

Sakeena visits GMC; reviews emergency preparedness, healthcare facilities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday visited Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag and held comprehensive review of the emergency preparedness and healthcare facilities in light of the incessant rains in South Kashmir.

During the visit, the Minister conducted detailed round of key wards including the Emergency, OTs, and Intensive Care Units, and personally inspected flood preparedness measures such as water drainage, power backup systems, and availability of emergency supplies.

She directed the hospital authorities to create dedicated emergency counters



Health Minister Sakeena Itoo during visit to GMC Anantnag.

for flood-related patients, enhance sanitation drives to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases and ensure proper shelter facilities for attendants accompanying patients. The Minister also instructed that special

focus be given to maternal and child healthcare during emergencies, noting that vulnerable groups require additional support.

During her visit, the Minister interacted with doctors, and paramedical

staff. She also reviewed the availability of essential medicines, blood supplies, ambulances, and critical care infrastructure to ensure the hospital remains fully equipped to handle any surge in emergency cases.

The Minister emphasized on the importance of robust emergency response system, including round-the-clock duty rosters, coordination with district administration, and rapid deployment of mobile medical teams to flood-affected zones.

"Our priority is to ensure that every patient receives timely treatment. Adequate medicines, power backup, safe drinking water and efficient referral linkages are non-negotiable in such situations. Our government is

committed to strengthen healthcare institutions across J&K so that people receive quality healthcare services", she stated.

The Health Minister appreciated the efforts of the medical staff who have been working tirelessly under difficult conditions and assured them of every possible support from the government. She also urged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with health advisories being issued from time to time.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Coordination New GMCs, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Anantnag, HoDs of various specialities, doctors and other concerned officers also accompanied the Minister during the visit.

DC directs vigorous enforcement against drug menace

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: To assess and reinforce the district's anti-narcotics efforts, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore on Wednesday chaired the monthly meeting of the District-Level Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) at the VC. Room of DC office Ganderbal.



DC Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore chairing a meeting.

At the outset, DC took a department-wise review of progress on enforcement, awareness, treatment, and rehabilitation. Officers from concerned departments viz. Health, Education, Revenue, Agriculture, Excise and Social Welfare presented updates against the Action Taken Report on directives issued in the previous NCORD meeting.

The functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre was reviewed meticulously and the Chief Medical Officer was directed to explore the possibility of making IPD facilities available at the Centre.

While reviewing the status of computer billing and installation of CCTV cameras by medical shops, the District Drug Inspector informed that 97 percent shops have switched to com-

puter billing systems and 100 percent CCTV camera installation is also ensured.

DC directed for active enforcement to achieve 100% computer billing within the next 1 month.

Status of NDPS cases was also reviewed and Police and Prosecution departments were directed to ensure timely investigations, charge sheeting and trial proceedings in all NDPS cases.

Excise department was asked to intensify wild cannabis destruction drives across the district. Chief Education Officer (CEO) was directed to conduct drug de-addiction awareness campaigns during morning assemblies, particularly in high schools.

Emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach, DC called

for focusing on prevention, surveillance, and community engagement to effectively combat the drug menace.

Under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, DC directed Block Development Officers and the Social Welfare department to organize regular awareness drives targeting vulnerable groups of society.

The meeting was attended by the SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Ahmad Poswal; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihagi; Deputy Director Prosecution, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, District Drug Inspector; and representatives from the, Excise Department, Intelligence Bureau, and other concerned departments.

Rana grieves loss of lives due to landslide near Vaishno Devi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives due to a landslide triggered by heavy rains near the Mata

Vaishno Devi Shrine.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of profound grief and prayed for the swift recovery of all those injured.

"The tragic incident of the death of several devotees in a landslide near the Mata

Vaishno Devi Temple route is extremely painful. May the departed souls rest in peace," he said, mourning the tragic incident. He said that the Omar Abdullah government is taking all the necessary measures to assist all those affected. He further said that the

administration is continuously monitoring the situation arising in various parts of Jammu Division due to heavy rain and officers have been instructed to remain on high alert to

meet any eventuality.

He further called upon the people to follow advisories issued by the government from time to time and take all essential precautions.

Extremely heartbreaking: Kharage condoles loss of lives in Vaishno Devi landslide

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday described as "extremely heartbreaking" the death of 32 people in the Vaishno Devi landslide and conveyed his condolences to the affected families.

"The news of the death of 32 people due to heavy rains and landslides on the Mata Vaishno Devi route in Jammu and Kashmir is extremely heartbreaking. I express my deepest condolences to all the affected families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," he said in a post on X.

Kharge said several states and UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh, are gripped by heavy rains and

flood-like situations.

"Our Congress government and administration teams in Himachal are fully engaged in relief and rescue operations with complete readiness.

"In this difficult situation, I expect the Congress leaders and workers in all these states to provide every possible help to the victims," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said the J-K Pradesh Congress Committee expresses deep shock over the loss of lives due to landslides en route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine near Adhkawari.

"Our deep sympathies with the bereaved families and prayers for the early recovery of the injured. Rescue and relief should be top priority," he said in a post on X.

5,000 posts of para fitters, multipurpose workers created in Jal Shakti Deptt: Himachal DyCM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHIMLA: Himachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri on Wednesday said 5,000 posts of para fitters, para pump operators and multipurpose workers have been created in the Jal Shakti Department, out of which 2,500 posts have been filled.

Replying to a question from Reena Kashyap (BJP) in the state Assembly, Agnihotri said that during the BJP government, 5,000 posts were filled and in some areas, 1,500 posts were filled while no posts were filled in some other areas.

The government was rationalising the process to fill the gaps. During the past three years, it was assured that under the policy of the department, 312 para fitters, 769 para pump operators and 1,469 multipurpose

workers would be recruited, he said, adding that no post of Jal Rakshak was created.

He informed that 176 para fitters, 428 pump operators and 752 multipurpose workers are already working and being paid the honorarium according to the policy of the government and service conditions are applicable in respect of these employees.

Replying to another question of Vipin Singh Parmar (BJP) regarding the cases handled by the advocate general (AG), additional AG and deputy AG and the outcome of these cases, Agnihotri said that there was a flaw in the question and the period for which the information has been sought has not been mentioned.

Parmar said that it was a "postponed question" of the last session and said the government had said that 'infor-

mation is being collected' and asked whether the reply would be given during the ongoing monsoon session.

The deputy CM said that information has been sought from various departments and the office of the AG and extensive and complete information would be provided in the next session.

Replying to another question from Lokender Kumar, Sudhir Sharma and Rakesh Jamwal (all BJP) regarding the jobs given by the government, Agnihotri said that the information was very detailed and being collected.

Sudhir Sharma said that when the question was asked on December 12, 2024, the reply was that 34,000 jobs had been given but the information provided during the ongoing session the reply to the question was that 23,000 jobs had been given.

Cabinet approves 4 railway projects worth Rs 12,328 crore

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved four railway projects with a cost of Rs 12,328 crore, a government press note said on Wednesday.

The projects comprise the construction of a new rail line connecting Deshalpar-Hajipir-Luna, and Vayor and Lakhpata, a third and fourth line between Secunderabad (Sanathnagar)-Wadi, a third line from Bhagalpur to Jamalpur, and doubling of the Furkating-New Tinsukia line.

The projects will provide connectivity, reduce logistics costs, and decrease the railways' dependence on oil imports, a press note said.

The construction of the new lines will contribute to lower CO2 emissions and will generate direct employment for about 251 lakh human-days, it said.

A line will provide connectivity to far-fetched areas of the

Kutch region, adding 145 km and 164 km of tracks to the existing railway network in Gujarat, it said.

The estimated cost of the lines there is Rs 2,526 crore, with a three-year construction deadline.

"Besides promoting tourism in the state of Gujarat, the new rail line will help in the transportation of salt, cement, coal, clinker & bentonite. The strategic importance of the project is that it will provide connectivity to Rann of Kutch," the government said.

"Harappan site Dholavira, Koteswar temple, Narayan Sarovar & Lakhpata fort will also come under the rail network as 13 new railway stations will be added, benefitting 866 villages and about 16 Lakh population," the press note said.

Around 3,108 villages with 47.34 lakh population will be connected across Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar, and Assam with the new constructions.

The 173-km Secunderabad (Sanathnagar)-Wadi third and fourth Line, spanning across Karnataka and Telangana, under construction at Rs 5,012 crore, will be ready in five years, the Centre said.

The 53-km Bhagalpur-Jamalpur third line in Bihar, being built at a cost is Rs 1,156 crore, will be ready in three years, it said.

The Rs 3634-crore 194-km Furkating-New Tinsukia doubling will be finished in four years, it said.

"The projects are planned on the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with a focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity & logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. The four projects covering 13 Districts across the states of Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar and Assam will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 565 Kms," the note read.

India may emerge as second-largest economy by 2038 with USD 34.2 trn GDP in PPP terms Report

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India's economy could reach USD 20.7 trillion in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) by 2030 and may emerge as the second-largest economy by 2038 with USD 34.2 trillion GDP, an EY report said on Wednesday.

The report also said that with appropriate countermeasures, India can limit the adverse impact of higher US tariffs on selected Indian imports to about 10 basis points of real GDP growth.

India is emerging as one of the most dynamic among the world's five largest economies, with strong economic fundamentals including high savings and investment rates, favourable demographics, and a sustainable fiscal position, said the the August 2025 issue of EY Economy Watch.

Despite global uncertainties such as tariff pressures

and slowing trade, India's resilience stems from its reliance on domestic demand and increasing capabilities in modern technologies, it said.

The report examines the comparative economic profile of the five largest economies against the backdrop of US tariff uncertainties and global economic challenges.

A meaningful comparison of economic size may be based on purchasing power parity (PPP, constant 2021 international dollars), rather than market exchange rates (US dollars), it said.

On this basis, India's GDP in FY25 is estimated by the IMF at PPP USD 14.2 trillion - around 3.6 times larger than when measured in market exchange rate terms.

India is thus already the third-largest economy after China and the US.

"If beyond 2030, India and the US maintain average growth rates of 6.5 per cent

and 2.1 per cent, respectively, during 2028-2030 (as per IMF forecasts), India may surpass the US economy in PPP terms by 2038," the report said.

India is also projected to become the third-largest economy in market exchange rate terms by 2028, overtaking Germany.

Commenting on India's position, D K Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor, EY India, said India's comparative strengths, its young and skilled workforce, robust saving and investment rates, and relatively sustainable debt profile will help sustain high growth even in a volatile global environment.

"By building resilience and advancing capabilities in critical technologies, India is well-placed to move closer to its Viksit Bharat aspirations by 2047," he said.

The report further said US tariff's impact on India may

depend, among other factors, on the share of India's exports to the US affected by the higher tariffs, the extent to which India is able to diversify these exports to other countries.

Thus, nearly 0.9 per cent of India's GDP may be affected by the US tariffs, the EY report said, and added the actual impact may depend on the elasticity of demand for Indian exported goods in the US.

"Assuming that about one-third of the impact results in a fall in demand; the overall impact is estimated at 0.3 per cent of India's GDP," it said.

This can be neutralized through countermeasures such as reducing overall imports and boosting domestic demand for goods that are currently exported.

"With suitable policies, the US tariff impact can be reduced to about 0.1 per cent

of GDP, implying at best, a reduction of 10 basis points in India's expected growth of 6.5 per cent in FY2026.

"So, India's average growth may be reduced at best to 6.4 per cent in the medium term on account of the US tariffs," the report said.

The steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering the United States, which came into effect from August 27, would impact exports worth more than USD 48 billion.

The sectors which would bear the brunt of the high import duties imposed by the Trump administration include textiles/ clothing, gems and jewellery, shrimp, leather and footwear; animal products, chemicals, and electrical and mechanical machinery.

Sectors such as pharma, energy products and electronic goods are out of the ambit of these sweeping duties.

India-Africa trade crossed USD 100 bn in 2024-25: Kirti Vardhan Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union minister Kirti Vardhan Singh on Wednesday said India-Africa trade has crossed USD 100 billion and New Delhi has emerged as one of the top-five investors in the continent.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 20th CHI India-Africa Business Conclave in the national capital, Singh said India has extended concessional loans worth over USD 12 billion and USD 700 million in grant assistance for projects across Africa,

apart from offering 50,000 scholarships for African youth, of which more than 42,000 have already been utilised.

"This year's theme is different as we have decided to move from project partnership and growth partnership to the spirit of 'Co-creating a Shared Future', which signifies the sentiment attached to this remarkable journey," the minister said.

"India's bilateral trade with Africa has crossed the magical figure of USD 100 billion in 2024-25 compared to USD 56 bil-

lion in 2019-2020. With cumulative investments over USD 75 billion from 1996-2024, India is among the top-five largest investors in Africa," he said.

Singh said India-Africa partnership is resilient enough to tackle emerging challenges such as the post-Covid global economy and conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

He stressed that Africa continues to play an important role in India's foreign policy and recalled that the African Union was given permanent

membership of the G20 during India's presidency.

"We put emphasis on Africa's rightful place at the global high table," he said.

Singh added that India has stood with Africa in times of need, recalling relief operations in Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius and several other countries and invited African nations to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure as well as the International Solar Alliance to strengthen cooperation in climate and

clean energy.

He said India is keen to share its experiences and knowhow to help Africa in its energy transition through rapid deployment of clean energy technologies.

"India and Africa are shaping a strong partnership to co-create a shared future, built on mutual trust and collaborative efforts," he said.

Singh said that the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme gives duty-free access to 98.2 per cent of India's tariff lines, benefiting 33 least developed

African countries.

He hoped that the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, which came into force in 2021, would further boost Indian companies' footprint in Africa.

Singh also said India's digital and healthcare initiatives, including the launch of e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti networks in 2019, have enabled more than 15,000 youth from 22 African countries to pursue degree and diploma courses through tele-education and tele-medicine.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-26-25-26

Closing Date/Time: 17.09.2025 12:30

Date:- 26.08.2025

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-26-25-26 Closing Date/Time 17.09.2025 12:30 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER

| Contract Type | Works | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Name of work | Annual Repair Contract (ARC) of 5 Watt & 25 Watt Walkie Talkie sets over Firozpur Division for Three (03) years. | | |
| Tender Closing Date/Time | 17.09.2025 12:30 | Date/Time of Uploading Tender | 26.08.2025 13:31 |
| Advertised Value (Rs.) | 3427995.00 | Bidding Start Date as per IREPS | 03.09.2025 |
| Earnest Money (Rs.) | 68600.00 | Period of Completion | 36 Months |
| NOTE | Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website. | | |

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