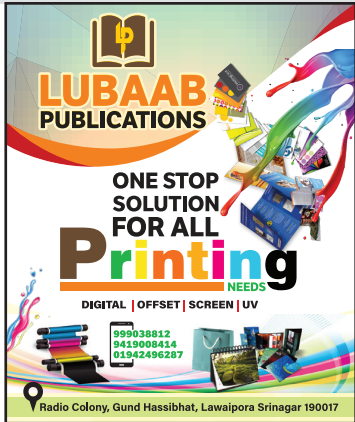


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HEADLINES  
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



# PM Modi led Govt stands firmly with flood hit J&K people: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, SEP 01:** Reiterating that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands firmly with the flood hit people of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday assured that Centre would provide prompt relief, financial assistance, and technical support to facilitate recovery and reconstruction, and will ensure the safety and well-being of the sufferers.

The Union Home Minister arrived in Jammu on late Sunday evening to assess the damage caused by the floods in the region.

After conducting a whirlwind tour of the flood affected areas the Union Home Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) chaired a high level meeting on relief measures at Raj Bhavan here.

“Chaired a meeting to review the recent flood situation in Jammu. Instructed the water supply and health departments to exert full might in fulfilling the healthcare needs that



may emerge after the floods. The Modi government will continue to provide swift relief and financial and

technological support,” Shah wrote on X.

The meeting was attended by

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah,

● Turn on Page 2

## Over 5,000 Civilians Rescued In Jammu, Punjab, HP: Army’s Western Command

■ HT News Network

**CHANDIGARH, SEP 1:** More than 5,000 civilians were rescued and 21 tonnes of relief material was provided to the people in Jammu, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh affected by floods, the army said on Monday.

The Western Command of the Indian Army has been conducting extensive Humanitarian Assistance

and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations in the flood-affected states.

A total of 47 columns including army aviation and Indian Air Force helicopters were activated along with formation engineers, medical and communication resources to provide immediate relief, an officer said.

The information was given at a press conference addressed by

● Turn on Page 2

## CM Omar thanks HM Shah

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 1:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s visit to Jammu and Kashmir to review the flood situation reflects the Centre’s seriousness and will

● Turn on Page 2

## LoP briefs Shah on cloudburst, flood in Jammu region

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, SEPT 01:** Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday briefed Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Raj Bhawan Jammu about the large-scale destruction caused by recent cloudbursts, incessant rains, and flash

● Turn on Page 2

## Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra Remains Suspended For 7th Day Amid Heavy Rains In Katra

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, SEPT 1:** Amid heavy rainfall in Katra town on Monday, the pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine remained suspended for the seventh consecutive day in Jammu and Kashmir’s Reasi district since a landslide on a yatra route claimed 34 lives last Tuesday.

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board said it has cancelled all bookings, including helicopters and accommodations, with a 100 per cent refund until the yatra is resumed.

“Yatra has remained suspended for the past one week. Bad weather conditions still persist, so the decision to continue the suspension of yatra has been taken keeping in view the safety of pilgrims,” an official said. Heavy rains began in Katra and the Trikuta hills, the abode of the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, on Monday.

Helicopter services from Katra to Bhawan, ropeway rides from Bhawan to Bhairoon Ghati, hotel

● Turn on Page 2

## PM, HM Assure Full Support to Affected Families: LG Sinha

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, SEP 01:** The Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha earlier today, accompanied Hon’ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah to survey the rain and flood affected areas of Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor in a statement said: “My heart goes out to the families of those who have lost their loved ones and those who have suffered loss of property in this massive natural calamity. Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon’ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah have assured that every possible effort will be made to provide immediate relief to the families, restoration of buildings, roads and other infrastructure

● Turn on Page 2

## 500 Houses Suffer Damage In Heavy Rains, Flash Floods In Doda

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, SEP 1:** As many as 500 houses have suffered damage due to heavy rains and flash floods in Jammu and Kashmir’s Doda district, with relief and rehabilitation operations underway in the affected areas to restore essential supplies and road networks.

“A total of 50 houses have been fully damaged, 100 houses severely damaged, and 350 residential buildings partially damaged. Fourteen animals have lost their lives, and five human lives were lost,” Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh said on Monday.

Singh, who is overseeing the relief and rescue

● Turn on Page 2

## J&K BJP Seeks Special Package, Disaster Tag for Jammu Floods in Meet with Shah

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, SEP 1:** A delegation of the BJP’s Jammu and Kashmir unit met Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Monday and demanded that the recent calamity in Jammu be declared a national disaster, and a comprehensive package be announced for immediate assistance and the region’s long-term recovery.

The 25-member high-level delegation was led by J-K BJP chief Sat Sharma and Leader of Opposition in the

● Turn on Page 2

## No Tolerance for Double Standards on Terrorism: PM Modi at SCO

■ HT News Desk / UNI

**TIANJIN/NEW DELHI, SEP 1:** Delivering a stern message to “certain nations” that support terror outfits at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said peace and stability are the foundation of development, but terrorism remains a grave obstacle.

He questioned whether open support extended by some nations to terror groups could be tolerated any longer.

Speaking at the 25th SCO summit in China’s Tianjin, where Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif was also in attendance, PM Modi underlined that “terrorism is not just a threat to the security of any one country, but to humanity as a whole”.

“No nation, no society, no citizen can claim immunity

● Turn on Page 2

## India-Russia ties pillar of global stability: PM Modi

■ HT News Desk / UNI

**TIANJIN (CHINA), SEP 1:** India and Russia stood “shoulder-to-shoulder” even in most difficult situations and their ties are crucial for global peace and stability, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday, amid a major

● Turn on Page 2

‘Chaos from the Clouds’

# Deadliest Month: Over 100 Dead As August Sees 30+ Extreme Weather Events

6th wettest August in 125 years at 73% excess rainfall

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 01:** Jammu and Kashmir has endured the deadliest month, August, as the back-to-back natural calamities have led to the loss of over 100 lives across the region, experiencing over 30 extreme weather events during the last 31 days.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir news Observer (KNO), the region has experienced its sixth wettest August since 1901, with the region recording 319.3 mm of rainfall against the normal of 184.9 mm, marking an excess of 73% precipitation.

The month of August witnessed an

alarming surge in extreme weather events across Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in over 100 deaths and damage to several properties.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, confirmed to KNO that more than 30 incidents of flash floods, cloudbursts, landslides, gusty winds, heavy rains and thunder-

storms were recorded in the month of August, with at least 14 events leading to fatalities.

Among the deadliest events were Kishtwar cloudburst, claiming 65 lives and several others are still missing and Reasi landslide along the Vaishno Devi route, claiming 35 lives. Both

● Turn on Page 2

## Cloudburst Injures Minor In Kupwara

MeT Predicts Heavy Rainfall Till Sept 3

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEPT 01:** Amid the forecast of inclement weather conditions for the next 30 hours, parts of Kashmir experienced heavy rainfall on Monday evening, while a minor boy was injured and several livestock perished in a cloudburst incident in north Kashmir’s Kupwara district.

The districts falling in central and northern Kashmir witnessed

heavy rainfall this evening, inundating lanes and bi-lanes.

The heavy rainfall was observed amidst the forecast of inclement weather conditions until September 02.

While parts of Kashmir experienced rainfall, a cloudburst incident in Jumagund area of Kupwara district left a 15-year-old boy, identified as Shahid Ahmad Raina from Banwali Jumagund, injured.

The injured boy was stable and

undergoing treatment in the hospital.

The incident also claimed the lives of several livestock, including a horse, exacerbating the suffering of the affected families.

Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that a brief spell of light rain and intense showers towards late afternoon at a few places were expected today,

● Turn on Page 2

## Singla gets addl charge of Info dept

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 1:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government has given Dr. Piyush Singla, IAS, the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Information Department.

An order issued by

● Turn on Page 2













# SAKEENA ITOO REVIEWS ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONING OF BGSBU

Also calls for facilitating students from remote, marginalized communities

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEPT 01:** Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo today conducted a comprehensive review of the academic and administrative functioning of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri, in a high-level meeting held at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor, BGSBU, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department (HED), Shantamanu; Deputy Commissioner Rajouri/Registrar BGSBU, Abhishek Sharma; Director RUSA, Special Secretaries of HED, Director Finance and Director Planning HED

and other senior officers of University administration and HED, either in person or through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Minister took detailed assessment of university's progress across multiple fronts, like teaching and research output, infrastructure development, student welfare measures, and other initiatives of the university.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena underlined that BGSBU, being a key higher education hub in the Pir Panjal region, carries a special responsibility in shaping the future of youth through quality education, skill development, and character building. She called upon the university authorities to adopt student-



centric initiatives, strengthen placement cells, and enhance digital learning infrastructure to keep pace with national and global standards.

While reviewing the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects in the University, the Minister directed the administration to ensure timely completion of

these projects. She further stressed on the officers to initiate only those new infrastructure projects in the University which deem necessary for its smooth

functioning.

She also instructed the university administration to complete the renovation works on hostels in a time bound manner so that the students can stay there comfortably and with ease.

While reviewing the Human Resource position of the university, the Minister directed the officers to engage teaching staff on academic arrangement basis in courses having maximum roll of students till the vacant positions are filled on regular basis. She also called upon the University administration that students from remote and marginalized communities should be facilitated at the university and adequate support through scholar-

ships, remedial coaching, and mentorship programs should be provided to them on regular basis.

The Minister also lauded the University administration for record number of admissions in the current session and assured them of government's full support in addressing its requirements. She reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening higher education in Jammu and Kashmir and lauded the efforts of BGSBU in fostering academic excellence across the region.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri/Registrar BGSBU presented a detailed presentation on the functioning of the University.

## ADC B'pora flags-off farmers for exposure visit to SKUAST-K

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**BANDIPORA, SEPT 01:** Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl in presence of Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora, Farooq Ahmad Tantray, today flagged-off a group of 100 progressive farmers for a one-day exposure visit-cum-awareness programme at SKUAST-K Shalimar, Srinagar.



The visit has been organized by the Horticulture department, Bandipora under the CAPEX scheme (Promotion and Information Dissemination) 2025-26. Farmers were drawn from four horticulture zones of the district viz. Aloosa (25), Bandipora (25), Hajin (25), and Sumbal (25) are scheduled to participate in a training session on Orchard Management and Reduction of Pesticides in Fruit Crops grown in the Kashmir Valley at SKUAST-K Shalimar.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC appreciated the efforts of the Horticulture department for facilitating such programmes, which play a key role in capacity building and knowledge dissemination among orchardists.

Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora said that the department is committed to empowering farmers with modern techniques and scientific interventions to enhance the overall horticulture sector in the district.

## Director Agri. Kmr reviews achievements of all HADP projects, CSSs, CAPEX & NABARD

Emphasises timely execution & fund utilisation under all HADP projects

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEPT 01:** In order to take stock of the physical and financial achievements under all projects of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), CAPEX, CSSs and NABARD, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah today convened a meeting of officers of the department at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, Srinagar.

The meeting in detail discussed the implementation of projects under the HADP, besides centrally sponsored schemes being implemented by the department were also discussed threadbare.

Addressing the meeting, Director highlighted the importance of expeditious and judicious expenditure of funds under different



projects of HADP, CAPEX and CSSs. He asked the officers that funds

allocated under HADP projects and under different components

of centrally sponsored schemes must be expended in a time bound

manner.

He reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest level of transparency and accountability during all the expenditures.

He directed the officers to reach out to the farmers and make them aware about HADP and latest farmer friendly technologies in agriculture and allied activities. He also asked them to work in collaboration with the farmer communities for the successful implementation of different projects at grass root level.

Earlier through a powerpoint presentation progress under different HADP projects, CSS, CAPEX and NABARD was highlighted.

Joint Directors, Chief Agriculture Officers, provincial heads, scheme heads and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

## Revenue teams start flood damage assessment in Paddar area

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**KISHTWAR, SEPT 01:** Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar leading a revenue team on Monday visited remote villages of Kohal and Chadas (Matt) to assess the damage caused by recent flash floods and landslides. The local Lam-bardar also accompanied the team during the inspection.

To speed up the process, the revenue team has been divided into smaller groups. Tehsildar Vijay Gupta visited Laie and adjoining villages, while Naib Tehsildar covered the Sohal and Tiyari areas. A team led by local Girdawar has been tasked with the assessment of damages in Karthie and Sazar villages.

The administration has already initiated relief measures for the affected families and assured a fair and transparent evaluation of losses.



Earlier, SDM Paddar had also visited Affani, Jar and Tatapani areas with revenue officials to review the situation.

Meanwhile, electricity has been restored in four feeders of the sub-division, while water supply has also been temporarily restored in the majority of the areas.

The Paddar-Kishtwar road, which was blocked at Kadhail and Trinallah

has been reopened for traffic this afternoon.

In an official statement, SDM Paddar urged residents living in vulnerable locations to remain cautious and, if required, shift to safer places as a precaution against further landslides and flash floods.

He assured that timely relief distribution will be carried out as per government guidelines.

## GCoE (IASE) Srinagar celebrates 'National Sports Day'

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEPT 01:** Government College of Education (IASE), M. A. Road, Srinagar marked its National Sports Day with a spirited two-day sports extravaganza, bringing together both students and staff in a series of thrilling competitions.

The event saw enthusiastic participation across multiple sports, showcasing teamwork, athleticism, and camaraderie among all participants.



On the directions of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal of the College, the event kicked off with a series of high-energy activities, including classic games like Tug of War, where teams from both staff and students competed fiercely for victory. The excitement continued with fast-paced matches in Table Tennis, where participants demonstrated precision and quick reflexes, while the Volleyball and Badminton tournaments added even more action and drama to the festivities.

The sports day not only fostered healthy competition but also emphasized the importance of physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Both students and staff worked together to create a lively and positive atmosphere, building community spirit across the campus.

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz extended her congratulations and appreciation to the College Sports Committee, and others, for successfully organizing such a well-coordinated and energetic event. She noted that events like these play a key role in holistic development and building a strong college culture.

The two-day event concluded with a grand ceremony where the winners of each sport were recognized and awarded medals.

## DC Reasi reviews pace of restoration works post heavy rainfall

Sets 2-day deadline for reopening of PMGSY roads

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**REASI, SEPT 01:** Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting to review the rain triggered damages and pace of restoration works in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed the restoration status in key sectors including PHE, JPDCL, PWD and PMGSY. She directed the PMGSY Executive Engineer to deploy adequate men, machinery and material for road clearance. She set a 2-day deadline for restoration of all motorable roads. "There is a need for enforcing accountability among contractors and round-the-clock monitoring of restoration works," she added.

Reviewing the PHE sector, the DC was informed that 60% of the water supply has been restored. She instructed the department to submit a detailed report on the



number of damaged schemes. The Executive Engineer PHE, Dharmari

briefed that 14 schemes have been damaged and that repair works

are currently underway.

Regarding the Power sector,

the DC directed immediate restoration of electricity across the district. It was informed that power supply has been restored in most areas, with only 2% of transformers pending repair. The DC instructed officers to relocate transformers from sinking zones and complete the restoration work on priority.

DC Nidhi Malik also directed the District Mineral Officer (DMO) to conduct a joint inspection with Executive Engineer PWD and PMGSY to check bridges and culverts. She stressed on immediate clearance of drainage channels to prevent obstruction of river flow for the safety and stability of bridges and culverts.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, Executive Engineer PWD, PMGSY and other concerned officers were present.



# Sakeena Itoo lays e-foundation stone of Teachers Quarters at GHSS Khull, DH Pora Kulgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEPT 01:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today laid the e-foundation stone for the construction of Teachers Quarters at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Khull in DH Pora area of district Kulgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the initiative will go a long way in improving the academic atmosphere by ensuring proper accommodation facilities for teachers. She added that the move will help enhance the overall educational standards in the area, while also boosting morale of the teaching staff posted in far-flung regions.

"By providing proper accommodation for teachers, Government is ensuring their presence, stability, and motivation to serve in far-flung areas. This step will di-



rectly contribute to raising the standard of education in Khull and nearby regions", the Minister stated.

The Education Minister further emphasized that improving the academic atmosphere in rural schools is a top priority of the Government, highlighting that adequate infra-

structure, ranging from school buildings, laboratories and digital learning facilities, to residential quarters for staff, is essential to strengthen the education system.

"Education is the cornerstone of progress and social transformation. Omar Abdullah led Government is committed to extending

quality education to every child, regardless of geography. Initiatives like these will not only improve teaching standards but also encourage talented teachers to willingly serve in rural and far-flung areas," she said.

On the occasion, several locals also interacted with the Education Minister virtually. They expressed

gratitude for the project, terming it a long-awaited demand that will ease hardships faced by teachers posted in the area. The locals highlighted that this move of Government will significantly help in ensuring regularity of classes and strengthen teacher-student engagement.

While interacting with the locals, Minister Sakeena reiterated that Omar Abdullah led Government is committed towards strengthening educational infrastructure in rural and remote areas, emphasizing that quality education is the foundation of socio-economic development.

Director School Education Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir, CEO Kulgam, senior officers of district administration, sectoral officers of various line departments and large number of locals participated in the programme.

## DC Bandipora reviews traffic management, orders phase-wise action plan

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**BANDIPORA, SEPT 01:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib on Monday chaired a meeting of officers to review traffic management in Bandipora town.

On the occasion, DC directed strict enforcement of traffic rules, regulation of peak-hour movement, and coordinated efforts of police, transport, and municipal authorities to ease congestion.

She instructed that route permits be checked, vehicles must ply only on designated routes, and stock vehicles be allowed during early morning or late evening hours.

DC reiterated that due to innate challenges, traffic management in Bandipora town requires a phased approach, ensuring every initiative gets proper time and space to take effect. She emphasized that such a phased manner will suit long-term goals and help in removing public inconvenience.



In the first phase, the Nowpora-Gulshan Chowk road will be bifurcated, street vendors choking turning points will be relocated to alternative areas, and no hawkers will be allowed at Gulshan Chowk. DC added that once Phase 1 is implemented successfully, Phase 2 will be rolled out shortly with further interventions.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; Assistant Regional Transport Officer Bandipora; District Information Officer; Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora; SHO Bandipora; and representatives from Traffic Police Bandipora.

## ADDC reviews relief measures in rain affected areas of Doda

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**DODA, SEPT 1:** A detailed review meeting to assess relief measures for damages caused by recent natural disasters across the district was held here today. The meeting was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Doda Roshan Lal, who is also the Chairman of the SOP Committee.

The discussions focused on damages to private property, livestock, crops, religious structures, protective walls and residential houses, along with reports of human losses and minor injuries. The meeting stressed the urgent need for quick verification, transparent assessment and early compensation to the affected families.

ADDC Roshan Lal virtually interacted with Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Assar, Gandoh and Thathri, along with Tehsildars from Bhella and other affected regions. Officers were instructed to expedite damage assessment surveys, maintain proper records for future disaster planning and prepare a comprehensive relief proposal for higher authorities. Special emphasis was laid on strengthening coordination among departments to ensure timely assistance, accurate verification of losses and fair disbursement of compensation.

The meeting also highlighted additional measures, including the introduction of improved early warning systems, strengthening of protective infrastructure in vulnerable areas and livelihood support for affected families through compensation for livestock and agricultural losses. ADCD directed the concerned departments to carry out field inspections promptly and submit final reports within the shortest possible time frame.

The meeting was attended in person by ACR Doda, Ashraf Pervez, and the Accounts Officer of the DC Office Doda. Other officers, including SDMs of Assar, Thathri and Gandoh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Executive Engineers PWD (R&B) of Gandoh, Doda, Bhaderwah, Thathri and all Tehsildars, attended virtually.

All officers were directed to work collectively to ensure that relief measures are implemented efficiently, transparently and with compassion for the affected families.

## DC Poonch interacts with Civil Society at Surankote Reviews status of road connectivity, Jal Shakti projects

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**POONCH, SEPT 01:** Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma visited Surankote and convened an interaction meeting with prominent members of the civil society to listen to their concerns and review developmental requirements of the area.

The meeting discussed at length the damages caused due to recent adverse weather conditions, particularly its impact on infrastructure and essential services. The Deputy Commissioner laid strong emphasis on strengthening road connectivity in the subdivision and directed the concerned engineers to ensure timely execution of all ongoing works. He stressed that improving road links, especially to far-flung habitations, is



vital for economic growth and smooth public mobility.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of Jal Shakti projects and issued strict instructions to the officers of the department to expedite execution and ensure timely completion. He underlined that uninterrupted water supply is a basic

necessity and warned that accountability will be fixed in case of delays or lapses.

While concluding, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the growing challenge of drug abuse and urged civil society, parents and educational institutions to work in close coordination with the administration to safeguard the youth from this menace.

The meeting was attended by local SDM, SDPO, SEs, XENS, Tehsildar, BDOs, officers/officials of line departments and prominent members of civil society who actively participated and shared their concerns with the District Administration. The Deputy Commissioner assured that more such interactive meetings will be held regularly to monitor progress on development works and address public grievances.

# 3rd National Lok Adalat 2025 on Sept 13 Chairman DLSA Jammu reviews preparations

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEPT 01:** A Review meeting was held today with regard to the 3rd National Lok Adalat-2025 which is going to be held on September 13, 2025.

The meeting was presided over by Y.P. Bourney, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Jammu in his office chamber in presence of Rajni Sharma, (Addl. Sessions Judge) Presiding Officer (In Charge) MACT Jammu and Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu. The meeting aimed to ensure that a maximum number of cases are



settled in the forthcoming 3rd National Lok Adalat.

The Divisional Managers of various Insurance companies at-

tended the meeting through virtual mode, while Ld. Advocates

attended the meeting in person.

The Chairman DLSA Jammu, while addressing the participants, said that National Lok Adalat is a significant event that provides a platform for the resolution of pending cases through mediation and settlement. The DLSA's efforts to review preparations for the NLA demonstrate its commitment to promoting access to justice and reducing the burden on the courts.

The Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Jammu stressed on taking proactive steps to ensure the success of the 3rd National Lok Adalat and promoting access to justice for all.

## DC, Commander 11 Sector, SSP inspect damaged stretch of Karoal-Maitra-Gool Road at Batti

Army to erect temporary Bailey bridge to restore connectivity

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**RAMBAN, SEPT 1:** Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan and Commander 11 Sector RR Chanderkote, today conducted an extensive inspection of the Karoal-Maitra-Gool Road at Batti.

Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Project Director NHAI, Shubam Yadav and several other concerned officers accompanied the team.

A stretch of the road at Batti was recently washed away by flash floods in River Chenab, affecting connectivity to Sub-Division Gool, parts of Tehsil Ramban and several strategic national projects.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner along with the team of officers and Army officials assessed the ground situation and discussed the possibilities for ensuring early restoration of the connectivity. Considering the seriousness of the situation, the



Army has been roped in to take urgent steps for restoring connectivity.

The DC Ramban underlined the strategic importance of the Karoal-Maitra-Gool Road, terming it as a supply line for the people of Gool Sub-Division and adjoining areas. The authorities observed that the road serves not only as a vital link for the movement of people and essential supplies but also as a critical corridor for major national projects, including

the Railway Line and the Sawalkote Hydro Project.

The Commander 11 Sector RR assured full cooperation from the Army in providing technical support and manpower to restore connectivity in the shortest possible time. The Army is going to erect a temporary Bailey bridge at the washed-out site to restore vital connectivity to Gool Sub-Division, adjoining villages of Tehsil Ramban and ongoing national projects.

## DC Doda reviews damage assessment process post heavy rainfall

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**DODA, SEPT 1:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting to review the assessment of damages caused by recent rains in the district.

During the meeting, the DC assessed the condition of partially, severely, and fully damaged houses across the district. The meeting was attended by ADDC Roshan Lal; ADC Anil Kumar Thakur; ACR Ashraf Pervez; ACD Din Mohammad Afaqi; Deputy Director Employment and Counselling Centre Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, Accounts Officer and other concerned stakeholders.

The DC also interacted virtually with ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Bhatyal and Tehsildars of Doda, Kahra, Kastigarh, Bhagwah, Barath Bagula, Dessa, Mohalla, Assar, Thathri, Bhalla, Bhaderwah, Chilly Pingal and Chirrala to review the damages caused by the heavy rainfall.

He directed all Tehsildars to provide accurate data and information about the damages. He further instructed them to collect photographs of damaged houses and maintain complete records for accurate estimation.



The meeting also reviewed the scale of damages to roads. The DC directed to close vulnerable roads, especially the Paddri road, for public transport.

The DC further interacted virtually with BDOs of Bhaderwah, Bhellessa, Changa, Chilly Pingal, Chirrala and Marmat blocks. The main purpose of the interaction was to review restoration works under MGNREGA. He directed the ACD to ensure proper estimation of bridges and culverts

washed away due to the heavy rain and to prepare complete data.

The DC emphasized that Tehsildars of the district have the authority to finalize the assessment of damages. He also directed ADC Bhaderwah to ensure proper water supply in the area.

The DC concluded that teams of concerned officers and officials will be deputed to the affected areas for on-ground assessment of damages caused by the heavy rainfall.



## Plantation of high density apple plants not feasible everywhere

Better sense seems to have prevailed upon a group of farmers in South Kashmir's Kulgam district since they have decided to cultivate paddy in their high density apple fields. The initiative of these farmers seems to go against the tide as most of the farmers have said goodbye to the cultivation of paddy and instead taken up the plantation of high density apples.

It is quite disturbing that a mad race has started among the farmers and they want to take a lead over each other as far as cultivation of high density apple plants is concerned. It must be kept in mind by the farmers that the plantation of high density apple plants is not feasible in each and every part of the Kashmir valley. A pick and choose policy needs to be adopted in this regard so that better results are achieved.

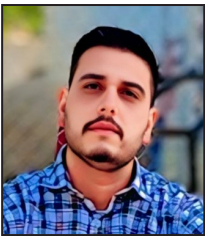
Since most of the farmers are busy in a mad race as on date the desired results are not achieved and most of them are ruining their decision of shifting to plantation of high density apple plants from cultivation of paddy. The decision of these farmers has led to food grains crisis in the valley and people could be seen discussing and debating about the same irrespective of the occasion. It is important that experts are consulted by the farmers as and when they want to shift from one pattern of farming to another.

Resorting to knee jerk reaction does not augur well for the farmers or any section of the society. In such a scenario one might have short term gains but in the long run they have to suffer losses. The farmers might have had some profit by shifting from cultivation of paddy to plantation of high density apple plants but with the passage of time these people are suffering losses. Had they stuck to their original and traditional farming they would not have incurred losses.

The group of farmers who have shifted to plantation of high density plants can still regain the lost position and they can go back to their traditional pattern of cultivation of paddy. The initiative taken by the farmers of Kulgam can open new vistas for the other farmers who want to go back to the cultivation of paddy in their fields. These people should take the advice of the experts in the field so that optimum results are achieved for posterity.

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# The Unheard Agony of Students



Jawaid Iqbal

The contemporary student, once envisioned as a carefree seeker of knowledge, now finds himself ensnared in a labyrinth of anxieties and burdens. The golden sanctity of education has been eclipsed by relentless competition, societal expectations, and an uncertain future. The plight of our youth is not incidental; it is the cumulative consequence of pressures imposed upon tender minds. Foremost among the causes is the tyranny of competition. Education, rather than being the art of awakening curiosity, has been reduced to a grim contest of marks and ranks. Young learners, instead of flourishing, are shackled to rote memorisation and mechanical performance. This suffocation leaves little room for individuality, creativity, or repose.



The advent of technology and social media has only intensified their distress. While digital platforms have democratized knowledge, they have simultaneously birthed distraction, unhealthy comparison, and a ceaseless quest for superficial validation. In this digital hall of mirrors, many

students lose sight of their true worth. Adding to this malaise is the specter of unemployment. Even after years of rigorous study, the horizon remains clouded with uncertainty. The dream of a secure livelihood often withers, leaving behind despondency, frustration, and, tragically, despair.

Amidst this turbulence, the role of teachers becomes paramount. A teacher must not merely instruct but also illumine. To treat students as machines for grades is to betray the sacred vocation of teaching. Instead, teachers ought to cultivate empathy, patience, and discernment. They must perceive the student not as an empty vessel to be filled but as a living flame to be kindled. Their words should inspire confidence rather than instill dread; their demeanor should be that of a guide, not a taskmaster. A gentle word of encouragement, a timely recognition of hidden talent, or a compassionate ear may redeem a soul otherwise crushed under invisible burdens.

If education is to regain its sanctity, society at large—and teachers in particular—must reimagine its purpose. True education is not the pursuit of marks alone but the nurturing of character, resilience, and wisdom. Only when the teacher becomes a mentor and the classroom a sanctuary can the suffering of students be alleviated. The destiny of a generation rests not upon examination scores but upon the ability of its educators to see, understand, and uplift the human being behind the textbook.

## WHY IS THERE FLOOD IN PUNJAB – IS NATURE ANGRY?

Nature warns, it does not get angry - the real reason is human negligence and unbalanced development



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

It would not be right to call the floods in Punjab a mere natural disaster. The nature of the rivers, abnormal rainfall and climate change are the reasons, but the real culprits are unplanned construction, illegal mining, neglect of drainage and paddy-dominated agricultural system. Nature warns, it does not get angry. If we give the rivers their way, use water judiciously and adopt crop diversification, then the impact of floods can be reduced. Punjab should establish a new path of development by maintaining a balance with the environment.

Punjab, which is called the country's food-providing land, is today repeatedly grappling with the horror of floods. Fields get submerged, villages get drowned, roads and houses collapse. Every time the question arises that why does flood occur in Punjab? Is it only nature's anger or are our own mistakes also responsible for it? The truth is that nature is never angry with anyone, it only works on the basis of its rules and balance. When we humans cross its limits, we have to suffer the consequences in the form of floods, drought, pollution and disaster.

Punjab is known as the land of five rivers. Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum define the identity of this state. Most of these rivers originate from the Himalayas and during the monsoon season, the water level suddenly rises due to melting of snow and rainfall. The currents of the rivers are fast and when they enter the plains, the water spreads and takes the form of floods. Big dams like Bhakra, Pong and Ranjit Sagar may have been built for flood control and irrigation, but when water is suddenly released from them, the surrounding areas get submerged. This highlights natural causes as well as lack of management.

The monsoon pattern has changed a lot in the last few years. Earlier, where the rain used to occur gradually and for a long time, now heavy rainfall occurs suddenly in a short time. This increases the water pressure in rivers and streams rapidly and a situation like flash flood arises. Climate scientists believe that the increase in greenhouse gases and global warming are the major reasons for this. Due to this, the Himalayan glaciers are melting rapidly. As a result, the water level of the rivers increases uncontrollably during the summer and rainy seasons.

Human intervention has played the biggest role in making natural floods destructive. Indiscriminate construction work was done on the banks and foothills of the rivers. Villages and cities settled on drains and old water streams. Excessive mining of sand and gravel changes the depth and flow of rivers. When the path of water is blocked, it enters the nearby settlements. There is a network of drains and canals in Punjab, but in most places their clean-



ing and repair is not done on time. As a result, instead of flowing out, rain water fills back up in the villages and cities. Along with this, crops like paddy exploited groundwater excessively. The water holding capacity of the soil decreased and the natural water storage system broke down.

Punjab was the centre of the Green Revolution. Cultivation of wheat and rice here gave the country food security, but it also had its adverse effects. Paddy crop demands a lot of water. Every year, groundwater was extracted from lakhs of tube wells. Due to this, underground water sources dried up rapidly. When there was heavy rain or flood from above, the ground could not absorb it and the problem of waterlogging increased. Deforestation and shrinking of green areas also disturbed the natural balance. The roots of trees on the banks of rivers used to stop water and bind the soil, but now erosion has increased.

The floods in Punjab are not just a natural disaster but also a socio-economic crisis. Thousands of acres of crops are destroyed. Farmers are forced into debt. The rural population is rendered homeless and forced to migrate. Roads, bridges and power infrastructure are severely damaged. Diseases spread, especially diarrhoea, malaria and dengue. The mental trauma leads to a feeling of insecurity and frustration in the society.

In reality, nature has no emotions. It only wants balance. When we violate its limits, it comes as a warning in the form of flood, drought or disaster.

Therefore, it is not correct to say that nature is angry. The truth is that man has created conditions that make nature angry.

The solutions are clear. Flood zones along the river banks should be identified and construction should be completely banned there. Old drains and gutters should be cleaned and widened regularly. Illegal mining should be strictly prohibited so that rivers can flow in their natural form. Cultivation of maize, pulses and vegetables should be promoted instead of paddy, which will reduce water consumption and improve the groundwater level. The state and central governments will have to make a long-term plan together to deal with the effects of climate change. It is also necessary to train local people for flood prevention and management.

The flood crisis in Punjab is not only due to natural causes. It is the result of the unbalanced direction of our development policies. If we still do not learn a lesson, then floods can become more terrible in the coming years. Nature is repeatedly warning us not to tamper with it. We have to remember that the permanent solution is not to fight with nature, but to be in harmony with it. The flood in Punjab is not just a disaster, but a test of our policies, habits and priorities.

The author is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045



# Southern Command: India's Desert Warfare Shield



■ By M S Nazki

The Sun never says to the Earth : You owe me. Look, what happens, with a love like that, It lights the whole sky! The Indian Army has done it time and again and they will do it even when pushed to the limits!

Yours is the light by which my spirit's born: - you are my sun, my moon, and all my stars. ....A girl standing with half a litre container when the Army came to the rescue when main city Jammu had no water!

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade! Bothways the city of Jammu is an unsatisfied lot!

Limitless undying love which shines around me like a million suns it calls me on and on across the universe ... Make a SMART city but do not challenge the flow of the water!

Development express in Jammu has been brought to a standstill and that is a reality!

Check that out first, is a call of red sirens for the administration by the way elected by people who are suffering?

But someone was bothered!

And we do not want to tell you who?

Anyway it was Northern Command Indian Army that was/is/will be involved but today it is Southern Command we will talk about?

It is my experience that bold decisions give the best promise of success. But one must differentiate between [strategic] and tactical boldness and a military gamble. A bold operation is one in which success is not a certainty but which in case of failure leaves one with sufficient forces in hand to cope with whatever situation may arise. A gamble, on the other hand, is an operation which can lead either to victory or to the complete destruction of one's force. Situations can arise where even gambling may be justified - as, for instance, when in the normal course of events defeat is merely a matter of time, when the gaining of time is therefore pointless and the only chance lies in an operation of great risk. .... Erwin Rommel!

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, AVSM, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, visited #Konark Corps to review the operational preparedness of the formation.

During the visit, the Army Commander was given a comprehensive overview on the measures undertaken by the Desert Corps in shaping a modern, agile, adaptive and self-reliant future-ready force with special emphasis on Technology Absorption. He was also briefed on the various measures instituted by the formation in improving the quality of life for troops in #Jodhpur Military Station.

The Army Commander commended the formation for its sustained efforts to remain agile and responsive to emerging operational dynamics post #Operation-Sindoor. He exhorted all ranks to stay mission-ready and resolute in countering evolving threats with zeal and commitment.

But let us get into more details: First the legend of Jodhpur:

The main legend of Jodhpur centers on Rao Jodha, the founder of the city, who established it in 1459 on a hill known as the bird's nest to build his fortress, Mehrangarh Fort. This act led to a curse from a hermit, Cheeria Nathji, who was displaced, promising the land eternal water scarcity. The city is also known for its blue-hued buildings, a practice legend attributes to Brahmins painting their houses blue to denote their caste and for insulation from the sun.

The Founding of the City and the Curse: Rao Jodha's Vision: In 1459, Rao Jodha, a Rathore chief, chose a rocky hill, previously home to a hermit named Cheeria Nathji, to establish a new capital for his kingdom.

Displacement and Curse: Cheeria Nathji, devoted to his birds, was reluctant to move. After his attempts to appease the hermit failed, Rao Jodha sought the



help of the warrior sage Karni Mata. Cheeria Nathji eventually moved but not before cursing Jodha's land with a promise of perpetual drought.

The Solution: To lift the curse, Rao Jodha sought forgiveness from the hermit. Rao Jodha also built a shrine to the hermit near the fort to appease him.

The Blue City Legend: The distinctive blue-colored houses of Jodhpur's old city are said to have originated with the Brahmins (priestly class) who painted their homes blue.

Symbolism: This blue color was a symbol of their high caste. Additionally, it was believed to help keep the houses cool in the scorching heat of the summer months.

Mehrangarh Fort's Legacy: A Symbol of Power: The fort, now known as Mehrangarh, was built by Rao Jodha atop the hill.

A Living Chronicle: Successive rulers continued to enhance the fort, adding their imprints to its architecture. This includes the defenses built by Rao Maldeo to withstand the attacks of Sher Shah Suri's army.

The Sun City: Sun City" does not have specific mythological significance in India; instead, the mythological association is with Surya, the Hindu Sun God, and places dedicated to him, such as the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Konark Sun Temple. The term "Sun City" typically refers to Jodhpur, a city known for its abundant sunshine, not a specific mythological origin, though Surya worship is a significant part of ancient Indian traditions.

Surya (The Sun God) and His Significance: Life-Giver: Surya, the Hindu Sun God, symbolizes light, energy, and knowledge, and is a vital source of life and nourishment for the world.

Ancient Worship: Surya has been worshipped since Vedic times and remains central to many Hindu rituals and festivals, such as Makar Sankranti and Chhath Puja.

Sun Temples in India: India is home to numerous Sun Temples, which are both marvels of ancient architecture and important cultural sites dedicated to Surya.

Famous Examples: Konark Sun Temple: A UNESCO World Heritage Site in Odisha, built in the form of a giant chariot dedicated to Surya.

Modhera Sun Temple: Located in Gujarat and dedicated to Surya.

Martand Sun Temple: An ancient temple in Kashmir built in the 8th century.

Sun City (Jodhpur). Always there has to be first: The First General Officer Commanding (GOC) of India's Southern Command was General Maharaj Shri Rajendrasinhji Jadeja, who commanded the Southern Army (which became the Southern Command) after the 1908 merger of the Indian Army's commands.

Historical Context: The Indian Army was reorganized into regional commands after the 1895 abolition of the Presidency armies, with Southern Command becoming one of the four commands.

In 1908, these four commands were

merged into two armies, Northern and Southern, a structure that continued until 1920.

General Jadeja commanded the Southern Army, the precursor to the Southern Command, in the early 20th century.

Later Commanders: Several notable officers have served as GOC of Southern Command since then, including General Rajendrasinhji Jadeja, SM Shrinagesh, K S Thimayya, Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri, and Bipin Rawat, among others.

The Desert Corps: The first GOC of the Desert Corps" was Lieutenant General A K Chatterjee, the first General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Indian Army's XII Corps (also known as the Desert Corps), which was raised on February 26, 1987, in Jodhpur. This corps was established to protect the desert sectors of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The Corps: The XII Corps, or Desert Corps, was formed to address the growing operational importance of the desert sector.

Formation: The corps was sanctioned in January 1987 and came into existence on February 26, 1987, which is the Hindu festival of Maha Shivaratri.

Purpose: Its role is to safeguard the desert regions within India's states of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Symbol: The corps adopted the formation insignia of Konark, taken from the Konark Sun Temple, symbolizing the radiating sun and a spiritual connection to Jodhpur, the Sun City.

It is often possible to decide the issue of a battle merely by making an unexpected shift of one's main weight. .... Erwin Rommel, The Rommel Papers!

I read this or taught this forty years back (by my Dad).....but am still in light welter weight!

About the General: Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, AVSM is a serving general officer of the Indian Army. He currently serves as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Command.

He was previously the appointment of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief South Western Command.

He earlier held the appointment of General Officer commanding Delhi Area, prior to that he was General Officer Commanding XXI Corps.

Early life and education: General Seth is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He is also an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, where he was recognised as the best all-round student in his course; in 2006, he attended the prestigious Defence Services Command and General Staff Course at the French Collège interarmées de Défense.

The general is also a graduate of the Higher Command Course at the Army War College, Mhow, and of the National Defence College at New Delhi. Additionally, he qualified in the International Defense Acquisition Management Course of the Naval Postgraduate School in the United States.

Military career: The general officer

was commissioned into the 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse) on 20 December 1986 from the Indian Military Academy.

He was awarded the Silver Centurion in the Young Officers Course, he stood first in the order of merit in several courses he attended, including the Junior Command Course.

He has commanded the Skinner's Horse, 98 Armoured Brigade and was General Officer Commanding (GOC) of a Rashtriya Rifles force in Jammu & Kashmir.

He has served as brigade major of an independent armoured brigade, as Assistant Military Secretary in the Military Secretary Branch and as Brigadier General Staff (Operations) of the South Western Command.

Gen Seth also served as an instructor and assistant adjutant at the National Defence Academy (NDA), and as an instructor at the School of Armoured Warfare, Ahmednagar. In 1995-1996, he served with the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III as operations officer.

He served as Director General (Discipline, Ceremonial and Welfare) at Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army) in New Delhi before assuming the appointment of General Officer Commanding of XXI Corps on 31 July 2021.

He was subsequently appointed General Officer Commanding Delhi Area in August 2022.

On 1 November 2023, Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth took over as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief South Western Command succeeding Lieutenant General B. S. Raju who superannuated on 31 October 2023.

On 1 July 2024, Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth took over as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Command succeeding Lieutenant General Ajai Kumar Singh who superannuated on 30 June 2024 after four decades of service to the nation.

Gen Seth is a son of Lieutenant General Krishna Mohan Seth (Retd.), who retired as the Adjutant-General of the Indian Army in 1997, and who also commanded XXI Strike Corps from October 1992 to October 1994 and III Corps from October 1994 to October 1995. Following his retirement from the Army, he successively served as Governor of Tripura from 2000 to 2003, and as Governor of Chhattisgarh from 2003 to 2007.

Therefore the legacy is great! The history of the Indian Army's Southern Command began on April 1, 1895, making it the oldest and largest command of the Indian Army, headquartered in Pune. Over its extensive history, the command participated in significant operations, including the integration of princely states, the liberation of Goa, and the Indo-Pakistani Wars of 1965 and 1971. Southern Command is responsible for a large portion of India's landmass, encompassing multiple states and union territories, and serves as a crucial hub for training, defense manufacturing, and diplomacy.

Origins and Early History: Founding: The Southern Command was established

on April 1, 1895, in Pune.

Pre-Independence Role: It played a role in the integration of states like Junagadh and Hyderabad in 1947-1948, following India's independence.

Key Operations and Contributions: Goa Liberation (1961): Southern Command participated in the liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule.

Indo-Pakistani Wars: The command was involved in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistani conflicts.

Peacekeeping: It participated in Operation Pawan, India's peacekeeping operation in Sri Lanka.

Kargil War (1999): Southern Command also contributed to the operations during the Kargil War.

Operation Parakram: The command was involved in Operation Parakram, a military standoff with Pakistan after the 2001 Indian Parliament attack.

Post-Independence Era: Expansion and Reorganization: The command's area of responsibility has changed over time, with the establishment of the South Western Command in 2005 impacting its boundaries.

Modern Focus: Southern Command focuses on developing its core competencies, adapting to contemporary technologies, and contributing to the nation's self-sufficiency in defense manufacturing.

Diplomatic Role: The command is considered a Hub of Diplomacy due to hosting numerous international exercises.

Geographic Scope and Strategic Importance: Vast Area: Southern Command covers nearly 40% of the Indian landmass, spanning eleven states and three union territories.

Challenging Terrains: It includes desert terrains in the Rann of Kutch and along the Sir Creek, requiring specific capabilities and equipment.

Training Hub: The command is a significant training center, housing institutions like the National Defense Academy and Defense Services Staff College.

The XII Corps, or the Konark Corps/Desert Corps, is a corps of the Indian Army and one of the two corps of the Pune-based Southern Command:

Formation : With two combat divisions on the order of battle of Southern Command and increasing operational importance of the desert sector, by January 1987, a Corps Headquarters was sanctioned. HQ 12 Corps was raised at Jodhpur during the volatile days of Operation Trident.

The corps, which came into existence on the auspicious day of Maha Shivaratri on February 26, 1987 is charged with protection of the desert sectors of the country falling in Rajasthan and Gujarat states and was raised under Lieutenant General A K Chatterjee as the first General Officer Commanding (GOC).

The Indian Army's Desert Corps is officially the XII Corps, also known as the Konark Corps. Based in Jodhpur, it is responsible for securing India's western borders in the Rajasthan and Gujarat desert sector. The corps was sanctioned in 1987 to enhance operational readiness for desert warfare and holds its headquarters in Jodhpur, adopting the Konark Sun Temple's "Sun City" image for its formation insignia.

Role: The corps serves as a crucial defensive formation for India's western frontier, specializing in desert warfare operations.

Location: Its headquarters are located in Jodhpur, a historic city in Rajasthan.

Operational Focus: The Desert Corps focuses on enhancing combat readiness through exercises like night tank drills and drone system validation to maintain a strong defense in the strategically vital desert region.

What else have we to write other than this for a soldier:: Whether I would survive a defeat lies in God's hands. The lot of the vanquished is heavy. I'm happy in my own conscience that I've done all I can for victory and have not spared myself. Perplexity and inactivity have frequently led to catastrophes. The councils of the mass undermined the authority of the leaders! And finally: El sudor ahorra sangre, la sangre ahorra vidas, y el cerebro, las dos cosas "It is often possible to decide the issue of a battle merely by making an unexpected shift of one's main weight. Southern Command knows it! Easily can be acclaimed as the Desert Warriors of Indis!





# The Brain Pacemakers

(Pros, Cons and the Future of Electrical Psychiatry)



■ Surinderpal Singh

The depression is one of the most disabling mental health disorders which is affecting millions of people across the globe. The person suffering from depression suffers physical and psychologically with symptoms ranging from persistent sadness, loss of interest in life and fatigue to suicidal thoughts. The most common traditional treatments used to counter depression includes antidepressant medications, psychotherapy and lifestyle interventions. Although this could help many persons but a significant proportion of patients suffer from treatment-resistant depression (TRD). With the advancement in medical science neuroscientists and clinicians have turned to the advanced neuromodulation therapies among which the brain pacemaker or deep brain stimulation (DBS) has emerged as a promising intervention. This therapy involves the surgical implantation of electrodes that delivers weak electrical impulses to the specific brain regions with the aim of restoring normal neuronal activity and alleviating depressive symptoms.

## The Science Behind Brain Pacemakers

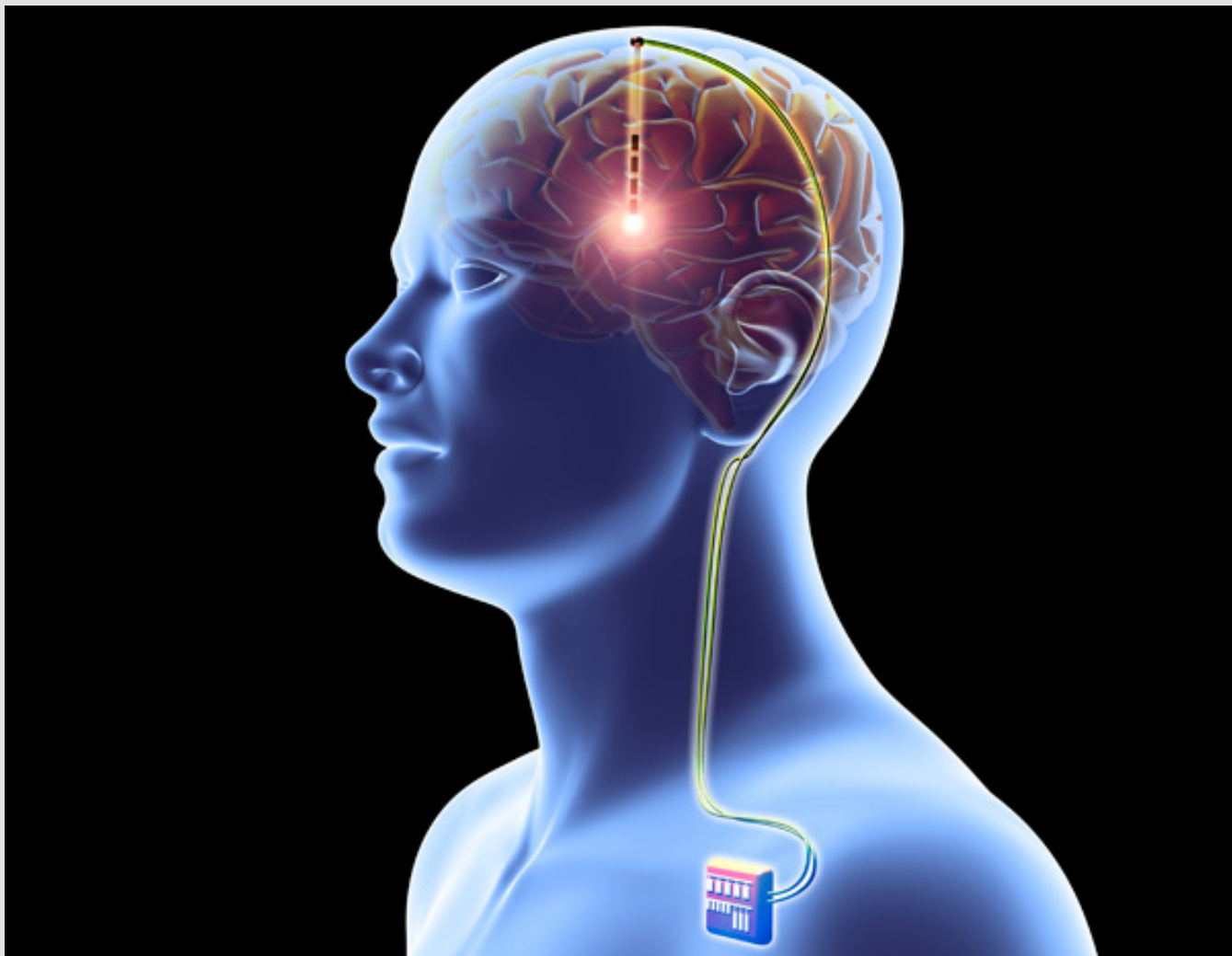
A brain pacemaker is conceptually similar in functioning to a cardiac pacemaker. Whereas cardiac pacemakers are used in regulating abnormal heart rhythms the brain pacemakers modulates the dysfunctional brain circuits.

**The device typically consists of:**  
**Electrodes implanted into targeted areas of the brain which needs to be stimulated by weak electrical impulses.**

An electrical impulse generator usually implanted under the skin in the chest which can produce controlled electrical signals.

Connecting wires that link the electrodes to the electrical impulse generator.

By delivering finely tuned electrical impulses, Deep Brain Stimulation therapy aims to rebalance the neural circuits that are underactive or overactive in the brain during the depression. This therapy thus improves the mood regulation



and cognitive function of the brain.

## Pros of Brain Pacemakers

### 1. Hope for treatment-resistant patients:

This therapy provides relief for the individuals who do not respond to medication or psychotherapy.

### 2. Targeted therapy:

Unlike systemic drugs DBS therapy acts directly on the specific brain regions resulting in minimizing the widespread side effects which are a must in other therapies.

### 3. Adjustable and reversible:

The physicians can modify stimulation parameters without the need for another surgery and the device can be turned off or removed if needed.

### 4. Continuous effect:

Offers sustained symptom relief compared to medications that require daily compliance.

### 5. Potential neuroplastic benefits:

This therapy may promote long-term reorganization of neural circuits leading to lasting improvements.

## Cons of Brain Pacemakers

### 1. Invasive surgery:

The DBS Therapy requires neurosurgical implantation, which carries risks such as infection, bleeding or device malfunction.

### 2. Cost and accessibility:

High costs limits the availability of this unique therapy to the wealthy patients or those in advanced healthcare systems.

### 3. Variable effectiveness:

The numbers of patients responding positively to the therapy is considerable but not without notable exclusions; some patients may experience little or no benefit at all during the course of the therapy.

### 4. Possible side effects:

Mood swings, anxiety, speech problems or cognitive changes may occur during the duration of the therapy.

### 5. Ethical concerns:

Direct brain manipulation raises a number of heated debates about identity, autonomy and consent of the

patients.

## Cost of Brain Pacemaker Therapy

The cost of deep brain stimulation varies by country and healthcare system. On average DBS therapy is quite expensive and even its annual maintenance is costly. In regions with universal healthcare, partial or full coverage may be available, but in most cases, the expense remains a major barrier for patients.

## The Future of DBS Therapy

**The field of neuromodulation is rapidly evolving. Promising directions include:**

### 1. Closed-loop systems:

Future pacemakers may automatically adjust stimulation based on real-time brain activity, offering personalized therapy for the patients.

### 2. Smaller, wireless devices:

Advances in bioelectronics may make devices less invasive and more energy-efficient to use.

### 3. Combination therapies:

**The cost of deep brain stimulation varies by country and healthcare system. On average DBS therapy is quite expensive and even its annual maintenance is costly.** In regions with universal healthcare, partial or full coverage may be available, but in most cases, the expense remains a major barrier for patients

DBS may be paired with psychotherapy or pharmacological treatments for synergistic effects.

### 4. Expansion of targets:

Ongoing research is testing new brain regions that may yield higher success rates.

### 5. Ethical frameworks:

With the growing circle of DBS therapy bioethicists and policymakers will develop clearer guidelines to protect patient rights while encouraging innovation.

The concept of a brain pacemaker is amongst the most exciting breakthroughs in psychiatry and neuroscience. By directly modulating dysfunctional brain circuits this therapy provides new hope for patients with symptoms of treatment-resistant depression. However the high cost of therapy combined with expensive annual maintenance, invasive nature and ethical complexities are few hurdles that need to be crossed if the therapy is to be developed as universal solution for depression. With the scientific and technological advances and development the brain pacemakers may become safer, cheaper and more effective tools for countering depression with potential for transforming the future of mental health treatment.

**The author is a Faculty in Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib Punjab**

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# Webinar on Built Environment Performance in Recent Disasters Highlights Urgent Need for Resilience

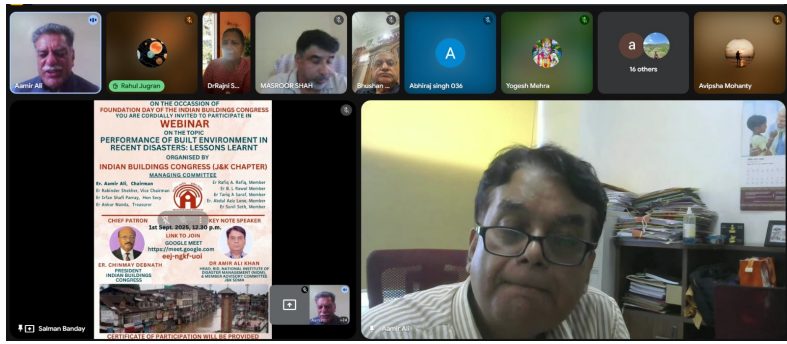
Farooq Rather

**SRINAGAR, SEPT 1:** To mark the 34th Foundation Day of the Indian Buildings Congress (IBC), the J&K Chapter organized a national-level webinar titled "Performance of Built Environment in Recent Disasters: Lessons Learnt." The event brought together engineers, architects, urban planners, academicians, policymakers, and students from across India to deliberate on how infrastructure has performed during recent disasters and how lessons can be translated into resilient development practices.

In his welcome address, Er. Aamir Ali, Chairman, IBC J&K Chapter, emphasized that while development is vital, "resilience in the built environment is non-negotiable." He highlighted the critical role of safe and robust infrastructure in ensuring community safety and maintaining essential services during calamities.

The session was inaugurated by Er. Chinmay Debnath, President, Indian Buildings Congress, who spoke about IBC's evolution into a key contributor to national policy, building codes, and sustainable construction innovation. He underlined the importance of embedding resilience as a core principle in planning, design, construction, and maintenance, particularly in regions prone to seismic activity, landslides, and climate-related disasters.

The keynote address was delivered by Professor Dr. Amir Ali Khan, Head of Resilient Infrastructure Division at the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of



Home Affairs, and Member, Advisory Committee of J&K State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). Dr. Khan voiced concern over the rising frequency of disasters in hill regions, pointing to incidents like the cloud-bursts in Uttarakhand and the collapse of the Tawi Bridge as examples of the consequences of poor construction practices and weak land-use planning.

Referring to the 2014 Kashmir floods, Dr. Khan observed that traditionally built city areas experienced less damage compared to newer urban expansions, which often neglect time-tested, risk-mitigating practices. He called for risk-sensitive urban planning, adherence to BIS and NBC codes, and the integration of traditional wisdom with modern engineering to build safer, more resilient communities.

Er. S.R.S. Madni, Former Secretary to Government, PHE Department, stressed the need to learn from nature and avoid environmental degradation. "Our elders built enduring structures in harmony with the environment—many of which still stand

strong," he remarked.

The webinar witnessed wide participation from across India, including notable professionals such as Er. Yogesh Mohan Mehra, Chief Engineer, PWD Haryana; Dr. Narayan Rao, IIT Indore; Rahul Jugran, SDMA Uttarakhand; Dev Dutt Sharma (IAS Retd.), Himachal Pradesh; Ar. Masroor Ahmed Shah, Building Centre Srinagar; Dr. Rajni Srivastava, Allahabad; Dr. Suhail Ajiz Shah, Professor, Kashmir College of Engineering and Technology; Er. Irfan Shafi Parray; Er. B.L. Rawat; Er. Ankur Nanda, and Er. Sunil Seth, all from the IBC J&K Chapter.

The event also saw enthusiastic participation from students and faculty of NIT Srinagar, SSM College of Engineering, polytechnic institutes, and engineering colleges across the country, facilitated by the Civil Engineering Students Association (CESA), NIT Srinagar.

The webinar concluded with a collective call for policy-driven, science-based, and community-rooted approaches to ensure the built environment is prepared to withstand future disasters.

## Public Notice

I am applying for fresh pesticides and Frertiliser under the name M/S AGROPULSE Pesticides & Frertilisers situated at Sadatpora Naidkhi, Bandipora, In this regard, if anybody is having any objection, may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora and PPO Lal Mandi, Srinagar, within the time period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

(IMTIYAZ AHMAD HURRA  
S/O: ABDUL KHALIQ HURRA  
Contact: 6006131314

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate applicant AB HAMID DHOBI S/O ABDUL AHAD DHOBI R/O FRASTHAR TILGAM Tehsil KREERI in favour of SON AAQIB HAMID DHOBI for the issuance of OBC ( Other Backward class in his/her / their favor

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of FRASTHAR TILGAM of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the DHOBI community having annual income 480996 // in words Four Lack Eighty thousand Nine hundred Ninety six only the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...AB HAMID DHOBI self 58 years Farmer
- 2...SHAMEEMA BEGUM wife 56 years Housewife
- 3...ASIF HAMID DHOBI Son 27 years Govt employee
- 4...IQBAL HAMID DHOBI son 23 years Labour
- 5....AAQIB HAMID DHOBI son 25 years student
- 6....KHUSHBOO HAMID daughter 20 years H/W

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

## Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I, Abdul Aziz Dar, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar, R/o Kalantra Payeen, Baramulla, have misplaced my Registration Certificate (RC) at the main market in Kalantra. The details of the RC are as follows:

Registration No.: JK05G9554  
Eng.No TB31H69977  
Ch No.MA12U2TBKJ1H63409,

Name: Abdul Aziz Dar

S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Dar

R/o: Kalantra Payeen, Baramulla

I now intend to apply for a duplicate RC at the ARTO Office, Sopore, Baramulla. If anyone has any objections, they may file their objections at the ARTO Office, Sopore, Baramulla, within seven days of the publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period.

Abdul Aziz Dar

S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar

R/o Kalantra Payeen, Baramulla

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of GULLA LONE S/O MOHAMMAD LONE R/O KAREEWA KREERI Tehsil KREERI Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 06/03/1967 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of NAYEEMA BEGUM W/O late ABDUL HAMID WANI R/O HAIL JAGIR for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that ABDUL HAMID WANI S/O GH NABI WANI has passed away on 09/02/1996 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependant as tabulated below

- 1.... NAYEEMA BEGUM wife 47 years Housewife
- 2....ADIL HAMID WANI son 31 years private teacher
- 3...SAHBA BEGUM Mother 70 years old aged

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate applicant FAYAZ AHMAD CHOPAN S/ O GH AHMAD CHOPAN R/O RESHIPORA Tehsil KREERI in favour of son's with daughter for the issuance of OBC ( Other Backward class in his/her / their favor

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of RESHIPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the CHOPAN community having annual income 130000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...FAYAZ AHMAD CHOPAN Head 44 years carpenter
- 2...RUBEENA BEGUM wife 45 years Housewife
- 3...MUSAIB FAYAZ Son 21 years Student
- 4.. RAZIA FAYAZ daughter 20 years/ /
- 5 ....FAIZAN FAYAZ son 15 years //

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of IRFAN AHMAD MIR S/O Lt MOHD YOUSUF MIR R/O HAIL JAGIR for the issuance of legal Heir / Dependent certificate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this connection a detailed report was sought from patwari halqa concerned which reveals that MOHD YOUSUF MIR S/O GH MOHD MIR passed away on 20/03/1994 Moreover the death certificate issued by the competent authority also depicts the same further more the report of patwari concerned points out that deceased has left behind the following legal heir tabulated as below

- 1... IRFAN AHMAD MIR son 30 years driver married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of legal heir / Dependent certificate

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

## Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on the name BASHIR AHMAD WANI S/O GH MOHD WANI R/O WARIPORA BALA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 012040011053 wants to be registered on name WANI MEDICAL POINT .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....BASHIR AHMAD WANI  
S/O GH MOHD WANI  
R/O WARIPORA BALA

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of DILSHADA BANO W/O PEERZADA MEHRAJ UD DIN (Deceased) R/O DHINDIMA KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that PEERZADA MEHRAJ UD DIN S/O PEERZADA HASSAM UD DIN has passed away on 24/07/2025 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependant as tabulated below

- 1... DILSHADA BANO wife 51 years House wife widow
- 2....PEERZADA MOHAMMAD SAQLAIN son 25 years student unmarried
- 3... KAMRAN MEHRAJ son 23 years student unmarried
- 4...ZAINAB MEHRAJ daughter 17 years student unmarried

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of RAJA BEGUM W/O LATE AB GANI BHAT R/O DANDMOH for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that GH NABI BHAT F/O AB GANI BHAT has passed away on 03/2/1995 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependant as tabulated below

- 1... RAJA BEGUM 55 years sister House wife
- 2....RAFTQA BEGUM 60 years //
- 3... SALEEMA 48 years // H/WIFE

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri



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Room No 12, Huda Ash Central Market, Abi Guzar Lalchowk, Srinagar  
email: srpixels2021@gmail.com

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of Syed Fayaz Ahmad S/o: Shaman R/o Kreeri Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of EWS (Economically Weaker Section) in Syed Furkan, Syed Iqra Fayaz.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of EWS in favor of his namely Syed Furkan, Syed Iqra Fayaz. In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village the details of the family of the applicant is as follows:

S.No	Name of the Family Member	Relationship with the Family Head	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
01	Syed Fayaz Ahmad Bukhari	Head	52	Labour	108000/-
02	Fareeda Begum	W/o	48	M/W	
03	Syed Furkan	S/o	20	Student	
04	Syed Iqra Fayaz	S/o	24	Student	
05	Shahzada Bagum	M/o	81	Old Age	

According to report of patwari concerned, the applicant's family has not more than 5 acres of land and does not have greater than 1000 ft of Residential House. The applicant has not any Residential house or Residential plot in municipal area, the applicants Residential plot is not more than 200 sq it and the applicant's family income is not more than 8 lacks Per Year. Moreover, the applicant does not belong to any Backward Area.

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Sd/- Naib Tehsildar Kreeri



# PM Modi wraps up 'successful' visits to Japan, China. Departs from Tianjin for home

## ■ United News of India

**TIANJIN/NEW DELHI, SEP 1:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrapped up a "productive" two-nation visit to Japan and China where he attended 15th Annual India-Japan Summit on August 30 and the 25th SCO Summit in the Chinese port city of Tianjin today.

In China Prime Minister Modi also held bilateral meetings with the Presidents of Russia and China on the sidelines of the SCO Summit.

In a post on X Prime Minister Modi said he had emphasised India's stand on key global issues during the SCO Summit. He thanked President Xi Jinping of China for the successful holding of the summit.

"Concluding a productive visit to China, where I attended the SCO Summit and interacted with various world leaders. Also emphasised India's stand on key global issues. Thankful to President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government and people for the successful organisation of this Summit."

The two visits and meetings with President Putin and President Xi on the margins of the SCO Summit are significant as these come in the aftermath of US President

Donald Trump's imposition of 50 percent tariffs against India and signal a shift in Asian geopolitics towards multilateralism and against US protectionism.

On August 29 Prime Minister Modi attended the India-Japan Economic Forum meeting and on August 30 the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

The External Affairs Ministry said that in Japan the two countries signed 13 agreements/Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) including India-Japan Joint Vision for the next decade and a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation. The Joint Vision document sets out eight areas to guide the partnership ranging from economic security and ecological cooperation to health, innovation and people-to-people links. Japan also pledged 68 billion US Dollar investment in India over the next ten years. Prime Minister Modi also visited the Japanese port city of Sendai.

On the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Modi also held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin today and a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday.



terday.

On the 45-minute meeting with President Putin the External Affairs Ministry said "The leaders discussed bilateral cooperation, including in the economic, financial, and energy sectors and expressed satisfaction with the sustained growth in bilateral ties in these areas. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues, including the latest developments concerning Ukraine. Prime Minister reiterated his support for the recent initiatives that have been taken to address the conflict in Ukraine and emphasized the need to expedite a cessation of the conflict and find a durable peace settlement."

On his bilateral meeting with the Chinese President Prime Minister Modi said, "An agreement has been reached between our Special Representatives regarding border management. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has been resumed. Direct flights between the two countries are also being resumed. The interests of 2.8 billion people of both countries are linked to our cooperation. This will also pave the way for the welfare of the entire humanity. We are committed to taking our relations forward on the basis of mutual trust, respect and sensitivity."

In his opening statement at the SCO Summit, Prime Minister Modi sought a united stand by SCO member countries against terrorism and radicalization and indirectly targeting the West, decried the "double standards" against the scourge.

"Terrorism is not only a threat to the security of individual nations, but a shared challenge to all of humanity. No country, no society, no citizen can consider themselves completely safe from it... We must state it clearly and in one voice: double standards on terrorism are unacceptable. Together, we must oppose terrorism in every form and manifestation. This is our responsibility towards humanity," Prime Minister Modi said in his statement.

Raising the gruesome incident of Pahalgam terrorist attack, Prime Minister Modi described the attack not only an assault on the conscience of India, but also an open challenge to every nation, and every individual who believes in humanity. Without naming Pakistan the Prime Minister said that in such circumstances, it is natural to ask: "Can the open support for terrorism by certain countries ever be acceptable to us?"

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also attending the Summit. Chinese President Xi Jinping, in a statement, said SCO member states have signed the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation, conducted effective security

cooperation and maintained overall stability in the region.

"We should continue to uphold the principles of non-alliance, non-confrontation and not targeting any third party. We should combine our efforts in addressing various threats and challenges, give full play to the newly established SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Challenges and Threats and the SCO Anti-drug Center, and build a community of common security in the region. We should remain a force for stability in this volatile world," he said.

He said SCO member states should continue to dismantle walls, not erect them, seek integration, not decoupling, advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and push for a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

He announced that China will establish three major platforms for China-SCO cooperation in energy, green industry and the digital economy and will set up three major cooperation centers for scientific and technological innovation, higher education, and vocational and technical education. UNI

## India now home to 21 of the world's 121 bio-firms: Dr Jitendra Singh

### ■ United News of India

**NEW DELHI, SEP 1:** India has taken a significant leap in the global biotechnology arena, now hosting 21 out of 121 bio-companies worldwide, union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh said.

Launching the High-Performance Biomanufacturing Platforms under the new BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy here at an event, he described the initiative as a critical milestone in positioning India as a global hub for biotechnology-led growth.

"India now accounts for 21 out of the 121 Bio-Companies globally. This is not a small achievement for a country that once followed others; today, we are among the first movers in institutionalising biomanufacturing



policy," he remarked, according to a statement here.

"BioEnablers are the foundation of India's next wave of biotechnology-led growth. By providing world-class platforms, tools, and infrastructure, BioEnablers empower our scientists, StartUps, and industry to move faster from ideas to innovations, and from laboratories to markets," Dr. Singh added.

The newly launched initiative includes 21 advanced bio-enabler facilities across the country, offering shared infrastructure to startups, SMEs, industries, and academic institutions. These facilities span domains such as microbial biomanufacturing, smart proteins, sustainable agriculture, functional foods, carbon capture, marine biotechnology, and next-generation cell and gene therapies, said the statement.

DBT Secretary Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale hailed the launch as a "pioneering step" expected to accelerate India's leadership in the global bioeconomy and foster sustainable solutions across sectors.

Industry leaders and researchers at the event underlined the vital role of government-supported infrastructure in advancing frontier technologies like CAR-T cell therapy, mRNA platforms, marine biofoundries, synthetic biology, and probiotics. However, they also pointed out challenges, including the lack of indigenous large-scale production of vectors and plasmids, regulatory bottlenecks for probiotics, and the need to integrate marine and blue economy opportunities more effectively, as per the statement. UNI

## EAM speaks with Afghan Taliban FM Muttaqi, says India is delivering humanitarian aid following quake

### ■ United News of India

**NEW DELHI, SEP 1:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today spoke with the Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi and conveyed that India has delivered 1,000 family tents and 15 tonnes of food material, in the aftermath of a massive quake that hit Afghanistan.

The phone call between EAM and the Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister is the highest level contact between the two sides, and comes after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met with the Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Muttaqi in Dubai in January this year.

While India has not officially recognised the Taliban govern-

ment, which took over Kabul in August 2021, it is continuing with its developmental and humanitarian aid for the Afghan people. India has a "technical" team in place at the Indian Embassy in Kabul.

In a post on X, the EAM said: "Spoke with Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi today. Expressed our condolences at the loss of lives in the earthquake."

"Conveyed that India has delivered 1000 family tents today in Kabul. 15 tonnes of food material is also being immediately moved by Indian Mission from Kabul to Kunar. Further relief material will be sent from India starting tomorrow."

"Wish early recovery of those injured. India stands by Afghanistan at this difficult time."



istan at this difficult time."

Muttaqi expressed his gratitude for India's solidarity with the Afghan people during this

tragedy and assured that the aid will be delivered to those in need in a timely manner.

As a result of the earthquake

## Xi Jinping urges SCO to resist bloc confrontation, announces USD 281 million grant

### ■ United News of India

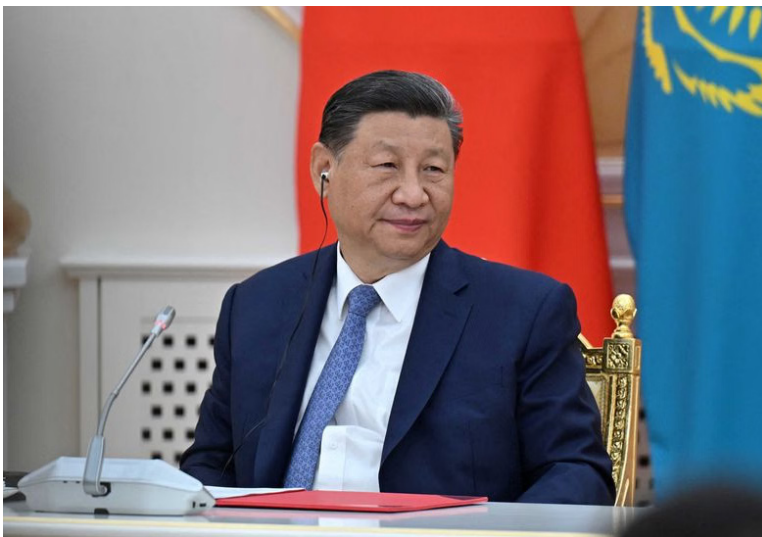
**TIANJIN/NEW DELHI, SEP 1:** Chinese President Xi Jinping today called on Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to resist bloc confrontation and bullying while safeguarding a world order centered on the United Nations. He was speaking at the 25th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in Tianjin.

"We must uphold justice and impartiality, promote the correct view of the history of World War II, resist the Cold War mentality, bloc confrontation and bullying, and defend the system of international relations with the central role of the United Nations," Xi Jinping said.

Xi also called for safeguarding the UN-centered international system, and supporting the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.

Xi announced a grant of 2 billion yuan (about USD 281 million) for SCO member states this year, along with an additional 10 billion yuan in loans over the next three years through the SCO Interbank Consortium. He noted that China's cumulative investment in other SCO member states has already exceeded USD 84 billion, while annual bilateral trade has surpassed USD 500 billion.

The Chinese President also urged the SCO to "strive for real



results and high efficiency," calling for the early operationalisation of the SCO Universal Center for Countering Security Threats and Challenges and the SCO Anti-Drug Center, as well as the establishment of an SCO Development Bank to strengthen security and economic cooperation.

Xi asked the member countries to uphold fairness and justice while addressing the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO session.

The largest SCO summit in the history of the association is being held in the Chinese city of Tianjin from August 31 to September 1, with

more than 20 foreign leaders and representatives of international organizations taking part.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an international organization founded in 2001. It includes India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Belarus officially joined the organization at the Astana summit on July 4, 2024. Observer countries are Afghanistan and Mongolia, dialogue partner states are Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bahrain, Egypt, Cambodia, Qatar, Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Sri Lanka. UNI

## CM assures that Delhi is prepared to tackle flood situation

### ■ United News of India

**NEW DELHI, SEP 1:** Amid rising concerns over likely increase in the Yamuna's water level, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today said that the Delhi government and all its flood-related departments are fully prepared and maintaining high alert.

The CM has appealed to the people residing in the Yamuna riverbed to exercise caution, and strictly follow the instructions issued by the administration. Gupta informed that, given the high volume of water released from the Hathni Kund Barrage on Monday morning, which is over 3 lakh cusecs, it is estimated that the water level may rise to 207 metres or, even slightly higher. She informed that the concerned departments have been working tirelessly for the past six months and have conducted desilting of the drains and in the river as well, which has helped in the waters flowing ahead after entering the river's span in the city. Presently, the situation remains under control and there is no reason for panic, CM assured the people, adding that any flood-related issue will be dealt with immediately.

Delhi government's top priority is to ensure the safety of the residents of the national capital, and to minimise any type of inconvenience to the people of the city. According to CM, the situation is being monitored round-the-clock, and that this year extensive as well as advance measures have already been implemented for flood control and management.

The CM also shared that the large-scale desilting of the Yamuna river, and its drains carried out over the past six months, has significantly strengthened flood defences. UNI





# Ashwin in talks with ILT20, may register for auction

■ **Vijay Tagore**

**NEW DELHI:** R Ashwin, fresh from retirement from all forms of the game, including the Indian Premier League (IPL), has evinced interest in International League T20 (ILT20) and in all likelihood will register for the auction. If all goes fine, he will feature in the next season of the UAE league, which will run from December 2 to January 4 next year. Cricbuzz understands that the ILT20 organisers are in discussions with the ace spinner, and his name may appear on the auction list once the enrolment formalities are completed. The registration process is currently underway, with September 10 as the last date for enrolment in the auction.

"Yes, I am in talks with the organisers. Hopefully, I will have a buyer if I register for the auction" Ashwin told Cricbuzz, confirming his interest. The league used to follow a draft system for recruiting players, but the organisers have

introduced the auction system this year. The auction is scheduled to take place on September 30 in Dubai.

Should Ashwin be picked in the auction, he would become the biggest name from Indian cricket to feature in the UAE league, now in its fourth season. Robin Uthappa and Yusuf Pathan have previously been picked but yet to debut, while Ambati Rayudu is the only other Indian to have featured in the competition when he played eight games for MI Emirates.

It is likely that Ashwin has had some assurances from teams before he decided on participating in the league. A veteran of 282 international games across formats, Ashwin is one of the biggest match-winners and has been a regular in the IPL since season 2 in 2009.

The 38-year-old all-rounder represented five different franchises in the IPL - Chennai Super Kings, Rising Pune Supergiants, Delhi Capitals, Punjab Kings and Rajasthan Royals - in 221 games.

Besides, he played for his Tamil Nadu state team and his TNPL sides in T20 cricket. He also featured in 65 Twenty20 Internationals.

As previously reported by this website, Ashwin is eyeing a player-cum-coach role in international leagues, and it is almost certain that he will feature in Major League Cricket (MLC) in the US and The Hundred in England next year.

Top internationals like Alex Hales, Andre Russell, Jason Holder, Liam Livingstone, Phil Salt, Sherfane Rutherford and Sunil Narine, Lockie Ferguson, Sam Curran, Shimron Hetmyer, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dushmantha Chameera, Mustafizur Rahman, Rovman Powell, Shai Hope, Azmatullah Omarzai, Moeen Ali, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Chris Woakes, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Kusal Perera, Romario Shepherd, Adil Rashid, Kusal Mendis, Tim Southee, Maheesh Theekshana, Sikandar Raza and Tim David have already been recruited by different sides.

**Espnricinfo**



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## Parag focuses on game-time and 'fun' on return to competitive grind

■ **Ashish Pant**

**BENGALURU:** East Zone captain Riyan Parag's focus at the season-opening 2025-26 Duleep Trophy was on easing himself back into the grind of competitive cricket and getting some game-time after he had spent most of last season managing a shoulder injury.

Parag last turned out for India in a T20I against Bangladesh in October 2024. He had to undergo surgery for his shoulder injury, after which he played in the Ranji Trophy 2024-25 for Assam in January. Before the Duleep Trophy, Parag had last played competitive cricket in IPL 2025 for Rajasthan Royals (RR). He was their second-highest run-scorer during the season, but was "managing a lot of stress" due to the shoulder injury.

"It was good," Parag said after the final day of the Duleep Trophy game against North Zone. "I mean, that was the main goal when I came here to play the game. Performances, I didn't really focus on that much. I just wanted to have some fun. "I haven't played competitive cricket in a long time. Since



the IPL, I haven't really played. [In the IPL also, I was managing a lot of stress and stuff like that. But it was nice, was a good outing. Not in a good way with the amount of overs we fielded. But then still, rolled my arm for a few overs, batted for a while. Could have converted it for a bigger score, but then I'm happy. The shoulder feels much better now."

Leading the side in the absence of Abhimanyu Easwaran, who was ruled

out due to fever on the opening day, Parag was dismissed for 39 in the only innings East Zone batted. He didn't bowl in the first innings, but bowled 22 overs in the second as North Zone made 658 for 4, building on their first-innings lead of 175.

While the game ended in a draw, North Zone qualified for the semi-finals on the basis of their first-innings lead.

"They played better cricket, I got

to give credit to that," Parag said on North Zone's performance. "I feel we could have done better in the first innings while bowling but then we should have got at least close to like 350 and then try to restrict it. "But once we did not do that, they had the lead of around 200 runs. Then, just the batters batted really well and just took the game away from us and the last day was just formality, I think, for them to get their milestones." East Zone were without Mukesh Kumar on day three and four after the fast bowler picked up a high strain on the opening day. Mohammed Shami also did not take the field on the final day after he cut his toe, which meant East Zone had to rely on their part-time options.

"That was one of the tough things to manage," Parag said. "Shami bhai-ya didn't bowl today, Mukesh got injured in the first innings, I'm coming back from an injury so I had to bowl 20 overs. Utkarsh [Singh], our non-bowler, he had to bowl around 30 overs so that did play a part for us in fielding a lot of overs but then nothing we can do about it. We just take it as a loss."

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