

Srinagar  
Wednesday  
September 17 | 2025  
23 Rabi ul Awal, 1447 AH  
Issue No: 221  
Volume: 15  
Pages: 12  
Price: Rs 02/-

15TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION  
**HEADLINES TODAY**  
Voice To The Voiceless

**LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS**  
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL **Printing** NEEDS  
DIGITAL | OFFSET | SCREEN | UV  
999038812 9412096614 9412096287  
Radio Colony, Gund Haslibhat, Lalapora Srinagar 190017

**NH-44 BLOCKADE; A CRISIS IN MAKING**

**Gadkari Chairs High-Level Meeting To Review Situation**

Omar Abdullah seeks uninterrupted movement of fruit-laden trucks



■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Amid growing public outrage in Kashmir Valley over the stranding of apple-laden trucks along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44), the Union Government stepped in on Monday to address the escalating crisis. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, chaired a high-level review meeting in New Delhi to assess the situation.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the meeting was attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, his cabinet colleagues, senior bureaucrats from Jammu & Kashmir, and officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Following the meeting, Gadkari reaffirmed the government's commitment to restoring the highway to full operational capacity at the earliest.

● Turn on Page 2

**Over 2200 fruit-laden trucks evacuated in 24 hours: Div Com**

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** In a major relief to fruit growers and traders of valley, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg Tuesday informed that over 2,200 fruit-laden trucks were successfully evacuated via the Mughal Road during the past twenty-four hours.

Taking cognizance of the situation, Div Com undertook a comprehensive visit to Peer Ki Gali Mughal Road to ensure smooth movement of fruit trucks. He also visited Fruit Mandi Aglar, Shopian, where he held detailed interactions with various stakeholders, including fruit growers, traders, transporters, and representatives of the horticulture sector.

During the visit, Div Com reiterated the administration's commitment to prioritizing the movement of fruit-laden trucks.

● Turn on Page 2

**CM Reviews Development of Emerging Tourist Spots in J&K**



■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a meeting to review the development of emerging tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq, MD JKTD Shreya Singhal, Director Tourism Jammu, representatives from BISAG-N, and other concerned officials, both in person and through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister emphasized the need to initiate site-specific Tourism Development for the identified destinations with focus on Master Plan for each destination. He highlighted the importance of creating dedicated solid and liquid waste management systems to ensure environmentally sustainable tourism. He also

● Turn on Page 2

**CM Reviews Telecom & Digital Infrastructure in J&K**

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16 :** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a review meeting on strengthening telecom and digital communications infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, with a particular focus on extending services to far-flung villages, dark zones and railway tunnels.

The meeting, attended by Minister for Information Technology Satish Sharma, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj

● Turn on Page 2

**Branding, packaging of Kashmir Handicrafts hold key to target newer markets**

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, successfully conducted another one-day Capacity Building Programme on Branding and Packaging of famed Kashmir Handicrafts here today.

The programme, which was inaugurated by Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, under the World Bank-aided Raising and Accelerating MSME Perform-



mance (RAMP) programme, of the Government of India.

Deputy Director, Trainings, Mirza Shahid Ali, Senior faculty from Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) were also present on the occasion.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, stated that the session was designed to equip artisans and weavers with practical insights and

● Turn on Page 2

**Govt Determined To Wipe Out Drug Menace: Amit Shah**

■ HT News Network

**NEW DELHI, SEP 16:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the time has come to bring those who run drug trade in India by sitting abroad and stressed that the Narendra Modi government is determined to wipe out all kinds of narcotics from the nation.

Addressing the second national



conference of heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of states and Union territories, he also said that strict action is being taken against drugs cartels which are smuggling and selling drugs 'pudiya' (small packets) in 'paan' shops or kiosks. Shah said a triangular strategy has to be adopted in the fight against drugs.

"For the drug supply chain, we

● Turn on Page 2

**Conviction In Terror And Narcotics Cases Must Improve: IGP Kashmir**

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, V.K. Birdi on Tuesday directed officers to step up night patrolling, strengthen investigations, and keep strict watch on anti-national elements.

He told senior officers including SSPs and DIGs that police must build robust cases to ensure higher conviction rates in terrorism and narcotics-related cases, while also enhancing market checking to prevent unlawful activities.

IGP Birdi chaired a security review meeting at PCR Kashmir to assess the prevailing security situation across the Kashmir Zone.

The meeting was attended by all Range DIsG, district SSSP

● Turn on Page 2

**Parl Panel Visits Pahalgam to Discuss Tourism Revival Post-Attack**

■ HT News Network

**PAHALGAM, SEP 16:** Parliamentary Committee on Commerce delegation led by its Chairperson, Dola Sen, interacted with stakeholders in Pahalgam on Tuesday to review the challenges faced by the tourism sector in the aftermath of the terror attack in April earlier this year.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Sen, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the committee has been touring different parts of Jammu and Kashmir to assess the ground situation.

"We are here in Pahalgam today after meeting stakeholders in Srinagar yesterday, and tomorrow we will be in Leh to continue the discussions. Our primary objective is to understand the concerns of

● Turn on Page 2

**Rotten meat sellers face jail, fines, licences at risk**

■ HT News Network

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Rotten meat sellers in Kashmir are facing harsh legal action under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 and the Food Safety and Standards Act, with authorities treating the offence as a direct crime against public health rather than a routine market violation.

Police have begun invoking multiple provisions of the new penal code that bring both custodial sentences and financial penalties into play.

A police official said that under the BNS, the sale of meat known to be noxious or unfit for consumption is punishable with imprisonment that may extend to six months along with fine. Where traders are found negligent in allowing such stock to reach consumers, they may be booked under sections dealing with negligent acts likely to spread infection.

● Turn on Page 2

**Fogging In Jammu As Threat Of Dengue, Malaria Looms**

■ HT News Network

**JAMMU, SEPT 16:** While the cleanliness and sanitation drive post-floods is in full swing, fogging has also been intensified in all municipal and non-municipal areas as threat of dengue and malaria loom in the affected areas of Jammu.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation and State Malaria Control Office of Jammu Health Department have jointly initiated the exercise of fogging and spraying in the flood-affected areas to control the rise in the water-borne and vector-borne diseases.

Dhruv Ji Raina, Malariologist, Jammu Health department said, "Compared to the last year, dengue cases in Jammu are fewer, but to prevent its rise, several measures are being taken by various departments."

Sharing details, the officer said that up to September 14 this year, 437 cumulative cases were reported from across the Jammu and Kashmir with highest 147 in Jammu district.

In 2024, he said that the cases up to this period were 677 and Jammu remained the hotspot with highest 377 cases.

"We are making efforts along with the JMC to ascertain the cause of dengue and other water-borne and vector-borne diseases and also following all the guidelines and measures to prevent its spread particularly in the flood-affected areas," said Dr Raina.

Sharing the district-wise break-up up to September 14 this year, he said that Jammu reported highest 147 cases followed

● Turn on Page 2

**Villages In Jammu Hills Face Land Subsidence; Over 3,000 Forced To Leave Homes**

■ HT News Network

**TANGAR, SEP 16:** People living in majestic Pir Panjal and Shivalik ranges in Jammu region built their dream homes believing the mountains would shelter them, but now they are forced to leave their villages which have started "sinking" due to land subsidence caused by heavy rains. Eleven villages in Ramban, Reasi, Jammu, and Poonch are facing a Uttarakhand's Joshimath-like sinking crisis since September 5, as

cracks have appeared in houses, fertile fields are disappearing and families are fleeing their ancestral homes in fear and uncertainty.

More than 3,000 people have been forced to leave their homes in these villages, officials said.

Land sinking in Ramban district's Tangar village near the Sawalakot hydel project has damaged 22 to 25 houses and a government high school, while 140 more houses across a four-kilometre area are at risk. "It was a bolt from the blue for us.

First, we lived under fear and terror due to the threat of cloudburst, flash floods, and landslides caused by heavy rains at the end of August. This was followed by sudden cracks in our houses and subsequent damage to most homes here," said Ravi Kumar, a resident of Tangar.

Ravi, whose family now lives in a tent fearing house collapse, said they have nowhere to stay. "Winters are coming, and the entire area is unsafe. The

● Turn on Page 2

**'CHICKENPOX OUTBREAKS IN BARAMULLA SCHOOLS'**

Minister Sakina Itoo assures preventive measures, urges people not to panic

■ HT News Network

**BARAMULLA, SEP 16:** Minister for Education and Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, on Tuesday said that authorities were on alert to ensure the disease does not spread further.

"I have already directed the concerned authorities to take all preventive

measures. We want to ensure that this disease does not spread to other students," Itoo told news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS).

She appealed to people not to panic, stating that chickenpox is curable and timely treatment is being provided.

Panic has gripped several schools in north Kashmir's Baramulla district after more than 75 students reported symptoms of chickenpox, prompting health and education authorities to step in and monitor the situation closely.

According to ZEO Kunzar, Ilhaq Masoodi, over 75 students from

● Turn on Page 2

**CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

**Gadkari Chairs.....**

"We are determined to restore this vital national highway to full strength at the earliest, ensuring safety and convenience for all road users," Gadkari stated in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

He added that NHAI teams are working tirelessly to keep the highway functional despite relentless rains and a major landslide.

"A two-lane temporary diversion has been built, and traffic movement has resumed. Over a dozen excavators and more than 50 earthmovers are deployed round the clock for clearing and repairs," he said.

An official spokesperson said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah urged the Union Minister to ensure uninterrupted passage for heavy vehicles. Omar emphasized that while road maintenance and blacktopping are important, they should not come at the cost of prolonged disruption to vital traffic movement.

"Blacktopping can wait for its turn. But large vehicles, especially 4-axle and 5-axle trucks, cannot be diverted through the Mughal Road. This is the only viable route for them. With a huge number of trucks stranded on the Kashmir side alone, clearing this backlog is crucial," the Chief Minister said.

The CM further said that the fruit season is at its peak, and continued delays in transportation are causing significant losses to growers and traders.

He stressed that while small vehicles could be diverted, NH-44 must remain open for heavy traffic until all stranded vehicles are cleared. He recommended that blacktopping work be undertaken only after the backlog is fully addressed.

Union Minister Gadkari assured the Chief Minister that his concerns would be taken into account.

According to an official handout, Gadkari said the backlog of trucks and other heavy vehicles will be cleared on priority before resuming blacktopping activities.

The Chief Minister also directed the Chief Secretary to ensure lane discipline and regulate traffic on the highway to facilitate smooth clearance.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that as an interim measure, the government has proposed a traffic management plan allowing heavy vehicles to move in one direction while permitting light vehicles from the opposite side.

When contacted, the General Manager and Regional Officer of NHAI, Jammu, stated that soiling work is being carried out on a 300-metre stretch at Tahard in Udhampur.

"We have to carry out soiling repeatedly because intermittent rains keep affecting the surface," he said, adding that blacktopping will commence once the weather improves.

Minister for Agriculture Production and Horticulture, Javid Dar, said that while traffic flow has improved, full restoration will take time.

"The one-way movement of heavy motor vehicles will help in clearing stranded apple trucks," he said, adding that the government is continuously monitoring the situation.

Inspector General of Police (Traffic), M. Suleman Choudhary, announced that heavy motor vehicles will be allowed to move from Srinagar to Jammu on Wednesday (September 16).

"We are hopeful of clearing the stranded fruit-laden trucks en route to Jammu," he said, adding that 2800 trucks were cleared via the Mughal Road over the past two days.

He said that movement of fruit-laden trucks has been consistently allowed for two consecutive days on the Mughal Road.

"We used to allow traffic only in one direction on the Mughal Road. But to clear the stranded apple-laden trucks, we permitted traffic from Srinagar to Jammu on this route on Monday and Tuesday," he said—(KNO)

**Over 2200.....**

trucks, along with ensuring the uninterrupted supply of fuel and essential commodities to the valley. He emphasized that coordinated efforts between civil administration and security agencies led to the swift clearance of the fruit vehicles, bringing much-needed respite to the horticulture community.

Expressing appreciation for the prompt action, President of the Fruit Growers & Traders Association, Mohammad Ashraf extended gratitude to the Chief Secretary J&K for his timely & prompt intervention and directions, which facilitated the smooth transportation process.

Div Com also urged all stakeholders to adhere to traffic regulations and designated movement timings to maintain order and ensure continuous flow along the Mughal Road. He further noted that restoration work on the National Highway (NH) is being carried out on a war footing to enhance connectivity.

During the visit, he was accompanied by Director FCS&CA, Owais Ahmad; Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta; SSP Shopian, Anayat Ali; SSP Traffic, and other senior officials from the district administration, BRO, and traffic departments.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch and SSP Poonch also joined Div Com during the visit to oversee coordination from the other end of the route.

**CM Reviews.....**

underlined the need to have Project Management Unit in place with adequate staff to strengthen institutional mechanism. He called

upon Tourism Department to furnish the proposals for cabinet approval in earnest.

The Chief Minister further stressed the importance of establishing multi-tiered coordination among tourism authorities, local bodies, line departments and between J&K Government and Government of India to ensure smooth execution of projects as per time lines.

On the occasion, a presentation was given on the tourism potential of emerging destinations and the employment opportunities they could generate for local youth.

The Chief Minister urged the concerned departments to ensure that while developing emerging destinations, a careful balance is maintained between Economy, Ecology, and Equity (the 3E principle).

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched the Tourism App which would help tourists and all interested to explore J&K tourism destinations, facilities available and host of other relevant information.

**CM Reviews.....**

Gupta, several Administrative Secretaries, and officials of BSNL, discussed the status of ongoing projects and the challenges delaying their execution.

Underlining the significance of connectivity as a bridge to progress, the Chief Minister said robust mobile and internet services are essential for effective governance, quality education, accessible healthcare, vibrant tourism and overall public welfare.

Officials from BSNL briefed the meeting on the progress of the Amended BharatNet Project (ABP) Phase-III, which aims to deliver high-speed internet to Gram Panchayats and rural areas. The Chief Minister directed that strict timelines be maintained and stressed the need for priority coverage of uncovered and remote habitations.

During the discussions, several issues were highlighted which require the intervention of the Government for timely completion of projects. These included early allotment of land for installation of telecom towers and equipment, and the expeditious grant of Right of Way permissions by departments such as R&B, PMGSY, BRO, and Forests for the laying of optical fibre cables.

The need for uninterrupted services was also emphasized, with a focus on providing electricity connections to all Gram Panchayats to operationalize BharatNet, implementing centralized billing and smart metering systems, and ensuring the availability and functionality of Panchayat or alternate government buildings where digital services are to be hosted.

Assuring full support from the government, the Chief Minister said: "Digital empowerment of our villages and towns is a cornerstone of inclusive growth. We are committed to ensuring that no part of Jammu and Kashmir remains disconnected—whether it is a remote hamlet, a dark zone, or a railway tunnel."

The Chief Minister directed BSNL and concerned government departments to work in close coordination, resolve bottlenecks swiftly, and ensure timely delivery of connectivity projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

**Branding.....**

strategies for effective product branding and modern packaging, which are the critical components in enhancing market reach and competitiveness in both domestic and international markets. "The training was conducted by experts and faculty from the JKEDI, who shared hands-on guidance, case studies, and design approaches," he added.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 100 trainees, artisans and producers, particularly those engaged in G.I./ODOP/DEH products. The programme aimed to empower grassroots craft producers by introducing them to evolving consumer preferences, branding tools, and value-added packaging techniques.

This initiative is part of a broader series of capacity-building efforts under RAMP scheme, aimed at strengthening MSMEs and the artisan community of Kashmir by improving product positioning and market access.

**Govt Determined.....**

should have a ruthless approach, a strategic approach in demand reduction, and a human approach in harm reduction. The ANTF should move forward with these three approaches," he said. The two-day conference, organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), began here on Tuesday.

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of 2047 to make India a fully developed and great nation. To achieve this, the country has to be fully secure, he said.

"The Modi government is determined to wipe out the drug menace from the country and is making all-out efforts to achieve this goal," Shah said.

"PM Modi has set forth the vision of creating an India by 2047 that will be the world's number one in every aspect and fully developed — a nation secure enough that no one can penetrate. For this, our youth are the biggest hope, and if they are determined, nothing is impossible, as they are the foundation of any nation," he said.

Shah said the time has come to bring those people within the ambit of the law who sit abroad and run the drug trade in the country.

"The CBI has done very good work for this. I appeal to all heads of the ANTF that with the help of the CBI, they should make the arrangement for the extradition of fugitives here. This will not only

help in breaking the narcotics gangs but also terrorism gangs too," he said.

The home minister said action is also being taken against those involved in the retail trade of drugs.

"Strict action is being taken against those cartels operating at all entry points of the country, cartels distributing from entry points to states, and cartels operating at the level of making and selling drugs 'pudiya' up to 'paan; shops or kiosks," he said.

Shah said the time has come to deal a big blow to these three types of cartels.

"I believe that it can happen only when the officers responsible for working against drugs decide to take strong action against them," he said.

According to Shah, in some parts of the world, people have seen the link between a nation's development and the challenge of drug abuse. "Unfortunately, two of the regions from where drugs are supplied globally are very close to us. So this is the time that we fight against it strongly."

The home minister said it is very important to save the young generation from drugs to achieve the goal of a fully developed India as the foundation of any great state is its young generation.

He said during the previous UPA government tenure, drugs worth Rs 40,000 crore were seized, whereas under the NDA government, over the past 10 years, drugs worth Rs 1,65,000 crore have been seized, which is a very significant achievement.

"But making numbers in the fight against drugs is not our goal. Our goal is to build an India where the need to create such numbers doesn't even arise. This will be possible through a top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top approach," he said.

Referring to the 'Narcotics-Free India' campaign carried out by the NCB, Shah said it has a decisive role for ANTF.

"Until every district, police of every district and the education officer of every district become sensitive towards this campaign, this campaign cannot be successful," he said.

At the event, Shah also set in motion the process of destroying 1.37 lakh kg of narcotic substances worth Rs 4,794 crore seized in different parts of the country.

On Monday, Shah said the Modi government was determined to eradicate the menace of drugs by uniting all ANTFs. He also released the NCB's annual report 2024.

The NCB has been actively coordinating with the GST department, state drug controllers, Income Tax authorities and financial institutions to uncover the full extent of the drug diversion network. (Agencies)

**Conviction In.....**

of Kashmir Zone, and other senior officers. During the meeting, Range DIsG and SSSP briefed the IGP on the law & order scenario in their respective districts.

IGP emphasized the need to strengthen investigations, build stronger cases to improve conviction rates in narcotics and terrorism-related matters, and establish effective follow-up mechanisms for successful prosecutions.

He directed officers to intensify area domination, conduct night patrolling in sensitive areas and maintain strict surveillance on anti-national elements (ANEs). V.K. Birdi also stressed the need to enhance market checking to prevent unlawful activities.

Concluding the meeting, V.K. Birdi reaffirmed J&K Police's commitment to maintain peace and security in the region and urged officers to ensure transparency, accountability, and timely resolution of cases to safeguard citizens' rights. (KNC)

**Parl Panel Visits.....**

all stakeholders and prepare a comprehensive report that will be submitted to the concerned ministries and higher authorities of both the Union and the local government," she said.

The Chairperson acknowledged the tragic loss of innocent lives in the recent incident, calling it an unfortunate event that has deeply saddened the nation. "While we share the grief of the victims' families, we are also determined to ensure that such incidents do not permanently derail the growth of tourism and commerce in Jammu and Kashmir," she said.

Sen said the committee is committed to acting as a catalyst for the revival of commerce and tourism in the region. "We have a duty and responsibility to stand with the people of Kashmir. That is why we are on the ground today—to see the reality for ourselves. Based on our observations, a time-bound policy will be framed to restore confidence among tourists and revive the economy as early as possible," she added.

Reiterating the delegation's solidarity with the people of the valley, the delegation chairperson assured that every effort is being made to bring back normalcy and encourage tourists to visit Kashmir. "We are optimistic and confident that with collective efforts, the negative impact on commerce and tourism can be overcome. We are people's representatives, and we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this difficult time," she said.

The meeting in Pahalgam saw participation from local hoteliers, travel agents, traders, and representatives of the tourism industry, who highlighted the urgent need for confidence-building measures, improved infrastructure, and safety assurances to revive tourist inflow in the valley—(KNO)

**Rotten meat.....**

In cases where evidence points to deliberate or malicious sale of contaminated meat, the offence attracts a harsher sentence of up to two years' imprisonment besides monetary penalty.

Investigators have also used the provision relating to vitiating the atmosphere, noting that rotting meat in godowns and shops creates conditions injurious to community health. In instances where an organized network of suppliers and shopkeepers is suspected, charges of criminal conspiracy have been pressed, making not only retailers but also wholesalers equally liable.

Beyond the criminal sections, the Food Safety and Standards Act provides for monetary penalties running into lakhs of rupees, cancellation of licences and immediate destruction of unsafe stock. Once destroyed under official supervision, the seized meat cannot return to circulation. Repeat offenders may face permanent exclusion from the food trade.

The official added that those accused will not escape with minor fines but could face jail terms, heavy financial loss, loss of licences and long-term reputational damage. (KNT)

**Fogging In.....**

by 130 in Kathua, 51 in Samba, 47 in Udhampur, 27 in Rajouri, nine in Reasi, eight each in Ramban and Poonch, six in Doda and lowest four in Kishtwar.

He stated that community participation and awareness were also mandatory to prevent the spread of the disease in the flood-hit areas by controlling the water stagnation, by avoiding dumping of plastic items, and by cleaning water containers.

Dr Raina further said that the JMC and the Health Department have also issued a schedule for fogging and spraying.

This year, dengue has claimed the life of an adult male from Rehari locality of Jammu, who succumbed on June 29 while being shifted from a private hospital to the neighbouring state.

More than 9,000 dengue tests have been carried out across Jammu and Kashmir this year and in the same period in 2024, 539 cases had been confirmed out of 8,500 tests done.

The Malarialogist further added that the Health Department and the Jammu Municipal Corporation have launched an aggressive fogging in the city area, adding, "two rounds have been completed, the first in June-July and the second between September 2 and 12."

The third round, he said, has started from September 13 and will cover both residential and commercial belts.

Amid post-flood challenges, Commissioner Jammu Dr Devansh Yadav has appealed to the people of Jammu to remain cautious and adopt preventive measures as several areas continue to recover from the aftermath of recent floods.

He emphasized that flood-hit regions are highly vulnerable to outbreaks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, and immediate action is necessary to protect public health.

"The ongoing season poses an increased risk of mosquito-borne diseases including dengue and chikungunya, which are more likely to spread in areas with accumulated stagnant water," he said, instructing all residents to ensure the safety of their drinking water.

Residents are also urged to maintain their surroundings by removing stagnant water from rooftops, courtyards and nearby drains as such areas provide ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, he added.

He said to facilitate public health services and immediate assistance, the Health Department has activated the 104 helpline number that will provide guidance and address any health-related queries from residents.

He said the Jammu Municipal Corporation has intensified its efforts to conduct fogging and spraying activities across all civic wards to control mosquito breeding and minimize the risk of vector-borne diseases. (Agencies)

**Villages In Jammu.....**

village may vanish as the land keeps sinking and cracks widen daily." Similarly, Anil Kumar, who had entered his new house on January 1, 2024, said they are going to leave the village and shift to a safer place as their house is unsafe due to multiple cracks in it.

"The house was built with hard-earned money after years of toil and labour. Now the dream house is lost. It can fall any time as the cracks are widening," he said.

Sunil Kumar, an engineer from the village, said that this catastrophe, first seen in Joshimath, is now affecting several villages, including Tangar, with similar land subsidence, cracks, and damage.

Ramban MLA Arjun Singh Raju, Deputy Commissioner Ilyas Khan and other officials visited the site Saturday to assess the damage.

Khan said a vast area is "sinking", with many houses developing cracks. "Schools

are closed, and displaced residents are housed in NHPC quarters. The situation is under close watch." In the Shivalik range of Ramban district, land subsidence has been displacing hundreds of mountain dwellers for years. On April 26, 2024, Pernote village suffered a major collapse, damaging 58 houses and forcing 500 residents to evacuate. The Sangaldan area in the district also faced land subsidence few years ago.

A grave situation is unfolding in the Pir Panjal and Shivalik ranges as land subsidence devastated several villages like Kalaban of Poonch, Khari, Rah Salyote, and Barimini of Jammu, Sarh and Jamslan of Reasi, Panjnara and Badhaal of Rajouri, Piyas of Kishtwar and Jamoda of Samba.

Kalaban village in Mendhar tehsil, near the LoC, faced land subsidence on September 11, impacting over 1,000 people and damaging over 95 houses, a graveyard, and a mosque. Residents have been relocated to safer shelters.

"Village may disappear as it is sinking. Our homes are buried. What was once a lively nallah is now dry, and the river has vanished. We believe this is the main cause of the land subsidence," said Rafeeq Ahmed, a local resident.

After the subsidence began, joint teams of the Army, SDRF, and police evacuated 700 families and provided tents and ration supplies to them.

The tragedy is seen as man-made, as villagers put blame on poor planning and neglect of ecology.

"Roads lack proper drainage in these fragile hills. Only the Almighty can now save us," said Rafeeq, living in a tent with six family members.

Another resident Bano Begum called the situation catastrophic, saying "we once fed our families from our homes and land, but now everything has sunk into the nallah." She added, "Nearly 100 houses and 1,000 kanals of land are affected, and a perennial spring has vanished, likely triggering the disaster." Yasir, a local labourer, said "we live on the roads, feeding our children in fear. We need relocation and safer plots to rebuild our village. How can we live in terror, fearing the land will swallow us next?" Minister Javed Rana, who visited the area on Sunday, said "the government has ordered temporary settlements, immediate relief, and a proposal for permanent resettlement for them".

The story is not different in the rest of hamlets facing Joshimath-like situation, which has forced over 3,000 to 3,500 people to abandon their homes.

In Reasi's Sarh and Jamslan, 70 houses were damaged by land sinking, with Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik confirming that all residents have been safely evacuated to relief camps.

Shamsher Din of Jamslan said light cracks appeared days earlier, but overnight the ground sank three-four feet, collapsing their house. "We managed to move to a safer place," he said.

Authorities are consulting geological and mining experts to determine the cause of land subsidence. A team of experts will soon inspect the site, officials said. Due to the land subsidence, several roads in the area have caved-in, disrupting connectivity. It has also damaged agricultural fields. (Agencies)

**'Chickenpox.....**

various schools have shown symptoms of the contagious disease. "Today, 10 students were found positive at Krishama and all have been isolated. However, schools where cases have been reported are functioning normally. We are taking all preventive measures," he told KINS.

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Baramulla, Peerzada Bashir Ahmad Shah, confirmed that 40 students at Turkpora, 23 students at Khonchipora, and three students at another school were found with symptoms.

"Soon after the matter was brought to our notice, we informed the health department. Medical teams were deputed immediately, and they advised that symptomatic students should be isolated at home while their classwork remains suspended," Shah said.

He said that the education department is in constant touch with health authorities. "Initially, the infected children developed high fever followed by rashes on the skin, but after medication, the symptoms reduced," Shah noted.

Health officials have urged parents to remain vigilant and seek timely medical attention if their children show signs such as fever, rashes, or itching. They also advised avoiding overcrowding in schools and following preventive measures to contain the outbreak.

Meanwhile, anxious parents and local residents have appealed to authorities to intensify monitoring and provide adequate medical facilities in the affected areas, fearing the infection could spread further if not controlled in time.

Chickenpox, a highly contagious viral disease, primarily affects children but can cause complications in adults. Doctors have advised infected students to remain at home until full recovery to prevent transmission.



## Javed Rana chairs FDCL's Board meeting in Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Minister for Forests, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana today chaired the Board meeting of Forest Development Corporation Limited (FDCL) here today.

The Board, during the meeting held detailed deliberations on key administrative, financial and strategic matters concerning the Corporation's operations and future trajectory.

During the course of the meeting, the Board approved the proposal to outsource human resources for FDCL in order to enhance operational efficiency and streamline work-

force management.

The Balance Sheet for the financial year 2023-24 was also formally approved by Board after thorough review, reflecting the Corporation's financial performance and progress over the past year.

In connection with SRO-43 cases, the Board agreed for adoption of the RAS and directed the Managing Director to submit a comprehensive analytical report outlining its potential impact and implementation framework.

Further, the addition of new members to the Board was given formal approval, with a view to bringing in fresh perspectives and expertise to sup-



port FDCL's evolving role.

The Board also took significant strategic decision to diversify the functional scope of FDCL.

The Board agreed in principle to explore potential ventures in allied sectors such as ecotourism and creation of commercial assets under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. In this regard, the Managing Director was tasked to prepare and submit a detailed project report to assess viability and roadmap for execution.

To ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Corporation, the Managing Director was also directed to

proactively identify and develop revenue-generating avenues that would help stabilise and strengthen FDCL's economic health.

Additionally, in order to protect the Corporation's legal and financial interests, the Board directed the Managing Director to pursue all pending court cases with renewed focus and urgency.

The Board emphasised on shared commitment towards repositioning FDCL as a dynamic, self-sustaining public sector entity, aligned with the broader goals of sustainable forest management, ecological conservation and economic development.

### Bandipora Police Attach Property of Drug Peddler under NDPS Act

■ Aashiq Hussain

**BANDIPORA, SEP 16:** In a major action against drug peddling, Bandipora Police has attached a residential house belonging to an accused involved in a narcotics case.

The property—a concrete house worth approximately ₹13.34 lakh—constructed at Nowpora, was owned by Mohd Imran Khan, son of Gh Ahmad Khan, resident of Nowpora. The attachment was carried out



in connection with case FIR No. 117/25 under section 8/21 of the NDPS Act of Police Station Bandipora.

The attachment was made under the provisions of Section 68(E) read with Section 68(F) of the NDPS Act, which empowers authorities to seize and freeze illegally acquired property of drug offenders.

This significant step reflects the firm resolve of Bandipora Police in its ongoing war against the drug menace, ensuring that those indulging in the illegal trade not only face criminal prosecution but also lose their ill-got assets.

The public has widely appreciated the timely and bold action of Bandipora Police, which continues to show zero tolerance towards drug trafficking and remains committed to safeguarding the youth and society from this menace.

### District Kulgam to Host Sewa Parv from September 17 to October 2

■ Farooq Rather

**KULGAM, SEP 16:** District Kulgam is set to observe Sewa Parv from September 17 to October 2, 2025, as part of a nationwide initiative to promote the values of service, volunteerism, and active community participation.

The fortnight-long celebration will witness a wide range of activities across the district, including cleanliness drives, plantation campaigns, awareness

programmes, health check-up camps, blood donation drives, cultural events, and various outreach initiatives aimed at community upliftment.

Special emphasis will be laid on the dissemination of government welfare schemes and motivating citizens to actively engage in developmental and welfare-oriented programmes. The observance aims to foster a culture of public service and shared responsibility among all sections of



society.

All government departments, educational institutions, and local

bodies in Kulgam have been directed to organize activities under the overarching theme of public service and community empowerment. The campaign will also involve students, youth clubs, women's groups, and civil society organizations to ensure inclusive and widespread participation.

To ensure the smooth execution of Sewa Parv activities, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), has

chaired a series of coordination meetings with officers, departmental heads, and stakeholders. The DC emphasized the importance of inter-departmental collaboration and grassroots-level outreach to make the campaign impactful and meaningful.

The Sewa Parv will culminate on October 2, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti, reinforcing the Gandhian ideals of community service and collective well-being.

### Veteran Senior Trade Leader Mohammad Sadiq Baqal Condoles The Sad Demise Of Cousin Brother's Wife

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Veteran senior trade leader Mohammad Sadiq Baqal has expressed his deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Mrs. Jawaihra, wife of Late Atta Mohammad Baqal, one of the owners of the renowned Jahangir Hotel Srinagar.

In his condolence message, Mohammad Sadiq Baqal said "I am deeply grieved at the passing away of Mrs. Jawaihra, a noble, pious and respected woman who was known for her humility, generosity and gentle nature. She devoted her life to her family and was a source of love, guidance and strength for all around her. Her loss is not only irreparable for the Baqal family but also for everyone

who knew her and cherished her company. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to her sons, especially Imtiyaz Ahmad Baqal and Iftikhar Ahmad Baqal, in this hour of immense grief."

Remembering the departed soul, he added "She was a great woman who always upheld family values, cared for relatives and neighbors and was remembered for her simplicity and kind-heartedness. Her dignified life and the values she instilled in her children will always remain a shining legacy."

Offering special prayers, Sadiq Baqal said "I pray to Almighty Allah (SWT) to grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, forgive her shortcomings and bless her with eternal peace. May Allah also grant patience,

courage and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this unbearable loss. Aameen."

He further stated that in this moment of sorrow, the entire business fraternity and close associates of the Baqal family stand united in offering condolences and solidarity. He emphasized that the vacuum created by her demise will be difficult to fill, but her memories and good deeds will continue to inspire generations.

Concluding his message, Mohammad Sadiq Baqal said "On behalf of myself and our extended family, I once again express my deep condolences to all members of the Baqal family, especially her sons Imtiyaz Ahmad Baqal and Iftikhar Ahmad Baqal. May Allah grant her maghfirat and sabr to the family". (NTK)

### JKPCC Celebrates World Ozone Day & Clean Air for Blue Skies Day at Pampore

■ HT News Desk

**PULWAMA, SEP 16:** J&K Pollution Control Committee (JK PCC) Pulwama celebrated World Ozone Day 2025 and Clean Air for Blue Skies Day in a combined event held at DMPS School, Konibal Pampore. The celebration, themed "From Science to Global Action", highlighted the journey from critical scientific discoveries to impactful global cooperation under the Montreal Protocol.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 60 students who showcased their talent and environmental awareness through debates and skits focusing on two pressing environmental issues: ozone layer protection and the need for clean air. The students' performances highlighted the importance of sustainable lifestyles, the harmful impacts of ozone-depleting substances, and the urgent need for cleaner air to combat climate change and health hazards.

JK PCC Pulwama's decision to jointly observe both World Ozone Day and Clean Air for Blue Skies

### Highway Closure Bleeding Kashmir's Economy, Says Molvi Imran Ansari

■ Ubaid Mehdi

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Senior General Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) and President of the All J&K Shia Association, Molvi Imran Ansari, on Tuesday expressed grave concern over the prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, calling it a crippling blow to Kashmir's economy and livelihoods.

In a strongly worded statement issued on social media, Ansari said the highway—blocked since August 26 due to landslides and flash floods—is Kashmir's "economic backbone."

Thousands of trucks carrying apples and essential supplies are stranded, causing losses of ₹600-700 crore to orchard owners already. This is not politics, this is livelihoods at stake," he remarked.

Taking a dig at the National Conference (NC) leadership, Ansari questioned the silence of its recently elected Members of Parliament.

Why hold press conferences in Srinagar? Why not go to Delhi, use your seats in Parliament, sit in protest if needed, and push for urgent action? Passing the ball back and forth is not leadership," he said.

Ansari urged both the Centre and the J&K government to move beyond statements and take immediate measures,



including air cargo services, expanded railway use, and alternative road links to safeguard Kashmir's economy.

Our farmers are crying, our transporters are stuck, and our shopkeepers are struggling. Enough of statements. It is time for action," he stressed.

The Srinagar-Jammu highway has remained closed for over three weeks, leaving the Valley cut off from vital supplies and markets. Fruit growers, particularly apple farmers, are among the worst hit, with mounting losses reported across the sector.

### Sewa Parv-2025: Ganderbal to Host Fortnight of Service & Awareness

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**GANDERBAL, SEP 16:** As the nation prepares to mark Sewa Parv from September 17 to October 2, district administration Ganderbal has finalized an extensive schedule of activities designed to promote community service, inclusivity, and awareness across the district.

The celebrations will kick-off with a mega Swachhta Drive from the Mini Secretariat on Wednesday. Similar cleanliness campaigns will simultaneously unfold across all panchayats, ensuring that villages and localities actively participate in the movement. District administration has chalked a holistic calendar of events touching nearly every sector including health, education, social welfare, environment, and digital inclusion.

Healthcare will be in sharp focus, with the Health department conducting blood donation camps, health check-up camps, and screening drives.

School Education, Higher Education, and Central University of Kashmir (CUK) are organizing donation drives to aid the needy, alongside painting competitions, school beautification activities, and textbook and stationery distributions.



Plantation drives are scheduled in schools, Amrit Sarovars, and across panchayats, contributing to greener spaces for future generations.

In line with the government's vision of a digitally empowered society, the district will also host digital literacy and capacity-building camps to promote digital inclusion and enhance access to online services.

From disaster management awareness programmes to sports activities, the district is striving to involve citizens of all age groups in constructive and engaging ways. Special campaigns will be launched to popularize flagship schemes such as PMJJBY, APY, PMJDY, PMSBY, and Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan, ensuring that benefits reach the grassroots.



Day emphasized the interconnectedness of atmospheric protection and air quality, promoting a more holistic approach to environmental stewardship.

The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where Er. Bilal Ahmad Khan, the Chief Guest, praised the students for their creativity, awareness, and commitment to environmental causes. He emphasized the importance of youth involvement in environmental protection and applauded JKPCC's efforts in nurturing such awareness at the grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion, Er. Bilal remarked, "Events like these are essential in transforming scientific understanding into local action. The enthusiasm displayed by these young minds gives us hope for a cleaner, healthier planet."

The celebration served not only as a tribute to the global success of the Montreal Protocol but also as a call to action for continued efforts in improving air quality and safeguarding the Earth's ozone layer.

# Rana reviews measures to address water woes in Habbakadal constituency

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmed Rana today convened a meeting with senior officials of the Jal Shakti Department to address the ongoing water supply challenges in Habbakadal Constituency and its adjoining areas.

During the meeting, Rana emphasized the need for urgent and sustained interventions to improve water distribution and service delivery.

He directed officials to prepare and implement a structured water supply roster aimed at ensuring timely and predictable distribution of water supply to all areas within the constituency.

To provide immediate relief in water-stressed areas, the Minister directed to install ten new hand



pumps, particularly in localities where piped water supply remains inconsistent.

The Minister also underscored the importance of upgrading

critical water infrastructure, including ageing pipelines, pump stations, and filtration systems.

Rana reaffirmed the Omar Abdullah Government's commit-

ment to strengthen water services and infrastructure across Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in urban areas like Habbakadal facing supply constraints.

Officials were instructed to identify existing bottlenecks and submit a phase wise plan for infrastructure modernization to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply system.

The meeting also agreed on the construction of a new water reservoir in Habbakadal, aimed at enhancing storage capacity and bolster the area's water security.

In response to the damage caused by recent floods, the Minister also directed immediate desiltation and restoration of the ghats at Nawakadal and Alikadal.

During the meeting, MLA Habbakadal, Shamim Firdous conveyed the concerns of the local residents, particularly in light of recurring water shortages and the damage to water infrastructure caused by recent floods.

## JKJA organizes Technical Training Programme on Strengthening digital capacity within the judicial system

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy (JKJA), under the guidance of the Governing Committee, organized a one-day technical training programme on strengthening digital capacity within the judicial system.

The sessions were chaired by Anoop Sharma, Registrar IT, and Sonia Gupta, Director, JKJA and brought together senior experts from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Pune who delivered comprehensive sessions on critical components of the e-Courts Project.

The training emphasised on modernising case management systems, data monitoring, and digital filing processes, with the objective of equipping staff with updated technical skills essential for effective integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in judicial functioning.

The programme commenced with address by Jagdish Chhailkar, Scientist-F, who introduced participants to the upgraded features of Case Information System (CIS 4.0) and explained how its advanced functionalities can streamline court procedures and improve accessibility.

This was followed by Ashish Shiradhonkar, HOD COEE and Scientist-F, who spoke on the e-Courts Project, outlining its nationwide implementation and impact on ensuring uniformity and efficiency across courts.

In the subsequent session, Bharati Jadhav, Scientist-D, delivered a presentation on Data Centre operations, Virtual Machines, and Replication systems, stressing their importance for ensuring security, reliability, and continuity of judicial data.

Munishwar Bajolia, Scientist-D, then addressed the gathering on e-Filing and the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), highlighting the role of these platforms in enhancing transparency, speeding up case processing, and enabling seamless coordination between courts, police, and other justice sector institutions.

This was followed by a session conducted by Amol Avinash, OIC-Infra and Scientist-F, who spoke on NJDG Intra, establishment tagging, JSON import, and data monitoring tools. He emphasized how these digital solutions support real-time analytics and enable better management of judicial resources.

The concluding technical session was conducted jointly by Wasim Khan, Senior Technical Officer, and Tajamul, Developer, who provided hands-on insights into practical aspects of system development, troubleshooting, and user support in the judicial ICT framework. They emphasized the importance of continuous monitoring, adaptive solutions, and user-oriented development in sustaining the digital transformation of courts. Their session blended technical depth with practical demonstrations, enabling participants to gain a clearer understanding of real-time challenges and solutions in judicial technology platforms.

The programme remained highly interactive throughout the day, with participants actively engaging in discussions, seeking clarifications, and sharing their experiences, which enriched the overall learning environment.

The JKJA reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a technology-driven judiciary and to conducting regular training programmes for strengthening institutional capacity.

## Labour Commissioner J&K pitches for honouring Services of Workers; Reviews Preparations

HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEP 16:** Labour Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir Charandeep Singh today chaired a meeting of officers of the Department to review the preparations for SewaParv 2025 to be observed from 17th September to 2nd October 2025.

During the meeting, the Commissioner took a detailed review of the proposed activities to be organized across the Union Territory as part of the fortnight-long programme. He emphasized to celebrate SewaParv-2025 in a vibrant, impactful and participative manner reflecting the true spirit of public service and outreach.



The Labour Commissioner directed the stakeholders including the DLC Central, DLC Jammu, Kashmir, all Assistant Labour Commissioners, Insurance Medical Officers, Inspectors of Factories, Labour Officers and Labour Inspectors to actively participate and ensure wider awareness about the initiatives of the Labour Department.

He stressed on the importance of involving workers, employers, trade unions, industry representatives and the general public in the campaign so that the benefits of the government welfare schemes and services of the department reach every section of society.

The activities outlined in the calendar issued by the department will be organized at multiple venues including labour chowks, labour colonies, industrial estates, major establishments, schools, hospitals and other labour-centric places to ensure maximum participation and outreach.

The Labour Commissioner further called upon the officers to work in coordination and synergy to make SewaParv 2025 a meaningful and result-oriented exercise, aligning with the vision of public service, outreach and inclusive development.

## Bhimgarh Fort beautification project

### MLA Reasi, DC review status of development works

HT News Desk / DIPR

**REASI, SEP 16:** Member Legislative Assembly Kuldeep Raj Dubey, alongside Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting to discuss the development of Bhimgarh Fort and the utilization of funds under the District Capex Budget for its beautification and illumination.

Discussions were held on the beautification and illumination plan, proposals related to the fort recommended by the MLA and the utilization of funds within the stipulated timeframe. Meeting started with detailed deliberations on installing decorative lighting at the Fort to enhance its visual appeal.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Power Development Department to install high-quality lights with proper maintenance provisions included in the DPR to ensure durability of the same. The Executive Engineer was asked to prepare and submit the DPR to facilitate its onward submission to expedite the project's execution.

Water supply arrangements at the Fort were also discussed. The Executive Engineer PHE was asked to inspect the existing water supply lines and prepare a DPR accordingly to ensure previous supply lines are also used and water reaches within the Fort premises. "The DPR under the beautification plan must include provision for making the existing fountain functional," he was told.

In addition, the DC instructed the PWD to prepare a DPR for restoration



works and damage assessment of the Fort's structures so that necessary repair and conservation measures can be undertaken promptly.

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) was tasked with the fencing of the adjoining forest area, maintaining greenery and keeping the surroundings of the Fort clean.

The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) was asked to coordinate with the Department of Archaeology and Archives to chalk out a sustainable framework for the maintenance and upkeep of the Fort.

Alongside this, discussions were also held regarding the renovation and beautification of Sula Park. The DC directed the DFO to take up the project on priority as funds are avail-

able for the Sula park.

As the meeting was informed that Baroodkhana land dispute has been resolved, the DC directed the PWD to start work by utilizing the funds already allocated.

Discussions were also held on other proposals related to the tourism sector, including beautification projects and the installation of the Indian National Flag. The DC assured that the district administration is making consistent efforts to mobilize funds from all possible sources with the vision of transforming Reasi into a beautiful and attractive tourist attraction.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh; CPO Narinder Kumar; Executive Engineers of different Departments, Tehsildar, EOMC and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

## DC Kathua flags off women farmers for exposure tour under HADP

HT News Desk / DIPR

**KATHUA, SEP 16:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today flagged off a group of 40 women farmers and Self-Help Group members for a three-day training-cum-exposure visit to Palampur University, Himachal Pradesh, organised under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The initiative has been designed

to acquaint the participants with modern agricultural practices, advanced technologies and innovative methods of farming with a special focus on organic farming, mushroom cultivation and allied activities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the training will not only enhance the knowledge base of participants but also prepare them to act as Master Trainers to further

disseminate the learnings among the farming community in Kathua district. He said the holistic training modules are intended to promote sustainable farming practices, strengthen the role of women in agriculture and create new livelihood avenues.

The DC further underlined the pivotal role women play in nation-building, asserting that they are moving shoulder to shoulder with men in every sphere

of life, including agriculture and allied sectors. He encouraged the participants to act as role models for fellow farmers and also appealed to the youth to take maximum benefit of government-sponsored schemes, subsidies and training opportunities being rolled out under HADP.

Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua, Jatinder Kumar informed that the exposure visit is specifically provisioned under the

"Promotion of Oil Seeds" component of HADP. He said the department is committed to organising regular training programmes, exposure visits and awareness camps to build the capacities of farmers in adopting modern agricultural practices.

The women farmers and SHG members expressed gratitude to the District Administration and Agriculture Department for facilitating the exposure visit.

## DC Samba leads Humanitarian Medical Initiative for stranded transportation workers at Ghagwal

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SAMBA, SEP 16:** In a remarkable demonstration of administrative responsiveness and humanitarian leadership, the Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today inaugurated a comprehensive free medical camp at Tapyal Morh Ghagwal providing critical healthcare services to over 200 truck drivers and conductors stranded due to adverse weather conditions and flood-induced disruptions on National Highway 44. The strategic intervention represents the District Administration Samba's proactive approach to addressing the cascading humanitarian impacts of natural disasters on essential

service providers who form the backbone of regional commerce and supply chains.

The medical camp executed through exemplary coordination between the District Administration Samba and the Health Department Samba, was formally launched in the presence of Sub Divisional Magistrate Ghagwal K.S. Bali and Dr. Richa Arora, Block Medical Officer Samba underscoring the multi-tiered administrative commitment to crisis response.

The initiative brought together a specialized medical team from Area Hospital Ghagwal including Ophthalmologist Dr. Surbhi Gupta and Dr. Rohit Gupta along with dedicated paramedics deployed under the



supervision of Dr. Rajiv Mengi, Incharge Medical Officer AH Ghagwal and Lekh Raj Attri, Community Health Officer ensuring comprehensive healthcare delivery under challenging circumstances.

The medical intervention addressed the mounting health challenges faced by the Transport workers who have endured prolonged exposure to harsh weather conditions and uncertain living situations following recent floods and adverse weather patterns that have severely disrupted traffic movement along the vital highway corridor.

Beyond providing immediate medical examinations and free medication distribution, the camp

conducted crucial non-communicable disease screenings, recognizing the long-term health vulnerabilities of drivers and conductors whose occupational demands often prevent regular medical check-ups.

The humanitarian crisis emerged from severe weather-induced damage to critical transportation infrastructure leaving hundreds of commercial vehicles stranded and creating unprecedented challenges for drivers and conductors far from their home bases. The administration's swift response through this medical camp not only addresses immediate health concerns but also demonstrates institutional sensitivity to the welfare of

those whose services remain indispensable to regional economic continuity during infrastructure recovery periods.

This initiative exemplifies the District Administration Samba's commitment to community welfare during challenging times, transforming a logistical crisis into an opportunity for strengthened government-citizen partnerships. The successful execution of this medical camp under Ms. Ayushi Sudan's leadership reinforces the administration's dedication to ensuring that no individual suffers neglect during natural disasters particularly those whose professional duties place them in vulnerable situations beyond their control.

# Sakeena Itoo reviews power sector scenario in Kulgam district

Directs for reliable, affordable power supply, transparency in billing

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEP 16:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here and conducted an extensive review of the electricity supply and distribution framework in Kulgam district.

The meeting was attended by MD KPDC, Mehmood Shah; Special Secretary Power Development department; Chief Engineer KPDC, SE KPDC Bijbehara; Executive Engineer KPDC Kulgam; all Assistant Executive Engineers of Kulgam and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Minister took detailed assessment of ground-level challenges, gauge the adequacy of power infrastructure and address consumer grievances, besides measures taken for augmentation of power



infrastructure in the district. Speaking during the meeting, Minister Sakeena expressed

serious concern over arbitrary and unjustified hikes in electricity bills of common masses,

particularly belonging to lower income families, causing acute distress among households. She

stressed upon the officers to ensure reliable power supply, affordability and transparency

in billing.

The Minister impressed upon the Chief Engineer KPDC to conduct load survey in the district before any hike in power tariffs is made. She also asked the Executive Engineer to submit a detailed report regarding load revisions carried across the district in last three years.

The Minister also asked the officers to organise grievance camps in D.H Pora, Malwan, Khull and other far off areas having maximum disputes related to arbitrary hike in power bills. She also asked them to implement stringent monitoring mechanisms to prevent any arbitrary escalation in electricity charges. She further instructed the PDD officers to conduct thorough audits of billing systems and load sanction to ensure accuracy and fairness in consumer billing practices.

Minister Sakeena reaffirmed

the Government's commitment to providing uninterrupted, affordable and efficient electricity supply to every citizen, adding that any malpractice in billing or power distribution will not be tolerated at all.

Meanwhile, during the meeting, the Minister also took stock of ongoing works regarding the establishment of 10MVA Receiving Station at Manzgam, aimed to strengthen the power infrastructure in the area.

She directed the officers to work with dedication so that the project can be completed before the actual date of completion.

The Minister added that after the completion of project, a long-pending demand of the people of the area will be fulfilled as it is expected to significantly augment the power supply scenario, ensuring improved electricity availability and reliability for the residents.

## JKDEERS celebrates World Ozone Day

HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEP 16:** To mark the World Ozone Day, the Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing (DEERS) - EIACP Hub, J&K, organized events at both Jammu and Srinagar. A symposium competition on the topic "Scientific Discoveries and global actions for ozone layer protection" was held at MIER College and a Quiz Competition at Department of Environmental Science, Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial College, GDC Bemina Srinagar.

The events were aimed at raising awareness about the importance of the ozone layer and the need to protect it, aligning with this year's global theme "From Science to Global Action".

At Jammu, the event was graced by Dr. Rajan Singh, Coordinator EIACP J&K Hub, who delivered an expert lecture focusing on significance of the Ozone Layer and the recent scientific developments in ozone monitoring and protection.

Others present were Dr. Kirti Joshi, PO-EIACP, Anil Sharma, RO and Prof. Nithya, Dr. Monica Bajaj and Suman Gupta, Aditi Gupta & Mrs Gupta from MIER College. Around 120 students along with staff members enthusiastically participated in the event. In the symposium competition first prize was won by Aditi Gupta, BA 7th Semester.

At Srinagar, the event was graced by the presence of Rafi Ahmed Bhat, Regional Director Kashmir JKDEERS. Others present were Prof. (Dr.) Mudassir Afshan, Principal GDC Bemina, Tanvir Ahmed, Prof. Mubashir Jeelani, HOD Env. Science, Mass Media Officer JKDEERS, Prof. Niyaz Ahmed, Noted Social Activist Nazir Benazir, Sheikh Amreena, Information Officer EIACP staff, the faculty members and a large gathering of students also attended the Function.

A total of 100 participants attended the function. Around 70 students enthusiastically took part in the Ozone Quiz Competition. First prize was won by Mashood Rahim Mir.

Mission LiFE selfie point was also installed at the function. The winners and participants were felicitated with trophies and certificates in recognition of their outstanding performance.

## GDC Ramgarh initiates tribute paying with media screening, social awareness campaigns

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SAMBA, SEP 16:** Government Degree College Ramgarh has initiated a month-long celebration to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti 2025.

The College organized a special screening of movies and media focusing on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. This event also aimed to raise awareness about "Nasha Mukh Bharat"

(Drug-Free India) and "Bhrashtachar Mukh J&K" (Corruption-Free Jammu & Kashmir). The entire program was conducted under the guidance and coordination of Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol.

HOD Punjabi, Dr. Snobar began the event by enlightening the students about the significance of the event which was organized to pay tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. She



emphasized Gandhi Ji's pivotal role as the prominent leader of India's independence movement, achieved through nonviolent

civil disobedience.

Darpan Malhotra coordinated the screening of the media content, which provided students with a profound glimpse into Gandhi Ji's remarkable life and his unwavering commitment to peace, truth and social justice. It also shed light on his global influence as a champion of nonviolence.

Dr. Bisat Tariq addressed the students, shedding light on the social and health hazards associated

with drug abuse. She encouraged students to embrace a drug-free life and society while also urging them to guide their friends away from the dark path of drug abuse.

The event drew a large number of students who actively participated in the celebration. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Snobar, expressing gratitude to all participants and attendees for making the program a grand success.

## Gandhi Jayanti: Students revisit 'My Experiments With Truth' at GCOE Jammu

HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEP 16:** Government College of Education Jammu began fortnightly events to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti, with a unique event titled "Decoding Gandhi: A Book Talk on My Experiments with Truth."

The celebration aimed to delve into the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi through the lens of his own autobiography. The event was held under the patronage of the College Principal, Dr. Jyoti Parihar.

Dr. Parihar highlighted the importance of revisiting Gandhi's principles as described in his own words, commending the college's faculty and students for their enthusiastic participation. She emphasized the book's enduring relevance, noting that it is not merely a historical account but a guide to self-discovery and a testament to the power of truth and introspection.

The program was organized by Dr. Shalini Rana, IQAC Convener and head of the Literary Club of the college.



Dr. Rajinder Kour, Coordinator B. Ed. and M.Ed. Courses offered a deep analysis of Gandhi's early life and his struggles, while Prof. Balwan Singh spoke on the relevance of Gandhi's philosophy.

Dr. Suraj Prakash highlighted the message of Peace and Non-Violence given by Gandhi. Dr. Shubhrajamal also shared her perspectives on the enduring legacy of non-violence and truth. Rudarev Singh, the anchor, ensured a smooth and engaging flow throughout the program. ITEP students actively engaged in discussions and

activities centered on the book, My Experiments with Truth. The highlight of the event was the competition based on the book. The first prize was awarded to Kusum Jamwal, V. Surajalakshmi bagged second place and Shriya secured the third position. Sourav, Lakshmi and Khushi also presented their analysis on the book by Gandhi.

The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks. Shriya Sharma, representing the media, was also present to cover the event, capturing the spirit of the day's proceedings.

## GCW Parade organises host of awareness activities

HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEP 16:** Science Club, in collaboration with Department of Botany and Eco Club, of Government College for Women Parade Ground Jammu celebrated International Ozone Day to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on the substances that deplete the ozone layer.

The event was held under the guidance of Principal Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo. The theme for the International Ozone Day 2025 is "From Science to Global Action" which highlights how scientific knowledge of ozone depletion led to global action. The theme emphasizes the continuing need for both scientific monitoring and international cooperation to protect the ozone layer.

The event started with the pledge in which students and faculty members took an oath to make efforts for the preservation of the ozone layer by promoting the use of ozone friendly goods and services. The program proceeded with the poster making competition, in which the students from different streams participated.



The participants expressed their ideas regarding the ozone conservation by making vibrant and colorful posters. Prof. Aasia Rashid Bhat, convener Science Club delivered the welcome address and highlighted the need of awareness about the conservation of the ozone layer.

A panel of judges including Prof. Anjali Abrol, Department of Chemistry and Prof. Bindu Kumari, Department of Botany evaluated the posters prepared by the participants. Both the jury members shared their ideas related to the ozone layer depletion and motivated the participants to use the ozone friendly products and contribute to the protection of the ozone layer.

The program successfully provided a platform for the students to explore, appreciate and express their ideas through the posters regarding the ozone layer protection. The event culminated with the prize distribution to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners. The Science Club Committee members, Dr. Harmanmeet Kour, Dr. Sarita Parihar, Dr. Usha Devi, Dr. Pervaiz Ahmed and Dr. Manjulla Gupta actively participated in organizing the event.

## Health Department Doda Organises Medical Camps

HT News Desk / DIPR

**DODA, SEP 16:** As part of the Public Outreach Programme and on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner and Director Health Services Jammu, the Health Department Doda under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar organized a series of medical camps across the district today.

The camps were conducted at Village Kota in Medical Block Gandoh and Village Lower Dudhote in Medical Block Ghat under the supervision of the respective Block Medical Officers.

At Kota, the medical camp was organized jointly by the Health Department and the Indian Army, where nearly 250 patients benefited. The health team comprising Dr. Seema Sehara (MO RBSK), Dr. Kamran John (MO RBSK), and Masooda Begum (FMPHW) provided consultations and screening services to the public. Key focus



areas included maternal and child health, immunization, and non-

communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.

Similarly, at Lower Dudhote, a dedicated health team examined

around 40 patients. The team included Maher-un-Nisa (MLHP), Meenu Devi (FMPHW), and local ASHAs who actively supported the initiative. Routine check-ups, counselling on nutrition, and early detection of ailments were among the services extended to the residents.

During both camps, free medicines, Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS), and awareness sessions on health, hygiene, and prevention of water-borne diseases were provided to the local population. Posters, pamphlets, and demonstrations on handwashing techniques and safe drinking water storage were also distributed to empower communities with practical knowledge.

The initiative aimed to bring healthcare services to the doorsteps of people living in far-flung and underserved areas while promoting preventive health measures and community well-being.

**HT EDITORIAL**

**Free bus ride for women turns out to be a boon**

Some months back the union territory government introduced the free ride for women in the public transport buses managed by it. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the scheme on April 1 this year and the step has been welcomed by the people especially by the female folk. Under this scheme females boarding the smart city buses and green buses operated by Jammu & Kashmir Road Transport Corporation would not have to pay any fare while going from one place to another.

The scheme aims to empower the females and one can hope the step is implemented letter and spirit on ground. Some years back the government introduced the special bus service for females on different routes in the Srinagar city. The service was operational for some months before it was disbanded by the authorities. The reason put forward for the same was there was a lukewarm response from the females and as such the exclusive bus service was stopped.

Hope this time around nothing of that sort would happen and the free bus ride for the females would be a hit not only in Srinagar but other places of Kashmir. Since the green buses operate in the different districts of Jammu & Kashmir one can hope the females across the length and breadth of the union territory would take benefit. Females, especially the students should take full benefit of the scheme and they should ensure that they are not bullied by the conductors of green buses and smart city buses.

It is the responsibility of the concerned department to carry out regular review of the scheme and ensure that the benefits are reaching the beneficiaries. Since everybody talks about the rights and duties the females should be fully aware about their rights in this regard. As the government has introduced the free ridership facility for the females it is the responsibility of the intended beneficiaries to ensure that there is no holding back in this regard.

At the same time the government should procure more and more smart city buses and green buses so that more and more benefits trickle to the females of Jammu & Kashmir. Since a limited number of red and green buses operate as on date it is quite natural that benefits of free ridership would be available to a limited number of females. The need of the hour is that the scheme is implemented in totality without any fault.

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group:  
Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi),  
Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor:  
Syed Jahangir Bukhari,  
Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio  
Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora  
Srinagar -190017,  
Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad  
Cell No - 9697071471,  
Editorial Section: 7006846797,  
Multimedia Section: 9419008414,  
Advertisement Section: 9697071471  
RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231  
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com  
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

**Information Overloaded Minds**



■ **Abid Hussain Rather**

There was a time when knowledge was a source of light, wisdom and inner peace. It elevated human beings, sharpened their judgment and opened doors to reflection and understanding. But in the present digital age, knowledge has taken on a very different character. Nowadays, it has become a source of burden and pressure. Every time we get a notification, a news alert, a video suggestion or a forwarded message; we find ourselves suffocating in a flood of information. What was once a lamp in the darkness has now become a weight on the mind. This is the modern condition experts call as 'information overload' which is a new challenge for the human brain. Information overload means that a person receives so much information at once that the brain can't process it all. A person afflicted with this state not only becomes confused but loses the ability to distinguish truth from falsehood, separate necessary from unnecessary. In the present digital times, we have all now become victims of this 'information overload' which is quietly reshaping the way we think, feel and live.

The problem begins the moment we open our eyes early in the morning. Before we even rise from bed, many of us reach for our smart phones, only to be assaulted by a cascade of news stories, WhatsApp forwards, social media updates, emails and promotional messages. What should be a calm entry into the day becomes an instant plunge into chaos. The brain which is still half asleep, is forced to process a dozen competing signals at once. By the time the day has properly begun, our mental energy is already depleted and cognitive power exhausted.

Psychologists describe information overload as the state in which the brain receives more information than it can process. The result is not more awareness but less clarity and more confusion. Instead of sharpening our focus, excessive information blurs our vision. Instead of helping us distinguish between truth and falsehood, it often buries both beneath a mountain of noise. Decision making ability slows down. Confusion increases and anxiety rises. And slowly, the very tool we created to expand our knowledge, the digital world, becomes the reason we feel mentally paralyzed.

The scale of this overload is staggering. According to researchers at the University of California, the average human brain today consumes about 34 gigabytes of information daily. That is equivalent to reading 150,000 books every single day. Imagine

the absurdity of such a task. Obviously, no human brain is designed to cope with this cataclysmic deluge. Neuroscientists are of the opinion that our cognitive capacity, including our memory, attention, and focus, is finite. Once it reaches saturation or optimal level, new information is either discarded or it causes mental stress. In other words, our brains are now being fed forcibly beyond their natural limits.

The greatest casualty of this information flooding is peace of mind. The endless cycle of scrolling, watching and refreshing keeps us in a constant state of tension. Experts call this condition decision fatigue. The more choices we are forced to make, whether it is which news report to believe, which article to read or which video to watch, the less capable we become of making sound decisions. Even the smallest matters, such as deciding what to eat or when to sleep, become sources of hesitation and frustration. In offices, employees complain of reduced productivity because they are perpetually distracted by emails and updates. At home, family members find themselves unable to enjoy meals together because everyone's attention is chained to screen.

The problem is particularly severe in our valley where the speed and repetition of news is relentless. A single event is broadcast, shared and repeatedly updated dozens of times with a label of 'breaking news' or 'must watch'. Different channels often present contradictory accounts of the same incident, leaving viewers more confused than informed. On social media, the situation is even more chaotic. A single event generates hundreds of opinions and thousands of 'hot takes'. Each person presents his version as the ultimate truth and the ordinary users are left bewildered. They are unable to decide whom should they believe and whom should they dismiss.

The younger generation is perhaps the most affected. For them, being 'updated' is not just a choice but a compulsion. A student sitting down to prepare for exams opens YouTube and finds an endless stream of lectures, tutorials and 'tips for success'. Each video promises to be better than the last and each teacher claims to have the unique and ultimate method. Instead of clarity of concepts, the learner feels confused. Instead of focusing on one strategy, they waste hours hopping from one video to another in search of the easiest and the best. In the end, time is lost, concentration is broken and anxiety is multiplied. Many young people are sacrificing real life opportunities in their desperate attempt to remain constantly connected to the digital flow.

The social consequences are no less alarming. Families, once bound by conversations and shared experiences, now live like islands under one roof. Parents are busy scrolling news feeds, while children are immersed in video games or social media chats. Even in the rare moments when families sit together for meals, the glow of mobile screens dominates

the atmosphere. What should be a time of connection becomes yet another exercise in disconnection. Relationships are weakening because real human interaction is increasingly being replaced by shallow digital exchanges. A forwarded joke or meme can never replace a heartfelt conversation, yet this is exactly what many of us are settling for.

So, what can be done to rescue ourselves from drowning in this sea of information? The solution is not to reject technology altogether but to learn how to use it wisely. The first step is self examination. We must analyze our digital habits. How much time do we spend scrolling aimlessly? How many unnecessary groups or pages are we following? How often do we consume information that has no bearing on our personal or professional lives?

Practical steps can make a big difference. Setting specific times for checking news items and using various social media platforms prevents constant interruptions. Muting or leaving irrelevant and unnecessary groups frees up mental space. Practicing digital mindfulness—consciously choosing what to read, watch or listen to—helps us filter noise from value. Parents also have a special role. They must guide children in developing healthy digital habits by teaching them how to separate important knowledge from useless distractions. And of course, media organizations, influencers and social media journalists also bear responsibility. Not every piece of information deserves to be labelled as 'breaking news' or 'must watch'. Journalists must return to the principle of quality over quantity. They must deliver information that is authentic, relevant, and meaningful.

Ultimately, the lesson is simple but profound: more information does not equal more knowledge. In fact, beyond a certain point, more information becomes an obstacle to wisdom. True knowledge is not about how many facts we collect but about how deeply we understand and apply them. The famous poet and essayist T.S. Eliot has rightly said, "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?" His words, spoken decades ago, ring truer today than ever before.

If we fail to control the flow of information, we risk losing not only our mental peace but also our ability to think clearly, to make decisions judiciously and to nurture relationships beautifully. The very basic things that make us human beings viz. reflection, wisdom and connection are at stake. The time has come to remind ourselves that information is a tool not a master. It should serve us, not enslave us. And for that, we must learn to filter, prioritize and above all disconnect when necessary. Only then can knowledge return to being what it was always meant to be: a source of light, not a burden of noise.

(The author can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com)

**Are We Really Preparing for the Future?**



■ **Aadil Ghulam Bhat**

As India plans to become the most populous nation in the world, an urgent question looms over its ambitious growth story: Are we properly preparing our youth for the future, or are we simply preparing them for disappointment? While the country has made significant strides in economic growth, a systemic problem highlights the need for urgent attention.

The government has implemented ambitious initiatives like "Skill India" and "Start-up India" to boost productivity and encourage entrepreneurship among the youth. Despite these efforts, however, youth unemployment remains alarmingly high. According to the National Statistical Office (NSO), the unemployment rate among individuals aged 15-29 has risen to nearly 23% in recent years, demonstrating a troubling relationship between economic growth and employment. This is not just a statistic; it reflects the frustration of millions of people who have invested years in education but are faced with a lack of gainful employment. This challenge raises a fundamental question:

Are we really creating jobs, or are we just providing temporary solutions in the form of low-wage gig work? The rise of the gig economy has certainly provided some options for employment, with platforms like Zomato and Uber offering flexible work arrangements.

However, these jobs often lack the stability and benefits needed for long-term financial security, leaving many young individuals trapped in a cycle of uncertainty.

A significant contributor to the youth employment crisis is the disconnect between the education system and the needs of the job market. Educationist S.R. Kothari emphasizes that "The education system must pivot toward skill-based training that meets industry needs," but the prevailing model often focuses on rote learning rather than practical applications. Professor Rukmini Banerji of the Pratham Education Foundation asserts that foundational skills in literacy and numeracy remain lacking, making it challenging for many young people to compete in the job market.

While initiatives like "Skill India" aim to address these gaps, critics argue that they have yet to translate into sustainable employment for a significant portion of the youth. The current National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (2015) recognizes the importance of skill development but struggles to make a tangible impact on employment figures. This raises another critical point: What is the quality of the jobs being created, and are they providing real economic mobility, or are they simply survival jobs?

Recently, there has been an upsurge of young people from India seeking greener pastures abroad. This "brain drain" concern has persisted for years and has worsened as skilled individuals encounter minimal opportunities for growth locally. As Arvind Subramanian, a former Chief Economic Advisor, noted, there is a strong need to develop and provide more jobs in order to retain talent. If we are unable to create such environments, we risk exporting our

top intellectuals.

The effects of the youth employment crisis are not just economic. A lack of relevant employment opportunities may disillusion a young population and breed social vices such as violence. The unemployed or underemployed youth are facing significant socio-economic challenges, which can lead to ethnic strife. Missiologist Christophe Jaffrelot points out the "danger" posed to democracy in India by economic divisions that cause societal fragmentation.

The crisis in youth employment cannot be resolved solely by creating jobs. It must be addressed through injecting hope and consequent engagement in society. Young people must not be tokenized in the growth story of India but should be expected to contribute directly to it.

**What could be a Suggested Solution: The Need of the Hour?**

**To ensure that India's youth become engaged, enlightened, and productive citizens, we need to invent novel approaches to education and employment.**

1. Innovative Education Models: We must focus on project-based learning and interdisciplinary curricula to address real-world issues. The Indian School of Business exemplifies the importance of practical experience over theoretical knowledge. Expanding such models in higher education can better equip graduates for the workforce.

2. Integrating vocational education into mainstream schooling can provide young people with alternative pathways. The dual education system operational in Germany effectively combines classroom learning with on-the-job training. Implementing similar systems in India could significantly enhance

employability.

3. Technology should be employed to make training efficient and accessible. The introduction of Massively Open Online Courses (MOOCs) such as Coursera and edX has transformed the global education landscape by breaking barriers to high-quality education. The Indian government may collaborate with tech companies to offer localized training programs that are economically viable.

4. Entrepreneurship can spur employment and foster creativity. Microfinance initiatives, like those used in Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, can empower young individuals to start their own businesses, leading to greater financial independence and contributions to society.

India has reached a milestone where it has rare chances to use its youth bulge to promote economic progress. However, if we fail to exploit this opportunity, we risk creating inequality, discontent, and potentially violent uprisings. The question remains: Can we build an inclusive economy, especially for the youth? As we approach critical elections in June, this dilemma will shape the course of India's governance. The challenges are plentiful, but so is the potential for transformative change.

The author is a poet, columnist, and novelist from Kashmir. He holds a BSc in Non-Medical from Government Degree College, Anantnag, J&K. Aadil is the author of works such as 'Nights in Solitude', 'The Poetic Miracle', and 'Kousarnag' known for exploring themes of love, personal growth, and socio-political issues, his writing captures the essence of human emotion and cultural identity. Email: adilgulambhat@gmail.com

# Assam Rifles, Spear Corps Focus on Shaping Northeast's Next Generation



By M S Nazki

Aane wala pal wo aa raha hai, Jane wala pal ye ja raha hai, Mana abhi hai raho me, Manzil hai lekin nigaho me, Kal ke sapne hai aankho me, Phul mahekate hai sanso me, Kehta hai dil kehta hai baar baar, Kehta hai ek din to aayegi bahar!.....Assam Rifles and the Spear Corps has understood as how to shape the next generation in North East!

There are some days you know ahead of times are going to be important, but most of the important ones end up catching you by surprise. The best thing to do is to treat all your days well. Then see what happens!

Any day above ground is a good day. Before you complain about anything, be thankful for your life and the things that are still going well!

Today is a new day! Each new day is a blank page in the diary of your life. The secret of success is in turning that diary into the best story you possibly can!

A new day: Be open enough to see opportunities. Be wise enough to be grateful. Be courageous enough to be happy!

In grief or death never dwell into the past? May be tomorrow comes or not is just pure arithmetically in nature..... But still we have to practical.(MD)

So we come to the story at hand:

Ukhrul is an administrative district in the Indian state of Manipur, with its headquarters in the town of Ukhrul. The district is known for its scenic beauty, hilly terrain, and as the homeland of the Tangkhul people. It was originally a subdivision in 1919 and became a full-fledged district in 1969, before Kamjong District was carved out from it in 2016.

Location: Located in the northern part of Manipur, bordering Myanmar to the east and Nagaland state to the north.

Geography: A hilly district with varying heights, surrounded by other districts like Kangpokpi, Senapati, and Chandel.

Headquarters: The district's administrative center is Ukhrul town, the capital of the district.

Population: The dominant tribe is the Tangkhul, though there are also some Kuki and other communities.

Culture: Known for its colorful Tangkhul culture and the famous Shirui Lily, the state flower of Manipur.

Connectivity: Ukhrul town is linked to the state capital, Imphal, by National Highway 150.

History of the District: (We always give that!)

1919: Established as a Sub-Division during the British Raj.

1969: Upgraded to a full-fledged district named Manipur East District.

1983: Tengnoupal District was carved out, and the district was renamed Ukhrul District.

2016: Kamjong District was created from Ukhrul, shaping the present-day boundaries.

Next we come to Somsai:

Somsai is a village located in the Ukhrul district of Manipur, India. It is situated near the district's main town, also called Ukhrul!

Location: The village and the surrounding garrison area are situated just outside the Ukhrul town, within the larger Ukhrul Central subdivision. It can be found using the postal code 795142.

Assam Rifles presence: The Somsai area is known for housing a battalion of the Assam Rifles, an Indian paramilitary force. The "Somsai Battalion" is active in the region and has been noted for its efforts in assisting ex-servicemen and other community initiatives.

Local administration: Administratively, some sources list "New Somsai" as one of the villages under the Ukhrul North DCC, alongside other villages in the area.

The Tangkhul Naga Tribe: The Tangkhuls are known for their colorful traditional attire, their history as independent village-loving people, and their distinct dialects within the Sino-Tibetan language family.



No journey out of grief was straightforward. There would be good days and bad days.....(I knew this in the year 1997 in my short stay but I had studied in ST. Edmunds Shilong (Meghalaya).....K...!)

Anyway let us first talk about NIEDO! NIEDO is the only premier NGO in India working in conflict zones towards composite development of the youth.

NIEDO is a Public Charitable Trust, primarily into provision of value-based education for the disadvantaged children of society. Mentoring the under privileged children, aiding their growth story, apart from primary career chosen, coaching them, soft skill training, critical life competencies, leadership capabilities, personal brushing up, wellness programmes & modules and end to end grooming till they become a productive human resource for the nation.

June 2018, Indian Army, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO) embarked upon a journey to transform the lives of 35 Kashmiri heroes, post some real diligence.

The entire idea behind the project was to select the most incapacitated children from the society who exemplified grit, determination, perseverance and pride and elevate them gradually through a process from destitution and deprivation to appropriation and enrichment.

Essentially mentoring them, aiding their future growth story, moderating their grooming, conditioning their soft skills and metamorphose them till they became a productive human resource for the nation.

'Education is to teach our children to desire the Right' and towards this goal we strive to accomplish the extraordinary from the ordinary and promoting collective happiness and well being of the people apart from educational and professional success. It is equally fundamental to instill in the children a balance between performance and character while inculcating and augmenting the value of courage, integrity, humility, cooperation and communication.....

Dr. Rohit Srivastava!

Axis Bank is India's third-largest private sector bank, headquartered in Mumbai, offering a comprehensive range of financial services to retail and corporate clients, including loans, deposits, wealth management, and foreign exchange. Founded in 1993 as UTI Bank and renamed Axis Bank in 2007, it operates an extensive network of domestic branches and ATMs, alongside international offices in locations like Dubai and Singapore, and aims to provide customer-centric, digital-first banking solutions.

The Role of Assam Rifles! General V. Lakhera knows what he is doing!

The Assam Rifles Centre of Educational Excellence (ARCEE) is a residential coaching facility located in Somsai, Ukhrul, Manipur, established in July 2022 to provide free NEET (medical entrance exam) preparation for underprivileged girls from diverse ethnic communities, including Meitei, Kuki, Naga, and Pangal.

The initiative aims to foster unity, mutual respect, and academic progress by bringing these communities together,

amidst social tensions in Manipur, through a partnership with the National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO) and the corporate social responsibility (CSR) division of a private bank.

Key Aspects of ARCEE:  
Location: Somsai, Ukhrul, Manipur.  
Purpose: To provide free, residential NEET (medical) coaching for girls from various underprivileged communities in Manipur.

Partnerships: A collaborative effort between Assam Rifles, the National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO), and the CSR division of a private bank.

Goal: To promote unity, mutual respect, and academic achievement among diverse ethnic groups (Meitei, Kuki, Naga, Pangal) by creating an inclusive learning environment.

Impact: The center is viewed as a pillar of resilience and hope, helping to bridge communities and counter the societal divisions that have affected the pursuit of education in Manipur.

Establishment: The center was commissioned by the Inspector General of Assam Rifles (South).

A small story:  
Empowered women from Manipur include the legendary Moirang Thoibi, a symbol of resilience and justice; the world-renowned boxer Mary Kom, who defied expectations to become a sporting icon; and the countless members of groups like the Sitha Leima Fish FPC and the historical Nupi Lal protesters, who demonstrated economic independence and fierce courage against injustice. These women and groups embody different facets of empowerment, from fighting for rights to achieving financial stability and fostering community upliftment.

Historical and Legendary Figures: Moirang Thoibi: This legendary figure is a timeless symbol of women's empowerment in Manipuri folklore, celebrated for her courage, resilience in the face of hardship, and commitment to justice and love, serving as a feminist icon and a model for women across generations.

The women of Nupi Lal: In the early 20th century, the women of Manipur waged two significant "Women's Wars" against the exploitative policies of the British colonial rule. They protested against forced labor and the export of rice that caused famine, showing unparalleled unity, courage, and a lasting impact on women's empowerment.

Contemporary and Modern Figures: Mary Kom: Born in a small village in Manipur, Mary Kom overcame a difficult childhood and parental opposition to boxing to become an Olympic bronze medalist and a five-time world champion boxer. She is a global icon, demonstrating how passion and hard work can lead to achieving dreams and inspiring others to succeed.

Mary, a Self-Help Group Leader: In 2025, Mary, from Kuirei village, leads a Self-Help Group (SHG) that provides financial stability and awareness about government schemes, empowering other women in her community in the Ukhrul district. Her story shows the transformative impact of sustained community support and capacity building

for lasting change.

The Sitha Leima Fish FPC: This group of 107 women farmers from the Bishnupur District formed a fish farming cooperative, moving from struggling farmers to empowered entrepreneurs. Through collective leadership and training, they have achieved financial independence and become a force for change in their community.

Community-Based Empowerment: The Meira Paibis: These torchbearers are an integral part of Manipuri society, symbolizing light, hope, and women's activism. They guard the streets, monitor darkness, and are deeply involved in community life and protest movements, showcasing a powerful form of collective empowerment.

The Scent of Coexistence Initiative: In the wake of conflict, initiatives like the Scent of Coexistence bring women from different communities together in Delhi to learn new skills. This fosters hope for coexistence and reconciliation, with women like Ningombam Yaiphalembi and Lupangai Liu Pannei emphasizing unity, healing, and the importance of inclusivity.

Even the worst days have an ending, and the best days have a beginning..... The beginning has arrived..... Assam Rifles!

In a groundbreaking initiative to empower young women from economically weaker sections of Manipur, Assam Rifles, in collaboration with the National Integrity & Educational Development Organization (NIEDO) and AXIS Bank, has established the Assam Rifles Centre of Educational Excellence (ARCEE) at Somsai, Ukhrul.

This visionary project aims to equip female students with the resources and skills needed to excel academically, build their careers, and emerge as leaders of tomorrow.

The ARCEE focuses on providing residential coaching to young women for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), a critical step towards pursuing a career in medicine. By offering world-class academic resources and experienced faculty, the program opens doors to higher education and professional success for students who might otherwise lack such opportunities.

Beyond academics, ARCEE emphasizes the all-round development of its students. Career guidance and personality development programs are integral components of the initiative, ensuring that these young women are not only academically prepared but also equipped with the confidence, resilience, and leadership skills needed to navigate future challenges.

One of ARCEE's most remarkable features is its inclusivity. Students from diverse communities, including Meitei, Kuki, Pangal, and Naga, are selected through a rigorous process involving written exams and personal interviews. By bringing together students from different cultural backgrounds, the program fosters unity and mutual respect, creating a sanctuary of harmony and shared aspirations during challenging times in Manipur.

Given the ongoing ethnic tensions in the region, ensuring the safety of the

selected students was a top priority. Assam Rifles meticulously arranged the secure transportation of students from remote villages to the ARCEE facility, adhering to stringent security protocols to guarantee their well-being throughout the process.

The first batch (2023-24) comprised 39 students, with 33 successfully clearing the NEET exam despite two being unable to take it. In the second batch (2024-25), 33 students appeared for NEET exam and they are currently undergoing counselling sessions. All of them are expected to achieve similar success with their dedication and hard work. In third batch (2025-26) a total of 34 girl students have been enrolled and are undergoing preparations for NEET exams which is scheduled next year. Year wise details of performances is att as appx.

The Assam Rifles Centre of Educational Excellence exemplifies the power of education as a tool for empowerment. Through its inclusive and transformative approach, the initiative is not only enabling young women to achieve their dreams but also fostering unity and resilience in a region facing significant challenges. By investing in the women of today, ARCEE is building the leaders and change makers of tomorrow.

Indian Army Operations to help people:

OP SAMARITAN is a common reference to Operation Good Samaritan, an initiative by the Indian Army in the states of Manipur and Nagaland to provide aid to local communities. The term can also refer to a police-public collaboration in the Kiphire district of Nagaland, focused on combating drug abuse, or a similar 2021 campaign in that state targeting drug abuse and other issues. Additionally, "Op Samaritan" is associated with a 2021 mental health runner initiative in the UK to raise awareness for suicide prevention. Purpose: To provide humanitarian aid and assistance to the local communities in Manipur and Nagaland. Context: This operation was initiated in the context of providing help to the local population.

Operation Sadbhavana, meaning "goodwill," is an Indian Army program that fosters peace and development through community outreach in the North East and other regions, addressing local needs by improving healthcare, education, and infrastructure while building trust between the military and civilian populations. Initiatives include constructing schools and health centers, conducting medical and veterinary camps, providing vocational training, and supporting women and youth. The Assam Rifles are particularly active in implementing this multi-dimensional mission across the North East to enhance civilian-military cooperation and promote national unity.

Time to say good bye for today: Apna irada to achchha hai, Na jane rab ne kya socha hai, Diwane hai ham diwane hai, Masti ke lab pe tarane hai, Dil jo kahega kar jayege, Taro ko ham tod layege, Kehta hai dil kehta hai baar baar, Kyabegarari selenamereyaar..... Aane wala pal wo aa raha hai, Jane wala pal ye ja raha hai.....(MD)!

# How to Make Science an Interesting Subject at the Middle Level



■ Sahil Manzoor

Science literally means "to know," especially about nature and the world around us. It is one of the most fascinating and practical subjects taught at schools, colleges, and universities. The diversity of science touches every part of our lives. All modern advancements—whether in technology, medicine, or communication—are outcomes of scientific knowledge.

We are aware of natural phenomena such as the water cycle, earthquakes, importance of sunlight, and countless other processes because of science. It opens doors of curiosity for students, researchers, and scientists, making it a vital subject for progress and development.

### Why Science is Important

Science has become a necessity of life. From writing an article on a smartphone to diagnosing diseases using machines and tests like TSH, CBC, ultrasound, or MRI, everything is possible because of science. Medical advancements have saved millions of lives, and technology continues to make human existence more comfortable. In every field, science is the

foundation for development.

### How to Make Science Interesting at the Middle Level

Middle school (classes 6th, 7th, and 8th) is the stage when students build their basic understanding of science. To make science enjoyable and engaging for them, teachers can adopt the following methods:

#### 1. Practical Demonstrations

Instead of explaining concepts only through words, show them in action.

While teaching plant parts, give each student a real plant to observe.

Demonstrate transpiration by showing water droplets on leaves.

Use simple experiments (e.g., showing how evaporation works by heating water).

#### 2. Relating Science to Daily Life

Students should be able to connect lessons with what they see around them.

Explain digestion by linking it to the food they eat every day.

Relate the water cycle to rainfall in their area.

Connect concepts of energy with electricity, fans, and light bulbs at home.

#### 3. Use of Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs)

Charts, models, flashcards, and real specimens make learning lively. For example:

Skeleton models to explain the human body.

Globes and maps to show earthquakes and volcano-prone areas.

Magnifying glasses to observe leaves

and insects.

#### 4. Technology in the Classroom

Leverage tools like YouTube and digital simulations to make concepts visual and memorable. Animated videos can explain complex systems like the circulatory system far better than plain text.

#### 5. Storytelling and Curiosity-Based Learning

Turn facts into stories. For example: Tell the "journey of a raindrop" while teaching the water cycle.

Ask questions like, "Why do we feel cool near forests?" and then explain transpiration.

#### 6. Repetition with Creativity

Repeat important phenomena (like the water cycle or earthquakes) using different methods—drawings, role play, experiments, and quizzes—to strengthen understanding.

#### 7. Encourage Hands-On Activities

Simple science projects, experiments, and model-making activities increase curiosity. Even low-cost experiments—like making a volcano model with baking soda and vinegar help students stay engaged. Science is fun.

Science becomes interesting at the middle level when it is taught not as a set of definitions, but as a way to explore the world. With practical activities, real-life connections, and the right use of teaching aids, teachers can inspire students to see science as a subject full of discovery and wonder.

sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com

# World Ozone Day



■ Surinderpal Singh

September 16 is celebrated across the globe as World Ozone Day and it is officially known as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. This day was established by the United Nations in 1994 and this day marks the anniversary of the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, a landmark international treaty designed to phase out substances responsible for ozone layer depletion. World Ozone Day serves as a reminder call to renewed action in the face of continuing threats being faced by the ozone layer. It highlights the critical role the ozone layer plays in protecting life on Earth and underscores the collective responsibility of humanity to preserve this vital atmospheric shield.

### Formation of the Ozone Layer

Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) is a triatomic molecule consisting of three oxygen atoms. It is formed in the stratosphere, approximately 15 to 35 kilometers above Earth's surface, through a process driven by solar ultraviolet radiation. The formation of ozone follows the Chapman Cycle, first proposed by British scientist Sydney Chapman in 1930:

### Oxygen Photodissociation:

Ultraviolet light (wavelength < 240 nm) splits molecular oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) into two atomic oxygen (O):

### Ozone Formation:

The atomic oxygen (O) reacts with molecular oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) in the presence of a third molecule (M, often O<sub>2</sub> or O<sub>3</sub>) to form ozone (O<sub>3</sub>):

### Ozone Photolysis:

Ozone molecules absorb UV-B radiation (280–315 nm) and dissociate back into molecular and atomic oxygen:

This dynamic equilibrium ensures a relatively stable ozone concentration, forming what is globally recognized as the ozone layer.

### Importance of the Ozone Layer

The primary function of the ozone layer is to shield life on Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation. Specifically, it absorbs the majority of UV-B and nearly all UV-C radiation, both of which are highly harmful to the biological systems. Without the protection of ozone layer humanity can be effected in the following ways:

Increased UV radiation would lead to a surge in skin cancers, cataracts and immunological deficiencies in humans.

Agricultural productivity would decline as many crops are sensitive to UV exposure. Marine ecosystems, especially phytoplankton populations forming the base of the aquatic food web, would face severe disruption.

Synthetic polymers and materials would degrade faster, leading to economic losses.

In essence, the ozone layer functions as Earth's natural sunscreen making it crucial for ecological and human health.

### Causes of Ozone Depletion

The discovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica in the 1980s brought widespread attention to the anthropogenic causes of ozone layer depletion. Chief among these are chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons and other ozone-depleting substances (ODS) which, though once widely used in refrigeration, air conditioning, foam production and aerosol propellants are highly stable compounds that persist in the atmosphere for decades.

When these chemicals reach the stratosphere, ultraviolet radiation breaks them down releasing chlorine (Cl) and bromine (Br) atoms. These atoms catalytically destroy ozone through the following reactions:

### Chlorine cycle:

One chlorine atom can destroy thousands of ozone molecules before being deactivated.

### Factors Exacerbating Ozone Depletion

Several environmental factors exacerbate ozone depletion, notably:

### Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSCs):

Formed under extreme cold conditions in polar regions, PSCs provide surfaces for chemical reactions that convert stable chlorine compounds into active chlorine, accelerating ozone breakdown.

### Climate Change:

Rising greenhouse gas concentrations affects the stratospheric temperatures, altering ozone chemistry and circulation patterns potentially exacerbating localized depletion.

### Volcanic Eruptions:

Massive volcanic eruptions could inject particles into the stratosphere, increasing PSC formation and promoting chlorine activation.

### Steps for Ozone Layer Conservation

In response to global alarm, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987) was established, representing a landmark in international environmental policy. The protocol and its amendments have led to:

### A phased reduction and eventual ban of CFCs, halons and related compounds.

Promotion of alternative, ozone-friendly substances such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Beyond policy frameworks, essential conservation steps include:

### Monitoring and Research:

Continuous satellite-based and ground-based monitoring of ozone levels and stratospheric conditions.

Public Awareness and Industry Compliance: Educating stakeholders about the environmental impact of ozone depleting substances ODS and promoting industrial transitions to eco-friendly technologies.

### Scientific Innovation:

Development of sustainable refrigeration and manufacturing alternatives.

The Need for International Joint Efforts: Ozone depletion is an international problem that transcends national borders. The Montreal Protocol remains the most successful environmental treaty demonstrating how international cooperation can lead to measurable environmental recovery. Nonetheless, continued vigilance is essential:

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

## HEADLINES TODAY INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS

Are you a writer, poet, storyteller, columnist, or feature writer with a passion for literature or health writings? Headlines Today offers a platform to share:

Literature Section: Well-crafted essays, literary articles, reflections, and creative writings.

Health Section: Well-researched articles, expert columns, and in-depth feature reports from professionals and specialists.

Send your contributions to:

Dr Basharat Khan

Honorary Editor: Literature & Health Sections (HT) at

chogalwriter76@gmail.com

YOUR WORDS CAN INSPIRE, INFORM, AND IGNITE; LET THEM BE HEARD.





**ESSCO**  
PLACEMENTS PVT. LTD

Your Future begins here

## ADMISSION Open

Study In **BANGLADESH!**

- ✓ MBBS / BDS / Engineering / Other Professional Courses
- ✓ Top Government & Private Universities
- ✓ Hassle-free Admission Process
- ✓ Visa, Documentation & Travel Assistance
- ✓ 100% Genuine Consultancy – Trusted by Thousands

**Why Choose Us?**

- Guaranteed Admissions in Top Govt. & Private Universities
- Full Support with Visa, Documentation & Travel
- Affordable Fee Structures
- Experienced & Trusted Consultancy

• Limited Seats Available

**Apply Early to Secure Your Spot!**

Visit us today and take the first step towards a brighter future!

For More Details, Contact Us Now:  
**Umer Abad, Zainkote, HMT, Sgr.**  
**7006710373 - 7051779981**  
 info@esscoplacements.com, esscoplacements@gmail.com  
 www.esscoplacements.com

**INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HYGIENE**  
**COLLEGE OF NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES**

APPROVED BY J & K PARAMEDICAL & NURSING COUNCIL /INC.  
 AFFILIATED A UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

# ADMISSIONS OPEN

THROUGH BOPEE SCORECARD

**#1 Nursing College in Jammu**

www.jphnursingcollegejammu.org

**LAST CHANCE**




**D-PHARMA (RECOGNISED BY PCI)**  
**B.SC. (NURSING)**  
**POST BASIC B.SC. (NURSING)**  
**GENERAL NURSING & MIDWIFERY**  
**MULTI-PURPOSE HEALTH WORKER (M/F)**

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE CITY | STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE | 100% PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE IN TOP HOSPITALS | WELL EQUIPPED LAB. & DIGITAL LIBRARY | AFFORDABLE FEE STRUCTURE (PAYABLE IN EASY INSTALLMENTS) | SAFE HOSTEL FACILITIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS SEPARATELY

IPH&H Institutional Campus Near Kangar Morh, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, J&K - 181122

**7051179677 | 8082531040 | 8082657200**

## DC Jammu reviews functioning of RDD

Stresses on regular monitoring of works to ensure quality construction

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, SEP 16:** Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas today convened a meeting to review the functioning of the Rural Development Department with special focus on implementation of flagship schemes including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-G, MGNREGA and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

While reviewing the progress under PMAY(G) and MGNREGA, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Block Development Officers to take lead in expediting execution of works and ensure that block-wise plans are effectively implemented. He stressed on timely disbursement of payments under MGNREGA and called for increasing the number of workdays generated so as to provide maximum benefit to the rural population.

The Deputy Commissioner also took a detailed review of block-wise targets and achievements under SBM(G). He assessed the progress of various components including Individual Household Latrines, Community Sanitary Complexes, Solid Waste Management plants, community compost pits and waste management sheds. He emphasised that the ultimate aim under SBM(G) is to ensure proper collection, segregation and scientific disposal of waste and directed the officers to intensify efforts for achieving this objective.

The DC directed the officers to undertake regular



inspections of civil works to ensure quality and timely completion. He further instructed the Revenue officials to proactively resolve land disputes hampering developmental works.

The DC reviewed the physical and financial progress under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 and stressed on the need for review of panchayat ghar infrastructure within their respective jurisdictions.

Appreciating the efforts of the Rural Development Department during the recent floods, Dr Minhas lauded the dedication of the officers and urged them to continue contributing meaningfully to the development of the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sher Singh, CPO Ajaypal Singh, ACP Shahzada Noor ul Ain, ACD Danish Rasool Mir besides Block Development Officers.

## DC Reasi finalises arrangements for Sewa Parv 2025

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**REASI, SEP 16:** Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today finalised the arrangements for Sewa Parv 2025, which will begin tomorrow and continue till October 2, 2025.

Chairing a meeting of district and sectoral officers, the DC informed that the Parv will be formally launched at the District Headquarters, and simultaneously from all Sub-Division Headquarters under the supervision of the respective SDMs. She directed the SDMs to ensure that all planned activities are carried out as per the approved schedule and in a well-coordinated manner. Detailed deliberations were held on the cumulative district plan as well as the department-wise programmes and Roaster. The DC emphasised that each department must follow the daily activity roster to ensure smooth and effective implementation of the initiatives.

The Social Welfare Department was tasked with intensifying awareness about Nasha Mukta Abhiyan and other welfare schemes, while CSC officials were directed to organise digital literacy and cyber security camps at their centres.

Similarly, the Agro and Allied Departments will reach out to every Panchayat to sensitise farmers about the government schemes and opportunities. Banks were directed to organise awareness camps on financial inclusion schemes.

The DC said that Special emphasis will be laid on cleanliness drives, disaster management awareness, promotion of Nasha Mukta Bharat campaign, social and financial inclusion schemes and Mission Yuva to encourage entrepreneurship and skill development among college students and the youth.

The DC further stressed on making the Sewa Parv a genuine and participatory event with active involvement of people and volunteers. She urged all departments to maintain close coordination and work in synergy to ensure the successful execution of Sewa Parv 2025 across the district.

ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, SDMs joined virtually, CAO, CHO, CAHO, CEO, DSWO and other concerned officers were present.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Driving Licence as Mansoor Iqbal Lone S/o Gh. Mohammad Lone While as my actual name is Mansoor Iqbal S/o Gh. Mohd Lone. Now I /want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact ARTO Kulgam within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection will be entertained.

**Mansoor Iqbal  
S/o Gh. Mohd Lone  
R/o Manigam  
District: Kulgam**

## SAD DEMISE

With deep sorrow, we inform the passing away of **Ab Rehman Wani, son of Hubaibullah Wani, resident of Gund Khuru Kargama. The Rasm-e-Charam of the departed soul will be observed on Thursday, 18/09/2025 at his native village. We request relatives, friends, and well-wishers to join us in prayers for the eternal peace of the departed soul.**

**FAMILY MEMBERS**

## Public Notice

This is inform to the general public that my DOB has been wrongly mentioned in my School record as 07-06-2007 While as my actual DOB is 12-06-2001. Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody have an objection regarding this statement he/she can contact with jkbose officials within 7 days.

**Name: Arbaz Muzaffar  
S/o: Muzaffar Ah Khan  
Address: Larkipora Awantipora Pulwama 192122**

## Public Notice

This is an information for general public that I, Altaf Hussain Lone X Nike, No: 9102263A, Unit 10, JAKLI in my Service Records the Name of my wife has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Rafiq Akhter, DOB : 01-03-1986, while as her actual and correct name is Rafiq Begum, DOB:01-03-1986. And Also the name and DOB of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Sahil Ahmed Lone, DOB:24-07-2005.while as his Actual and correct name and DOB as per his School Record is Sahil Ahmad Lone, DOB:04-04-2007. 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 Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days, from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Altaf Hussain Lone,  
X Nike, Service No:9102263A, Unit 10 JAKLI.  
R/O Kunusa Bonkoot, District Bandipora, Jammu  
and Kashmir, India, Pin:193502.**

## Public Notice

MY name has been wrongly written in my Adhaar Card bearing No:-4034 5707 1885 as Abid Ahmad Moochi C/O:- Bilal ahmad Moochi R/O :-Masjid Tulbagh Doonnag Pampore while my actual name is Abid Bial Moochi C/O:- Bilal Ahmad Moochi R/O:- Doonar Tulbagh Namblabal Pampore. Now I want to correct.

if any Body have any objection He/She May contact His/Her objection to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice ,After seven days no objection will be entertained.

**Abid Bial Moochi  
C/O: Bilal Ahmad Moochi R/O:- Doonar Tulbagh  
Namblabal Pampore  
Adhaar No:-4034 5707 1885**

## 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 Rukhsana.

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.

**Sd/- Zoya  
D/O Mudasir Ahmad Sofi  
M/O Rukhsana  
R/O Dana Mazar, Safa Kadal, Srinagar**

## 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 Rukhsana.

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.

**Sd/- Zainab  
D/O Mudasir Ahmad Sofi  
M/O Rukhsana  
R/O Dana Mazar, Safa Kadal, Srinagar**

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of SADDAM HUSSAIN DEADER S/O GH QADIR DEADER for the issuance of ST ( SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal )in favour of SELF & ASMAT BANO D/O GH QADIR DEADER R/O BANDI BALLA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the GOJRI DEADER caste and Gojer community, having annual income is 138000 in wards ( One lack Thirty Eight Thousand )the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1... SADDAM HUSSAIN SELF 30 Labour
- 2.... NASEEMA BEGUM wife 26 house wife
- 3....RABIYA SADDAM Daughter 07 years student
- 4...BURHAN SADDAM Son 06 years //
- 5...ASHIQ HUSSAIN Bro 22 years Labour
- 6...DILSHADA sister 20 years H/W
- 7...ASMAT BANO // 17 years //
- 8... NARGIS BANO 17 years //
- 9...SARWAH JAN Mother 50 years H/W

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST ( SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal ) certificate in favour of Self.

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

**Naib Tehsildar Kreeri**

## 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: Mohammad 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

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**

## Office Of The District Soil Conservation Officer District, Budgam

**E-TENDERING SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE  
(E-NIT No. 02 of 2025-26 under UT-Capex of DSCO Budgam Dated 13-09-2025)**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UTof J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works: -

S/N	Name of work	Adv. Cost	EMD (Amount in ₹.)	T.D Cost	Time
01	CHARIF-SHARIF DOODHGANGA Construction of Live crib structures in seasonal gullies 63 Nos	5.04	10100/=	600/=	45 Days
02	NAGBAL YOSMARG Construction of Live crib structures in seasonal gullies 15 Nos	1.20	2400/=	200/=	45 Days
03	NAGAM BUDGAM Construction of Live crib structures in seasonal gullies 17 Nos	1.36	2750/=	200/=	45 Days

**Class of Contractor: C&D**

**Defect liability period (DLP): 6 Months**

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

**Position of Funds: Budgeted/Available**

**Position of AA: Accorded: Position of TS: Accorded.**

Publishing Date	13-09-2025
Download Start Date	13-09-2025 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date	13-09-2025 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date	23-09-2025 upto 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid (online)	24-09-2025 at 02:00 PM in the Office of the Joint Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department Kashmir
Date of Opening of Financial Bid (online)	To be notified after evaluation of technical bid

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 24-09-2025at 2:00PM in the Office of Joint Director, Soil & Water Conservation Kashmir Haft Chinar Srinagar Kashmir. In case of date of opening of the bid being public holiday, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

2. Bids must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged District Soil Conservation Officer District Budgam. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

3. The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids separately online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned above.

4. Bidders must ensure to upload legible scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e CDR/FDR in respect of EMD, Performance Security & Additional Performance Security (if applicable), Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Department, duly renewed for the current year i.e 2024-25, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document) including Affidavit & Undertaking as per Annexure-I & Annexure-II.

5. The Performance security @3% of the advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR shall have to be deposited by the lowest bidder (L1) & will remain in force for a period till the satisfactory physical completion of the contract plus defect liability period of six months.

**No: SCB/TENDER/2025-26/181-86  
Dated: 13-09-2025**

**Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,  
Department of Soil & Water Conservation, Budgam**

**DIPK: 6294/25 | Dated: 16-09-2025**

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar

**E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in | Tel./Fax No:- 0194-2411285**

### Extension Notice 10th

Subject: AMC for 35 KVA Generator and Honda 2800 Genset at PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar for the year 2025-26. Reference: This office Fresh e-NIT No. 09-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./1732-41, dated: 26-05-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025\_PHE\_277735\_1.

Due to "Poor Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 15-09-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	24-09-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	25-09-2025 11.00 AM

### NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

**No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./6762-71**

**Dated: 15-09-2025**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar.**

**DIPK: 6288/25 | Dated: 16-09-2025**

## DLSA Srinagar holds awareness programme on Juvenile Justice Act, drug abuse

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar in collaboration with School Education Department Tuesday conducted an awareness programme on 'Juvenile Justice Act and Drug Abuse' at Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School Jawaharnagar Srinagar.

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

Students, Teaching Staff and PLVs of DLSA Srinagar attended the programme.

Session on the Juvenile Justice Act was conducted by Zeenat Nazir, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel



Srinagar. Addressing the participants, she defined the role of Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units and Juvenile Justice Boards and other stakeholders. In her speech she gave a detailed

description about the provisions of Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and also discussed the terms and conditions of the Juvenile Justice delivery system, especially for the Children who are in conflict with law. Furthermore, she highlighted the role of DLSA in providing Legal aid to the juveniles.

Asstt. Legal Aid Defence Counsel Srinagar addressed the gathering on drug abuse and sensitized the students about the legal protection available to minors and the harmful impact of substance abuse.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that drug abuse is a great challenge for the society to tackle, as it has engulfed the whole generation. It is need of the hour to have a strict watch on the children, so that they will not indulge in this menace.

## Pulwama set to organize series of events to celebrate Sewa Parv

**PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 16:** District administration Pulwama is all set to celebrate Sewa Parv from September 17 to October 2, 2025, with a series of programmes aimed at promoting service, compassion, and collective responsibility across the district.

The fortnight-long celebration will witness active participation from multiple departments, with the objective of inspiring citizens to contribute towards building a society rooted in harmony, responsibility, and social progress.

The Sewa Parv will be inaugurated on September 17, 2025, at Circuit House Pulwama. The inaugural event will mark the beginning of a diverse range of activities, including plantation drives, blood donation camps, cleanliness drives, distribution campaigns, and departmental stalls with help desks to engage communities and encourage collective participation.

As part of the celebrations, Health and ICDS department, under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan, will organise

women's health screening camps, maternal and child care awareness sessions, and free health camps at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, PHCs, CHCs, and district hospital in convergence with Poshan Mah, along with blood donation camps. Nutrition and sanitation awareness campaigns will also form a significant part of the health-related programmes.

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj department will undertake community sanitation drives, plantation initiatives, cleanliness campaigns, and village-level outreach programmes to promote the effective implementation of welfare schemes. Education department will engage students through debates, essay writing, seminars, and awareness activities, including swachhata initiatives, to inculcate the spirit of service among young minds.

Social Welfare department will focus on programmes for the elderly, differently-abled, and vulnerable sections of society, while also raising awareness about social security schemes.

## Distt Admin Ganderbal finalizes schedule of activities for 'Sewa Parv' celebration

HT News Desk / DIPR

**GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 16:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to finalize the schedule of activities for the upcoming 'Sewa Parv', a nationwide initiative to be celebrated from September 17 to October 02, 2025.

During the meeting, DC conducted a detailed review of the activities to be undertaken by various departments throughout the fortnight-long programme.

It was informed that the celebrations will commence with mega Swachhata drives from the Mini Secretariat and across all panchayats of the district.

Emphasizing mass participation, DC directed that mega events of each activity be organized daily during the Sewa Parv to ensure greater public involvement.

The meeting also finalized schedules for mega grievance redressal camps, donation drives to be organized by the School Education, Higher Education, and Central University of Kashmir (CUK) in aid of the needy.

Venues for blood donation camps, health camps, and screening camps by the Health Department were also finalized with the objective of strengthening healthcare services during the fortnight.

Regarding plantation drives, Forest Department and Social Forestry Benehama were directed to ensure the availability of sufficient saplings for concerned departments as per requirement.

DC further finalized events to be held at Manasbal, while the CEO Sonamarg Development Authority was tasked to organize similar activities at Sonamarg and Zero Point in collaboration with stakeholders.

To promote digital inclusion, District Coordinator CSC was instructed to coordinate with educational institutions for mega capacity-building and digital literacy camps.

Kishore also laid special emphasis on extensive awareness campaigns covering flagship programmes such as Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan, disaster management, sports activities, and government welfare schemes including PMJJBY, APY, PMJDY, and PMSBY, among others.

All departments were directed to share photographs and videos of their respective activities on a daily basis for uploading on the designated web portal.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Syed Fahim Bihari; CEO SDA, Bilal Mukhtar; DFO Sindh Forest Division, ACR, SDM Kangan, ACD, CMO, and other officers of concerned departments.

## DLSA Budgam organizes awareness prog. on NALSA DAWN scheme at GMS Burgroo

HT News Desk / DIPR

**BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 16:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam organized an awareness programme on NALSA DAWN — Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation for a Drug-Free India at Government Middle School, Burgroo.

The event was held under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, DLSA, Budgam, and the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, DLSA Budgam.

Programme aimed to highlight the NALSA DAWN scheme, 2025,



which adopts a comprehensive approach by establishing district-level units to ensure access to justice, spread legal awareness, and support victims of drug abuse, ultimately paving the way for a healthier, safer, and drug-free society.

PLVs deputed by DLSA Budgam as resource persons emphasized on the psychological, social, and legal consequences of drug abuse, informed participants about the available legal support and rehabilitation measures under the DAWN Scheme. They motivated youth

to act as ambassadors of change in combating the menace of drugs.

The programme aimed at educating students and the community about the dangers of substance abuse while encouraging collective efforts to build a drug-free society.

Teachers and students of Government Middle School, Burgroo, actively participated with great enthusiasm, making the programme a resounding success with significant participation from teachers, students, and other community members.

## Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir Organizes CBP on Branding & Packaging under RAMP

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16:** Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, the Implementing Agency under the World Bank-supported Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme, today conducted a one-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on Branding and Packaging at the Conference Hall, Exhibition Ground, Srinagar.

This workshop is the 7th in the series of Capacity Building Programmes under RAMP.

The session was designed to equip artisans and weavers with practical insights and strategies for effective product branding and modern packaging, which are critical components in enhancing market reach and competitiveness in both domestic and international markets.

Experts and faculty from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) Pampore conducted the training and shared hands-on guidance, case studies, and design approaches. The interactive sessions emphasized the importance of storytelling in branding, the role of sustainable and eco-friendly packaging materials, and methods to differentiate products in a crowded marketplace.

Over 150 artisans and producers, particularly those engaged in G.I./ODOP/DEH products, participated in the event.



Representatives from self-help groups, cooperative societies, and rural enterprises also attended. Participants engaged in group exercises, received templates for packaging designs, and discussed how to leverage digital platforms for branding and sales.

The programme aimed to empower grassroots craft producers by introducing them to evolving consumer preferences, branding tools, and value-added packaging techniques. Participants were also made aware of regulatory guidelines, barcoding, and quality certification processes that can enhance their products' credibility.

This initiative is part of a broader series of capacity-building efforts under the RAMP scheme aimed at strengthening MSMEs and the artisan

community of Kashmir by improving product positioning and market access. The programme also seeks to create sustainable income streams and enhance livelihoods while preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Officials highlighted that such interventions are vital for connecting traditional crafts with modern consumer demands and for fostering innovation among artisans. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing confidence in implementing the learnings to expand their market presence.

Further training sessions are scheduled in other districts as part of RAMP's continued efforts to promote entrepreneurship and resilience among Kashmir's handicraft and handloom sectors.

## DC Kulgam reviews progress of drainage projects & allied works in MCs of Kulgam, Devsar

Farooq Rather

**KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 16:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Tuesday reviewed the progress of the drainage and allied works under execution in Kulgam, and Devsar towns of district.



The meeting, held in his office chamber here, held a threadbare discussion on the various on-going schemes including SMRDA, SASCI, IDMT and others. DC enjoined upon the concerned officers of executing agencies to ensure timely completion.

The meeting also reviewed and discussed various projects under special assistance to states for capital investment (SASCI) in the said Municipalities of the district.

JDP Malik Suheel, ACR, Xen R&B, CEO MC Kulgam/Devsar, AEEs, Consultant PWD, among others attended the meeting.

## Branch MSME DFO Srinagar organises one-day entrepreneurship awareness program at IUST

HT News Desk / DIPR

**PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 16:** Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, in collaboration with the Department of Management Studies IUST, Tuesday organized a one-day entrepreneurship awareness program at the CIED-IUST Foundation Campus-III.

The primary objective of the program was to create awareness among entrepreneurs and management students of IUST regarding MSME registrations, schemes, and opportunities available for aspiring business leaders.

The inaugural session was attended by Prof. A.H Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, in presence of Saheel Alaqband, Assistant Director Br. MSME DFO Srinagar; Malik Ahmad, General manager DIC Pulwama; Prof.

Parvez A. Mir, CEO, CIED-IUST Foundation; Syed Zeeshan Andrabi, Functional Manager, DIC Pulwama; Er. Samrah Shakeel, OSD Skill Development; Sajid Hussain Shah, Young Professional MSME, members of CIED-IUST Foundation, entrepreneurs, and students.

Prof. A.H. Moon interacted with the participants on the importance of entrepreneurship in today's dynamic world, encouraging them to pursue it as a viable career path. Citing practical examples, he emphasized that entrepreneurs must be willing to take risks.

Saheel Alaqband highlighted that the Kashmir Valley holds immense potential for establishing processing units, particularly apple processing units, which can generate significant employment opportunities while also safeguarding farmers from po-



tential losses. Prof. Parvez A. Mir emphasized the role of CIED-IUST in funding, mentoring, and supporting young entrepreneurs, outlining opportunities provided by the incubation ecosystem.

Syed Zeeshan Andrabi provided awareness about district industry loan schemes and subsidies available for both small and large-scale businesses. He also discussed the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) schemes, aimed at promoting self-employment and enterprise development.

Er. Samrah Shakeel discussed skill development courses and encouraged students to leverage skill-based learning as a foundation for successful entrepreneurship.

The event proved to be highly informative and impactful, leaving participants with valuable insights into entrepreneurial opportunities, government support systems, and the importance of skill development in building sustainable enterprises.

# MODI A MAN OF 'PROFOUND INNER POWER': BRAZILIAN VEDANTA TEACHER

United News of India

**NEW DELHI, SEP 16:** Acharya Jonas Masetti, Brazilian Vedanta teacher recognised for spreading Indian spiritualism and philosophy in Brazil, has described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a man of "profound inner power guided by something greater than himself." Acharya Masetti, one of two foreigners awarded Padma Shri this year, in a message on the occasion of the Prime Minister turning 75, said Prime Minister Modi's presence carries Shakti, a quiet force that transforms the atmosphere around him.

"In Prime Minister Modi, I did not just see a political leader, but a man of profound inner power, guided by something greater than himself. His presence carries Shakti — a quiet force that transforms the atmosphere around him. Modi-ji's leadership is not only political, it is deeply spiritual in the most silent and authentic way." He

said in his message. Rising from simple beginnings not through privilege but through purpose, at 75, Prime Minister Modi "stands as a beacon — reminding us that true greatness is measured not by status, but by the depth of one's purpose. His unwavering commitment reflects an understanding that Bharat's future rests not just on economics or geopolitics, but on dharma, identity, and soul."

The Acharya said he has had the privilege of seeing Prime Minister Modi up close not once, but several times and each time, he felt he wasn't just in the presence of a political leader, but of a man with profound inner power, whose life seems to be guided by something greater than himself.

The Acharya said the first time he had met the Prime Minister was unforgettable. "It was in Brazil, and I was there to receive him—not as a politician, but as the living symbol of a tradition that has transformed

my life. Along with my students, I stood to chant Vedic mantras as he arrived. For us, it was a moment of immense gratitude — an offering of sound, a gesture of reverence to the culture that has blessed us so deeply here in Brazil."

And in that moment, something powerful happened. As he stepped into the room, they could feel the presence of Sakti. The atmosphere changed. The space felt alive. His posture, his silence, his unwavering gaze — it carried the weight of his practice, of his discipline, of his lineage.

"That was the moment I saw the spiritual force behind the man. And it marked me deeply."

He said that since then, he had had the opportunity to see him again, during his second visit to Brazil, at the presentation of the Ramayana, and at the BRICS summit.

Later, he saw the Prime Minister once more when he was given the Padma Shri. That recognition, usually offered to



those in the twilight of their lives after decades of work, "came to me at the age of 44."

"It was an extraordinary honour—and more than that, a deep responsibility. It made me ask myself: how can I give back to this culture that has given me everything?"

That question gave birth to the Samba Shiva Festival — a

cultural and spiritual celebration that seeks to reconnect young people in Bharat with their own Vedic roots. But this is not just a festival. It is a gesture of offering, a bridge between the wisdom of Bharat and the vitality of Brazil.

And it is my heartfelt intention—when I arrive in Bharat this October—to personally

present this project to Prime Minister Modi. "I truly believe it can support his mission of reviving and preserving the Vedic tradition in the hearts of Bharat's youth. It is not a project about us. It is about reminding the children of this sacred land of the treasure they already carry within."

The Samba Shiva Festival—a cultural and spiritual celebration that seeks to reconnect young people in Bharat with their own Vedic roots—will be held from October 29 to November 8 at three universities—BITS Pilani (from October 29–Nov 2), Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (from November 2 – November 4), Bengal College of Engineering and Technology, Durgapur (from November 4 – November 8)

"We will sing, share stories, chant the mantras, and celebrate the profound beauty of this tradition—not to teach, but to reflect. Not to impose, but to invite. And to remind the youth of Bharat that freedom without

grounding is confusion, and that ancestral knowledge is not a limitation—it is the very compass for a life well-lived.

He said Modi life is a reminder of this. He rose from simple beginnings not through privilege, but through purpose. His leadership is not only political — it is spiritual in the most silent and authentic way. You can feel it in his presence. You can see it in his unwavering commitment. And you can sense it in his deep understanding that Bharat's future depends not just on GDP or geopolitics, but on dharma, on identity, on soul.

The Acharya said "this article is not a political statement. It is a personal offering — of love, gratitude, and respect. At 75, Narendra Modi stands as a beacon — not only for India, but for all of us who cherish the Vedic tradition across the world. He reminds us that greatness is not measured by status or popularity, but by the depth of one's purpose and the sincerity of one's path." UNI

## Indian, US officials hold talks, decide to intensify efforts for early conclusion of Trade Agreement

United News of India

**NEW DELHI, SEP 16:** India and US officials held discussions here today and decided to intensify efforts to achieve early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement.

A team of US officials led by Chief Negotiator, India US Bilateral Trade Agreement negotiations, Brendan Lynch, held discussions with officials from Department of Commerce, led by Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, on India-US trade ties including on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement, an official spokesman said.

"The discussions were positive and forward looking covering various aspects of the trade deal. It was decided to intensify efforts to achieve early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agree-



ment," the spokesman added.

Acknowledging the enduring importance of bilateral trade between India and the U.S. the discussions were positive and forward looking covering various aspects of the trade deal, the spokesman added.

Mr Lynch arrived here last night for the discussions. Officials said yesterday that discussions were being held to narrow down differences between the two countries on trade issues.

India and the US have so far held five rounds of Trade talks. The officials said today's discussions were a precursor to the possible sixth round of trade negotiations between the two countries.

The Trade talks are significant following the announcement of 50 percent Tariff on Indian goods by the Trump administration. UNI

## PM Modi, Danish PM Frederiksen discuss early conclusion of India-EU FTA, Ukraine, during phone call

United News of India

**NEW DELHI, SEP 16:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke on the phone today with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen during which the two leaders stressed on the early conclusion of the India-EU FTA and also on bringing an early conclusion to the Ukraine conflict.

The PM said in a post on X, that he also conveyed his best wishes for Denmark's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

"Had a very good conversation with Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen of Denmark today. We reaffirmed our strong commitment to strengthening our Green Strategic Partnership and to an early conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.

"Conveyed best wishes for

Denmark's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Also discussed our shared interest in bringing an early end to the conflict in Ukraine."

The Danish PM said in a post on X: "We reaffirmed the strength of our relations and Green Strategic Partnership. Exchanged views on global challenges. I emphasized importance of cooperation, also on addressing global consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine."

An Indian readout said that the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership across sectors such as trade, investment, innovation, energy, water management, food processing and sustainable development.

"Prime Minister Modi con-



veyed his best wishes for the success of Denmark's ongoing Presidency of the Council of the European Union and non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.

"The leaders also discussed

issues of regional and global importance. PM reiterated India's consistent support for peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict and early restoration of peace and stability. "Prime Minister Frederiksen reaffirmed Den-

mark's strong support for the conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-EU Free Trade Agreement at the earliest, and for the success of the AI Impact Summit to be hosted by India in 2026."

The phone call also comes days after the September 3 meeting between the Danish PM and the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy who had visited Denmark for a meeting with Frederiksen ahead of a Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) leaders' meeting.

Frederiksen's government has provided significant military and financial aid to Kyiv, and has been a strong advocate for Ukraine's membership in the EU and NATO.

During Denmark's EU Council presidency in the latter half of 2025, a key focus will be advancing Ukraine's EU accession negotiations. UNI

## Iran refuses two-state solution to Israel-Palestine conflict

United News of India

**TEHRAN, SEP 16:** Iran has rejected references to a two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict contained in the final communique of the Arab-Islamic emergency summit in Doha, saying the approach fails to address the root of the issue and accusing US policies of perpetuating Israeli aggression.

"The so-called two-state solution will not solve the Palestinian issue," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by state media, reports Iran International.

"The only real and lasting solution is the establishment of a single democratic state through a referendum with the participation of all Palestinians, inside and outside the occupied territories."

The summit reaffirmed support for the Arab Peace Initiative and inter-

national resolutions calling for a two-state settlement with East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital.

Tehran also disassociated itself from mentions of East Jerusalem, the 1967 borders and related terms in the communique, reiterating what it described as the Palestinian people's "inalienable right to self-determination" and the use of "all necessary means" to achieve it.

The ministry also condemned what it called Israel's alleged "brutal crimes." Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi movement echoed the criticism, dismissing the communique as weak and symbolic.

Senior official Mohammed Ali al-Houthi said that "a simple and tiresome statement of condemnation will not prevent the crimes of the occupiers" and urged stronger measures. The summit, convened in Doha this week following Israel's Septem-

ber 9 strike on Qatar, condemned the attack as a breach of international law and declared full solidarity with Doha. Israel has since admitted it is facing growing economic isolation, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attributing it to a Qatar-backed political and media blockade, particularly in Western capitals, partially succeeding in disrupting economic cooperation.

In their final statement, Arab and Islamic leaders accused Israel of committing "genocide, ethnic cleansing, starvation and siege," warning such actions undermine peace efforts.

Iran formally requested that its reservations over the two-state solution be recorded in the final report. It also ruled out any US role as mediator in the conflict, citing Washington's close ties to Israel, while welcoming the mediation efforts of Qatar and Egypt. UNI

## India voices deep concern over Doha attack, condemns violation of Qatar's sovereignty, in UNHRC statement

United News of India

**GENEVA/NEW DELHI, SEP 16:** India today voiced its deep concern about the September 9 Israeli attacks on Doha, and condemned the violation of sovereignty of Qatar, at the UNHRC in Geneva today.

Days after the IDF strikes on a building in Doha, that were aimed to eliminate the top Hamas leadership involved in the October 7, 2023, attack in Israel, India advocated for restraint and diplomacy to ensure peace and security in the region.

India's envoy to Geneva Arindam Bagchi, conveying India's position at the UN Human Rights Commission, during an urgent debate on the "recent military aggression carried out by Israel against the State of Qatar on 9 September 2025", said that India is deeply concerned about the recent attacks in Doha and their impact on the security situation in the region.

"We unequivocally condemn the violation of the sovereignty of Qatar. Such actions threaten peace, stability, and security, not only in the region but across the world."

He said "India firmly believes that differences must be resolved peacefully through dialogue and diplomacy, in full conformity with the principles of the UN Charter and international law. Any escalation must be avoided, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States must be upheld."

"We strongly urge restraint and diplomacy to ensure that peace and security in the region are not compromised. He said India stands firmly in support of peace and stability in the region, and against terrorism in any form or manifestation."

"We call upon the international community to remain united in efforts towards attaining peace and upholding the rule of law. As a close partner, India reiterates its solidarity with Qatar and its people."

Today's open condemnation of the Doha attack comes days after the Ministry of External Affairs in a guarded statement on September 9 expressed deep concern over the attack, and its impact on the security situation in the region. In the statement, India also strongly urged for restraint and diplomacy, so that peace and security in the region is not endangered. UNI

## Mauritius PM Navin Ramgoolam calls on President Murmu, VP Radhakrishnan

United News of India

**NEW DELHI, SEP 16:** Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam today called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and separately also called on Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, on the concluding day of his eight-day state visit.

The Mauritius PM, who leaves today after concluding his state visit to India, called on President Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

During the talks, both leaders agreed that the relations between the two countries are unique, "rooted in

our shared history, language, culture, and values".

"The President expressed confidence that with the vast leadership experience of Prime Minister Ramgoolam, India-Mauritius long-standing bilateral ties will further strengthen in the times to come," said a post from the President's House.

He also met Vice President CP Radhakrishnan at the Vice-President's Enclave. "Discussions focused on strengthening trade, economic, and people-to-people ties between India and Mauritius," said a post from the VP's office.

In the morning, the Mauri-

tius PM visited Rajghat and paid respects to Mahatma Gandhi. He also paid tribute to former PM Atal Behari Vajpayee at the Sadaiv Atal memorial. He also visited the New Parliament building.

Over the past few days, the Mauritius PM visited the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, and offered prayers, and also prayed at the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi. Yesterday, he went to Tirupati, in Andhra Pradesh, to offer prayers.

The Mauritius PM posted on his Facebook page: "Our spiritual journey in India took us from the sacred banks of the Ganges in Varanasi, to offering prayers at the revered Kashi

Vishwanath Mandir and culminating with a visit to the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. This pilgrimage reflects the profound cultural and spiritual ties that continue to unite Mauritius and India."

The Mauritius PM, who arrived in India on September 9 on his first overseas bilateral visit since taking over as prime minister last year, had also visited Mumbai for a business event.

He had held talks with PM Modi in Varanasi on September 11, during which the two sides unveiled several MoUs to take forward the bilateral ties.

India and Mauritius share a close and special relationship

rooted in shared historical, cultural and people to people ties. As India's key maritime neighbor in the Indian Ocean Region, Mauritius holds a special place in India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Region) and the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and is a key partner in the Global South, a statement said.

The visit of Prime Minister Dr. Ramgoolam to India, following the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Mauritius in March 2025, will advance the strong and enduring bonds between India and Mauritius, it added. UNI



# Axar Patel and the Fine Art of Standing Tall

■ Pratyush Sinha

**DUBAI:** Axar Patel is a tall bloke. Six-foot-one, with long arms and a heavy mop of hair. The height helps him stand out in India's huddles and team anthems, but it is also what makes his four-and-a-half-step run-up deceptive. Some balls spear in, others straighten with bounce, all delivered in a style that looks ungainly until it lands exactly where he wants it to. But for all the physical presence and skill, Axar is rarely the one who hogs the spotlight. In the build-up to this India-Pakistan game in Dubai, the left-arm talk was about the other bowlers. Mohammad Nawaz, "best spinner in the world." Kuldeep Yadav, the X factor. Shaheen Afridi, due another magical new-ball spell. Even Sufiyan Muqem, with his bag of tricks.

On the night, though, it was Axar who built on the breakthrough provided by the pacers and took the match away from Pakistan in the middle overs with figures that read - 4 overs, 15 dots, 18 runs, 2 wickets.

He didn't bowl inside the powerplay like he had against the UAE, but he was summoned for Fakhar Zaman, the left-handed hitter who had begun to look comfortable. Fakhar charged, looking to impose himself on what was supposed to be a favourable match-up. Left-handed batter vs left-arm spinner. Instead, he found himself caught at deep, unable to get on top of a ball fired in at 94.7 kph upon seeing him use his feet.

From there, Axar found a rhythm from the less-favoured end, the one India's legspinners mostly avoided. He bowled two overs in the first half of Pakistan's innings, his couple of wickets for only three runs leaving

Pakistan stranded at 49 for 4.

"You feel if a left-hander is walking in, you can't bowl a left-arm spinner," India captain Suryakumar Yadav said. "But he practices more to the left-handed batters. And when he bowls to the right-handers, he has his own plans."

The standout moment, though, came against the Pakistan captain, Salman Ali Agha. The field was set without long-on or long-off, almost teasing him to hit straight but Axar bowled anything but hittable lengths. Agha was beaten on the sweep, cramped on the cut, pinned on the back foot. By the time frustration took over and he premeditated another sweep, Axar had slowed it down to 85.2 kph, bowling it loopy and wide and inviting the top edge. Taken in the deep.

It was the kind of over that summed up his craft: smart lines, simple changes of pace and the skills and nerves to keep things tight.

Kuldeep Yadav might have finished with the awards but it was Axar's control that allowed India's spinners to run through Pakistan. He operated differently too. Normally in the early 90s, here he bowled nearly 70 percent of his deliveries under 90 kph, and over half between 85 and 89 kph. Against the UAE, only 59 percent of his deliveries were under 90.

Mike Hesson, Pakistan's head coach, was blunt. "There's no mystery there," he said of Axar. "He slides the ball in and occasionally he turns one. It's the accuracy and the pressure. You build dots, the mind plays tricks, you play a big shot. It's not about picking him. It's about not being able to rotate."

Cricbuzz

**WOOD PECKERS**  
 "Pursuing to Perfection"

**SYED FARAKH MEMORIAL**  
**FOOTBALL NIGHT TOURNAMENT**

**SPONSORS**

AL MUQEET CERAMICS, MODERN BAKERY, JAHANA, EMARAT, CUREMED, ONLINE HUB, REHAAN INTERIORS PALHALLAN, BUKHARI COPPER HOUSE, SHABIR ELECTRONICS, AL BAIK RESTAURANT, FIRST LOOK, KITCHEN, CLASSIC CUISINE, AL QASMI COPPER HOUSE, MIR HARDWARE, DELHI BIRYANI, FLY HIGH HAJJ & UMRAH, AKHOON JEWELLERS, MAX WATER, WANI BOOK SHOP

SKY I NE GROUP, NAMROSE, KASHMIR NEWS BUREAU, BANDIPORA SUPER LEAGUE 2025, MALIK TECH ZONE, FIT INDIA #Myyouthmypride

**BANDIPORA SUPER LEAGUE**

ORGANISED BY KASHMIR NEWS BUREAU, ALFAH TRADING CRICKET CLUB IN ASSOCIATION WITH J&K SPORTS COUNCIL

STARTING FROM 28TH SEPTEMBER

AT Bandipora Stadium

Media Partners: KASHMIR MONITOR, HEADLINES TODAY, KASHMIR NEWS BUREAU, QNS, DG, JKNS, KASHMIR, ANI NEWS KASHMIR

## Sindhu, Lakshya, Sat-Chi to lead Indian challenge at China Masters 2025

■ United News of India

**GUANGDONG(CHINA):** PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and the duo of Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will lead the Indian challenge at the China Masters 2025 badminton tournament that will commence in Shenzhen Arena here on Tuesday. China Masters 2025 is a Super 750 tournament having a total prize money of US\$1,250,000 and will be played from September 16 - 21, 2025. Paris Olympics semi-finalist Lakshya Sen looks in good touch as he is fresh from Hong Kong Open, where he played the final.

Lakshya will be joined in men's singles by Ayush Shetty, who is the only Indian to win a BWF Tour title this season. Shetty bagged the US Open Super 300 triumph in June. In men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag, who are seeded eighth, will look to break their title drought of 2025. Sat-Chi have been India's most consistent pair this year, with six semi-final appearances and a runners-up finish in Hong Kong China last week. The duo also won a bronze at the World Championships earlier this month.

PV Sindhu will be India's main challenger in women's singles. Paris 2024 Olympian Tanisha Crasto will compete in the mixed doubles partnering Dhruv Kapila. No Indian badminton player has ever won a title at the China Masters till date.

**Indian badminton squad at China Masters 2025**  
 Men's singles: Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty  
 Men's doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty  
 Women's singles: PV Sindhu  
 Women's doubles: Rutaparna Panda-Swetaparna Panda  
 Mixed doubles: Dhruv Kapila-Tanisha Crasto, Rohan Kapoor-Ruthvika Gadde. (UNI)

ARFATH TOURS HAJ & UMRAH GROUP, HAJ 2026 (1447 Hijri)

**Lowest Budget Package**  
 (30-35 Days)  
**Rs. 4,99,000/-** GST 5% Extra, TCS 5% Extra

**PACKAGE INCLUDES**  
 HAJ VISA, VIA FLIGHT HYD TO HYD, ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

**Makkah Building**  
 Stay in Aziziya Building  
 5 DAYS OF ARKAN E HAJJ  
 8 to 12th Zilhajja With Food

**MINA** Service Category "D"  
 Transport Mina, Arfath, Muzdalifa Jed-Makkah-Madinah-Jed

**Madina Hotel**  
 600 to 700 Meters Distance

PURANI HAVELI, HYDERABAD - (T.C) INDIA, Phone : 040-66338338  
 Contact : 08686633846 | 09700118674 | 09392644008 | 08977712893  
 E-mail : arfathhours@gmail.com | arfathhour@yahoo.in

**JK FABRICS**

**SUITING AND SHIRTING**

GOWN AND DRESS MATERIALS | PARTY WEAR AND SEMI-PARTY WEAR | COTTON SUITS | WEDDING SUITS | 7-DAY SUITS FOR THE BRIDE

+91-7006764737 | +91-6005078346

NEAR POST OFFICE AL-AZIZIA COMPLEX MAGAM-193401

**LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS**

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL **Printing** NEEDS

NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS  
 LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES  
 VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES  
 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES  
 WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY  
 WALL PAINTINGS

999038812  
 9419008414  
 01942496287

Gund Hassi Bhat, Radio Colony, Lawaypora, Srinagar