

Srinagar
Friday
September 12 | 2025
18 Rabi ul Awal, 1447 AH
Issue No: 217
Volume: 15
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-

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LG's HEALING TOUCH:

Affected Families During Operation Sindoor, Recent Floods And NoK Of Terror Victims to Get Houses

MoU Between HRDS India and Div Comms of Jammu and Kashmir, Reflects LG Manoj Sinha's Vision For Empowering and Securing Future of Affected Masses

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: The High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir for building houses damaged during Operation Sindoor and recent floods in Jammu Kashmir.

It is the initiative of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and reflects his vision of empowering and safeguarding the future

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The New Criminal Laws Reflect India's Collective Vision of Justice: LG

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated an exhibition on 'New Criminal Laws' at J&K Police Public School, Bemina, Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the initiative of the Economic Offences Wing, J&K Police to raise awareness and educate students, parents and the general public. He said the exhibition will help in achieving broader objectives of shaping understanding on new laws and ensuring justice to the last man in queue.

"After almost 150 years, India's criminal justice system underwent a significant overhaul on July 1, 2024. The 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita', 'Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita', and 'Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam' were implemented nationwide to replace colonial-era laws, making the legal system more transparent and efficient.

The three new criminal laws have completely transformed our criminal justice system, making it victim-centric and more justice-oriented than punitive.

The new criminal laws reflect India's collective vision of justice. The prime objective of the new Laws is to protect and empower the women and

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LG Reviews

Preparations for 'Sewa Parv' Celebration in J&K

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparations ahead of 'Sewa Parv', to be organised across the Union Territory from 17th

September to 2nd October, 2025.

The meeting was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Shri Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary,

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HISTORY IN MAKING:

Maiden Apple-Laden Parcel Train Rolled Out From Kashmir To Delhi

- Historic Parcel Train from Budgam to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, to Run on Daily Basis From September 13
- LG, CM Expresses Gratitude, Hail The Move From Railway Minister A Vaishnaw for his support

HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPT 11: Fruit growers in Kashmir on Thursday welcomed the launch of a trial parcel train service carrying apples to Delhi, saying it will cut travel time nearly in half and save produce from rotting due to frequent highway closures.

Railway Minister Vaishnaw announced that a daily time-tabled parcel train from Budgam to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, would begin from September 13. "With the Jammu-Srinagar line operational, the Kashmir Valley has better connectivity. Railways is introducing a daily time-tabled parcel train from Budgam in Kashmir Valley to Adarsh Nagar station in Delhi starting 13th September 2025. Loading of 2 parcel vans carrying apples from Budgam to Delhi is beginning today," Vaishnaw posted on X.



Officials told KNO that today, two parcel vans will depart from Budgam station, one bound for Delhi and the other for Jammu, both laden with the season's finest Kashmiri apples.

The Lieutenant Governor conveyed his appreciation for the initiative. "The

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Legislators Meet CM Omar Abdullah, Raise Public Issues

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Several legislators, including MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi; MLA Karnah, Javid Ahmad Mirchal and MLA Rajouri, Iftikhar Ahmed called on Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at Raabita Public Outreach Office here today.

The legislators apprised the Chief Minister of pressing developmental issues impacting their respective constituencies, as well as challenges posed in the aftermath of recent flood situation in the region.

During the interaction, the MLAs raised critical concerns related to infrastructure development, improvement

of basic civic amenities, road connectivity, health services, among others from their respective constituencies. The legislators also asked for accelerated implementation of various development projects, especially in remote and flood-affected zones, to ensure sustainable progress and improved quality of life for the local population.

The legislators also briefed the Chief Minister about the hardships faced by people due to recent flood situation, as well as losses to crops and houses. They appreciated the spontaneous rehabilitation and restoration measures employed by the government for the facilitation of affected population.

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CM Thanks Vijay Chopra for Relief Fund Contribution

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today expressed profound gratitude to Vijay Chopra, Padma Shri awardee and Editor of Punjab Kesari/Hind Samachar Group, for his generous contribution of Rs 11 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in support of

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Highway Reopens For HMVs On Kashmir Side After 16 Days

1200 trucks crossed so far, 40% carrying perishable fruit: Traffic officials

HT News Network

QAZIGUND (LEVDORA), SEP 11: After

remaining closed for nearly 16 days, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was reopened for heavy motor vehicles (HMVs) on the Kashmir side Thursday, ending days of anxiety and losses for truckers and fruit growers.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that by

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Act tough against those involved in drug trade: DGP

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat Thursday chaired a security review meeting at the Conference Hall of Police Control Room Kashmir to assess the prevailing security situation in the UT of J&K and to discuss measures to further strengthen the security framework.

The meeting was attended by Spl. DG Coordination J&K S.J.M Gillani, ADGP Hqrs PHQ J&K MK Sinha, ADGP Armed J&K Anand Jain, ADGP CID J&K Nitish Kumar, IGSP of (Kashmir Zone, Jammu Zone, Crime J&K, Traffic J&K, Railways J&K), all range DIs G of J&K, DIG Pers PHQ, DPT J&K, all district SSSP of J&K, SPP PCR Kashmir, SO to IGP Kashmir, SO to DGP J&K, AIG (CT & Int) PHQ and other senior officers.

At the outset, the Zonal Inspector Generals and heads of various wings briefed the DGP J&K on the current security situation in the Union Territory. The DGP was also briefed about the recent developments regarding anti-terrorist operations and actions taken in response.

The discussion further focused on

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CS Reviews 'Citizen Centric Services' of Law Dept

Stresses on early launch after incorporating stakeholders feed back

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level review meeting of the ambitious Citizen Centric Services initiative of the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs. The meeting focused on evaluating the progress made so far and ensuring its timely launch for the benefit of people across Jammu & Kashmir.

Secretary, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi, presented a detailed update on the development of the digital platform, comprising both a web portal and mobile application.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary IT, Dr. Piyush Singla; CEO JAKEGA, Mahima Madan; senior officers of the Law Department; and representatives of BISAG-N.

The Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction over the ongoing work and underlined the need for an early launch of the services within the stipulated timelines. He observed that the initiative holds immense potential to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in legal service delivery while simplifying citizens' access to essential services such as legal aid and advice.

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CS Reviews Cyber Security Action Plan in J&K

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress made on the implementation of the Cyber

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J&K BOSE Announces Exam Form Dates for Classes 11 & 12

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (J&K BOSE), has notified online submission of Annual examination Forms for class 11th and 12th, Regular, 2025 (Oct-Nov session).

As per the notification issued by the Joint Secretary, Examinations JD/ KD, all eligible students of Kashmir Division including winter zone areas of Jammu Division besides

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Affected Families.....

of those affected by natural calamities and unprovoked shelling on civilian population by the enemy. The Lieutenant Governor presided over the MoU signing ceremony at Raj Bhawan. He lauded the noble endeavour of the HRDS India. HRDS India will build 1500 free houses across the UT. These 3-bedroom houses will be designed and delivered as a "Smart House", incorporating modern features for comfort and safety.

"Construction of houses is more than just putting up structure. It is about building dreams, a fresh start and a new chapter in the lives of affected families. Human losses are so profound and devastating that they can't be measured but this initiative will definitely ease their suffering," the Lieutenant Governor said. Under the initiative, the HRDS India and Divisional Commissioners of both the divisions will also identify terror victim families whose houses were destroyed by the terrorists. Besides, 15-year life insurance coverage to all family members, HRDS India will ensure monthly health check-ups and digital connectivity for every house.

As part of its extended commitment, HRDS India, in collaboration with BSNL, will provide free internet access to all beneficiary households to support education, communication, and digital inclusion.

The trained HRDS India volunteers will visit each beneficiary household monthly to disseminate information about new government schemes relevant to the beneficiaries. They will conduct free awareness sessions on health, education, hygiene, and preventive care.

HRDS India will also undertake repainting of each beneficiary house every five years, at no cost to the beneficiaries.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Aji Krishnan, Founder - Secretary, HRDS India; Ms Saritha P Menon, Administrator; Shri Swaraj Kumar G., Director Corporate Sponsorship and Shri Sanjeev Bhatnagar, Chairman Global Initiatives, HRDS India were present during the MoU Signing ceremony.

The New Criminal.....

weaker sections of the society. Special care has been taken to make the weaker sections, women and children priority of the justice system," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Jammu Kashmir Police to continue organizing public awareness camps on new criminal laws, in collaboration with the Information Department, Education Department and Legal Services Authority. He also stressed the importance of capacity building at all levels.

"For the first time since independence, terrorism has been defined within the criminal justice system. The new criminal laws will strengthen the country's policy of zero tolerance against terrorism," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Shri Vidhi Kumar Birdi, JGP Kashmir; Shri Sujit Kumar, JGP Security, J&K; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration, civil society members, teachers and students in large number were present.

LG Reviews.....

Agriculture Production Department; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other senior officers of the stakeholder departments.

The Lieutenant Governor took a comprehensive review of the wide range of activities planned by the Departments and District Administrations to promote Public Service, Community Participation and Inclusive Governance.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the celebration of 'Sewa Parv' should reflect commitment towards Viksit Bharat and Viksit Jammu Kashmir.

Our focus must be on outcome and not on symbolic activities. Senior officials must act as role models and lead the effort. Each Department must ensure that the activities are aligned with development priorities, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the departments to identify gaps in coverage of flagship schemes and dedicated efforts should be made to achieve the saturation. He further directed for instituting a review mechanism for daily monitoring at district, division and department levels.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that drug de-addiction, disaster management awareness campaigns and special camps for grievance redressal to be incorporated in the Sewa Parv activities.

He directed the departments to set realistic targets for their respective identified activities and monitor them through the digital portal.

We must educate students about civic responsibilities and key national and social issues through platforms like Youth Parliament. Relief and addressing concerns of people in flood affected areas, promotion of personnel hygiene among masses, curb on single use plastic and welfare of old-age, poor and specially-abled should also be the part of our

planned activities, the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also directed for organising debate and essay writing competitions on Mahatma Gandhi. He observed that Sewa Parv's guiding principles are public service, community participation and inclusive governance to ensure meaningful impact on communities. Sewa Parv's prime objective is to ensure that every voice is heard and every segment of society benefits from development initiatives.

The observance of the 'Sewa Parv' will be anchored to identified themes including Cleanliness Drives & Environmental Action, Education-Focused Initiatives, Engagement with Elderly & Vulnerable Sections, Health & Nutrition Initiatives, Awareness & Capacity Building Workshops, Cultural Activities and Public outreach campaigns.

It was informed that a dedicated online portal will be utilized for the duration of Sewa Parv to ensure seamless coordination, real-time monitoring, and transparent reporting.

The Lieutenant Governor was also briefed on 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' campaign to be organised from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, emphasizing women's health and empowerment as key to family and community progress.

Maiden Apple.....

daily parcel train from Budgam to New Delhi will bring huge relief to apple growers. My deepest gratitude to the Prime Minister and Union Minister for Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav Ji," the office of the LG said on X.

Apost on his official X handle said, "The Chief Minister has expressed gratitude to Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for his support, as train parcels have now reached Kashmir. The horticulture department is coordinating the transportation with the fruit growers."

Varun Mital from Fine Valley Agri Farms, whose consignment was among the first dispatched on Thursday, told news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the initiative has come at a critical time. "Earlier, sending fruit to Delhi used to take around 36 hours. Now the same work will be done in just 20 hours. This will directly improve the quality of fruit reaching the markets," he said.

He noted that the continued closure of National Highway-44 had badly affected growers. "The highway, considered the lifeline of Kashmir, has remained shut for 14 days. We lost 30-60 percent of our produce in trucks that got stranded. In plums, we faced a 100 percent loss, and in pears nearly 70 percent," he said.

According to Mital, Thursday's trial included two cargo coaches carrying about 3,000 apple boxes—around 36 tons. Each railway container, he added, can carry up to 23 tons of fruit. "Today, two of our trucks with 1,500 boxes each were loaded. In future, the number of trains and cargoes will increase, with proper scanning and other facilities in place," he said.

Mital credited the government for introducing the service at short notice. "This is a great initiative, and it will benefit not only us but also other growers. It reduces our dependency on the highway and opens a more reliable route through the railways," he said.

Legislators Meet.....

Acknowledging the gravity of the concerns raised, the Chief Minister assured the legislators that the government remains fully committed to addressing both developmental imperatives and disaster-related challenges with utmost urgency. He added that the Government is determined to fast-track development projects and adopt proactive measures to mitigate future flood risks.

The Chief Minister asked the MLAs to work in unison toward the holistic development of their respective constituencies as well as overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

CM Thanks.....

the flood-affected families. The Chief Minister said that such contributions reflect the spirit of solidarity and compassion that is vital in times of crisis.

"I sincerely thank Shri Vijay Chopra for this generous gesture. His contribution will strengthen our ongoing efforts to provide relief and rehabilitation to families affected by the devastating floods. It is through such collective efforts that we can bring hope and support to those in distress," the Chief Minister stated.

He added that the Government is committed to ensuring that every contribution is channelled towards meaningful assistance for the affected families.

Highway Reopens.....

Thursday evening, around 1,200 trucks had crossed Qazigund, nearly 40 per cent of them carrying apples.

The highway had remained shut since August 26 due to landslides, flash floods, and major road damage in Udhampur and Ramban.

For truckers who had spent sleepless nights parked along the road, the reopening was nothing short of a lifeline.

"For 16 days, I slept inside my truck, eating whatever little food I could manage. My apples were rotting inside, and every day I thought of returning home empty-handed," said Mohammad Yousof, a driver from Baramulla, as his vehicle finally moved past the Qazigund tunnel.

The prolonged closure had pushed many into debt, with perishable fruit consignments

stuck on roads at the peak of Kashmir's apple season.

"I was worried about my family. The fruit boxes I carry belong to a grower in Pulwama. If they get damaged, I will have to bear the brunt. Today, when I finally drove out, it felt like a burden lifted from my chest," said Gull Mohammad Bhat, another driver from Pampore.

The convoy's slow but steady movement brought visible relief to the faces of those who had been waiting in long queues stretching from Anantnag outskirts to the Qazigund tunnel. "It was not just about business losses; we were living on the roadside, away from our families, in the scorching sun and rain. I don't remember such a long blockade in recent years," said Ashiq Hussin Shah, a driver from Baramulla—(KNO)

Act tough.....

recent security issues, ongoing challenges, and strategies to address them. DGP J&K stressed the importance of reviewing and strengthening security plans, as well as developing effective counter-insurgency measures to ensure the smooth and peaceful execution of upcoming events, a police spokesman said.

Prabhat directed the officers to intensify surveillance on anti-national elements and ramp up area domination efforts in their respective areas. He emphasized the importance of bolstering security around vulnerable targets and ensuring foolproof security measures.

Additionally, DGP J&K urged district heads to closely monitor social media platforms to prevent the spread of misinformation that could jeopardize public safety and order.

The DGP J&K also addressed the issue of rising general crime in certain areas of the UT and directed district heads to strengthen community policing initiatives and improve public outreach programs.

He stressed the need for targeted operations to disrupt criminal networks and maintain a sense of safety and security among the public. Underscoring the critical need for a coordinated approach to combat the growing menace of narcotics, the DGP directed the officers to take stringent action against those involved in the drug trade.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment to enhance vigilance, strengthen coordination, and ensure the effective implementation of security measures to uphold peace and safety throughout the valley.

CS Reviews.....

He observed that the platform is a reflection of the government's commitment to legal empowerment, inclusive governance, and citizen-centric service delivery. Adding that it has the potential to serve as a model for other regions of the country to replicate.

Underscoring the importance of inclusivity, the Chief Secretary directed the Department to seek valuable inputs from legal experts, especially from the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and incorporate their suggestions to make the services more comprehensive and beneficial for all stakeholders.

The Citizen Centric Services initiative encompasses ten integrated modules designed to simplify public access to legal services. Key features include a Legal Aid/Advice module that connects citizens with Legal Aid Counsels and Pro Bono Counsels, access to Central and UT Acts, Rules, Notifications, and landmark judgments, and information on court locations and real-time case status.

Other services on the platform include facilities related to notaries, oath commissioners, documents, and marriage registration. The portal also provides details of MLAs, legislative business, and enables public feedback on draft laws. Additionally, it offers legal education guidance and career support for aspiring legal professionals, an AI-powered chatbot for basic legal assistance, and a grievance redressal and feedback mechanism.

The Chief Secretary asked all stakeholders to work in close coordination to address any pending technical or administrative issues and ensure readiness of the platform as per schedule. He further emphasized the need for widespread awareness campaigns to maximize citizen outreach and effective utilization of the services by them post-launch.

The Department assured that necessary steps are being taken to meet the launch timeline and to operationalize the platform in a citizen-friendly and efficient manner.

CS Reviews.....

Security Action Plan across J&K. The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries of all departments; Inspector General (Crime); Commissioner, Jammu/Srinagar Municipal Corporation; CEO, JaKeGA; SIO, NIC, and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive review of the initiatives undertaken to strengthen the cyber security framework of the UT.

He noted with satisfaction the progress made in the security audit of departmental websites, installation of Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) and Unified Endpoint Management (UEM) solutions in the Civil Secretariat, and other measures designed to safeguard government systems from cyber threats.

He also reviewed steps being taken for the augmentation of State Data Centre (SDC), operationalization of a Mini Security Opera-

tions Centre (SOC), and capacity building of officers to promote cyber hygiene across departments.

Stressing on the importance of holistic protection of IT assets, the Chief Secretary directed for the early roll-out of the e-SAM portal in J&K. The system will ensure comprehensive inventory of all IT assets and strengthen their security and monitoring.

During the meeting, Secretary, IT Department, Dr. Piyush Singla, briefed that out of 250 websites, security audit of 175 has been completed and are live, while the remaining 40 are under vulnerability testing. He added that 1-2 websites are being cleared daily and the entire process will be completed within the ensuing month.

It was also informed that of the 53 portals hosted by JaKeGA, 50 have already been secured and made live, with just 3 pending. Further, 19 redundant websites have been decommissioned after consultation with the concerned departments.

Dr. Singla apprised that EDR and UEM have been successfully deployed across the Civil Secretariat complexes in Jammu and Srinagar, covering around 5,100 devices. The process is now being extended to Head of Department (HoD) offices.

The meeting was further informed that the census of IT assets had been completed by 23 departments, and the J&K instance of the e-SAM portal is in the testing phase. Once operational, it will provide a unified, end-to-end inventory of IT assets to strengthen cyber resilience.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of Cyber Crisis Management Plans (CCMPs) submitted by departments, the adoption of official government email IDs (which now stands at 1.61 lakh users), and the growing use of Gov Drive for secure storage. The meeting further discussed measures regarding whitelisting/disabling of USB/pen drive usage, which has largely been restricted with whitelisting allowed only in exceptional cases.

Other key discussions included the migration of certain applications to the national Meghraj cloud, amalgamation

of SICOP and JPDCL data into the State Data Centre, and operationalization of the Single Window System, which is expected to go live by the end of this month. The augmentation of SDC, operationalization of Mini SOC at Jammu which eventually is going to be upgraded into a full-fledged SOC, and phased migration of websites from IPv4 to IPv6 by year-end were also deliberated upon.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of a proactive approach to cyber security, underlining that robust digital safety measures are integral for ensuring efficiency and reliability in governance. He directed all departments to work in close coordination with the IT Department to plug gaps, adopt best practices, and complete all pending tasks within stipulated timelines.

J&K BOSE.....

district Kargil and Leh can submit their examination forms in online mode from September, 11 to 25 on payment of normal prescribed fee.

The forms can also be submitted from September, 26 to October, 2 and October, 3 to 9 with applicable late fees.

The Board has directed all concerned institutions to ensure timely submission of forms, advising students to carefully verify their particulars during punching of information on the designated portal.

The detailed notification along with necessary guidelines, fee structure and instructions are available on the official J&K BOSE website. www.jkbose.nic.in .

The Board has urged parents and students to complete the process of submission of forms within the stipulated time frame to avoid imposition of late fees, cautioning that no form will be entertained after October, 9 whatsoever.

Relevantly, the J&K BOSE is committed to conduct the annual examination in November, 2025 for all the three classes including 10th, 11th and 12th in sync with the directions of the government to restore the session to November from March for Kashmir Division and winter zone areas of Jammu Division.

DDC Budgam chairs review meeting on Ring Road Project

Stresses timely completion of the project for ease of general public



HT News Desk / DIPT

BUDGAM, SEP 11: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Ring Road Project in the district.

During the meeting, DC directed all stakeholders to expedite the work process and ensure timely completion of the project, emphasizing its significance for public convenience, decongestion of traffic, and environmental benefits.

It was informed that out of the total 42 km road length, 32 km falls within Budgam district. The NHA representatives apprised the chair that four major entry/exit locations have been identified in Budgam that are Ichkoot, Kuzwere, Gowherpura, and Kesarmulla.

DC directed the District Mineral Officer to allow only registered GPS-installed vehicles for legal evacuation and transportation of earth/soil. He instructed that all illegal vehicles be seized immediately and FIRs registered against violators.

He also directed NHA representatives to obtain proper NOCs from the Forest department, PHE, Irrigation, PDD, DMO, and other concerned departments before starting execution of work. He stressed the importance of sharing feasibility reports with the district administration with respect to transport and land assessment, and also instructed NHA to secure

Gram Panchayat resolutions in the identified areas before initiating work.

Dr Bilal highlighted that all stakeholders must be fully involved in the execution and implementation of this vital project, keeping in view the larger public interest.

NHA apprised the chair that at least 201 structures, including minor and major bridges, are to be constructed along the 38 km stretch of the project within Budgam.

DC directed NHA to remain 100% legal and transparent in all project-related activities, assuring that the district administration will extend full support in the smooth execution of this public asset.

The meeting also discussed the proposal for a separate ring road link from Razwan Budgam to Sheikh-ul-Alam International Airport Srinagar. Highlighting the benefits, NHA informed that once completed, the road will allow smooth traffic flow at 60 km/hr speed, significantly reducing carbon emissions and contributing towards an eco-friendly transport system.

Reiterating his commitment, DC said that timely execution of the Ring Road Project is of paramount importance and all concerned departments must work in close coordination for its early completion.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, SE R&B Circle Budgam, CPO Budgam, Executive Engineers of Irrigation, authorities from NHA, DMO Budgam, and other district officers.



Div Com reviews implementation of CSS, UT schemes by Agriculture & Sericulture departments

Emphasizes on prolific production, enhancing farmers' Income

■ Newspoint Bureau

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Union Territory (UT) schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) by the Agriculture and Sericulture departments. The meeting was attended by the Director of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Additional Director Sericulture, Deputy Director Planning, and other senior officers from the concerned departments.

During the meeting, Div Com evaluated the effectiveness of ongoing schemes aimed at pro-



moting agriculture and allied sectors with a focus on economic growth, increased crop productivity, employment generation, and boosting farmers' incomes. Emphasizing the importance of tangible outcomes, Div Com directed officers to ensure that the benefits of all

schemes are effectively percolated down to the grassroots, reaching the intended beneficiaries. He stressed the need to bridge the gap between targets and actual achievements under the various schemes.

Highlighting the role of digital platforms in modern agriculture

marketing, he urged departments to assess the impact of digital interventions and to integrate larger e-commerce platforms such as Amazon to facilitate better market access and higher returns for farmers.

Div Com instructed the Agriculture department to focus on

the distribution of scientifically advanced, high-yielding crop varieties, which are crucial for enhancing per hectare productivity. He also called for motivating farmers to adopt highly remunerative agricultural practices, such as mushroom cultivation and sericul-

ture, as part of an integrated farming approach.

Further, he called for a measurable increase in scheme output and visible improvements in livelihood parameters across rural areas.

Earlier, Director of Agriculture presented a detailed over-

view of the sector's current status, including the area under cultivation, irrigation facilities, productivity levels, and a strategic vision aimed at achieving sustainable agricultural development, ensuring food security, enhancing rural livelihoods, and promoting environmental sustainability.

It was informed that the Agriculture department is currently implementing 16 schemes under HADP in addition to various Centrally Sponsored and UT Schemes.

Representative from the Sericulture Department also shared insights into the department's historical significance, ongoing projects, and future vision for enhancing silk production and farmer engagement in the sector.



DC Kulgam Felicitates Meritorious Girl Students with Laptops & E-Readers under BBBP Initiative

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 11: In a significant step towards promoting academic excellence and digital empowerment among young girls, the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women Kulgam organized a Capacity Building and Exhibition Programme on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics). The event aimed at encouraging greater participation of women and girls in these vital fields.

District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), who graced the occasion as the chief guest, felicitated meritorious girl students from government schools who had secured top ranks in the 10th and 12th board examinations.

As a token of appreciation and to support their further education, laptops and e-readers were distributed to the achievers under the Beti Bachao Beti



Padhao (BBBP) scheme—highlighting the district administration's ongoing commitment to girls' education and digital inclusion.

Commending the efforts of teachers, students, and parents, the Deputy Commissioner said that these achievements reflect the rising standards of education in government schools across the district. He encouraged the students to remain focused on their academic goals and continue striving for excellence.

The DC also extended his best wishes to the students for their future endeavors and reiterated the district administration's full support for educational initiatives that empower young minds.

The event also featured addresses by women speakers from various walks of life, who stressed the importance of educating and empowering the girl child and called for strict enforcement of laws and policies safeguarding their rights.

The programme was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Giri, Chief Education Officer Kulgam, teachers, and proud parents.

A key highlight of the event was the STEM Capacity Building & Exhibition Programme organised by SHEW Kulgam, during which 15 innovative models were displayed by girl students from various government higher secondary schools.

The top three participants were awarded mementos and educational kits by the District Development Commissioner in recognition of their creativity and dedication to STEM learning.

15th Edition of Alisha's Library on Wheels Launched at GBHSS Sangam, Idgah

■ Mohammad Hanif Khan

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: The 15th edition of Alisha's Library on Wheels—a library project designed to support students preparing for competitive examinations—was inaugurated today at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Sangam, Idgah, Kashmir, a school that bore the tragic loss of two teachers in a militant attack in 2021.

The 10-seater library, fully stocked with books on UPSC, SSC, banking, state PCS, law, and other competitive examinations, seeks to empower students with knowledge, guidance, and access to opportunities.

This joint initiative is a collaborative effort of Alisha Madhuvarshi, a US-based NRI student whose book royalties fund the project, and Deputy Commandant Rakesh Nikhraj, a CISF officer who provided all the books for this library. Joining hands with them for this edition is the 161 Battalion of CRPF, Srinagar under its Community Outreach Pro-

gramme, have provided all the required furnitures for library, further strengthening the bridge between security forces and the local community by investing in education and empowerment.

Chief Guest's Address
The inauguration was graced by Shri Keral Prasad Yadav, Principal Accountant General, who in his address stated:

"Books illuminate the path where violence once cast a shadow. With this 10 starter library, we are not just offering resources—we are rekindling the dreams of young students. Education is the strongest antidote to fear and despair, and initiatives like these will help Kashmir's youth to rise, learn, and lead."

Special Address by CRPF 161 Battalion

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Balihar Singh, Commandant, 161 Battalion CRPF, emphasized:

"The CRPF has always believed in winning hearts through service and outreach. He stressed on the fact that CRPF understands the value of Education and how spe-



cially in Kashmir valley education opens the door to unlimited opportunities. Education is the real safeguard of society, and we are proud to partner in this noble mission that gives students both hope and opportunity."

Alisha's Interaction with Students

Alisha, the young NRI co-founder of the initiative, spent time in virtual mode with the students, listening to their aspirations and challenges. She encouraged them to dream big and stay focused on their goals:

"Every book you open is a new door to possibility. I want each of you to believe that no dream is too big. This library is your space—make it a stepping stone to shape your future, and remember that the world is waiting to hear your voice."

Remarks by Shri Rakesh Nikhraj, CISF

Addressing the gathering, co-founder Shri Rakesh Nikhraj, Deputy Commandant, CISF, highlighted the importance of perseverance and education:

"I, too, once began my journey

with limited means but abundant determination. Education changed the course of my life, and I believe it can transform yours as well. This library is a resource, but your true strength will come from hard work and consistency. We are with you in your journey."

7 meritorious students were given online courses worth Rs 50K to prepare for competitive examinations conducted by Staff Selection Commission. The 14th edition was unveiled recently in Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Rainawari, Srinagar Community Response

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and members of the local community. The library, welcomed as a symbol of resilience, renewal, and opportunity, reaffirmed that books and knowledge remain the most powerful tools to rebuild lives and inspire futures in Kashmir. Jenab Altaf Ahmad Wani, Principal, GBHSS, Sangam assured the optimal usage of this library in shaping the future of students of his school.

All JK Shia Association's Molvi Imran Ansari Slams Governance Failures, Demands Action Over Excuses

■ Ubaid Mehdi Kashmiri

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: All JK Shia Association President and Senior General Secretary Molvi Imran Ansari, in a strongly worded tweet, highlighted the growing frustration among the people of Jammu and Kashmir over unfulfilled promises and the lack of meaningful governance.

He said: "Once bitten, twice shy. That's how people of J&K feel today. They trusted their elected representatives, gave full mandates, and supported them with hope. But what did they get back? Promises that disappeared once elections ended. If those in power truly cared about change, people would have seen results on the ground by now. Instead, they are given noise press statements, protests, and excuses."

Molvi Ansari added that despite tall election promises 200 units of free power, one lakh jobs, subsidized gas cylinders, better ration support ordinary people continue to face hardships. Instead of relief, ration cards are now under threat of cancellation. Daily wagers remain in crisis, SPOs recruited under the sports category are left in limbo, open merit students are trapped in endless uncertainty, and contractual workers continue to suffer neglect.

"Governance is not about waiting for perfect conditions. It is about acting with the responsibility already given," he stressed.

He questioned the contradictions in political conduct, pointing out how leaders demand patience from citizens while failing to act themselves. "If Delhi could carry out reforms in education and health



without full statehood, why can't J&K?" he asked, adding that leaders in J&K must stop hiding behind excuses and deliver results.

Ansari also criticized selective and superficial politics, where leaders chase photo opportunities and social media campaigns but fail to address real ground concerns. He remarked on how elected representatives ignore constituencies once in power, citing the example of Muharram when Shia areas were neglected despite promises during elections.

"People now demand timelines. Enough of vague assurances. Leadership is not about buying time; it is about delivering on time," Ansari stated.

He concluded by reminding leaders that the patience of the people has limits. "Governance is not drama. Either deliver or step aside. The excuses have run out. Leadership exists to relieve pain, not perpetuate it."

Public Welfare Committee Toiba Colony Humhama Delegation Meets I&FC Chief Engineer Kashmir

Residents Urge Government To Immediately Build Floodwater Passage From Humhama to Narkara

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: A delegation of the Public Welfare Committee Toiba Colony, Humhama Srinagar, met with the Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Kashmir, Er. Showkat Hussain, to apprise him of the grave problems faced by residents during the recent floods.

The delegation informed the Chief Engineer that, just several days ago, due to the rise in water levels in the Jhelum, Doodh-ganga and adjoining tributaries, floodwater entered almost all residential houses of Toiba Colony Humhama.

The residents expressed deep concern that the absence of a proper flood passage system has been a long-standing issue, exposing the colony to repeated threats of flooding.

The delegation alleged that the floods in Toiba Colony are the result of decades of negligence, as the flood channel has been encroached upon and subsequently blocked by land grabbers. They pointed out that the unchecked growth of illegal constructions around the area has further worsened the situation. The residents stressed that the lack of a dedicated passage for floodwater poses a serious threat not only to Toiba Colony but also to the adjoining localities.

The residents demanded that the Government should immediately plan and execute a proper floodwater passage connecting Toiba Colony Humhama with Narkara Bud-

gam, along with constructing strong embankments to safeguard the locality. The Committee emphasized that the issue must be treated with utmost seriousness and long-term preventive measures must be implemented.

The Public Welfare Committee also expressed its gratitude to the then Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Er. Ambreen, who had earlier taken a courageous stand when a private builder attempted to construct nearly 300 flats on the flood channel land after obtaining permission from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

The Committee recalled that Er. Ambreen opposed the illegal construction project, insisting that the land belonged to the Flood and Irrigation Department and could not be allowed for construction or transfer. She pursued the matter before the Tribunal Court, which ultimately cancelled the illegally obtained permission granted by the SMC.

The Committee stated that had this honest and courageous officer not taken a firm stand at that time, the entire area would have faced catastrophic destruction in the recent floods. The residents acknowledged and appreciated her bold decision and expressed gratitude for her dedication to protecting the flood channel.

The Committee also recognized the efforts of the Irrigation & Flood Control team, who worked tirelessly on the ground to manage and control the situation during the recent floods, preventing further damage.

National Forest Martyrs Day- 2025

Rana pays glowing tributes to Martyrs

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmad Rana today paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Forest Department who laid down their lives while protecting J&K's green wealth.

Presiding over the National Forest Martyrs' Day-2025 function at Tagore Hall, here, the Minister acknowledged the unwavering commitment and supreme sacrifices of forest personnel in safeguarding the region's precious natural resources.

The event was organised by the J&K Forest Department to commemorate National Forest Martyrs' Day and honour the courage and dedication of forest officials and frontline staff who sacrificed their lives in the

of duty while protecting forests and wildlife.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana said that the sacrifice of these martyrs is a testament of their dedication towards preserving our natural heritage for future generations.

"The supreme sacrifices made by our brave forest personnel will always be remembered. We must all feel proud of those who laid down their lives for the cause of protecting nature," he said.

He underlined that forests are the lungs of the planet, and the green guardians who protect them are real heroes.

"It is our collective duty to ensure their sacrifice does not go in vain and we continue their mission with renewed commitment," the Minister said.

Emphasising on the impor-



tance of natural resources, the Minister said that the survival of humankind depends on forests and water and the world simply cannot sustain without them.

Encouraging the department

to continue its mission, the Minister said that efforts are on to further strengthen the department and enhance facilities for all staff engaged in protecting our natural resources.

Announcing key initiatives, the Minister said that a new roadmap is being prepared to restore the lost glory of the Forest Department, with plans to develop an ecotourism park and other infrastructure in

memory of the martyrs. He also announced the introduction of group insurance facilities for employees.

In his welcome address, Conservator of Forests, North Circle, Irfan Ali Shah highlighted the challenges faced by frontline staff and reiterated the department's commitment to their welfare and safety.

The event also witnessed speeches by representatives of forest associations and organisations, who underlined the crucial role of forest officials in conservation and the sacrifices they make.

The Minister, on the occasion, also released a publication titled "Green Hearts". He also felicitated the family members of the martyrs for their sacrifices.

Commissioner Secretary, Forest Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda; PCCF & Head of

Forest Force, Suresh Kumar Gupta; MD J&K Forest Development Corporation; CCFs, Conservators, DFOs, Range Officers, Foresters, Forest Guards, representatives of various forest organisations, families of martyrs, environmental activists and senior government functionaries were also present on the occasion.

Earlier in the day, a tribute ceremony was held at the Forest Martyrs Memorial, Shankaracharya Hill, Srinagar, where floral wreath was laid in honour of the martyrs.

In Jammu, the day was observed at the Foresters Memorial, FRMC (ICT Lab), Narwal, with wreath-laying ceremonies by forest officers and staff. Similar observances were held across the J&K, including at Kashmir Forest Training School, Chittarnar.

DLIC approves 261 cases under Mission YUVA at Shopian

HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEP 11: The meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held today in Shopian under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

The meeting aimed to review and approve applications received under the Mission YUVA initiative, designed to foster youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.



A total of 261 applications verified by the SBDU, were presented for consideration. Following a comprehensive evaluation based on eligibility, business viability and the applicant's socio-economic background, all applications were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under the Mission YUVA framework.

Addressing the committee, DDC emphasized the vital role of self-employment in empowering youth, instructing all departments to ensure timely fund disbursement, robust monitoring and dedicated mentoring to guarantee the sustainability of the supported ventures.

During the meeting, DDC underscored the importance of expanding outreach activities, organizing awareness camps and conducting mobile registration drives to ensure the benefits of Mission YUVA reach every eligible youth in the district and said "Mission YUVA is not just a scheme, it is a movement to promote innovation, self-reliance and employment generation."

The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, General Manager DIC, Shurjeel Naikoo; AD Employment, Lead District Manager, DDM NABARD, District Officer JKEDI, Career Counselling officer & Employment Officer DECC Shopian, and Advance Manager Cluster office JKB.

JKEDI hosts day-long investment cum mentorship program on 'Deep Tech and Venture Capital'

'Real-time interactions to drive startup ecosystem in J&K forward'

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Thursday organized an investment cum mentorship program titled "Deep Tech and Venture Capital" at its Main Campus Sempora, Pampore.

The day-long program was held in collaboration with the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), a GoI enterprise and Sanchi Connect, a leading Business Accelerator supporting Deep Tech Startups.

The event aimed at strengthening the startup ecosystem in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir while promoting innovation and entrepreneurial excellence.

The programme witnessed active participation from over 100 startups, aspiring entrepreneurs, and industry thought leaders, offering a unique platform for knowledge-sharing, real-time interactions, and personalized mentorship.

On the occasion, the JKEDI also signed an MoU with GIF - National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar aimed at fostering skill development and exposure for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sarvana Kumar, CEO of NSIC Ventures Capital Fund Ltd., and Dr. Sunil K Shekhawat, Founder & CEO of Sanchi Connect, were the keynote speakers for the day-long event.

Khalid Jahangir, Secretary in, Industries and Commerce Depart-

ment, and Director JKEDI, in his address, highlighted the region's entrepreneurial legacy and the urgency to align it with modern, technology-driven business models. The JKEDI is on boarding the mentors for providing one to one mentorship to the startups of which there is a dire need.

He stated, "The entrepreneurial spirit is deeply rooted in J&K's culture. Our objective is to channel this talent pool towards creating scalable and sustainable tech-based enterprises. Mentorship is a vital key to enabling this growth, and today's programme is a step in that direction." He further added that with 44% of the startups registered with the JKEDI as tech based startups, the dialogues on Deep Tech will enable these

startups to gain more insights.

Sarvana Kumar detailed the role of NSIC under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, especially the Self Reliant India Fund (SRI Fund) backed by 10,000 Crore of Mother Fund, which supports startups and MSMEs by providing access to affordable capital and strategic support.

Dr. Sunil K Shekhawat shared his entrepreneurial journey and underlined how Sanchi Connect's network of "450 Venture Capital Funds and 100 Corporate Houses" helps Deep Tech startups scale effectively. He emphasized the importance of integrating forward and backward linkages into traditional business models for sustained growth.

The participants lauded the

event's practical insights and strategic depth. A startup founder remarked, "The interaction helped us rethink our approach and gain sharper clarity on our business direction."

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, fostering further engagement between the experts and participants, where selected startups received personalized guidance from the resource persons to refine their business models, overcome challenges, and strategize for long-term growth.

JKEDI reiterated its mission to foster a robust startup ecosystem in J&K and announced upcoming initiatives like Idea Challenge Competitions in schools and colleges, aimed at promoting innovation from an early stage.

DLSA Srinagar organizes comprehensive legal awareness programme at GBHSS Zainakoot

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 11: To promote legal literacy and awareness among the youth, and empower them with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in society, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at Govt. Boys Hr. Secondary School (GBHSS) Zainakote, today.

The initiative aimed to sensitize students on pressing social and legal issues, focusing particularly on the legal provisions for persons with intellectual disabilities, Solid Waste Management, and the NALSA Helpline 15100.

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

During the awareness session, Adv. Gazala Mumtaz Khan, Panel Lawyer,



DLSA Srinagar, delivered a detailed presentation on the legal provisions applicable to persons with intel-

lectual disabilities, highlighting the importance of protecting their rights and ensuring their integration in society with dignity and respect.

She urged students to develop an empathetic understanding towards such individuals and informed them about the mechanisms in place to safeguard their welfare.

Adv. Suhaila Ali, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar addressed the students on the critical issue of Solid Waste Management, emphasizing its impact on public health and the environment. She also elaborated on the role of the NALSA Helpline 15100, explaining how it provides free legal aid and guidance to those in need, thus bridging the gap between the common citizen and the justice delivery system.

The programme concluded with an interactive session where students actively participated by asking questions and sharing their views, demonstrating a keen interest in understanding legal and environmental responsibilities.

DC Rajouri reviews working of Rural Development Department; emphasises timely achievement of targets

HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, SEP 11: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Rural Development Department (RDD) and took a comprehensive review of the progress of under different schemes and initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed block-wise generation of Person Days under MGNREGA, which currently stands at 30%. Expressing concern over the slow pace, he directed the concerned officers to expedite the process and furnish detailed reasons for the shortfall.



A key focus of the review was on the timely payment of wages to MGNREGA beneficiaries and the Aadhaar seeding status of the Job Card holders.

The Deputy Commissioner also assessed the progress of the supplementary plan under MGNREGA and construction of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Awas Plus. It was informed that out of the targeted 62,195 houses, a total of 58,607 have been completed so far. The DC directed the department to accelerate the remaining construction work to meet the set targets within the stipulated time frame.

Calling upon the officers, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to work with renewed commitment and zeal to meet public expectations and ensure timely delivery of services.

The meeting concluded with a firm resolve to overcome existing bottlenecks and ensure effective and time-bound implementation of all rural development schemes.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rajouri, Chander Prakash; ADC Kalakote Mohd Tanvir; ADC Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa; ADC Koteranka, Dil Mir; ACR, Mohd Jhangir Khan; SDM Thanamandi Abid Hussain; ACD, Auqil Nuvaid; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed and other concerned officers.

GMC Rajouri gets 500 KVA fully automatic Gensets to ensure 24x7 power supply

Deputy Commissioner inspects facility after commissioning

HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, SEP 11: In a major boost to healthcare infrastructure, two 500 KVA fully automatic generators have been commissioned at Government Medical College & Associated Hospital (GMC&AH) Rajouri to make possible round the clock power.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma inspected the newly Commissioned facility today.

The generators, installed on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner under the supervision of JPDCL Rajouri in record time, will ensure uninterrupted power supply to the hospital during outages or natural calamities.



Pertinently, the load capacity of one genset is between 420-450 KVA, while that of the other is between 350-430 KVA, thereby ensuring an adequate backup for hospital operations.

As the blackouts in the past used to affect patient care, the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary, during their recent visit to the district, had specifically directed GMC for the installation of gensets to ensure reliable power backup. The commissioning of these gensets is in line with those directions.

With this crucial augmentation, GMC Rajouri is now better equipped to function round the clock without inter-

ruptions, ensuring seamless medical services to the people of Rajouri and adjoining districts.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that reliable electricity is vital for operating life-saving equipment and enabling timely interventions during emergencies. He reiterated the commitment of the District Administration to continuously upgrade healthcare infrastructure at GMC&AH Rajouri to meet the needs of the public.

Ex-En JPDCL Rajouri, Medical Superintendent Dr. Javid Iqbal, Deputy and other staff members of the institution were present on the occasion.

DC Srinagar conducts branch-wise review of Bank performance under various Credit Linked Government Schemes

Bankers urged to ensure timely benefits through quick sanctioning of eligible cases

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

Srinagar, September 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday chaired a comprehensive meeting with branch heads of various Banks here to review and expedite the sanctioning of cases approved by multiple District Level Implementation Committees (DLIC) under various Credit Linked schemes of the Govt. including HADP, Mission YUVA, APY, PMJJBY, PMJSY, Agri Credit schemes etc.

He also assessed the progress of Banks under various Financial Inclusion schemes in the district.

At the outset, DC took a branch-wise review of the banks

and evaluated their performance in sanctioning of cases approved by the District Level Implementation Committees under various credit linked schemes of the government.

On the occasion, DC instructed the Banks to ensure the swift sanctioning and disbursement of credit facility to the eligible beneficiaries by strictly adhering to the set timelines.

Labroo emphasized the need to minimize the gap between DLIC-approved and bank-sanctioned cases and instructed banks to accelerate disbursement processes to facilitate the eligible beneficiaries in the district. He also urged banks to provide



proper handholding and support to the common public and help them in taking timely benefits of the credit linked schemes of the government.

During the meeting, DC also reviewed the progress of Banks under various Financial Inclusion schemes including Atal Pension Yojna (APY), PMJeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) in the district.

He stressed upon them to sanction & disburse benefits to eligible beneficiaries in a time bound manner and work towards saturating all government-sponsored Financial Inclusion schemes in the district so that the target population is benefited. He urged

the Bankers to proactively intensify outreach efforts and maximize enrolments under these schemes.

DC asked the bankers to prioritize the Mission YUVA & HADP initiative aimed at empowering youth through self-employment.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Af-tab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; Zonal Head Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Layek Ahmad Jan; LDM (Banks), Nilofer Jan, officers of various line departments, Managers of various Bank Branches in the district and other concerned.

DC Ganderbal reviews preparations for Seva Parv celebration

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

Ganderbal, September 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming Seva Parv, a nationwide initiative scheduled to be celebrated from 17 September to 02 October, 2025.

The fortnight-long programme is aimed at strengthening citizen-centric governance by improving service delivery, creating awareness about public welfare schemes, and ensuring seamless access to essential services across the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the activities to be conducted during the campaign, which will include Swachhta drives, health camps, social outreach initiatives, plantation drives, and beautification of educational institutions, besides digital literacy camps, and awareness campaigns on flagship government schemes.



DC directed all departments to prepare a holistic calendar of activities and submit it to his office within two days to ensure smooth

implementation of the programme at the grassroots level.

He also instructed the ACD and Municipal Council Ganderbal to

launch intensive Swachhta drives, waste segregation campaigns in all Panchayats and municipal wards, and plantation drives around Amrit Sarovars.

For the plantation activities, DFO Sindh Forest Division was tasked with ensuring the availability of sufficient numbers of plants; while all educational institutions, including the Central University of Kashmir, were directed to undertake initiatives under the education-focused component of the programme, such as school beautification, wall painting, and donation of textbooks, stationery for needy students.

Similarly, the Programme Officer ICDS was asked to focus on nutrition-related activities and APAAR ID generation in Anganwadi centres.

Chief Medical Officer was instructed to organize health check-up camps, blood donation drives, and screening camps for anaemia, water-borne diseases, TB, and cancer, along with participation

of private health institutions to strengthen healthcare services during the Seva Parv.

DC also emphasized the need for extensive awareness campaigns on flagship programmes, including Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, disaster management, and government welfare schemes like PMJJBY, APY, PMJDY, PMSBY, among others.

He called for organizing capacity-building and digital literacy camps to educate citizens about welfare schemes as well as awareness about various social security schemes.

Underscoring the importance of inter-departmental coordination, DC urged all officers to work in close synergy to ensure that the programme is impactful and benefits every section of society.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihagi; CEO SDA, Bilal Mukhtar; Programme Officer ICDS, ACR, SDM Kangan, ACD, DSWO, CMO, and other officers from concerned departments.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0: MC Bandipora organizes capacity building workshop for sanitation staff

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, September 11: In line with the objectives of achieving Garbage Free Cities (GFC) under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), the Municipal Council (MC) Bandipora organized a comprehensive capacity building workshop today at Town Hall, Bandipora. The event brought together technical and sanitary staff from the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Bandipora, Sumbal, and Hajin to enhance their skills and knowledge for improved waste management at the grassroots level.

The workshop covered critical themes such as Segregation of Waste at Source, Door-to-Door Collection of Waste, Ban on Single Use Plastics (SUPs), and the Use & Implementation of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Centers. These themes aim to promote sustainable practices and ensure effective execution of SBM-U 2.0.

Aijaz Ahmad Khan, CEO Municipal Council Bandipora, attended the event, which was facilitated by experts from Swaaha Resource Management Pvt. Ltd. He spoke on various aspects of Solid Waste Management and sustainable practices, stressing the need for a structured approach and community involvement to achieve a garbage-free environment.

The Capacity Building Expert of Swaaha emphasized the vital role of citizen participation, stating that segregation of waste at the household level is the cornerstone of successful waste management. The expert also elaborated on the importance of efficient door-to-door waste collection, minimizing single-use plastics, and promoting RRR centers as essential infrastructure for recycling and resource recovery.

The workshop saw enthusiastic participation from sanitary workers, technical staff, local citizens, and students from all three ULBs. Participants were sensitized and trained on modern waste management practices, including practical demonstrations and group discussions to enhance understanding. An on-field visit to Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bandipora highlighted the school's exemplary efforts in educating students about Zero Waste practices and engaging them in environmental initiatives.

The Municipal Council Bandipora reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the Garbage Free City mission, urging sanitation staff to act as change agents in promoting sustainable waste management practices.

Social Welfare deptt Bandipora concludes 10-day awareness campaign with Exposure Visit under BBBP

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, September 11: SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) Mission Shakti, Social Welfare department Bandipora, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora, successfully organized an exposure visit to SKUAST-Wadura Sopore for girls identified by the JK Association of Social Workers (JKASW) from different areas of Hajin block, interested in agriculture and allied sector.



The program commenced with an informative session and a detailed PowerPoint presentation delivered by the faculty of SKUAST-Wadura, highlighting modern agricultural practices, career opportunities in agriculture, and the role of women in agri-entrepreneurship.

On the occasion, participants were taken on a walk through the experimental fields of the university, where they observed various ongoing research activities and diverse crop cultivations. The Dean highly appreciated the initiative of SANKALP HEW Mission Shakti taken under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign to inspire and empower girls through hands-on exposure to agriculture.

DC Ganderbal reviews modalities for development of Winter Sports Infra at Sonamarg

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, September 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting in his office chamber here to deliberate on the modalities for developing winter sports infrastructure at the world-famous tourist destination Sonamarg.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the existing infrastructure and the additional facilities required to establish world-class winter sports infrastructure at Sonamarg.

DC requested the Managing Director, JKCC, to formulate a comprehensive proposal in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA), identifying both short-term and long-term facilities needed for winter sports, for



submission to higher authorities for approval.

In order to promote Sonamarg as a premier winter sports hub, DC instructed the CEO, SDA to initiate measures for conducting winter sports events, skiing training programmes, development of an ice skating rink, and notification of designated skiing areas so that skiers and tourists are well-informed about the available facilities.

DC also emphasized the need for advance preparations for the upcoming winter season and directed the SDA to prepare a detailed action plan for smooth conduct of winter sports activities.

The meeting was attended by MD JKCC, Syed Qamar Sajad; CEO SDA, Bilal Mukhtar and other concerned officials.

Kupwara admin conducts surprise inspections of Government offices Action initiated against absentee employees

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, September 11: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, a series of surprise inspections were conducted this week across various Government offices in the district to assess employee punctuality, attendance, and overall work discipline.

The inspections were carried out by teams led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), and Tehsildars, who visited offices within their respective jurisdictions during working hours to ensure compliance with service norms.

During the inspections, approximately 48 employees were found absent from duty without prior approval or valid justification. Taking a serious view of this



lapse, the district administration has issued show-cause notices to all absentee employees, instructing them to explain their absence within the stipulated timeframe.

Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation may invite strict disciplinary proceedings.

DC Shrikant Suse emphasized that government employees are

accountable to the public and their primary duty is to deliver services efficiently and with commitment. He underscored that absenteeism not only hampers

service delivery but also erodes public trust in governance.

Further, DC directed all controlling officers to ensure that attendance is monitored on a daily basis and that employees are sensitized to their responsibilities. He assured that the administration will adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards negligence, stating that habitual absenteeism and dereliction of duty will invite stringent action, including suspension and other disciplinary measures as per service rules.

The DC also informed that surprise inspections will be intensified and conducted at regular intervals across all government departments to reinforce a culture of discipline, responsibility, and accountability. The administration aims to create a more responsive and citizen-centric governance framework that prioritizes punctuality and service delivery.

HT EDITORIAL

Fruit growers elated as Railways set to start transportation of apples from valley

The decision of Indian Railways to provide two vehicle parcels (LVPH coaches) for the transportation of apples from Kashmir has come as a huge relief for the fruit growers. The vehicle parcels were loaded on Thursday with each of them carrying 23 metric tonnes (MT) of apples. The Indian Railways has stated that it is ready to provide additional vehicle parcels if demand is received.

Principal Chief Commercial Manager of Northern Railways and Divisional Railways Manager of Jammu Division are in constant touch with the authorities, the horticulture department, fruit growers' associations and traders. The decision has been taken while considering the requirement of fruit growers from Kashmir Valley to send their produce to major markets in Delhi. As the major apple season is about to begin the Indian Railways has introduced the daily time-tabled parcel train between Budgam in Kashmir and Adarsh Nagar New Delhi from September 13.

This train will provide flexibility to individual traders and fruit growers to book one vehicle parcel online through the designated portal. The Indian Railways is also providing the facility to attach vehicle parcels at intermediate stations. It would be in place to mention that on August 9 the first freight train carrying 21 wagons of cement successfully reached the Anantnag goods shed in the valley from Punjab, marking a significant milestone in connecting the region to the national freight network.

The fruit growers of Kashmir valley have welcomed the move and said that the same would ensure that there are no more losses to the horticulture sector of the valley. For the past one week or so the fruit growers have maintained that they are staring huge losses as the Srinagar-Jammu national highway got closed for more than one week. Even though the highway has been thrown open, some damage has already been done with respect to losses for the fruit growers and traders.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has welcomed the launch of parcel train service for the transportation of apple consignments. The chamber has said that the move is expected to provide much-needed relief to the horticulture sector by ensuring reliable, cost-effective and time-bound connectivity with major markets. The KCCI observed that the decision comes at a crucial time when fruit growers in Kashmir have been facing recurring losses owing to road blockages and disruptions in the movement of fruit-laden trucks along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway due to weather vagaries.

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RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231

My Great Teachers



Seerat Rafiq

I am delighted to share my heartfelt gratitude towards the wonderful teachers who have shaped my life and guided me at every step.

When I attended my first class of Humanities Stream, I was completely unaware about the stream itself. My dream had been the medical field, and I couldn't imagine myself in anything else. But life had other plans, and Allah sent me a true mentor — Qazi Syed Sajjad Sir, our esteemed Political Science lecturer. Sir noticed my uneasiness and encouraged me. Even when I couldn't concentrate in class or failed to understand, he would gently ask, "Hafiza ji, apko samajh aa raha hai?" "kya phir samjhavuu" This gave me confidence and enthusiasm to learn new things.

What makes Sajjad Sir unique is his 'democratic style of teaching'. He gave us freedom to learn freely and make conducive atmosphere for discussion. Because of his constant support, I improved from scoring only 4 marks to topping my class and even winning a district-level speech competition. For me, Sajjad Sir is not just a teacher — he is the guiding light of my entire educational journey.

Next, I want to talk about Tabassum Ma'am. Her very name brings positivity and smile. She has always reminded us that life is not a bed of roses, but with hard work and faith, we can overcome any challenge. She makes English Subject so interesting. In grammar portion she makes complex concepts easy. She would always give a, "word of the day," at the end of lecture. But what truly sets her apart is how she obtains moral lessons in every chapter. Tabassum Mam is bold, smart, and courageous — strict for only a moment, but always kind the next.

Then comes Haris Sir, who left a deep impact on me. Outside the classroom, he is always smiling, kind, and approachable. Inside the classroom, he is disciplined and expects the best from us. He often says, "Beauty can only gain attraction, but a real character wins the heart." These words will stay with me forever. Thanks to his guidance, I was able to score 98 Marks out of 100 in Urdu in my class 11th examination. Truly, he is a mentor who not only sharpens our academics but also builds our character.

I also remember Shaukat Sir, who once stepped in as our English teacher when our regular teacher was on leave. His teaching style made grammar and syllables easy and fun. But what touched me most was not only his knowledge, but his haya — his deep modesty. Whenever I would greet him, he would lower his gaze with utmost respect. I truly feel that he is a true example of what the Qur'an and Hadith describe — a man should be. His behavior showed me what true modesty in a teacher should be, and I found in him the qualities of a man exactly as our religion teaches. Indeed his honesty, humility and modesty made him unforgettable for me.

When I rejoined this school after a long break, I was nervous and even cried on the first day. But Bilal Sir welcomed me with a smile and said, "This school is your second home." His kindness gave me courage. Along with him, Gurmeet Ma'am has always been the foundation of our school. She teaches us discipline, respect, and responsibility. Strict at times, but always with love and guidance.

Our librarians, Samir Sir and Shaukat Sir, also hold a special place in my heart. Samir Sir, though strict, encourages me to borrow books and explore knowledge freely, without fear. His trust in me made me more responsible. And Shaukat Sir, motivated me with kind words, reminding me to aim high and never give up.

Sumaiya Ma'am another family member of HSS Delina, welcomed me warmly and constantly reminded me that I was on the right path. She cleared every doubt with patience and shared stories to inspire us. Her absence is felt deeply, but her lessons stay alive in my heart.

I also want to appreciate Safura Ma'am and

Samina Ma'am. Safura Ma'am always takes time to ask about our families and treats us with motherly kindness. Even though IT is not my subject, she would invite me to attend her classes, and keep inspiring me. Samina Ma'am, teaching Tourism, inspired me with her caring nature and constant encouragement.

Then, there is Shahina Ma'am and Fozia Ma'am. Shahina Ma'am guided us when our English teacher was absent, and her punctuality and kindness left a strong impression on me. Fozia Ma'am, on the other hand, is like a second mother to us — graceful, kind, and nurturing, teaching us lessons beyond the classroom.

I cannot forget Firdous Sir, our Physical Education lecturer, who teaches us about fitness, discipline, and development. And also Firdous Sir, our Senior Assistant is a source of inspiration. His helpful nature and constant support make our academic journey smooth.

Then comes our new education Mam Asma Amin. She is so loving and caring. She make her class lively and clear concepts so nicely.

Lastly, I want to say something from my heart to Hilal Sir, Hanan Sir, Sadaf Gazala Mam, Bashir Sir, Reeta Mam, Syed Bashir Sir, Khursheda Mam, Sunita Mam, Rubinder Mam, Jatinder Mam, Rajni Mam, Harmeet Mam, Shashi Mam, Subaya Mam, Sheikh Sajad Sir, Majid Sir, Farooq Sir, Ishaq Sir, Baseerat Mam, Rafiq Sir, Ab Rashid Sir, Majeed Sir, Zahida Mam and Shakir Sir. Although they do not teach us directly but they all have inspired me in one way or the other. By simply observing them, I learned the value of dedication, kindness, and true meaning of "work is worship".

Last but not least I would like to express my love and regards for Misra Aunty, Sakeena Aunty and Saleema Aunty. They are also important pillars of our school.

In conclusion, I want to say: teachers are not just educators, they are nation-builders. They shape us into who we are meant to be. To all my teachers — thank you for believing in me, correcting me, guiding me, and most importantly, inspiring me.

The author is a Student of Class 12th in Govt Hr Secondary School Delina Baramulla

AI-Powered Early Warning Systems: A Geotechnical Engineer's Call for Action Against Cloudburst Disasters in J&K



Er Navaid Runyal

The Himalayas—renowned for their scenic beauty and rich biodiversity—are increasingly becoming hotspots of unpredictable weather events. Among these, cloudbursts have emerged as one of the most sudden and deadly forms of natural disasters, especially in regions like Jammu and Kashmir. The ferocity of recent events—from Kishtwar to Ramban and Kathua—have made it painfully clear: our mountains are bleeding, and we are unprepared.

As a geotechnical engineer stationed between Ramban and Banihal, working on critical four-lane tunnels and bridges, I have seen firsthand how fragile the terrain has become. Cracks widen overnight. Slopes that once held firm now slip under minor disturbances. It's not just the climate changing—it's the very earth beneath us. And yet, while nature shows signs of distress, our preparedness remains outdated.

But what if we could predict these cloudbursts in time to save lives? What if technology could bridge the gap between nature's fury and human survival? In this article, I offer both a personal and professional reflection on how Artificial Intelligence (AI), real-time monitoring, and geo-data analytics can revolutionize disaster preparedness in the Himalayas.

The Growing Threat of Cloudbursts in Jammu & Kashmir

A cloudburst refers to an extreme amount of precipitation in a short period of time, often limited to a small geographical area, typically resulting in devastating flash floods, landslides, and destruction. The Himalayan topography, combined with fast-rising temperatures and erratic monsoon patterns, makes areas like Jammu, Ramban, Kishtwar, and Anantnag especially vulnerable.

In April and August 2025 alone, multiple

cloudburst incidents were reported in the Ramban district—causing not only property loss but also human fatalities. These events are no longer rare—they are frequent and fatal.

Some recent statistics to consider:

Over 200 cloudburst-related incidents have been recorded across the Himalayas in the past five years.

Ramban alone has seen over 30 reported slope failures this year, many associated with intense rainfall in short durations.

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) considers J&K among the top five most vulnerable regions in India to cloudburst-induced flash floods.

A Geotechnical Engineer's Observation

While working on NH-44's Ramban-Banihal stretch—a lifeline connecting Kashmir to the rest of India—I have encountered landslides, sinking slopes, collapsing retaining walls, and buckled roads, all of which are increasingly linked to micro-climatic events like cloudbursts.

My field notes and soil tests reveal some alarming patterns:

Increased pore water pressure in soil layers after sudden rains, weakening the structure of slopes. Seepage-induced failures in cut slopes and hill faces—often within minutes of intense rain.

Bridge pier instability due to rapid erosion and debris load in nallahs during flash floods.

These aren't just academic observations—they are warning signs. The mountains are giving us all the data we need—we just haven't been listening.

The Need for Real-Time Monitoring

Most of our current monitoring systems rely on delayed reports, manual inspections, or outdated weather predictions. This approach is insufficient in a time-sensitive scenario like a cloudburst, where every second can determine life or death.

We need:

1. Weather Radar Systems: Doppler radars that can detect moisture buildups and potential cloudbursts 1-3 hours before occurrence.
2. Rain Gauge Networks: Dense networks in vulnerable zones to measure rainfall intensity in real-time.
3. Geotechnical Sensors: Instruments

like inclinometers, piezometers, and extensometers embedded in slopes to detect movement or water pressure changes.

4. AI-Integrated Data Analysis: Systems that use machine learning models to predict rainfall patterns, slope failure likelihood, and flash flood probability.

Artificial Intelligence: The Game-Changer

Imagine a system that constantly learns from:

Rainfall trends over the last 10 years in Ramban.

Soil behavior during similar events.

Temperature changes that often precede a storm.

Satellite images and drone footage before and after rainfall.

That's what AI offers.

How AI Can Help:

1. Predict Cloudbursts: AI can analyze satellite imagery, humidity, pressure levels, and temperature data to identify the potential zones for cloudbursts. Models like recurrent neural networks (RNNs) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) systems are already being tested in Uttarakhand for predicting flash floods.

2. Landslide Prediction: AI systems trained on historical landslide data, slope angles, and rainfall triggers can issue alerts before slopes begin to slide.

These predictions can trigger automated road closures and alerts to people living nearby.

3. Smart Evacuation Alerts:

With mobile-based GPS alerts, AI systems can inform residents in danger zones through automated messages in their local languages, giving them time to escape.

Community-Level Preparedness Using AI

It's not enough for the government or engineers to have this technology. It needs to reach the people.

I propose the development of a Community-Based Early Warning System (CBEWS) powered by AI, which would include:

Mobile Apps integrated with weather data and local hazard zones.

Visual Alert Boards in villages (like sirens or color-coded signals).

Local Disaster Volunteers, trained in interpreting AI-generated data, equipped

to evacuate people.

Just like we have fire drills in cities, mountain communities need cloudburst drills—and AI should be at the heart of it.

Challenges to Implementation

While the vision is promising, there are ground realities:

1. Limited Data Access: Most rainfall and soil data are fragmented across departments.

2. Connectivity Issues: Remote regions like Pogal Paristan or upper areas of Banihal have weak network coverage, limiting the reach of alerts.

3. Funding and Policy Gaps: AI-based monitoring requires investment and coordinated policy from the Disaster Management Department, IMD, and local administration.

4. Community Awareness: In some areas, even after warnings, people hesitate to leave homes due to trust deficits or cultural reasons.

What Can Be Done Immediately?

As someone working daily with terrain and slopes, here are practical recommendations:

For Government: Set up District-Level AI Monitoring Cells with trained staff and access to high-resolution data.

Mandate AI-based slope stability checks for all new infrastructure in hilly terrain. Integrate weather predictions with disaster alerts via mobile platforms.

For Engineers and Contractors: Install smart sensors on bridge piers, tunnels, and retaining walls to detect stress and movement.

Share geotechnical data with public platforms to improve AI model training.

Train site workers on emergency evacuation and early warning response.

For Citizens: Encourage smartphone users to download government-authorized early warning apps.

Participate in community awareness drives about cloudbursts and slope failures.

Form local task forces with youth and Panchayat leaders trained in using alert systems.

The writer is a geotechnical engineer from Mamal Maligam (Pogal Paristan) Ramban



A Mission Beyond the Call of Duty



■ MS Nazki

Bazigar primarily means acrobat or magician and the magic can be done from air also and this is what a child saw when waters were muddy and roaring all around! But one roar was from the skies? This time not by Gods but humans with a flying machine! But where to land was the issue! The instinct prevailed just by a spark from the brain! Many hearts were at ease!

Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing and dares to learn. Dare to think. Dare to be irrational, Dare to dream, dare to love, and dare to live. These four things the chopper pilots knew when they started their grasshopper (chopper)!

They knew it would be a high risk adventure but they also knew that flying is an art as grasshoppers take off, land and again take off!

Plus all this they had the legacy of the Indian Armed Forces in mind!

Before we come to the situation as it happened let us all take you back into history as to what has happened already in the past!

These 7 Relief Operations Of India's Armed Forces will stun the readers:

The Indian Armed Forces are being commended for their quick and effective operations after the earthquake in Nepal. Given below, is a record of the other recent instances, from the previous and the current decades, when the Armed Forces provided relief to those in need.

Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2004: An earthquake struck the Indian Ocean region, with its epicentre at Banda Aceh off the western coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. It measured a destructive 9.1 on the Richter scale. The resulting tsunami wrecked great misery along the eastern coast of India. The Indian Navy launched two simultaneous missions, 'Operation Madad' for mainland rescue operations in India and "Operation Sea Waves" for rescue operations in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The Indian Air Force reached the islands within an hour of the tsunami hitting them. The Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard helped in relief operations as well as in search and rescue.

Kashmir earthquake, 2005: An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck near Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir on 8th October, 2005. More than 87,000 people were reported to have died with an additional 77,000

being injured and 2.8 million being displaced. India sent three consignments of 25, 82 and 5 tonnes of relief materials each, including army medicines, blankets, and food packets. Border check-posts were opened for ferrying relief material.

Nargis, 2008: A Very-Severe-Cyclonic-Storm, Nargis, struck Myanmar. The Indian Air Force and Navy transported more than 100 tonnes of material and aided in rescue in Myanmar. India also requested the country to accept aid from the USA in the wake of the tragedy.

Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand floods, 2013: A cloudburst lasting many days, over the Himalayas, caused massive flooding. Uttarakhand was the worst hit. The Indian Air Force launched Operation Rahat, which saw close to 19,600 people being airlifted and 3,82,400 kg of relief material being provided. The Indian Army, on its part, launched Operation Ganga Prahar followed by Operation Surya Hope to carry out relief missions to rescue close to 1,00,000 people. The Army launched rescue operations in the Indo-Nepal border areas as well.

Cyclone Hudhud, 2014: A Very-Severe-Cyclonic-Storm struck the east coast of India in October 2014. The Navy took the lead in evacuating, and providing relief to, the affected people in an operation code-named Operation Lehar.

Jammu and Kashmir floods, 2014: Mission Sahayata and Operation Megh Rahat were launched to rescue the stranded. 30,000 troops of the three armed forces were deployed. Operation Sadbhavana, to supply relief material to the affected areas, continued even after the troops pulled out. The relief operations began on the day itself with the Indian Air Force deploying the C130-J Hercules from Hindon air-base carrying NDRF personnel and tonnes of relief material. The relief and rescue operations were scaled up in the subsequent hours and days, and still continue.

Needless to mention the legacy is simply awesome!

Dare to be different. Dare to make your dreams a reality and Dare to explore when you watch from air that someone is in trouble! Finally Dare to break the rules. But when in air you have the minutest of seconds to take a decision and here one was required!

We will call this operation in our own lingo: It was 'Op Basic instinct of Man and the machine!' Both were in coordination here!

In an extraordinary display of courage and professional excellence, *Col Shaurya Singh and Lt Col Abhijit Singh of the Indian Army undertook a high-risk and daring evacuation operation on 23 July 2025 to rescue a young child trapped in the devastating flash floods in Rajouri district of Jammu & Kashmir.



Responding swiftly to an urgent call for help, the Army helicopter pilots braved inclement weather conditions and executed the mission at a location fraught with hazards, including low-hanging wires and fast-flowing floodwaters. Demonstrating exceptional flying skills and nerves of steel, the pilots hovered the helicopter barely a foot above the surging waters, enabling the successful rescue of the stranded child.

The courageous act is a shining example of the Indian Army's ethos of selfless service and unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of citizens. Col Shaurya Singh and Lt Col Abhijit Singh went far beyond the call of duty, embodying the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

Their timely and heroic action not only saved a precious life but also reaffirmed the Indian Army's role as first responders in times of crisis.

The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams and this was one of the biggest!

With low visibility, strong winds, and treacherous terrain complicating the effort, the officers opted for an aerial rescue—a decision that would test the limits of both machine and human skill.

Braving a turbulent atmosphere filled with low-hanging power lines, unstable ground conditions, and rapidly rising

water, the pilots navigated their chopper into position and hovered just a foot above the raging current. In a nerve-wracking moment, they successfully airlifted the stranded child to safety.

The rescue, which lasted only a few minutes, demanded pinpoint coordination and nerves of steel—any error could have been fatal.

A Mission Beyond the Call of Duty: The operation has drawn widespread admiration from across the country, hailed as a textbook example of military professionalism under pressure.

This act embodies the highest traditions of the Indian Armed Forces—selfless, brave, and committed to protecting every life, in peace or conflict, said a senior Army official.

Both officers have been lauded for going beyond the call of duty, reaffirming the Indian Army's vital role as first responders in humanitarian crises across the nation.

Heroism That Inspires: While the floodwaters eventually receded, the images of that daring chopper rescue have left a lasting impression. The child is now safe, and the two pilots—Col Shaurya Singh and Lt Col Abhijit Singh—are being hailed as real-life heroes.

Their fearless response in a moment of crisis once again highlights that for the Indian Army, duty to country means

protecting lives not only on the frontlines, but wherever danger threatens!

The Indian Armed Forces have a long and proud history of carrying out successful rescue operations in the face of daunting challenges. Whether it is evacuating citizens from war-torn countries, rescuing mountaineers from treacherous peaks, or saving people from natural disasters, the Indian Armed Forces have always been there to help those in need. This is just one were the men excelled! The world knows the excellence and precision of Indian Army!

Operation Sukoon: In 2006, during the Lebanon War, Operation Sukoon was launched to evacuate Indian, Sri Lankan, Nepalese, and Lebanese nationals trapped in the conflict zone. Conducted by the Indian Navy, the operation was carried out in a dangerous and unpredictable environment. The Israeli-Lebanese conflict was ongoing, and there was a risk of attacks from both sides. As tensions escalated, the Indian Navy's task force, including INS Mumbai, INS Brahmaputra, INS Batwa, and INS Shakti, swung into action. Over 2,000 people were evacuated, including 1,764 Indians. The four naval vessels also contained 115 tons of aid from both the Indian and Cyprus governments—medical supplies, clothing and blankets, antiseptics, food, baby milk powder and canned goods. The operation provided much-needed relief to those affected and showcased India's commitment to the safety of its citizens and friends in distress.

Operation Maitri: In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Nepal in 2015, Operation Maitri was initiated by India to assist those affected. The IAF dispatched one C-130J, two C-17s, and one IL-76 to airlift 295 NDRF personnel, 46.5 tonnes of cargo, and five sniffer dogs. A great deal of relief material was airlifted for over a month. Among these were water, blankets, tents, paramedics, stretchers, medicines, prepared food, milk, utensils, vegetables, Meals Ready to Eat, RO plants, oxygen regenerators, Air Force Communication Centre vehicles, Rapid Action Medical Teams, transportable operating rooms, X-ray machines, laboratories and beds, among others. India was the first country to respond within 15 minutes of the earthquake, launching a full-fledged rescue and relief effort. India's response saved lives and symbolised the spirit of friendship and solidarity between the two nations.

Dare to be yourself and be comfortable in your own skin is what my Dad taught me! What I learnt from his (Dad's) teachings was that I won't grow without taking risks. His reply was then you would be crucified! I was! But I will still say from my heart and blood, 'Indian Armed Forces are the best in the world!'

From Celebration to Gridlock: The Traffic Crisis During Festivals



■ Munish Bhatia

India is a land of diversity and festivals. Throughout the year, there are various cultural, religious, and social events—festivals, fairs, processions, sports competitions, social rallies, and cultural celebrations. The purpose of these events is to connect communities, keep traditions alive, and share happiness. But when these celebrations are accompanied by traffic chaos, hours-long jams, stalled emergency services, and the disruption of a common person's life, it's natural to ask—have we lost the habit of balancing celebration and convenience?

During the festive season, the scene on the roads often changes. As a major festival approaches, some people start treating public roads as their private property, without considering that people from all walks of life use these roads for commuting. It's easy to blame the entire traffic chaos on the administration, but the reality is that the public's lack of cooperation and negligence are equally responsible for the problem. A day before the festival, multi-kilometre-long jams occur from small towns to state highways, where people get stuck for hours and are troubled. This situation has now become so common that "the pre-festival jam" seems to have become a kind of tradition.

In small towns and cities, the old problem of encroachment completely paralyzes traffic. The expansion of roadside shops, handcarts, illegal parking, and temporary structures—all of these together swallow up the width of the roads. There is no space left for



pedestrians, and vehicles crawl. Sometimes, this encroachment remains for years right under the nose of the administration, because strict action cannot be taken due to political pressure or local vote-bank compulsions. This problem multiplies manifold during festivals, as crowds, decorations, and event stalls add to the burden on already jammed roads.

Actually, this is not just a failure of the system, but a part of a wider social mindset. We have become accustomed to using public resources as our personal convenience. Parking a vehicle anywhere, not leaving space for pedestrians, breaking traffic signals, and blocking roads in the name of a festival—all these have become part of our mentality. We forget that roads are not just for driving vehicles, but are lifelines—on which the timely arrival of emergency services, the smooth operation of commercial activities, and the daily life of millions of people depend. During festivals, people break rules considering them a "temporary exception." But this "temporary time" can be a matter of life and death for someone—like an ambulance stuck in a jam, or a student who cannot reach the examination center

on time.

Traffic management planning during festivals is often incomplete. Advance planning for traffic diversion, crowd management, information about alternative routes, and timely public announcements—all these are on paper, but very rarely implemented on the ground. Sometimes, preparations only begin after a jam has already occurred. This negligence is not limited to inconvenience—it also causes economic and social losses. For example, a long jam means loss of sales for traders, loss of a full day's earnings for daily wage laborers, and loss of fuel and time for transport services. Additionally, delays in emergency services can lead to serious accidents or death.

To maintain a balance between festivals and traffic, efforts from only one side are not enough; the administration, organizers, and citizens—all three have to fulfill their respective responsibilities. The administration should prioritize traffic planning before festivals, pre-decide alternative routes, diversions, and green corridors for emergency vehicles, remove encroachments near event venues, and ensure clear parking

arrangements. Additionally, they should deploy sufficient police force and volunteers for crowd management. On the other hand, organizers should share the route, timing, and crowd estimates of their event with the administration, set time limits for processions or parades that minimally affect general traffic, and promote the use of public transport to reach the venue. At the same time, it is also the citizens' responsibility to follow traffic rules, not create crowds and chaos in the excitement of a festival, park their vehicles only in designated places, keep a clear path for pedestrians and emergency vehicles, and consider the convenience of others as an integral part of their own happiness.

In many countries, big festivals and parades happen, but planning is done months in advance there. For example, in Japan, maps of alternative routes are made available to the public before any public event, and traffic rules are strictly enforced. In Singapore, entry of private vehicles is restricted near event venues, and only public transport is allowed. In these countries, it has been accepted that a festival's meaning is combined with convenience and discipline. This is also possible in India—if we consider festivals not just as a celebration of emotions, but also of discipline. We have to understand that if an event causes inconvenience to thousands of people, its happiness is incomplete. Festivals are not just for one's own community, but for the entire society, and society is happy only when the convenience of every person is taken care of.

Festivals are the heartbeat of our culture and society. They connect us with each other, strengthen relationships, and fill life with joy. But if traffic chaos, stress, and inconvenience are added to these joys, their purpose gets weakened. The time has come for us to learn to balance the "freedom of celebration" and the "rights of others"—otherwise, traffic jams will also strangle our happiness.

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The Cloud Seeding



■ Surinderpal Singh

The weather modification has been a subject of human fascination and scientific interest for a long time. Amongst the various techniques of weather modification the cloud seeding stands out as one of the most widely studied and implemented methods aimed at artificially enhancing the precipitation and changing the weather conditions. As the climatic changes are intensifying the global weather variability and exacerbating water scarcity in many regions of the world. The cloud seeding has emerged as a latest potential technological solution to address the water management challenges of the world.

The Science Behind Cloud Seeding

The Cloud seeding is a geoengineering technique which is designed to stimulate the process of precipitation by artificially introducing the chemical substances into clouds to promote the droplet formation. The process is based on cloud microphysics particularly the role of condensation nuclei in cloud formation and growth.

There are two primary types of cloud seeding:

1. Warm Cloud Seeding

It targets the clouds with temperatures above freezing point, where hygroscopic particles (such as salt compounds) are dispersed to accelerate the coalescence of water droplets promoting the rainfall.

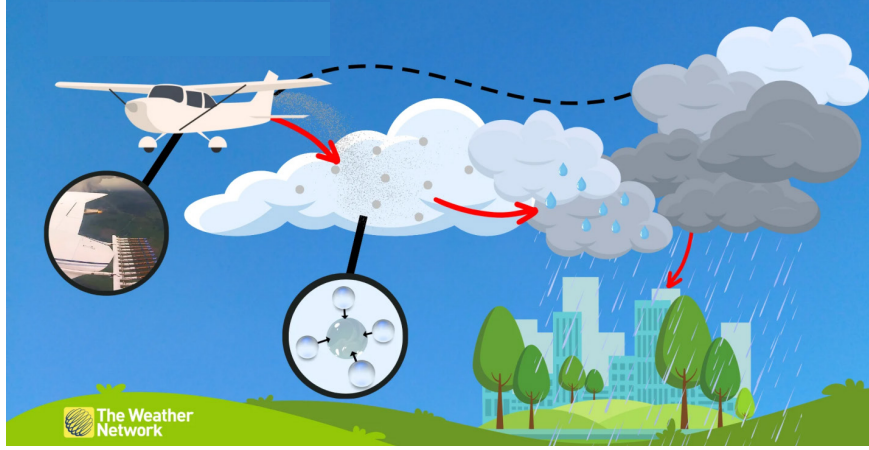
2. Cold Cloud Seeding

It targets clouds with temperatures below freezing point. The Silver iodide (AgI), due to its crystalline structure resembling ice, is commonly used to promote ice crystal formation enhancing the process of precipitation.

The cloud seeding agents are typically dispersed by aircraft or ground-based generators releasing the particles into the cloud mass to catalyze the droplet or ice formation and subsequent precipitation.

Historical Development and Applications

The concept of cloud seeding was designed by Dr. Vincent Schaefer and Dr. Bernard Vonnegut in the early 40's. The early experimentation demonstrated that introducing silver iodide into supercooled clouds could trigger ice nucleation. Since then the cloud seeding has been employed worldwide for diverse objectives:



- 1. Agricultural Support:**
This process is used to enhance the process of rainfall in drought-prone agricultural regions to sustain the crop productivity.
- 2. Water Resource Management:**
The cloud seeding boosts the reservoir levels in areas experiencing water shortages.
- 3. Snowpack Augmentation:**
This process could increase the snowfall in mountainous regions to ensure the downstream water availability.
- 4. Weather Hazard Mitigation:**
This process was employed to reduce the severity of hailstorms and dissipating the fog for aviation safety.

Scientific Evidence and Effectiveness

While cloud seeding has shown promise in experimental settings the overall effectiveness remains a topic of ongoing research and debate. Meta-analyses of various field studies suggested that cloud seeding can increase precipitation by approximately 10-15% under optimal conditions. However the variability of atmospheric conditions, cloud properties and the presence of natural condensation nuclei could complicate the consistent results.

The recent advancements in the field of science and technology further progressed the satellite remote sensing. Hence nowadays the cloud modeling have improved monitoring and prediction capabilities, allowing for better targeting of suitable clouds and evaluating seeding outcomes.

Risks, Challenges and Environmental Concerns

Despite its potential the cloud seeding poses several risks and challenges to the humanity.

Some of the challenges are enlisted below:

Environmental Impact:

The long-term ecological effects of introducing silver iodide and other chemical agents into the atmosphere are not experimentally proved to be harmless. Although studies suggest low toxicity at seeding concentrations cumulative impacts are poorly characterized.

Legal and Ethical Issues:
Cloud seeding raises questions of atmospheric ownership and international governance. Disputes may arise if seeding in one region affects neighboring areas leading to geopolitical tensions.

Uncertainty and Reliability:
Cloud seeding cannot guarantee precipitation and remains dependent on favorable meteorological conditions. Ineffectiveness during unsuitable cloud formations limits its utility as a reliable water management strategy.

Future Prospects and Ethical Considerations

As global climate change exacerbates the extreme weather patterns and water scarcity, cloud seeding continues to attract attention as a tool for inducing artificial rains and snowfalls. With advances in computer simulations, AI-driven weather modeling and environmental monitoring promise to improve the precision and efficacy of cloud seeding operations.

Nonetheless, ethical considerations must guide its application. The precautionary principle suggests careful assessment of potential ecological consequences and transparent international collaboration. Furthermore, cloud seeding should not substitute for broader sustainable water and climate management strategies but rather complement them.

The cloud seeding represents a significant scientific innovation in the field of weather modification with the potential to support the water resource management and agricultural sustainability amongst the growing environmental challenges. While experimental and field data demonstrate modest success rates, the technology's long-term environmental impacts and ethical implications warrant careful, evidence-based implementation. Ongoing research, technological advancement, and international regulatory frameworks will shape cloud seeding's role in the future of climate adaptation and resource management.

The Author is a Faculty in Science Department Sri Amrisar Sahib Punjab

Indian Hearts in Peril: A Silent Epidemic



■ Lalit Garg

The modern age, often celebrated as an era of convenience and abundance, hides a grim paradox. While machines and technology have made life more comfortable, they have also spawned diseases born of lifestyle choices, once considered rare. Foremost among them is heart disease—the world's leading cause of premature deaths, and a rapidly escalating crisis in India. The recently released Causes of Death in India 2021-23 paints a sobering picture. Heart attacks are no longer confined to the elderly; they are striking India's youth with alarming frequency. The report reveals that deaths from cardiac arrest among people over 30 have surged sharply. Once an anomaly, heart attacks among the young have become tragically common, threatening not just individual lives but the nation's social and economic fabric.

Globally, cardiovascular diseases claimed around 18 million lives in 2021, according to the World Health Organization—more than any other illness. In India, they account for nearly 28 percent of all deaths, meaning every fourth Indian falls victim to a cardiac condition. What is more alarming is the youthful face of this epidemic: over 40 percent of Indian heart attacks occur in those under 40. By contrast, developed nations such as the US and Europe report this figure at just 10-15 percent. India's young hearts are uniquely endangered. The Sample Registration Survey further underscores this crisis: 31 percent of deaths in India are caused by heart disease. Coupled with a staggering obesity rate—averaging 40 percent nationally, higher in women than men—the risks are compounded. Urban centers, where fast food, stress, and pollution converge, fare far worse than rural areas. States like Delhi, Chandigarh, and Puducherry report the highest obesity rates. The Covid-19 pandemic has only deepened vulnerabilities, leaving behind a legacy of weakened immunity and lingering health challenges.

What explains this rapid rise? Genetics play a role, but lifestyle factors dominate. India's youth increasingly rely on processed, oily, and sugary-laden foods, abandoning traditional diets of pulses, vegetables, and grains. The relentless pressures of modern life—job insecurity, fierce

competition, financial burdens—have locked young people in chronic stress. Stress disrupts hormonal balance, raising blood pressure and destabilising heart rhythms. Add smoking, alcohol, and drug abuse, and the picture darkens. Cigarette smoke narrows arteries; alcohol and narcotics erode cardiovascular resilience. Equally damaging is India's sedentary urban lifestyle. Long hours at desks or in front of screens mean negligible physical activity, spawning obesity, diabetes, and hypertension—the "triple threat" for heart health. Pollution in India's cities adds yet another killer, with studies linking toxic air directly to cardiac arrests.

The consequences extend far beyond personal health. A sudden cardiac death in one's thirties or forties devastates families, robbing them of breadwinners, and cripples communities. For a developing nation that prides itself on its youthful population as a strategic asset, such losses jeopardise its very future. But heart disease is not inevitable—it is preventable. The solutions are neither complex nor out of reach. A return to healthier diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat foods must replace junk and processed meals. Regular exercise, yoga, and mindful practices such as meditation can mitigate both physical and mental risk factors. Avoiding tobacco, alcohol, and drugs is critical. Periodic health check-ups—monitoring blood pressure, cholesterol, and sugar—enable early intervention. Most importantly, awareness must rise. Heart disease has been dubbed a "silent killer" precisely because it creeps in unnoticed until it strikes fatally. A collective awakening is essential. Governments must launch sustained public health campaigns, healthcare institutions must improve screening and treatment, and society must normalise healthier lifestyles.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India's healthcare infrastructure has expanded. Yet new challenges like the surge in heart disease demand more than hospitals and medicines. They demand a health-conscious revolution. It is not enough to cure disease; India must cultivate wellness. Citizens must adopt discipline, balance, and moderation; governments must invest in preventive care; and medical institutions must continually innovate. The warning is clear: India is facing not just a health crisis but a generational challenge. The rhythm of the nation's future lies in the beating hearts of its youth. To let those heartbeats fall silent prematurely is to endanger both lives and aspirations. Safeguarding them must become the nation's highest priority.

The author is a Writer, Journalist, Columnist, E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment, 25 I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-92

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GDC Ganderbal hosts debate and Naat Competition to Mark Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH)

HT News Desk

GANDERBAL, SEP 11: Marking the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH), the Government Degree College Ganderbal reverberated with soulful recitations and thought-provoking deliberations as the Departments of Islamic Studies, Urdu, and Kashmiri jointly organized a Debate and Naat Competition.

The event sought to celebrate spiritual heritage, ignite intellectual reflection, and reaffirm the timeless relevance of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) teachings. Prof. Fouzia Fatima, Principal of the college patronized the event, with Dr. Tauseef Ahmad Parry (Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies) steering the proceedings as Convener, and Dr. Jamsheeda Akhter (Assistant Professor, Urdu) along with Dr. Nusrat Iqbal (Assistant Professor, Kashmiri) coordi-



nating the programme.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Tauseef Ahmad Parry reminded the audience that "in a world desperately searching for meaning, the Prophet's message of mercy continues to offer humanity a way forward." The Principal, in her address, emphasized that the Prophet (PBUH) remains an enduring source of inspiration in the modern age.

The Naat competition featured ten participants whose heartfelt recitations moved the audience.

The jury—comprising Prof. Mujeeb A. Kawoosa (Mathematics), Dr. Sabreena Syed (Chemistry), Dr. Nusrat Nabi (Urdu), and Dr. Sobiya (Kashmiri)—declared Shahid Qadir Lone (1st Semester), Muneeb Javid Mir (5th Semester), and Arsalan Nazir (7th Semester) as the top three performers.

The debate competition, on the theme "The Prophet's (PBUH) Timeless Teachings: A Source of Inspiration for Today's World," brought six articulate voices to the fore, each engaging with a

different dimension of the Prophet's message. The jury panel—Dr. Sameera Siraj (Zoology), Dr. Tauseef Ahmad Parry (Islamic Studies), Dr. Jamsheeda Akhter (Urdu), and Dr. Haneef Ahmad Kumar (Education)—awarded the first three positions to Zubair Hassan Dar (3rd Semester), Muhammad Shadab (1st Semester), and Beigh Mehraj Gul (1st Semester).

The programme opened with a melodious recitation of Quranic verses by Uzair Bilal and was moderated with poise by Mr. Asif

Shameem (1st Semester). The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where winners and participants were awarded mementoes and certificates, followed by a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Sobiya (Kashmiri).

The day's proceedings drew wide appreciation from the audience, reaffirming the college's commitment to nurturing cultural expression, spiritual sensitivity, and intellectual engagement among its students.

Condolence



Raja Begum

With heavy heart it is informed that Raja Begum wife of Late. Mohammad Ramzan and mother of Nazir Ahmad Lone, noted social and political activist and President of All Kashmiri Muslim Migrants, Jammu & Kashmir passed away after a brief illness with the Janazah being performed on Thursday September 11, 2025 at her ancestral village Nagam, Mirpora in Kulgam district. The fourth day (Chaharum) of the deceased will be observed on Sunday September 14, 2025 at the residence of the deceased.

Bereaved Family

Anjuman Sharie Shain Jammu and Kashmir Observer Jashn E Milad Nabi

Ubaid Mehdi Kashmiri

BUDGAM, SEP 11: The birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervor in Budgam. A grand rally was taken out from Mirgund Bab-ul-Ilm to imam bargah budgam Imambargah, with thousands of participants including children joining the procession.

The rally was led by the President of the Shia Association, Aga Syed Hassan Al-Mosavi Al-Safvi, along with other religious dignitaries. Participants congratulated the Muslim world on the birth of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and highlighted the importance of unity within the Ummah.

As part of the "Week of Unity," observed from 12th to 17th Rabi-ul-Awwal, speakers stressed the need for strengthening Shia-Sunni harmony and fostering brotherhood



among Muslims. They also expressed solidarity with oppressed Muslims across the globe, particularly those enduring hardships in Palestine.

The gathering, marked by chants

of devotion and reverence, reflected the spirit of Islamic unity and the timeless message of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) — peace, justice, and compassion.

GDC Qazigund Organises Seminar on "Role of Teacher in the Development of Society"

Farooq Rather

QAZIGUND, SEP 11: In connection with the celebration of Teacher's Day, which is annually observed on 5th September, the Debates and Seminar Committee of Government Degree College (GDC) Qazigund organized a seminar today on the theme "Role of Teacher in the Development of Society."

The event commenced with a welcome address by the Principal of the College, Prof. Aufaq Ahmad Zargar, who emphasized the vital role of teachers in shaping society, especially in the era of rapid technological advancement.

The inaugural speech was delivered by Dr. Ishtiyahq Ahmad Shah, Head of the Department of Education and Convener of the Debates and Seminar Committee. Dr. Shah highlighted the educational philosophy of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's second President, and elaborated on the historical significance of Teacher's Day.

Apart from enthusiastic participation by students of 1st, 3rd, and 5th semesters, the seminar featured engaging presentations by faculty members including Dr. Waheed Ahmad Shah (Lecturer, Education) and Dr. Basharat Nazir (Lecturer, Political Science), who both spoke insightfully on the seminar's theme.

On this occasion, the Principal of the College also presented tokens of appreciation to the newly joined teachers, acknowledging their commitment to the academic mission of the institution.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Prof. Nihad, Head of the Department of English and Convener of the Protocol Committee.

The event witnessed the participation of all faculty members and students, making it a meaningful academic gathering dedicated to honouring the noble profession of teaching.

Public Notice

Whereas, I Ms. Mayram Yaqoob S/o Mohammad Yaqoob Dar R/o Shah Mohallah, Bunpora, Nowgam Srinagar Kashmir 190015 intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my Proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s Beyond Blue Tour and Travels" Situated at Nowgam Bypass Srinagar Near Candid Secondary School under Tourist trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit State Subject/ Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (minimum 05 Years) Character Certificate (Police Department) Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10,000) Site Plan Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Latter Head/ Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and two Passport Size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an excursion agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/ Bank Organization etc for objection if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, TRC Srinagar Kashmir (E-mail Id ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules.

Public Notice

This is an information for general public that I have Changed my name from (old name) Mumtaz Yousof to (New name) Mumtaz Jan in Future I will be known as (New name) Mumtaz Jan. In this regard any body having any objection he/she may Contact Passport office Srinagar with in & 7 day's, After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Child Development Project Officer

(Chairman Procurement Committee) Poshan Project, Tral

Quotation for supply of nutrition items for Blocks Tral, Dadasara, Aripal & Awantipora.

Subject: Providing of rates of below mentioned Nutrition items (SNP).

As per the directions of the procurement committees of the respective blocks, the Super Bazaars/Cooperative Stores/Fixed Price Shops/registered Local Shopkeepers of concerned blocks are hereby informed that the Poshan Project Tral is going to procure the below mentioned nutrition items under SNP/SAG for supplying to Anganwadi Centres. In this context, a short term quotation is invited under which interesting parties possessing their shops/establishments in these concerned blocks may furnish their rates along with samples of items (Including Loading/Unloading & Labour charges) upto the AW Centers. The rates should reach to this office within seven days from the date of issuance of this quotation:

S.No	Nutrition Items	Unit	Rate	Brand
01	Channa-A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade
02	Moongi Green-A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade
03	Eggs	Rate Per EGG		Medium Size
04	Mustard Oil -A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per Litre		A-Grade
05	Haldi - A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade
06	Salt Iodized - A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade
07	Biscuits (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands) (oats / Millets)	Rate Per packet (7 biscuits / Pkt)		A-Grade
08	Green Peas A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade
09	Packed Nutrie A Grade (Atleast 2-3 samples from various brands)	Rate Per KG		A-Grade

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The quotation, duly signed and stamped should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the office of Child Development Project Officer (Chairman Procurement Committee), Poshan Tral, by or before 15.09.2025 up to 10:30am.
- The items are required to be delivered at each AWC of the project.
- The delivery of nutrition items must be completed within seven days of the supply order. Any delay in delivery of nutrition items beyond stipulated time frame shall attract a penalty of 1% of total cost, per day of delay. Continuous non-compliance with terms will lead to cancellation of and black-listing of firm.
- In case of unforeseen circumstances i.e. natural calamities or any government imposed delivery of nutrition may be revised upon mutual agreement.
- The items supplied will be surveyed by the procurement committee at AWCS. Any deviation to supply order/ approved sample will lead to cancellation of supply order.
- The items /supplies approved shall be sent to Food Safety Department for testing and in case of adverse report regarding the same, the concerned supplier shall be blacklisted and FIR shall be lodged against him /her under rules.
- The payments will be made after satisfactory survey of nutrition items by procurement committee members. Supply of substandard nutrition items may result in cancellation of supply order and penalty upon the concerned firm.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any sample based on the recommendations of members of the nutrition procurement committee.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without any reason.
- A supplier can submit quotations for one RDD Block only and must be from the same block and possess his/her shop/establishment in the same Block. In case, no quotations are received from any supplier for any of the four Blocks, the suppliers can participate in quotations for more than one Block.
- The Quotations shall be opened on 15-09-2025 at 11:30 pm in presence of intending suppliers.

Sd/- Chairman
Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Tral

DIPK: 6180/25 | Dated: 11-09-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: mechhospsgr@jk.gov.in

GIST of e-tender

-NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2025-26/69/e-tendering, | Dated: 10.09.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: --

Name of Work	Est. Cost	T.D Cost	Time	E/M
1. Repairs to chiller no 02 (Diakin Make) PFS1351 DIARY by way of replacement of Heat Exchanger tubes and main compressor shaft rotor at Govt. Super Specialty Hospital, Srinagar	445000	300	30	2% of the estimated cost

AA Accorded Vide No: 04 Mcs OF 2025 Dt:08.05.2025

TS No: SEMHK/TS-14/38 Dt:-10.09.2025

Position of Funds: Available with intending Department

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule given below:-

1.	Publish date	10-09-2025 (17:00 hrs)
2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	10-09-2025 (17:00 hrs)
3.	Bid submission start date	10-09-2025 (18:00 hrs)
4.	Bid submission end date	24-09-2025 (13:00 hrs)
5.	Date and time of opening of bids	24-09-2025 (15:00 hrs)

No: M&HDS/TS/4266-70 | Dated: 10.09.2025

DIPK: 6176/25 | Dated: 11-09-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M&HD, Srinagar

Indian citizens trapped in Ukraine conflict: Forced recruitment by Russian army sparks concern

United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 11: The plight of Indian citizens forcibly recruited into the Russian army and sent to fight in the ongoing Ukraine conflict has intensified, with reports emerging of severe restrictions and coercion. A young man from Haryana, identified as Vijay, revealed through a message sent via Instagram to a friend that Russian authorities have deleted WhatsApp from the phones of recruited Indian youths after discovering they were sending videos to their families in India.

Vijay further disclosed that he and others are set to be deployed to the frontlines in just three days.

The Indian government has responded swiftly, initiating formal discussions with Russian authorities to address the issue.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has urged Russia to halt the practice of forcibly recruiting Indian nationals and to secure their immediate release. In a statement today,

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have seen reports of Indian nationals being recruited into the Russian army. Over the past year, the government has repeatedly highlighted the risks and dangers of such actions and cautioned citizens accordingly."

He emphasized that India has raised the matter with Russian officials in both Delhi and Moscow, pressing for an end to this practice and the repatriation of affected citizens.

Jaiswal added, "We strongly urge all Indian nationals to remain vigilant and avoid any offers to join the Russian army, as this is fraught with danger and risks to life."

The ministry is also in contact with the families of those affected, offering support and assistance.

The issue came to light after Vijay, a resident of Fatehabad, Haryana, sent a message via Facebook Messenger on Wednesday night to his friend Ramesh Kumar, confirming that his WhatsApp had been deleted.



ed.

Ramesh responded early Thursday, urging Vijay to stay calm while efforts were made to find a solution. Vijay later communicated via Instagram, highlighting the dire situation.

Families of the affected youths, including Vijay and

Ankit Jangra from Fatehabad, have sought help from the Indian Embassy in Moscow, the MEA, and the Ministry of Defense.

Relatives from Haryana and Punjab have traveled to Delhi and Chandigarh to appeal for intervention.

Additionally, a prominent Congress leader and Sirsa MP has written to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, urging swift action to rescue the trapped citizens.

Reports indicate that several young men from Haryana, Punjab, Jammu, and Uttar

Pradesh were lured to Russia with promises of jobs or educational opportunities, only to be coerced into military service.

Ankit Jangra (23) and Vijay Poonia (25), both from Kumbhariya village in Fatehabad, traveled to Russia on study and business visas.

Ankit, who left for Moscow on February 14, 2025, enrolled in a language course but took up part-time work as a restaurant helper. Vijay, who had been to Russia earlier, returned in July 2025 on a business visa.

Both were allegedly deceived by an agent who promised employment but instead enlisted them in the Russian army.

In videos sent to their families, the youths described being held in underground bunkers in Selydove, approximately 300 kilometers from the Russia-Ukraine border, under strict surveillance by commandos.

They claimed that those who attempt to escape are threatened with death. The group, reportedly part of a 15-member batch, includes individuals from

Punjab, Jammu, and Uttar Pradesh.

The videos revealed that five of their companions have already died, and four others are missing, with fears they may have been killed in combat.

The Indian government's ongoing dialogue with Russia follows earlier efforts to secure the release of Indian citizens.

Official data indicates that 127 Indian nationals were recruited into the Russian armed forces, with 98 discharged following diplomatic efforts.

However, 13 remain in service, 12 of whom are reported missing by Russian authorities.

The MEA continues to press for the release of all remaining citizens and the clarification of the status of those unaccounted for.

The situation underscores the dangers of deceptive overseas recruitment schemes, prompting renewed warnings from Indian authorities for citizens to verify job offers through official channels before traveling abroad. UNI

Delhi Police busts terror module: Detains 11 suspects initially

United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 11: Sources within the Special Cell informed UNI that a multi-state operation led to the detention of eleven suspects from the "Karnataka-Bengaluru region" as part of a terror module.

While most of them were later released due to lack of evidence, they remain under surveillance, the sources added.

A few of them are among the five terrorists arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police for plotting jihad in India, as part of a Pakistan-led pan-India 'Khilafat' terror module.

Though released, the suspects remain under surveillance as they were in direct contact with the



five arrested alleged terrorists via social media apps. According to the sources, two of the five arrested individuals had traveled to Mewat to procure sophisticated weapons.

They were apprehended in the Nizamuddin area before they could leave for Mumbai. Aftab and Abu Sufiyan, both residents of Mumbai, were arrested in Nizamuddin.

The alleged terrorists had come to Delhi and were about to board a train to Mumbai when the Special Cell, aided by technical intelligence, captured them.

Danish, a resident of Jharkhand, was identified as the kingpin and was in contact with a Pakistan-based handler.

Kamran Qureshi was arrested in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh, while Huzaifa was arrested in Hyderabad.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Kushwaha stated that the joint multi-state operation thwarted the group's plan to acquire land, declare it a "Khilafat zone," and initiate violent activities under the guise of jihad. The arrested accused have been identified as, Ashrar Qureshi (Ranchi), Aftab Qureshi (Mumbai), Sufiyan Abubakar (Jharkhand), Mohammad Huzaifa (Telangana) and Kamran Qureshi (Madhya Pradesh).

Significant recoveries included sulfur powder, ball bearings (used for making IEDs), safety masks, weapons, and cartridges. The suspects are now in police custody. UNI

IIT Kanpur researchers develop novel sensor to study how medicines activate vital receptors

United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 11: In a major breakthrough, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) have developed a novel antibody-based biosensor that can monitor the activation of G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) in live cells. GPCRs are the largest family of receptor proteins in human cells and are targeted by more than one-third of all clinically prescribed medicines.

Led by IIT Prof. Arun K Shukla, the research team has been investigating GPCR biology for over a decade. GPCRs, because of their central role, are considered some of the most important gateways for developing new drugs and therapies. The new biosensor represents a significant milestone

in overcoming the technical challenges of monitoring receptor activation inside living cells.

GPCRs typically remain inactive until they receive a signal, such as light, hormones, or small molecules, that activates them to transmit signals across the cell membrane. This process, known as signal transduction, is central to human physiology. However, studying these activations in real-time within live cells has been difficult. To address this, the IIT Kanpur team developed an engineered antibody (nanobody) sensor that binds to GPCRs only upon activation and in association with arrestins. When the receptors are activated by their ligands, the nanobody comes into close proximity, triggering an enzymatic reaction that produces a measurable luminescence signal.



"The beauty of this biosensor is that it does not require any modification of GPCRs, and still, it can report their activation by ligands. This opens up possibilities for imaging these receptors in disease contexts," said Prof Shukla.

"The versatility of this sensor allows us to monitor the localization of GPCRs in different sub-cellular compartments, which in turn tells us about their downstream signaling mechanisms. This is an important development

in understanding GPCR signaling for novel drug discovery", said Annu Dalal, a PhD student at IIT Kanpur and one of the lead authors in this study.

The project was carried out in collaboration with Prof. Josef Lazar's laboratory at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague. It was supported by an Indo-Czech joint research initiative funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. The findings are published in the peer-reviewed journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), USA.

Other members of the IIT Kanpur research team include Parishmita Sarma, Manis Yadav, Sudha Mishra, Nashrah Zaidi, Divyanshu Tiwari, and Nabarun Roy. UNI

Fire on Gaza-bound flotilla ship a planned assault: Tunisia's interior ministry

United News of India

TUNIS, SEP 11: A fire on a Gaza-bound vessel docked at a Tunisian port was the result of a planned assault, Tunisia's interior ministry said on Wednesday, adding it was launching an investigation into the incident.

The blaze broke out early Tuesday on the "Family," the largest ship in the Global Sumud Flotilla, while it was moored at Sidi Bou Said port.

Earlier statements from Tunisian authorities said that the fire started in a stack of life jackets and was quickly contained, with no injuries and only minor damage. Flotilla organizers said the Portuguese-flagged ship was struck by a drone in an attempt to sabotage the mission.

Also on Wednesday, the flotilla said another of its boats, the

British-flagged "Alma," was also attacked by a drone on Tuesday, damaging its top deck. The group said the fire was extinguished and no one was hurt.

The Global Sumud Flotilla, which left Barcelona on Aug. 31, plans to send more than 20 vessels with activists from over 40 countries to Gaza, with the number expected to grow to 60 after joining boats from Tunisia, Libya, and Italy. Organizers say more than 1,000 activists will take part in what they call the largest maritime challenge yet to Israel's blockade of Gaza.

In June, Israeli forces intercepted another vessel, the Madleen, carrying 12 activists who attempted to breach the blockade. The activists, including Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg and Brazilian rights advocate Thiago Avila, were deported after being escorted to Ashdod, Israel's largest

port. The Freedom Flotilla Coalition, which organized that mission, accused Israel of acting unlawfully, saying the Madleen was "kidnapped" in international waters. It alleged that passengers were subjected to psychological pressure, including the use of irritant spray, jamming of communications, and disruptive radio noise.

Israel imposed a naval blockade on Gaza in 2007 after Hamas seized control of the enclave. The restrictions were tightened following Hamas's deadly cross-border assault into southern Israel in October 2023.

The war, now in its 23rd month, has devastated Gaza's infrastructure and pushed its 2.3 million residents into a deep humanitarian crisis. UN agencies warn of impending famine, with the entire population facing acute food insecurity. UNI

Mauritius PM requests India to provide ship to travel to Chagos islands

United News of India

VARANASI/NEW DELHI, SEP 11: During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi today, Mauritius Prime Minister Naveen Ramgoolam requested the provision of an Indian ship as part of the planned mission to the islands of Chagos, ceded by the UK earlier this year.

Notably, the request to India comes as Mauritius is preparing to welcome a British delegation in November. Mauritian PM Ramgoolam also focused on two other priority issues: the revision of the double taxation treaty in the financial services sector, as well as the training of Mauritian police officers, with the support of the Indian authorities.

"I am pleased to say that our relations have now entered an even more dynamic and forward-looking phase. We discussed several important issues, including the double taxation treaty and the training of our police force.

"We also plan to go to Chagos. We wanted a ship. The British offered us one, but we indicated that we preferred an Indian ship, because, symbolically, it would make more sense," said PM Ramgoolam. PM Modi, in his remarks, warmly congratulated Prime Minister Ramgoolam and the people of Mauritius on the conclusion of the Chagos Agreement. "This is a historic milestone for Mauritius' sovereignty. India has always supported decolonization, and the full recognition of Mauritius' sovereignty. India has always stood firmly with Mauritius in this journey," he said.

At the request of the Mauritian government, India has also agreed to support several projects. It was agreed, in principle, that the Indian government will provide budgetary assistance of \$25 million in the current financial year. Among the projects benefiting from a grant estimated at Rs 9.80 billion (\$215 million) are: the construction of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital, the creation of the AYUSH Center of Excellence, a veterinary school and an animal hospital, as well as the supply of helicopters. In the series of projects financed by a combination of grants and credit lines, include completion of construction work on the new control tower of the SSR international airport, the development of the M4 motorway, the construction of phase II of the Ring Road, and the acquisition of port equipment by the Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd (CHCL). The estimated cost of these projects and assistance amounts to approximately Rs 20.10 billion (\$440 million). UNI

Death toll from floods in Indonesia rises to 19

United News of India

JAKARTA, SEP 11: Floods triggered by days of heavy rains have killed at least 19 people and left 10 others missing on Indonesia's Bali Island and in East Nusa Tenggara province. Gusti Ayu Ketut Wijayanti, spokesperson for the Bali office of the National Search and Rescue Agency, told Xinhua on Thursday that flash floods have killed 13 people and left six missing on the island. Flooding and 18 landslides

were also reported in several areas. The country's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency reported that rainfall of up to 150 millimeters was recorded in parts of Bali between Tuesday and Wednesday, and warned that heavy rain is expected to continue throughout the week.

In East Nusa Tenggara province, floods damaged houses and farmland, forcing residents to evacuate to higher ground.

Gasper Losa Manisa, head of the



emergency unit at the provincial Disaster Management and Mitigation Agency, said the floods have left six people dead and four missing, adding that rescue operations are underway.

Indonesia's rainy season usually runs from November to April, a period prone to floods, landslides, and related diseases. However, climate change has prolonged the rainy season and intensified downpours in recent years, resulting in more severe disasters. UNI



Suryakumar Withdraws Appeal Against Siddique, Sparks Debate

■ **ESPNcricinfo**

NEW DELHI: Suryakumar Yadav, the India captain, withdrew an appeal against Junaid Siddique on Wednesday night in Dubai despite the batter being given out by the third umpire.

The incident took place in the 13th over of the UAE innings. Siddique was beaten while attempting a pull off Shivam Dube, and was found outside the crease when wicketkeeper Sanju Samson collected the ball and under-armed a direct hit to the stumps at the striker's end. As soon as he missed the ball, Siddique seemed to point towards the towel that Dube appeared to have dropped while delivering the ball.

Even as the square-leg umpire referred the decision to third umpire Ruchira Palliyaguruge, Suryakumar walked up to the umpire at the bowler's end to have a chat, and withdrew the appeal after he saw the replays on the big screen. The third umpire had declared Siddique out by that stage. Siddique was out one legal ball later, when he toe-ended a slog off a Dube slower delivery to Suryakumar at mid-on to leave UAE 55 for 9. It was Dube's third wicket; UAE were eventually bowled out for 57, which India over-

hauled in 4.3 overs.

On ESPNcricinfo's Time Out show, Aakash Chopra suggested that Suryakumar's decision was based on the match situation at the time, which was heavily in India's favour.

"It's event-specific in my opinion, it wouldn't have happened if [Pakistan's] Salman Agha was playing on 14th [of September] and the game is in the balance, and he's just roaming around, he [Suryakumar] won't do that," Chopra said. "It was a good throw, presence of mind from Sanju to hit the stumps."

"If he was [outside the crease], it should be out, in my opinion. But opinions may vary. The problem is the moment you bring in ethics and generosity, it opens a can of worms: 'oh, you did this today, why are you not doing the same thing tomorrow?' Why go down that route?"

"Will you do it? If that's the case, it's like walking. You nick it and you walk. But the day you do not walk, that's the day that decides which side of the divide you are on and that's when you look like a hypocrite. I'm not saying SKY is going to do it again, or not to do it again. But if it is within the rules and the umpire has given it out, just stay out."

Northern Kashmir Inter-Battalion Sports Championship 2025 Held by 92 Bn CRPF

■ **HT Sports Desk**

BARAMULLA: The Northern Kashmir Operational Range Inter-Battalion Sports Championship - 2025 has commenced today under the able organization of 92 Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Baramulla. The tournament, being organized entirely with the resources of 92 Bn CRPF, aims to foster camaraderie, promote physical fitness, and encourage a spirit of healthy competition among the operational units deployed in the challenging terrain of North Kashmir.

The championship features a series of sporting events, including Football, Volleyball, Cricket, and Track & Field events, providing an excellent platform for showcasing talent and promoting teamwork. The tournament has been designed to ensure transparency, fairness, and flair in its conduct, adhering strictly to standard sports-



manship principles.

Today's inaugural matches started with an enthusiastic display of competitive spirit:

53 Bn vs 92 Bn (Opening Match)
 98 Bn vs 162 Bn

179 Bn vs 53 Bn

92 Bn vs 98 Bn

All matches are being conducted at the 92 Bn Headquarters Ground, following a league format designed to identify the best teams across each

discipline.

This initiative reinforces the CRPF's commitment to the holistic development of its personnel, emphasizing physical fitness, morale building, and esprit de corps in operational readiness.

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