which provides a favourable environment for the spread of bacteria and viruses.

“We are seeing more patients with waterborne and foodborne infections in the past one week. In many cases, people admitted to hospitals were found to have consumed unsafe water or improperly stored food,” said a doctor from Srinagar’s SMHS Hospital.

Medical professionals have also linked the rise in typhoid and gastrointestinal problems to poor hygiene practices and flooding of water pipelines in some localities. “Mixing of sewage water with drinking sources in certain areas poses a big risk. This is a recurring issue during this season, and we need stronger preventive measures,” said a doctor at Anantnag District Hospital.

He said that a mild increase has already been reported, but if necessary precautions aren’t taken, cases may rise further.

In addition to gastrointestinal infections, skin specialists have reported an increase in fungal and bacterial skin infections, especially among children. “Excessive sweating, humidity, and exposure to contaminated water have caused more cases of skin rashes, boils, and fungal infections,” said dermatologist Dr Shazia Akhter.

Doctors from the Jammu division said there has been an increase in the number of diarrhoea cases, skin infections and fever following two back-to-back incidents of floods in the last 10 days.

They have issued an advisory urging people to take basic precautions to avoid falling ill: “Drink only boiled or filtered water, wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating, avoid street food and uncovered eatables, store food properly to prevent bacterial growth, maintain hand hygiene by washing hands with soap before meals and seek medical attention promptly if symptoms like persistent fever, abdominal pain, or dehydration appear.”

Doctors have appealed to the government to intensify checks on food outlets and to ensure a clean drinking water supply across towns and villages. “Awareness drives, along with strict monitoring of water pipelines and eateries, are necessary to prevent further rise in such cases,” a health department official said.

Though the situation is being termed “manageable” at present, doctors warn that negligence can turn it into a larger health concern if preventive steps are not taken—(KNO)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (CIVIL WORKS)

NIT No: 43 /R&B of 2025-26

Dated: 04-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways sand other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender call
1	Improvement of NTPHC Baba Reshi Sahib.	9.62	600/-	19240/-	30 days	Distt. Sector Health	D/C	District Development Commissioner Baramulla	1 st

Position of AAA:Accorded

Position of T.S: Accorded

Position of funds: Assured

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	05-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	05 -09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	15-09-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16-09-2025 11:00 AM

2. 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 Tangmarg (tender inviting authority).

3. 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 Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

38. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

39. As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K “Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder”.

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/3793-3803
Dated : 04-09-2025

sd/-
Technical Officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Tangmarg.

DIPK-5950/25 Dt: 06-09-2025

Dr Jitendra Launches Chandigarh University ‘Campus Tank’, Underscores ‘StartUp Linked Economy’

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said India's future growth will increasingly depend on building a “StartUp linked economy” anchored in strong industry partnerships. He was speaking after launching the Chandigarh University “Campus Tank”, which he described as the first-of-its-kind initiative in the region, aimed at connecting young entrepreneurs with industry and investors.

The Minister said, the government has created an enabling ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship, but sustaining StartUps requires early and substantial engagement with industry. “This was mainly for industry linkage. The launch of Chandigarh University Campus Tank will give a push to Start-Up linked economy through industry linkage. We have prioritised the industry. This is StartUp funding,” he noted.

Underscoring the need to move beyond symbolic support, the Minister added: “We need to keep industry ahead to

sustain. So we pushed for industry-linked StartUp and a StartUp linked economy. Start-up linked economy is also a good expression.” He stressed that while ideas



and research emerge from campuses, their long-term success depends on structured partnerships with industry that bring in financial backing, market exposure, and scale.

The Minister explained that India's StartUp story so far has been driven by energy and innovation, but the next phase must focus on building sustainable ventures that can endure in competitive markets. He cited examples from sectors such as biotechnology,

agriculture, and space, where government support and industry collaboration have already delivered measurable results. Industry participation, he said, not only strengthens start-ups but also ensures that investments are productive and generate livelihoods.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also drew attention to the regional context, observing that North India has been slower to take off in the start-up movement compared to other parts of the country. Initiatives such as Campus Tank, he said, will help bridge that gap by positioning universities as launchpads for entrepreneurship. “The priority now is to move from ideas and prototypes to real-world enterprises, and that will only happen if industry is kept at the centre,” he said.

He emphasised that India's start-up ecosystem is no longer limited to metros or technology hubs, with smaller towns and diverse sectors increasingly contributing to new ventures. This, he added, is a sign of an aspirational India ready to harness innovation for growth.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also pointed out

India's rising global standing in innovation, noting that the country has moved up from rank 81 to 39 in the Global Innovation Index in less than a decade. He highlighted that nearly 60 percent of India's registered start-ups are women-led, reflecting a shift where women are not just participants but leaders of major projects. Citing examples, he said women scientists are steering national missions such as Aditya L1 and Chandrayaan-3, underscoring the inclusive character of India's scientific and start-up ecosystem. The Minister further underlined that India's progress is also visible in patent filings, where the majority of recent patents are being filed by resident Indian innovators, reversing earlier trends.

The Campus Tank has sought to create a platform where industry, investors, and young founders can collaborate to transform ideas into sustainable businesses. Dr. Jitendra Singh said such efforts would contribute directly to building a start-up linked economy — one in which innovation, enterprise, and industry move in step to drive India's progress towards the vision of a developed nation by 2047. (PIB)

GST Reductions To Boost Cooperatives, Farmers, Rural Enterprises

NEW DELHI: In a landmark decision, Centre has announced wide-ranging reductions in Goods and Services Tax (GST) across key sectors that directly impact cooperatives, farmers, rural enterprises and benefit more than 10 crore dairy farmers in the country. These reforms will strengthen the cooperative sector, make their



products competitive, increase demand or their products and increase income of cooperatives. It will promote rural entrepreneurship, promote cooperatives in food processing sector and ensure affordable access to essential goods for millions of households. GST rate reductions will benefit cooperatives in farming and animal husbandry, promote sustainable farming practices, and benefit small farmers and FPOs. The #NextGen GST reforms brought under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has been hailed by the entire dairy cooperative sector, including the big cooperative brands like AMUL.

In the dairy sector, direct relief has been provided to farmers and consumers as milk and paneer, whether branded or unbranded, have been exempted from GST, while the tax on butter, ghee and similar products has been reduced from 12% to 5%, and GST on milk cans made of iron, steel or aluminium has also been lowered from 12% to 5%.

These measures will make dairy products more competitive, provide direct relief to dairy farmers, and strengthen women-led rural enterprises, particularly self-help groups engaged in milk processing. Affordable dairy products will enhance nutrition security by making essential protein and fat sources more affordable for households, and raise incomes for cooperatives in the dairy sector.

In food processing and household items, a

major relief has been given as GST on cheese, namkeens, butter and pasta have been reduced from 12% or 18% to 5%, while jams, jellies, yeasts, bhujia and fruit pulp or juice-based drinks are now taxed at 5%. Chocolates, corn flakes, ice creams, pastries, cakes, biscuits and coffee have also seen a reduction from 18% to 5%.

Lower GST will reduce household expenditure on food items, stimulate demand in semi-urban and rural areas, and promote growth in the food processing and dairy cooperative sectors. It will further boost food processing, milk processing cooperatives and private dairies, raising farmer incomes.

Additionally, GST on packing paper, cases, and crates has been reduced to 5%, easing logistics and packaging costs for cooperatives and food producers.

The GST on tractors below 1800 cc has been reduced to 5%, which will make tractors more affordable and benefit not only crop farmers but also those engaged in animal husbandry and mixed farming, as these tractors can be used for fodder cultivation, transporting feed, and managing farm produce more efficiently, while tractor components such as tyres and tubes, hydraulic pumps, and several other parts have also seen a reduction from 18% to 5%, further lowering costs and directly benefiting many cooperatives in the farming sector.

The GST on key fertiliser inputs such as ammonia, sulphuric acid and nitric acid has been reduced from 18% to 5%, correcting the inverted duty structure, lowering input costs for fertiliser companies, preventing price hikes for farmers, and ensuring timely availability of affordable fertilisers during sowing seasons, which will directly benefit many cooperatives in the farming sector.

Similarly, the GST on twelve bio-pesticides and several micronutrients has been reduced from 12% to 5%, promoting eco-friendly and sustainable farming practices by making bio-based inputs more affordable, encouraging farmers to shift from chemical to bio-pesticides for better soil health and crop quality, giving direct benefits to small organic farmers and FPOs in alignment with the Government's Natural Farming Mission. The change will again benefit many cooperatives in the farming sector. (PIB)

Arunachal Guv urges youth to align with ‘Viksit Bharat’ 2047 vision

ITANAGAR: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen KT Parnaik (Retd) on Saturday called upon the youth to align their personal aspirations with the national vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’ 2047, stressing that individual progress strengthens society, the state, and ultimately the nation.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 47th Foundation Day of Dera Natung Government College (DNGC) here, the governor said educational institutions are the “engines of growth and transformation” and urged students to embrace creativity, innovation, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and skill-based



learning.

“Remain physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight,” he advised the students.

Parnaik emphasised the role of the faculty members as “true architects of students' futures” and advised them to guide with empathy, discipline, and updated knowledge in line with new research and innovations.

He also appealed to alumni to maintain strong bonds with their alma mater and contribute to its growth.

On the occasion, the governor paid homage to former state Education minister Dera Natung, in whose memory the college is named, and urged all to carry forward his legacy by dedicating themselves to education.

He highlighted that the seeds of knowledge sown today must blossom into a brighter tomorrow for the state and the nation.

Encouraging youth to actively participate in the MyGov portal by sharing ideas and suggestions, Parnaik said, such involvement not only contributes to nation-building but also creates a direct connection with the prime minister.

Earlier, the governor felicitated achievers, including Rajiv Gandhi University toppers, student achievers in zonal, national and international competitions, and outstanding alumni.

He also released a book titled ‘Arunachal Pradesh Ke Galo Loksahitya Mein Stree Jeevan Ke Vividh Aayaam: Ek Adhyay’ authored by Dr Tumbom Riba ‘Lily’ Jomoh.

In his welcome address, college Principal Dr M Q Khan presented the achievements and challenges of the college and outlined its roadmap for the future. (PTI)

PM Modi, French President exchange views on recent efforts to bring an end to Ukraine conflict

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday had a telephone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron and the two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation in various areas.

They also exchanged views on international and regional issues, including efforts to end the Ukraine conflict.

The two leaders reviewed and positively assessed the developments in bilateral cooperation across various sectors, including economics, defence, science, technology, and space.

They also reaffirmed their commitment towards further strengthening of the India-France Strategic Partnership, in line with the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, the Indo-Pacific Roadmap and the Defence Industrial Roadmap, a PMO release said.

“They exchanged views on recent efforts towards bringing an end to the conflict in Ukraine. PM Modi reiterated India's consistent support for peaceful resolution of the conflict and early restoration of peace and stability,” the release added.

The Prime Minister Modi thanked President Macron for accepting the invitation to the AI Impact Summit hosted by India in February 2026, and said he looked forward to welcoming the French President in India.

Both leaders agreed to continue to remain in touch and work closely together to promote global peace and stability.

In a post on X, PM Modi said India-France Strategic Partnership will continue to play a key role in fostering global peace and stability.

“Had a very good conversation with President Macron. We reviewed and positively assessed the progress in bilateral cooperation in various areas. Exchanged views on international and regional issues, including efforts for bringing an early end to the conflict in Ukraine. The India-France Strategic Partnership will continue to play a key role in foster-

ing global peace and stability,” he said.

The talks came two days after the French President, at the Paris summit on Thursday, announced plans to deploy a “reassurance force” in Ukraine.

“We have today 26 countries who have for-



mally committed — some others have not yet taken a position — to deploy as a ‘reassurance force’ in Ukraine, or be present on the ground, in the sea, or in the air,” Macron told reporters, standing alongside Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, France 24 reported.

The Paris summit, hosted by Macron, was attended by President Zelensky, while leaders including British Prime Minister Keir Starmer participated remotely, according to France 24.

Speaking on the General Assembly Debate at the UN earlier this week concerning the situation in Ukraine, India's Permanent Representative to the UNP Harish said that dialogue and diplomacy are the only way forward to end the conflict in Ukraine.

“We maintain that the loss of innocent lives is unacceptable, and no solution can be found on the battlefield. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said on several occasions, ‘This is not an era of war’. India stands ready to support diplomatic efforts for an early end to the conflict,” he said.

The envoy also mentioned that PM Modi has remained in touch with President Putin, President Zelensky and European leaders on the evolving situation. (ANI)

Shilp Samagam Mela 2025 Opens in Bengaluru, Showcasing India's Craft and Culture

BENGALURU: The Shilp Samagam Mela 2025, a vibrant celebration of India's art, craft and culture, opened today at Freedom Park, Bengaluru, bringing together artisans from across the country. The ten-day fair, organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with TULIP, will run from September 5 to 14.

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurated the mela in the presence of Minister of State Ramdas Athawale, Bengaluru Central MP P.C. Mohan, senior officials, artisans and cultural representatives.

This year's edition features 75 stalls displaying handicrafts and handlooms from more than 13 states, ranging from intricate metalwork and wooden artefacts to cane and bamboo products, pottery, textiles and handwoven treasures. The event not only highlights India's artistic legacy but also provides artisans, particularly from Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Safai Mitra communities, with a platform to connect directly with urban and international buyers.

Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Virendra Kumar said the mela reflects the government's commitment to empower artisans and preserve India's craft traditions. “Our artisans are the

true custodians of India's heritage. By supporting them, we are strengthening not only their livelihoods but also the cultural identity of our nation,” he said.



Minister of State Ramdas Athawale added that the mela would help bridge rural artisans with global markets. “This event is a step towards ensuring that the talent of every community, especially the marginalised, gets its due recognition and economic opportunity,” he said.

Each evening, Freedom Park will transform into a cultural arena with folk dances, traditional music and storytelling performances, offering visitors a glimpse into India's living traditions. Officials said the mela is more than a craft fair — it is a festival of unity in diversity, ensuring every artisan's story is recognised, every tradition respected, and every craft celebrated. (PIB)

I'll always be friends with Modi; India & US have special ties, nothing to worry about: Donald Trump

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said India and the United States have a “special relationship” and there's nothing to worry about as the two countries “just have moments on occasion”, amid current tensions between Washington and Delhi over tariffs and purchases of Russian oil.

“I'll always be friends with (Narendra) Modi, he's a great prime minister. He's great. I'll always be friends, but I just don't like what he's doing at this particular moment,” Trump said in the Oval Office on Friday.

“But India and the United States have a special relationship. There's nothing to worry about. We just have moments on occasion,” Trump added with a smile. The president was responding to a ques-

tion on whether he is ready to reset relations with India, as ties between the two countries continue to reel under possibly the worst phase in over two decades.

Trump also said that he is “very disappointed” that India would be buying “so much” oil from Russia.

“I've been very disappointed that India would be buying so much oil from Russia, and I let them know that. We put a very big tariff on India, 50 per cent tariff, very high tariff. I get along very well with (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi, he's great. He was here a couple of months ago,” Trump said in response to a question on his social media post that the US has lost India and Russia to China.

In the Truth Social post, Trump said that “Looks like we've lost India and



Russia to deepest, darkest, China. May they have a long and prosperous future

together! President Donald J. Trump”. Trump had also posted an old photo of

Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Trump's post on social media came days after the bonhomie among Modi, Xi and Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global attention.

To a question on how trade talks are going with India and other countries, Trump said, “They are going great. Other countries are doing great. We're doing great with all of them. We're upset with the European Union because of what's happening with not just Google, but with all of our big companies.”

Meanwhile, Trump administration's Senior Counsellor for Trade and Manufacturing, Peter Navarro, said in a post

on X that India's highest tariffs costs US jobs.

“India buys Russian oil purely to profit/revenues feed Russia war machine. Ukrainians/Russians die. US taxpayers shell out more. India can't handle truth/spins,” Navarro said.

National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett has said that Trump and his trade team are disappointed that India continues to “fund” Russia's Ukraine war.

“I think that the trade team and the president are disappointed that India continues to fund Russia's Ukraine war, and hopefully it's a diplomatic issue that it will have positive development soon,” Hassett told reporters in the White House Friday. (PTI)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

● CAFE & RESTAURANT

DAAL ROTI, BURGER, MOMOS, etc
Biryani, Fried Rice, Pizza, Chicken Roll,
kanti, kabab Rista, Yakni

ONLY FRESH PRODUCTS

CONTACT NO:

- 9149631319
- 6006116690



HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE

NH 44 VESSU ANATNAG NEAR CRPF CAMP-192101

Satisfy Your Cravings
**GRAB A 90 BITES
BURGER**

ORDER NOW

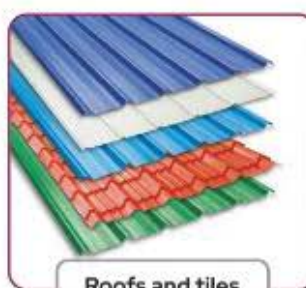
Dine In @90 Bites, Take Away Or Ask For A Delivery

www.90bites.com +91-9055-39-49-59 created by **ACMO**

durashine®

**TATA BLUESCOPE
STEEL**

Avoid getting TRICKED!
Scan **QR code** for **GENUINE DURASHINE®**



Now also available
in Wood texture



UNDERSTAND



CHECK



BUY



1800 270 8333

Toll Free

Identify
GENUINE DURASHINE® roofing,
Guard Film with brand



Auth Dealer: Saleem Trading Co. Bandipora +917006263383