

## Rising Waters, Fallen Walls: Flood Chaos Unleashed Again In J&K

### Two Killed In Rajouri, Admin On High Alert



Photo by Faisal Bashir

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Nature's fury has once again struck Jammu and Kashmir, with incessant rainfall over the past three days swelling rivers, submerging homes, and triggering widespread chaos across the Union Territory.

The floods have already claimed two lives in Rajouri

while thousands have been evacuated to safety from submerged areas in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

In Rajouri's Sunderbani area, a mother-daughter duo — Sita Devi and Sonia Rattan Lal — died when a wall of their house collapsed amid heavy rains. Rescue teams later recovered their bodies from the debris. In another

incident, a man went missing in Rajinder Nagar Nallah at Bantalab, Jammu, after being swept away by gushing waters late Tuesday night. Search operations are underway.

Rainfall Records and Swelling Rivers The Meteorological Department said Jammu and Kashmir has | [More on P6](#)

### Chances Of Flooding Very Low: MeT Brings Relief

#### Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Director Meteorological Department, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, on Wednesday said the intensity and distribution of rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir has decreased considerably, which is being seen as a positive sign, reducing the likelihood of flooding in the

Kashmir Valley.

He said the department had already predicted scattered rainfall activity and that the highest precipitation in the Valley was recorded in Qazigund, where 8-9 mm of rain fell. "The intensity of rainfall has declined, especially in south Kashmir. While intermittent showers can still occur, the kind of | [More on P6](#)

### Jhelum Above Danger Mark, But Officials Urge Calm

As the Jhelum swelled on Wednesday evening due to incessant rainfall, authorities assured the public that the situation remains under control and urged citizens and journalists to avoid spreading panic.

Officials specifically appealed to the media and social media administrators not to post hourly gauge readings or live updates that could create unnecessary alarm.

According to data, the Jhelum's latest gauge

readings stood at 27.60 ft at Sangam and 21.67 ft at Ram Munshi Bagh. While slightly above the danger mark, officials emphasized that water levels are still within safe limits.

"Back in 2015, Sangam reached 27.49 ft and Ram Munshi Bagh 21.65 ft with no flooding. Ram Munshi Bagh is safe up to 23 ft provided there's no embankment breach, and currently there is none," an official said. Authorities also reminded that the | [More on P6](#)

### Highway Shut, 3,000 Vehicles Stranded

The heavy rainfall on Wednesday triggered multiple landslides and mudslides, leading to the closure of several vital roads and highways across the division. Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains closed for the second consecutive day due to landslides and land subsidence at Thard in Udhampur, with additional | [More on P6](#)

### Edu Institutions Closed, Exams Postponed

In view of the prevailing inclement weather and flood-like situation, authorities on Wednesday announced closure of schools across Kashmir and Jammu divisions. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, said all schools in Kashmir division will remain closed on Thursday, September 4, as a precautionary measure to | [More on P6](#)

- » 3 days of incessant rain
- » 2 dead, 1 missing
- » 2,500+ evacuated
- » Jhelum above danger mark
- » NH-44 & key highways shut
- » 4th Tawi Bridge collapses
- » 70 houses damaged in Doda
- » Schools, exams closed
- » Homes, orchards & bridges damaged
- » Streets and houses waterlogged
- » Power supply disrupted in south Kashmir
- » Authorities urge calm, no panic
- » MeT: Flood threat very low till Sept 12

### South Kashmir Villages Submerged, Hundreds Evacuated

#### Crops, Homes, & Bridges Damaged

Srinagar: Continuous heavy rainfall over the past two days has triggered severe flood-like conditions across south Kashmir, inundating villages, damaging infrastructure, and leaving thousands stranded. Rescue and relief operations have been launched on a war footing.

In Pulwama district, the overflowing Romshi Nallah breached its banks, submerging Gundipora, Hassanwani, Uribagh, and Badibagh villages. Residents reported

entering homes, damaging stored food grains, and destroying paddy fields and apple orchards. "Every time Romshi Nallah swells, our villages face huge losses. We urge the administration to restore its original course," said Abdul Majid, a resident of Gundipora.

The situation worsened when the approach road to Chandrigam bridge in Awantipora caved in, forcing its closure. Traffic has been diverted via Chandrigam- | [More on P6](#)

### APD To Conduct Field Survey To Gauge Crop Losses

#### ACS Offers Timely Relief, Scientific Solutions

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture Production Department (APD) would undertake immediate field assessments in the flood and landslide hit areas to prepare a comprehensive loss report, an official spokesperson said.

Additional Chief Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar, assured that every possible step will be taken to safeguard the interests of the farming community and strengthen the agricultural sector across J&K.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the extent of crop damage caused by the recent spell of heavy rainfall and landslides across Jammu & Kashmir, Kumar directed the department to undertake immediate field assessments in affected areas

and prepare comprehensive loss reports.

He emphasised the urgent need to mobilise technical teams for on-ground support, ensure timely distribution of seeds and critical inputs where necessary, and extend advisory services to farmers on crop restoration measures.

He also urged scientists from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) to work in close coordination with the agriculture department to provide scientific solutions, including the introduction of short-duration crop varieties in severely affected regions.

He further instructed all departmental heads to maintain close coordination with district administrations and prepare contingency | [More on P6](#)

### LG Sinha Monitors Flood Response, Ensures Relief

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of the incessant rains in Jammu and Kashmir over the last two days, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday reviewed preparations to meet the eventuality of floods.

Sinha spoke to senior officials and took stock of the situation, an official spokesperson said.

The LG was briefed on the rescue and relief measures being taken on ground by teams of the Army, Air Force, Central Armed Police Force, district administrations, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force.

"He was briefed that people affected by flood in Akhnoor were evacuated to



safety by Border Security Force, NDRF and police. People from around 67 villages in Anantnag, Budgam and Pulwama were moved to safer locations and nomadic families in Pulwama and Shopian were provided shelters by the respective district

administrations," the spokesperson said.

Nine relief shelters are ready in Srinagar city, the LG was informed.

Sinha asked the senior officials to take all necessary preventive measures against water-borne | [More on P6](#)

### CM Directs Ground Response, Essential Services

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday reviewed the situation arising from incessant rains that have swelled rivers and streams across the Union Territory, officials said.

The chief minister chaired a meeting this morning to assess the situation, the CM's office said in a post on X.

Omar directed the administration to intensify the ground response, ensure clearance of waterlogged areas, safeguard essential services, carry out timely evacuations in critical zones, and provide immediate relief.

"Hon'ble Ministers @JavedRanaa and @satishsharmajnk briefed on the situation in Jammu, while Hon'ble Minister @sakinai-too and Advisor to the CM @



nasirsogami provided updates on the situation in Kashmir. The Chief Minister appealed to the people to follow advisories, avoid vulnerable spots, and stay safe," the CM's office said.

The Chief Minister appealed to the people to follow advisories, avoid vulnerable spots, and stay safe.

Minister Sakina Itoo and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani briefed him on the latest situation in the Kashmir Valley, | [More on P6](#)

### J&K Gets 190 Additional MBBS Seats, More Expected



#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major boost to medical education in Jammu & Kashmir, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has today issued Letters of Permission (LoP) for 190 additional MBBS seats across five Government

Medical Colleges of the Union Territory.

Announcing the decision, Health Minister Sakina Itoo said the approval marks a significant step in strengthening medical education and healthcare infrastructure in J&K. "This milestone has been | [More on P6](#)

### Grateful To PM, Says LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra and Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda for increasing MBBS seats in Jammu and Kashmir. LG Sinha wrote on X: "Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji & Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Ji for increasing MBBS seats across Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of J&K, taking total MBBS seats in GMCs from 1,185 to 1,375." "Under Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji's | [More on P6](#)

### Reservation Policy Challenged HC Grants Six Weeks To Respondents

#### Agencies

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has granted six weeks' time to the respondents to file a counter affidavit in a case challenging the existing reservation policy.

A division bench comprising Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Shahzad Azeem granted six weeks' time to the parties to file their counter affidavits in the case.

"Learned counsels for the parties pray for, and are granted, six weeks' time to

file counter affidavit," the HC said in its order dated September 02.

The Court has listed the matter for further hearing on October 14.

In a fresh petition, academican and lawyer Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, along with others, has challenged key provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004.

They have challenged Section 3, Section 4, Section 6, Section 8, and Section 9 of the Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, as well as several rules under the Jammu & Kashmir Reservation | [More on P6](#)



### Eligibility For MBBS/BDS Admissions SC Upholds J&K HC Ruling On Temporary Disability

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Supreme Court of India on Wednesday upheld the Jammu & Kashmir High Court's judgment regarding the eligibility of persons with temporary disabilities for MBBS and BDS admissions under the Persons with Benchmark Disability (PWD) category.

According to Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Supreme Court dismissed the Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) filed against the High Court ruling issued last year in W.P. (C). The petitions sought relief for candidates whose temporary disability certificates did not meet the criteria for long-term eligibility under the PWD category, which falls under Horizontal

Reservation.

JKBOPEE Secretary, Dr. Shabir Hussain Keen, explained that the High Court had clarified that only disabilities with a minimum period of 10 years qualify as long-term and are eligible for reservation benefits under the PWD category. He added that of the five petitioners challenging JKBOPEE's rejection of temporary disability certificates, two had filed SLPs in the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court heard the petitions extensively over multiple sessions and, after considering both sides, concluded that no relief could be granted to the petitioners. While the Court condoned the delay in filing the petitions, it ultimately dismissed | [More on P6](#)









## Health Minister Reviews Prevailing Flood Situation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education Sakeena Itoo along with Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani visited the Irrigation and Flood Control Room Rambagh to take stock of the prevailing flood situation and preparedness measures in place.

During the visit, the Minister and Advisor assessed the current water levels, monitoring mechanism in place, and also steps being taken to safeguard vulnerable areas.

Chairing a brief meeting at the Irrigation and Flood Control room, Sakeena Itoo stressed upon the officers for real-time dissemination of information to the public and prompt action in case of any eventuality. She directed that timely alerts and advisories be issued to facilitate safe and orderly evacuation of people from low-lying and flood-prone zones.

The Minister also emphasized on officers to keep men and machinery alert near embankments of Jhelum to prevent any kind of exigency in case of any breach on embankments.

The Minister and the Advisor urged officers of all line departments to remain in close synergy and maintain round-the-clock vigilance. They called constant awareness measures to ensure that people stay informed and prepared.

The Minister and Advisor assured that the Government is fully committed to the safety and well-being of the citizens and appealed to the public to remain calm, cooperate with authorities and follow official advisories.

On the occasion, senior officers of the Flood & Irrigation Department, SDRF, and district administration briefed the Minister and Advisor regarding the current water levels steps being taken to safeguard vulnerable areas and other flood prone areas.

## Div Com Inspects Vulnerable Spots At Barzulla, Gandbal

Observer news Service

Srinagar: In view of inclement weather conditions & rising water level of Jhelum, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Wednesday visited Barzulla & Gandbal to inspect the protective measures being taken by Irrigation & Flood Control department to clog the vulnerable spots to avoid breaches.

During his visit to the spot of automatic water level recorder near Bone & Joint Hospital, Div Com directed for closure of the gap to avoid any potential threat of breach and flooding. The spot serves as a means for dewatering and out flow of the hospital drainage system.

Div Com instructed the SE, I & FC to find a permanent solution to address the issue and to avoid risk of breach in the left bank of the flood channel near the hospital.

While addressing the media at the spot, Div Com said that currently the water level at Sangam & Ram Munshi Bagh shows rising trend and informed that IMD has reported possibility of receding water level in the later part of the day.

However, he said that the contingency plan has

already been put in place by the I & FC department to respond to any exigency. Speaking about the reinforcement steps being taken at B&J hospital, he said that the gap is being filled with sand bags and shall be completed within a couple of hours.

Sharing information about the rescue measures being taken in South Kashmir, he said that District Disaster Management teams are conducting rescue measures in low lying areas and evacuated some families to safer places. Div Com informed that teams of District Administration Kulgam were on the ground during the night to ensure evacuation of people in nine villages.

"Wherever inundation in low-lying areas in Anantnag & Kulgam has occurred, the administration is following evacuation protocol", he added.

In Srinagar, he said, the teams of district administration are in the field and a contingency plan has been put in place to immediately respond to any emergency.

"Our emergency control rooms are operational, power supply is up-end, and telecom services are Ok. Hopefully there should be reasonable improvement in a couple of hours", he said.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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Mohammad Ashraf Rather  
S/o Ghulam Rasool Rather  
R/o Harwan

fko

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAfZR-PnU25-19	09.09.25 12:30	Allotment of contract for operation & maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Jalandhar City Railway Station.
EAfXZR-MA25-4	10.09.25 11:30	Allotment of Commercial Publicity rights through Vinyl wrapping on exterior of coaches of Train No. 14634, 20498/20497, 14622/21 & 14626/25, 20424/20423, 12408, Group rake link.
EAfZR-PRKG25-17	12.09.25 11:30	Allotment of Parking lot on contract at DAV College Jalandhar Halt Railway Station.
EAfZR-PnU25-20	15.09.25 11:30	Allotment of contract for operation & maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Fazilka Railway Station.
EAfZR-MIS25-18	15.09.25 11:30	1) Allotment of contract for setting up and operation of kiosk for Mobile and Mobile accessories store & Textile store with advertisement rights at Railway Station Firozpur Cantt. 2) Allotment of contract for setting up and operation of kiosk for Textile store with advertisement rights at Railway Station Jalandhar City. 3) Allotment of contract for setting up and operation of kiosk for Travel Help Desk at Railway Station Amritsar.
EAfZR-MPS25-12	16.09.25 11:30	Allotment of Multi-Purpose Stall on contract at Ludhiana Railway Station.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
No. MC/38015/Pub/E-Auction/FZR/22 Date : 03.09.2025  
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## Hazratbal Shrine Reopens In Splendour After Renovation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The illustrious Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar was formally reopened on Wednesday after undergoing an elaborate and months-long renovation and embellishment endeavour spearheaded by the Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, officials confirmed.

Magnificent chandeliers etched with Quranic verses and a reimagined Noor-Khana further amplify the aura and grandeur of the shrine.

The ceremonial inauguration was presided over by the Chairperson of the Waqf Board, Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi. She was accompanied by eminent members of the board as well.

Dr. Andrabi, who personally supervised the enterprise, hailed it as her "dream initiative" and expressed profound gratitude for being able to dedicate the project to devotees ahead of the auspicious Milad celebrations. She remarked that this state-of-the-art transformation has elevated Hazratbal into the most exquisite shrine in the country and beyond, while extending appreciation to the administration and the popu-

lace for their collective support. The meticulous restoration drive, which commenced last year, encompassed structural reinforcement and re-plastering of the edifice through indigenous heritage craftsmanship. Alongside, a modernized digital electrical network, central air-conditioning, sophisticated sound and surveillance systems were installed. The shrine's interiors were further adorned with gilded

embellishments, katamand ceiling artistry, papier-mâché, pinjra-kari latticework, resplendent calligraphy, and intricate glasswork.

A documentary chronicling the monumental project was also screened for devotees and visitors during a brief ceremonial gathering outside the shrine premises.

Union Minister Kiran Rijiju, while lauding the effort on X, stated: "Congratulations to Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi & J&K Waqf Board for leading the historic renovation of Hazratbal Dargah.

It reads, after 1968, this is the first major interior transformation of the shrine. The new design blends modernity with the traditional artistry of Kashmir. A proud cultural milestone for J&K's spiritual heritage. Grateful to PM Shri Narendramodi ji & HM Shri Amit-Shah ji for their vision & support," Rijiju, India's Minister of Minority Affairs, shared on X.

It bears mention that the Hazratbal Shrine, a revered locus of devotion which magnetizes thousands of worshippers from across Jammu & Kashmir and beyond, now stands rejuvenated as a resplendent emblem of the region's spiritual and cultural patrimony.

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### HIGHWAY STATUS



- Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Closed )
- Mughal Road - ( Closed )
- Srinagar- Leh- ( Open )

 <b>HIJRI CALENDAR</b> 09 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1447	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	4: 40
	ZUHR	12:32
	ASR	5: 04
	Magrib	7:00
	ISHA	8: 22

## This Day In History

- 1260 - Battle at Montaperti, Tuscany, between rival factions the Guelphs and Ghibellines
- 1682 - English astronomer Edmond Halley observes the comet named after him
- 1862 - General Lee invades the North with 50,000 Confederate troops during Maryland Campaign (US Civil war)
- 1870 - The Third French Republic proclaimed as French overthrow Emperor Napoleon III (who ironically was the elected president of the Second French Republic) after his defeat by Prussia at Sedan.
- 1904 - Dalai Lama signs treaty allowing British commerce in Tibet
- 1914 - General von Moltke ceases German advance in France
- 1914 - France, Russia, and Britain agree in a Pact of London that none will make a separate peace.
- 1919 - Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who founded the Republic of Turkey, gathers a congress in Sivas to make decisions as to the future of Anatolia and Thrace.
- 1936 - Franco's troops conquer Irun & Talavera de la Reina, Spain
- 1939 - Netherlands & Belgium declare neutrality
- 1940 - Nazi collaborator Mussert puts the fate of Netherlands in Hitler's hands
- 1943 - British 8th Army lands at Taranto, South Italy
- 1944 - Finland breaks diplomatic contact with Nazi Germany
- 1951 - US President Harry Truman addresses opening of Japanese Peace Treaty Conference.
- 1964 - NASA launches its 1st Orbital Geophysical Observatory (OGO-1)
- 1967 - 6.5 earthquake of Kolya Dam India, kills 200
- 1968 - Nigerian troops conquer the city of Aba, Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War
- 1975 - The Sinai Interim Agreement relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict is signed.
- 1976 - Palestinians hijack KLM DC-9 to Cyprus
- 1979 - Sunil Gavaskar scores 221 in India's 8 for 429 chasing 438 in drawn 4th cricket Test v England at The Oval; England win series 1-0
- 1979 - Iran army conquers Baneh
- 1982 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1994 - Kansai International airport officially opens
- 1998 - Google is formally incorporated by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, two students at Stanford University.
- 2000 - England wins 5th cricket Test v West Indies by 158 runs at The Oval for first series win (3-1) over WI since 1969; Windies captain Courtney Walsh's 132nd and final Test.
- 2012 - 25 people are killed at a funeral suicide bombing in Nangarhar, Pakistan
- 2012 - 42 people are killed and 25 injured as a passenger bus falls down a ravine in Morocco
- 2012 - Carpet that can help prevent falls in elderly by warning them after detecting unusual footsteps is developed
- 2014 - Monsoon rains begin and cause flooding over a sustained period that kills over 400 people in India & Pakistan
- 2014 - Archeological remains of a Viking fortress from the 900s CE, the Vallø Borgring, is discovered in Denmark
- 2016 - Mother Teresa canonized by Pope Francis in a ceremony at the Vatican
- 2017- Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai criticizes Aung San Suu Kyi's lack of response to the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar
- 2018- 400-year old sunken Portuguese spice trade ship discovered near port of Cascais, Portugal
- 2018- Amazon becomes America's second trillion dollar company
- 2018- Strongest typhoon to hit Japan in 25 years, Jebi hits Tokushima prefecture, swamping Kansai airport and killing at least 11
- 2018 WHO reports more than a quarter of people worldwide (1.4 billion) don't get enough physical exercise to avoid major diseases
- 2019- British rebel alliance of MPs vote to ban a no-deal Brexit and reject PM Boris Johnson's call for a snap election



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KO VIEW

Flood Threat Returns

Rain has returned to Jammu and Kashmir with a vengeance, swelling rivers, cutting off the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, and shutting down schools and colleges. For people of the valley and the Jammu region, this is an all too familiar story, one that recalls the devastating floods of 2014, when delayed responses and broken communication lines turned a natural calamity into a full-blown human disaster.

The Meteorological Department has warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall in several districts, raising the spectre of flash floods, landslides, and cloudbursts. Water levels in key rivers, including the Tawi and Ujh in Jammu and the Jhelum in Kashmir, have already risen alarmingly. In Kathua and Samba, streams are crossing alert levels. A teenage boy has lost his life after being struck by lightning, adding to the grim toll of more than a hundred weather-related deaths since mid-August.

This is no time for complacency. Disaster preparedness cannot be a slogan rolled out after the rains stop, it must be a living, breathing system in place before, during, and after a crisis. In 2014, entire neighbourhoods of Srinagar were marooned not only by floodwaters. Mobile networks collapsed. Landlines went dead. Even government control rooms were unreachable when people needed them most. That failure must never happen again.

The administration must immediately ensure that backup communication lines, satellite phones, wireless networks, and emergency broadcast systems, are functional and accessible to both officials and the public. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), already on high alert, must proactively map low-lying areas, identify vulnerable populations, and prepare for timely evacuations if river levels continue to climb.

Road and rail closures underline another weakness: over-dependence on a single highway lifeline. The closure of NH-44 due to landslides has once again severed Kashmir's umbilical cord with the rest of the country. Alternate routes, pre-positioned supplies, and helicopter support for stranded passengers must be part of a standing contingency plan, not an ad-hoc reaction.

Equally important is clear, consistent communication with the public. Advisories asking people to stay away from riverbanks are necessary, but they must be paired with visible action, sandbagging weak embankments, deploying rescue boats, and demonstrating that the government is on the ground, not merely issuing press notes from secure offices.

The rains may or may not cause a flood of 2014 proportions. But J&K cannot gamble with luck. Nature will test us again and again; whether we learn from the past is entirely in our hands. This time, let there be no excuse, no confusion, and no collapse of systems when lives are at stake.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Betting on the Future

Futures and options promise wealth but punish missteps. For investors in Kashmir, the first lesson is education.

Irshad Mushtaq

More young Kashmiris are looking at futures and options as a way to grow wealth beyond land or gold. These contracts sound like quick ladders to fortune, but they are also full of traps for the unprepared.

At the heart of it all is the derivative, a contract whose value depends on an underlying asset like a stock, an index, or even a commodity. Unlike buying shares directly, you put down only a margin, a fraction of the value, and your fortunes rise or fall with daily price changes. In futures, this means your account is adjusted each day. A sudden drop in value can drain your margin fast.

Options trading appears more flexible. A "call" gives you the right to buy later, and a "put" gives you the right to sell. The cost, called a premium, looks small at first. If the market moves your way, the gain can be big. If it doesn't, you lose the premium outright.

The reality is sobering. Studies show that 93 percent of investors in options lose money. The seven percent who win are not lucky. They are disciplined, educated, and strategic. They study trends, manage risks, and keep learning.

For Kashmir, where financial literacy is still uneven, rushing into derivatives without preparation is a recipe for loss. Futures and options can be powerful tools, but only if investors treat them with respect, patience, and knowledge.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Dr. Masoon Ahmad Beig

Climatic variability lies at the heart of the crisis unfolding in Jammu and Kashmir. This term captures shifts in weather patterns beyond typical events, such as the erratic Western disturbances delivering intense rains across the valley since mid-August 2025.

These downpours have triggered floods and landslides, killing at least 40 people and injuring scores more, with the southern districts hardest hit.

From a geographical perspective, attention often focuses on the Jhelum River's urban stretch in Srinagar, where planners prioritize embankments and dredging. Yet South Kashmir's tributaries bear the true burden, erasing homes, farms, and hopes when waters rise.

These tributaries, including Vishav, Lidder, Romushi, Rambiaara, Sandran, Brengi, Arpath, and Watyathroo, rampage through their catchments during heavy precipitation or cloudbursts.

In Anantnag, Kulgam, and Pulwama, they claim lives and property relentlessly.

Recent reports detail how August's torrents washed away bridges, homes, and roads, damaging over 1,200 hectares of cropland in the region.

Apples, spanning 145,000 hectares and sustaining 350,000 farmers, face ruin as rivers shift courses, eroding fertile soil worth crores.

It was one of those rains that seemed endless. I was in Upper Bazar, Qazigund, ducking into a tea shop to escape the downpour. Inside, the air smelled of damp clothes and steaming nun chai. The roof was tin, and the rain struck it like a drum, steady and insistent.

We gathered at small tables, strangers bound together by weather, news updates, and unease.

Some of us kept refreshing our phones for alerts about the Jhelum swelling. Low-lying areas were already under water. Srinagar was nervous. In Jammu, too, the news of inundation had begun. Conversation circled back, again and again, to that year none of us had forgotten, 2014, when the waters rose and made muck of everything.

There were the usual exchanges of blame: the government had failed, dredging was ignored, flood channels left choked. But in the middle of that chorus, an older man with a beard streaked grey spoke in a voice that cut through the noise. He did not raise it, yet everyone heard.

"This is our doing," he said. "We have stolen space from the river. Now it takes it back. We should leave this land ourselves. Nature is unhappy with us. Until we correct ourselves, there will be no happiness."

The tea shop fell silent. Outside, water gushed through the bazar drains, as if agreeing with him.

I carried those words long after the rain eased. They were a reminder that floods in Kashmir are not simply calamities of climate. They are verdicts.

The Jhelum has been the valley's lifeline for centuries. Our fields were fed by it, our houses built beside it, and our imagination shaped by its presence. Yet its banks have been pressed inward by shops, hotels, and concrete colonies. We gave

Tributary Terror

As heavy rains swell the Jhelum's tributaries once more, South Kashmir faces devastation from overlooked waterways, with human errors amplifying nature's fury.



Local and national media chronicle these tales, from Brengi's fury in Ayar Dehrehnu to Romushi's toll in Chamagund.

Imagine a river veering through villages, consuming everything in its path. This reality struck again in 2025, echoing the 2014 floods that devastated South Kashmir.

Back then, tributaries like Vishav and Lidder obliterated structures along their banks, including dozens of buildings I witnessed firsthand.

Villages such as Kilam Gund, its name derived from "gund," meaning river-island land, proved inherently vulnerable. Similarly, Ayar Dehrehnu, with "ayar" signifying a stony floodplain, belonged to the river, not settlers.

The 2014 disaster ravaged 648,000 hectares of agricultural and horticultural land, inflicting a Rs 1,000 crore

loss on the apple sector alone.

A decade later, patterns persist. Floods in Anantnag, Kulgam, and Pulwama reveal unchanged habits. New infrastructure, such as the Government Medical College block in Anantnag, sits perilously on the Arpath nallah's bank, flooding after a single heavy night.

Villages convert floodplains into construction zones, obstructing natural flows and heightening risks. Mining exacerbates this: legal and illegal operations along tributaries deploy heavy machinery, damaging embankments and accelerating erosion.

Even moderate showers now spark trouble in nearby habitations.

Rural development efforts add irony. MGNREGA projects, meant to boost villages, often ignore stream widths and flows without consulting revenue or ir-

When Water Comes Home

From tea shops in Qazigund to the floodplains of Srinagar, Kashmiris are beginning to confront a truth: the river's anger mirrors our own greed.

Mohammad Amin Mir

the river less room to breathe, and in return it gave us more fear.

This is not unique to Kashmir. I have seen the Yamuna in Delhi turned into a sewer, the Tawi in Jammu fenced and narrowed, and floodplains across India parceled into housing colonies. But Kashmir's burden is sharper.

The mountains funnel rain and snowmelt into a network of rivers and wetlands, a system once balanced like a woven carpet. Tear one thread and the pattern unravels.

Here, land recorded as gair mumkin nallah, meant for water channels, now carries houses. Marshes once absorbing floodwater are filled with rubble and glass. To call a flood "natural" in such a setting feels dishonest. The water only comes home to what was always its own.

Back in that tea shop, the generational debate unfolded with its usual script. Younger men pointed to governance failures, bribes taken by revenue officers, and politicians who sanctioned colonies where no colony should stand. They had a point.

The old man did not disagree,

but he insisted on widening the lens. "Who built those houses?" he asked. "We did. Our sons did. We all wanted land and shops. We all knew the risks, but we built anyway."

That argument stung because it was true. Corruption greased the path, yet the hunger was ours. It is easy to say the government failed. But it's harder to admit that families, including our own, were willing participants.

Encroachment is not the crime of officials alone. It is the story of a society willing to cheat its rivers.

When the 2014 floods came, they did not check land records. They surged through Rajbagh and Bemina, washed over Pulwama, collapsed bridges in Anantnag. The waters erased the distinction between legal and illegal, rich and poor. What mattered was who had chosen to build close to the river's heart.

In the aftermath, committees were formed, dredging promised, and embankments planned. Yet in the years since, construction has not slowed. Concrete keeps advancing, wetlands keep shrinking. Each heavy rain feels like a warning, as if the river whispers first before it roars.

rigation authorities.

These interventions disrupt hydrology, raising questions about fund misuse over genuine progress.

Both government and people bear responsibility. Rivers foster civilizations, yet unplanned settlements on floodplains invite disaster.

Throughout the valley, especially South Kashmir, built-up areas encroach on Jhelum's tributaries. I have observed schools, hospitals, and complexes lining Vishav, Lidder, Sandran, and Brengi, many lost in 2014.

Reactive measures dominate, like advisories, school closures, evacuations, boats, and sandbags. These curb immediate threats but offer fleeting relief.

Jammu and Kashmir needs robust planning: sustainable catchment management, land-use policies, scientific assessments, community input, and interdepartmental coordination. Without this, resilience remains elusive.

Politics compounds the tragedy. Ruling and opposition parties exploit floods for blame games, sidelining comprehensive strategies.

As the Jhelum and its tributaries swell today, with the Chenab crossing danger marks amid ongoing rains, South Kashmir demands focus beyond Srinagar. Only then can the valley mitigate recurring havoc.

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The old man's suggestion, that people vacate on their own, sounds idealistic, maybe even naive. In truth, most of us will never leave unless forced. That is where the state must step in: to enforce, demolish, and resist the temptation of political backlash.

Yet in Kashmir, as elsewhere, politics fears the voter's anger more than the river's.

So the question lingers: what would it take to live differently with our rivers? I imagine a Kashmir where every stream, wetland, and riverbank is mapped and digitized, its boundaries untouchable. I think of a Kashmir where local committees carry enough moral weight to stop a wall before it rises. I dream of a Kashmir where families too poor to relocate are compensated fairly, and where schools and mosques alike remind us that rivers are not obstacles but sacred threads of our culture.

None of this is impossible. It only requires us to treat water the way we once did, with respect, even reverence.

When I left the tea shop that day, the rain was still falling. Heavier now, as if to underline the old man's words.

Nature is unhappy with us. Until we listen, it will keep speaking, in the language of floods and landslides, of banks broken and homes submerged.

The truth is simple. When we take from the river what is not ours, it does not forgive. It waits, and then it returns.

The river always wins in Kashmir, where every drop of water carries both beauty and danger.

Writer is a legal researcher and columnist based in Kashmir.

Sincerely,

Dr. Aftab Jan  
jaanaftaab5@gmail.com

Letter to Editor

The Flood We Invited

In September 2014, Kashmir drowned. The Jhelum broke its banks, canals overflowed, and Srinagar disappeared under a sea of dirty water. Families clung to rooftops, orchards turned into swamps, bridges collapsed, and homes built over decades vanished in a matter of days.

That flood was more than a disaster. It was humiliation. And it came with a clear lesson: rivers and wetlands are not ours to choke or seize. They are lifelines. They protect us only if we protect them.

Ten years later, we seem to have forgotten. Instead of learning, we repeated the same mistakes. Instead of humility, we chose arrogance. Canals

we buried, wetlands we built over, and illegal houses we allowed on flood channels were choices we made.

Consider Pulwama, where a seven-kanal orchard was just washed away. The stream that once carried excess water was blocked by walls and constructions. When the rains came, the water forced its way back, swallowing land and dreams. The farmer did not deserve such loss, but his suffering reflects our collective betrayal.

Kashmir's landscape tells the same story everywhere. Wular Lake, once Asia's largest freshwater body, has been choked by silt and encroachment. Dal Lake, once a jewel, now struggles under sewage. Nallah Mar,

which once carried water safely through Srinagar, was filled to make a road. Today, the city lives under constant threat. In our cleverness, we replaced rivers with roads, wetlands with colonies, and floodplains with markets. The result is plain: water now enters our homes because we left it no other path.

Governments promised action but delivered little more than reports and photo-ops. Encroachments were noted, illegal houses identified, yet hardly anything was removed. Each year, urgency swells with the floodwaters and fades as soon as they recede. Society too has stood by, allowing greed to reshape the valley.

The injustice is glaring. Families

in flood-prone areas live in fear with every downpour, while powerful grabbers profit from stolen land. The weak suffer most in Kashmir, while the strong rarely pay a price.

The Jhelum does not rise to punish us. It rises to reclaim what was always its own. Unless we restore its path, Kashmir will remain vulnerable. And history will blame us, for destroying paradise with our own hands.



# Kashmir's Forgotten Liberator

And why his victory cost him everything.

Younus Yousuf Ganie

On the right bank of the Jhelum, between the Nawakadal and Safakadal bridges, lies the Dhar colony, a neighbourhood that once carried the weight of power in Srinagar.

The Jhelum curves past the houses there, its waters heavy with centuries of memory. Traders once drifted down the river in boats, carrying shawls and saffron. The courtyards echoed with Persian verse, and the air was heavy with politics.

For the Dhar family, it was home. The Dhars had come to Kashmir from Central India long before Birbal Dhar was born. They brought with them Persian learning, discipline in administration, and the art of survival.

Over generations, they rose steadily: Pandit Mahanand Dhar, who served as prime minister under Raja Sukh Jewan Mal in the mid-eighteenth century, and Pandit Kailash Dhar, who became chief tax collector under Afghan rule.

By the early nineteenth century, the Dhars had accumulated wealth and prestige.

nors but also their familiarity with power.

Yet he carried something more: a restlessness, a refusal to look away from the anguish of the people around him.

To understand Dhar's story, one must first see the Kashmir he lived in. Under Afghan governors like Azim Khan and Jabbar Khan, the valley endured heavy taxation and cruelty. Fields lay barren, peasants fled villages, and artisans who once embroidered shawls of unmatched beauty found their work devalued by constant levies. The Jhelum itself seemed to flow with the grief of its people.

Tax collectors worked with ruthless precision. Pandits suffered dispossession, Muslims faced humiliation, and ordinary families lived in fear of both soldiers and famine.

The misery was the shared burden of a valley squeezed dry. For those who lived through it, the Afghan rule was less an administration than an ordeal.

It was in this atmosphere that Birbal Dhar began his career.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, he could not treat suffering as routine. His heart leaned toward figures from Kashmir's past who had once taken bold steps: Sheikh



Illustration of Birbal Dhar sourced from social media.

They had risked everything, not for titles or lands, but for relief.

In 1818, Dhar decided to follow their path. With his son accompanying him, he set out for Lahore. The journey across mountains and rivers was no small feat for a revenue collector, yet his resolve was

from Multan to Peshawar.

Ranjit Singh was contemplating a march into Kashmir. The Afghan hold was weak, their armies exhausted. Dhar arrived at a moment when his counsel could change history. He offered the Maharaja his knowledge: the routes through the passes, the strength of Afghan defenses, and the loyalties of hill chiefs. He pledged himself as guide.

The offer was accepted. In 1819, the Sikh armies advanced, guided by Dhar's intelligence. The Afghans were defeated, and their rule in Kashmir ended. For many Kashmiris, it was a breath after decades of suffocation. For Dhar, it was vindication.

Ranjit Singh did not forget his ally. He received Dhar with honour, presented him with a necklace of great value, and sent him back into

“The Jhelum still runs past the Dhar colony, carrying stories of triumph and loss. Among them is the story of a man who rode an elephant through Srinagar in glory, only to end in chains.”

Out of this lineage stepped Pandit Birbal Dhar, remembered in local lore as Bir Dhar. He inherited not only his family's role as revenue collector under the Afghan gover-

Yaqub Sarfi and Baba Daud Khaki, men of faith and intellect who, two centuries earlier, had persuaded Emperor Akbar to rescue Kashmir from the "misrule" of the Chaks.

strong.

In Lahore, he sought an audience with Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Lion of Punjab, who had already carved out a kingdom stretching

## The Breath I Couldn't Find

After years of misdiagnosis and drug-induced fog, a young Kashmiri discovered that survival sometimes lies in questioning the very cures prescribed to us.

Mahfooz Ahmad Bakshi

There were days when I envied even the street dogs of Ganderbal, panting in the summer sun.

They breathed without effort, lungs working like bellows, as if air belonged to them. To me, air felt like a privilege withheld.

Each inhalation was a battle. And every night, I wondered how something as free as oxygen could be so unreachable.

The trouble began in 2020, in the shadow of the pandemic. Until then, football was my religion. I would play from dawn until dusk, feet raw, lungs wide. Then the world shut down.

The empty grounds mocked me. I turned to words instead. I scribbled poems about hunger and poverty, drafted essays on politics, tried short stories about love. A few pieces made it to newspapers. For a year, writing gave me wings.

Then, my body began to betray me. It started with sudden suffocation, then weakness, then cold legs and a racing heart. Nights stretched into sleepless vigils, my eyes open to the ceiling fan, waiting for morning.

Once, unable to bear it, I stumbled outside and howled into the darkness. Tears fell, but nothing loosened.

The hospital became routine. ECG was normal, so was my oxygen level. "Eat eggs, vegetables, fruits," the doctor said, handing me pills that dulled nothing.

I kept returning, carrying the same complaints like a rehearsed monologue. Every time, the machine claimed I was fine. My body disagreed.

By 2023, suffocation nearly crushed me. A doctor prescribed clonazepam. The name itself felt like a verdict. My mother's voice shook when she heard it. "You are not insane," she said. I swallowed the tablets anyway.

For a while, it worked. The suffocation stopped. The pain vanished. Yet I drifted into unconsciousness, hours stolen by drug-induced sleep. Healing felt like erasure. When the medicine ended, the suffocation returned



heavier than before.

I went doctor to doctor, and each time the advice circled back to psychiatry. I accepted the insult, wore the label, carried it silently. A boy of twenty, reduced to a case study.

“I was saved not by a miracle pill but by a mother's insistence, a doctor's curiosity, and the cold precision of artificial intelligence.”

Then, in a modest hospital in Duderhama, I met Dr. Muzaffar. He didn't recycle my story. He asked for blood tests instead: CBC, lipid profile. The reports told the truth that no ECG had revealed.

My triglycerides were high, my cholesterol dangerous. The real enemy was blood thick with fat,

not ghosts in my mind.

August 2025 nearly broke me. My blood pressure spiked to 190/100. My resting heart hammered at 111 beats per minute. A doctor once told me, "Never Google your symptoms. It makes you anxious." That night, I did.

Desperation has no etiquette. I even typed my story into ChatGPT. The AI answered calmly: get a lipid profile. I had already done one. My numbers were frightening: triglycerides at 375.

For the first time, the advice I received didn't come in a pillbox. It came in the form of a plan: avoid fried food, move your body, eat clean, and exercise daily.

I followed it. In a month, I lost five kilograms. My blood pressure steadied. My heart slowed to a resting sixty. I felt like an athlete again, not a patient.

Looking back, the irony cuts deep. The very medicines meant to heal nearly smothered me. They encouraged stillness, which was poison for a body suffocating under hidden cholesterol.

If I had continued, I might have ended in an obituary, another young Kashmiri gone too soon, misdiagnosed, misled.

I was saved not by a miracle pill but by a mother's insistence, a doctor's curiosity, and the cold precision of artificial intelligence.

— The author hails from Ganderbal, and can be reached at bakshimahfooz@gmail.com

## Kindness as Cure

A region scarred by loss continues to rise each morning. Yet the question remains: can compassion restore what trauma has stolen?

Uzma Majid

There is a steady rise in the number of people seeking psychologists in Kashmir today. Rooms with soft chairs and faint light have become shelters, where stories of loss and silence are unwrapped.

The numbers alone are startling. A study says: nearly 1.8 million people in Kashmir live with significant psychological distress.

That means nearly half the valley lives with a burden no eye can see.

The reasons shift depending on whom you ask. Some will tell you about the sudden absence of a beloved voice. Others will recall money that vanished overnight, studies cut short, and dreams dissolving into fog.

Trauma is a shared inheritance here. Each decade seems to deliver its own blow. Families do not forget. Children grow with memories not always their own. What remains is imbalance, a deep ache spread across the population.

Illnesses such as cancer creep in, swallowing savings and shaking households. Substance abuse, too, winds through the streets, offering brief illusions of peace. Families are torn, parents watch helplessly, and stigma circles like a culture.

Even so, mornings arrive. Men and women lace their shoes, children hoist their bags, shop shutters roll upward. Life continues with a kind of discipline, though the heart often drags behind.

There is remorse, regret, a gnawing sense of unfinished stories. Yet somewhere inside glows a thin flame of hope. Perhaps that ember is what keeps the valley breathing.

Still, questions haunt the air. What are we doing as a society? Are we helping one another heal, or are we pushing people further into despair?

In homes that should cradle rest, arguments grow louder. Children, searching



for calm, turn to experiments that cost them dearly. We call them addicts, forgetting what they were trying to escape.

Workplaces are no kinder. Employees who struggle to make ends meet are ridiculed by their superiors in full view of colleagues. Schools, particularly private ones, offer a harsher spectacle. Teachers, long held in esteem, are sometimes humiliated before their students.

Respect crumbles in those moments. The wounds are lasting. Mental distress deepens. For some, it grows into lifelong conditions.

What explains such cruelty? Perhaps a taste of power that hardens the heart. Maybe, traits of arrogance dressed as authority.

A degree cannot guarantee compassion. A PhD does not promise humanity.

The truth is simple: unfinished projects will one day be finished. Work left undone will find its closure. The marks we leave on another's

“The valley has endured too much to be healed by medicine alone. It needs gentleness, reflection, humility. It needs us to return to what was once natural: understanding, tenderness, calm.”

an age of fracture. He risked everything to end Afghan rule. Few men of his generation dared as much.

Yet he lacked the foresight of the very figures he admired. Sheikh Yaqub Sarfi and Baba Daud Khaki had refused gifts from Akbar once their mission was complete. They returned to the humility of teaching and spiritual work.

Dhar clung to authority, mistaking prestige for permanence. He liberated Kashmir from Afghans only to deliver it to another regime, believing he had secured a better future. What he actually secured was another layer of domination.

As a Kashmiri patriot, he didn't deserve his fall. But as an ambitious official in a kingdom where favour was fleeting, his missteps were unforgivable. His life reveals how thin the line is between service and self-interest.

In the long scroll of Kashmir's history, Birbal Dhar stands among poets and saints, conquerors and rebels. His courage cannot be denied, and his failure carries its own lesson. He reminds us that liberation is essentially about humility, restraint, and the wisdom to see beyond the temptations of power.

Today, as the Jhelum flows past the Dhar colony, it carries stories of triumph and loss. Among them is the tale of a man who once rode an elephant through Srinagar in glory, only to be remembered for the chains that followed.

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heart may never fade.

Imagine, then, the possibility of change.

A person smiles again because you chose kindness over disdain. A shattered heart lifts because you showed patience, respect, humanity. Small acts ripple outward in ways we rarely see.

The valley has endured too much to be healed by medicine alone. It needs gentleness, reflection, humility. It needs us to return to what was once natural: understanding, tenderness, calm.

The scripture reminds us: "The servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth easily, and when the ignorant address them harshly, they say words of peace."

This is not only a verse. It is an instruction for survival.

— The author is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Unani Medicine and Surgery. She can be reached at umb93536@gmail.com.



# GST Council Approves Overhaul Of GST Slashes Tax On Common Use Items

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: GST tax rates on common use items ranging from hair oil to corn flakes, TVs, and personal health and life insurance policies were slashed after the all-powerful GST Council on Wednesday approved a complete overhaul of the tangled Goods and Services Tax regime.

The GST Council approved rate overhaul by limiting slabs to 5 per cent and 18 per cent effective from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

Almost all personal use items will see rate cuts as the government looks to boost domestic spending and cushion the economic blow of the US tariffs.

Briefing reporters after a marathon daylong GST Council meeting, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said all decisions were taken unanimously, with no disagreement with any state.

The panel approved simplifying the goods and services tax (GST) from the current four slabs -- 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent -- to a two-rate structure -- 5 and 18 per cent. A special 40 per cent slab is also proposed for a select few items such as high-end cars, tobacco and cigarettes.

The new rates for all products, except gutkha, tobacco and tobacco products and cigarettes, will be effective September 22



-- the first day of Navratri, she said.

While daily use food items will continue to attract nil tax rate, common use food and beverages ranging from butter and ghee to dry nuts, condensed milk, sausages and meat, sugar boiled confectionery, jam and fruit jellies, tender coconut water, namkeen, drinking water packed in 20-litre bottles, fruit pulp or fruit juice, beverages containing milk, ice cream, pasty and biscuits, corn flakes and cereals, and sugar confectionery are likely to see a cut in tax rate to 5 per cent from the current

18 per cent.

All forms of chapati and paratha will be charged nil tax, down from the current rate of 5 per cent.

Consumer goods such as tooth powder, feeding bottles, tableware, kitchenware, umbrellas, utensils, bicycles, bamboo furniture and combs will see rate cut from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. The rates on shampoo, talcum powder, toothpaste, toothbrushes, face powder, soap and hair oil has been cut down to 5 per cent from 18 per cent.

Sitharaman said all individual

life and health insurance policies will now attract nil tax in a bid to boost coverage.

Cement will cost less with the tax rate coming down from 28 per cent to 18 per cent. Petrol, LPG and CNG vehicles of less than 1,200 cc and not more than 4,000 mm length and diesel vehicles of up to 1,500 cc and 4,000 mm length, too, would move to 18 per cent rate from 28 per cent.

All cars larger than 1,200 cc for petrol and 1,500 cc for diesel will be charged at 40 pc, the finance minister said.

Motorcycles up to 350 cc, consumer electronics like air-conditioners, dishwashers, and TVs, too, will be taxed at lower GST of 18 per cent as against 28 per cent currently.

All automobiles above 1,200 cc and longer than 4,000 mm as well as motorcycles above 350 cc, yachts and aircrafts for personal use, and racing cars will be attract a 40 per cent levy.

EVs will continue to be charged at 5 per cent GST.

The financial implication of the rate rationalisation would be Rs 48,000 crore and this would be fiscally sustainable, Revenue Secretary Arvind Shrivastava told reporters here.

The decision by the GST Council would bring down the overall premium as the tax component has significantly come down.

The government has collected Rs 16,398 crore from goods and services tax (GST) levied on healthcare and life insurance in FY24.

Of this, Rs 8,135 crore from life insurance and Rs 8,263 crore from health insurance. Additionally, Rs 2,045 crore was also raised as GST from reinsurance on life and health insurance last fiscal, including Rs 561 crore from reinsurance on life and Rs 1,484 crore on health care.

The move to simplify the tax regime -- first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech -- comes as India's exports to the US face a 50 per cent tariff -- the highest in the world.

The Indian economy is heavily reliant on consumption with private consumption accounting for 61.4 per cent of the nominal GDP last fiscal.

The GST reforms are likely to boost the economy by up to 0.5 percentage points by the second year of its implementation, effectively neutralising the full impact of the US tariff, economists said.

Tobacco, gutkha, tobacco products and cigarettes will continue to be charged at current 28 per cent plus a compensation cess till such time that loans taken to pay states for revenue loss is fully paid back, Sitharaman added.

## J&K Floods: BDO Among 3 Officials Issued Show Cause Notice



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Three officials in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, including a block development officer and an assistant executive engineer, have been issued show-cause notices for being absent from duty contrary to government directions.

The General Administration Department (GAD) on August 27 explicitly said that no leave shall be sanctioned to any officer or employee due to inclement weather and incessant rains in the region.

Additional District Development Commissioner of Reasi, Sukhdev Singh Samyal, issued show-cause notices to the block development officer of Chassana, Mahore, Gulabgarh, an assistant executive engineer of the PWD, Mahore, and a senior assistant of the department.

"You are hereby directed to submit a written explanation within two days from the date of receipt of this notice, through the assistant

commissioner development, Reasi, SDM Mahore, clarifying the reasons for your unauthorised absence from headquarters.

"You are further required to show cause why disciplinary action should not be initiated against you for this lapse," the order said.

It added that the deputy commissioner of Reasi, on August 29, reiterated the General Administration Department's direction to employees not to leave their headquarters without approval.

However, the officials had left their headquarters without obtaining permission from the sub-divisional magistrate of Mahore or any competent authority, constituting a violation of the directives, the notice stated.

The additional district development commissioner noted that the entire district remains under severe risk of landslides and cloudbursts, with seven deaths already reported from Gulabgarh due to incessant rains.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Rising Waters,

witnessed heavy rainfall for the last three consecutive days. Katra topped the list with 106.3 mm of rainfall since Wednesday morning, followed by 60.4 mm in Jammu. Banihal, Batote and Bhaderwah also received significant showers. In Kashmir, Qazigund recorded 29.6 mm, Kokernag 29 mm, and Pahalgam 10.4 mm.

As rains intensified, water levels surged dangerously in major rivers and tributaries. The Jhelum River is flowing two feet above the danger mark of 25 feet in upstream Sangam, while it almost touched the danger mark of 21 feet in downstream Ram Munshi Bagh in Srinagar, where rain stopped around noon.

Several Nallahs, including Vishow, Rambiyara, and Sindh, also breached their danger levels, but began to show signs of receding later on Wednesday, bringing some relief to the people.

Officials monitoring the situation said that the Jhelum is maintaining an upward trend at several vital points, raising concern among people in low-lying areas. However, they confirmed that water levels in major tributaries including Vishow Nallah at Khudwani, Rambiyara Nallah at Watchi, Liddar Nallah at Bhakoot and Sindh Nallah at Duderhama Ganderbal have started to decrease.

Areas Inundated

In Srinagar, Khushipora Telbal was among the worst-hit localities, with sudden inundation forcing residents to rush belongings to higher floors. "Water entered our homes within minutes. We could do little except protect children and elderly members," a resident said. Parts of Mehjoor Nagar and Telbal also reported severe waterlogging, restricting movement and damaging property.

In the Jammu division, rivers including Tawi, Chenab, Basantar, Ujh, and Ravi swelled above safe levels. The Tawi in Jammu flowed one foot above the danger mark, while the Chenab in Akhnoor surged four feet beyond the evacuation level.

Mass Evacuations and Rescue Ops

Rescue operations are in full swing. Over 2,500 people were evacuated from Kulgam district, while the BSF airlifted 47 civilians from flood-hit Fattu Kotli in Akhnoor using helicopters. Police rescued 25 nomadic families stranded in Anantnag. In Doda district, heavy downpour damaged nearly 70 houses completely, left over 150 severely damaged, and partially affected around 400 others, besides crippling roads, power, and water supply networks.

In Reasi's Mahore subdivision, 86 houses were damaged, forcing 100 families to shift to safer shelters. The Army's White Knight Corps also joined relief efforts, evacuating nearly 90 civilians in Akhnoor and setting up medical camps at Pallanwala and Palatan to treat evacuees.

Transport Network in Ruins

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remained closed for the second day due to landslides and subsidence in Ramban and Udhampur districts. Several other key routes, including the Jammu-Pathankot Highway, Mughal Road, and Jammu-Kishtwar highway, were also blocked. In a major blow to connectivity, the 4th Tawi Bridge in Jammu collapsed under pressure from swollen waters, bringing traffic to a halt.

The Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch National Highway has also been closed since last night at Chowki Choura after the road surface was washed away, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded.

Authorities on High Alert

Officials have urged people to remain indoors and avoid riverbanks, Nallahs, and landslide-prone areas. "All concerned authorities must remain alert and take necessary measures," the

Irrigation & Flood Control Department warned.

While the weatherman has forecast some improvement from Thursday, brief spells of rain and thunder are expected in parts of Jammu division till September 7. Another moderate spell is likely around September 8-9 before conditions stabilize.

For now, thousands across Jammu and Kashmir remain displaced, as rescue and relief operations continue in flood-ravaged villages, towns, and cities.

#### Chances Of Flooding

downpour we saw earlier will not repeat. Rainfall activity will remain much less compared to previous days," Dr. Ahmad stated.

He, however, cautioned that temporary waterlogging could be witnessed in low-lying and mountainous regions, particularly during Wednesday night. "Localized waterlogging is possible, but the overall risk of flooding is very low," he added.

According to the forecast, no major spell of rainfall is expected in the Valley till September 11. "There is a possibility of moderate rainfall in parts of the Jammu region between September 8 and 9, but there will be no continuous or widespread rainfall across J&K till September 12," Dr. Ahmad said.

Meanwhile, officials said the Jhelum river touched the danger mark of 21.10 ft at Ram Munshi Bagh in Srinagar around 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday. However, water levels are expected to gradually decrease as rainfall has largely subsided.

#### Jhelum Above

catastrophic 2014 floods occurred only after the Jhelum crossed record levels of 34.7 ft at Sangam and 29.5 ft at Ram Munshi Bagh "Compared to those levels, today's readings are normal," the official added.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah urged calm, stating: "Dal Gates have not been opened, and Kandizaal bund remains intact. The Jhelum is rising slower than feared. The administration is monitoring the situation closely, but people should not fall for rumours spreading unnecessarily."

Officials reiterated their appeal for responsible reporting, emphasizing that spreading panic only causes distress. "The situation is under control, and there is no cause for alarm," they said.

#### Highway Shut,

blockages reported at Chanderkote, Kela Morh, and Battery Cheshma in Ramban.

The traffic on Jammu-Pathankot Highway also remained disturbed due to being blocked near Vijaypur in Samba district following the damage of a pillar of the Devak River bridge.

The Bani-Basohli road (blocked at Sukha Nallah), Basohli-Mabanru road (at Dhani), Mahappur-Kathua road (at Peddy Nallah), and Qiala Chak-Ramkote road (near Kali Mata Mandir in Galak) remain closed. The Mughal Road and Jammu-Kishtwar National Highway are also shut due to landslides and shooting stones.

A massive landslide has also blocked the Doda-Pul Doda road on the Batote-Kishtwar stretch following continuous rainfall in the district, and authorities have advised people to avoid travel in the affected area until clearance work is completed.

The Jammu-Rajouri road between Tanda and Kalidhar Mandir is also closed, while the 4th Tawi Bridge has collapsed amid rising river levels, suspending traffic movement.

Also, the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch National Highway has remained closed since last night at Chowki Choura near Kandi Tunnel, leaving many vehicles stranded due to the disintegrated road surface. Officials have called for the immediate restoration of the highways to

reconnect Rajouri with Jammu.

#### Edu Institutions

ensure the safety of students and staff.

"In view of adverse weather conditions, all educational institutions in Kashmir shall remain closed tomorrow on 04.09.2025," Garg said.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) extended the closure of schools across the Jammu division till Friday, September 5.

"In reference to the weather alert issued by the IMD and keeping in view incessant rains, landslides, flash floods, and severe waterlogging in low-lying areas, all government and private schools across Jammu Division shall remain closed till 05.09.2025 to ensure the safety of students and staff," DSEJ said in an order.

The directorate also directed schools to conduct online classes wherever possible to maintain continuity of learning.

The University of Kashmir officials also said that in view of adverse weather conditions, the university shall remain closed on Thursday. "All examinations scheduled for the day are postponed. The fresh dates will be notified separately."

Earlier Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg urged citizens to remain alert throughout the Wednesday night. He said the next 6-8 hours will be particularly critical and appealed to all residents to follow the advisories issued by district administrations.

He said preventive evacuations have been activated in Srinagar and parts of South Kashmir and the next few hours are crucial.

Speaking on preventive measures, Garg assured that essential supplies, including food, diesel, petrol, and kerosene, are sufficiently available, and there is no need to panic.

He added that health, power, and telecommunication services are functioning normally across the Valley.

Preventive evacuations have been activated in several areas, particularly in Srinagar, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama. "Field teams, including revenue officers, magistrates, police, and SDRF personnel, are actively monitoring water levels and assisting citizens to move to safer locations," he added.

Garg noted that while water levels had receded in some areas during the day, continuous rises have been observed at Sangam and Ram Munshi Bagh. Field teams are closely monitoring these locations to prevent any risk to life and property.

He further stated that more than 300 relief shelters have been identified across districts, equipped with blankets, ration materials, power and water supply to support people in need. Citizens relocating to higher grounds or relatives' homes are being guided by administration teams.

#### South Kashmir

Amlar-Bargam-Noorpora route until repairs are completed. Meanwhile, Kaihgam in Awantipora experienced massive waterlogging, leaving residents trapped in their homes.

In Anantnag district, the Brengi Nallah inundated several low-lying areas, including offices and institutions such as the BDO office, Saut-ul-Awliya Darul Uloom, and Idara Tehqiqat. Educational and administrative activities were suspended. Farmers warned of large-scale damage to paddy fields and orchards if the rains persist.

Similar conditions were reported in Kulgam, particularly in Khudwani-Qaimoh, where water entered residential areas. Power supply has been disrupted in several places, including SIDCO Lassipora, due to damaged electricity lines.

District authorities confirmed that thousands

of people have been evacuated to safer locations across Pulwama, Kulgam, Anantnag, and parts of Shopian. Rescue teams, along with men and machinery, have been deployed at vulnerable points to strengthen embankments and restore connectivity.

After continuous rainfall since the late afternoon, South Kashmir districts including Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian witnessed a halt in showers at around 5:45 PM, bringing temporary relief to residents.

The Meteorological Department has predicted some improvement from Thursday, though brief spells of rain and thunderstorms may continue in parts of Jammu division until September 7. Authorities have urged residents to avoid riverbanks, Nallahs, and landslide-prone areas.

With water levels in rivers and Nallahs continuing to rise, the administration remains on high alert, racing against time to protect lives, restore connectivity, and prevent further damage.

#### CM Directs Ground

while Ministers Javed Ahmad Rana and Satish Sharma reported on conditions in the Jammu division, including flash floods, road blockages and vulnerable habitations near riverbanks and landslide-prone areas.

The Chief Minister directed the administration to intensify ground response, clear waterlogged areas, ensure supply of essential services such as power, water and healthcare, and ensure timely evacuation of residents from critical zones.

He instructed divisional and district administrations to work in close coordination with disaster response agencies, police and health departments, and to maintain readiness for any eventuality. CM directed that adequate stock of ration, fuel, medicines and drinking water be made available in vulnerable areas, with emergency medical teams kept on standby.

The Chief Minister has been taking hourly updates on rising water levels in Jhelum and its tributaries, status of power & water supply, road connectivity and has directed concerned departments to ensure that advance warnings are issued to the general public about any eventuality and for administration to provide timely help and assistance to people.

Appealing for public cooperation, the Chief Minister urged people to follow advisories, avoid unsafe areas, and report emergencies promptly. He assured that the government is closely monitoring the situation and committed to mitigating hardships.

"The safety and well-being of our citizens is our top most priority. I appeal to the public to stay vigilant, extend cooperation to the administration. Together, we will overcome this challenge," CM Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister directed officials to provide regular updates and reaffirmed that all possible measures are being taken to ensure relief and safety of the affected families.

#### LG Sinha Monitors

diseases. He asked them to ensure ration, blankets, medicines, cooking gas cylinders and pure drinking water to the affected families and speedy restoration of power infrastructure.

Sinha urged people to take all possible precautions and safety measures.

He also expressed condolences to those affected by the tragedy at Kangri village in Sunderbani, Rajouri district. A mother and daughter were killed in Kangri when the roof of their 'kucha' house collapsed in the heavy rain early on Wednesday.

#### APD To Conduct

plans to support farmers in managing the

impact of natural calamities.

#### SC Upholds

them, vacated interim orders, and disposed of all pending applications related to the matter.

Dr. Keen stated that with this ruling, the High Court's judgment stands upheld, giving finality to JKBOPEE's policy on temporary disability certificates and confirming that candidates with disabilities of less than 10 years will not be eligible for PWD reservation benefits for MBBS or BDS admissions for the 2024-25 academic session.

#### HC Grants

Rules, 2005—including Rule 4, Rule 5, Rule 9, Rule 10, Rule 13, Rule 15, and Rule 17. Additionally, they have challenged S.O. 176 dated 15-03-2024, S.O. 127 dated 20-04-2020, S.O. 305 dated 31-05-2024, and SRO 518 dated 02-09-2019.

According to the petitioners, these provisions result in "excessive reservation," cumulatively reserving approximately 70% of posts across various categories, leaving only 30% for open meritorious/general category candidates.

The petitioners argue that the existing reservation pattern lacks any basis in quantifiable data and contravenes the mandate of Article 16(4) of the Constitution, which permits the state to make provisions for reservation in appointments or posts in favor of any backward class of citizens who, in the state's opinion, are not adequately represented in public services. (KNO)

#### J&K Gets 190

made possible with the kind intervention and support of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah sahib. It is a big step towards building a stronger healthcare system and producing more qualified doctors from our region," she stated.

The approvals include 50 additional seats each for Government Medical College Baramulla, Government Medical College Doda, and Government Medical College Kathua, while Government Medical College Jammu and Government Medical College Srinagar have been allotted 20 seats each. With this development, the total MBBS intake in Government Medical Colleges of J&K has now jumped from 1,185 to 1,375 seats.

This timely enhancement will significantly increase opportunities for aspiring medical students from J&K, reduce competition pressure, and contribute to the long-term strengthening of the healthcare delivery system by producing more trained doctors. Officials have further indicated that more seats are expected to be approved before the third round of counselling, further expanding the capacity of medical education in the UT.

The Chief Secretary, J&K, has appreciated the sustained efforts of the Health & Medical Education Department in achieving this milestone and has expressed gratitude to the Ministry of health and family welfare. The national medical commission and Dr. V. K. Paul, Member NITI Aayog, for their guidance and support in the seat enhancement.

Pertinent to mention that Dr. V. K. Paul is associated with the Health and Medical Education Department J&K on many initiatives and reforms in the Health and Medical Education Department, which are expected to bring transformative changes in the healthcare ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir.

#### Grateful To PM

leadership, the number of additional MBBS and PG Seats has increased significantly over the last few years and he has ensured accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for all in the UT," he added.



## Div Com , Joint Secretary NDMA Review Scale Of Rain Induced Damages

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Divisional commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Inter-ministerial team led by Joint Secretary National Disaster Management Authority of India, Col Kirti Pratap Singh chaired a meeting here at the Divisional Commissioner Office to discuss the scale of damages in the Jammu region due to heavy rains and floods.

Government of India has deputed an inter ministerial central team for on-the-spot assessment of the situation in wake of flash floods, cloud burst and landslides that caused extensive damages in

During the meeting, a detailed PowerPoint presentation was given, explaining the scale of damages to private property, public infrastructure and loss of lives.

The Divisional Commissioner apprised the members of the central team about the affected areas and extent of damages caused to the essential infrastructure including roads, power supply and water supply schemes.

He also briefed the meeting about the efforts being made on war footing to save precious lives with the assistance and support of Security forces, emergency responders, NDRF,



the Jammu Division. The team, comprising officials from Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Finance, will visit the affected areas over the next four days.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Managing Director JPDCL, Directors of Rural Development, Food & Civil Supplies, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, HoDs and officials of PWD, PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, NHAI, Railways and concerned departments and agencies.

UTDRF, Police, Army, CAPFs.

The meeting also discussed the challenging situation arisen due to incessant rains, flash floods and landslides that disrupted the normal life in the region. Threadbare discussion was held on damage to roads, power infrastructure, water supply and the efforts being made to restore the same.

Over the next four days, the inter-ministerial team will conduct detailed on ground visits to the affected areas to assess the actual scale of losses and damages in the districts of Jammu division. It shall then submit a detailed report to the Government of India.

## LoP Sharma Tours Flood Hit Areas Of Jammu



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma, along with MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, conducted an extensive tour of Jammu City Wednesday to assess the ground situation and understand the plight of the residents affected by heavy rains and flooding of River Tawi.

The Legislators visited Rajiv Colony, Rajinder Nagar, Vikram Chowk, Goyal Lane, Old University Lane, Fisheries Mohalla, Rajiv Nagar Canal Road, Qasim Nagar, Goswami Mohalla, Jogi Gate, Peerkho and Roop Nagar areas-the hardest hit by the incessant rainfall and subsequent flooding.

They expressed deep anguish over damaged homes, collapsed infrastructure, washed-away roads, and families grappling with the tragic aftermath of nature's fury.

"The scenes of devastation are heart-wrenching. The incessant

rains have played havoc with the lives of our people. Many families have lost everything overnight," Sunil Sharma remarked.

Sunil Sharma interacted with dozens of affected families and listened to their concerns, needs and fears. He assured the people of immediate and comprehensive relief efforts, promising that no affected citizen would be left out in this hour of crisis. He assured to restore the basic amenities, adding that the efforts are on to resume water supply, electricity etc.

He also lauded the humane approach of the Governments of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh for donating financial aid for the flood affected people and shared that other states are also being approached for help.

Sunil Sharma said "Your courage in the face of such adversity is commendable and we are with you—not just in words but in action". He assured that every possible measure will be taken to restore normalcy and provide the necessary aid swiftly.

## DLSA Sensitizes Students On Social & Legal Issues

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In order to sensitize students on pressing social and legal issues, with a particular focus on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the growing menace of drug abuse, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Nawa Kadal, Srinagar.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and was conducted under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The event commenced with an

awareness video on the Lokpal, presented in the local language to ensure accessibility and relevance for the student audience.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), delivered an insightful session on the dangers and legal implications of drug abuse.

Panel Lawyer spoke on the provisions and protective mechanisms under the POCSO Act, highlighting the importance of safeguarding children from sexual offences and ensuring timely legal intervention.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who engaged actively with the resource persons, raising pertinent questions and sharing their perspectives.



**HEAVY RAINS** have caused flooding in Budgam's Wathoor locality in central Kashmir.  
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## Dal Gates Not Opened, Kandizaal Bund Intact, No Cause For Alarm: CM Omar



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:**As the Jhelum swelled due to incessant rainfall on Wednesday evening, authorities assured that the situation remains under control and urged both people and journalists to avoid creating panic.

Officials appealed to the journalist fraternity and Facebook page administrators not to spread alarm by posting hourly gauge readings or live minute-to-minute updates.

As per data available, the latest gauge reading of Jhelum at Sangam stood at 27.60 ft, and at Ram Munshi Bagh it was 21.67 ft. Though slightly above the danger mark, of-

ficials said the levels are well within safe limits.

They pointed out that in 2015, when Sangam touched 27.49 ft and Ram Munshi Bagh 21.65 ft, no flooding occurred. "It is safe up to 23 ft at Ram Munshi Bagh, provided there is no breach in embankments. At present, there is no such threat," an official told KNO.

Authorities reminded that the devastating 2014 floods occurred only after Jhelum crossed record levels of 34.7 ft at Sangam and 29.5 ft at Ram Munshi Bagh. "Compared to that, today's levels are normal and there is no need for panic," the official added.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also urged

calm, saying: "Dal Gates have not been opened, Kandizaal bund has not been breached or broken. The Jhelum is climbing but at a much slower rate than was feared. The administration is not going to lower its guard, we continue to monitor the situation very closely, but at the same time we appeal to people not to believe rumours that are being spread unnecessarily."

Officials reiterated their appeal to journalists and Facebook page owners to report responsibly and avoid spreading unnecessary fear. "Creating panic only causes distress among the public. The situation is being closely monitored, and there is no cause for alarm," they said—(KNO)

## Relief Centres Set Up Across Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As a part of emergency preparedness plan, the Srinagar district administration on Wednesday evening established a network of '15 relief centres' across the city, officials said.

They said these centres, along with deployed nodal officers and medical teams, are meant to ensure a quick and coordinated response in case of any eventuality.

According to an official order issued by the office of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar the relief centres have been set up at key locations including Ellahibagh Buchpora, Lalnagar Chanapora, Babdam, Khanyar, Barbar-

shah, Nowhatta, Raddapora, Palpora, Maloora, Zewan, and Khonmoh.

The order states that these facilities, established in community halls, schools, and panchayat ghars, will serve as safe shelters for affected families during emergencies.

The administration has also appointed officers from various departments — Revenue, Rural Development, Agriculture, Labour, Cooperatives, and District Industries Centre — as nodal officers for each centre.

Their mandate includes coordinating relief measures, maintaining communication with district control rooms, and ensuring adequate food, shelter and other essential

services.

Further, the Health Department has deputed a team of doctors and paramedical staff at the designated centres. Notable among them are Dr. Rubena Aziz (ZMO Zadibal), Dr. Arshid Qadri (ZMO Khanyar), and Dr. Sameena Jan (ZMO Batamalo), who will oversee medical preparedness and provide round-the-clock support if required.

The order also highlights nine evacuation-prone areas — Peerzoo Island, Kursoo Rajbagh, Padshahi Bagh, Lasjan, Soifeng, Gandbal, Pamposh Colony Palpora, Maloora, and Parimpura — where these centres will play a critical role during rescue and rehabilitation operations.

KASHMIR FLOODS:

## Dir FCS&CA Says Adequate Stock Of Essentials Available

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Director of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Dr. Owais Ahmed Wednesday oversaw the ration supply situation in flood-affected areas of Kashmir and visited multiple depots to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential commodities.

He said that teams have been traveling to various ra-

tion depots since morning, taking stock of supplies.

"We are well-equipped with everything, at least for the next six months, in case of any contingency. Our team is on the ground, constantly monitoring for any issues," Dr. Owais Ahmed told reporters.

He further assured that advance ration for September has already been allotted and distributed to residents.

"In case of an emergency, we will ensure our stores are well-stocked, preventing any disruption in providing ration to the people," Dr. Ahmed added.

Meanwhile, FCS&CA officials stressed that all precautionary measures are being taken to maintain smooth supply lines amid rising water levels and ongoing flood warnings in parts of the Kashmir Valley—(KNO)

## Joint Review Meeting On Flood Preparedness Held At PCR

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A joint review meeting on flood preparedness and contingency planning was held at the Police Control Room, Kashmir, to assess readiness in view of the prevailing weather conditions and forecast, and to strengthen coordination among all sister agencies working on the ground.

The meeting was attended by Special DGP (Coordination) PHQ J&K, Commandant General HG/CD & SDRF J&K, IGP Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, IGP Traffic, range DIsG, DIsG Armed and IRP, DCS of Kashmir Division, all district SSPs of Kashmir Zone, and senior officers from the Army, CAPFs, and allied departments, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

At the outset, district heads briefed about the evolving flood situation in their respective areas. The Divisional Commissioner shared details of preparedness measures, including embankment protection, rescue and evacuation plans, and contingency arrangements

along river Jhelum and major streams. Alternate communication strategies in case of disruption were also discussed.

The participating officers underlined the importance of synergy among departments and stressed the need for a robust disaster mitigation plan to safeguard lives and property. It was resolved to maintain a high state of readiness, position manpower and machinery at vulnerable points, and ensure real-time dissemination of information to the public and to effect prompt evacuation wherever required.

The establishment of Joint Control Rooms with representatives from the civil administration, Police, Army, CAPFs, Flood & Irrigation, and other agencies was deliberated upon. A detailed review of existing response mechanisms was also conducted, with emphasis on proactive preparedness and stronger inter-agency coordination.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to remain alert on the ground and to respond promptly to any emerging situation.

## Railway Staff Rushes Woman To Hospital After Delivery

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Railway staff at Banihal Railway Station assisted a woman passenger who delivered a baby on board a train today and arranged for the immediate transfer of the mother and child to the nearby hospital. Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) also extended support during the process.

The woman, a resident of Sumbar village, was on board Train No. 64651 (Sangaldan-Baramulla) travelling with her husband when she developed severe labour pain as the train reached Banihal. With the help of female co-passengers, the delivery took place inside the coach.

On receiving the information, Station Manager A.B. Bali, along with staff members

Shri Lalit Kumar, Shri Mudassir Ahmed and Shri Manzoor Ahmed, swiftly arranged medical assistance and ensured safe transfer of the mother and child to the nearest hospital. Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) also extended support during the process.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Shri Uchit Singhal, and Area Manager, Kashmir Valley, Shri Saqib Yusuf, commended the quick response of passengers and railway employees. They stated that this incident is an "excellent example of humanity and coordination between passengers and railway staff, reflecting Indian Railways' commitment to safeguarding lives."

## Paras Hospital Performs Life-Saving IVUS-Guided Rota-Tripsy

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Paras Hospital Srinagar has achieved a major breakthrough in cardiac sciences by successfully performing life-saving Intravascular Ultrasound (IVUS)-guided Rota-Tripsy cardiac interventions on critically ill patients suffering from severely calcified coronary artery blockages. This marks a significant advancement in heart care for the region, where many patients with complex coronary artery disease are often left with no viable treatment options.

The procedures were led by Dr. Mohd Maqbool Sohail, Director-Interventional Cardiology at Paras Hospital Srinagar, and his team, who recently treated two critically ill patients with this novel technique. One was an 80-year-old male with multiple co-morbidities, who suffered a heart attack and had severe calcification in the main coronary arteries. Since he was unfit for surgery, IVUS-guided Rota-Tripsy was performed followed by angioplasty and stenting, and he recovered fully within 24 hours. In another case, a 65-year-old female with lung disease and severely calcified arteries underwent rotational atherectomy, balloon angioplasty, and stenting. When IVUS revealed incomplete stent expansion, the team successfully employed Intravascular Shockwave Lithotripsy (IVL) to fully expand the stent. She was discharged in stable condition after 36 hours.

Commenting on the breakthrough, Dr. Mohd Maqbool

Sohail said, "There are patients who arrive at our doors in the middle of a heart attack, their arteries so hardened with calcium that neither surgery nor routine angioplasty can save them. Until now, we often had to watch them slip away with no effective option left. IVUS-guided Rota-Tripsy has changed that reality. It allows us to open even the most rock-like blockages safely and restore blood flow to the heart. For critically ill patients, this is not just another procedure; it is often the difference between life and death."

Coronary artery disease, caused by cholesterol-rich plaques that harden into rock-like blockages, is a leading cause of heart attacks and sudden cardiac death. In such cases, routine balloon angioplasty and stenting often fail, leaving patients with limited treatment options. The novel Rota-Tripsy technique, a combination of rotational atherectomy and IVL under IVUS guidance modifies both superficial and deep calcium deposits, ensuring safe and precise stent deployment even in the most complex blockages.

With these successful interventions, Paras Hospital Srinagar has set a new benchmark in advanced cardiac sciences in Jammu and Kashmir. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology and a highly skilled team, the hospital continues to lead in performing complex, high-risk procedures with precision and safety, giving new hope to patients battling life-threatening coronary artery disease in the region.

## GMC Sgr Postpones Written Test

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In view of the inclement weather conditions across valley, the written test for the post of Counsellor (ATF) at the Institute of Mental Health

& Neurosciences Kashmir (Psychiatry), scheduled for September 4, 2025, has been postponed to September 9, 2025.

Meanwhile, candidates have been advised to download fresh admit cards/Roll Number slips.



# From Kashmir To ICC Panel, Baramulla's Asif Officiates In Tri-Nation Series

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a proud moment for Kashmir, Asif Iqbal from Khanpora, Baramulla, has been named to the ICC panel of umpires, officiating in the ongoing T20 tri-nation series featuring Pakistan, Afghanistan and the UAE at Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Asif (43), who stood as an on-field umpire in the high-octane Pakistan-Afghanistan clash on September 2, began his journey from the narrow lanes of Baramulla where he first played cricket, in the absence of proper playgrounds.

His family, while recalling his early passion, said, Asif used to play in the bylanes as there was no ground here. "It's not just our pride, but the pride of the whole Baram-



ulla, in fact the entire valley."

After basic schooling in Baramulla, Asif pursued higher studies at Aligarh before moving to Dubai for work. In 2017, he completed his Level-1 umpiring course in Dubai and later trained in Sri Lanka, which paved the way for his international career.

Local Auqaf Head, Malik Shabir expressed joy at Asif's feat while highlighting the lack of sports infrastructure in the town.

"Despite no adequate infrastructure, he made it this far. Our youth have talent, but dilapidated grounds are holding them back. We urge the administration to upgrade facilities," he said.

Mohammed Rafiq Bhat, a JKCA umpire, described Asif as his mentor, and said whenever he

had doubts, he would call Asif. "He even took Zoom sessions for me to clear things up. He has been a constant source of guidance and motivation," Bhat said.

According to the accessed details, Asif Iqbal has officiated in multiple high-profile T20 Internationals, beginning with the UAE vs. Pakistan match on 29 August 2025 in Sharjah (T20I #3426), followed by UAE vs. Afghanistan on 31 August and Afghanistan vs. Pakistan on 1 September.

Between 2021 and 2025, he has umpired 21 T20 matches, placing him among the most active officials globally. In 2024, he also stood in three men's ODIs and three Women's ODIs, demonstrating versatility across formats. (KNO)

## Kuldeep Gupta Nominated TCM Of Pro Kabaddi League

**D**r. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, General Secretary of J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association and Technical Director of the Asian Kabaddi Federation, has been nominated as a Technical Committee Member for the ongoing Pro Kabaddi League Season 12.

The prestigious league is currently underway in Visakhapatnam and will move to Jaipur and Chennai before culminating with the grand finale in New Delhi. Dr. Gupta's nomination reflects his vast experience and contributions to the sport at both national & international levels.

He has also been appointed as Technical Delegate for the upcoming 3rd Asian Youth Games scheduled in October 2025 at Bahrain. Notably, Dr. Gupta has earlier served as Technical Delegate at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou (2010) and the 14th Asian Games in Busan (2002), apart from officiating multiple times at National Games as a jury member and technical official. (Observer News Service)

## BCCI Elections: President, IPL Chairman's Post Up For Grabs

**T**he BCCI Annual General Meeting at the end of September will be an interesting affair with a few top posts, including that of president and IPL chairman, up for grabs.

The current IPL chairman Arun Dhimal in all likelihood is set to go for a mandatory cooling-off for three years, having completed a cumulative period of six years in office, with a host of names doing rounds as his potential successor. For now, Devajit Saikia, who has completed three years cumulatively as joint secretary (2 years and three months) and secretary (nine months), will continue in his position. So would joint secretary Rohan Gauns Desai and Prabhtej Bhatia, who are into their first year as office bearers.

For IPL chairman's post, the name of former Mumbai Cricket Association secretary Sanjay Naik and current BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla's names are doing the rounds although nothing has been finalized yet. (PTI)

## Srinagar At Top Spot In Provincial Wushu Championship In Budgam



Dabirah Hassan

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam concluded the Inter-District Provincial Level Wushu Championship for Boys U-17 and U-19 at Samagra Hostel Narbal. The event was organised by the Joint Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, Kashmir, and hosted by DYSSO Budgam under the overall direction of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from all districts of Kash-

mir division. After intense and thrilling competitions, District Srinagar bagged the first position, Budgam secured second place, while Shopian stood third.

The presentation ceremony was graced by Abdul Lateef, Lecturer in Physical Education, and Bashir Ahmad, PEM, who congratulated the participants for their outstanding performances and sportsmanship.

The event not only promoted Wushu as a growing martial art among the youth but also highlighted the commitment of DYSS towards nurturing young sporting talent across the valley.

## J&K Water Sports Associations Extend Help Amid Flood Threat

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In view of the looming flood threat, the J&K Association of Rowing and Sculling (JKARS) along with the J&K Water Sports Kayaking & Canoeing Association (JKWSKCA) have extended their full support to the J&K administration.

An urgent meeting was convened with water sports athletes to chalk out strategy and prepare for potential rescue operations. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Burhan Bazaz, President of JKARS, and Shafqat Watali, President of JKWSKCA, through online mode.

Prominent water sports

icon cum coach and athlete Bilquis Mir also participated in the meeting and expressed her commitment to actively render her services for rescue operations, if needed.

Over 50 professional paddlers, all of whom are trained swimmers, volunteered their services and pledged to be available for deployment in affected areas.

The associations assured the J&K administration of their preparedness to mobilize their trained athletes swiftly for relief and rescue operations in flood affected areas, reaffirming their dedication and commitment not only to sports but also to the service of society in times of crisis.



## Happiest Moment Turned Tragic: Kohli On Bengaluru Stampede

Press Trust of India

**BENGALURU:** India and Royal Challengers Bengaluru batting superstar Virat Kohli has opened up about the June 4 stampede during his franchise's IPL victory celebrations here, saying "nothing in life really prepares you for the heartbreak" of 11 deaths on what should have been the happiest day for his side.

The tragic incident occurred when an estimated 2.5 lakh fans thronged the at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium to celebrate RCB's maiden IPL title.

"Nothing in life really prepares you for a heartbreak like June 4th. What should've been the happiest moment in our franchise's history...turned into something tragic," Kohli was quoted as saying by RCB on its 'X' handle.

"I've been thinking of and praying for the families of those we lost...and for our fans who were injured. Your loss is part of our story now. Together, we will move forward with care, respect and responsibility," he added in his first elaborate comment on the mishap that led to widespread criticism of the franchise as well.

An official inquiry into the incident attributed the chaos to the lack of proper clearances and the overwhelming crowd, which surged in response to social media invitations sent out by the franchise.

The police admitted to being grossly outnumbered to manage the turnout and RCB was held responsible in the probe for encouraging the fans to come out in numbers.



## Alcaraz To Face Djokovic In US Open Semifinals

**C**arlos Alcaraz finger-wagged the crowd, beat Jiri Lehecka to the net and cruised into the semifinals at the U.S. Open.

The second-seeded Spaniard beat Lehecka 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, making some highlight-reel shots and putting his hand to his ear afterward to encourage more cheers from fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium. It's his first hard-court semifinal appearance at a major since winning his first Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open in 2023.

Alcaraz is just 22 years old and is in the semifinals at a major for the ninth time. Only Rafael Nadal with 10 has more before turning 23.

Next up for Alcaraz is Novak Djokovic, the 24-time Grand Slam champion. Djokovic got past Taylor Fritz 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 at night. (AP)

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