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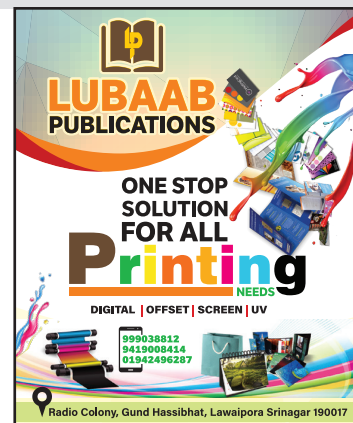
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15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION

HEADLINES TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Nearly 9,500 Evacuated as Jhelum Floods Srinagar Outskirts

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 04: Many areas were submerged in Srinagar outskirts on Thursday after the water from river Jhelum entered the residential areas in Taigan and Shalina localities, prompting the authorities to launch a massive rescue operation. The administration has evacuated nearly 9500 people from different parts of the valley.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the heavy rainfall on Wednesday afternoon once again led to the rise in the water level in different rivers and streams across Jammu and Kashmir, leading to a flood-like situation across the region.

Water level recedes at Sangam

However, the water level amidst the improvement in the weather conditions has started receding. The Sangam station of river Jhelum has receded below the danger mark after a

● Turn on Page 2



11 years wasted post-2014 floods, will review what has been done: CM Omar

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEP 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the widespread destruction caused by the ongoing floods could have been prevented if authorities had acted on the plan post-2014 floods and implemented concrete preventive measures.

The CM, as reported by the news

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), visited several flood-affected areas in Budgam district and urged the Centre to immediately announce a relief package for victims.

He said timely evacuation by the administration saved lives, but damages to homes and infrastructure were “unavoidable and must not be ignored”. “Had the governments in the last 11



years taken preventive measures, the situation could have been different,” Omar said. “We formulated a package after the 2014 floods to increase the carrying capacity in flood channels and the river Jhelum, but unfortunately, it seems that the 11 years have been wasted.”

CM Abdullah said that in the

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J&K to Get Four New Weather Radars: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 04: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that J&K would get four additional

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Police Rescue 200+ Families Amid Rising Floods

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 04: Amid ongoing heavy rainfall

● Turn on Page 2

3,000 Vehicles Stranded on Kashmir Side of Sgr-Jmu Highway

■ HT News Network

QAZIGUND, SEP 04: More than 3000 vehicles,

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NHM, SKIMS Issue Health Advisory Amid J&K Floods

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 04: As the flood-like situation in

● Turn on Page 2



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA

A Significant Step Towards
Building the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*

NEXT-GEN GST: The 2 Slab Revolution

Simplified Compliances & Enhanced Global Competitiveness



To build a developed India, we will neither stop nor bow down, we will keep working hard and we will build a developed India by 2047.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Benefits to the Businesses

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Rana calls for enhanced inter-departmental coordination in implementation of tribal welfare schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 04: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today held a detailed discussion with Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to review inter-departmental coordination and monitoring mechanisms related to tribal welfare schemes and development projects in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was convened in the wake of the recent flash floods that have caused extensive damage across several regions, affecting tribal communities. Expressing deep concern over

the hardships faced by affected families, the Minister called for immediate and effective implementation of rehabilitation measures announced by the Government.

He emphasized that short-term relief is critical but there is a pressing need to develop long-term, sustainable strategy for the permanent settlement and protection of tribal populations vulnerable to recurring natural calamities.

He noted that administration's response must be swift and anchored in structural reforms to reduce long-term vulnerability and ensure security and dignity



of tribal life. During the deliberations, the

Minister highlighted several priority areas like timely dis-

bursal of compensation for losses incurred by both individuals and communities, damage to private property and public infrastructure which require urgent attention.

He also called for rapid restoration of essential services in affected areas, stressing that delays in restoring basic amenities could deepen the distress of vulnerable populations.

Rana underscored the critical importance of a robust monitoring framework to ensure that inter-departmental tribal welfare projects are implemented without unnecessary delays. He reiterated that efficient

inter-departmental coordination is key to the success of developmental and relief initiatives and urged for the establishment of accountability-driven mechanisms to facilitate timely execution and measurable outcomes.

He also directed for aligning UT-level initiatives with the broader policy directives of NITI Aayog, particularly with regard to the mandated allocation of financial resources for tribal development.

He further stressed the need for targeted investment in infrastructure, healthcare, education and livelihood generation to create a strong and sustainable

support system for tribal communities.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to inclusive growth, Rana stated that the objective must go beyond reactive relief measures. He advocated for transformative approach that integrates disaster preparedness with long-term development planning.

The Chief Secretary assured that instructions will be reiterated and amplified to strengthen coordination mechanisms to ensure that tribal communities are not left behind in the progress of Jammu & Kashmir.

DC B'la convenes meeting on Water Quality Testing and Prevention of Water-Borne Diseases

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, SEP 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting in his office chamber here to review the campaign for prevention of water-borne diseases and intensifying of water quality testing in affected areas of the district.

During the meeting, DC directed the concerned departments to constitute special teams to collect water samples from different areas for regular testing to ensure the availability of safe drinking water. He further instructed for special sanitation drives at water sources and related assets to prevent contamination.

It was highlighted that recent heavy rainfall and flood-like situations in parts of Kashmir had raised concerns regarding water contamination and the spread of water-borne diseases.

DC emphasized the need for wide-scale public awareness, including announcements through mobile vans, to sensitize people about the safe use of drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation practices.

Chief Education Officer was directed to disseminate awareness among students regarding preventive measures, hygiene, and safe water consumption so that children can act as ambassadors of change within their families and communities.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Chief Education Officer Baramulla, Executive Engineer PHE Baramulla, Executive Engineer I&FC Baramulla, and District Social Welfare Officer Baramulla.

DC Ganderbal directs Intensified Water Quality Testing to prevent Water-Borne Diseases

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, SEP 04: In view of the recent incessant rains that caused water logging in several areas of the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today convened a meeting to review preventive measures against water-borne diseases and directed for intensified water quality testing across the district.

The meeting discussed the

functioning of water testing laboratories, activation of Pani Samitis, and finalization of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to spread awareness about preventive measures.

DC directed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to enhance water quality monitoring through intensified testing and ensure that Pani Samitis carry out regular water testing at Panchayat level

to prevent any outbreak of water-borne diseases. He also instructed that daily water testing reports be shared for close monitoring.

Further, Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal was directed to distribute chlorine tablets, especially in water-logged areas, and to ensure wide publicity of health advisories issued by the Health Department. He was also directed to ensure adequate availability of essential medicines at all

PHCs.

The CEO and Heads of higher education institutions were asked to sensitize students about precautionary measures to be adopted at home in post-flood situations.

DC also instructed the Rural Development Department (RDD) and Municipal authorities to conduct sanitation drives in affected areas.

He stressed on intensifying IEC

campaigns jointly by RDD, Municipality and Health, particularly through IEC vans in water-logged areas to spread awareness among the general public.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihaqi; SDM Kangan; Program Officer ICDS; ACD; Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and I&FC; CMO; EO MC Ganderbal, besides other concerned officials.

DC Udhampur reviews measures to prevent water-borne diseases post heavy rains, floods

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEP 04: To discuss preventive measures against water-borne diseases in the aftermath of recent heavy rains and floods, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of officers of line departments in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by IAS Probationer Seerat Baji; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Dr Ashwani Hansa and other senior officers.

The DC emphasized the urgent need for intensive water quality testing, public awareness campaigns and effective sanitation drives, particularly

in flood and landslide-affected areas. She directed concerned officers to ensure that safe potable water is made available to all affected families.

Jal Shakti Department was directed to undertake regular water testing and ensure chlorination of all water supply schemes.

The Health & Medical Education Department was directed to organize awareness drives on safe drinking water and distribute chlorine tablets at the community level.

Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj to educate people on safe sanitation and hygiene practices under the WASH program. The Education Department was directed to involve schools and colleges in

spreading awareness through students and special cleanliness drives. Besides, the DC calls for using Mobile awareness vans, radio and TV jingles to be used for disseminating advisories regarding safe water consumption and disease prevention.

The DC further stressed on close inter-departmental coordination, timely reporting of field-level issues and regularly sharing water testing results.

The DC also appealed to the general public to avoid consuming water directly from flood-affected sources, adopt proper water purification practices and strictly follow advisories issued by the District Administration.

Div Com tours flood affected areas in Jammu City

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 04: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today conducted an extensive tour of the severely affected areas in Jammu city post heavy rains and floods.

The Divisional Commissioner, accompanied by Managing Director JPCL, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Chief Engineers of PWD, Jal Shakti, PDD and other officials, visited different affected areas and essential infrastructure installation that suffered damages due to the heavy rains and floods.



The Divisional Commissioner commenced the tour from Kalka Colony at Bahu Tehsil where he inspected the damages to Tawi embankment and the houses of people that were inundated. He directed the JMC to provide all assistance to the affected residents for removal of the remaining silt and muck from the area.

Afterwards, the Div Com, along with the team of officers, visited the water Filtration Plant at Har Ki Pouri. He was apprised that the filtration plant has been partially restored. He directed the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti to ensure functioning of the plant at its full capacity at the earliest.

At Rajiv Colony, Bikram Chowk, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officials to restore the Tawi Bank that was partially eroded in the flood induced by incessant rains. He also directed the Engineers of JPCL and Jal Shakti to make the water supply scheme at Rajiv colony functional at the earliest.

The Divisional Commissioner also visited the Peekho area that was severely impacted by the floods during the heavy rains. Interacting with the locals, he was informed by the residents that they received ample support from Jammu Municipal Corporation for removing the silt and muck accumulated in the lanes and houses.

Talking to media persons, the Divisional Commissioner said that water and power has been restored in majority of areas in Jammu City, while efforts are on to restore the same in remaining severely affected areas.

He further said the District administration has provided immediate relief and an assessment process is underway to provide compensation for damages to private property under SDRF norms. "The Administration and government stands in solidarity with the victims of the heavy rains and floods and will provide all assistance for their rehabilitation," he added.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner visited the water filtration plant at Dhonthly which has been restored partially. The Div Com directed the concerned officials of the PHE departments to restore the plant to its full capacity by evening so that the water supply to the old city is restored completely.

Doda admin formulates action plan to prevent spread of water-borne diseases

DC asks for launching water testing derive, mass awareness campaign

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 4: In response to the recent floods and the subsequent risk of contamination of drinking water sources, Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh today chaired a crucial meeting to chalk out preventive strategies against the possible outbreak of water-borne diseases in the district.

The meeting was attended by District Programme Officer Akhtar Hussain Qazi; ACD Din Mohd Af- aqi; ACP Mushraf Haff; District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar, Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz, Heads of Government Degree Colleges of Doda, Thathri, Gandoh, Bhaderwah and Kastigarh, Superintending Engineer Hydraulics, XENs PHE, Kishtwar and Gandoh, along with other senior officers.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the urgent need to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all affected areas. He directed the Hydraulic Department to intensify chlorination, repair of damaged pipelines and water quality testing.

The Health Department was asked to strengthen surveillance of vulnerable areas, deploy medical teams, and stock essential medicines to deal with any potential outbreak. The Education Department was directed to spread awareness among students regarding hygiene and safe drinking



practices, while the Social Welfare and Rural Development Departments were tasked with community-level sensitization campaigns.

DC Harvinder Singh informed the officers about the government guidelines for handling water-borne diseases and directed the XEN PHE to initiate a district-wide water testing drive. He also instructed

them to start mobile campaign to spread awareness. The CMO was directed to mobilise ASHA workers for household visits to educate people about using safe and treat- ed drinking water. The ACP was asked to create awareness in every Panchayat about the possible spread of water-borne diseases.

The CEO Doda was directed to

organize hygiene awareness and WASH campaigns through students in schools, while Principals of Degree Colleges were instructed to conduct similar campaigns and practices in their institutions. The DC also directed ACP to take immediate action to start dewatering and mud clearance in the colleges and schools that were sub-

merged due to the recent heavy rains. The District Social Welfare Officer was asked to organize WASH awareness campaigns in institutions under the department's supervision, while the District Programme Officer was directed to conduct awareness drives on hygiene and water safety in all Anganwadi Centres.



Rana reviews water supply restoration measures across Jammu

Commends engineers for timely restoration of Tawi Filtration Plant

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 04: In a move to ensure safe and reliable drinking water for the people of Jammu province, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana chaired a meeting to review the progress of water supply restoration measures.

The meeting focused on assessing the ongoing restoration of essential water infrastructure severely impacted by recent flash floods, incessant rainfall and widespread landslides.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the status of key water supply installations in Jammu city and appreciated the tireless efforts of the Jal Shakti Department staff and engineers.

He specially commended their work in successfully restoring operations at Tawi Filtration Plant at Dhounthly, which resumed functioning late last night. He emphasized that potable water



from the plant be supplied to Panjirthi, Mubarak Mandi, Ustad Mohalla, Kachi Chowani, Jain Bazar, Zulaka Mohalla and other areas.

The meeting also reviewed the status of the 600 mm diameter rising main from Sitlee to Lohar, which had been significantly damaged.

The Minister instructed the concerned engineers to expedite restoration work and ensure full

resumption of water supply.

Assurances were also extended to residents in localities such as Janipur, Roopnagar, Bantalab, Keran Swarn Vihar, Muthi, and Indra Colony, who have faced intermittent water supply in the wake of the natural calamity.

The Minister instructed the concerned engineers to expedite restoration work and ensure full resumption of water supply. He

also called for fully restoring water supply to Janipur, Roopnagar, Bantalab, Keran Swarn Vihar, Muthi, and Indra Colony, which faced intermittent water supply in the wake of the natural calamity.

Taking note of the situation concerning the Sitlee-Manda rising main, the Minister issued firm instructions to engineering teams to work round the clock to restore this vital supply line that that

provides water to localities, including Old City, New Plot Rehari, Bakshi Nagar, and adjoining areas.

The Minister was also briefed on the status of tube wells across Jammu, where 240 out of 255 installations are currently functional.

He was informed that restoration of the remaining 15 tube wells is being prioritized and will be completed within the next two days.

To address the immediate water needs of residents in severely affected zones, the Minister directed the deployment of a fleet of 90 water tankers.

He also instructed the department to establish a dedicated 24/7 control room to respond to public grievances and complaints in a timely and efficient manner.

Rana reiterated Government's commitment to ensuring that all efforts are directed toward mitigating the hardships faced by the people of Jammu and restoring normalcy at the earliest.

NCORD Meeting: DC Samba reviews action plan to strengthen drug control measures

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SAMBA, SEP 4: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired the meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism at the DC Office Complex. The meeting marked a significant step forward in the district's coordinated approach to addressing narcotics-related challenges through rehabilitation, prevention and community engagement.

The Deputy Commissioner announced the establishment of dedicated helpline numbers for drug de-addiction support, emphasizing a compassionate approach that prioritizes treatment and rehabilitation over punitive measures. This victim-centric initiative is designed to encourage voluntary participation in recovery programs by creating a supportive environment for those seeking help. DC Sudan directed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure these helplines become operational at the earliest, providing 24/7 support to affected individuals and their families.

DC Samba directed that a comprehensive district-wide survey be carried out to create detailed profiles of drug-affected persons, including their age, occupation, and recovery status through treatment and counseling. This systematic approach will enable officials to implement targeted interventions and monitor progress effectively.

Senior Superintendent of Police Virender Manhas proposed leveraging ASHA workers as grassroots information gatherers, recognizing their unique position within local communities to identify affected individuals. He also mandated strict monitoring of restricted drug sales at chemist shops across the district to curb illegal dispensing.

The meeting emphasized the revival of community-based prevention strategies under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan framework. DC Sudan directed the District Sports Officer to organize inter-level tournaments including cricket, volleyball and other sports activities to positively engage youth and provide healthy alternatives to substance abuse. This sports-based intervention strategy aims to channel youth energy constructively while building community solidarity against drug abuse.

Institutional strengthening emerged as a key focus area, with DC Sudan directing Sub-Divisional Magistrates to establish sub-divisional level committees and conduct regular inter-departmental NCORD monthly meetings. The revival of youth clubs was prioritized as a crucial mechanism for sustained community engagement, while officials were tasked with exploring employment linkages for recovered patients to ensure sustainable rehabilitation and prevent relapse.

Among others present at the meeting were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, SDMs Vijaypur and Ghagwal and other concerned officers, demonstrating the administration's unified commitment to creating a drug-free Samba through coordinated action, community participation and compassionate intervention strategies.

Director agriculture Jammu visits flood affected areas of R.S. Pura to assess crop loss

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 4: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today visited the flood affected area of R.S. Pura subdivision to make a firsthand assessment of the crop loss caused by incessant rains and subsequent landslides. He was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Manohar Lal Sharma; SDAO R.S. Pura, Arun Jaral; State Head Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, Sonu Kumar, along with SMS SDL, concerned JAEOS, AEAs and representatives of the insurance company. The areas visited by the Director Agriculture included Badyal Brahmana, Dehrian, Chak Hansoo and adjoining villages, where he also interacted with the affected farmers.



During the visit, the Chief Agriculture Officer briefed the Director Agriculture about the prevailing situation in the area and shared detailed information regarding the extent of crop loss. He further informed that the process of compilation of data in Badyal Brahmana and other villages of the R.S. Pura subdivision is in progress. "The SDAO along with his team is working on a war footing to register farmers' complaints and document the crop loss. To facilitate the process, four farmer registration and grievance facilitation centres have been opened at Badyal Brahmana," he informed.

As per the preliminary assessment out of total land holding of 95.78 hectares, nearly 74.07 hectares of crop has been damaged in Sangyal village, while the crop over 117.95 hectares have been reported damaged in Bikarma village, which has the total land holding of 143.65 hectares.

While addressing the farmers, Anil Gupta expressed solidarity with their concerns and reassured them that the Department of Agriculture will take every possible measure to mitigate their losses. He assured the farmers that the department is committed to ensuring timely relief and support under the provisions of PMFBY and other relevant schemes.

The Director issued instructions to the field functionaries to expedite the completion of crop damage assessment reports and submit them to the concerned authorities so that immediate relief measures can be initiated. He also directed that awareness camps be organized across affected villages to educate farmers about their rights and benefits under PMFBY and the claim settlement process. He emphasized the need to mobilize technical teams for on-ground support, ensure timely distribution of seeds and inputs where needed and extend advisory services to farmers on crop restoration measures.

DC Doda stresses timeline implementation of Financial Inclusion Schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 4: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex to review the progress of the financial inclusion schemes being implemented in the district.

The meeting was attended by ACD Din Mohammad Afaqi; ALC Nehal Pandit; CPO Manesh Kumar Manhas; LDM Parveen Kumar and representatives from SBI, J&K Bank, PNB, HDFC, ICICI and others.

During the deliberations, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that financial inclusion schemes form the cornerstone for social welfare as these are designed to provide access to basic banking, insurance and pension facilities to marginalized and economically weaker sections of society.

He noted that schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yo-



jana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana are vital in building a strong safety net for the vulnerable population.

The DC directed all stakeholders,

particularly banks, to appoint dedicated nodal officers in every branch to ensure accountability and effective implementation of these schemes.

DC Kishtwar launches campaign for prevention of water-borne diseases, intensification of water quality testing

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, SEP 04: In pursuance to the directions of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review and implement the campaign for the prevention of water-borne diseases and intensification of water quality testing in flood and landslide affected areas across the district.

The stakeholder departments were asked to start the campaign aligning with the guidelines issued by the General Administration Department.

The campaign will run for 15 days, starting from September 4, 2025 across the district.

The DC instructed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to chalk out a calendar for conducting intensive water quality testing in flood- and landslide-affected areas, in collaboration with field-level workers.

These testing will be done at the 3 laboratories functioning in three Subdivisions of Chatroo, Paddar and Dachan, besides the NABL accredited laboratory at the district level.

The testing will be conducted with a special focus on the recently flood-affected zones, including Chisoti, Margi, Mughal Maidan and landslide-affected areas.

The public awareness campaign will be conducted through announcements and mobile vans, along with preparing audio jingles and messages for circulation among other departments.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kishtwar was directed to alert people

about water-borne diseases, issue timely health advisories, promote preventive healthcare and generate awareness about the importance of safe water consumption.

The Programme Officer ICDS and the Rural Development Department were instructed to organize special sanitation drives in villages, Anganwadi Centres and at traditional water sources, particularly in flood-affected areas.

The PO ICDS was further directed to ensure that Anganwadi Workers conduct water sampling, promote hand-washing practices in flood- and landslide-affected areas and sensitize the public about WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) practices, along with conducting sanitation drives in Anganwadi Centres.

The School Education Department was asked to conduct demonstrations of water quality testing and sensitize students about WASH practices.

Awareness measures will be amplified through print, electronic, and social media, as well as through jingles and audio/video messages on FM radio and TV channels.

The campaign will particularly focus on flood-affected, landslide-affected, inundated and rehabilitation zones, with regular monitoring at the district level to ensure effective implementation.

PO ICDS Kishtwar Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO Kishtwar Akhil Thakur, DSWO Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed, CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar, CEO Kishtwar Sanjay Dogra, ExEn Jal Shakti Kishtwar Sanjeev Kumar Gupta besides other Senior Officers were present during the meeting.

Shrine Board Provides Relief Material for the Second Consecutive Day



■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATRA, SEP 4: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) commenced its relief efforts on Wednesday as per the directions of Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Manoj Sinha (Lt. Governor, J&K UT) for the second consecutive day. Continuing with humanitarian approach, the Shrine Board provided essential relief material, extending support to both Reasi and Udhampur District Administrations.

These materials include dry ration kits, utensils, blankets, tarpaulins, tents, and other necessary items for immediate assistance to families affected by the recent floods and landslides in the region.

Notably, recent heavy rains and landslides in Reasi and Udhampur districts have severely impacted several villages. In response to this crisis, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has pledged to actively participate in relief and rehabilitation measures. So far, the Shrine Board has successfully reached out to over 1,200 affected families. Continuing with the endeavor, relief materials were formally handed over to the Reasi and Udhampur district admin-

istrations, who are distributing them on a priority basis to those affected by the calamity. The Board is exceeding its initial target in terms of the number of families being assisted.

Teams from the Shrine Board visited the affected areas and with the support of local administration, ensured distribution of relief supplies across dozens of villages in and around Katra. These teams assessed the ground realities and provided immediate assistance based on the needs of the affected families.

In addition, the Board has set up temporary shelter facilities at Shakti Bhawan, Niharika for displaced families from the village of Purana Daroor. Free meals are also being provided at these shelters, ensuring a safe and secure environment for those who have been severely affected.

Local residents expressed deep gratitude for this humanitarian effort by the Shrine Board. They remarked that the Board has not only fulfilled its social responsibilities during this difficult time but has also demonstrated genuine compassion and a strong spirit of service.

HT EDITORIAL

People welcome new GST rates wholeheartedly

The Government of India's decision to keep the tax rate for goods under Goods & Services Tax (GST) at 5 and 12 percent instead of multiple percentages has been welcomed by one and all. People as a whole have termed the decision as a great step and the same would go a long way in bringing down the prices of commodities that are closely related with the life of a common man.

Given the fact that the GST rates have been slashed it is expected that the prices of things needed on a daily basis would come down drastically. At the same time keeping a higher percentage for luxury cars and other related things is a good thing since it concerns an elite class of the society. Since the people who are well off and can buy luxury cars can easily pay a higher tax rate. In such a manner the government is in a win-win situation with no brunt being borne by the common masses.

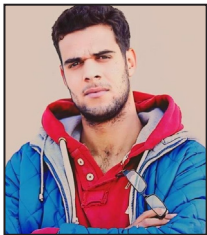
It is important that relief is provided to the common masses and the prices of essential items like cooking oil, pulses, rice and related items is brought within the buying reach of the common people. A responsive government is one which feels the pulse of the people as a whole and more so of those who belong to the lower strata or middle strata of the society. Taking pro-people measures should be taken so that the common masses feel that the people at helm have a feel of their problems.

The decision taken with respect to GST would go a long way in satiating the demands of the masses as a whole. Since there were multiple percentages of tax under the GST regime there was confusion all around. The masses as a whole were somewhat confused about the tax rate to be paid under the previous GST tax slab. At the same time since the essential items were bracketed under a higher tax rate there was disappointment among the masses.

As the corrective steps have been taken the masses are quite elated and they are over the moon since they have to pay less tax on essential items now. This would result in a situation where the people belonging to the middle and lower strata of the society would be able to save some income. The money thus saved can be invested somewhere else.

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Rivers Remember, Choes Of September 2014



■ Nawazz Ibn Ahad

Never indulge in nature's nature, nor attempt to insulate yourself from its activity, for the rhythms of creation are not toys in mortal hands. When man stretches his arrogance against the balance set by the Almighty, when he dares to choke the veins of rivers and suffocate the lungs of the earth, the response comes silently yet severely. The stick of Allah does not strike with clamorous sound; it descends without warning, and the cries of people themselves become the echo of its impact. Such is the lesson once again written across our valley, as floods revisit us in uncanny resemblance to the calamity of September 2014, almost to the same date and month, as if water itself preserves memory.

The valley of Kashmir, often portrayed as a paradise on earth, is also a fragile cradle balanced upon the mercy of seasons. Its brooks, streams, and orchards make it appear eternal, yet in truth it is as vulnerable as the tear of a child. In September 2014, floods washed away illusions of permanence when waters rose beyond imagination, submerging entire localities and forcing people to rooftops, boats, and prayers. That was called a flood of the century, but less than a decade later, here we stand again—watching swollen rivers reclaim their stolen space and echo their forgotten wrath. The question is not merely of rainfall or cloudburst, but of heedlessness, greed, and the arrogance of human encroachment.

Where rivers once flowed wide and free, colonies now stand—erected upon state lands and embankments that were never meant for concrete. What was once a channel of breathing water has been shrunk to the width of greed. Residential houses mushroom where riverbeds once spread, and No Objection Certificates were issued where objections should have thundered like warnings. The very institutions tasked with safeguarding the environment became deaf to reason and blind to responsibility, providing silent approval where refusal was most needed. Encroachment has narrowed the natural passage of water, reducing its pathways to suffocating lanes, and when the torrent arrives, it refuses to be caged. Water makes its own way. Water takes its share. And whatever we captured unjustly, it reclaims without hesitation.

The Qur'an repeatedly warns mankind not to cause fasad fil-ardh—corruption upon the earth. Cutting forests, blocking waterways, raising walls where streams must flow—these are not just civic follies, they are sins against creation. Allah entrusted humankind with amanah, a sacred guardianship of the earth. But instead of stewardship, we chose plunder. Instead of reverence, we chose exploitation. Thus calamities are not random happenings; they are consequences as well as signs. They remind us of fragility, they test our endurance, and they call us to reflection.

Floods, like other disasters, carry dual meanings in Islam. They are trials, but also messages. They break arrogance while demanding humility. They erase illusions of control while reminding of the One who truly governs. In the Qur'an, Allah promises tests with fear, hunger, and loss, not to annihilate the believer but to refine faith. For those who

endure with sabr, who respond with repentance, who extend helping hands in times of hardship, these calamities become purifiers of the soul. But for those who remain stubborn, who rebuild upon the same mistakes, who treat the roar of water as an episode rather than a warning, such calamities turn into recurring curses.

The flood of Nuh (A.S.) was not only an act of destruction but a proclamation of divine justice. It stood as a reminder that when corruption prevails unchecked, when arrogance deafens ears and blinds eyes, the decree of water becomes the decree of Allah. Today, the valley stands at a similar crossroad—not of annihilation but of decision. Will we treat these September floods as mere weather patterns, or will we recognize them as a call to repentance and responsibility?

Responsibility begins with acknowledging the sin of greed. It is greed that drives men to occupy riverbanks. It is greed that bends laws and manipulates permissions. It is greed that blinds departments into granting NOCs on fragile embankments. And it is greed that narrows the channels of water until destruction becomes inevitable. These decisions are not isolated mistakes; they are moral failures, for they value profit over protection and possession over preservation. The floods that follow are therefore not only natural occurrences but the inevitable harvest of corrupted seeds. Jaise karni, waise bharni—as one sows, so shall one reap.

Yet Islam does not abandon humanity to despair. Within the roar of floods lies also the whisper of mercy. Calamities strip away illusions but also reveal resilience. In the submerged streets and broken homes, faith finds expression through compassion. Neighbors rescue neighbors,

strangers offer shelter, and bread is shared among the hungry. The Prophet ﷺ said, "The best of people are those most beneficial to others." In these times, that teaching becomes flesh and action. To lift, to feed, to console, to serve—these are not optional virtues but obligatory duties, the very proof of faith.

But compassion alone is not enough. To simply rebuild after every flood, ignoring the causes that invite disaster, is to mock both nature and the Almighty. If we again raise walls on embankments, if we again allow papers to justify plunder, if we again suffocate rivers into alleys, then September will always return with vengeance. True faith demands foresight. It demands that we treat rivers not as enemies but as arteries of life, to be respected, preserved, and given their rightful space. To live in harmony with water is to live in harmony with creation, and thereby with the Creator.

When these present waters recede, they will leave behind more than mud-caked walls and ruined crops. They will leave behind a message written in silt: that no man can cage water, no certificate can overrule nature, and no arrogance can defy Allah's decree. Rivers will remember, and when they return, they will reclaim what was unjustly taken. The valley has been warned before; the valley is warned again. Whether this September becomes only another sorrow or the beginning of a wiser era depends on what lessons we choose to embrace.

Never indulge in nature's nature. Never imagine that rivers can be silenced. For when the stick of the Almighty falls, it needs no sound of its own—the people's cries become its thunder, and their broken homes become its testimony. May we awaken before September becomes not just a memory but a destiny.

Education has no alternative



■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Education is the only way to change your world. Education has taught us great and revolutionary lessons of life. Today all the corners of the globe are well aware about the fact how education is necessary. Some people consider education as the oxygen and can't live without its existence.

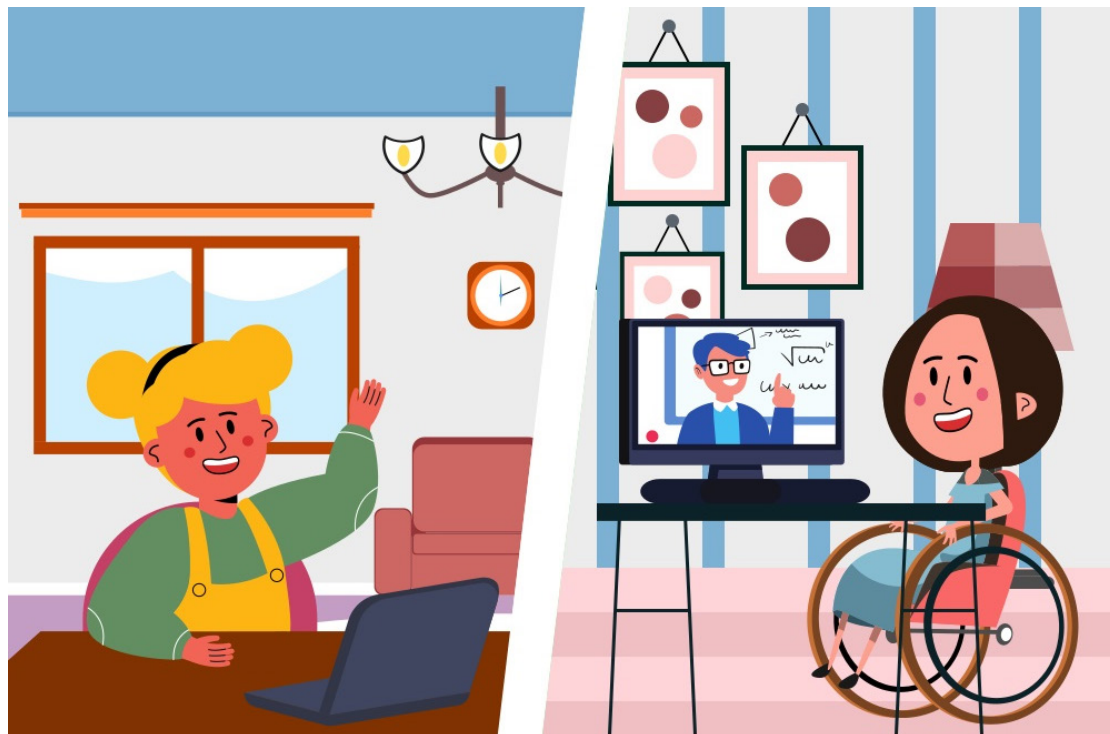
In today's fast-paced and competitive world, rest has little room. To achieve our goals, we must stay active and continuously engage ourselves in meaningful pursuits.

Across the globe, every country is prioritizing the development of its education sector. A strong educational foundation paves the way for advancements in all other fields. Sensible and committed individuals always put in 100% effort toward the tasks entrusted to them. True success doesn't come overnight—it demands educated minds, proper training, and unwavering dedication.

We often feel overwhelmed in a world increasingly dominated by machines. These machines—whether made of iron, plastic, or complex circuits—are designed and operated by well-educated, brilliant minds. From smartphones to vehicles to photocopyers, these innovations are the fruits of human intelligence. The Almighty has blessed us with extraordinary brains, yet only a few fully tap into this divine gift. Studies show that even scientists use only about 30% of their brain capacity. Imagine the potential that lies within each of us.

"The rest is rust."

Some individuals aspire to become great teachers. It's our responsibility to support the interests of learners, rather than forcing them into fields that don't align with their passions. Everyone has unique potential. Whether it's medicine, engineering, or any other field, people should be encouraged to pursue what they love. Governments today are providing numerous schemes and opportunities to help individuals realize their dreams.



The world is brimming with opportunities. Believe in yourself—you can be the change and influence others. Every person possesses different skills, talents, and abilities, each with its own scope and value. With social media and digital platforms, we are more connected than ever before. But remember: rest trusts your abilities. Stay engaged and keep discovering yourself. Once you identify your true potential, that moment will mark the beginning of your success.

Today, unlike in the past, we have unlimited resources at our fingertips. While earlier generations had limited ways to learn, we now have vast digital libraries, tutorials, and tools that can help us master a wide range of knowledge and skills. However, to succeed, we need patience, perseverance, consistency, and hard work.

How to Get Good Marks in Exams
Getting good marks requires consistent effort and smart preparation. Here are some practical tips:

■ Handwriting Matters

Maintain clear and neat handwriting. Avoid overwriting, cutting, or making your answers messy.

■ **Solve Difficult Problems Early**
Tackle the questions you find most challenging first during your preparation.

■ **Start Early**
Don't delay. Start preparing from the very beginning of the academic session. Procrastination only makes things harder.

■ **Be Precise**
Write to the point. Avoid adding irrelevant or unnecessary details in your answers.

■ **Use Proper Tools**
Use a good-quality pen, pencil, ruler, and other stationery. Leave adequate space between answers to keep your sheet neat.

■ **Double-Check Details**
After completing the paper, verify your roll number and other details carefully.

Stay motivated. Stay focused. Believe in yourself—and you will achieve greatness.

sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com

Stop the Photo-Shoots, Build Real Flood Preparedness in Kashmir



■ **Er Ishfaq Khaliq**

The recent floods have once again reminded us that Kashmir's vulnerability is not an accident of fate but the result of choices made over decades. Each season brings the same cycle: sirens wailing, neighborhoods submerged, families fleeing their homes, and then the predictable procession of officials and NGO workers posing for photographs, making short videos, and offering symbolic relief. Cameras click, reels trend for a few days, and when the waters recede, the attention fades. Yet what remains is the same fragile system: blocked drains, encroached floodplains, weakened embankments, poorly equipped response teams, and ordinary people left to fend for themselves.

If we are serious about preventing devastation, Kashmir must move beyond optics. Preparedness must replace performance. That means planning systematically, acting transparently, and sustaining the effort year-round—not just when disaster strikes.

Why Kashmir Keeps Flooding

Geography alone does not explain our recurring floods. The Jhelum River flows slowly through the Valley, the floodplains are narrow, and heavy rain-fall gets trapped by surrounding mountains. But human decisions have turned this risk into recurring catastrophe:

- **Encroachment on wetlands like Hokersar and Bemina, which once acted as natural sponges.**
- **Rapid and unplanned urbanisation in flood-prone zones, particularly in Srinagar.**
- **Reckless sand and boulder mining that reshaped the riverbed.**
- **Neglected and aging embankments and flood-control structures.**
- **Solid waste choking drains and nallahs, turning rain into urban flash floods.**



None of this is inevitable. Each of these risks can be reduced with consistent work and honest accountability.

From Relief Optics to Preparedness on the Ground

Relief efforts matter in an emergency, but the real test is whether fewer people need relief the next time. That requires shifting resources and attention from short-lived spectacles to long-term preparedness. Kashmir needs a pipeline of resilience, one that connects risk mapping, infrastructure repair, community training, and transparent governance. For example, every ward should have a flood-risk map that shows expected water levels and evacuation routes. Wetlands and floodplains must be restored and protected as seriously as roads and bridges. Urban drainage needs annual desilting, documented with public evidence, and drains must be protected from plastic and waste dumping. Embankments should be audited and reinforced before the next monsoon, while spill channels must be kept open to absorb excess water.

Preparedness also means empowering communities. Mock drills for evacu-

Flood resilience cannot be built by Govt alone. NGOs must shift from photo-friendly distributions to year-round training, stockpiling, and awareness. Universities and research institutions can support with real-time flood modeling and open-source tools. Religious and community institutions should be equipped as shelters and trusted sources of information, especially for women, children, and the elderly

ation and rescue should be routine, not exceptional. A trained volunteer corps—

linked to mosques, community halls, and schools—can save precious hours

when disaster strikes. Early warning systems must be hyperlocal, available in Kashmiri, Urdu, and English, and delivered through SMS, WhatsApp, mosque loudspeakers, and even visible river-level signals at bridges.

Building Trust Through Transparency

Money flows after every disaster, but too often disappears without visible outcomes. If we want to break this cycle, Kashmir must adopt transparent mechanisms:

- **Public expenditure trackers showing tenders, contractors, and project milestones.**
- **Independent social audits whose findings are shared at panchayat or ward meetings.**
- **NGO accountability that links permissions to published after-action reports.**

Preparedness is not only about embankments and pumps—it is also about public trust. Citizens must see where funds go and how promises are kept.

A Shared Responsibility

Flood resilience cannot be built by Govt alone. NGOs must shift from photo-friendly distributions to year-round training, stockpiling, and awareness. Universities and research institutions can support with real-time flood modeling and open-source tools. Religious and community institutions should be equipped as shelters and trusted sources of information, especially for women, children, and the elderly. And ordinary citizens must take responsibility too—by keeping drains clear, respecting no-build zones, and participating in preparedness drills.

Moving Beyond Performative Relief

Kashmir does not need another cycle of flooded homes, crowded relief camps, and viral reels of officials wading through water. What it needs is a culture of safety—wetlands that breathe, drains that flow, embankments that hold, shelters that protect dignity, and systems that function long after the cameras leave.

Preparedness may not make headlines, but it will save lives, livelihoods, and the very landscape of the Valley. The choice before us is simple: keep repeating the photo-op cycle, or start building real resilience for a safer future.

Teachers Day: Their Aspirations and Duties



■ **Rayees Ahmad Kumar**

During the Second World War, when men of intellect were also being killed, Hitler was once asked, "What should we do?" He replied, "By all means protect only the teachers; the whole nation will be rebuilt." Such was the importance of teachers, for they are the true nation-builders. Educating people is one of the noblest tasks in the world. The profession of teaching has existed since time immemorial. In ancient India, the gurukul system allowed students to live with sages in forests, away from their homes, where they received education and training for years. These gurus were revered by students and parents alike, sometimes worshipped next only to God. From that time, a teacher has always been placed at the highest pedestal of respect. Over the centuries, the system of teaching has transformed, and today we see countless educational institutions across the country. Teaching is rightly called the greatest act of optimism, for it is the profession that creates all other professions. Great teachers like Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam remain timeless inspira-



tions. Since 1962, September 5 has been celebrated as Teachers' Day in India, marking the birth anniversary of Dr. Radhakrishnan, the second President of India, a great philosopher and educationist. When his students wished to celebrate his birthday, he humbly requested them to observe it instead as Teachers' Day, thereby honoring all teachers rather than just himself. Learning, however, is not confined to classrooms. Our first teachers are our parents; later, we learn from society, experience, and even our mistakes. Life itself is the greatest teacher. Personally, I feel blessed to have been taught by wonderful teachers, and it is because of their influence that I, too, chose this noble profession.

Teacher's Day in Kashmir, A Different Reality- Unfortunately, in Kashmir, Teachers Day has a unique dimension. Instead of being celebrated for their contribution, teachers are often tar-

geted for none of their faults. Whether it is poor board results or institutional failures, teachers are made easy scapegoats. Admittedly, teachers also share part of the blame. Many fail to update their knowledge or skills and sometimes display negligence in their teaching duties. A few have even been found indulging in unprofessional or immoral activities, which tarnish the dignity of the profession.

To restore the lost glory of teaching, every teacher must uphold honesty, dedication, and commitment. Another grave injustice lies in the non-teaching duties thrust upon teachers—such as election duty, census duty, or yatra duty. These disrupt their primary responsibility of teaching and harm students education. Posting teachers in far-off areas, without considering their circumstances, also affects their efficiency and morale. Respect for teachers can only be regained when

they are allowed to focus on their real calling—teaching. Declining Respect for Teachers

Sadly, both teachers and the profession are not regarded today with the same reverence as in the past. Ironically, government functionaries like patwaris, police constables, or rural development workers often receive more respect than teachers. This distorted social perception ignores the fact that teachers shape the future of our children and act as their moral and spiritual guides.

In contrast, in developed nations, teaching is still considered a sacred profession. In Germany, for example, teachers enjoy the highest salaries in the country. When judges, doctors, and engineers once demanded equal pay, Chancellor Angela Merkel famously responded, "How can I compare you to those who taught you? Dedication a day to teachers should not just be ceremonial. It must mean giving them the respect they deserve, acknowledging their contribution to society and the nation, and ensuring they can guide the next generation effectively.

Teachers are indeed the backbone of society. They inspire, counsel, and empower the youth with knowledge and values. Because of teachers, nations advance socially, morally, and economically. The next time you or your community achieve something great, pause to remember and thank the teachers who made it possible.

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir

Happy Teachers Day

*My teacher is wisdom,
He comes to us
Like the sun
And the light falls,
As knowledge
My teacher is a never
Dying radiance
It is shared with us,
You taught us
To be unique
To be imperfectly perfect
I bow down,
To your feet
As we are your children
In life's longing,
To be fixed by time
And destiny.*

Sidharth P K
Kochi

Foot Care Tips for Monsoon



■ **Shahnaz Husain**

Walking in the rain and jumping in the waterlogged streets is always fun, not to mention the probability of foot problems in the monsoon.

Caring for your feet during monsoons can prove to be quite tricky as they're exposed to dirt and germs due to prolonged and constant exposure to muck and rainwater during a downpour.

Walking through dirty water is unavoidable, exposing feet to germs and infections. Our feet bear the brunt of it and are exposed to all sorts of dirt and pollutants floating in the water.

The humid, wet and sticky climate translates into wet shoes, sweaty feet, cracked toes, fungal infections, itching, athlete's foot and many other allergies.

Wearing tight, closed-toe shoes, keeping your feet wet for a long time, and getting minor skin or nail injuries on your foot are common causes of fungal infections of the feet.

A little extra care tendered to your feet during the monsoon and rainy seasons can help prevent shoe bites & serious foot conditions.

The main problem during the Mon-

soons is high humidity and sweat. The feet are among the areas where germs accumulate and odour forms. The waste matter, which is secreted with sweat, has to be removed by daily washing to eliminate odour and feel fresh and clean. Pay special attention to your feet while bathing. After washing them well, dry them thoroughly and apply talcum powder.

Selecting appropriate footwear is crucial to maintaining foot health during the monsoon. Avoid wearing heels in the monsoons as roads get wet and slippery. If unavoidable, wear footwear that is resistant and with as little heel as possible.

Switch your heels for simple foot wear such as flip-flops, slippers, rubber boots, sandals, etc., as they allow maximum ventilation and help the perspiration evaporate. But open footwear also attracts dirt, and therefore, foot hygiene becomes all the more important. Don't forget to wear gum boots if you live in a region prone to heavy rainfall and floods. If you wear closed shoes, talcum powder can be sprinkled inside the shoes.

Avoid Sharing Footwear: Sharing shoes or socks can spread fungal infections, so always wear your own.

After a hot day, soak your feet in cold water to which some salt has been added.

A foot problem called "Athlete's Foot" develops more easily during hot and humid weather, because it thrives on soggy skin. If neglected, it can become a stubborn problem, with an itchy condition. The athlete's foot starts as a fungal

infection. So, if there is dry scaling on the feet, especially between the toes, with some itching, consult a dermatologist without delay. Anti-fungal preparations are effective in dealing with the problem in the initial stages. However, excessive moisture, caused by excessive sweating, tight shoes and humid weather, can lead to bacterial activity, and this worsens the condition. If socks are a must, wear cotton ones. In fact, during the hot and humid season, the feet should be exposed to the air as much as possible. Do not neglect any type of warts, wounds or minor infections on your feet. Clean your wounds with an antiseptic liquid. Have a salon pedicure once a week. It keeps the feet in good condition and is also most relaxing!

Here are some home remedies for Monsoon foot care:

■ **Foot Soak:**

In one-fourth bucket of warm water, add half cup of coarse salt and 10 drops of lemon, or orange essential oil (if you cannot get essential oil, use half a cup of lemon or orange juice). If your feet tend to sweat a lot, use a few drops of tea tree oil, as it has germicidal properties. It helps to deal with bad odour. Soak the feet for 10 to 15 minutes.

■ **Foot Lotion:**

Mix 3 tablespoons of rose water, 2 tablespoons of lemon juice and one teaspoon pure glycerin. Apply to the feet and leave on for half an hour.

■ **Foot Care:**

Sprinkle antifungal powder on your

feet and inside your shoes to keep moisture and fungi at bay.

Change socks regularly, especially if they become wet. Cotton or moisture-wicking socks are ideal.

Soak your feet in hot water for about 10 minutes. Add lemon drops inside to soak them as it helps reduce bad smells and prevents sweating on the feet. Lemon kills the awful smell and avoids over-abundance perspiration on the feet. You can use it twice a week for better results.

In one-fourth bucket of cold water, put 2 tablespoons of honey, one tablespoon of herbal shampoo, and one tablespoon of almond oil. Soak feet in it for 20 minutes.

Soaking your feet in warm water mixed with Epsom salt can help relax tired feet and soften rough skin. Additionally, applying a mixture of honey and lemon juice on your hands can help lighten dark spots and keep them moisturised.

■ **Cooling foot bath:**

Add rose water, lemon juice and a splash of eau de cologne in cold water and soak feet in it. Cools, cleans and removes odour.

■ **Toenails:**

Overgrown nails are an invitation to dirt and grime that accumulate under them and a breeding ground for fungal infections.

Toenails should be trimmed straight across and the edges filed with an emery board. Cutting nails too short should be avoided, as this can lead to ingrown toenails and infections.

Keeping your toenails groomed by

cutting them to an optimal length is a way of making sure that an unnecessary amount of dirt doesn't accumulate in your toenails, which may prompt fungal diseases.. Additionally, moisture causes toenails to become brittle, so a regular trim keeps them in check. It will keep residue and soil from getting gathered under your nails.

■ **Cooling Massage Oil:**

Take 100 ml olive oil and add 2 DROPS eucalyptus oil, 2 DROPS rosemary oil and 3 DROPS khus, or rose oil. Mix and keep in an airtight glass jar. Use a little of this for a foot massage. It cools and protects the skin and keeps it healthy.

Make a mix of three tablespoons of rose water with two tablespoons of lemon juice and one teaspoon of pure glycerine. Apply this daily after washing and drying the feet.

Excessive sweating can also cause your feet to become wet so preferably you should use talcum powder before you put on your footwear. If there is a pungent smell in your feet, you could be having a fungal infection, and it is time to visit a doctor.

Before putting on socks and shoes, ensure they are completely dry.

■ **Turmeric**

Paste of turmeric, which is well known for its antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral properties, can be applied around the toes to get rid of fungal infections too.

The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India

SUGARY DRINKS INCREASE HAIR LOSS RISK, BUT THESE NUTRIENTS CAN HELP

■ **Healthline**

PARIS: For many people, maintaining healthy hair goes beyond a good hair cut or buying the latest products. According to new research, hair health begins with a nutritious diet. A review published on August 21 in Nutrition and Health suggests that what you eat can affect hair growth, strength, and even hair loss.

The analysis shows that sugar-sweetened beverages and alcoholic drinks were associated with a higher risk of hair loss, but also indicates that certain nutrients can promote healthy hair. From vitamins and minerals to specific foods and drinks, the findings offer practical tips for anyone wanting to support their hair health.

■ **Reviewing the effects of diet and nutrition on hair loss**

For the review, researchers followed PRISMA guidelines, considered the gold standard for systematic reviews, and

registered their work on PROSPERO.

They scoured three big scientific databases — PubMed, Web of Science, and Scopus — looking for studies published between March and June 2024.

Using keywords like "dietary intake," "nutritional status," "hair growth," and "hair loss," they started with 1,287 articles. After filtering for English and Portuguese studies and removing duplicates, 880 remained. Two reviewers independently checked which studies fit their criteria: participants had to be 3 years or older, studies had to focus on specific nutrients or foods, and hair outcomes had to include things like growth, texture, or strength. Non-human studies, reviews, and case reports were left out.

Eventually, 17 studies made the cut. They included more than 61,000 participants — mostly females ages 7 to 77 — and spanned different study types like randomized trials, case-control studies, and cohort studies.

The researchers also assessed the quality of each study, finding some variability, but overall the results offered a clear picture of what we currently know.

The review further highlighted that alopecia was the most frequently studied hair condition, with eight studies focusing on its severity and occurrence, and five studies assessing hair loss more generally.

Various assessment methods were used, ranging from clinical history and physical examination to objective measures like the Severity of Alopecia Score (SALT) and phototrichograms, ensuring a broad evaluation of hair health outcomes.

■ **Vitamin D, other nutrients promote hair health**

Among the nutrients studied, vitamin D emerged as the most extensively researched, with five studies focusing on its relationship to hair conditions such as alopecia areata (AA) and androgenetic alopecia (AGA).

Most of these studies found an inverse correlation between vitamin D levels and the severity or duration of alopecia, suggesting that higher vitamin D status may be protective against these hair loss disorders.

However, one study did not find any association, highlighting the need for further clarification.

Iron was another nutrient highlighted for its positive impact on hair health.

One study showed that iron supplementation (100-milligram tablets) improved hair growth among women with alopecia, supporting the role of iron in hair follicle metabolism and cellular proliferation.

Conversely, protein deficiency was found to negatively affect hair health by reducing hair bulb diameter and pigmentation, emphasizing the importance of adequate protein intake for keratin production, the key structural protein in hair.

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CEO Tourism Reviews Arrangements for Annual Veth Truvah Festival at Verinag

■ **Farooq Rather**

VERINAG, SEP 4: In preparation for the important annual Hindu religious festival “Veth Truvah,” the Chief Executive Officer of Verinag Tourism Development Authority conducted a visit today to Khahgund and Verinag to review the ongoing arrangements.

During the visit, the CEO took a detailed assessment of key preparations including tent installations, beautification works, lighting arrangements, and deployment of staff from the Tourism Development Authority. The aim is to ensure that visiting devotees are provided with adequate facilities and that the event is conducted in a peaceful and organized manner.

The Veth Truvah festival holds significant religious and cultural importance for the Kashmiri Pandit /Hindu community, and a large gathering of devotees is expected this year. Officials stated that special



attention is being paid to cleanliness, crowd management, and assistance for pilgrims throughout the event.

The CEO assured that the Tourism Development Authority is making all necessary efforts to ensure that the Veth Truvah celebrations are peaceful, well-organized, and enjoyable. He emphasized that such events are

vital for promoting communal harmony and preserving the region's cultural heritage.

The administration is also maintaining close coordination with other concerned departments to ensure timely completion of all essential preparations and the successful conduct of this spiritual occasion.

Maruti Suzuki launches All-New VICTORIS

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, SEP 4: Redefining the Indian SUV segment Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), today, launched its latest SUV, the VICTORIS. Engineered to set new benchmarks, the VICTORIS seamlessly blends hyper-connected technology, all-round safety, futuristic and sleek design, and thrilling performance to deliver an SUV that has ‘Got it All’.

A company spokesperson said that available in petrol with Strong Hybrid, ALLGRIP Select (4x4), eco-friendly S-CNG technology with segment-first under body tank design, the VICTORIS offers a wide range of power train systems to suit today's dynamic youth. Starting today customers can book their All-New VICTORIS for Rs. 11000.

Introducing the VICTORIS, Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, “The new-age Indian customer is well-travelled, hyper-connected, socially aware, technologically progressive and environmentally responsible. To meet the aspirations of such customers, our new SUV the VICTORIS has ‘Got It All’. VICTORIS is a Latin word that means ‘victory’. We are confident the VICTORIS with its high technology, sleek design, intelligent and connected features, 5-star level safety and multiple environment friendly power trains will win hearts in India. With VICTORIS we are strengthening our SUV portfolio and our overall market share.”

Commenting on the launch, Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, “At Maruti Suzuki, we are always listening to our customers. Today's young,



and dynamic audience consider an automobile as a reflection of who they are – energetic, composed, confident, and always moving forward. We gave this brief to our design and engineering teams for the All-New ‘VICTORIS’. SUVs may be the most loved segment today, but the SUV buyer has evolved. This new generation of young customers are ambitious, hyper-connected and value experiential living. The All-New VICTORIS is our answer to that shift – a progressive blend of tech, design and versatility. It is engineered with true SUV DNA and sets a new benchmark for what today's automobiles can feel like. With the VICTORIS, we're not just launching another SUV, we're celebrating a new dimension to driving – one that's ‘Got It All!’.

With cutting-edge digital integration, VICTORIS becomes an extension of the ‘Always Online, Always On The Move Lifestyle’. The sophisticated interiors of the VICTORIS feature a suite of intelligent technologies, developed for a connected and immersive experience. Built for digital natives who shape their world through creativity, connectivity, and self-expression, VICTORIS offers a new 26.03cm (10.25”) inch fully digital instrument cluster with multiple display modes.

Kulgam Police Arrests Drug Peddler; Contraband Substance Seized

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, SEP 04: As part of its sustained campaign against the menace of drugs, Kulgam Police apprehended a drug peddler and seized contraband from his possession.

During patrolling near Sumo Stand Bumthan, a police team from Police Post Mirbazar arrested one individual identified as Mohd Mubarak, son of Sukar Ali, resident of JJ Colony, Bawana, Delhi. Upon search, 10 grams of heroin-like contraband substance was recovered from his possession.

Accordingly, a case under FIR No. 177/2025, registered under sections 8/21 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Qazigund, has been taken up for further investigation.

Kulgam Police reaffirms its zero-tolerance policy



towards narcotics and appeals to the public to extend cooperation by sharing information related to drug trafficking, enabling decisive action against offenders.

Accordingly, a case under FIR No. 177/2025, registered under sections 8/21 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Qazigund, has been taken up for further investigation.

Kulgam Police reaffirms its zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics and appeals to the public to extend cooperation by sharing information related to drug trafficking, enabling decisive action against offenders.

از عدالت سب جج ہندواڑہ

باسمہ تعالیٰ منظور حسین صاحب سب جج ہندواڑہ

علیہ السلام زوجہ مرحوم غلام رسول شیخ ساکن سران پورہ تحصیل ہندواڑہ ضلع پکواڑہ مدعیہ

دعویٰ استغراقیہ بابت فونگی سرٹیفکیٹ

زیر دفعہ

34 of specific Rekef Act r/w see 111 of Bharatiya saklaya Adhiniyam 2023

استغراقیہ ادا کاغذی ہر حساس و عام / عوام الناس

مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر مدعیہ نے عدالت ہندواڑہ میں دائر کیا ہے جو کہ عوام الناس

کے خلاف ہے لہذا عوام الناس کو شائبہ موقع دی جا کر بابت عزرات تا کہ مدعیہ کو

عدالت ہندواڑہ سے ریف دی جائے

لہذا عوام الناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ عدالت ہندواڑہ میں بضرع

بیرونی/ عزرات اصالتاً یا وکالتاً بتاریخ 15/09/2025 ہفتہ 10:30 حاضر ہوں گے میعاد

گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عدل یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

تحریر 2025/08/27

Public Notice

I, Aanisa Jan, D/o Bilal Ahmad Bhat, R/o Kawarigam, Tehsil & District Anantnag, hereby declare that I am applying for an RBA (Reserved Backward Area) Certificate.

My family details are as follows:

S. No.	Name of Family Member	Relation	Age	Occupation	Monthly Income
1	Bilal Ahmad Bhat	Father	45	Labour (Mazdoori)	₹7,000
2	Sherza Bano	Mother	40	Housewife	—
3	Aanisa Jan	Self	16	Student	—
4	Maria Jan	Sister	10	Student	—
5	Aalan Bilal	Brother	6	Student	—

Total Monthly Family Income: ₹8,000

Total Annual Family Income: ₹1,24,000

If anyone has any objection regarding the issuance of the RBA certificate in my favour, they may contact the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that period, no objections shall be entertained.

Applicant: Aanisa Jan

Father's Name: Bilal Ahmad Bhat

Address: Kawarigam, Tehsil & District Anantnag

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Danish Yousuf Bhat S/o Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, R/o Kawarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag, has applied for the issuance of an RBA Certificate in his favour.

As per the report submitted by the concerned Patwari, the details of the family are as under:

Mohammad Yousuf (Father), Occupation: Labourer, Monthly Income ₹8000/- + ₹50000/- annually from other sources

Ghulam Hassan Bhat (Grandfather), Income: ---

Danish Yousuf (Applicant), Occupation: Student

Tadasum Yousuf (Sister), Occupation: Engineering Worker, Monthly Income ₹5100/-

The total annual family income from all sources has been assessed at approximately ₹2,07,000/-.

Any person having objection in this regard may file the same with documentary proof in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Achabal within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and RBA Certificate shall be issued in favour of the applicant.

Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

(Seal & Signature)

Public Notice

I, Mukhtyar Ahmad Bhat S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Muja Gund Khawaja Bagh Srinagar, owner of vehicle Pulsar 150 DTS-I, Vehicle No: JK01AP4229, Chassis No: MD2A11CX4MRC43230, Engine No: DHXRCM72980, state that my name has been wrongly recorded as Mukhtyar Ahmad Bhat instead of my correct name Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Khawaja Bagh Maloora Srinagar as per my Aadhaar Card.

Henceforth, my correct name shall be read as Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat in all records.

If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may contact the concerned RTO Srinagar within 7 days of publication of this notice.

Sd/- Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Arupal (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 ARIPAL) has received a case file pertaining to death of SANA ULLAH LONE S/O GH AHMAD LONE R/O DAR GANIE GUND GP JAWHIRPORA LAM Tehsil Arupal Distt. Pulwama wherein the date of death has been verified as 26/05/2025 and the incident has been shown to have happened at the deceased's home which caused the delay in seeking the certificate.

Now that the case is under consideration for the issuance of the certificate, anyone having any objection shall approach this office within 07 days of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the notice period.

Sd/-Executive Magistrate 1st Class Arupal

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Arupal (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 ARIPAL) has received a case file pertaining to death of Gh Hassan Mir F/O Fayaz Ahmad Mir R/O DAR GANIE GUND GP JAWHIRPORA LAM Tehsil Arupal Distt. Pulwama wherein the date of death has been verified as 22-08-2025 and the incident has been shown to have happened at the deceased's home which caused the delay in seeking the certificate.

Now that the case is under consideration for the issuance of the certificate, anyone having any objection shall approach this office within 07 days of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the notice period.

Sd/-Executive Magistrate 1st Class Arupal

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of RAFAQA BEGUM D/O LATE GHULAM HASSAN MIR R/O SALOOSA KREERI for the issuance of Dependent 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 GHULAM HASSAM MIR S/O AB AZIZ MIR R.O SALOOSA has passed away on 25/10/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1... SARA BEGUM wife 85 years aged widow

2...RAFAQA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate 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 Tangmarg (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 KHAIPORA) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ROUF BIN MAQBOOL S/O MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL LONE R/O HARNOW KAWACHECK Tehsil TANGMARG Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 31/10/2007 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 Wagoora

Subject: Application of RAFAQA BEGUM D/O LATE GHULAM HASSAN MIR R/O SALOOSA KREERI for the issuance of Dependent 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 GHULAM HASSAM MIR S/O AB AZIZ MIR R.O SALOOSA has passed away on 25/10/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1... SARA BEGUM wife 85 years aged widow

2...RAFAQA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self

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

Naib Tehsild Wagoora

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora

Subject: Application of SARA BEGUM W/O LATE GHULAM NABI SHAH R/O WATERGAM WAGOORA for the issuance of Dependent 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 MUZAFFAR AHMAD SHAH /O GHULAM NABI SHAH R.O WATERGAM has passed away on 12/05/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1... SARA BEGUM W/O late GH NABI SHAH wife 85 years House wife

2...SHAREEFA BEGUM.D/O GH NABI SHAH daughter 65 years married

3...MOHD AYOOB SHAH son 60 years Farmer

4...JAVED AHMAD SHAH son 57 years Farmer

5...NAYEEMA BEGUM daughter 50 years H/W

6...AFROOZA BEGUM daughter 47 years H/W

7...AIJAZ AHMAD SHAH son 44 years Farmer

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self

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

Naib Tehsild Wagoora

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my husband name MUZAFFER MOHAMMAD KHAN S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN R/O LAWAYPORA .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0206050011815 wants to be registered on my name AFROOZA W/O LATE MUZAFFAR AHMAD KHAN R/O LAWAYPORA .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...AFROOZA

W/O ... LATE MUZAFFAR AHMAD KHAN

Division.... BUDGAM

Sub division.... NARBAL



PM Modi holds joint phone conversation with Presidents of European Commission, European Council

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today held a joint telephone conversation with European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and underlined the role of the India-EU Strategic Partnership in jointly addressing global issues, fostering stability and promoting a rules-based order for mutual prosperity.

The leaders also reaffirmed the shared commitment for an early conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and imple-

mentation of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). Building on the historic visit of the EU College of Commissioners to India in February, the leaders discussed organizing the next India EU Summit in India at an early date of mutual convenience.

Prime Minister Modi invited the two leaders to India for the same.

The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the efforts to bring an end to the conflict in Ukraine.

The Prime Minister reiterated India's consistent support for peaceful resolution of the conflict



and early restoration of peace and stability.

They welcomed progress in bilateral relations in key sectors like trade, technology, investment, innovation, sustainability, defence, security and supply chain resilience.

"As the world's largest democratic forces, India and EU share a strong and close relationship built on trust, shared values, and a common vision for the future. The leaders underlined the role of the India-EU Strategic Partnership in jointly addressing global issues, fostering stability, and promoting a rules-based order for mutual prosperity. UNI

China Shows Military Might at Tiananmen, Trump Sees US Conspiracy

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI/BEIJING, SEP 3: More than 10,000 soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Air Force and Navy goose-stepped the historic Tiananmen Square in Beijing today and showcased the latest generation of missiles, drones, tanks and fighter jets in a display of military might to mark 80 years of China's victory against Japan during World War 2.

Chinese President Xi Jinping inspected the Guard of Honour. The military parade which was held to commemorate the '80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War,' was witnessed by 26 world leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

US President Donald Trump was quick to react, describing the parade as a 'conspiracy' against the United States.

PLA's new system of services and arms were displayed at the parade for the first time. These included unmanned intelligence equipment, hypersonic missiles and electronic jamming systems. This was the second time since 2015 that China has held a military parade to commemorate the victory in the "Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War."

Helicopters flew over Tiananmen Square carrying banners that read "Justice Prevails," "Peace Prevails" and "The People Prevail."

In his speech, President Xi said the PLA should provide strategic support for China's rejuvenation. He reiterated China's commitment to peaceful development saying humanity is again faced with a choice of peace or war, dialogue or confrontation and win-win outcomes or zero-sum games. He said China's rejuvenation is "unstoppable" and humanity's cause of peace and development will prevail.

"The Chinese people will stand firmly on the right side of history and on the side of human progress, adhere to the path of peaceful development, and join hands with the rest of the world to build a community with a shared future for humanity," he said.

Dressed in a grey Mao suit, President Xi called upon nations to eliminate the root cause of war and prevent historical tragedies from recurring.

President Xi who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, said common security can only be safeguarded when nations across the world treat each other as equals, live in harmony, and mutually support one another.

He said that as inhabitants of the same planet, humanity must stand together in times of difficulty, live in harmony, and never relapse into the law of the jungle where the strong prey on the weak.

Kuki-Zo Council to open NH-02; Tripartite SoO agreement signed to restore peace in Manipur

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 4: In a significant development, the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) today decided to open the National Highway-02 for free movement of commuters and essential goods after a series of meetings between officials of Home Ministry and KZC during the last few days here.

KZC has also given commitment to cooperate with Security Forces deployed by the Central Government to maintain peace along NH-02, a Home Ministry statement said.

The decision came alongside a meeting between representatives of MHA, Manipur government and Kuki National Organisation (KNO)-United People's Front (UPF) here today. The meeting concluded with the signing of a tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) Agreement on renegotiated terms and conditions (ground rules) to be effective from today for a period of one year.

The revised rule reiterated the territorial integrity of Manipur. Need for a negotiated solution to bring lasting peace and stability to Manipur.



KNO and UPF have also agreed to relocate seven designated camps away from areas vulnerable to conflict; reduce the number of designated camps; relocate the weapons with nearest CRPF and BSF camps and stringent physical verification of cadres by Security Forces to de-list foreign nationals, if any.

Besides, a Joint Monitoring Group will closely monitor enforcement of ground rules, and violations will be dealt with firmly in future, including review of the SoO Agreement, the MHA statement added. UNI

Wildfire burns into historic Gold Rush town in California

■ United News of India

LOS ANGELES, SEP 4: A fast-moving wildfire, burning in the Sierra Nevada foothills, has scorched homes in a historic Gold Rush town in California and forced evacuations of residents from the town and surrounding highways on Tuesday, authorities said Wednesday.

Once a bustling community, the town in Chinese Camp was home to about 5,000 Chinese miners as well as a similar number of American and European settlers during the Gold Rush era, according to Tuolumne County.

The extent of the damage in Chinese Camp wasn't immediately clear pending an official review, about 61 people still live there, said Emily Kilgore, public information officer with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) Tuolumne Calaveras Unit.

The fire is part of a group of lightning-sparked wildfires that have burned about 56 square km in mul-



tip locations in Calaveras, Tuolumne and Stanislaus counties of the state, according to the Cal Fire.

As of Wednesday evening, the fires

were 15 percent contained. More than 1,200 personnel and 13 helicopters have been deployed to battle the blazes, Cal Fire said. UNI

Iranian president sees strong prospects for implementing SCO agreements

■ United News of India

TEHRAN, SEP 4: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday the implementation of the agreements reached during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 will create favorable prospects for the country in the economic, security, scientific and tourism areas.

He made the remarks upon arriving in Iran's capital Tehran from China, where he took part in the summit from Sunday to Monday in Tianjin and the commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in Beijing, according to a statement published on the website of his office.

"We stressed peace based on rights and justice" at the SCO Plus Meeting and China proposed the Global Governance Initiative, "in which truth- and justice-based frameworks and rules should be observed and double standards should not be applied," Pezeshkian said. He also highlighted the 24 outcome documents on strengthening SCO cooperation in sectors such as security, economy and people-to-people ties, noting that "the most important achievement of the trip was the opportunity to hold direct talks with the participating countries' leaders." UNI

India, Singapore to Boost Ties in MRO, Skills, Ports, Chips

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 4: India and Singapore today agreed to focus on cooperation in the development of Indian ports, collaborate in India's growing MRO sector, in skill development, in semiconductors and also explore cooperation in civil nuclear cooperation.

Following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Singapore PM Lawrence Wong, the two sides in a joint statement outlined an ambitious roadmap to take forward their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and outlined eight areas under it: Economic Cooperation; Skills Development; Digitalisation; Sustainability; Connectivity; Healthcare and Medicine; People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges; and Defence and Security Cooperation.

India has also evinced interest in joining the maritime patrolling

in the busy Malacca Straits.

The two sides agreed to deepen bilateral trade and access to markets, including through building on their Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

The two sides also agreed to achieve substantial review of the ASEAN India trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) in 2025.

In the field of semiconductors, the two sides agreed boost cooperation under the India-Singapore Semiconductor Policy Dialogue; advance resilient semiconductor supply chains; explore mutually beneficial research and development collaborations and potential partnerships between Indian and Singapore firms.

In the field of space, the two sides agreed to promote collaboration between the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and the Office for Space



Technology & Industry, Singapore, as well as Earth observation and satellite communication technologies and applications.

They also agreed to develop a National Centre of Excellence in Chennai, in the field of semi-

conductors and also cooperate in the field of skilling.

Explore collaboration opportunities in critical and emerging technologies.

They agreed to cooperate in the establishment of an India-Singapore Green and Digital

Shipping Corridor (GDSC) between the Port of Singapore and ports in India to deepen maritime connectivity and work towards the establishment of a green maritime fuel corridor; They agreed to collaborate in India's growing

aviation and aerospace MRO sectors through partnerships between Indian and Singapore companies in these sectors, including the sharing of Singapore's expertise and the provision of upskilling opportunities;

They also agreed to expand the bilateral Air Services Agreement to enhance air connectivity, and partner in airport development, including in management services for Indian airports;

In healthcare, the two sides agreed to deepen collaboration in health and medicine fields including in digital health intervention and disease surveillance.

In Defence and Security Cooperation, the two sides agreed on continued defence and security cooperation at all levels, including regular meetings between the two Defence Ministers and exchanges through the joint conduct of army, naval, and air force

exercises.

Deepen defence technology cooperation in emerging areas such as Quantum Computing, AI, Automation and Unmanned Vessels; Continue the cooperation in maritime security and submarine rescue. Strengthen cooperation in Maritime Domain Awareness. "Singapore acknowledges with appreciation India's interest in the Malacca Straits Patrol," the statement added. On terrorism, it said both sides reaffirmed strong commitment to combat terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, and reiterated zero-tolerance to terrorism.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to institutionalise the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable as a foremost mechanism to annually monitor the progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. UNI



Hazratbal

Revered Shrine Reimagined, Where Heritage Meets Modern Grace

Renovation Under the dynamic leadership of Waqf Board Chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, has emerged as a watershed moment, breathing new life into the shrine while preserving the sanctity of its spirit.

■ **Abu Hasnain**

■ **HT-Special Correspondent**

Nestled over the serene banks of World famous Dal Lake, Hazratbal has stood as the very soul of Kashmir's spiritual identity for Centuries. Its snow-white dome reflecting in the still waters has long symbolized purity and reverence, while its sanctity as the custodian of the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has made it the beating heart of Kashmiri faith. For the people of this valley, Hazratbal has never been merely a shrine, however it has been memory, prayer, identity, and heritage woven together.

Yet, time leaves its traces even on the most sacred walls. Since 1968, Hazratbal's interiors had not seen a significant renewal. Its grandeur endured, but the details of its artistry dimmed with age, and the comforts for devotees did not keep pace with the demands of a growing pilgrim population. It is in this context that the recent renovation, carried out under the leadership of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, has emerged as a watershed moment breathing new life into the shrine while preserving the sanctity of its spirit.



glass inlay art blend seamlessly with golden carvings, offering worshippers an atmosphere that is both uplifting and intimate.

The Noor Khana, where the relic is displayed, has been given particular

is not only its artistic flourish but also its practical foresight. The shrine is now equipped with advanced digital lighting, a modern sound system, full air-conditioning, and CCTV surveillance changes that elevate both the spiritual experience and the safety of visitors.

Earlier phases of renovation had already seen the inauguration of marble flooring at the northern entrance, fresh carpeting after seventy long years, and the construction of a two-story sanitary complex. Together, these upgrades mark a holistic approach: attention to comfort without compromising sanctity.

"For the first time in my lifetime, I see Hazratbal so beautifully preserved," said Abdul Majid, a 65-year-old devotee from Baramulla. "It feels as if we are witnessing history, but also stepping into the future."

➤ Beyond Renovation: A Shift in Waqf Governance

Hazratbal's renewal is emblematic of the wider reforms that Dr. Andrabi has sought to bring into the Waqf Board. For decades, the Board was criticized for stagnation, opacity, and poor management of resources. Under her chairmanship, however, a visible transformation has taken root. Revenues have crossed ₹40 crore, transparency has been prioritized, and the focus has

shifted toward upgrading Sufi shrines across the Valley.

For Andrabi, Hazratbal has been more than a project; it has been a statement of intent. "This shrine belongs to the people," she said during the inauguration. "Our

timber. It is a reassurance that Kashmir's cultural and spiritual heritage will not be allowed to fade into neglect. Shrines in this land are not just places of worship; they are living archives of art, architecture, and identity. Their preservation affirms continuity in a time when change often feels overwhelming.

The new Hazratbal invites reflection: on how the Valley can balance its deep-rooted Sufi traditions with the pressing needs of a modern society. It demonstrates that modernization need not be at odds with spirituality; rather, it can enhance devotion by preserving heritage while providing dignity and comfort to worshippers.

➤ The Pearl White Dome That Still Speaks to the Sky

As dusk falls over Srinagar and the dome of Hazratbal catches the fading sun, the shrine appears much as it always has: serene, dignified, timeless. Yet step inside, and the transformation is unmistakable. It is as if the shrine has been gently awakened from a long slumber, its voice stronger, its presence sharper, its spirit more radiant.

Hazratbal today stands as a bridge between the past and the future, between tradition and progress, between



➤ A Historic Transformation

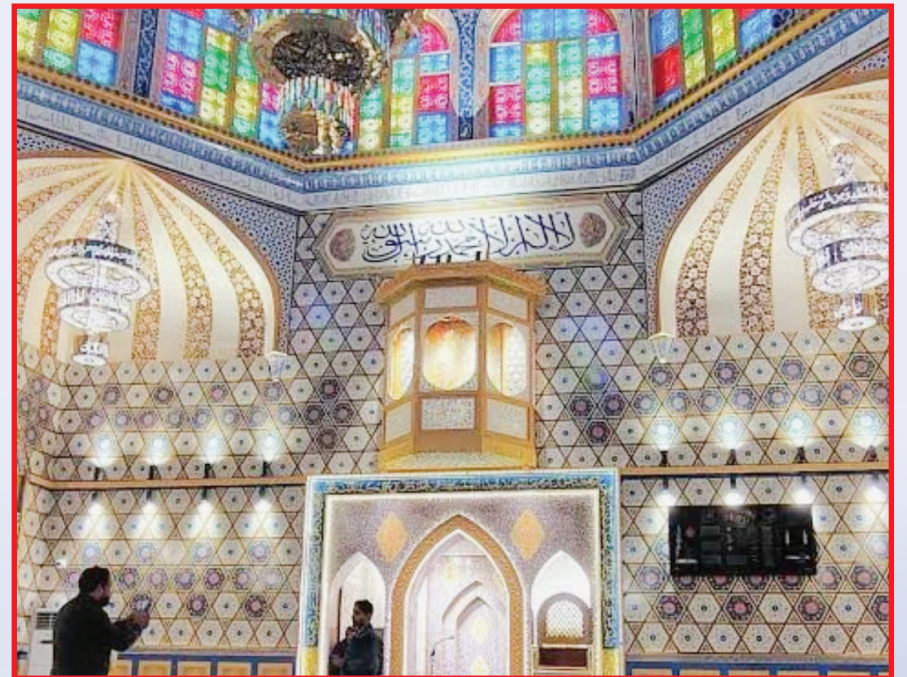
The facelift of Hazratbal is not a cosmetic exercise; it is a cultural revival. For the first time in nearly six decades, the interiors have been infused with both the richness of Kashmiri tradition and the sophistication of modern design. Papier-mâché artistry unfurls across the ceilings and walls, khatamband woodwork frames the architecture with intricate beauty, and delicate pinjrakari latticework casts a soft interplay of light and shadow. Quranic calligraphy and

attention. Bathed in the gentle glow of engraved chandeliers, it exudes a luminous dignity, enhancing the spiritual aura of the shrine's most sacred space.

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju, present at the reopening, called it a "cultural milestone for Jammu and Kashmir," praising the way heritage and modernity have been harmonized.

➤ Modern Amenities for Today's Devotees

What makes this facelift remarkable



responsibility was to preserve its sanctity while making it accessible and comfortable for today's generations. Faith and modernity must walk hand in hand."

➤ The Larger Significance

The rejuvenation of Hazratbal carries a resonance that goes beyond stone and

devotion and renewal. Its facelift is not just about restoring walls and ceilings; it is about restoring confidence that Kashmir's sacred heritage will endure, and indeed, thrive. The white dome still speaks to the sky, but now it does so with a new brilliance. For the faithful, for heritage lovers, and for future generations, Hazratbal has been reborn.

