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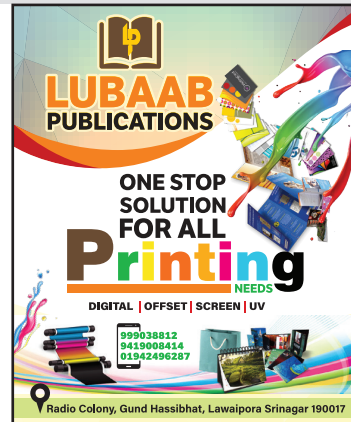
15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION



HEADLINES

TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Linguistic Diversity Key to Culture, Nation-Building: LG Sinha

LG Sinha Addresses 'Bhartiya Bhasha Samagam' in Varanasi

■ HT News Desk

VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH, SEP 13: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the 'Bhartiya Bhasha Samagam', organised by Hindusthan Samachar Group, at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the linguistic harmony and mutual respect and understanding of diverse languages and dialects to foster national unity and inclusive growth.

"A linguistically harmonious society lays the foundation for rapid socio-economic growth, strengthens the social bonds and promotes social equality. Linguistic diversity preserves cultural heritage and enables people to contribute to nation-building," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is not only rising as a major economic power but is also reclaiming its past glory.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister's Panch Pran



outlines a clear path for India's future. It is a call to action for every citizen to shed the vestiges of colonial past, take pride in our rich heritage, and work together in the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' to build a strong and Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the

linguistic scholars, researchers and writers to develop a system that makes India's vast ancient knowledge accessible in all mother tongues in school curriculum and libraries enabling the youth to gain a deeper understanding of their glorious heritage.

"National Education Policy-2020

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Empower J&K Govt as per People's Aspirations: CM Omar

Asks Centre to honour Statehood promise made by PM Modi, HM Shah

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: Asserting that the elected government in Jammu and Kashmir should be empowered in accordance with the aspirations of the people, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said that the dispensation led by him has not compromised on any issue. He urged the Centre to honour the promise of restoring J&K's statehood made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Parliament.

Addressing a news conference in Chennai, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, his regime has not compromised on anything. "Since the day my government has been elected, we have stood steadfast in our belief that statehood must be restored. We were the ones who passed a resolution in the assembly asking for the special status of Jammu and Kashmir to be restored. We are the last people who will compromise on a mandate that has been given to us by the people," he said.

He further stated that "the law & order and policing, these are not part of the elected government's responsibilities and I think it is unfortunate. Jammu and Kashmir has been



promised full statehood by the Prime Minister, by the Home Minister, by representatives of the Government of India when this matter was argued before the Supreme Court. So there is no reason why this promise shouldn't be kept. Again, this is something that should have already happened. I fail to understand why it hasn't been done, but we continue to push and believe that this promise must be kept and the elected government must be empowered the way the people want it to be."

POST OPERATION SINDOOR, ALL

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Panchayat, ULB Polls Nowhere in Sight

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: The National Conference (NC)-led government is unlikely to conduct local body elections in the near future, as it has yet to take a call on the recommendations of a commission appointed by the LG-led administration regarding reservation for Other Backward Classes and the appointment of the State Election Commissioner.

Based on current indications, the government appears averse to conducting Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections in the remaining months of 2025. "There are no chances of holding Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies polls this year. As of now, we have not received any such indication from the government," a legislator from the ruling National Conference told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Holding of Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) polls falls under the domain of the elected government.

The last local body elections were held during Governor's rule in 2018, and the term of those bodies has since expired.

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PM Hails Manipur Soldiers' Role in 'Operation Sindoor'

■ HT News Network

IMPHAL, SEP 13: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on Saturday said that 'Operation Sindoor' demonstrated the capability and strength of the Indian armed forces and praised soldiers from Manipur playing a key role in executing the task successfully.

Addressing a gathering at Imphal, the Prime Minister, according to the news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO) paid rich tributes to martyr Deepak Chingkhram and other personnel from the Manipur who participated in the operation.

The Prime Minister inaugurated multiple development projects worth over Rs 1,200 crore in Manipur. These included the Civil Secretariat at Mantripukhri, the IT Special Economic Zone building, the new Manipur Police Headquarters, Manipur Bha-



wans in Delhi and Kolkata, and four Ima Markets in different districts.

PM Modi said these projects would enhance infrastructure, create employment opportunities for youth, and support citizens in accessing services. He noted that the IT SEZ and other technology-based initiatives will promote startups and industries in the state.

On the road network, the

Prime Minister highlighted the Manipur Urban Roads Project, with an investment of over Rs 3,600 crore, and said efforts are ongoing to extend connectivity to every village. He added that Imphal has been developed under the Smart City Mission and other projects are progressing.

PM Modi said the government is taking measures to mitigate flood-related challenges in the

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Damaged Flood Structures to Be Rebuilt Stronger: Jitendra Singh

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 13: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said the damaged structures would be rebuilt with better specifications to withstand calamities like the recent floods in the Jammu region.

Singh visited the flood-

affected villages falling in Bajalta and Pargalta panchayats of Jammu district to assess the damage caused to residential houses and bridges due to torrential rain-induced flash floods and landslides.

"The damaged structures will be rebuilt, with better specifications depending upon the experience of the recent

floods, so that in case there is a calamity like the recent floods in future, the structures should be able to withstand it," the minister said.

In the last few weeks, Singh has been criss-crossing his parliamentary constituency of Udhampur and other affected parts of Jammu and Kashmir to meet the disaster-

affected people spanning from Chisoti in Kishtwar to the Zero Line on the Indo-Pak border in Kathua and Samba.

He also reviewed the restoration work on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which remained closed for over 10 days due to landslides and caving in of roads at

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Unlicensed Brick Klins Near Srinagar Airport Ordered to Shut Down

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: The authorities in Kashmir on Saturday ordered immediate closure of all unlicensed brick-kilns within an 8-km radius of the Srinagar airport to improve air quality and visibility for aircraft, officials said.

The direction was passed at a meeting of the airfield environment management committee chaired by Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Anshul Garg, who is also the chairman of the panel, an official spokesman said.

The meeting emphasised the need for collaborative efforts among the stakeholders to ensure aerospace safety around the airfield, he said.

At the meeting, Garg issued a slew of directions aimed at enhancing airfield safety, particularly with regard to visibility, bird hazards, dog menace, and the regulation of carcass disposal in the proximity of the airport, the spokesman said.

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Nightmare On Jammu-Srinagar Highway: Travel Time Soars Due To Damaged Road, Poor Management

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 13: The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, a critical lifeline for the region, has turned into a scene of chaos and frustration for commuters, who face a gruelling ordeal as what used to be a nearly five-hour journey just three weeks ago now drags on for more than 12 hours due to damaged road and poor management.

The highway – the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country – suffered extensive damages at several places, especially on the stretch between Nashri and Udhampur, in the aftermath of record rainfall on August 26 and 27.

However, the damaged portion is not the only obstacle to smooth movement of vehicles. Even as the authorities implemented a

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'J&K, Ladakh See Negative Power Variation Last Month'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has witnessed a negative variation of 19 percent in power availability and 7.5 percent in power requirement in the previous month during peak hours.

According to the official documents showing the anticipated power supply position v/s actual power supply position (Provisional) of Northern Region

during the month of August-2025 states that in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh it has anticipated power availability of 2050 MU's and requirement of 1740 MU's respectively.

The official figures accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) further reveals that the actual power availability was 1490 MU's whereas the requirement was 1493 MU's. It also states that there was a

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Markets Return To Life As Restrictions Eased For Six Hours In Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA/JAMMU, SEP 13: Markets in the district headquarters and other major towns in the hilly district of Doda in Jammu and Kashmir sprang to life on Saturday after the authorities announced a six-hour relaxation in restrictions imposed earlier this week after the detention of sitting AAP MLA Mehraj Malik under the stringent Public Safety Act, officials said.

Malik, who is also the chief of AAP's J-K unit, was detained on Monday for allegedly disturbing public order. His detention sparked violent

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Wireless Sets to Return on Vaishno Devi Route

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 13: The Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) will reintroduce wireless sets to strengthen the communication network along the track leading to the revered shrine, set to reopen on Sunday after a 19-day closure due to a landslide last month, officials said.

This decision was made during a joint meeting chaired by Sachin Kumar Vaishya, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SMVDSB, to ensure a smooth pilgrimage experience during the

upcoming Shardiya Navratras, scheduled from September 22 to October 1.

The meeting included senior officials from the shrine board, police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), civil administration, and representatives from the Army, fire and emergency services, and other allied agencies.

"Navratras are inching closer and the board is expecting a considerable influx of devotees at the holy shrine, besides, at the base camp Katra," the CEO said, emphasising the synergy between all stakeholders during the festival.

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Div Com stresses on collaborative efforts for Aerospace Safety

Chairs Airfield Environment Management Committee meeting

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, who is also the chairman of the Airfield Environment Management Committee, emphasized the need for collaborative efforts among stakeholders to ensure aerospace safety around the airfield.

Div Com made these remarks while chairing a high-level committee meeting today, here.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Budgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama, along with the Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Air Officer Commanding of Air Force Station Srinagar, Director Urban Local Bodies, ADC Srinagar, and officials from the Airport Authority, Pollution Control Board, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, and Rural Development



Department. During the meeting, Div Com issued a slew of directions aimed at enhancing airfield safety, particularly with regard to visibility, bird hazards, dog menace, and the regulation of carcass disposal in the proximity of the airport.



To improve air quality and visibility for aircraft, he directed the immediate closure of unlicensed brick kilns within an 8-kilometer radius of the airfield. Also, he called for the implementation of the zigzag technique in the operational brick kilns to minimize emission of pollutants.



Addressing the issue of bird hazards, especially the presence of Black Kites attracted by open waste dumps, Div Com instructed Deputy Commissioners, SMC Commissioner, and the Director of Urban Local Bodies to adopt scientific methods for the collection and disposal of solid waste, with special attention to villages identified by airfield authorities. He also emphasized the need for proper disposal of waste from slaughterhouses and butcher shops.

To mitigate the dog menace in and around the airfield, he directed the SMC to give priority to dog sterilization drives in the area. Besides, he stressed the importance of public sensitization campaigns to ensure proper disposal of dead animal carcasses by local residents.

Garg urged officials to utilize resources under centrally sponsored schemes through coordinated efforts across departments to effectively address the identified challenges. Earlier in the meeting, Committee Secretary presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining key safety concerns affecting the airfield environment.

DLIC Approves 334 Youth Entrepreneurship Cases Under Mission YUVA in Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 13: In a major boost to youth entrepreneurship in the district, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Athar Aamir Khan, today approved 334 new cases under the Mission YUVA initiative.

The approved cases span across three key components of the scheme:

- 316 cases under the Nano Category
- 16 cases under the MSME Component
- 2 cases under the Existing Enterprises Scheme



These young entrepreneurs will receive financial and institutional support to either launch or expand their business ventures in sectors such as retail, services, small-scale manufacturing, and innovation-led enterprises.

While reviewing the proposals, DC Athar Aamir Khan emphasized the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination to ensure timely implementation, disbursement of benefits, and provision of structured mentoring support to the beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, General Manager DIC, District Social Welfare Officer, Assistant Director Employment, District Nodal Officer EDI, Lead District Manager, Career Counseling Officer, and Employment Officer DE&CC Kulgam.

The Mission YUVA initiative continues to play a vital role in empowering youth by fostering a culture of self-employment and innovation in the district.

Grand Naat & Seerat Conference Celebrates Milad un Nabi (PBUH) at Abu Seena Educational Institute

Organized by Angel's Cultural Academy in Collaboration with Shahr-e-Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: On the auspicious occasion of Milad un Nabi (PBUH), the Grand Naat & Seerat Conference was held at Abu Seena Educational Institute, with a remarkable collaboration between Angel's Cultural Academy and Shahr-e-Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society. The conference saw active participation from students and was hosted by Sameer Ahmad Shah, who set the tone for the event with his eloquent hosting skills.

The event aimed at commemorating the birth of the beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), with a series of devotional Naat and Seerat sessions. These activities offered students an enriching opportunity to reflect on the life and teachings of the Prophet (PBUH). Distinguished personalities from various fields of education, culture, and literature

graced the event as special guests.

Dr. Tariq Ahmad Shera, the President of both Angel's Cultural Academy and Shahr-e-Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society, delivered a heartfelt speech on the significance of Milad un Nabi (PBUH). In his address, he encouraged the youth to follow the noble example set by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), urging them to strengthen their bond with Allah, perform daily prayers (Nimaz), and walk the righteous path for the betterment of the entire Ummah. Dr. Shera also emphasized the importance of holding such programs in the future to inspire the younger generation and keep the teachings of Islam alive in society.

The conference was further dignified by the presence of esteemed guests including: Tariq Ahmad Wani, Principal of Abu Seena Educational Institute



- Umar Farooq Bhat (Youngest Historian)
- Arif Majeed Bachoo
- Rahil Kashmiri
- Hashim Aslam Shah
- Gulal Kashmiri
- Gh. Rasool Akhoun (Station Director, All India Radio Srinagar)
- Syed Waris Bukhari
- Ms. Mehjabeen Gousia

The event concluded with a formal distribution of certificates, Naat books, medals, and tokens of appreciation to the participants, guests, volunteers, and media personnel. These tokens were a symbol of gratitude for their valuable contributions in making the event a grand success.

In his final remarks, Dr. Tariq Shera extended a special vote of thanks to all the participants, guests, volunteers, media persons, and students, acknowledging their efforts and support in making the event a memorable occasion.

Prophet's Birth Anniversary Jashn E Milad Nabi (SAWW) and Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) Remembered in Qumro Budgam

Ubaid Mehdi

BUDGAM, SEP 13: The celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (peace be upon him) and the blessed birth anniversary of Hazrat Imam Jafar Sadiq (peace be upon him) was held in the Qumro area of Budgam district by the Ma'riful-Uloom Islamic Institute. The event witnessed the participation of thousands of children, along with elders and women.

Speakers at the program highlighted how Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (peace be upon him) dedicated his life to the service of religion, reminding the gathering that society must not forget these teachings. They emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles taught by the Prophet (peace be upon him).

The event was organized in collaboration with the All Jammu and Kashmir Shia Association, with several of its dignitaries present. Participants expressed that the com-



memoration of Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) birth carries a vital message for the Muslim world: to uphold the teachings of Islam, support the oppressed, and work towards justice.

Speakers further stressed that today's greatest need is unity among Muslims. They called for strengthening Shia-Sunni brotherhood through such programs, underscoring its sig-

nificance for the strength and progress of Islam.

It was also reiterated that whenever Muslim nations face oppression, the community stands in solidarity with them and will continue to support the oppressed.

The program was organized under the leadership of All Jammu and Kashmir Shia Association.

Kulgam Police Destroys Large-Scale Wild Cannabis Growth in Major Anti-Narcotics Drive

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 13: In a continued effort to combat the menace of drugs, Kulgam Police, in coordination with the Excise and Revenue Departments, launched a large-scale anti-narcotics operation across several areas of the district. The joint operation led to the destruction of extensive wild cannabis (Bhang) growth along Nallah banks and adjoining fields in Harnag, Wanpoh, Khandiphari, Qaimoh, Badderpora, Thokerpora, Maqdampora, and Devsar.

Special teams comprising officers and field staff from the concerned departments carried out systematic searches and cleared vast tracts of land where wild cannabis had spread. The drive targeted both accessible and remote locations, ensuring complete on-the-spot destruction of the narcotic plant.

The initiative is part of Kulgam Police's broader strategy to combat drug proliferation by targeting its root causes—including illicit cultivation and natural propagation of narcotic plants. By cutting off the supply at the source, authorities aim to dismantle the drug ecosystem within the region.

The operation saw enthusiastic participation from local civil society, including community elders and youth volunteers, whose involvement bolstered the enforcement efforts and reflected a growing public awareness against drug abuse.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Kulgam, Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS), reiterated the department's firm stance: "Kulgam Police is committed to a zero-tolerance policy against narcotics. Our focus is on eliminating the drug menace by uprooting it from the source. We urge the public to cooperate actively and help protect our youth from the scourge of drug addiction."

Kulgam Police has assured that such drives will continue in the coming days, with added emphasis on enforcement, community involvement, and awareness-building initiatives to realize the vision of a drug-free society.

Public Appeal: Kulgam Police urges citizens to share information regarding illegal cultivation, possession, or trafficking of narcotic substances. Informants may contact the nearest police station or use the designated helpline numbers. The identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential.

Fire Damages Several Houses in Noor Bagh

F&ES teams rush to spot, contain blaze

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: A fire broke out in the Pamposh Colony area of Palpora Noor Bagh in Srinagar on Saturday evening, damaging a few residential structures, officials said. They said personnel of Fire and Emergency Services

responded soon to contain the blaze, preventing further loss.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that fire tenders reached the scene after receiving the initial fire call.

The official said additional trucks from the Fire and Emergency Headquarters were

mobilised to assist. "Three to four residential sheds and one single-storey house were involved in the fire, while the situation was brought under control within half an hour," he said. Moreover, locals rushed to assist in controlling the fire. Abdul Rashid, a resident of the colony, said they saw thick

smoke rising suddenly and feared the worst. "Thanks to the fast action of the fire teams, the fire did not spread further," he said.

Shabir Ahmad, another local, added the fire caused panic among families in the neighbourhood, but thankfully, no one was injured. "We hope

authorities provide support to those affected," he added.

The exact extent of the damage is still being assessed, and investigations are underway to determine the cause of the fire. Officials have also urged residents to remain vigilant and follow safety measures—(KNO)

2,39,533 cases settled in 3rd National Lok Adalat held across UT of J&K

Justice Sanjeev Kumar inaugurated 3rd National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex, Kupwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: Continuing its endeavour to fulfil the constitutional commitment of providing swift, cost-effective, and efficient dispute resolution to the masses in general and the litigant public in particular, the J&K Legal Services Authority—under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority), the dynamic leadership of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, to promote amicable settlements in a wide range of cases, including MACT claims, matrimonial disputes, cheque bounce cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, money recovery, commercial disputes, and compoundable criminal offences.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority inaugurated the 3rd National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex Kupwara. Upon his arrival, the Executive Chairman

was received by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Additional District & Sessions Judge NIA Court Kupwara, Iqbal Ahmad Masoodi along with the other Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary and other civil administration. To mark the occasion, a ceremonial guard of honour was accorded to the Justice Sanjeev Kumar.

During his visit, Justice Sanjeev Kumar inspected different benches and interacted with the Presiding officers, members of the benches, Advocates and litigants and appreciated the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the Lok Adalat. Several cases were resolved on the spot. As a gesture of timely justice delivery, several MACT compensation cheques were also distributed among eligible claimants on the occasion, providing immediate relief to the beneficiaries.

At the ADR Centre of the Court Complex, Justice Sanjeev Kumar convened an interaction with LADCs and Penal Lawyers. He sought feedback regarding the progress of cases handled by them and urged them to work with greater dedication and enthusiasm to ensure



timely hearings and speedy settlement of cases, thereby minimizing pendency.

Later in the day, Justice Sanjeev Kumar visited District Jail Kupwara, where he inspected all barracks

and interacted with inmates to assess the status of their cases. He also reviewed the facilities being provided in the jail, including food and healthcare arrangements, and obtained feedback directly from the inmates.

As per the information received from various Legal Services Institutions working in different districts across the UT of J&K, out of total 3,06, 851 cases taken up by 167 Benches in the day long National Lok Adalat, 2,39,533 cases were amicably settled and disposed off involving an amount of Rs.50,50,78,932/- as compensation/settlement amount in cases like Motor Accident Claims, civil, criminal, labour disputes, Electricity and Water Bills, Land Acquisition, Family matters, cheque dishonor and Bank Recovery etc.

Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority informed that the 4th National Lok Adalat of the current calendar year shall be held on December 13, 2025 and those litigants who could not get their cases either listed in today's Lok Adalat or could not settle the same for any reason can avail the opportunity in the next Lok Adalat.

GMC Srinagar mourns demise of Prof. (Dr.) Ashiq Hussain Naqashbandi. former Principal

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today held a condolence meeting at the Medical Education Unit (MEU) to pay tribute to Prof. (Dr.) Ashiq Hussain Naqashbandi, Ex-Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar who passed away early morning on 13 September, 2025.

The meeting was attended by faculty members, administrative staff, medical superintendents, and paramedical staff, all of whom came together to mourn the loss of a respected figure in the medical community.



Prof. Ashiq Hussain Naqashbandi did his MBBS and M.S. (General Surgery) from Government Medical College, Srinagar and then completed his super-specialization (MCh) in Cardio-vascular Thoracic Surgery (CVTS) from CMC Vellore. He was amongst the first few CVTS surgeons of Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. (Dr.) Ashiq Hussain Naqashbandi joined as a faculty member in Government Medical College, Srinagar in 1981 and became Head of the Department, Surgery. In February 2005 he was appointed as Principal/Dean, GMC, Sgr. and continued till May, 2006.

While paying rich tributes to Prof. Naqashbandi, Principal/Dean (Dr.) Iffat Hassan highlighted his significant impact on the institution and the medical field. Dr. Iffat's words reflected the esteem in which Prof. Naqashbandi was held by his peers and students.

Prof. Dr. Iqbal Saleem, Head of the Department Surgery expressed his heartfelt condolences and reminisced about Prof. Naqashbandi's dedication to his work and his mentorship. Prof. Sabiya Majeed, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, and Prof. Dr. Afroz Khan also paid tribute to his legacy, emphasizing the lasting impact of his work on the medical community. Various other faculty members also spoke on the occasion and paid rich tributes to the departed soul.

As a mark of respect, the attendees observed two minutes of silence to honor Prof. Naqashbandi's memory. This moment of reflection allowed everyone to pay their respects and reflect on the contributions of the departed soul.

The meeting extended its deepest sympathies to the bereaved family of Prof. Naqashbandi during this difficult time.

Excise Dept engages students through Art & Drama at GGHSS Kothibagh

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: Excise Range Central Kashmir conducted a powerful awareness campaign against the growing menace of drug abuse at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh.

The programme was filled with vibrant activities, a painting competition, nukkad natak, speech competition and a Rally on the theme 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan.'

Students poured their hearts into their performances, expressing their creativity, fears, and hopes through striking artwork, stirring words, and thought-provoking acts. Their voices carried a strong message, 'Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life.'

Excise officials addressed the gathering with deep concern, sensitising the students about the devastating consequences of drug abuse, not just on individual health, but on families, communities, and the very future of our society. They reminded everyone that the fight against drugs is not the responsibility of law enforcement alone, but a collective mission where every young person has a role to play.

The officials also highlighted the importance of vigilance and encouraged students to make use of the Manas Helpline (1933) to report any drug-related activity, stressing that silence only fuels the spread of this menace.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and passionate involvement from both students and staff, turning the school into a hub of awareness, creativity, fervour and determination. The campaign reinforced a powerful truth, 'our youth must invest their energy in education, productive hobbies, and positive activities' not in substances that steal their dreams.

SCLSC campaign: DLSA Srinagar organizes legal awareness programme for inmates at Central Jail Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, today organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at Central Jail Srinagar as part of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) campaign in jails across India.

The initiative aimed to educate inmates about the process and availability of filing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) through legal aid, ensuring that justice remains accessible to all.

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

During the session, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, addressed the inmates and emphasized the importance of understanding the procedure for filing



ing SLPs before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

He encouraged inmates to make use of the legal aid services available to them and highlighted how the SCLSC

campaign is designed to support individuals in navigating the legal system effectively.

Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), DLSA Srinagar, also spoke at the event, focusing on the significance of legal literacy and the role of SLPs in ensuring access to justice.

She further raised awareness about caste-based discrimination, referencing the landmark judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1404 of 2023 titled Sukanya Shantha vs. Union of India & Others. The judgment reinforces the constitutional mandate to eliminate caste-based discrimination and affirms the judiciary's commitment to protecting fundamental rights.

This initiative by DLSA Srinagar reflects a strong commitment to bridging the gap between legal institutions and incarcerated individuals, promoting awareness, equality, and empowerment within the prison system.

Cultural Unit Srinagar of DIPR organizes cultural prog. in remembrance of Sufi poet, Jenab Gareeb Abdul Khaliq

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, SEP 13: Cultural Unit Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Information Centre Pulwama of DIPR J&K, organized a cultural programme at Jenab Gareeb Abdul Khaliq Memorial Committee, Tengarh Pulwama.

The event was held in remembrance of the revered Sufi poet, Jenab Gareeb Abdul Khaliq whose literary and spiritual contributions continue to inspire generations.

On the occasion, Cultural Officer Srinagar, Burhan Hussain in his address highlighted the im-



portance of preserving, promoting, and reviving the rich cultural heritage of the region. He emphasized that cultural activities like these serve as a strong medium to connect communities with their roots and to carry forward the legacy of Sufi thought, art, and tradition.

The programme was well attended by literary figures, artists, and members of the local community, who appreciated the efforts of DIPR J&K in fostering cultural awareness and strengthening the bond of harmony through such meaningful initiatives.

PHC Chatroo, HW Centre Udil Gojran receive Prestigious NQAS Certification

DC commends staff efforts during visit to twin health centers

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, SEP 13: In a landmark achievement for healthcare in the Kishtwar district, the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Chatroo and Health & Wellness Centre Udil Gojran Chatroo have been awarded the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certification by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), in recognition of their commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare services.

PHC Chatroo secured an impressive 91.49% score, while the Health & Wellness Centre Udil Gojran achieved 79.92%, successfully meeting all parameters required for NQAS certification. This marks a historic milestone, as the twin

facilities become the first health centres in the Kishtwar district to achieve this prestigious accreditation.

The certification reflects excellence in six key notified areas, including preventive and curative services, infrastructure and equipment maintenance, infection control, waste management, maternal and child healthcare, diagnostic services, and community-centric health delivery.

The National Assessment Team conducted a physical inspection of PHC Chatroo on August 11, 2025 and August 12, 2025, while the evaluation of the HW Centre Udil Gojran was carried out virtually on August 2, 2025. The assessment focused on critical aspects including quality of care, hygiene,



patient safety, and service availability for communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today visited PHC Chatroo and presided over a valedictory function, during which he inspected the facility and lauded the dedication of the healthcare teams of PHC Chatroo and HWC Udil Gojran.

The DC personally handed over certificates of appreciation to all the staff members, acknowledging their tireless efforts in improving health standards in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC expressed immense pride in the achievement, stating, "It is a matter of great honour that PHC Chatroo and Health & Wellness Centre Udil Gojran have

become the first health institutions in the district to receive NQAS certification. This recognition is a direct reflection of the commitment, sincerity, and teamwork demonstrated by our healthcare personnel at all levels.

He also commended the untiring efforts of CMO Kishtwar, Dr. Rajinder Kumar; BMO Chatroo, Dr. Saima Agoo and the entire team of doctors, paramedical staff, drivers, and sanitation workers, who have worked diligently to raise the standards of healthcare delivery in this remote block and achieved the prestigious NQAS certification.

He said that this achievement not only brings pride to Kishtwar but also sets a benchmark for other health institutions to follow.

3rd National Lok held across Kashmir for timely and amicable justice

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 13: In order to reduce the burden on the formal judicial system, promote access to justice, and encourage the timely delivery of justice, 3rd National Lok Adalat was today held under the aegis of NALSA and in pursuance to the direction of J&K Legal Services Authority across all district courts in Kashmir.

The National Lok Adalat was organized under the able guidance of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the high Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron in Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh/Executive, Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority, and overall supervision of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

National Lok Adalat provides an effective and economical platform for dispute resolution, reduces the case backlog and delivers justice in a dignified, timely, and cost-effective manner, thereby strengthening public trust in the judicial system.

During the Lok Adalat, a wide range of cases was taken up for amicable settlement, including Civil and Compoundable Criminal Matters, Matrimonial Disputes, MACT Claims, NI Act Cases, Pre-Litigation Disputes, Bank Recovery Matters, Electricity Bill Cases, and matters pertaining to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

At Srinagar, District Judiciary Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Legal Services

Authority (DLSA) Srinagar and Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Srinagar successfully organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex Mominabad, Srinagar, and at the Court of the Additional Special Mobile Magistrate/JMIC Panthachowk.

The Lok Adalat was held under the overall supervision of Tasleem Arief, Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairman, DLSA Srinagar, along with Aadil Mush-taq, Chief Judicial Magistrate/Chairman, TLSC Srinagar, and Sajad Ur Rehman, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Tasleem Arief, Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairman, DLSA Srinagar, in presence of esteemed judicial officers, members of the bar, court staff and DLSA Staff.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, 11 benches were constituted, in which Overall 13671 cases were taken up for settlement out of which 12528 cases were amicably settled & Rs. 4,94,62,242 was awarded as settlement amount.

At Anantnag, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat of 2025 across the district.

The event was inaugurated by Tahir Khurshid Raina, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA Anantnag) in the presence of Judicial Officers, Bar members, legal aid counsel, court staff and litigants.

The Lok Adalat was convened under the supervision of Fozia Paul, Secretary, District Legal



Services Authority Anantnag.

Multiple benches were constituted at the district headquarters as well as in peripheral courts including Bijbehara, Vailoo, Dooru, Shangus, Aishmuqam, Pahalgam and the District Consumer Court to amicably settle disputes.

In total, 4,186 cases were taken up, out of which 2,055 were settled, involving a settlement amount of Rs. 2.69 crore. Significantly, 09 MACT cases were resolved with compensation of Rs. 1.91 crore awarded to claim-

ants.

At Budgam, District Judiciary Budgam and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam successfully conducted & organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex Budgam as well as in the Taluka Courts across the district.

The 3rd National Lok Adalat was held under the overall supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman DLSA Budgam, along with Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

For smooth disposal, cases were pre-identified by the respective courts and placed before 09 dedicated benches constituted by DLSA Budgam for settlement.

In total 844 number of cases were taken up before the benches, out of which 256 cases were amicably settled. A total settlement amount of Rs. 1,00,31,995 was awarded/realized as compensation and recovery during the Lok Adalat.

At Ganderbal, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal successfully conducted 3rd National Lok-Adalat today in district Ganderbal.

The 3rd National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Abdul Nasir (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Ganderbal in presence of Ld. Judicial Officers of District Court Complex Ganderbal and other notable attendees including LADCs, Panel Lawyers, Bar Members and litigants.

Three benches were constituted for amicable settlement of the cases, among which the first & second bench heard cases at the District Court Complex, Ganderbal, while as the third bench heard cases at the Munsiff Court Complex, Kangan.

During the proceedings of the Lok Adalat, Chairman DLSA, Ganderbal, inspected the Lok-Adalat Bench proceedings to ensure smooth conduct and effective disposal of Cases.

A total number of 460 cases were taken up, out of which 355 cases were successfully settled and an amount of Rs 43,93,200 was awarded as settlement amount.

At Pulwama, 3rd National Lok-Adalat was organized today in District Court & other subordinate courts of district Pulwama under the chairmanship of Malik Shabir Ahmad, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Pulwama.

The Lok Adalat at District headquarters Pulwama was inaugurated by PD&SJ Pulwama which was attended by Judicial officers of district Pulwama.

A total number of 715 cases were taken up by 05 benches in the district out of which 523 cases were settled in the said Lok Adalat. An amount of Rs. 1,43,78,145 was awarded as settlement amount in all cases including award of Rs. 14,40,000 in 05 MACT cases.

At Kulgam, 3rd National Lok Adalat was held today in district Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Principal District and Sessions Judge / Chairman District Legal Services Authority Kulgam.

Six benches were constituted, four at Headquarter & one each at D.H. Pora and Qazigund.

In the said Lok Adalat, a total number of 906 cases were taken up however, due to condonation on the demise of a Young Bar Member of District Bar Association Kulgam, the Bar Association Kulgam suspended their Court Work due to which a minimum number of litigants attended the Lok Adalat and a total number of 260 cases were amicably settled. An amount of Rs. 47,50,550 was awarded as settlement amount.

At Bandipora, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora, conducted the 3rd National Lok Adalat in the district.

National Lok Adalat was held under the supervision of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman, DLSA Bandipora, and guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary DLSA Bandipora.

Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA Bandipora inaugurated the 3rd National Lok Adalat, which was attended by several judges, including Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bandipora; Munsiff, Bandipora, and Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Bandipora, President Bar Association Bandipora, and other notable attendees including LADCs, Panel Lawyers, Bar Members, PLVs and litigants etc.

A total of 10 benches were constituted, that took up a total number of 2171 cases, out of which 1424 cases were disposed-off amicably, resulting in a settlement amount of Rs. 1,28,54,076.

At Shopian, District Legal Services Authority Shopian today organized 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 at District Court Shopian.

For the said National Lok Adalat 05 Benches were constituted by the DLSA. Advocates, litigants and other prominent citizens participated in the said National Lok Adalat.

A total of 361 cases were taken up, out of which 273 cases were settled amicably with a settlement amount Rs. 1,67,39,573.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul inaugurates 3rd National Lok Adalat at Baramulla

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, SEP 13: Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, who is also administrative Judge of Baramulla, Saturday visited Baramulla and inaugurated 3rd National Lok Adalat of year 2025 at District Court Complex here.

The National Lok Adalat was organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Baramulla.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Chairman DLSA and Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jawad Ahmad; President Bar Association, Advocate Nelofer Masood and others were present on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, Justice Koul underscored Lok Adalat's significance in resolving disputes outside conventional court systems.

He urged the Legal Services fraternity to address substantial, long-pending cases with in Lok Adalats that have been lingering in courts for long periods and encouraged exploring settlements involving relevant departments to expedite resolutions and reduce legal procedures.

Meanwhile, Justice Koul personally handed over compensation cheques amounting to Rs. 16.81 lakhs to two victims of road accidents, sanctioned under the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT).

Meanwhile, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul interacted with Bar Association Baramulla and emphasized the need for continued cooperation between the Bench and the Bar to ensure speedy, efficient, and accessible justice to the common people.

DC Udhampur reviews preparations for Sewa Parv-2025

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEP 13: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today convened a meeting of officers from line departments to chalk out a comprehensive plan for the smooth celebration of the forthcoming "Sewa Parv" in the district. The fortnight-long celebration will be observed from September 17 to October 2, 2025 across Udhampur district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan DFO and other senior officers from various departments.

The Chief Planning Officer Udhampur Uttam Singh gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the proposed activities and



programmes to be undertaken during the upcoming celebration.

Speaking at the meeting, the DC laid emphasis on department-wise planning for effective imple-

mentation. She called for special focus on cleanliness drives in public spaces and government offices, besides holding health and blood donation camps, engagement

with elderly and vulnerable sections of society and awareness campaigns on the government welfare schemes to ensure outreach at the grassroots level.

The DC further directed the departments to integrate key initiatives such as Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," "Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam," Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu and Kashmir, financial inclusion schemes and awareness programmes on water-borne diseases during the campaign.

Highlighting the wide range of activities planned, the DC informed that the fortnight would witness cleanliness and plantation drives, health check-up camps, blood donation camps, educational and IEC initiatives, workshops for vulnerable groups, sustainable practices and beautification cam-

paigns. She added that extensive awareness about government schemes would be ensured through real-time monitoring, visual documentation and social media updates to promote transparency and mass participation.

Special emphasis was laid on the role of crucial departments including Rural Development, Health, Education, Municipal Council and Social Welfare. The DC instructed these departments to design and implement innovative programmes under flagship schemes so that their benefits percolate to the grassroots.

The DC directed all departments to prepare and submit their detailed action plans by this evening and urged them to work in close coordination to ensure active community involvement in all activities planned under Sewa Parv-2025.

DLIC approves 334 Youth Entrepreneurship cases under Mission YUVA in Kulgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, SEP 13: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Athar Aamir Khan, today approved 334 fresh cases under the Mission YUVA initiative aimed at promoting youth-led entrepreneurship.

The committee cleared proposals across three key components — 316 cases under the Nano category, 16 cases under the MSME component, and 2 cases under the Existing Enterprises scheme.

These cases are set to receive comprehensive financial and institutional support, empowering young entrepreneurs to establish or expand business ventures across sectors such as services, retail, agriculture-based enterprises, small-scale manufacturing, and innovation-driven startups.

Addressing the committee, DC Athar Aamir Khan underscored the government's commitment to fostering self-employment opportunities and urged all relevant departments to ensure smooth coordination for expedited implemen-

tation. He emphasized the importance of structured mentoring, skill development workshops, and regular monitoring to ensure that beneficiaries utilize the support effectively and achieve sustainable growth.

He further directed the departments to establish a feedback mechanism that allows tracking of progress, identifying challenges, and resolving them promptly. The DC encouraged beneficiaries to leverage available training programs and explore digital platforms to scale their businesses.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, General Manager District Industries Centre (DIC), District Social Welfare Officer, Assistant Director Employment, District Nodal Officer of Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI), Lead District Manager, Career Counseling Officer, and Employment Officer, District Employment & Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Kulgam.

This step under Mission YUVA is expected to boost economic activity in the district, create job opportunities, and encourage innovation among the youth.

DC Kulgam visits District Hospital; directs expeditious completion of ongoing projects

■ HT News Desk / DIPR



KULGAM, SEP 13: To take stock of ongoing health projects in the hospital aimed to provide better healthcare facilities to the public, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited District Hospital Kulgam.

During the visit, DC passed instructions of expediting work on developmental projects including extension of 50 bedded emergency critical care unit, additional block for maternity and child health, renovation and upgradation of main District Hospital building, new ticketing counter

cum waiting area, DNB hostel, developing additional car parking, and a dedicated space for autopsy room.

He took a detailed review of hospital functioning by visiting IPD wards, interacted with patients and enquired about the facilities being provided in the hospital.

DC enjoined upon executing agency to expedite the left out work of old hospital building at the earliest so that it can be fully utilized for the patients.

DC was accompanied by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; Xen R&B, Tehsildar Kulgam, AEE, CEO MC Kulgam and administrative staff of DH Kulgam.

HT EDITORIAL

High Court wants govt to be responsive towards flood management

In a significant development the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has asked the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) by October 28 on the recommendations of the report submitted by a group working for the preservation of the environment. The directions from the court are welcome and they are in tune with the aspirations of the masses that were at the receiving end following incessant rainfall in the last week of August and first week of September.

The group known as Environmental Policy Group (EPG) filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court relating to the prevention of floods in Kashmir. In the PIL it was submitted that necessary directions are issued to the government as to what steps are being taken to prevent floods in Kashmir. Acting on the same the High Court asked Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to come up with an ATR about the recommendations of the EPG in this regard.

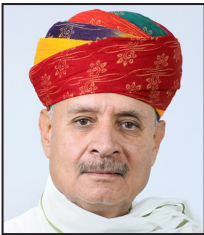
It would be in place to mention here that a huge population of Kashmir mostly living in South Kashmir and Central Kashmir districts were badly affected by floods that hit them hard in the first week of September. Hundreds of hectares of paddy land got inundated due to the flood water and as such the farmers suffered huge economic losses. At the same time the fruit industry was also hit hard by the floods and huge produce of fruits especially apples could be floating in the flood waters.

The EPG has welcomed the directions of the High Court and said that this is a significant step towards ensuring accountability and scientific scrutiny of the works executed for flood prevention and river management in Kashmir. The EPG has consistently highlighted the vulnerability of the valley to floods and the urgent need to adopt sustainable measures to safeguard life, property and ecology. The EPG submitted a comprehensive report based on expert consultations and field observations with the same seeking to address the structural gaps, ecological degradation and governance deficits that leave Kashmir exposed to flood risks.

Given the fact that the High Court has issued directions to the divisional administration of Kashmir it is imperative that the people at helm take the same seriously. They should come up with a comprehensive plan for flood management so that there are no more fears of a flood in the times to come. This would provide a timely relief to the masses especially those who are on radar in this regard.

India's Digital Revolution:

A Decade of Transformation and the Road Ahead



■ Rao Inderjit Singh

Over the past decade, India has undergone a digital revolution that is nothing short of extraordinary. What began as a series of targeted technological interventions has now evolved into a sweeping transformation, touching nearly every aspect of Indian life — economy, governance, education, healthcare, commerce, and even the lives of farmers and small entrepreneurs in the remotest corners of the country.

This journey has not been accidental. It has been carefully stewarded by the Government of India through a combination of bold policymaking, cross-ministerial collaboration, and a commitment to inclusive growth. While the line ministries — such as the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Ministry of Agriculture, and others — have executed large-scale projects on the ground, NITI Aayog has served as the policy engine, fostering convergence, driving thought leadership, and nudging the system toward scalable, citizen-first innovations.

A major inflection point came with the rollout of the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity. With over 55 crore bank accounts opened, millions who were previously excluded from the financial system suddenly gained access to banking and direct benefit transfers. In a small village in Odisha, a single mother was able to receive welfare benefits directly into her bank account, bypassing middlemen for the first time. Her story is echoed by millions across India. This massive financial inclusion movement, supported by the Ministry of Finance and enabled by Aadhaar and mobile penetration, laid the groundwork for what came next: a fintech explosion.

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India under the guidance of the RBI, revolutionised the way Indians transacted. What began as a novel way to send money to a friend quickly became the lifeline of small businesses, vegetable vendors, and gig workers. Today, India records over 17 billion UPI transactions each month, and even roadside vegetable sellers accept digital payments with a simple QR code.

At the same time, the backbone of India's digital infrastructure was being built—quietly and persistently—under MeitY. Projects like BharatNet brought broadband to over two lakh gram panchayats, while India Stack created the architecture for paperless, presence-less, and cashless services. DigiLocker allowed students to access their certificates digitally, and e-Sign enabled remote authentication for important documents. DigiYatra is a pioneering



initiative that enables seamless, paperless, and contactless air travel using facial recognition technology. It ensures faster check-ins, enhanced passenger experience, and improved airport efficiency, all while safeguarding data privacy through decentralised identity management. This marks a major step in making Indian aviation future-ready and passenger-centric. These weren't just apps—they were building blocks of a digital republic.

Digital governance also took a leap forward with the launch of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Designed to bring transparency and efficiency into public procurement, GeM has connected over 1.6 lakh government buyers with more than 22 lakh sellers—including a growing number of women entrepreneurs and MSMEs. For a small handicraft seller from Rajasthan, this meant access to government contracts that were previously unimaginable.

The agriculture sector, often seen as resistant to change, too began embracing digital tools. Platforms like PM-Kisan ensured that income support reached farmers directly. e-NAM connected agricultural mandis across states, enabling farmers to get better prices for their produce. The digital Soil Health Card helped them understand what crops to grow and what nutrients to add to their land. In rural Jharkhand, CSCs (Common Service Centres) run by local entrepreneurs became digital lifelines—offering everything from telemedicine to banking and skilling programmes.

The pandemic was a stress test for India's digital public infrastructure—and it passed with flying colours. With schools shut, platforms like DIKSHA and SWAYAM ensured that learning didn't stop. Children in Ladakh and Kerala could access the

same content, curated by teachers across India. Simultaneously, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission took shape, allowing citizens to access their health records through a digital ID and creating a seamless experience across hospitals and states.

Commerce, too, witnessed a quiet revolution. The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), an initiative of DPIIT, is now enabling small kirana shops and handloom weavers to compete with large e-commerce giants. By unbundling the functions of digital commerce, ONDC is levelling the playing field, ensuring that small businesses can access logistics, payments, and customer feedback systems with ease.

The convergence role that NITI plays—bringing ministries, states, startups, and industry together—has ensured that digital public goods are interoperable, inclusive, and scalable. As India moves toward its \$5 trillion economy goal, new frontiers are emerging: AI-enabled governance, decentralised commerce, and multilingual, mobile-first digital services that can reach the last person in the line.

But this is not just a government success story. It is the story of a nation—of millions of citizens who adopted change, entrepreneurs who built on digital rails, and local leaders who reimagined service delivery.

India's digital decade is not just about technology—it's about transformation. And the story is only just beginning.

Author is Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Planning and MoS Culture.

Drug Addiction: A Growing Concern Among Youth



■ Kamran Tantray

Drug addiction has become one of the gravest global challenges of our time. It is not confined to any particular country, community, or culture—it has spread across the world like a silent epidemic. Unfortunately, its primary victims are the youth. Children and teenagers between the ages of 10 to 19, instead of living their most formative years learning, discovering, and building their future, are increasingly falling prey to substance abuse.

The Situation in Jammu and Kashmir

In Jammu and Kashmir, the problem has taken an alarming turn. The younger generation, whose energy

should be invested in education, sports, careers, and cultural growth, is being diverted toward drugs. Behind this lie several factors — academic pressure, parental expectations, peer competition, unemployment, and sometimes strained family relationships.

Many students, when unable to meet the expectations of parents or teachers, face scolding instead of encouragement. Such experiences deeply damage their confidence and self-esteem. In their struggle to escape stress, humiliation, or depression, some turn to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. What begins as an experiment or peer-driven curiosity gradually turns into a destructive addiction, harming both body and mind.

The reasons are many:

Peer Pressure — Youngsters are influenced by friends to "try just once."

Academic & Career Stress — Intense pressure to secure top marks or professional courses.

Unemployment — Lack of opportunities leading to hopelessness.

Mental Health Issues — Depression, loneliness, and anxiety driving youth toward harmful escapes.

Easy Availability — Ready access to drugs in society worsening the crisis.

The Way Forward

Parents must play the most important role. Open communication, patience, and emotional support can prevent children from making harmful choices. Instead of criticism, encouragement and understanding are vital.

Educational institutions too must share responsibility—not only by imparting knowledge but also by nurturing mental well-being. Regular counseling, awareness campaigns, and motivational programs should be a part of school and college life.

For those already addicted, compassion and treatment are the answer. Rehabilitation centers, guidance, and counseling can help them return to healthy lives.

Community support is equally crucial. Religious leaders, social workers, and local organizations should

organize awareness drives, cultural programs, and sports events to channelize youth energy positively. Skill-building, arts, music, and sports can offer healthier alternatives to destructive habits.

The Future of J&K's Youth

The young generation of Jammu and Kashmir is intelligent, talented, and full of potential. With the right guidance and opportunities, they can excel in every field and contribute greatly to society. But if drug addiction continues to spread unchecked, it will endanger not just individual lives but also the peace and prosperity of the region.

Drug addiction is a silent killer—but one we can defeat. By guiding our youth with love, care, and opportunities, we can ensure they walk the path of growth rather than destruction. Together—parents, teachers, community, and government—we must build a progressive, peaceful, and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

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What Is That Magic On Your Face

But some things do hurt.....But this is not a story about cribbing!



■ M S Nazki

Cosmetic Centre Phubala: The Indian Army, in collaboration with the Aseem Foundation, established this Cosmetic Centre at Phubala village under Operation Sadbhavana. It was officially inaugurated by Lt. Gen. Abhijit S. Pendharkar, General Officer Commanding Spear Corps.

Luxury fashion is a highly competitive and ever-evolving industry. It's no secret that the global market for luxury goods is on the rise, and consumers are increasingly willing to invest in high-quality, exclusive, and well-crafted products.

From high-end fashion houses to niche brands, the industry offers a plethora of choices that cater to different tastes, styles, and budgets.

Throughout the years, the industry has seen significant changes in consumer behavior and market trends. However, the following brands have managed to stay relevant and maintain their position as the top players in the luxury fashion industry.

Brands dominating fashion:

CHANEL: Chanel is a brand with a legacy etched in fashion history. Some of its iconic designs include the little black dress, Chanel No. 5 perfume, Chanel 2.55 bag, tweed outfits, pearl necklaces, and ballet flats. Coco Chanel, a legendary designer, revolutionized women's fashion by introducing shoulder bags and yachting pants over 100 years ago. Her goal was to create more comfortable, masculine clothing that did not require corsets.

Building on Coco's legacy, Karl Lagerfeld modernized her original designs in the '80s and reintroduced them, leveraging Chanel's heritage and brand elements into new designs like the interlocking CC logo on belts and pearl jewelry, mixing tweed with grunge style. This strategy saved Chanel from financial ruin.

Exclusivity, value-based marketing, and legacy are some of the key factors that have made Chanel a \$13.2 billion (about \$41 per person in the US) brand. Chanel has been successful in maintaining its position in the luxury fashion market through its heritage designs, attention to detail, and the unique experiences that it offers to its customers. The brand's commitment to quality and exclusivity has created a loyal following among fashion-conscious consumers who appreciate the brand's rich history and iconic designs.

LOUIS VUITTON: Louis Vuitton, part of the LVMH group, the world's largest luxury conglomerate that also owns Dior, Fendi, Givenchy, Tiffany, and 75 other brands, is one of the most counterfeited brands in the world. This is mainly due to its iconic designs that have remained relatively unchanged over the 167 years, limited supply, and a strict "NO SALE" policy. Despite the challenges posed by Covid, LV reported increased revenue in Q3 of 2020, thanks to its domination in China, Japan, and Korea—the world's biggest luxury goods markets.

Louis Vuitton has always been trendy, attracting young consumers by diversifying into streetwear and implementing a drop model where collections are released with limited stock and time without prior notice. The brand also uses endorsement deals with the biggest names in Asia, such as Mulan's Liu Yifei, Squid Game's Jung Ho-Yeon, tennis player Naomi Osaka, and BTS.

Through these strategies, Louis Vuitton continues to remain relevant and popular, especially among younger generations. The brand's dominance in the luxury goods market is set to continue as it continues to diversify and expand into new markets.

GUCCI: Gucci, founded in Florence in 1912, is currently the second most valuable brand in the world. Although Gucci initially focused on manufacturing luxury bags, such as the famous Gucci bamboo bag, canvas suitcase, and The Jackie, they only began making



clothing in 1968. Unfortunately, under Maurizio Gucci's leadership, the brand almost went bankrupt.

However, in 1994, Tom Ford joined Gucci and transformed the brand into a major player in luxury fashion. The famous '95 Fall collection and hypersexual brand image gave new meaning to the phrase "Sex sells." Today, Gucci remains a favorite among Gen Z and millennials, who make up a predicted 40% of the luxury market by 2035.

Gucci strategically stays at the forefront of pop culture, with everyone from actor Xiao Zhan and K-pop idols IU and Kai to Harry Styles seen sporting the brand. As influencers continue to love logomania, Gucci will continue to dominate the luxury fashion market.

PRADA: Founded in 1913 by Mario Prada, the brand initially started as a small leather goods store in Milan. However, it wasn't until the 1980s that Prada became a household name in the fashion world, thanks to Miuccia Prada, Mario's granddaughter, who took over the family business and transformed it into a global fashion powerhouse.

Prada has a strong presence in the luxury retail market with products, including clothing, bags, shoes, and accessories, which are sold through its own stores, as well as through high-end department stores and boutiques. Prada's ability to create a consistent brand identity and maintain a high level of quality across its product lines has contributed to its success and longevity in the industry.

In recent years, the brand has made significant efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and promote eco-friendly practices. For example, Prada has launched a sustainable line of nylon products, made from recycled materials, and has implemented energy-saving measures in its stores and factories.

DIOR: Christian Dior is undoubtedly one of the most celebrated fashion designers in history, and his brand, Dior, is a testament to his legacy. His "New Look" collection in the 1940s and 1950s revolutionized the fashion industry and marked a significant turning point in the history of fashion. Since then, Dior has become a household name, synonymous with luxury, glamour, and sophistication.

One of the key strategies that Dior employs to reinforce its brand image and legacy is through ambitious exhibitions that showcase its history and heritage. The recent Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams exhibition in New York City was a resounding success, attracting thousands of visitors who were captivated by the brand's rich history and iconic designs. Similar exhibitions like Esprit Dior and the 2019 New Look Revolution in London have also been highly successful, with almost 600,000 people attending the latter.

Apart from its exhibitions, Dior's success can also be attributed to its strong presence on social media. With 45 million Instagram followers and 1 billion views on its WeChat hashtag challenge, Dior is a powerhouse when it comes to social media marketing. It was also ranked No.1 on Launchmetrics' media impact value list, further demonstrating the brand's influence and reach.

In addition to its fashion line, Dior has also been highly successful in the beauty industry, with its cosmetic line being a major contributing factor to the brand's overall success. With a focus on high-quality products and innovative

packaging, Dior's beauty line has become a must-have for many consumers around the world.

Some stories do not get old:
Here is a short story about a girl and cosmetics, focusing on themes of self-discovery and the evolving use of beauty products:

Eliza, a young girl, found a magical, old compact in her grandmother's attic, sparking her fascination with cosmetics. Growing up, she experimented with various products, initially using make-up to fit in but later to express her creativity and confidence. The story follows her journey as she learns that makeup is a form of art and self-expression, not a tool to conceal flaws or please others, ultimately discovering that true beauty comes from within and is amplified, not created, by the cosmetics she applies.

The Discovery: One rainy afternoon, while exploring her grandmother's dusty attic, Eliza stumbled upon a beautiful, ornate compact. It was filled with a shimmering, rose-tinted powder and a delicate, slightly smudged mirror. As she traced the intricate designs on its surface, a sense of magic seemed to emanate from the object, sparking a newfound curiosity about beauty and makeup.

Early Experiments: In her teenage years, Eliza's interest in the compact grew, and she began to experiment with cosmetics. At first, she used makeup to try and fit in with her peers, a practice she later found dissatisfying. She saw her peers using makeup as a way to hide insecurities, but it never felt right to her. She wanted to explore makeup as a creative outlet rather than a mask, but felt restricted by the societal expectations of what makeup was supposed to do.

A Shift in Perspective: The turning point came when she started to follow beauty influencers online who celebrated diversity and individuality. She learned that makeup could be a powerful form of self-expression, a way to experiment with different personas and enhance her natural features, rather than a tool to erase them. Eliza began to see the history of makeup as a reflection of evolving societal ideas about beauty, from the extravagant adornments of royalty to the modern empowerment of personal choice.

Embracing Her Own Beauty: With this new understanding, Eliza's relationship with cosmetics transformed. She no longer saw them as a necessary evil but as an art form, a playful way to adorn herself. She learned to appreciate the versatility of makeup, using it to accentuate her features, express her moods, and explore different aesthetics for various occasions.

The Enduring Message: Eliza's journey became a quiet testament to the evolving role of cosmetics. She found that the most beautiful thing she could apply was confidence, and that the compact, while holding historical and aesthetic value, was merely a tool for personal expression. The magic wasn't in the powder or the mirror, but in her own evolving sense of self, a lesson beautifully painted with every experiment she created on her own skin.

Now this is from Meghalaya: The color of change: The parcel from Mumbai arrived on a Tuesday, tucked between a bag of rice and a bottle of mustard oil. Apu, our local courier, dropped it off with a casual nod. Jina's hands trembled as she signed for it, her heart thumping against her ribs like a trapped bird. The

label was addressed to her, a rare occurrence in a household where everything belonged to "the family".

Her grandmother, the matriarch with a spine as rigid as the bamboo fences in their Meghalayan village, squinted at the box. "What is this new thing you have bought from the city, Jina?"

Jina tucked the box behind her back, her cheeks flushing. "Just... some notebooks, Ajang."

Inside, tucked safely among layers of bubble wrap, was a collection of Korean cosmetics: a BB cream, a lip tint, and a set of circular contact lenses. They were a world away from the simple herbal remedies her grandmother used. Jina spent her nights glued to her phone, watching K-pop videos and tutorials from beauty vloggers who looked like her, yet were so much more glamorous. They had porcelain skin, straight brows, and big, sparkling eyes. It was a look that promised a different kind of life, a life away from the gossip of the village and the judgmental whispers about her looks.

The first time she tried it, she locked herself in the small storage room, the only place with a full-length mirror. She dotted the BB cream across her face, watching as it blurred the unevenness of her skin. She applied the lip tint, a soft gradient of color blooming on her lips. Finally, she put in the circular lenses. As she looked at her reflection, a stranger looked back at her. Her eyes were wider, her skin was fairer, and her face looked like it belonged on a screen, not in the hills. A pang of something bittersweet twisted in her chest. This was the girl she wanted to be, wasn't she? This was the girl who would be appreciated, who wouldn't be called "Chinki" or "Nepalan" in the city.

The next day, she went to the local market with her mother. The lenses made the world seem a little different, a little brighter. She caught her own reflection in the polished surface of a steel utensil and almost didn't recognize herself. As they walked past a group of older men, she heard one of them mutter, "Ah, another one trying to be a city girl." The words stung. The makeup was supposed to be a shield, but it felt like a spotlight.

At home, her younger cousin, Lali, watched her with wide, curious eyes. Lali, with her natural flush and bright, unadorned eyes, was the epitome of the kind of beauty Jina once admired. "What is that magic on your face, Didi?" Lali asked.

Jina tried to explain the contouring, the subtle colors, and the illusion of it all. Lali listened patiently, then said, "But why do you want to hide your own face?"

The question hung in the air, simple and profound. Jina had no answer for it. She spent the rest of the day thinking about Lali's words and the comments in the market. The cosmetics felt heavy now, a mask rather than a transformation.

That evening, as the sun dipped behind the hills, painting the sky in fiery colors, Jina washed her face. The BB cream, the lip tint, and the lenses were all gone. Her natural reflection stared back at her—the same face that her grandmother had always told her was beautiful, the same face that had run wild through the hills. This time, she didn't see the flaws she had been trained to see. She saw the girl who was here, in this home, under this sunset.

The box of cosmetics stayed tucked away in her closet. It wasn't that she had given up on makeup entirely; sometimes,

she still wore a little blush or lip color. But she no longer saw it as a means of escape. She saw it as a choice, a way to play and express herself, not to hide. And when Lali asked to try some of the products, Jina taught her how to play with the colors, to enhance what was already there, instead of covering it up. The real color of change, she realized, wasn't in a bottle. It was in how you saw yourself.

The perception that people from Northeast India have a distinct or better fashion sense compared to others in India can be attributed to several factors:

Cultural Diversity: Northeast India is home to a variety of ethnic groups, each with its own unique traditional attire and styles. This diversity fosters a rich tapestry of fashion influences.

Traditional Attire: The traditional clothing of various tribes in Northeast India often features vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and unique accessories, which can stand out and be perceived as stylish.

Influence of Global Trends: Many young people in Northeast India are influenced by global fashion trends due to exposure through the internet and social media, leading to innovative blends of traditional and modern styles.

Urbanization and Education: Increased urbanization and higher education levels in many parts of Northeast India have led to greater awareness of fashion trends and personal grooming.

Individual Expression: There is a strong emphasis on individual expression in fashion choices among the youth, allowing for a more personalized and creative approach to style.

Fashion Events: The region hosts various fashion events and festivals that promote local designers and styles, further enhancing the visibility and appreciation of their fashion sense.

Overall, the combination of cultural richness, creativity, and exposure to global trends contributes to the unique fashion sense observed in Northeast India.

The initiative is part of the Army's broader commitment to women and community empowerment, specifically by enabling skill development, livelihood opportunities, and entrepreneurial activities for local women.

Objectives & Implementation: The project started total budget of Rs 2,40,000/- was implemented by the Indian Army in 2024. After initial meeting with Phubala Welfare Committee the center was constructed at its current loc. The Centre is fully equipped with necessary tools, raw materials, and ingredients essential to support cosmetics production and training.

Role of Aseem Foundation: It began with 20 women trainees from the local community who received hands-on training and mentorship from The Aseem Foundation. The Aseem Foundation also facilitates market access for selling the cosmetics they produce. Local women leaders expressed heartfelt appreciation, noting how the centre could open new professional avenues and support household incomes.

The facility fosters self-reliance, professional confidence, and economic upliftment within the village women.

The philosophy behind the center centers on sustainable empowerment: women gain practical skills and ongoing support to build their own small enterprises.

Current Status: At present the centre has produced its first range of products The Loktak Mist range which include Lipstick, Lipbalm, Lip Gloss, Face Toner & Soaps having produced upto 250 units. The same shall also be showcased during the Durand Cup Matches at Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal.

Takeaways: Strategic Empowerment: Rather than providing only temporary aid, this centre equips women with marketable skills and access to economic opportunities.

Grassroots Reach: By focusing on a rural village like Phubala, the centre serves a population often underserved by urban-focused interventions.

Collaboration Model: A successful example of military-NGO synergy delivering tangible livelihood initiatives.

As the program grows, the model could be scaled to benefit more villages, leveraging market linkages provided by NGOs or similar agencies.

Importance of Healthy Food and the Benefits of Bananas



Sahil Manzoor

Our body needs plenty of healthy food for proper growth and development. A balanced diet includes rice, meat, fish, eggs, vegetables, fruits, and other items rich in essential nutrients. Today, we are fortunate to have enough knowledge to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy food choices. Apart from eating nutritious food, our body also requires regular exercise, proper hygiene, medical check-ups, and fresh meals to stay fit and healthy. For fitness and well-being, we should always prefer food items that are fresh, healthy, and nutrient-rich. The Almighty has blessed us with countless delicious foods, and among them bananas stand out as one of the healthiest fruits to include in our daily diet.

Health Benefits of Bananas

1. Kidney Health

Potassium is vital for controlling blood pressure and supporting kidney function.

Bananas, being rich in potassium, may reduce the risk of kidney disease by up to 50% when eaten several times a week.

2. Exercise and Muscle Recovery

Known as the "perfect food for athletes," bananas provide easily digested carbs and essential minerals.

They may help reduce exercise-related muscle cramps and soreness, which affect up to 95% of people.

3. Heart Health

A potassium-rich diet can lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease by up to 27%.

Bananas also provide magnesium, another important nutrient for maintaining a healthy heart.

4. Satiety and Weight Management

Unripe bananas are rich in resistant starch, while ripe bananas contain more soluble fiber.

Both resistant starch and pectin help reduce appetite and promote fullness after meals.

5. Improved Insulin Sensitivity

Resistant starch in unripe bananas may improve insulin sensitivity by up to 50% within a few weeks.

This can lower the risk of type 2 diabetes, although more research is still needed.

Conclusion

Bananas are not only tasty but also a powerhouse of nutrients. Whether for kidney health, heart health, exercise recovery, or weight management, they are an excellent fruit to eat regularly for a balanced lifestyle.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

The Spirulina

The Superfood of the future



Surinderpal Singh

The Spirulina is a blue-green microalgae and it belongs to the cyanobacteria family, has attracted significant scientific interest in recent decades due to its exceptional nutritional profile and potential health benefits. It is said to be an ancient food which was originally consumed in ancient civilizations. The spirulina has re-emerged as a potent dietary supplementation gaining worldwide popularity in the medical field.

Spirulina, scientifically known as Arthrospira platensis and Arthrospira maxima, is a filamentous cyanobacterium capable of photosynthesis. In the modern world it is labelled as a superfood for the future and the spirulina is marketed for its high protein content, abundant vitamins, minerals and bioactive compounds. The Researchers, scientists and health practitioners of the world are studying its role in nutrition, immune modulation, metabolic health and for treating chronic diseases.

Nutritional Composition of Spirulina

Spirulina is predominantly composed of:

1. Protein:

The spirulina is a rich source of proteins mingled with speciality of containing all the essential amino acids. This unique feature aids the spirulina in making it an excellent plant-based protein source.

2. Vitamins:

It is rich source of B-complex vitamins (B1, B2, B3), Vitamin E with traces of Vitamin K.

3. Minerals:

It contains contents of minerals like Iron, magnesium, potassium and calcium.

4. Essential Fatty Acids:

It is good source of Gamma-linolenic acid (GLA) and omega-6 fatty acids.

5. Antioxidants:

The Spirulina contains antioxidants like Phycocyanin, chlorophyll, carotenoids and polyphenols.

6. Polysaccharides and Phenolic Compounds:

It is said to be an excellent source of polysaccharides and phenolic compounds which possess anti-inflammatory properties.

The Rapeutic Benefits of Spirulina

1. Antioxidant and Anti-Inflammatory Properties

The Spirulina contains powerful antioxidants like phycocyanin, which scavenges free radicals and reduces the oxidative stress and regulates pro-inflammatory cytokines. Studies have shown that regular spirulina intake reduces markers of oxidative damage in humans, potentially lowering the risk of chronic cardiovascular diseases and cancer.

2. Immunomodulatory Effects

Spirulina enhances the activity of natural killer cells and promotes the production of interferon and modulates T-cell responses. Clinical trials have demonstrated improved immune function in elderly populations and patients with viral infections.

3. Cardiovascular Health

The Researchers across the globe has indicated that spirulina can improve the lipid profiles by lowering LDL cholesterol and triglycerides while increasing HDL cholesterol. Additionally the spirulina may reduce the blood pressure by promoting endothelial nitric oxide production thereby contributing in improved vascular health.

4. Anti-Diabetic Potential

Several randomized controlled trials (RCTs) have suggested that the spirulina supplementation could improve the glycemic level and it could further reduce the fasting blood glucose levels and enhances insulin sensitivity in patients with type 2 diabetes. These effects are attributed to its antioxidant properties and enhancement of pancreatic-cell function.

5. Anti-Cancer Activity

The preclinical studies have demonstrated that spirulina exerts anti-proliferative effects on certain cancer cell lines through apoptosis induction and immune modulation. However, clinical evidence are in preliminary stages and requires extensive experimentation and research.

6. Anemia and Iron Deficiency

Due to its high iron content and favorable bioavailability the spirulina could improve the hemoglobin levels in the human bodies and it could help in reducing the symptoms of anemia.

7. Detoxification Support

Spirulina binds heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium and lead which could aid in the detoxification of the body. Different animal studies throughout the world have shown improved excretion of toxic metals after spirulina supplementation.

Cons and Limitations of Spirulina Use

Despite of it's vast number of benefits, spirulina has certain limitations and potential risks:

1. Contamination Risks

When the spirulina is obtained from uncontrolled environments it may be contaminated with microcystins, toxic substances produced by cyanobacteria, leading to liver toxicity and gastrointestinal disturbances.

2. Allergic Reactions

The allergic reaction to spirulina are very rare but still some individuals may be prone to allergic reactions such as rashes, headaches or gastrointestinal upset.

3. Autoimmune Concerns

The spirulina is said to have immunostimulatory effects hence spirulina could theoretically exacerbate autoimmune conditions (e.g., multiple sclerosis, lupus), though robust clinical data are lacking.

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

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SCAN ME



JKEDI organises Boot Camps at Udhampur, Kathua under J&K Startup Idea Challenge

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 13: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) continued its mission of fostering innovation and empowering youth through entrepreneurship by organizing Boot Camps under Startup Idea Challenge at Government College for Women, Udhampur and Government Degree College Kathua.

The events, held under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-2027, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and faculty members.

At Government Degree College Kathua, the boot camp and pitching session saw participation from than 100 students and was inaugurated by Prof. Rakesh Singh, HoD Chemistry and In-charge of Career Counselling Cell, GDC, Kathua who appreciated JKEDI's role in encouraging youth towards entrepreneurship. Fourteen aspiring entrepreneurs pitch their ideas before an expert jury out of which eight ideas were shortlisted for the next round. Dheeraj Handoo, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Kathua presented the details regarding the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 while Vir Pratap Singh, Teaching Associate, JKEDI deliberated on the various incentives provided by the Government related to J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

Similarly, more than 100 students attended the program at Government College for Women Udhampur. Dr. Nalini Pathania, Principal of the College, was the Chief Guest. She emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in youth empowerment. Yash Paul, District Nodal Officer (DNO) JKEDI Udhampur, presented details of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, while Dr. Vinod Sharma, Teaching



Associate, JKEDI, highlighted various incentives, support mechanisms and the structured phase wise format of the J&K Startup Idea Challenge. A total of seven ideas were shortlisted by a distinguished jury composed of designated faculty members from the college, officials from DIC Udhampur.

These boot camps served as vibrant platforms for idea exchange, motivation, and entrepreneurial

learning. The dignitaries and jury members across all three districts lauded JKEDI's sustained efforts to nurture entrepreneurship and innovation at the grassroots level. By providing mentorship, exposure, and support, JKEDI is reinforcing its mission to strengthen the startup ecosystem and empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Poonch Admin finalizes Sewa Parv 2025 preparations with focus on inclusive, participatory outreach

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, SEP 13: To ensure effective execution of the Sewa Parv activities slated to be observed from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pankaj Magotra chaired a meeting with concerned district officers and heads of institutions to discuss the arrangements for the fortnight-long campaign.

The meeting focused on ensuring active public participation, inter-departmental convergence, and comprehensive community outreach, aligning with the spirit of Sewa Parv – a nationwide celebration of selfless service and inclusive development.

During the meeting, officers briefed the ADDC on planned and ongoing initiatives including cleanliness drives, community meals for the needy, health check-ups, blood donation camps, and nutrition awareness under health initiatives. They also discussed awareness programs on key government schemes such as PM-KISAN, Ayushman Bharat, and other flagship initiatives through capacity-building workshops. A variety of cultural and educational activities like essay competitions, wall paintings, art and slogan contests, and donation drives for underprivileged students were also presented as part of the upcoming celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC Pankaj Magotra emphasized that Sewa Parv is not just a series of activities, but a collective spirit of service, underscoring the government commitment to citizen welfare and inclusive governance. He directed key departments including ICDS, Education, Rural Development, Health, Municipality, Information, JKAACL, and Social Welfare to develop targeted activities under various schemes to ensure outreach at the grassroots level.

The Directed Action Plan for Sewa Parv 2025 includes: Cleanliness drives across towns and villages, Tree plantation campaigns, Health and wellness camps, Blood donation drives, IEC (Information, Education & Communication) initiatives, Workshops for vulnerable groups, disaster preparedness, Beautification and sustainable development campaigns, Widespread awareness about government schemes. All activities will be monitored in real time, with visual documentation and social media amplification to ensure transparency, visibility, and mass engagement.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Mohd Iqbal; Principal GDC Poonch, Dr. Jasbir Singh; ACP Rakesh Sharma; DFO; CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan; DSWO/EO Municipality, Khalil A. Bandy; DIO NIC, Parvinder Singh, Dy. Chief Education Officer; District Nodal Officer JKEDI; Principal Polytechnic, and other concerned officers.

156 cases settled by 3rd National Lok Adalat Samba

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SAMBA, SEP 13: As per the directions of Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority, 3rd National Lok Adalat for the year, 2025 was today organised at District Court Complex, Samba.

The National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by R. N. Wattal, Pr. District & Sessions Judge (Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Samba).

Three benches were constituted for expeditious disposal of Cases (Pre and Post Litigation); The Bench No.1 was presided over by R. N. Wattal, Pr. District & Sessions Judge (Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Samba) alongside Arvind Sharma, Addl District & Sessions Judge and assisted by Advocate Ajay Gupta. The Bench No.2 consisted of Chief Judicial Magistrate Umesh Sharma, Munsiff (JMIC) Himani Parihar and Advocate Renu Bala; The Bench No. 3 comprised Addl. Spl. Mobile Magistrate Rashi Verma, Addl. Munsiff Kritika Sethi and Advocate Vijay Gupta.

The matters placed before the Benches included Civil, Criminal Compoundable, Cheque Bounce, Bank Recovery matters, MACT, Matrimonial, Pre-litigation matters, D.V. Act, Negotiable Instrument Act, 125 Cr.Pc. and Petty Offence(s) including traffic challans. A total number of 335 cases were taken up for their amicable settlement out of which 156 cases were settled and an amount of Rs 2,64,63,065/- was realized as settlement amount.

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Public Notice

It is hereby notified that in my school records, the name of my mother has been incorrectly mentioned as Ruqaya. The correct name is Ruksana. I am applying for the necessary correction in the said records. Any person having any objection to this correction may kindly contact the concerned authorities within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.
Zainab, D/O Mudasir Ahmad Sofi , M/O Ruksana R/O Dana Mazar, Safa Kadal, Srinagar

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that in the insurance records of Mr. Manzoor Hussain, his particulars have been incorrectly mentioned. His correct details are as follows:
Name: Manzoor Hussain
Father's Name: A.K. Mohd. Hassan
Address: R/O Chiktan
However, due to an error, the records have been entered as:
Name: Manzoor Hussain
Father's Name: Mohmmad Hussain
Address: R/O Chiktan
I hereby request that the necessary correction be made in the insurance policy. If any person has any objection to the aforesaid correction, they may kindly contact the concerned authorities within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.
Sd/- Manzoor Hussain, S/O A.K. Mohd. Hassan
Contact: 7051147090

Public Notice

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK-05 20040014037, my name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mohammad Younis Lone, while as my Actual and correct name as per my Aadhaar Card is Mohd Younis Lone. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days, from the date of the publication I have lost, after that no objection shall be accepted.
Mohd Younis Lone.
S/O Gh Qadir Lone.
R/O Wuhab Parray Mohalla, Hajan Ghat
District Bandipora

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as MOHD HUSSAIN MANSOOR PANDITH in the qualification certificate/ documents while my correct name is MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD PANDITH which needs to be corrected .If anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.
Name....MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR
S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD PANDITH
R/O ATHOORA
Distt....BARAMULLA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Name dob and Address has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 680097103158 as Waseem Ahmad Shah S/O Ab Jabar Shah R/O Vodapora DOB 14/01/2002 while his correct Name Address DOB is Waseem Jabar Shah S/O Abdul Jabar Shah R/O Khuramabad Handwara DOB 05/04/2004 now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority / UIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.
Name: WASEEM JABAR SHAH
DOB 05/04/2004
S/O ABDUL JABAR SHAH
R/O: KHURAMABAD TEHSL HANDWARA
DIST KUPWARA

Public Notice

I have changed my name from (old name) Muheet Syed Makhdoomi S/O Nizam Ud Din Pir to (New name) Muheet Syed S/O Syed Ahmed Makhdoomi in future I will be known as (New name) Muheet Syed. S/O Syed Ahmed Makhdoomi If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
NAME: UHEET SYED
S/O: YED AHMED MAKHDOOMI
R/O: ARABAL SHALIMAR

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive PWD (R&B) Division Dooru

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO 22 OF R&B/Dooru/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/EED/HD/ 2179-84 | DATED: 11-09-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K ,Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Dooru invited etenders on % age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:

| S.No | Name of Work | Est. Cost | T.D Cos | E/M | Time | Class |
|------|---|---------------------------|---------|--------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Construction of HDO office building / Construction of Protection wall at Duroo Anantnag | 61.60 lacs (52.30 + 9.30) | 1600 | 123200 | 12 Months | AAY Class Only |

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

The date of completion is subject to the availability of funds.

The NIT 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 departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

| S.No. | Particulars | Dated |
|-------|---|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 11/09/2025 |
| 2 | Period of Downloading of bidder documents | From 12/09/2025 (9:00 Am) To 22-09-2025 (06:00 PM) |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | From 12/09/2025 (9:00 Am) |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | To 22/09/2025 (06:00 PM) |
| 5 | Date and time of opening of bid (online) | 23/09/2025 (11:30AM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Dooru |

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date (NIT No and Name of work/ Item No. should be mentioned on Treasury Challan) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU (Tender receiving Authority).

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division DOORU (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

5. Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs 500/- whichever is lower. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower.

6. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding 18% GST.

7. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division DOORU.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

9. The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:

- Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
- Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.
- The tenders shall be opened and allotted to Ist lowest responsive bidder only when the funds are released/ available on Beams.

10. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

No: EED/HD/2178-84 | Dt:11/09/2025

Sd/- Er Farooq Ahmad Khan
Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Dooru

DIPK: 6194/25 | Dated: 13-09-2025



Sakeena Itoo holds mega Public Darbar at K.B Pora Kulgam

Also visits PHC K.B Pora, dedicates Analyser for public use

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER, 13: Minister for Health, Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited K.B Pora area of Kulgam and held a massive Public Darbar to address public issues and take stock of developmental needs of locals.

Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, the Minister emphasized on the importance of responsive administration, adding that the Chief Minister has established a dedicated mechanism 'Raabta Public Outreach Office' to address the issues and grievances of people.

"Our priority is to ensure that every citizen, regardless of their location, has access to quality health-care services and other basic necessities. Today's Public Darbar is a testament to our commitment to transparent governance, account-



ability, and rapid response to public concerns", Minister Sakeena stated.

She added that the aim of Government is to ensure that no voice from any corner goes unheard, adding that K.B Pora and all its adjacent areas deserve the same attention and developmental thrust.

The Minister highlighted that the Omar Abdullah led Government is committed to addressing the developmental needs and other issues of the public. She further stressed that the Government is focusing on better infrastructure, employment avenues for local youth, and improved implementation of welfare schemes.

During the Public Darbar, Sakeena Itoo also interacted with local residents and took stock of their pressing issues and demands. Locals on the occasion raised various issues like upgradation of K.B Pora-Hawk-wass road, establishment of a JK Bank branch and ATM, upgradation of Girls Middle School, staff augmentation at health centres and educational institutions, library and reading room, marriage hall, public park, and playground.

The Minister, while interacting with public delegations, assured them that their genuine issues would be redressed promptly. She also called upon officers to conduct periodic reviews and field visits in far-flung areas to effectively monitor public welfare services.

Earlier the Health Minister also visited Primary Health Centre (PHC) K.B Pora and dedicated an Analyser machine for the public use.

Doda: District Panel approves 514 cases under Mission YUVA

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 13: In a significant stride towards youth empowerment and employment generation, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) today approved 514 loan cases under the Mission YUVA. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (Chairman DLIC Mission YUVA) Harvinder Singh.

With this latest approval, the cumulative number of sanctioned cases under Mission YUVA has reached 1396, which accounts for nearly 70% of the total applications received in the district — marking a milestone in fostering entrepreneurship, skill development, and sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth of Doda.

The meeting was attended by DLIC members including Additional District Development Commissioner (Nodal Officer, Mission YUVA) Roshan Lal ; Deputy Director Employment, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral; General Manager, DIC Doda and others.

The session commenced with a comprehensive briefing by the Deputy Director Employment. He presented the latest status report of Mission YUVA in the district. The report included the number of applications received and verified on the Mission YUVA portal as well as the DPRs prepared



and verified by Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) members.

Addressing the Committee, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated that Mission YUVA is not just a loan scheme but a holistic platform aimed at cultivating entrepreneurship, innovation, and self-reliance among the youth. He emphasized continuous capacity-building, mentoring, and handholding support, along with structured monitoring to ensure the sustainability of the sanctioned ventures.

Concluding the session, Deputy Director Employment extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to the Chair and all participating members, lauding their commitment, co-operation and dedicated efforts towards the successful execution of Mission YUVA initiatives in Doda district.

National Lok Adalat held at ADR Centre Court Complex Kathua

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, SEP 13: The National Lok Adalat was held today at the ADR Centre of the Court Complex, Kathua under the guidance of the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jatinder Singh Jamwal, (Principal District & Sessions Judge).

To facilitate the smooth conduct of the Lok Adalat, 2 benches were constituted at the district court complex and one each at Bani, Billawar, Mahanpur and Hiranagar.

The 1st Bench comprised the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jatinder Singh Jamwal and Additional District & Sessions Judge, Pravin Pandoh, the 2nd Bench comprised Chief Judicial Magistrate Ajay Sharma and District Mobile Magistrate (T) Neena Thakur.

Similarly, a bench comprising Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Poonam Gupta and Munsiff/JMIC Prashant Kumar was constituted at Billawar, while another bench comprising Munsiff/JMIC Meera Bangrota and Advocate Naresh Gupta was constituted at Hiranagar.



At Mahanpur the bench consisted of Munsiff/JMIC Kangana Gupta and Advocate Deep Kumar, while the Bani Bench consisted of Munsiff/JMIC Ashutosh Sharma. A substantial number of cases were taken up for amicable settlement during the proceedings, resulting in successful resolutions and significant recovery of amounts tuning to Rs. 1,81,83,380.

The initiative reflects the commitment of the Judiciary and the Legal Services Authority towards promoting alternate dispute resolution mechanisms and ensuring timely justice to the public.

ADC Bhaderwah convenes meeting with members of civil society

HT News Desk / DIPR

BHADERWAH, SEP 13: A public meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, at his office chamber. The meeting brought together representatives of civil society, prominent citizens and community leaders to discuss pressing issues in the town.

The meeting was attended by ASP Vinod Kumar; Tehsildar Kamal Preet Singh, President of Sanatan Dharam Sabha Satish Kumar, President of Anjuman Islamia Riyaz Ahmed Najar, along with senior citizens and civil society members including Mast Nath Yogi, Mohd Ashraf Goni, Shabir Ahmed Chowdhury, Manoj Padha, Vaid Parkash, Manoj Kotwal, Jugal Kishor, Naseer Mahboob (President of Youth Action Committee), Abdul Hafiz Khateeb, and others.

During the meeting, citizens strongly demanded the restoration of internet services in Bhaderwah, emphasizing the difficulties faced by students, traders, and the general public.

Responding to the concerns, the ADC



assured that internet services would be restored soon. He also directed the concerned officers to strictly monitor the rates of essential commodities to prevent overcharging.

The leaders and civil society Members across the communities appealed for maintaining communal harmony and strengthening the bond of brotherhood in the district. They stressed that peace and unity are the foundation of Bhaderwah's social fabric and all citizens must work together to safeguard it.

Preparations for Sewa Parv-2025 reviewed at Kupwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, SEP 11: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan, presided over a meeting today to assess the preparations for the forthcoming 'Sewa Parv-2025'.

The two-week event is set to be observed across the Union Territory from September 17 to October 2, 2025.



The sewa parv will be kick started on 17th September with conduct of a mega programme at District Headquarter Kupwara. District officers of the line departments shall exhibit their unique stalls focusing on on-spot service delivery in the event. The officers stand directed to act strictly according to the action plans ensuring maximum services are provided to the masses during the Sewa parv.

The celebrations will encompass a wide range of activities based on several key themes. These include initiatives focused on cleanliness drives, environmental action, education, and engagement with the elderly and vulnerable segments of society, health and nutrition, awareness workshops, capacity building, cultural programs, and public outreach campaigns.

A significant part of the discussions was dedicated to the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan' and 'Poshan Mah' campaigns, which will run concurrently from September 17 to October 2. These initiatives will place a special emphasis on women's health, empowerment, and nutrition.

ADC stressed the need for departments to ensure their actions are visible, impactful, and lead to a sustained improvement in key performance indicators throughout the campaign.

The meeting was attended by SDM Lolab, DFO Kamraj, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Ayush Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, and other concerned officers who joined the meeting virtually.

Cooperative Public High School Tikri gets new classrooms

Addl. Registrar Cooperatives inaugurated newly constructed facility

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEP 13: Additional Registrar Cooperative Society, Jammu, Bal Krishan, today visited Cooperative Public High School, Tikri, Udhampur, where he inaugurated the newly constructed classrooms in the presence of Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Society, Udhampur, Nishtha Nayyar. The new classrooms are expected to significantly enhance the learning environment and accommodate a growing number of students in the region.

The event began with a warm welcome by Col. Balwant Singh (Retd.), Chairman of the Society, who delivered the welcome address. In his remarks, he high-



lighted the school's mission to provide quality education to students from all backgrounds and expressed deep gratitude to the community, donors, and officials who have contributed to the school's

development and continued success.

In a gesture reflecting the Cooperative department's holistic approach, Additional Registrar Bal Krishan also distributed relief funds

to families affected by recent floods. He emphasized that the department's commitment extends beyond education and infrastructure, aiming to support vulnerable communities in times of need.

During his address, the Additional Registrar praised the school's management and the Cooperative Society for their dedication and proactive initiatives. He stressed that well-developed infrastructure, combined with dedicated teachers and motivated students, plays a vital role in nurturing talent and shaping the future. He encouraged collaboration between educational institutions, local administration, and community members to create sustainable and inclusive learning spaces.

He further visited several classrooms, interacted with students, and appreciated their enthusiasm and active participation. He acknowledged the teachers' efforts in fostering a positive and engaging learning environment and encouraged them to continue working with passion and commitment.

Principal Vandana Gupta, in her vote of thanks, expressed gratitude to the Cooperative department for its continuous support and assured that the school would strive to uphold high standards of education and discipline. She also highlighted the importance of community involvement in achieving educational excellence.

Satish Sharma meets Union MoS Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya

Flags key food security, consumer welfare issues of J&K

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 13: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today, held a meeting with the Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya, who is on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, Minister Sharma put forth a series of issues of urgent public importance concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those living in border belts, flood-

affected and low-lying areas, as well as bifurcation of the Ration cards and sought the intervention of the Union Government for their redressal.

The Minister underlined the need for permanent Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and Government Food Stores in vulnerable areas to ensure an uninterrupted supply of essentials. He also urged for the inclusion of millets, pulses and edible oils in the PDS basket to enhance nutritional security, particularly for marginalised communities.

Highlighting the infrastructural needs, Satish Sharma pressed for modern warehousing facilities with temperature



control, pest management and automated storage systems, as well as scientifically designed disaster-resilient grain silos at the district level for long-term preservation of buffer stocks.

He also called for the establishment of state-of-the-art food testing laboratories across J&K to monitor the quality and safety of distributed food items.

To safeguard consumer rights,

the Minister sought urgent attention towards strengthening consumer courts in J&K with an allocation of Rs. 50 crore for setting up 20 District Consumer Forums and two State Commissions. He also stressed the importance of consumer awareness programmes, regional workshops and capacity building initiatives for citizens, manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

In view of recent natural calamities, Satish Sharma appealed for additional foodgrains for affected families, proposing 5 kg per person for flood-hit inhabitants and 10 kg per person for those in cloudburst-affected areas, over and above the exist-

ing quota.

The Minister further recommended the delegation of powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to the UT Government, enabling it to declare essential items such as oilseeds and other local produce to effectively control black marketing and regulate prices in the interest of consumers.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those in border and disaster-prone areas, deserve strengthened food security systems, robust consumer protection mechanisms and improved infrastructure. I am confident that with the support of the Union Government, we

will be able to address these pressing issues in a comprehensive manner", Minister Sharma said.

Union MoS Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya appreciated the detailed issues raised by the State Minister and assured full cooperation from the Centre.

She highlighted the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister is committed to strengthen the food security and consumer welfare across all regions, including Jammu and Kashmir. She added that the concerns raised will be given due consideration, and necessary support will be extended to address them.

Shah to inaugurate 2nd National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force on Sept 16

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 13: union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the 2nd National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) here on September 16 that will serve as a platform to reinforce the government's commitment to a drug-free India and formulate a roadmap to achieve this goal.

At the two-day conference, to be participated by ANTF Heads of States and union Territories (UTs), the Home Minister will also release the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Annual Report-2024 and launch the online Drug Disposal Campaign, a Home Ministry statement said.

The theme of the conference is "United Resolve, Shared

Responsibility". The conference will hold a comprehensive review and analysis of the collective efforts made by all concerned stakeholders in combating the drug menace in the country and deliberate on the future roadmap.

Detailed deliberation on various facets of drug supply, demand reduction and harm reduction including their national security implication and steps to be taken for strengthening of drug law enforcement in the country will also take place during the event, apart from the need of whole of the government approach required to address the menace.

Six technical sessions are lined up during the event. The deliberations are expected to generate actionable outcomes with a view to move forward with strategy



drawing upon the strength of various stakeholders.

The NCB and States and UTs Anti-Narcotics Task Forces envision a future-ready partnership that integrates technology, intelligence, and community action to combat drug abuse and trafficking.

The government has adopted "zero tolerance policy" against drugs. Amit Shah had directed all states and UTs in 2021 to establish a dedicated Anti-Narcotics Task Force. He had inaugurated the first National Conference of ANTF Heads from all states and UTs in April 2023.

ANTF Heads of 36 states and union Territories apart from stakeholders from other government Departments will be attending the conference to be held on September 16 and 17. UNI

NHRC seeks report on attack against scribe in Assam's Lumding

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 13: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a disturbing incident involving the assault and grievous injury of a media professional near Lumding Railway Institute in Assam on September 7, 2025.

According to reports, the victim was attacked by a group of anti-social elements while returning home after work and was later rescued by police and hospitalized for urgent treatment.

The NHRC in a statement here today said, if the reports are accurate, the incident constitutes a grave violation of human rights. "In response, the Commission has issued a formal notice to the Director General of Police, Assam, seeking a comprehensive



report on the matter within two weeks," it said in the statement.

The incident, first reported on a news portal on September 9, has drawn widespread condemnation. The Lumding Press Club, alongside concerned local citizens, has strongly demanded stringent action against the perpetrators and heightened security measures to ensure the safety of journalists in the region.

The victim has also voiced apprehensions about his personal safety and has appealed to the authorities to register a case promptly and initiate appropriate legal proceedings against those responsible, said the statement. UNI

Delhi CM launches first hi-tech hotline repair van, unveils several other projects

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 13: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today launched the national capital's first hotline maintenance van designed to repair live electricity wires without power cut to the nearby areas. These vans were launched as part of a pilot project in the Shalimar Bagh assembly constituency, while similar vans will soon be seen across other constituencies as well.

According to Gupta, it is for the first time in the country that such an initiative has come into place. Delhi's power minister Ashish Sood and other important leaders along with officials were present on the occasion. CM also inaugurated several projects related to electricity, water, roads, and public conveniences in the assembly constituency. She informed locals that new street lights are being installed in the area, while across the entire Delhi, more than 44,000 new lights will be installed to further curb dark spots and enhance security.

Gupta also inspected the new road adjoining



Ring Road near Guru Gobind Singh College, which has been built with an investment of Rs 12 crore, which is going to enhance connectivity with the Ring Road for the area. She also announced the new PM Shri School in the Haiderpur area, which will be the first school in the area up to class 12th, and will offer Science subjects in English medium.

The CM also said that the Munak Canal passing through the area will be soon maintained by Delhi government, and proper fencing or barricading will be done on both its sides to prevent mishaps, while proper ghats will be made for Chhat Puja.

Meanwhile, the CM has said that the employees with the power department met her at the secretariat expressing gratitude towards the government for resolving their pending promotions issue. According to her, over 100 employees got the promotion benefit which is something like getting justice, rather than just an administrative decision. UNI

UNGA session votes overwhelmingly in favour of two-state solution for Israel-Palestine, condemns Hamas

■ United News of India

NEW YORK, SEP 13: The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a declaration urging "tangible, time-bound and irreversible steps" toward a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, explicitly excluding Hamas from any future role in Gaza. The non-binding resolution, known as the New York Declaration, passed with 142 votes in favour, 9 against, and 12 abstentions on Friday. Israel and the United States opposed the measure, joined by Argentina, Hungary, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, and Tonga.

The vote preceded an upcoming UN summit co-chaired by Riyadh and Paris on September 22 in New York, in which Britain, France, Canada, Australia,



lia, and Belgium are expected to formally recognise a Palestinian state.

The text condemned the Hamas led October 7, 2023, attacks, demand-

ing the immediate release of all hostages, and called for "collective action to end the war in Gaza" while establishing a lasting peace based on a two-state framework.

It also raised the prospect of deploying a temporary UN-mandated international stabilisation mission to Gaza, transferring security duties to the Palestinian Authority.

Backed by the Arab League and co-signed in July by 17 UN member states, the declaration seeks to sideline Hamas permanently from governance in Gaza.

Palestinian Authority Vice President Hussein al-Sheikh hailed the vote as "an important step towards ending the occupation" and reiterated the PA's demand for an independent state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. UNI

Mossad 'refused' to carry out ground ops in Qatar, leading to IDF airstrike

■ United News of India

JERUSALEM, SEP 13: Israel's external intelligence wing Mossad had refused to carry out Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned ground operation to kill Hamas' leaders in Doha, fearing that the operation would doom hostage-ceasefire talks and damage the agency's ties with Qatar, according to Washington Post. This was earlier affirmed by the organisation's chief David Barnea following the Tuesday strike, who was critical of the action – not so much for its objective – but rather its timing and location.

As such, the PM instructed the IDF to carry out the missile strike in Doha to eliminate the

Hamas leadership, which has in turn led to widespread condemnation due to breach of Qatar's territorial sovereignty and security. The missile strike's success has also been questioned, with the IDF itself unsure of whether it even achieved its objective. Similar doubts were echoed by external observers, while Hamas claimed that its leaders were safe.

The success of the attack has now become even more dubious, as Hamas announced that its Qatar-based leader Khalil al-Hayya performed funeral rites for his "martyred" son Hammam, effectively negating initial rumours that the terror group's chief was killed in the attack.

A security official told

Israel's Channel 12 that majority of the security apparatus was against the attack for similar reasons, deeming it tactically inviable and rash, due to fears over the security of hostages. "The position was clear – there is a deal for the return of the hostages on the table, and the negotiations should be exhausted. Everyone understood the consequences for the hostages and that an operation like this at the current time could harm this possibility," the official said.

As such, the action was opposed by the key figures in Israeli security which include the IDF chief of staff Eyal Zamir, Mossad chief David Barnea and National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi, while Nitzan

Alon, who heads the hostage negotiations was not even invited to the meeting, as it was assumed that he too would be opposed. However, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defence Minister Israel Katz, acting Shin Bet chief known as "Mem," and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer were said to be in favour of the attack, thus forcing the IDF to resort to air strikes. The attack was said to be carried out in conjunction with Jerusalem's domestic intelligence service – the Shin Bet, and was even monitored by their command headquarters. "This time, Mossad was unwilling to do it on the ground," the Washington Post quoted one of the Israelis as saying, adding that the agency viewed Qatar as

an important intermediary in talks with Hamas.

Another Israeli familiar with the dissent from the Mossad questioned Netanyahu's timing. "We can get them in one, two, or four years from now, and the Mossad knows how to do it," he said, referring to the possibility of covertly assassinating Hamas leaders anywhere in the world. "Why do it now?" The attack was also fiercely criticised by the US, with an official confirming that President Donald Trump was far from happy over the initiative, despite supporting its objective, and had grown increasingly frustrated with Netanyahu, even doubting if he had any real intention to negotiate. UNI

PM Modi envisions AI as catalyst for unlocking India's ancient intellectual treasures

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed on the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in revitalizing India's vast repository of digitized ancient manuscripts.

In a profound discourse delivered at the International Conference on Gyan Bharatam, currently underway here yesterday, the Prime Minister asserted, "The integration of new-age technologies such as AI in the study of our digitized manuscripts is not just desirable but imperative."

However, while acknowledging the prevalent apprehensions surrounding the role of AI, he emphatically clarified that this technological marvel

must never supplant human talent or expertise.

"We have to increase the use of new technologies like AI to study these digitized manuscripts. I agree with what was said in the presentation here that AI cannot replace talent or human resources and we also want that it should not be replaced, otherwise we will become victims of new slavery," he cautioned at the conference themed "Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage".

Instead, it is a support system, it strengthens us, boosts our strength, boosts our speed, he added, addressing the gathering of leading scholars, conservationists, technologists and policy experts

from the sector.

Elaborating on AI's remarkable promise, the Prime Minister noted, "With the help of AI, these ancient manuscripts can be understood deeply and can also be analyzed."

He cited the example of Vedic mathematics—many texts remain fragmented and incomplete. "Now see, not all Vedic mathematics texts are available, if we try through AI, then it is possible that many new formulas can be discovered. We can discover them. AI can also be used to bring the knowledge contained in these manuscripts to the world."

"By harnessing AI, we have the potential to unearth novel mathematical formulas hitherto concealed," he said



with optimism.

Further highlighting AI's unifying power, Modi observed that India's manuscripts are dispersed across various regions and epochs, often catalogued disparately.

"Another problem is that our manuscripts are scattered, and presented in different ways, in different periods. The advantage of AI will be that all these can be collected and we can get a very good tool to

extract nectar from it, that if there are things lying at 10 places, then with the help of AI we can bring them together and observe them."

Emphasizing the broader implications, Modi highlighted the economic and cultural ramifications. "It may be that when we connect with human power, it will bring results. There are many difficulties, but there are ways also."

"Today, the world has a cultural and creative industry worth about two and a half trillion dollars. Digitized manuscripts will feed the value chains of this industry. These millions of manuscripts and the ancient information hidden in them will also serve as a huge database. These will give a new push to 'data driv-

en innovation'. This will create new opportunities for the youth in the tech field. As the manuscripts are digitized, new possibilities will be created for academic research," he added.

The conference is being held to deliberate on pathways for revitalising India's unparalleled manuscript wealth and to place it at the heart of a global knowledge dialogue. Rare manuscripts and scholarly presentations on critical areas such as manuscript conservation, digitisation technologies, metadata standards, legal frameworks, cultural diplomacy, and decipherment of ancient scripts are also being showcased at the conference culminating today. UNI

Salt and Buttler Make Opening Case Irrefutable

■ Vithushan Ehantharajah

MANCHESTER: The initial shock of England's score in the second T20I against South Africa is tempered by the numbers at the very top of the order. Phil Salt's unbeaten 141 from 60 balls and Jos Buttler's 83 from 30 went some way to explaining how one Test nation put up 304 for 2 on another.

This was a batter's dream of a fresh Emirates Old Trafford pitch, against a Proteas attack missing the vaunted pair of Lungi Ngidi and Keshav Maharaj. And while head coach Shukri Conrad was less than impressed, the protagonists of the "onslaught" that left his side "bereft of ideas" do at least have previous.

Salt and Buttler's 126 was the 12th century stand by England openers, and they are now responsible for a third of them. They also bagged England their highest powerplay score of a crisp 100 for 0.

And yet, neither were certain to be opening at all in this series having been absent from the top two at the start of the season, for differing reasons. Salt's were personal: he was granted time off for the West Indies series after the birth of his first child. Buttler's, meanwhile, was business, continuing to operate at No.3, a role he had taken on since the 2024 T20 World Cup semi-final defeat to India.

During the 3-0 sweep of West Indies, Ben Duckett and Jamie Smith made compelling cases for their own



partnership. Signing off with 120 in Southampton felt like the start of a new direction.

For Salt, that could have been terminal, not that he wanted to check, believing seeking a guarantee to be "arrogant", and a misunderstanding of the cut-throat nature of top-level, international sport.

Buttler, meanwhile, probably assumed he'd continue out of necessity. He had instigated the move to first drop when captain, to remedy a problem position. Between England's 2022 World Cup success and 2024 exit, five different batters (Dawid Malan, Will Jacks, Jonny Bairstow,

Moeen Ali and, on a single occasion, Buttler) had produced just a single fifty in 20 innings between them.

Having batted at three for 40 matches leading into this series, across international and domestic codes, Buttler was clearly knuckling down for the full-time gig. An average of 55.00 for Harry Brook in the role suggested welcome stability. But with Smith and Duckett rested at the end of a long summer, he and Salt found themselves back up top. And how.

"We've got pretty set roles. It's my job to get us off to as good a start as soon as possible and give Jos the oppor-

tunity to take a couple of balls, because when he does, he goes on and gets a match-winning score, a lot of the time, a lot more than anyone else."

"It's the way we bounce off each other well," Salt explained. "We've got pretty set roles. It's my job to get us off to as good a start as soon as possible and give Jos the opportunity to take a couple of balls, because when he does, he goes on and gets a match-winning score, a lot of the time, a lot more than anyone else."

"When one of us needs to get the other back on strike, we don't often need to communicate out there. There's no ego or anything like that, we just do it and I think that's a massive part of a good opening partnership."

Buttler was similarly effusive at the innings break, lauding his partner's sprint out of the blocks to the tune of three successive fours and a final ball six to take 18 off Marco Jansen's opening over: "I think Salty's one of the best players of the first ball and first over."

ESPNCricinfo

Ganguly, Harbhajan among players to attend AGM

■ Vijay Tagore

NEW DELHI: Apart from regular names like Sourav Ganguly (CAB), Jaydev Shah (Saurashtra), Arun Singh Dhumal (HPCA) and Rajeev Shukla (UPCA), most other members who will participate in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are usual suspects. Harbhajan Singh, of course, stands out as an outlier of sorts in the elite list of state representatives for the general body meeting. As reported earlier, he will represent the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) at the AGM, sparking intense speculation about his prospects as a potential candidate for the top BCCI post. The former India spinner, who played 103 Tests, has remained tight-lipped about his plans, but those close to him suggest his nomination is linked to his proximity to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and not much cannot be read into it.

But it is unlikely the matter ends just with his friendship with the Punjab Chief Minister. It is certain that there is more to it. Apart from Harbhajan and his former India captain Ganguly, the other representatives with national or international playing experience include Jaydev Shah, Raghuram Bhatt (Karnataka), and Mithun Minhas (JKCA).

Rohan Jaitley, son of the late Arun Jaitley - a former BCCI stalwart and a strongman of Delhi cricket, has been nominated by the Delhi District Cricket Association (DDCA). He is believed to be an influential person in the BCCI circle. Former BCCI treasurer Anirudh Chaudhary will represent the Haryana Cricket Association (HCA).

Being nominated by the respective state associations is important considering that only those representatives can contest in the election, scheduled for September 28. There will be election for the posts of president, vice-president, secretary, joint secretary and treasurer and it is almost certain that the secretary Devajit Saikia (Assam), treasurer Prabhtej Singh Bhatia (Chhattisgarh) and joint secretary Rohan Dossa (Goa) will continue in their positions. The big question is who will be the president now that Roger Binny has crossed the age cap of 70 years.

The Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) has sent the name of Scindia's son and newly-elected president Mahanaaryaman Rao Scindia. Among other influential representatives are Sanjay Naik (Mumbai), Rohit Pawar (Maharashtra), P Damodaran (Pondicherry) and Anil Patel (Gujarat).

"The following Draft Electoral Roll lists the names of the entire Representative received from the Full Members of the BCCI through communication sent by them. The names have been listed after checking the completeness of the records as specified in paragraph 3 of the

Electoral Officer's Notice of Election Schedule and Call for Eligible Members to file applications to nominate their Respective Representative dated 06th September, 2025," BCCI electoral officer AK Joti said in his note to the state associations.

Andhra Cricket Association: Sana Sathish Babu

Arunachal Cricket Association: Nabam Vivek

Assam Cricket Association: Devajit Saikia

Baroda Cricket Association: Pranav Amin

Bihar Cricket Association: Rakesh Kumar Tiwary

Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh: Prabhtej Singh Bhatia

Cricket Association of Mizoram: M Khairul Jamal Majumdar

Cricket Association of Pondicherry: P Damodaran

Cricket Association of Uttarakhand: Mahim Verma

Delhi & District Cricket Association: Rohan Jaitley

Goa Cricket Association: Rohan Gauns Dessai

Gujarat Cricket Association: Anil Patel

Haryana Cricket Association: Anirudh Chaudhary

Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association: Arun Singh Dhumal

Hyderabad Cricket Association: Sardar Daljeet Singh

Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association: Mithun Manhas

Jharkhand State Cricket Association: Ajay Nath Shah Deo

Karnataka State Cricket Association: Raghuram Bhatt

Kerala Cricket Association: Jayesh George

Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association: Mahanaaryaman Rao Scindia

Maharashtra Cricket Association: Rohit Rajendra Pawar

Manipur Cricket Association: Rajkumar Ima Singh

Meghalaya Cricket Association: Rayonald Kharkamni

Mumbai Cricket Association: Sanjay Madhukar Naik

Nagaland Cricket Association: Hyunilo Anilo Khing

Odisha Cricket Association: Sanjay Behera

Punjab Cricket Association: Harbhajan Singh

Rajasthan Cricket Association: Dhananjai Singh Khimsar

Saurashtra Cricket Association: Jaydev Niranjan Shah Sikkim

Tamil Nadu Cricket Association: R I Palani

Cricket Association of Bengal: Sourav Ganguly

Tripura Cricket Association: Subrata Dey

Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association: Rajeev Shukla

Vidarbha Cricket Association: Nitesh Upadhyay

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