

Srinagar
 Wednesday
 September 10 | 2025
 16 Rabi ul Awwal, 1447 AH
 Issue No: 215
 Volume: 15
 Pages: 12
 Price: Rs 02/-

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Flood Devastation in J&K ; Restoration, Rehabilitation is Our Top Priority: LG Sinha

LG Visits Health Camp for Flood-Hit Families in Samba

HT News Desk

SAMBA, SEP 09: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha visited the Health Camp at Keso Manhasan, organised by Health Department in collaboration with AIIMS Jammu for flood-affected families. At the health camp, the Lieutenant Governor interacted with the people undergoing health check-ups and listened to their concerns. The Lieutenant Governor said the Army, CAPFs, NDRF and district Administration's quick response in the wake of incessant rain saved many lives. "We are resolved to supporting the people of Jammu Kashmir through this difficult time. The Government of India and the J&K Administration are fully committed to not only restoring the damaged infrastructure but also complete rehabilitation of affected families. The recent natural calamities caused massive destruction throughout the Jammu region, which has not experienced such events on this scale for a very long time.

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LG Visits Mega Health Camp for Flood-Hit Families in Jammu

HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 09: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited the mega Health camp for flood affected families, organised by the Health Department, at Rajeev Colony Jammu. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the

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LG Visits Udhampur, Reviews NH Restoration Works

HT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEP 09: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited the Thard Village at Udhampur and reviewed the ongoing restoration works on National Highway-44. The Lieutenant Governor was briefed by Shri RS Yadav, NHAI Regional Officer, J&K on the deployment of men and machinery for speedy restoration of National Highway. It was informed that the team is working

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Kulgam Gunfight LG pays tribute, CM lays wreath to martyred soldiers

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the brave army personnel Sub Perbhat Gaur and L/Nk Narendra Sindhu, who made supreme sacrifice in the ongoing operations against terrorists in Kulgam. "I salute the supreme sacrifice of our Army Bravehearts Sub Perbhat Gaur and L/Nk Narendra Sindhu. Their valour and indomitable spirit will remain etched forever in our hearts. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. The nation

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'Op Sindoor' a model of military coordination: Army Chief

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, SEP 09: Describing 'Operation Sindoor' as a model of military coordination involving soldiers, policymakers and industry, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday said India's security and economic growth depend on leadership, indigenous innovation and coordinated response to challenges. Speaking at the plenary session of the 52nd National Management Convention of the All-India Management Association here, General Dwivedi, while referring to 'Operation Sindoor', a four-day operation against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan in May this year, said, "War is always

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Agriculture is J&K's Backbone, Farmers' Empowerment Priority: CM Omar



HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: The Apex Committee for the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) led by Dr. Mangla Rai, renowned agriculture scientist and former DG, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and briefed him about the progress on implementation of HADP

for development of Agriculture & allied sectors across Jammu and Kashmir. Other committee members including Dr. PK Joshi, Secretary NAAS; Dr HS Gupta, former Director IARI; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-J, Dr BN Tripathi and Dr. JP Sharma, former VC SKUAST-J were also present. Mission Director HADP, J&K Sand-

deep Kumar, was also present on the occasion. During the interaction, Dr. Mangal Rai gave an overview of HADP and presented comprehensive two-year progress report on the program's initiatives. He also presented several suggestions before the Chief Minister to further enhance the program's implementation and impact.

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J&K Can Be India's Top Wedding Destination: CM Omar

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today remarked that Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential for 'Destination Wedding Tourism' and efforts are on to tap this potential so that Kashmir can emerge from Paradise on Earth to Country's Destination Wedding Capital. The Chief Minister made these remarks after inaugurating the Hindustan-2025 Wedding Planners Expo, organised by Indian Chamber of Event Industry (ICEI) at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here today. Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Ali Sadiq; MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah; President ICEI, Rituraj Khanna; Chairperson ICEI, Gunjan Singhal; noted Hotelier Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya; big

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JKPICCA Meets CM Omar Abdullah, Flags Highway Closure in Peak Fruit Season

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Fruits & Vegetable Processing & Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) called on Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at Raabita Public Outreach Office here and raised the issue of closure of

National Highway in view of the peak fruit season in valley. The delegation, while interacting with the Chief Minister, sought immediate intervention of the Government to ensure uninterrupted movement of fruit and vegetable laden trucks from Kashmir to outside Mandis.

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CM Omar Meets Public, Delegations at Raabita Office Srinagar

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: Scores of delegations and individuals called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita office here today to apprise the Chief Minister of various issues of public importance. A delegation of folk artists and renowned singers of Kashmir including Ustaad Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Waheed Jeelani, Gulzar Ganie and Muneer Mir

raised the concerns of the local artists and singers with the Chief Minister. They sought the Government's intervention to resolve various challenges faced by the community from last several years. Similarly, other public delegations also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various developmental issues and concerns of their respective areas.

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PMAY-U 2.0

CS Approves 1,558 New Housing Units

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired the maiden meeting of the Union Territory Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee (UTLSMC) of the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to review progress under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) and assess implementation of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-Jammu and Kashmir Shehri (D-JAY Shehri) scheme aimed at livelihood generation for the urban poor.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations; MD, J&K Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza; MD, NULM, Mridhu Salathia besides other senior officers. During the meeting, the Committee approved the construction of 1,254 housing units under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) vertical of PMAY-U 2.0 across districts of the UT and 304

additional dwelling units under the Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) vertical to be taken up in Udhampur district. The Committee also cleared the Annual Capacity Building Plan for 2025-26 for onward submission to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of identifying eligible beneficiaries to ensure timely commencement of Affordable Housing projects. He directed the Department to expedite completion of household surveys under PMAY-U 2.0 in all districts so that reg-

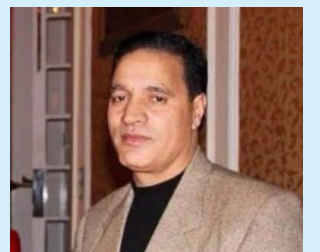
istration of beneficiaries under different verticals could be enhanced. Stressing the need for transparency, he instructed that verification of all applicants be completed expeditiously to ensure genuine households receive the intended benefits. Reviewing the pace of construction, he directed for completion of housing units being undertaken by the beneficiaries within stipulated timelines. He emphasized accelerating ongoing works under Phase-I of PMAY-U, which is nearing its sunset date, while

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Death Anniversary of Renowned Businessman Mohammad Farooq Shah to Be Observed Today

Buland Awaaz News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: The death anniversary of the esteemed businessman Mohammad Farooq Shah, a respected figure and long-time resident of Jawaharnagar, Srinagar, will be observed tomorrow.



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Satish Sharma reviews availability of Food Stocks and LPG supplies amid flood situation in J&K

Supply chain strengthened through Mughal Road, Simthan Top; Air-Drops Conducted in Inaccessible Areas

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: In the wake of the recent floods that have disrupted life in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today convened a high-level meeting to review the availability and distribution of essential commodities including food grains, LPG, and petroleum products across the Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurav Bhagat, along with senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Minister was apprised that

adequate stocks of food grains and essentials are available in all districts. The ration for the month of August has already been distributed, while in certain flood-affected and vulnerable areas, the September quota has also been issued in advance to ensure uninterrupted supply. In addition, the department has maintained a buffer stock of food grains, LPG, and other essential items to meet any future requirements in case of extended disruption.

It was also highlighted that with the active cooperation of telecom operators, the Smart PDS system has been made fully functional, ensuring that the distribution of ration remains smooth and transparent despite the challenges posed by floods.

The meeting was informed



that around 400 trucks carrying petroleum products and other essential supplies have reached the Kashmir Division through

the Mughal Road, providing a lifeline after the temporary disruption of the national highway. Similarly, supplies have been

ensured to the far-flung districts of Kishtwar and Doda through the Simthan Top route, ensuring that people in these areas do not

face any shortage of essentials.

The Minister was also briefed that air-dropping of food supplies has been carried out in inaccessible and cut-off villages, where road connectivity has been severely affected due to landslides and flooding. This measure has ensured that no household remains without food and basic essentials during the crisis.

While interacting with the officers, the Minister said, "The Government is fully committed to ensuring uninterrupted availability of food grains, LPG, and other essentials across Jammu and Kashmir, even in the face of natural calamities. I want to reassure the people that there is no shortage of food stock. All possible measures, including road transportation through alternative routes and

air-dropping in inaccessible areas, are being taken to reach every household."

The Minister also directed the officials to maintain close coordination with district administrations and field functionaries to monitor the ground situation regularly and to adopt a proactive approach in addressing emerging challenges. He stressed that special attention must be given to remote and vulnerable areas to ensure equitable supply and to prevent any hardship to the public.

Satish Sharma further appreciated the efforts of officers, frontline workers of the Food & Supplies Department and various oil companies for working tirelessly in difficult conditions and called for continued dedication until complete normalcy is restored.

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Committed to.....

The Centre in coordination with J&K Administration is currently assessing the damage to essential infrastructure like road, power, water supply, education and health, caused by the recent natural calamities. The team has also visited several affected districts in the Jammu region," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the complete restoration of infrastructure will require some time, but the administration is focused on providing immediate relief to the affected population.

The Lieutenant Governor said the farming community has been severely affected by the recent natural calamities. He urged farmers across the Jammu region to take advantage of the benefits of PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The Lieutenant Governor also expressed gratitude to the Director and the entire team of AIIMS Jammu for organising the health camp for the flood affected families and also discharging their moral responsibility towards the healthcare of the people of Samba.

Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah during his recent visit to Jammu emphasized that health camps should be set up in every Panchayat for flood-affected people.

AIIMS Jammu will be organising 9 more mega health camps and J&K health department, CAPFs, BSF, CRPF, Army are also organising similar health camps. I urge the people to visit these camps and avail healthcare services.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor visited Devak Bridge near AIIMS Jammu at Vijaypur, Samba. The bridge suffered damages due to incessant rains and increased water levels. He directed the officials to expedite the restoration work.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Shri Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC Chairman Samba; Shri Chander Parkash Ganga, Member of Legislative Assembly from Vijaypur; Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, Member of Legislative Assembly from Ramgarh; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director, AIIMS Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu -Samba -Kathua Range; Ms. Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Samba and other senior officials.

LG Visits Mega.....

affected families. He patiently heard their concerns. The Lieutenant Governor assured the families that the Government of India and J&K Administration is committed to the well-being of the people affected due to recent natural calamities in the UT.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shri Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and other senior officials.

LG Visits.....

round the clock and one lane will be open to traffic soon.

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the affected families and enquired about their wellbeing.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor visited the Health Camp organised by the Health Department at Gujjar Bakerwal Hostel, Jakhani, Udhampur and inspected the healthcare facilities at the Camp for the flood-affected families.

Shri Balwant Singh Mankotia, Member of Legislative Assembly from Chenani; Shri Pawan Kumar Gupta; Member of Legislative Assembly Udhampur West; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Ms Sarah Rizvi, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range; Ms Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur; Shri Amod Nagpure Ashok, SSP Udhampur, and other senior officers accompanied the Lieutenant Governor.

LG pays.....

stands shoulder to shoulder with them in this difficult hour," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah laid the wreath and paid rich tributes to the brave soldiers who made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty during Kulgam encounter.

Expressing profound sorrow over the loss, the Chief Minister said that the exemplary courage, unwavering valour, and ultimate sacrifice of these soldiers will be eternally remembered with deep respect and gratitude.

The Chief Minister further affirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the families of martyrs and their continued support in all circumstances.

'Op Sindoor'.....

unpredictable. We are not sure what kind of psychological impact a particular issue would make."

The Army Chief said that dominance over land will remain the "currency of victory" in wars. "When you go back to the Alaska conference that took place between the two presidents, they just discussed how much land has to exchange hands," Dwivedi said, referring to last month's summit talks between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska on the Ukraine conflict.

"Land remains the currency of victory, especially with India's two-and-a-half front threat," he said, adding, "Low-cost, high-technology systems can beat back a superior adversary. David versus Goliath is real in modern warfare."

General Diwivedi said that the Indian Army is pursuing "spiral development" of both equipment and organisations, backed by over Rs 26,000 crore in capital procurement and about Rs 60,000 crore in revenue procurement. "New brigades and battalions called Rudra, Bhairav, and Shaktiban (an artillery regiment) are equipped with Indian systems," he said, adding, "Multiple suppliers will be involved in indigenisation of defence manufacturing. The Army works with Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru for innovation in military tools and materials."

The Army Chief said, "India draws a clear distinction between political groupings such as the Quad, a strategic forum comprising India, Australia, Japan, and the United States, and military alliances like AUKUS, a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States." (KNO)

Agriculture is.....

He also briefed the Chief Minister about the role of Apex Committee, informing that the committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the HADP through comprehensive agricultural development strategies aimed at transforming the agricultural sector and improving the socio-economic conditions of farmers.

Dr. Rai also briefed the Chief Minister about the ongoing three-day midterm review (2023-

2025) of HADP by Apex Committee which commenced yesterday at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir, adding that the committee will continue its deliberations over the next two days to ensure the successful achievement of all HADP goals.

While interacting with the committee members, the Chief Minister stressed on them to focus on comprehensive roadmap for sustainable agricultural development, diversification, and empowerment of farming communities in the region. He emphasized on the critical need for an integrated strategy that addresses sectoral challenges like soil health, water management, modern farming techniques, and market linkages.

Omar Abdullah further highlighted that the agriculture sector remains a pivotal driver of J&K's economy and reaffirmed the government's resolve to provide an enabling environment for farmers by facilitating access to modern inputs, credit, technology, and markets. He added that J&K is emerging as role model for agriculture sector across the country.

While commending the Apex Committee for progress on implementation of HADP, the Chief Minister called for effective promotion of horticulture and allied activities, strengthening of rural infrastructure, and establishment of a robust support framework for small and marginal farmers.

He assured the Committee that the Government is committed to accelerate region's agricultural growth through progressive policy measures and active collaboration with Apex Committee.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister also commended the Vice Chancellors of SKUAST-K and SKUAST-J for tremendous improvement in the academic and research ecosystem of the both varieties. He also lauded them for NIRF ranking of 7th for SKUAST-K and 23rd for SKUAST-J.

J&K Can Be.....

wigs of Indian Event Planning and Hospitality industry and other stakeholders of tourism industry were also present on the occasion.

In his address, the Chief Minister highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is known for its beauty across the globe and has immense potential for destination wedding tourism, apart from the other regular tourism activities like leisure tourism, adventure tourism, pilgrimage tourism or border tourism. He added that the tagline 'Wed in Kashmir' is more than a tagline as it is a movement which will turn Kashmir's natural beauty into engine of prosperity, bringing global spotlight and associated development for this region.

"This expo is a manifestation of Jammu and Kashmir's immense potential to emerge as a hub for luxury weddings and associated enterprises. It is also an opportunity for local entrepreneurs and artisans to showcase their talent on a national stage and further integrate into the growing event management ecosystem", Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister further said that in earlier times no Bollywood movie was complete nor any producer used to produce a film unless a song was not being picturised in Kashmir.

"When the sun starts to set behind the fort, when the snow starts to fall in December and January and when the mustard fields start to turn yellow in March, this beauty reminds everyone of Bollywood movies filmed in Kashmir", Omar Abdullah said.

He added there are so many unique destinations that are reel-worthy that the Gov-

ernment wants to bring back on the tourism map.

The Chief Minister also lauded the organizers for choosing Srinagar for the Expo as it will be an encouraging step for other event planners and encourage them to visit Kashmir and promote Kashmir's rich cultural heritage, breath-taking landscapes, and hospitality infrastructure in promoting destination weddings.

The Chief Minister further highlighted that government is committed to creating an enabling environment for investment and entrepreneurship in the region in destination wedding tourism and event planning sector. He urged the stakeholders to capitalize on the growing demand for destination weddings and related services, underlining that the event industry has tremendous potential in economic revival and employment generation in the region.

The Chief Minister also asked the ICEI management to work collectively with the J&K Government so that the beautiful landscapes of Kashmir valley can be flourished much more than they are known for. He also asked them to take positive message to their respective places and act as brand ambassadors of J&K's tourism.

Advisor to Chief Minister, MLA Zadibal, MLA Gulmarg, President ICEI and Chairperson ICEI also spoke on the occasion.

The Chief Minister also launched the 'Conventions' magazine of ICEI on the occasion.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also visited various stalls established by some renowned names of event planners. He engaged with several exhibitors and interacted with participants to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by wedding planners and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

JKPICCA Meets.....

They also sought streamlined passage of fruit and vegetable laden trucks, no arbitrary halts, alternate routes, dedicated transport corridor, priority movement status for fruit laden trucks as well as immediate start of Railway Cargo Service to ensure faster and direct transportation of the valley's fruit produce to national markets.

While interacting with the delegation, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the association members that the government is fully aware of the gravity of the situation and NH-44 restoration is being monitored on hourly basis. He emphasized that all possible measures are being explored to restore high-way connectivity at the earliest, while long-term solutions are also being explored to prevent such issues in future peak seasons.

The Chief Minister further assured the delegation that the introduction of Railway Cargo Service for fruit produce of Kashmir has already been raised with the Union Ministry of Railways and additional rakes have been requested from them for smooth transportation of fruit produce.

CM Omar Meets....

Apart from these delegations, scores of individuals called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various personal and public concerns.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all delegations and individuals, assuring them that the issues raised would be appropriately addressed through the concerned departments.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also held a brief interaction with MLA Kulgam, M.Y Tarigami and discussed developmental activities in Kulgam constituency.

CS Approves.....

simultaneously focusing on effective implementation of PMAY-U Phase-II.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Man-deep Kaur informed that December 2025 marks the sunset date of PMAY-U Phase-I, while Phase-II is already under implementation across the country. She highlighted that the scheme comprises four verticals—Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS), and Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) aimed at providing all-weather pucca houses to urban poor families.

She explained that Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are entrusted with demand assessment, verification/validation of applications, and submission of monthly beneficiary lists to District Level Committees (DLCs) headed by Deputy Commissioners. The DLCs in turn review implementation and forward Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the UT Level Appraisal Committee (UTLAC) chaired by the Administrative Secretary, H&UDD, which then submits recommendations to the UTLAC chaired by the Chief Secretary.

MD, J&K Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza, while giving an overview of progress achieved under PMAY-U, informed that 32,803 dwelling units have been created across J&K under BLC (29,371 units) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (3,432 units).

Under PMAY-U 2.0, 18,489 applications have been received under BLC vertical and 4,753 under AHP vertical. Of these, 8,798 BLC applications and 1,093 AHP applications have been verified by ULBs, while 2,057 applicants under BLC and 53 under AHP have been found eligible.

Presenting the results of the household survey, Mirza informed that 3,27,630 households have been surveyed in J&K, identifying 64,097 households eligible under BLC, 13,999 under ISS, 5,321 under AHP, and 1,999 under ARHC verticals.

Later, MD NULM, Mridhu Salathia briefed the Committee about implementation of D-JAY Shehri, which focuses on socio-economic upliftment of the urban poor. She explained that the scheme's profiling exercise will be conducted through a door-to-door household survey and help desks at fixed locations.

For the exercise, she added that around 150 teams each in Jammu and Srinagar are being constituted, comprising Mission Managers, Community Organizers, Municipal Officials, Anganwadi/ASHA workers, and Fair Price Shop dealers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that both housing and livelihood initiatives must be implemented in a time-bound, transparent, and beneficiary-oriented manner to ensure that urban poor families across the UT derive maximum benefit from these flagship schemes.

Death Anniversary....

Wednesday 10 September
Late Mohammad Farooq Shah was widely recognized for his contributions to the local business community and for his unwavering commitment to social welfare and development in the region. His integrity, generosity, and leadership left a lasting impact on all who knew him.

Everyone is kindly requested to pray for their pardon and remember them in their duas.
The community remembers Mr. Shah not just as a successful entrepreneur, but as a humble and compassionate individual who believed in giving back to society. Even year after his passing, his values continue to inspire many. May his soul rest in eternal peace. --(BAN)

Buland Awaaz News



Retired Pedagogues: Custodians of Wisdom Beyond the Classroom

■ **Jawaid Iqbal**

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: The vocation of teaching transcends the mundane confines of a profession; it is, in essence, a sacred calling that moulds the character of civilizations. While the world may readily celebrate the triumphs of scientists, statesmen, and inventors, it must never overlook the silent architects behind such triumphs—the teachers. Among these, the retired pedagogues stand as living testaments to a lifetime of intellectual stewardship, moral cultivation, and tireless dedication to humanity's noblest pursuit: education.

Retirement, for such educators, does not signify an eclipse of relevance but rather the dawn of a venerable phase wherein their wisdom ripens into legacy. These preceptors, having traversed decades of chalk-stained classrooms, continue to exert an unseen but profound influence over the fabric of society. Every student they have nurtured becomes a bearer of their vision, an emissary of their values, and a fragment of their enduring identity.

A luminous example of such reverence unfolded recently at Government Upper Primary School, Choutipora Mawer, where the pedagogical fraternity convened an august assemblage to honour their most venerated retired preceptors. Esteemed dignitaries such as Haji Mohammad Abdullah Tali, Haji Ghulam Hassan Malik, Haji Mohammad Maqbool Bhat, Mohammad Sultan Mala, Haji Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Ab Qayoom Mamnoon, and Haji Mohammad Maqbool Bhat of Chontipora were ceremoniously invited and commemorated. As symbolic manifestations of filial affection and scholastic gratitude, they were adorned with floral bouquets, resplendent Kashmiri shawls, and other tokens of reverence.



The homage was rendered by their former pupils—many of whom are now themselves proud disseminators of knowledge in the Department of Education—under the leadership of Headmaster Master Nazir Ahmad Bhat, accompanied by Fayaz Ahmad Pir, eminent columnist and pedagogue Mr. Jaweed Iqbal Bhat, Miss Masooma Aziz, Ab Rashid Bhat, Muzaffar Ahmad Zarger, and Farooq Ahmad War, among others. This solemn act of remembrance, occurring only days after the formal observance of Teachers' Day, stands as a radiant illustration of how society must perpetually honour those who once moulded its conscience.

To pay tribute to retired pedagogues, therefore, is not merely an act of nostalgia but a reaffirmation of cultural and moral continuity. They embody the virtues of patience, discipline, and intellectual generosity. Their memories of austere classrooms, worn-out blackboards, and modest resources are counterbalanced by stories of resilience, innovation, and the quiet triumph of igniting curiosity in young minds.

In the end, retired pedagogues are not relics of a bygone era but custodians of an everlasting heritage. Their words may fade in the noise of time, yet their influence endures in the ethical fibre and intellectual pursuits of countless individuals. To revere them is to honour the invisible scaffolding of civilization itself.



Ustaad Waheed Jeelani, Artists Meet CM Omar Abdullah

■ **HT News Desk**

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: A delegation of the Jammu & Kashmir Music Artists Federation Srinagar, led by noted artist and cultural activist Ustaad Waheed Jeelani, today called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of J&K, Jenab Omar Abdullah, in Srinagar. The meeting was held in the presence of the Chief Minister's Advisors Jenab Nasir Aslam Wani and Jenab Mudasar Shahmiri.

The delegation included senior artists Ustaad Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Ustaad Gulzar Ahmad Ganai, and Jenab Munir Ahmad Mir, who placed before the Chief Minister several long-pending issues concerning the propagation of art and culture in Jammu & Kashmir. They highlighted the urgent need for

institutional support, revival of cultural programs, and welfare measures for the artist community, which has played a pivotal role in safeguarding the region's unique identity.

The Chief Minister listened with keen interest and assured full government support to the artist fraternity. He emphasized that the cultural legacy of Jammu & Kashmir is one of its greatest strengths and assured the delegation that the concerns raised would be given due attention.

On this occasion, a detailed memorandum was submitted to the Chief Minister. The key points included the appointment of competent art-sensitive officers in cultural institutions, creation of scholarships and pensions for senior artists, revival of cultural

hubs such as Tehzeeb Mahal, strengthening of All India Radio Srinagar and Doordarshan Srinagar, promotion of cultural tourism and exchange programs, preservation of indigenous art forms, and the formulation of a comprehensive cultural policy. The memorandum also sought the intervention of the state government in urging the Union Ministries of I&B, Culture, and External Affairs to extend financial and institutional support to J&K's cultural sector.

The Federation expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his positive response and conveyed hope that under his leadership, serious steps will be taken to safeguard and promote the rich musical and cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir.

Drug Inspection in Kulgam: One Store Sealed, Another Issued Notice

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, SEP 09: In a move aimed at ensuring compliance with legal requirements for drug sale and purchase records, the Drug Control authorities today conducted a comprehensive inspection of various retail and wholesale medical establishments in Kulgam town. The focus of the inspection was to check the maintenance of records, particularly for Schedule H and H1 category drugs.

During the drive, around 15 drug sale establishments were inspected. One medical store was found in violation of licensing conditions due to the absence of a qualified pharmacist and a non-functional Computerized Billing System (CBS). As a result, the operation of the store was disallowed on the spot under Section 22(d) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, until compliance is ensured. Additionally, another medical outlet located near District Hospital Kulgam was issued a show-cause notice for discrepancies observed during the inspection.

Several drug samples were also lifted for testing and analysis to ensure that only quality medicines reach the public.

Moreover, a meeting was held with courier



service providers at Chawalgam to sensitize them regarding the reporting of suspicious parcels, especially those related to pharmaceuticals, and to encourage random checks of medicine consignments.

Drug Control officials reiterated that such intensified enforcement drives are part of ongoing efforts to curb the unauthorized sale of drugs and ensure that only safe, quality-assured medicines are made available to patients.

Academy releases "Happiest" Hindi book by Raj Reshi Sharma

■ **Jameel Ansari**

JAMMU, SEP 09: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages today organized a book release function at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu, to formally launch a Hindi essays collection "Happiest" authored by Raj Reshi Sharma.

The event was graced by former Minister Ajay Sadhotra as Chief Guest, Padma Shri Jatinder Udhamपुरi as Special Guest, and Shalinder Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police, as Guest of Honour. The presidium was also shared by Dr. Javaid Rahi, Chief Editor and Divisional Head (Jammu) of the Academy, Dr. Chanchal Sharma, Editor Hindi, and Dr. Kalpna Rattan, former Principal. In his welcome address, Dr.



Javaid Rahi stated that the objective of the programme was to provide a platform to Hindi writers to discuss new books among the intellectual fraternity.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajay Sadhotra said that the book "Happiest" teaches the "Art of Living" and guides readers on how to

attain happiness in the present era. He described it as a great contribution of Raj Reshi Sharma to society and quoted several paragraphs from the book that reflect on life's experiences.

Padma Shri Jatinder Udhamपुरi, in his remarks, observed that such books are the need of

the hour to guide society towards a better way of living. He also highlighted the core message of the book.

Shalinder Singh, SSP, noted that the book is a valuable addition to Hindi essay writing with special reference to Jammu and Kashmir. He congratulated the

author for his contribution.

Dr. Kalpna Rattan praised the consistent literary output of Raj Reshi Sharma, stating that post-retirement he has immensely enriched Hindi literature.

Captain Lalit Sharma presented a paper on the book, noting that "Happiest" is the author's 36th published work. He expressed confidence that readers will find its content meaningful and relatable to their lives.

The author, Raj Reshi Sharma, also spoke on the occasion and shared insights into the background and motivation behind writing the book.

The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Chanchal Sharma, who also presented the vote of thanks on behalf of Secretary Academy, Ms. Harvinder Kour.

Chief Secy and Secretary Textiles discuss skill development and artisan empowerment to boost J&K's traditional sectors

■ **HT News Desk / DIPR**

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a high-level meeting with Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, to chart a forward-looking roadmap for the robust promotion and transformative development of the handicrafts, handloom and sericulture sectors in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary sought the Ministry's support to introduce advanced certificate courses in NIFT Srinagar's craft sector, with a vision to eventually evolve them into full-fledged degree programs. He also emphasized the establishment of an incubation centre at NIFT aligned with the UT's flagship Mission YUVA scheme, to skill and empower the youth.

Emphasizing the strategic role of QR coding in promoting authentic handmade products

from Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary underlined its potential to not only enhance traceability and assure authenticity but also to expand market access, strengthen brand value, and build greater consumer trust, calling for its wider adoption across the craft and handloom sectors.

He further assured the Secretary, Textiles, that the J&K Government would soon resolve the pending issue of land transfer for the establishment of a Weaver Service Centre at Bemina, a step expected to significantly strengthen artisan-centric initiatives in the handloom sector.

During the deliberations, Secretary Textiles sought the intervention of the Chief Secretary to address issues related to NIFT Srinagar at its Ompora campus. She stressed the need for increased funding support and additional land allocation to transform the institute into



a premier fashion technology centre of excellence.

Rao is on a two-day visit to Srinagar on 9th and 10th September 2025, during which she will interact with textile industry representatives, meet Heads

of Departments of the Industries & Commerce Department, virtually inaugurate the Kanihama Craft Handloom Village, inaugurate the CSB Seri-Tourism Project at Manasbal, preside the

distribution of Modified Modern Steel Carpet Looms to 100 beneficiaries at IICT Srinagar, and inaugurate Animal Fibre Quality Assurance Laboratory at SKUAST Kashmir.

The visit is expected to drive policy support, technical guid-

ance, and resource allocation to accelerate the growth of J&K's traditional sectors. It will boost skill development and employment, strengthen handicraft and handloom value chains via QR coding and market linkages,

enhance infrastructure with the Weaver Service Centre and quality assurance facilities and promote sericulture-based tourism, while attracting greater national attention and investment to the Union Territory's rich craft and textile ecosystem.

Also present at today's meeting were Padmini Singla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Musrat Islam, Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir; Tannu Kashyap, Director General, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) along with other senior officers from J&K administration.

The meeting underscores Government of India's unwavering commitment to revitalizing traditional crafts in Jammu & Kashmir, empowering artisans, strengthening rural economies, and enhancing the region's cultural identity on a global platform.

Div Com Kashmir reviews status of migrant grievances, related issues

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review the status of resolution of migrant grievances and other related issues.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Additional Commissioners, Assistant Commissioner Central, OSD, and the Law Officer.

During the meeting, Div Com directed all Deputy Commissioners to designate Nodal Officers in their respective offices specifically for the resolution of migrant grievances. He emphasized the importance of maintaining proper records of all



grievances and ensuring timely action and follow-up for effective redressal.

Garg stressed that all pending court cases related to migrants should be actively pursued and monitored to ensure their swift resolution. Special focus was laid on identification and removal of encroachments on migrant properties and land.

Div Com highlighted the need for both online and offline grievance mechanisms to be handled professionally, ensuring quality and timely disposal. Also, he directed that temple lands be demarcated in accordance with court directions, and any encroachments be promptly removed.

He instructed synchronization of data of DC offices and Div Com office to avoid repetition and duplicity of cases.

PUCA Felicitates JKSA National Convenor Nasir Khuehami for his Student Welfare work

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 9: The Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) on Monday felicitated Nasir Khuehami, National Convenor of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), for his consistent, relentless, and outstanding work in championing student-centric causes across the country, particularly in the Punjab region.

The felicitation ceremony was held in Srinagar, where Khuehami was honoured by PUCA President and Chairman of Aryans Group of Colleges, Dr. Anshu Kataria and other representatives of Association. The event was attended by PUCA office bearers, along with chairpersons and heads of various colleges from Punjab. PUCA, a prominent body representing over 250 institutions in Punjab, has been actively engaged in promoting education, student welfare, and institutional collaboration.

Khuehami, who has been at the forefront of advocating for the rights, safety, and welfare of students from Jammu and Kashmir as well as other marginalized groups, was recognised for his remarkable contributions in the fields of education, student empowerment, and social upliftment.

Over the past eight years, he has played a pivotal role in supporting thousands of Kashmiri students during times of crisis, addressing their day to day grievances at both institutional and governmental levels, and serving as a bridge between students and authorities. From facilitating safe spaces for Kashmiri students in Punjab to ensuring their integration and academic growth, Khuehami's work has built trust and strengthened ties between Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir and beyond.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Anshu Kataria said; "Nasir Khuehami has emerged as a true voice of the students at the national level. His dedication, selfless service, and proactive approach have positively impacted the lives of thousands of youth, particularly from Jammu and Kashmir. Punjab has always opened its heart to Kashmiri students, treating them as their own, and we will continue to provide them with the best possible educational opportunities. Kataria further added that Khuehami's work has been recognised nationally, especially by successive governments and the administration of Punjab, for his efforts in ensuring that the relationship between the two regions is not undermined by political developments.

While receiving the honour, Khuehami expressed gratitude to PUCA for acknowledging his work and lauded the warm and inclusive role Punjab has always played for Kashmiri students. He asserted that, "Our mission is to ensure that students, especially from remote and marginalized backgrounds, are given equal opportunities and a safe environment to thrive. Punjab has always treated Kashmiris as their own, offering them a second home, and we are deeply grateful for that. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the bond of love and brotherhood between Punjab and Kashmir remains unshaken, regardless of political uncertainty." Khuehami urged PUCA and educational institutions in Punjab to continue extending their support to Kashmiri students, ensuring that no student suffers discrimination or alienation.

PUCA Announces Rs 50 Crore Scholarship for J&K Students at Srinagar Education Summit

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 9: In a landmark initiative aimed at empowering the youth of Jammu & Kashmir through education, the Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) in association with Kashmir Career Counselor Association (KCCA) today organized an Education Summit in Srinagar and announced a scholarship worth Rs 20-50 Crore for deserving and needy students of the region. The summit, witnessed the enthusiastic participation of students, parents, education counselors, and eminent academicians.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Anshu Kataria, President, PUCA and Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh, said This scholarship initiative is a historic step to support the bright and deserving students of J&K, who often face financial hurdles in pursuing higher education. PUCA and its member colleges are committed to making quality education accessible and affordable for the youth of this region.

Dr. Kataria added that around 20 leading colleges of Punjab collectively announced scholarships worth Rs 2.5 Crore each, ensuring a wide range of opportunities for students across different streams. The Education Summit brought together not only educational institutions but also more than 200 education counselors from across Jammu & Kashmir, who interacted with students and parents to provide personalized guidance on admissions, career planning, and scholarship benefits.

KCCA members including Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Rayees Ali, Muneeb Basit, Ayaz Ali, Nasir Hussain, Nabeel Showkat, Sanam Bhat appreciated that the announcement of this scholarship is expected to benefit thousands of students from Jammu & Kashmir, especially those from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. The initiative will not only provide financial relief but also open doors for students to study in some of the most reputed institutions of Punjab.

Prominent educational institutions participated in the summit include Aryans Group of Colleges Chandigarh, Amritsar Group of Colleges, Amritsar; Amritsar College of Nursing, Amritsar; Akal College, Mastuana Sahib; Ashoka Group of Institutions, Patiala; Bharat Group of Colleges, Sardulgarh; Global Group of Institutes, Amritsar; Gulzar Group of Colleges, Khanna; Jain Group of Institutions, Abohar; KC Group of Institutions, Nawashehar; Quest Group of Institutes, Jhanjeri; Saraswati Group of Colleges, Maur Mandi (Bathinda); SBS Group of Educational Institutions, Patti; Shiva Group of Colleges, Himachal Pradesh; Sri Sai Group, Pathankot; St. Mary's Rehabilitation University, Hyderabad; Sukhjinder Group of Institutes, Gurdaspur; SVIET Group, Banur, Rajpura; and Vidya Jyoti Eduversity, Derabassi.

BJP J&K holds workshop in Srinagar to Strategise 'Sewa Pakhwada 2025' ahead of PM Modi's 75th birthday

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir organized a workshop at Church Lane, Srinagar, in preparation for Sewa Pakhwada 2025, a fortnight-long public outreach and welfare initiative scheduled to commence on September 17, marking the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma (CA), chiefly addressed the workshop. J&K BJP Vice President Dr. Shahnaz Ganie, General Secretaries Anwar Khan and Gopal Mahajan (Abhiyan Incharge), State Secretaries Mudasir Wani and Arif Raja, and State Office Bearers Adv. Sajid Yousuf Shah, Sajad Raina, Sartaj Majeed, Bilal Parray and others were among the prominent present in the workshop.

District Presidents from across the Kashmir valley, District Prabhars, and designated in-Charges and Co-in-Charges of the Sewa Pakhwada Workshop attended the workshop.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the workshop, spoke about the importance of Sewa Pakhwada as a platform to directly connect with the people through meaningful service. He said that this campaign is not only a tribute to our beloved Prime Minister but also a reaffirmation of the BJP's core philosophy of 'Seva, Sushasan aur Gareeb Kalyan'. He called upon all district and Mandal-level func-



tionaries to make the campaign a resounding success by involving youth, women, and marginalized communities.

Dr. Shahnaz Ganie highlighted the role of women and youth in the upcoming campaign. Sewa Pakhwada provides an opportunity to engage women and young volunteers in meaningful service activities. Their active participation will add new energy to the campaign and help us build stronger grassroots connections, she said.

Anwar Khan stated that the Sewa Pakhwada is a reflection of the BJP's commitment to serve every section of society, especially the underprivileged. It's not just a campaign, but a movement to ensure that governance reaches the last person in the queue,

he said. Gopal Mahajan, while explaining in detail, emphasized that Sewa Pakhwada 2025 will begin with a statewide blood donation drive on September 17, and will encompass a range of welfare activities including health check-up camps, cleanliness drives, tree plantation, distribution of assistive devices, and awareness programs. "The objective of the workshop is to ensure well-coordinated and effective implementation of these activities by all BJP Mandal units across

Later, Sat Sharma, also chaired a meeting with all the Cells of the party, in which the party president stressed on the dedicated working of the Cells for the welfare of the society and connecting the people with the party.

SDM Gool Visits Thatharka Area to Assess damages due to recent rains

■ HT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEP 09: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gool, Imtiaz, today visited Thatharka area of Sub-Division Gool to assess the damages caused by the recent heavy rainfall. He was accompanied by Tehsildar Gool, Harjeet Singh, BDO Gool, Sadam Hussain, and other concerned officials.

During the visit, the SDM inspected the extent of damage to infrastructure, link roads, houses, and agricultural land. He also interacted with local residents, patiently listening to their griev-



ances and assuring them of all possible support from the administration for the affected families.

The SDM issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments to expedite restoration of water and power supply in the affected areas and to prepare relief cases for the deserving families. He further instructed the officials to ensure immediate restoration of damaged roads to facilitate smooth connectivity and accessibility for the local population.

As part of the visit, the SDM also inspected the ongoing construction of the Higher Secondary School Thatharka building and directed to expedite the construction work.

Kupwara Administration Ensures Food Safety with Proactive Inspection Drive

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 09: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Bala-saheb Suse (IAS), the Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Mr. Gulzar Ahmad, along with Food Safety Officer Kupwara, Abdul Ahad, Tehsildars, and other concerned officials, today conducted a comprehensive inspection drive across various food establishments in Kupwara main market.

During the thorough inspection, no instances of rotten or spoiled meat were found at the inspected establishments. The meat being prepared was observed to be fresh, clean, and stored in small, manageable quantities. Officials expressed satisfaction and confidence that food vendors have been maintaining required

hygiene standards and are expected to uphold these norms consistently in the future.

The ADC issued spot directives to all food business operators, emphasizing the need to maintain proper bills, purchase records, and storage protocols for meat, chicken, and other perishables. This is to ensure complete traceability of supplies and to prevent any malpractice or unsafe handling that could pose a threat to public health.

The inspection team also provided guidance on safe food storage, temperature regulation, and disposal of expired items, aiming to educate vendors and reinforce preventive measures. Posters and pamphlets highlighting food safety protocols were distributed among the shopkeepers, while officials encouraged



them to report any irregularities in their supply chains.

ADC Mr. Gulzar Ahmad reiterated that such inspection drives would be intensified and expanded beyond the main town to cover every tehsil and block level across the district. He stressed that ensuring impeccable hygiene at all food establishments is non-negotiable and warned that any violation of food safety norms will invite strict legal action, including fines and license suspension.

The administration also plans to conduct periodic training sessions for food handlers and regularly monitor compliance through surprise inspections. These efforts form part of a larger initiative to create awareness, instill accountability, and promote safe food practices among traders and consumers alike.

Union Textiles Secretary reviews Handicrafts & Handloom Sectors in J&K

Emphasizes artisan welfare, promotion, export & market expansion of local products

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 9: Union Textiles Secretary, Neelam Shami Rao, today said that the Central Government will explore establishing a vibrant testing and certification system to promote high-end handicrafts and handloom products of Jammu and Kashmir.

She made these remarks during an interaction with representatives from chambers of commerce, exporters, weavers, and artisans' associations at the Arts Emporium Office, Srinagar.

Chairing a meeting with stakeholders, the Union Secretary discussed ongoing initiatives and proposals aimed at promoting local crafts, enhancing exports, and creating new avenues for growth, innovation, and employment generation.

Neelam Shami Rao emphasized that a strong testing and certification system would help eliminate counterfeit products, boost exports, and safeguard the unique identity of Kashmiri crafts.

In this regard she instructed that a proposal be submitted to the Union Government.

Appreciating the Government's decision to reduce GST on textiles and handicrafts from 12% to 5%, stakeholders called for a brand campaigning for J&K handicrafts and handloom products at national and international markets, infrastructure upgradation, extension of welfare schemes for artisans, market diversification, and curbing sale of machine-made and counterfeit items from showrooms.

At the outset, the Union Secretary stressed ensuring maxi-



mum coverage of artisans under pension schemes, PF/ESIC registration, and scholarship benefits for their children.

She said that efforts are being made to diversify markets for local products, targeting Europe, the UK, and the Middle East markets.

Neelam Shami Rao said that the Government is committed

to developing J&K's textile sector with a focus on infrastructure development, skill enhancement, market expansion, and the welfare of artisans, weavers, and entrepreneurs.

Union Secretary also visited the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) campus in Budgam, where she inspected various labs, auditorium, class-

rooms and interacted with faculty and students.

She appreciated students for their exemplary work and dedication in making best products, showcased on the occasion.

Addressing students she encouraged them to make best use of training and learning throughout their time in the campus, and become one among the best

creators.

"You are the future of India's textile industry. Your creativity and skills will define the next generation of design and fashion from Kashmir to the world. Keep trying, explore new ideas, and be yourself, the world will recognize your work through your creativity," she said.

Neelam Shami Rao described the NIFT campus as one of the best in the country and encouraged students to focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Union Secretary also virtually inaugurated the Craft Handloom Village at Kanihama, terming it a significant step towards promoting traditional crafts, tourism, and sustainable livelihoods.

She directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to ensure wide publicity of the craft village to

attract tourists and encourage direct purchases from artisans.

Later, the Union Secretary visited the CSB Basic Seed Farm, Manasbal, where she inaugurated the CSB Seri-Tourism Project and interacted with scientists and stakeholders.

MLA Beerwah, Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani; Union Joint Secretary, MoT, Padmini Singla; Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, P. Sivakumar; Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mahiuddin Bhat; Director General NIFT, Tanu Kashyap; Director Sericulture, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat; Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Musarrat Zia; and other senior officers also accompanied the Secretary during her tour to various facilities.

Ehsaas Foundation Organises Online Quiz on Milad-un-Nabi

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 9: On the eve of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the Ehsaas Foundation held an Online Quiz Competition that saw enthusiastic participation from students across several regions. The event was aimed at spreading awareness about the life and message of Prophet Muhammad and encouraging young people to follow values of peace, compassion, and service.

Following a competitive round, 12 students were declared winners. The list includes Sahil Ahmad, Naziya Nazir, Yawar Bashir, Suhana Hilal, Muzamil Ahmad Shah, Ishaq bin Mohammad, Iqra Majeed, Ismyal Ahmad, Azim Sultan, Ahsan Jalali, Basit Fayaz, and Nargis Nazir.

Molana Bakhtawar Ali Qadri congratulated the winners and reminded everyone that the Prophet's life is a complete guide for humanity. "Our youth must take inspiration from his message of kindness and righteousness and apply it in their everyday lives," he said. "Efforts like these help nurture moral and spiritual values in our students."

Molana Sohail Qadri also shared his thoughts, calling Milad-un-Nabi a time to reconnect with the Prophet's teachings. He encouraged students to keep seeking knowledge and to carry forward the message of Islam with sincerity and love.

Burhan Nazir, Vice Chairman of Ehsaas Foundation, expressed joy over the enthusiastic response. "This quiz was more than a competition, it was a way to engage students in meaningful learning about the Prophet's life. We're committed to creating more opportunities like this that blend education, spirituality, and community service," he said.

The Foundation also thanked Amaan Shakeel, Founder of Infoma Academy, for providing technical support that helped make the event a success.

In a message of gratitude, Ehsaas Foundation acknowledged the efforts of all participants, teachers, and scholars, and pledged to continue organizing educational and spiritual programs in the future.

IMCT visits Pulwama, holds review meeting on relief, restoration measures

Also inspects flood affected areas in Pampore, Kakapora, Awantipora

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, SEP 09: The Inter Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) deputed by the Union Government comprising Col. K.P. Singh, Joint Secretary & Advisor (Ops & Comm), NDMA; Navin Chaurasia, Regional Officer, MoRTH, Jammu; Ramavtar Meena, Director, MoRD; Shachi Jain, Director, Ministry of Jal Shakti, M&A Directorate, CWC Jammu; Aarti Singh, Deputy Director, Ministry of Power; Dr. Vikrant Singh, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; and Mahesh Kumar, Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance, today visited district Pulwama to assess the damages caused by recent flash floods.

During the visit, the team was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, along with several district and sectoral officers.

The team inspected various affected locations, including orchards, paddy fields, damaged roads, bunds, and bridges of



Pampore, Kakapora and Awantipora tehsils.

Later, the team held a review meeting at Circuit House Pulwama, during which a detailed presentation was given on the district profile, its geographical context, and the challenges posed by heavy rainfall and flood vulnerability.

The IMCT was apprised of the multi-phase and multi-faceted disaster response adopted by the district during the floods. The meeting was also briefed about rescue and relief measures including ration supply, potable drinking water through tankers, food kits & medical aid, and relocation of vulnerable families to designated rescue centres.

The team was also briefed about the damage to essential infrastructure like power feeders, drinking water supply schemes, roads, bridges, irrigation channels, and school buildings. It was informed that temporary restoration works were taken up on priority, and safety audits were conducted in flood-

affected schools, with temporary relocations where required.

The team was informed that while short-term measures such as road clearance, power and water restoration, and ration supply have been undertaken, long-term resilience planning is underway, including strengthening of embankments, flood protection works, and disaster preparedness mechanisms.

The meeting was also informed that damage details and estimations are being compiled department-wise for submission to Government of India.

The IMCT appreciated the response measures taken by district administration.

The meeting, among others, was attended by senior officers of district administration, engineers from key departments like PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti (PHE), Irrigation & Flood Control, KP-DCL, PMGSY and senior officers of Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, FCS & CA, and Revenue departments.

Kanak Mandi Traders become Nikshay Mitras

Donate 70 kg ration to TB Patients

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 09: The members of Kanak Mandi Traders Association today joined Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMA) by offering their support to TB patients as Nikshay Mitras.

The Association members adopted TB patients and donated 70 kg ration on the 3rd Anniversary of the Abhiyaan in the presence of Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and State TB Officer Dr. Jyoti Jolly and



other officials. As a Ni-kshay Mitra, anyone - individuals or institutions can provide

nutrition food kits to TB patients. This helps their recovery, saves lives and prevents drug resistance.

Members of Kanak Mandi Traders Association who adopted TB Patients are Ashish Mahajan (President), Rajiv Gupta (Sr. Vice President), Nikhil Gupta (Jr. Vice President), Vikas Gupta (General Secretary) Vikas Gupta (Secretary), Vikas Aggarwal (Treasurer), Suman Gupta, Raj Kumar, Atul Gupta, Vishal Gupta, Sachin Gupta, Vishal Gupta (Members) and many more.

86 quintals of ration delivered to affected Sawalkote via Special Train: DC Reasi

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, SEP 09: In a major relief initiative for cut-off areas, the District Administration Reasi has successfully resumed essential supply lines through railway services. Today, 86 quintals of dry ration, including 106 wheat bags and 66 rice bags, were delivered to the affected Sawalkote area of Reasi.

The District Administration Reasi transported the ration via a special train service arranged in coordination with the Railway authorities, following its formal request on 6th September 2025 for restoration of the Kanthan-Sawalkote railway route. Responding swiftly, the Railways commenced this dedicated service today, which will continue until 12th September. As part of the arrangement, today's consignment was carried from Katra to Sawalkote, ensuring uninterrupted food supplies for affected families.

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik is personally monitoring coordination with the Railways to ensure smooth logistics and timely distribution.

Meanwhile, the administration is also working with the Indian Army to airlift essential commodities to other completely cut-off areas, including Sarhi in Bhomag. A formal request was submitted on 7th September, but unfavorable weather conditions have delayed the operation. If weather permits, the airdrop will be carried out tomorrow.

The Sarhi area of Tehsil Bhomag remains isolated due to multiple landslides on the Reasi-Sarhi (via Tote) road, while the alternative Udhampur-Sarhi (via Moungr) route is blocked after the Thatthi Bridge was washed away. Although adequate ration stock is currently available, precautionary measures are being taken to avoid any shortages.

The Deputy Commissioner further informed that reconstruction of the Thatthi Bridge is being taken up on priority with Army support, while alternate routes and manual transportation options are also being explored. "Our goal is to ensure that no family suffers due to disruption of supply lines," she said.

DC Poonch visits flood-affected area of Kalaban - Mendhar

Assures timely relief, Restoration

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, SEP 09: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today conducted an extensive visit to the flood-affected area of Kalaban in Sub Division Mendhar, where recent heavy rains have caused severe damage to houses, roads, and other critical infrastructure due to landslides and road sinking.

Accompanied by SDM Mendhar Imran Kataria, Executive Engineers, and other concerned officers, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the ground situation and interacted with the affected residents to understand their grievances.

Several families reported the complete or partial collapse of their homes and snapping of essential



services such as water and electricity supply. The Deputy Commissioner gave on-spot directions to the concerned departments to restore basic amenities without delay.

In a prompt response, the Deputy Commissioner provided relief materials, including tents, ration, medical supplies, and other essential items to the affected families. Compensation was also disbursed to affected families as per the disaster relief norms.

The Deputy Commissioner reassured the people that "no genuine flood-affected family will be left out" and reiterated the administration's commitment to provide every possible support in this difficult time.

HT EDITORIAL

Call for Sustainable Rehabilitation

The continued devastating floods and landslides that are striking Jammu and Kashmir have left a trail of destruction, homes washed away, roads severed, and thousands of lives uprooted. Although J&K government as well as the central government acted promptly by providing immediate response. While the immediate relief efforts by the Army and local authorities provided critical support, howey the real challenge now lies in long-term rehabilitation.

Rebuilding homes and restoring infrastructure is only part of the solution. The government must urgently focus on restoring livelihoods, ensuring proper psychological support for affected families, and adopting climate-resilient infrastructure. Too often, relief measures remain short-lived, with little emphasis on future preparedness. This time, a comprehensive and transparent strategy is imperative.

Authorities must fast-track the reconstruction of roads, power lines, and communication networks with designs suited to withstand future climatic events. Equally important is providing financial aid and skill development programs to rebuild the economic independence of flood-affected families.

Above all, accountability in disbursing relief funds and involving local communities in decision-making will determine the success of rehabilitation efforts.

The floods exposed our vulnerabilities. Let the rebuilding of Jammu and Kashmir be a step toward greater resilience, not a temporary fix. The people deserve nothing less. Lessons to be learnt should be futuristic not for temporary arrangements. Sustainable efforts need to be put in place to put the house in order.

15TH ANNIVERSARY HEADLINES TODAY Voice To The Voiceless

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group: Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi), Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor: Syed Jahangir Bukhari, Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora Srinagar -190017, Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad Cell No - 9697071471, Editorial Section: 7006846797, Multimedia Section: 9419008414, Advertisement Section: 9697071471 RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231

Why Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) debate matters for India's Democracy?



Shahid Ahmed Hakla Poonchi

In a dramatic turn of events, Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls—launched by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in mid-2025—has ignited political flames across the state. Intended as a cleansing exercise to remove outdated and ineligible entries, it has instead become a flashpoint of accusations, court battles, and political posturing.

Congress Drops the Gauntlet

The Congress party has emerged as the fiercest critic of the SIR. In a scathing statement, it branded the exercise "a devious and dubious idea disguised as a solution," warning readers that government officials conducting door-to-door verification pose "a huge risk of wilful exclusion of voters using the power of the state machinery".

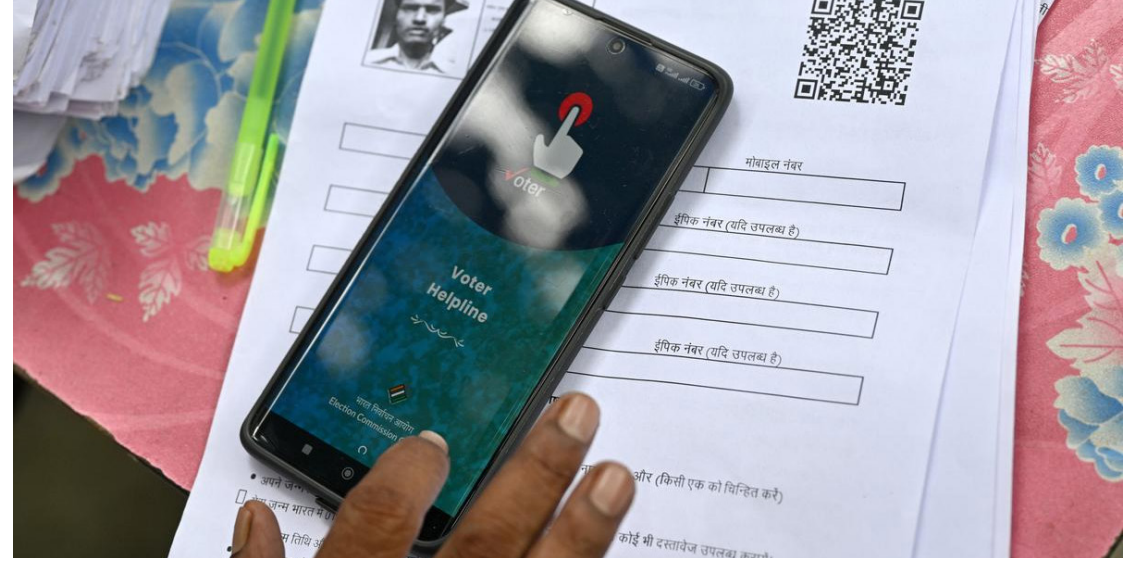
At a press conference in Patna, senior spokesperson Pawan Khera claimed the party had submitted 89 lakh complaints about irregularities—only to have them rejected by the EC for being improperly formatted. "The EC kept saying through its sources that no complaints are coming from any political party... The truth is that the Congress itself submitted 89 lakh complaints pertaining to irregularities in the SIR," Khera said, demanding a fresh verification drive.

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi presented the issue in dramatic terms during the "Voter Adhikar Yatra": "SIR means stealing votes from the people of Bihar. Earlier, they used to do it secretly. Now they are doing it openly in front of everyone," he declared, warning of an "institutionalized way for vote theft".

Veteran Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, in a rare display of urgency, labeled the SIR process "impractical and unjust," lamenting its rushed timeline amid monsoon season and asserting it targeted "the poor, labourers, farmers, and marginalized communities." He urged INDIA bloc partners to unite against the drive, highlighting the plight of over three crore migrant workers potentially disenfranchised by inaccessible documentation and tight deadlines.

EC and BJP: Standing Their Ground

The Election Commission has defended the SIR



as a necessary process, highlighting that it aims to cleanse electoral rolls of ineligible entries, including duplicates and non-citizens. A press note revealed that, from June 24 to August 24, 98.2% of electors submitted the required documents—an average of 1.64% per day—leaving just 1.8% pending before the September 1 deadline; the final rolls are expected by September 30.

The ECI also reassured the public that claims and objections would be processed by September 25, followed by a final roll publication on September 30.

The BJP, for its part, accused Congress of politicizing the process. Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat accused opposition parties of attacking constitutional bodies for electoral gain. Internally, the BJP mobilized booth-level volunteers to file inclusion claims proactively, pointing to high participation as proof of SIR's fairness.

Judiciary Enters the Fray

Amid mounting petitions from RJD, TMC, ADR, and others, the Supreme Court refused to suspend the SIR, underscoring its constitutional rationale while raising concerns over tight timelines and restricted access to commonly held documents such as Aadhaar or voter ID.

Subsequently, the Court mandated the ECI to publish booth-wise exclusion lists, searchable by EPIC number, and display them publicly at polling and panchayat offices to ensure transparency. It also clarified that Aadhaar cannot be used as the sole proof of citizenship, affirming that while it may serve as identification, it does not establish voter eligibility on its own.

In addition, Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi cited an interim SC directive compelling the EC to

accept Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration cards for inclusion claims, reinforcing legal protections for disenfranchised voters.

Transparency Must Trump Speed

The SIR exercise in Bihar cannot be dismissed as a routine bureaucratic clean-up — its scale and timing make it a deeply political act. While the Election Commission is right in seeking accurate rolls, the sheer number of deletions — over 65 lakh — raises legitimate concerns about whether genuine voters may have been struck off in the process.

Congress's alarm is not entirely misplaced. In a state where migrant workers are frequently absent during verification drives, the risk of mass disenfranchisement is real. The BJP's defense, meanwhile, underscores the need for clean elections, but its blanket rejection of the opposition's concerns risks appearing dismissive of voter rights.

The Supreme Court's insistence on publishing booth-wise deletion lists and allowing claims until the last date of nominations is a crucial safeguard. Going forward, what Bihar needs is not just accuracy but inclusivity — an electoral roll that is both clean and complete.

If democracy is to thrive, transparency must take precedence over speed, and trust must be rebuilt between institutions and citizens. Bihar's voters cannot be made collateral damage in a bureaucratic rush or a political slugfest.

The writer SHAHID AHMED HAKLA POONCHI is a Published Writer in the Daily Leading Newspapers of J&K and an Independent Researcher. He can be contacted at shahidhakla360@gmail.com

Reforming, Reviewing, & Revolutionising GST

Omkar Dattatray

Modi government has taken a bold and historical decision to reform, review and revolutionise the GST to counter the impact of Trump's 50% tariff and benefit the common Indian as it slashed considerably the present GST rates to ensure next generation reforms of the GST. Modi killed two birds with one stone. On the one hand he tried to reduce the adverse impact of the Trump's tariff and on the other hand he tried to give benefit to the common man by slashing the GST rates effective from 22nd October 2025. Modi stated it is big Diwali bonanza for the countrymen. Whatever is the reason for decreasing the GST rates, one thing is crystal clear that it is going to benefit the common Indian. Some argue that Modi has announced the revamping, reforming and reviewing the GST structure because of the polls in Bihar and some other states. Whatever may be the compulsion, the decision of the Modi government will have positive bearing upon the people as the prices of many goods and services have been cut down and it will directly benefit the consumers. The GST council approved the rate overhaul by limiting slabs to 5 per cent and 18 per cent. The Goods and Services Tax - GST council on Wednesday approved a complete overhaul of India's tax consumption tax since its launch in 2017, slashing duties on household essentials, medicines, small cars and appliances and affecting everything from toothpaste and insurance to tractors and cement. The council approved the rate overhaul by limiting slabs to 5 per cent and 18 per cent, as centre seeks to boost domestic spending and cushion the economic blow of the US tariffs imposed on Indian goods. The council reduced the current four slabs -5,12,18, and 28 per cent -to the two-rate structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent. A, special 40 percent slab is

however, proposed for a select few items such as high-end cars, tobacco and cigarettes. The new rates for all products ,except pan masala ,gutka ,cigarettes, chewing tobacco products like Zarda, unmanufactured tobacco and bidi, will be effective from September 22. As a result of slashing GST rates ,the following things will be cheaper, thus benefitting the consumers considerably. -a -all forms of chapati and parathas will be charged nil tax down, from the current rate of 5% .-b -Tax rate has also been slashed to nil from 5 per cent on ultra -high temperature milk, chena or paneer ,pizza bread and khakra. -c -Common use food items and beverages, ranging from butter and ghee to dry nuts, condensed milk ,sausages, jam, and fruit jellies ,tender coconut water ,namkeen, drinking water packed in 20-liter bottles, fruit pulp or fruit juice ,beverages containing milk, ice cream ,pastry and biscuits, corn flakes and cereals, and sugar confectionary, with a cut in tax rate to 5% from the current 18% .-d -GST on other fats and cheese has also been lowered to 5% from 12% .-e -Plant -based milk drinks will become cheaper with GST rate being reduced to five per cent from existing 18 per cent. while that of soya milk drinks has also been cut to five per cent from twelve percent. 2-Household items-a -Items such as tooth powder, feeding bottles, tableware, kitchenware, umbrellas, utensils, bicycles, bamboo furniture and combs, as it will see a rate cut from 12 percent to 5 per cent. 3-Shampoo, talcum powder ,toothpaste, toothbrushes, face powder, soap hair oil with a cut down to 5 per cent from 18 percent. 4-household appliances-a -Consumer electronics like air-conditioners ,dishwashers, and TV's will be taxed at 18% from the current 28 per cent. 4-Items-a -Maps, charts, globes, pencils, sharpeners, crayons and pastels ,exercise books and notebooks will be charged

at nil from 12 percent. b-Similarly, erasers will be charged nil from five per cent. 5-Footwear and Textiles-a -Footwear and textiles have seen GST cut from 12 per cent to 5 per cent, reducing costs for mass-market products. -6-Healthcare. -a -Life-saving drugs, health -related products, and some medical devices have seen rate cuts from 12 per cent /18 percent to 5 per cent. or nil. c-The rate on thermometers has been slashed from 18 per cent to five per cent. on medical grade oxygen, all diagnostic kits and reagents, glucometer and test strips and corrective spectacles from 12 per cent to five per cent. -6-Insurance and policies-a -Individual life and health insurance policies to attract nil tax. b-Supply of service of third-party insurance of goods carriage will now attract 5 percent with input tax credit -ITC from 12 per cent to with ITC. 7-Hotel tariffs and flights-a -The GST has been lowered from 12 per cent with ITC to five per cent without ITC. The tax on rooms up Rs 7,500 has been reduced to five per cent. 8-Vehicles ,auto components-a -Motorcycles up to 350 cc will be taxed at 18 percent as against 28 percent currently. -b -Small hybrid cars will also benefit, while electronic vehicles will continue to be charged at five percent GST. C-GST on auto components has been reduced to 18 percent from the current 28 percent slab. -9-Fuel usage-a -Petrol, LPG, and CNG vehicles of less than 1200 cc and not more than 4,000 mm length and diesel vehicles of up to 1500 cc and 4000 mm length ,too, would move to 18 percent from 28 percent. 10-Cement will cost less with the tax rate coming down from 28% to 18%. -11-Sewing machines and parts.-a -GST rate has been slashed from 12 per cent to five per cent. -12-Agricultural Machinery-a -The rate has been slashed from 12 per cent to 5 per cent on various agricultural machinery including, fixed speed die-

sel engines of power not exceeding 15HP ,Hand Pumps, nozzles for drip irrigation equipment and sprinklers ,agricultural and horticultural machinery for soil preparation, harvesting and threshing machinery etc. However, some products not used by common citizens and to discourage their use have become costlier. 1-Aerated, caffeinated drinks-a -Popular soft drink, such as coca-cola and Pepsi, along with other non -alcoholic beverages, will become costlier, with the council approving a hike in tax rate on carbonated beverages to 40% from current 28 per cent. b-Caffeinated beverages to be charged 40 % from current 28%. Besides, tobacco items, leisure activities will cost more. India's GST council approved a "GST 2.0" reform on September 3, 2025, aiming to simplify the tax structure, correct systemic inefficiencies, and stimulate domestic economic activity, as a strategic evolution of the original 2017 tax regime. Additionally, the reform includes significant administrative simplification, such as faster registration process for low -risk businesses and a simplified refund mechanism for exporters. This GST reform, effective from 22nd September ,2025, represents the most significant transformation in India's taxation system since the original GST implementation in 2017. The Next -Gen GST reform introduces a streamlined structure with two primary rates that replace the previous four-slab system. The merit rate of 5% applies to essential goods and services that form part of common consumption. The standard rate of 18% covers most other items in the economy. Additionally, a Demerit Rate of 40% applies exclusively to luxury and sin goods. GST reduction affecting approximately 8.5% of the consumer price index basket will potentially create downward pressure on inflation.

The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer

Cities of progress, homes of loneliness



■ Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

The availability of facilities has made life easier, but community trust, intimacy and social bonds have started breaking down.

The biggest challenge is the erosion of community bonds. While in villages there are strong ties between neighbours and relatives, people living in cities often experience a sense of alienation and distance. Gated societies and high-income colonies have fragmented social life. People withdraw into their small circles and distrust of the "other" begins to grow. This trend weakens the sense of collective trust and cooperation in society. Another major crisis of urban life is loneliness. Despite the crowd and busyness, people feel individually isolated.

Millions of people live in metros, but most do not even know their neighbors. According to a survey, about 40 percent of urban Indians admitted that they feel lonely. This statistic shows that modern urban life may have given us material comforts, but it has weakened us emotionally and socially. Technology has also increased this loneliness. Dependence on smartphones and social media has limited real human interaction. While traveling in the metro or bus, people often do not communicate with each other, but remain immersed in the mobile screen.

Urbanization has deeply affected India's social life and human relations. It is not only a means of economic progress but also a social change that has changed the nature of our traditional relationships, trust and cooperation. The pace of urban life, diver-



sity of opportunities and easy access to services have certainly given new options to citizens, but at the same time this process has also been challenging human sensibilities and community relations.

The growth of cities brought people closer to opportunities such as education, health and employment. While earlier access to these facilities was difficult in rural India, urban areas made them easier. Metropolises like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata have world-class hospitals, universities and cultural centres. These places not only provide services but also become platforms for the exchange of knowledge and ideas. This is why urban

life is called the engine of modern India. Its residents come from different linguistic, religious and cultural backgrounds, which leads to the experience of diversity and develops a sense of tolerance.

Additionally, cultural richness and civic consciousness are strong in urban life. Activities such as art galleries, libraries, theatre, literary gatherings and mass movements have been the hallmark of cities. Whether it is the Academy of Fine Arts in Kolkata or the India Habitat Centre in Delhi—these spaces promote collective dialogue and creativity. Additionally, the IT industry and startup culture in cities like Bengaluru have opened up new pos-

sibilities for professional collaboration and networking. Citizens also organise themselves and raise their voice for their rights and amenities. Examples of this are the campaigns against waste management and waterlogging by the Resident Welfare Committees of Gurugram.

But amidst all these positive aspects, urbanisation has another face, which points to a much deeper social crisis. The biggest challenge is the erosion of community bonds. While in villages there are strong ties between neighbours and relatives, people living in cities often experience a sense of alienation and distance. Gated societies and high-income colonies have fragmented social life. People become confined to their small circles and distrust of the "other" begins to grow. This trend weakens the spirit of collective trust and cooperation in society.

Another major problem of urban life is loneliness. Despite the crowd and busyness, people become personally isolated. Millions of people live in metros, but most do not even recognize their neighbors. According to a survey, about 40 percent of urban Indians admitted that they feel lonely. This statistic shows that modern urban life may have given us material comforts, but it has weakened us emotionally and socially.

Technology has also increased this loneliness. Dependence on smartphones and social media has limited real human interaction. While traveling in the metro or bus, people often do not communicate with each other, but remain immersed in the mobile screen. This trend proves the observation of sociologist George Simmel in which he called modern cities a symbol of "loneliness in the crowd".

At the same time, the congestion and scarcity of resources of urban life have also given rise to tensions and conflicts. Fights over issues such as water, electricity, traffic and parking have become common. In cities like Delhi, parking disputes often escalate to violence. Vehicle pollution and road accidents also add to the insecurity

of civic life. Safe spaces for pedestrians are shrinking, thereby diminishing shared public life. This decline directly impacts social capital, because open and safe public spaces give rise to dialogue and cooperation among people.

Thus, urbanization has had a two-pronged impact on India's social capital. On the one hand, it provided opportunities for education, health, diversity and cultural advancement, while on the other hand, it made relationships superficial, unstable and distrustful. In the pace of economic development, we left behind emotional and community life.

It is necessary that urban planning should not be limited to the physical structure but should also give place to the dignity of human relations and restoration of community life. We need public places where people can meet and communicate easily. Residential welfare committees should not be considered only administrative units but should be made a platform for social gatherings and community festivals. Festivals, fairs and cultural programs should be promoted in cities so that people can come closer to each other. Along with this, policies for affordable and inclusive housing should be prepared so that class-based divisions can be reduced.

India's future will undoubtedly be urban, but this future can be sustainable and prosperous only when urbanisation becomes a driver of not just economic but also social capital. We must ensure that the fabric of relationships is not broken in the race for development. Cities will become truly progressive only when they not only deliver prosperity and opportunities, but also keep alive the spirit of trust, cooperation and collective well-being.

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The Dark Clouds Of Death In The Atmosphere



■ Mool Raj

The rains of Jammu and Kashmir are no longer just a blessing from the skies, but a warning from nature—glaciers are melting, forests are falling, and the fragile Himalayas are crying for urgent action before silence replaces their streams.

In recent years, UT of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has been facing weather changes that are both unusual and alarming, with heavy rainfall, sudden cloudbursts, flash floods, and long wet spells becoming far more common than before, and many people are left wondering why it rains so much in J&K these days, almost resembling the monsoon in the plains of India; the answer, however, lies in the rising temperatures, melting glaciers, global warming, and human-driven actions such as deforestation which are collectively disturbing the climate system of this fragile Himalayan region. Rainfall, in simple terms, is tied closely to temperature variations—when the temperature rises, more water evaporates from rivers, lakes, and even soil, and this extra moisture lingers in the atmosphere before it returns as heavy rain or snow; in J&K, summers are noticeably warmer year after year, which means the air carries more water, resulting in sudden and intense downpours. This rise in heat has disturbed the earlier balance of nature when rainfall was moderate and evenly spread; now, we see short spells of extremely heavy rain, which often trigger floods and landslides in the steep mountains and narrow valleys of Kashmir. The situation is made worse because India is home to countless glaciers, especially in the Himalayas, that serve as lifelines for our rivers and water supply, but these glaciers are shrinking fast under the pressure of global warming. Among them, the Siachen Glacier stands out—not only because it is the largest in the Karakoram range but also because, at about 76 kilometers in length, it is one of the longest glaciers outside the polar regions—yet sadly, this glacier too is melting at an alarming rate, and scientists warn that if the pace of melting continues unchecked, it could spell disaster for water availability, river systems, and climate stability across India. The melting of glaciers pours additional water into rivers, making them overflow during rains, which intensifies floods and throws the delicate ecological balance into further chaos; this is why reflecting on why glaciers are melting and particularly why Siachen is retreating so rapidly is vital, for glaciers are not only major sources of freshwater but also regulate our climate system. Rising global tem-



peratures, unchecked human activities, and climate change are accelerating the melt, and unless corrective measures are taken, future generations will face even worse consequences. Sudden cloudbursts and flash floods, which Kashmir has been witnessing frequently in districts like Doda, Kathua, Kishtwar, and Anathnag, are directly linked to the warming of the atmosphere and the rapid retreat of glaciers, showing that global warming is no longer a distant problem but an everyday reality for J&K. The fragile ecosystem of the Himalayas makes it even more vulnerable because hotter air holds more water, and when that water condenses, it comes down as torrential rain, often after prolonged dry spells, causing devastating floods; steep slopes and tight valleys act like funnels, making the flow of water faster and more destructive. To add to this, deforestation is playing a massive role in worsening the crisis, as countless trees are being cut daily for building cities, roads, and commercial purposes, which strips the land of its natural protection—forests act like sponges, regulating rainfall, absorbing excess water, preventing soil erosion, and maintaining groundwater levels. With fewer forests, the land cannot hold back rainwater, leading to surface runoff, flash floods, and landslides; moreover, trees help reduce carbon dioxide

in the air, and without them, greenhouse gases keep rising, trapping more heat and worsening global warming. This is why deforestation is not just a local issue but directly linked to the irregular rainfall and unusual weather in J&K. Cloudbursts, in particular, have become a deadly danger, as they occur when clouds release an unusually large volume of water in a very short time over a small area, similar to the sky emptying a giant bucket all at once; the fragile mountains of J&K simply cannot handle such pressure, and the result is flash floods that damage homes, crops, livestock, and even human lives. The repeated incidents of cloudbursts in recent years are reminders that the climate is shifting faster than we can adapt. The retreat of glaciers like Siachen is not only a regional concern but a national one because it feeds many rivers of the country, which millions of people rely on for drinking water, agriculture, and hydropower; if these glaciers vanish, India could face serious water scarcity in the coming decades. At the same time, extreme rainfall and unpredictable weather threaten tourism, agriculture, and livelihoods, which are the backbone of J&K's economy. The region, being ecologically fragile, cannot afford unchecked urban expansion, careless construction, and human neglect of the environment. If we

want to secure the future of J&K, we need urgent and collective action: strict steps to reduce carbon emissions that accelerate glacier melting, large-scale afforestation and protection of existing forests, sustainable development where infrastructure projects follow environmental safeguards instead of mindless construction in fragile zones, awareness programs to educate people about climate change and eco-friendly lifestyles, and better disaster preparedness through early warning systems, flood control measures, and community-level training that can reduce loss of life and property during extreme events. The message is clear—the unusual rainfall, flash floods, and cloudbursts in J&K are not random natural occurrences but signs of a deeply disturbed climate system. Rising heat, melting glaciers, deforestation, and global warming are at the root of the crisis, and unless we act now, the environment, water resources, and people of J&K will be at serious risk. Nature is already warning us through these disasters, and it is our responsibility to pay attention, learn from these warnings, and take immediate corrective measures before it becomes too late to save what we still have.

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

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Adverse Impacts of Tobacco Consumption



■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Tobacco belongs to the nightshade family and is cultivated for its dried leaves. The plant, growing 1-3 metres tall, produces broad leaves that are dried, processed, and manufactured into cigars, cigarettes, and chewing products. These forms of tobacco are lethal to human health and are linked to severe medical and social consequences.

Tobacco use dates back to 1492 when Christopher Columbus discovered that natives of Tobago Island used dried leaves for pleasure. Since then, its consumption has spread worldwide. However, what was once seen as a pleasure has now become a global health crisis.

Chemical Composition & Toxicity

Cigarettes contain nearly 4,000 chemicals, of which 43 are carcinogenic. These include: Polycyclic hydrocarbons (cancer-causing agents), Ammonia (causes cellular irritation), Formaldehyde (toxic chemical used for preservation), Oxides of nitrogen (respiratory irritants), Carbon monoxide (reduces oxygen-carrying capacity of blood), Nicotine (addictive substance that affects the nervous system). Tar

(causes lung cancer)

Nicotine, though used agriculturally as an insecticide and in limited medical applications, is primarily harmful, making people dependent, irritable, and prone to diseases.

Major Health Hazards

1. Heart Diseases: Increases risk of atherosclerosis (plaque buildup in blood vessels). Causes peripheral artery disease (PAD) due to narrowed arteries. Leads to strokes and heart attacks

2. Lung Damage: Smoking is responsible for 90% of lung cancer deaths (CDC report). Increases risk of COPD, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema. Triggers asthma attacks. Smokers are 25 times more likely to die from lung cancer

3. Fertility Issues: Women: disrupts hormones, reduces chances of pregnancy. Men: increases risk of erectile dysfunction and poor sperm quality

4. Weakened Immunity: Makes the body more vulnerable to infections and chronic illnesses

5. Vision Problems: Increases risk of cataracts and macular degeneration. Can cause glaucoma, dry eyes, and diabetic retinopathy

6. Oral & Dental Issues Smokers have twice the risk of gum disease. Symptoms: swollen gums, bleeding, loose teeth, sensitivity. Stains teeth and reduces ability to taste/smell

7. Skin & Hair Damage Causes premature ageing, wrinkles,

and skin cancer (especially lips). Leads to hair loss, balding, and unpleasant odor

8. Cancer Risks Beyond Lungs: Pancreatic cancer (20-30% linked to smoking). Bladder cancer (3x higher risk). Stomach cancer (especially near oesophagus). Mouth, throat, oesophageal, kidney, cervical, liver, colon cancers. Acute myeloid leukaemia

Impact on Others & Society Passive smoking harms non-smokers, especially children, causing coughing, sneezing, and respiratory problems. Environmental pollution increases due to cigarette smoke. Economic burden on families and healthcare systems. Addiction leads to loss of dignity, unhygienic lifestyle, and poor quality of life.

Awareness & Global Observance

Every year on May 31st, World No Tobacco Day is observed across the globe. Schools, colleges, and public organizations conduct campaigns, seminars, and rallies to raise awareness about the devastating impacts of smoking.

Tobacco is not just a personal choice but a public health threat. From damaging the lungs, heart, and reproductive systems to causing numerous cancers, its effects are devastating. It ruins not only the life of the smoker but also the lives of passive smokers and the environment.

As responsible citizens, we must educate youth, reduce tobacco consumption, and actively participate in anti-tobacco campaigns to build a healthier society.

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Genetically Modified Food



■ Surinderpal Singh

Genetically Modified Foods have become a subject of intense scientific research, public debate and regulatory scrutiny over the past few decades. These are agricultural products whose genetic material has been artificially manipulated through the help of science and biotechnology to achieve desired traits such as improved yield, pest resistance, drought tolerance or enhanced nutritional content. While the food scientist of the world are stressing that GMFs are the key to solve the shortage of food challenges and it could also aid in improving the public health but on the other hands the critics are raising concerns about the safety of using these foods along with their environmental impact and ethical concerns.

Scientific Basis of Genetically Modified Food

The process of genetic modification involves the insertion, deletion or alteration of genes within a plant or animal genome using latest techniques and technology with reference to recombinant DNA technology, gene silencing or CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing. This could allow the food scientists to develop such crops that would be resistant to pests and diseases and such crops could tolerate harsh environmental conditions or contain higher levels of nutrients. Common genetically modified crops include corn, soybeans, cotton and canola.

Pros of Genetically Modified Food

Enhanced Crop Yield and Food Security GMFs are genetically engineered to withstand harsh climatic conditions, resist pests and require less chemical pesticide use, thereby improving crop productivity and this all could reduce the agricultural losses. This is especially critical and important for food security challenges of the developing countries where farming conditions are not up to the mark for production of good agriculture yields.

Improved Nutritional Content Genetic engineering can increase the nutritional value of crops. A notable example is Golden Rice which has been modified to produce beta-carotene, a precursor of vitamin A, to combat vitamin A deficiency in regions where rice is a staple.

Environmental Benefits Reduced need for chemical pesticides and herbicides could lead to low usage of the chemicals which could result in preservation of the ecosystems. Certain GM crops also promote no-till farming, reducing soil erosion and conserving water.

Economic Gains Farmers would be financially benefited from the higher yields, reduced crop losses and lower pesticide costs which can boost the agricultural economy.

Cons of Genetically Modified Food Health Concerns and Allergies While exten-

sive studies throughout the globe have indicated that GMFs are safe but scientific debates are going on over the potential long-term health impacts of genetically modified food that includes allergenicity or unexpected health complications due to gene insertion.

Environmental Risks GMFs may contribute to biodiversity loss due to the dominance of genetically uniform crop strains. There is also the risk of cross-pollination between GM crops and wild relatives, leading to the emergence of superweeds that are resistant to herbicides.

Ethical and Social Issues Patents held by biotechnology companies on GM seeds can lead to monopolization of food resources. This could severely impact the small-scale farmers and play a vital role in increasing economic inequality.

Psychological and Public Perception Challenges Many consumers are having mixed feelings of anxiety and mistrust towards GMFs due to their perceived unnaturalness and lack of transparent labeling in some regions across the globe. Psychological resistance is often fueled by misinformation and cultural factors, rather than scientific evidence.

Are Genetically Modified Foods Carcinogenic?

Multiple international scientific reviews and researches have concluded that GMFs currently approved for human consumption are not carcinogenic and they do not pose any risks to humans. Studies in animal models have shown no evidence where it can be proved scientifically that GMFs are linked with cancer. Nevertheless, it is essential to continue long-term studies and post-market surveillance to monitor any unforeseen effects as scientific understanding is always evolving.

Psychological and Social Impacts

The introduction of GMFs has led to divided public opinion. Surveys indicate a significant proportion of the population views GMFs with skepticism, citing fear of unknown long-term consequences and distrust toward large biotech corporations. This has led to psychological stress amongst the consumers who feel uncertain about the food safety and environmental ethics.

Moreover in rural farming communities the reliance on patented GM seeds is creating social and economic tensions on a large scale. Farmers may become dependent on large corporations for annual seed purchases, potentially undermining traditional agricultural practices and self-sufficiency.

Future of Genetically Modified Food

The future of GMFs appears promising and bright but is yet complex till date. Advances in gene-editing technologies like CRISPR-Cas9 enable more precise and potentially safer genetic modifications. The scientists of the whole world are now working on developing climate-resilient crops, enhanced plant-based vaccines and even steps are in rounds about the preparation of synthetic meats. The regulatory frameworks are slowly adapting to these technological advances, with some countries focusing on gene-edited (non-transgenic) foods as distinct from traditional GMFs, potentially easing public acceptance.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of BILKIES ALTAF D/O MOHAMMAD ALTAF KUMAR R/O WANIGAM PAYEEN Tehsil PATTAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 18/04/2012 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

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

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

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of GH MOHAMMAD PARRAY S/O AB REHMAN PARRAY R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN for the issuance of Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this connection a detailed report was sought from patwari halqa concerned which reveals that the applicants family consists of 05 members and the annual income of the applicant family from all sources consist of Rs ..70000 Moreover family structure of that applicant is as under

- 1... MUGLI BEGUM 71 years wife House wife married
- 2....SUHAIL AHMAD 33 years son student unmarried
- 3....SHAISTA BANO 22 years daughter //
- 4...MARYAM JAAN 19 years daughter

It is further submitted that GH MOHAMMAD PARRAY S/O AB REHMAN is labour by profession and is sole earning in the said family .The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of SUHAIL AHMAD PARRAY for marriage assistance

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of BASHIR AHMAD GANIE S/O ABDUL KHALIQ GANIE R/O DANDMOH for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that ABDUL REHAM GANIE S/O AB KHALIQ GANIE has passed away on 28/4/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... BASHIR AHMAD 55 years Brother chokedar
- 2...AB RADHID 60 years brother labour
- 3... Mst HAJRA 40 years // H/WIFE
4. ...RAJA BEGUM 35 years //

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

This is an information for general public that i want to apply for Death certificate of my Mother Namely Saida Begum, W/O Late Gh Nabi Hajam, from Registrar Death's and Birth's Block Development Office Alooas, as her Date of Death 17-08-2025, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Registrar Death's and Birth's Block Development Office Alooas with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Dazy Bano. D/O Late Gh Nabi Hajam. R/O Malangam, tehsil Alooas, District Bandipora

Public Notice

This is an information for general public that i want to apply for Death certificate of my Mother Namely Azie Begum, W/O Late Habibullah Bhat, from Registrar Death's and Birth's Block Development Office Alooas, as her Date of Death 01-09-2025, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Registrar Death's and Birth's Block Development Office Alooas with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Altaf Hussain Bhat. S/O Late Habibullah Bhat. R/O Malangam, tehsil Alooas, District Bandipora

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL JAL SHAKTI DIVISION GANDERBAL

No: I&FCD/Gbl/4125-32 | Date: 08.09.2025

Sub: Corrigendum for e_NIT No: 13 of 2025-26 issued under endorsement No: IFCD/GBL/CC/4006-55 Dated: 04-09-2025

CORRIGENDUM-1st

Due to a typographical error in the Bill of Quantities (BoQ) for the work titled: "Construction of R/Wall on Hayen Koul Near H/o Mohd Ashraf Lone S/O Ab. Aziz Lone and others at Nial Nijwan" figuring at Serial No. 02 of the aforementioned e-NIT, advertised for an amount of Rs. 1,75,000/-, the said work is hereby cancelled.

The said work shall be re-tendered afresh with the corrected specifications and details.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in e_NIT No: 13 of 2025-26.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Irri and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal

DIPK: 6070/25 | Dated: 09-09-2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,
Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir
Office Address: Sheikh Bagh Forest Complex Srinagar - 190001
Tel No. 0194-2455114 (Fax) 0194-2455366
Selection of Junior Assistants year 2025

Subject: Appointment of candidates selected by the J&K Services Selection Board against the posts of Junior Assistants (District Cadre Srinagar) of Forest Department (territorial Kashmir Region) in terms of Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2022 dated: 27-07-2022 (Item No: 176).

Reference: Forest Order No: 55 of 2025 dated: 02-08-2025 issued by the CCF Kashmir vide endorsement No: CCF(K)/Admn/2025/C-7717323/263-87 dated: 02-08-2025.

FINAL NOTICE

WHEREAS, the PCCF & HoFF Jammu and Kashmir vide communication No. PCCF/Estt/NG/C-28697/2028-29 dated: 18-06-2025 forwarded communication No:FST-CORD/14/2021-02 dated:12-06-2025 from the Administrative Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment alongwith the Final Selection List of candidates for the posts of Junior Assistants (District Cadres) issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board in terms of Notification No. 04 of 2022 dated: 27-07-2022, to this Office for issuance of formal appointment orders in respect of the selected candidates after fulfilling all the Codal formalities and getting verification of character & antecedents in terms of Government Order No:1003-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated: 27-09-2021 and Circular No:18-JK (GAD) of 2022 dated: 20-05-2022;

WHEREAS, vide Forest Order No: 55 of 2025 dated: 02-08-2025 issued by the CCF Kashmir vide endorsement No:CCF(K)/Admn/2025/C-7717323/263-87 dated:02-08-2025, among others, the formal appointment order in respect of Shri. Jonny Badgal S/o Hem Raj R/o Khatrial Marheen, Kathua, 184144 was issued after completing precedent formalities. By virtue of the said appointment order, the appointee was required to report to DFO Research Forest Division Srinagar within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of the order for further duties;

WHEREAS, the stipulated time period of 21 days has expired and as intimated by the Office of DFO Research Forest Division Srinagar, the above named appointee has failed to join the duties in compliance to the appointment order issued vide this Office Forest Order No: 55 of 2025 dated: 02-08-2025;

WHEREAS, as per the stipulation laid down in the appointment order issued vide Forest Order No: 55 of 2025 dated: 02-08-2025, the order of appointment in respect of the candidate(s) who fail to join the place of appointment, has to be deemed cancelled ab-initio without giving any further notice as prescribed in Circular No: 08-JK (GAD) of 2019 dated: 04-12-2019. However, it has been decided that a final Notice shall be issued for the aforementioned appointee to provide him a last opportunity for compliance with the appointment order before a further course of action is pursued.

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the above, Shri. Jonny Badgal S/o Hem Raj R/o Khatrial Marheen, Kathua, 184144 is hereby called upon to comply with the appointment order issued vide Forest Order No: 55 of 2025 dated: 02-08-2025 by joining his place of posting viz Office of the DFO Research Forest Division Srinagar within a period of 10 days from the date of issuance of this Notice, failing which the order of appointment ibid shall be cancelled without any further notice.

No: CCF(K)/Admn/2025/C-7717323/3071-76 Dated: 08-09-2025

Sd/- (Irfan Rasool Wani, IFS) Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir

DIPK-6045/25 | Dated: 09-09-2025

DC Ganderbal inaugurates Humsafar Milk Processing Unit at Watlar

HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, SEP 09: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today inaugurated the Humsafar Milk Processing Unit at Watlar, established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The unit has been set up by Humsafar Dairy Self Help Group and is equipped with facilities to process milk into a variety of value-added products such as curd, cheese and other dairy items.

During the visit, the DC inspected the facilities and interacted with the members of the Humsafar Dairy Self-Help Group (SHG), who briefed him about the unit's operations and the financial assistance/



subsidy received under the scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the establishment of such units is a significant step towards strengthening the rural economy and empowering local SHGs by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

He further directed the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) to provide technical guidance, ensure effective market linkages, and facilitate value addition to make the unit more viable and sustainable.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Ganderbal, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Livestock Development Officer Ganderbal, and Block Veterinary Officer Lar were also present on the occasion.

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I, Feroz Ahmad Dar, son of Gh Nabi Dar, a resident of Chanapora, Srinagar, have noticed an error in my child's school records. My daughter's name has been incorrectly recorded as "Shifa Jan" instead of "Shifa Feroz." I would like to request a correction in this regard. If anyone has any objections to this correction, please submit your objections to the Salfia Muslim Institute, Parray Pora, Srinagar, within seven days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objections will be entertained.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: APPLICATION OF GH MOHD BHAT S/O MOHD ASSADULLAH BHAT R/O SALOOSA KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MOHD ASSADULLAH & ATTIQA BEGUM S/O MOHD AKBAR BHAT & MOHD ASSADULLAH BHAT has passed away on 20/03/2023 & 03/05/ 2021 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , GH MOHD BHAT SON 56 years Labour married
- 2.... AB HAMEED SON 53 years Do married

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

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

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

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

Notice for the general Public

It is hereby notified that the applicant MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL LONE S/O ABDUL AHAD LONE R/O HARNOW KAWCHECK had applied for the issuance Birth certificate of his /her son namely ROUF BIN MAQBOOL the applicant intends to register DOB of his Son as per Hospitals/school/other recods which is 31 /07/ 2007.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of RAFEEQA 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 GHALUM HASSAN 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...RAFEEQA 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 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 KAWCHECK 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

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I, Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo, son of Abdul Gani Dagroo, resident of Kalantra Bala, have noticed an error in the school records of my children. Their caste has been incorrectly recorded as "Malla" instead of the correct caste, "Dagroo". I now wish to correct the names and caste of my children in the school records. The correct details are as follows:

1. Faizan Bin Ramzan S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
2. Nadim Ramzan Dagroo S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
3. Owais Ahmad Dagroo S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
4. Ishraq Ramzan Dagroo S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo

If any person has any objections to this correction, they may file their objections with the Headmaster, Govt. Middle School Kalantra Bala, or the Zonal Educational Officer, Chandoosa, within seven days of the publication of this notice.

Mohammad Ramzan Dagroo
S/o Abdul Gani Dagroo
R/o Kalantra Bala, Tehsil Kreeri,
Distt. Baramulla, J&K

Public Notice

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

Registration No.: JK05G9554
Eng.No TBJ1H69977
Ch No.MA12U2TBKJ1H63409,
Name: Abdul Aziz Dar
S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Dar
R/o: Kalantra Payeen, Baramulla

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

Abdul Aziz Dar
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar
R/o Kalantra Payeen, Baramulla

Public Notice

I have lost Death Certificate of My father Ab Ahad Najar if anybody found Kindly return it to below mentioned address otherwise i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned Authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

FAROOQ AHMAD NAJAR
S/O LATE AB AHAD NAJAR
R/O SHEIKHPORA KREERI

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Wagoora

Subject: Application of RAFEEQA 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 GHALUM HASSAN 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...RAFEEQA 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 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 Kreeri

Subject: Application of GH NABI MIR S/O ALI MOHD MIR R/O KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that Mst SHAHMALI W/O ALI MOHD MIR has passed away on 22/06/2006 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , GH NABI SON 54 years Labour
- 2...TAJA BEGUM daughter 71 years H/W
- 3...FATIMA daughter 46 //

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar 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...JAVID 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 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 Kreeri

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri



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

Dy CM takes on ground assessment of the damage due to flash flood

Visits Sidra, Majeen, Lower Rangoora Dawara Chowk

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 09: In order to take the on ground assessment of the damage due to heavy rainfall and flash flood recently, the Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today conducted an extensive tour of Jammu city.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited low-lying and worst-hit localities of Sidra, Majeen, Lower Rangoora and Dawara Chowk. He also interacted with the flood victims, and assessed the extent of damage caused to residential houses, agricultural fields, public utilities and road networks

in these areas.

He directed the administration to provide immediate relief in the form of ration, clean drinking water, medicines, and temporary shelter facilities to all affected families.

Taking a serious view of the damage caused to public infrastructure, the Dy CM asked officials of the concerned departments to prepare a comprehensive assessment report of losses for immediate submission to the Government, so that adequate compensation and rehabilitation packages can be extended to the affected families at the earliest.



While interacting with the flood affected families, Surinder Choudhary assured them that the Government is committed to their welfare. He expressed solidarity with the victims and reiterated that providing timely relief and rehabilitation remains the topmost priority of the Omar Abdullah led Government.

The Dy CM reiterated the government's commitment to stand with the affected people, ensuring that departments should work together for speedy relief, proper rehabilitation, and long-term safety of residents.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also made a surprise visit to DIC Jammu and reviewed the functioning. He checked the attendance register and stressed on maintaining punctuality in the office.

Surinder Choudhary emphasized the need for prompt service delivery, better management of public inflow and improved infrastructure. He also stressed that benefits of all government schemes should reach the last person in line in real-time and asked the officers to ensure that the public receives hassle-free services.

DC Reasi conducts extensive tour of Pouni to review restoration works

Directs agencies to expedite completion

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, SEP 09: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today conducted an extensive inspection of ongoing restoration works in Pouni, reviewed the damage assessment process, and reassured the affected families of the administration's firm commitment to their welfare and rehabilitation.

The inspection began from Gun Kolsar area, where the Deputy Commissioner inspected damaged residential houses and directed the concerned officers to forward all genuine relief cases strictly as per SDRF norms. She emphasized that the affected families must receive timely and adequate support.

At Jardi in Pouni Block, the DC took stock of damaged houses and



instructed the Tehsildar to expedite the processing of relief cases so that immediate assistance could be extended to the people.

While reviewing the restoration works at Mari Dakki area of

Pouni, the DC directed the PWD authorities to accelerate road restoration by deploying additional machinery and manpower. She further inspected the damaged PHE gravity line in the

area and instructed the Executive Engineer PHE to ensure its early restoration, alongside mandatory water testing to guarantee safe drinking water supply for the residents.

The Deputy Commissioner also took stock of damages to Pouni Irrigation Canal and directed the Flood and Irrigation Department to construct a protective crate wall and restore the canal at the earliest.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with the people, listened to their grievances, and assured them that all necessary steps are being taken for relief measures. With regard to the issues raised in Nagar village about the damaged water tank, the DC directed the XEN PHE to ensure that an alternate water supply is provided to the residents.

Later, DC Malik inspected ongoing restoration works along the Pouni-Domel National Highway, visiting the affected spots personally and directing the PWD to press in extra machinery and manpower to ensure speedy completion of repairs.

The DC reiterated that the district administration is working round the clock, with field officials carrying out ground-level assessments and relief material being distributed to the affected population. She assured that every possible step is being taken to restore essential services and extend relief to those in need.

Tehsildar Pouni, Executive Engineers, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer and other concerned officers accompanied the DC during the visit.

DLSA Srinagar holds awareness programme for women inmates at Central Jail Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, Tuesday organized an awareness programme exclusively for women inmates at Central Jail, Srinagar, aimed at promoting hygiene, sanitation, and overall health care practices.



The initiative was designed to empower inmates with essential knowledge that contributes to their physical well-being and upholds their dignity.

The programme was conducted under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and held under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge and Secretary, DLSA Srinagar. Their leadership provided strong institutional support and guidance, ensuring effective delivery of the session.

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counselor (LADC), along with Assistant LADCs, acted as resource persons. They delivered interactive sessions focusing on best practices for personal hygiene, effective sanitation measures, and general health care, emphasizing their importance in maintaining individual well-being.

This initiative is part of DLSA Srinagar's ongoing commitment to legal awareness and social empowerment, focusing on vulnerable sections of society.

Awareness camp on nutrition & prevention of waterborne diseases organised at Wachi, Kaprin

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEP 09: To highlight the importance of nutrition in maintaining good health and preventing waterborne diseases, two awareness camps were organized today by the Department of Ayush in Shopian district.

Ayush Health and Wellness Centre (AH&WC) Wachi and AH&WC Dachoo held the camp at Alsaba Educational Institute Wachi Zainapora to highlight the importance of proper nutrition in preventing various diseases and maintaining overall health.

More than two hundred students participated in the camp who were sensitised about the significance of nutrition in disease prevention.



Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shafiq Ahmed Shah and Dr. Mohammed Yousuf highlighted the role of a balanced diet in maintaining good health and preventing lifestyle related disorders.

The camp also focused on post-flood precautions, where health officials advised people to ensure safe drinking water, maintain hygiene and take timely medical consultation to prevent waterborne diseases.

Besides, a separate awareness programme was also conducted by AH&WC Kaprin in Kaprin regarding post flood precautions and prevention of waterborne diseases to ensure that the health education reaches vulnerable tribal nomadic communities.

JKPCC Kashmir Celebrates International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies - 2025

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 09: The Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) Srinagar, Kashmir, today celebrated the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies with great enthusiasm under the theme 'Racing for AIR'. The event was observed across the entire Kashmir province, with the main and mega event held at the conference hall of JKPCC Srinagar.

The program witnessed participation from district officers across the Kashmir region, dedicated scientists from JKPCC, esteemed scholars from academic institutions, and senior officials from various government departments working toward environmental conservation.

Speaking on the occasion, renowned scientists and experts underscored the critical importance of clean air for public health, sustainable development, and ecological balance. Technical sessions elaborated on the sources

and effects of air pollution, mitigation strategies, and policy frameworks necessary to curb emissions and protect vulnerable populations.

Notably, distinguished professors Dr. Arshad Jahangir from Kashmir University and Dr. Farooq from SKUAST-K were felicitated for their exemplary contributions in research and advocacy aimed at promoting environmental awareness and achieving cleaner air for communities.

Regional Director Abhijeet Joshi emphasized that air pollution is a growing concern that requires collective action at both governmental and grassroots levels. He laid out a comprehensive roadmap, including stricter enforcement of environmental laws, promotion of cleaner fuels, afforestation drives, and public awareness campaigns. He also encouraged industries and local businesses to adopt sustainable practices and adhere to pollution control norms.

A valuable presentation was delivered by Dr. Shabir, a renowned scientist from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), where he detailed global trends in air quality management and shared best practices that could be implemented in Kashmir. The session highlighted innovative technologies, community engagement methods, and the role of data monitoring in tracking air pollution levels effectively.

The event also featured interactive discussions where participants shared case studies, success stories, and challenges faced in implementing clean air initiatives. Several youth groups and environmental NGOs pledged their support and committed to spreading awareness in their respective communities.

In conclusion, the event reaffirmed JKPCC Kashmir's dedication to combating air pollution and promoting healthier lifestyles.

Inspection of Various Retail & Wholesale Drug Establishments Held at Kulgam

Operation of One Sale Establishment Disallowed, Another Show-Caused

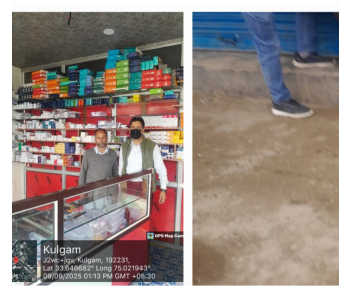
■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 09: In a proactive effort to ensure strict compliance with drug sale and purchase regulations, an inspection of various retail and wholesale drug sale establishments was conducted today in Kulgam town. The inspection primarily focused on verifying the maintenance of proper records for drugs, especially those listed under Schedule H and H1 categories, which are subject to stricter regulatory controls.

A total of 15 drug sale establishments were thoroughly checked by the Drug Control officials for adherence to licensing conditions, proper documentation, storage

facilities, and the presence of qualified personnel. During the inspection, one medical store was found in violation of license conditions due to the absence of a qualified pharmacist, non-functional computer-based billing system (CBS), and improper record maintenance. Consequently, the operation of this store was disallowed on the spot under Section 22(d) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, until compliance is ensured.

Additionally, another medical store located near the District Hospital was issued a show-cause notice for failing to meet regulatory requirements and providing insufficient records during inspection.



As part of the drive to ensure the availability of quality medicines, multiple drug samples were collected from different establishments for laboratory testing and analysis. These samples will be examined to ascertain their authenticity, potency, and safety before reaching the public.

In a parallel initiative, a sensitization meeting was conducted with courier service providers at Chawalgam to raise awareness regarding the reporting of suspicious parcels, including unverified medicine shipments. Officials advised service providers to monitor and report irregular activities and enhance vigilance to prevent the illegal circulation of prescrip-

tion drugs. The intensive inspection drive aligns with the administration's larger goal to eliminate malpractice in the pharmaceutical sector and ensure that only safe, regulated, and high-quality medicines reach consumers. Drug Control officials reiterated their commitment to enforcing strict guidelines, promoting transparency in drug sales, and safeguarding public health from counterfeit and sub-standard medicines.

The department also called upon citizens to report any irregularities or unauthorized medicine sale activities to local authorities, reinforcing community participation in creating a safer healthcare environment.



'Maybe I Have Something...!' The Phenomenal Rise Of Noor Ahmad

■ **Shashank Kishore**

Noor Ahmad lives life on the fast lane. Of late, it's been a blur of flights, visas, new teams and cricket grounds and hotels. Cricket has kept him so busy that his parents shifted from their hometown, Khost, to Kabul to be able to adjust to their superstar son's fly-in-fly-out life.

"A few years ago, who could have thought I would be here? With talent, hard work and family support, I'm here today," Noor tells ESPNCricinfo. And "here" for him is everywhere. From Chennai (IPL) to Dallas (MLC) to Manchester (Hundred) to Gqeberha (SA20), Noor has been living out of a suitcase. Noor says he can count the days he has actually not spent on the field - either playing or at training - in the last six months. "CSK, MLC, Shpageeza, back to India for the UK visa, the Hundred," he ticks off the assignments.

And from the Hundred, he landed in Dubai to link up with

the Afghanistan squad for a short preparatory camp. On Sunday night, he finished the tri-series with Pakistan and UAE in Sharjah, and after less than 48 hours, he will line up to play Hong Kong in the Asia Cup opener in Abu Dhabi.

"I'm still young, the body can take it, no problems for me," he says with a smile. "Cricket is what I love. I can't stay without playing cricket. Yes, travel-wise, it's been a tough few months. I haven't got enough rest, but I'm still enjoying it. The body is feeling good."

Noor suddenly remembers he has missed something from the schedule he just went through. He clicks his fingers and adds with a laugh, "Actually, one week off after the IPL at home, no nets, no cricket. After the IPL, I got that time at home. But you see, I can't stay without cricket for more than one week. I started bowling again."

When he was younger - he is still only 20 - Noor says opportuni-

ties were hard-earned. "When my brother first took me to an academy, when I was 12, I remember standing in long lines, getting to bowl just one ball every ten minutes. Because there were so many bowlers. Most of them spinners."

Then came the moment that made him believe he might be special. Afghanistan batter Noor Ali Zadran happened to face him in one of these sessions and told him, "You are very good, keep going." "That was the indicator for me, maybe I have something," Noor says. Slowly, more and more national players came to the camp, and Noor bowled to them all. "Some I even got them out," he says. "Then they all told me, 'Don't leave cricket, you have a bright future'. That motivated me so much."

The only problem was that Noor was also a bright student. "First in my class till I was there," he says. "Then I started to go to the academy, thanks to my brother who also loved cricket but couldn't take it up professionally."

"When I missed class for a few days, the teachers and the principal came to my dad and asked what had happened. They told him I had started playing cricket and should come back to the school as I had a good future. My dad agreed with them. It was hard for my brother to convince my father but he asked him for some time."

Today, Noor's father watches all his matches without fail. "They even installed a Dish TV connection so that they can watch all matches."

Barely a year into his cricket, Noor was captivated by Rashid Khan, himself a teenage sensation when he broke through. Noor first met him during an Under-16 camp in Kabul, introduced by coach and former captain Raees Ahmadzai.

"I had an arm injury in 2021. I struggled for a year. I could bowl but would always be in pain. That affected my legbreak, my control. It took me a year to recover"

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Conrad calls South Africa's thrashing by England 'embarrassing'

■ **Firdose Moonda**

SOUTHAMPTON: South Africa's coach Shukri Conrad labelled his team's record 342-run defeat to England in the third ODI "embarrassing" while captain Temba Bavuma said the performance "doesn't do us justice" after their recent ODI success. South Africa have beaten both Australia and England 2-1 in series over the last month.

Their loss in the third match in England, which was a dead rubber, came after a comprehensive win in game one and a nail-biting triumph in game two. That secured a first series in England since 1998. But the magnitude of the defeat in Southampton, which comes after a 276-run loss against Australia - also in a series that was already won - asks questions of how quickly and dramatically South Africa switch off, especially when the result does not matter.

"Any excuse is better than none. We were definitely off today. And against a top side like England, when you're not on top of your game, you do get exposed," Conrad said at the post-match conference. "A similar thing



happened in Australia, where after going 2-0 up, it was a complete aberration. They got in excess of 400 as well. But if we were going to be poor at something, we'd rather be poor at games that aren't clutch games. We're not making light of today's defeat. That was slightly embarrassing."

Both defeats - South Africa's two heaviest in ODIs - have come when they have fielded first and were accompanied by lack of discipline and dropped catches. Against Australia, South Africa bowled 15 wickets and put down Alex Carey, who went on to fin-

ish the innings strongly. Against England, they bowled 19 wickets and dropped two catches including Jamie Smith on 23 and Jacob Bethell on 44. Bavuma said at the post-match presentation that bowling that many extras was "far from ideal, not good enough" and said it "could be complacency", while Conrad believed a wayward bowling performance impacted the rest of their skillset.

"The bowling affects the fielding and the other way around, but nine out of ten times, Matthew Breetzke is taking that catch [off Smith, who of-

fered a chance off a leading edge in the covers]," Conrad said. "We're not going to read too much into that, but it's a difficult one because when that edge is not there and something doesn't go your way and the harder you try, it's just not there. I'm not offering it as an excuse because it's not supposed to be like that, but the fielding wasn't at the usual high standard that we set. All in all, yeah, it was an embarrassing performance in the field."

Among South Africa's bowling lows were Nandre Burger's 0 for 95, which was the most expensive in their history, and Codi Yusuf's 0 or 80, the worst by a South African debutant. Some of that may be down to inexperience especially in the absence of pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada, who has not played an ODI in either Australia or England as he recovers from ankle inflammation.

Conrad confirmed Rabada could have been "really pushed and forced through today" but South Africa decided they "didn't want to take any risks with him" ahead of the T20Is next week.

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