



Srinagar

Thursday

September 18 | 2025

24 Rabi ul Awwal, 1447 AH

Issue No: 222

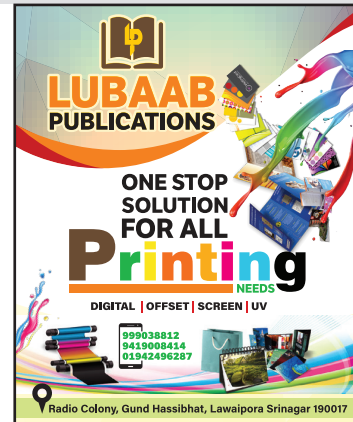
Volume: 15

Pages: 12

Price: Rs 02/-

15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATIONHEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless

Terrorism and Naxalism Are Threats
To National Development: LG

LG Attends Launch of Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the "Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan- Healthy Women, Empowered Families", a national health campaign launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The 16-day campaign will strengthen screening, maternal health services, lifestyle counselling, yoga and Ayush-based interventions for women, adolescent girls and children.

The event also witnessed the commencement of 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah which will be celebrated from 17th September to 16th October 2025, across the country.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for dedicating the national health campaign to promote

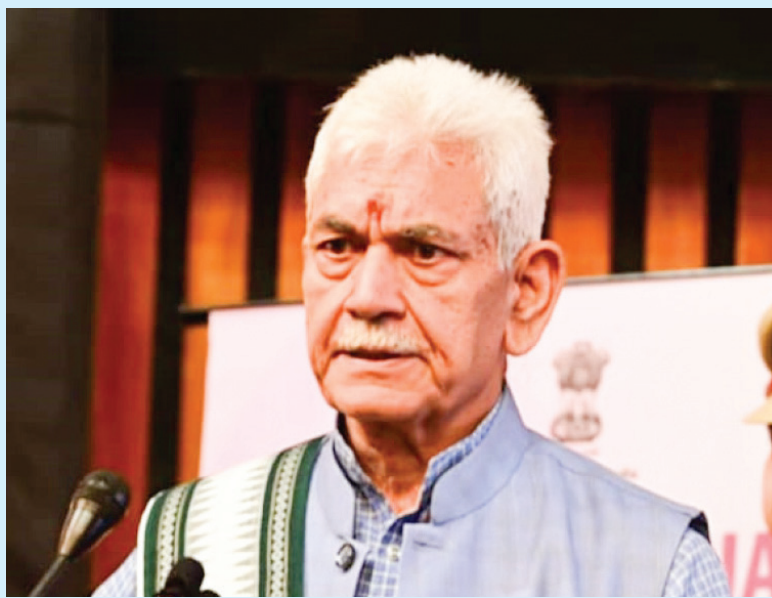
women's health and well being.

He called upon all the stakeholders to work with Whole of Government Approach and make this campaign a huge success.

"A healthy woman is the foundation of a happy and prosperous family, which in turn builds a strong nation. Today, the supreme position of women in public life is seen as key to ensuring peace and progress in the society. The "Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan" is poised to turn a new chapter in women's empowerment.

Hon'ble Prime Minister's holistic approach to improving the lives and prioritising health of women has given new strength to Nari Shakti. Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision, which places Nari Shakti at the forefront of development, has made women powerful agents of change," the Lieutenant Governor said.

● Turn on Page 2

Bailey Bridge Reflects
Army's Dedication &
Service: LG

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: On the occasion of commencement of fortnight-long 'Sewa Pakhwada', the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha virtually inaugurated Bailey Bridge on the Ramban-Gool Road.

The Lieutenant Governor dedicated the bridge

● Turn on Page 2

LG Visits JLN Hospital
Srinagar; Distributes Fruits
on PM's 75th Birthday

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited JLN Hospital Rainawari and distributed fruits to the patients as part of 'Sewa Pakhwada' to celebrate the 75th Birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

● Turn on Page 2

Expedite work on highway: CM Omar

Visits Udhampur to oversee restoration at Thard



■ HT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEP 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday visited the affected stretch of NH-44 at Thard Udhampur to take stock of the ongoing restoration works.

He was accompanied by Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs; Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA Chenani; Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur; Amod Ashok Nagpure, SSP Udhampur; Adil Hamid, SSP Traffic; besides senior officers and members of the local public.

During the visit, R.S. Yadav, Regional Officer J&K NHAI, briefed the Chief Minister about the progress of works including widening, metalling, and restoration of the second tube of NH-44.

He also apprised him of the current single-lane traffic arrangements

● Turn on Page 2

CM Omar inaugurates
Transport Bhawan at Bemina

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the newly constructed Transport Bhawan at Bemina,

● Turn on Page 2

Sanctions immediate
relief for affected families
at Kalaban

■ HT News Desk

POONCH, SEP 17: Chief Minister Omar

● Turn on Page 2

Operation Sindoor' Part Of India's New
Security Approach: PM Modi

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Terming 'Operation Sindoor' as part of a new security approach, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday praised India's armed forces for bringing Pakistan to its knees within no time.

Addressing a gathering in Madhya Pradesh, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The security of Mother India is the nation's highest priority. Terrorists who came from

● Turn on Page 2



75th Birthday

World leaders,
political rivals, allies
greet PM Modi

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: US President Donald Trump was the first among global and Indian leaders to wish Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday, sending his message minutes before midnight on Tuesday.

Addressing him simply as "Narendra," Trump's greeting was seen as a friendly gesture and a boost to India-US ties that have faced turbulence in recent times.

● Turn on Page 2

CS reviews impact of financial inclusion
& social security schemes in J&K

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level review meeting with Deputy Commissioners and senior officers to assess the progress and impact of major financial inclusion and social security schemes being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Director General, Resources; Director General, Planning; Director General, Budget,

besides all Deputy Commissioners who participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of key flagship initiatives including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Welfare Schemes, Ladli Beti, Marriage Assistance, Old Age Pension, Widow/Divorce Pension, and Disability Pension schemes.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of assessing the ground-

● Turn on Page 2

Direct Jammu-
Srinagar train likely
after October

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: The long-awaited

direct train between Jammu and Srinagar is likely to begin operations after October this year, raising hopes for all-weather connectivity at a time when repeated highway closures have crippled movement and trade in Jammu and Kashmir.

The 272-km railway link, traversing through mountains, tunnels, and the iconic Chenab Bridge, is seen as a vital alternative.

"The Jammu railway station expansion works were targeted for September but got delayed by three weeks," quoting a senior official, media reports said on Wednesday.

"The direct train between Jammu and Srinagar is in the pipeline. It is on the high-priority list and can start after October."

Currently, two eight-coach Vande Bharat trains operate between Katra and

Srinagar, carrying about 900 passengers each. Officials said that operational constraints—such as the need for a dedicated platform for security reasons, completion of a Foot Over Bridge (FoB), lifts, and a maintenance facility—are holding up the launch of the direct service.

"These facilities will be accomplished by October-end. We can introduce the

● Turn on Page 2

DGP, IG Traffic Review Restoration
Work on Tharad Stretch of NH-44

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 17: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday visited the Tharad village on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in the Udhampur district to review the ongoing restoration work, officials said.

This visit by the DGP follows a high-level meeting on Tuesday chaired by Union Minister for Road

Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to review the status of the highway, which has remained closed for heavy vehicles following massive damage caused by heavy rains and flash floods in Jammu and Kashmir last month.

Accompanied by Inspector General (IG) of Traffic Police Suleman Choudhary, the DGP visited the Tharad stretch of the highway and reviewed the situation and

● Turn on Page 2

G M Sofi Sends
Legal Notice Prior to Filing
Criminal Defamation
Suit Against AAP MP
Sanjay Singh

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Senior BJP leader, State Working Committee Member and former BDC, District President Baramulla Ghulam Mohiud-



din Sofi known for his contribution for national integrity from last three decades has

● Turn on Page 2

Rotten Meat Row
HC appreciates police action, seeks
responses in 10 days

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday directed all respondents in a case concerning the sale of rotten and unsafe meat to file their complete responses within ten days.

The matter relates to Public Interest Litigation (PIL No. 9 of 2025), which was filed by Advocate Mir Umar. He is represented in court by Advocate

Shafqat Nazir, while Senior Advocate Jehangir Iqbal Ganaie is assisting the court as amicus curiae.

The Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, heard the matter and took note of measures undertaken by the police following earlier court directions.

The Bench observed that the steps taken by the Inspectors General of Police (IGPs) of

● Turn on Page 2



Committee on Estimates reviews functioning of Forest, Ecology & Environment Department

Chairperson expresses concern over dwindling Forest cover, adverse impact on Environment

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: The House Committee on Estimates today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest, Ecology & Environment Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson Shamim Firdous and attended by members including Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Gharu Ram Bhagat, Aijaz Ahmad Jan, Shafi Ahmad Wani, Chander Prakash Ganga, Pyare Lal Sharma, and Arjun Singh Raju.

Expressing serious concern over the dwindling forest area and its adverse impact on the environment, the Chairperson stressed the need for sustainable and time-bound measures to protect forests and safeguard ecological balance.

The Committee emphasized conducting massive and sustained plantation drives across all regions of J&K. She impressed upon taking tangible steps to curb deforestation and prevent forest fire incidents.

The Committee undertook a detailed review of initiatives taken to contain deforestation caused by various developmental projects under PMGSY, PWD,



Rural Road Mission, National Highways Authority of India, and hydro-electric projects and measures taken for compensat-

ing falling of trees. She instructed that compensation of forest land use by user agency be also addressed on

priority and details on the same be submitted to the Committee within 15 days time period. The Chairperson stressed

that concrete initiatives be taken for re-plantation on priority, especially in tourist resorts such as Gulmarg, Yusmarg, Sonmarg, and Pahalgam, and sought details of deteriorated and fallen trees in these areas. She also called for strict measures to check the smuggling of pine and deodar trees.

Members raised the issue of shortage in timber supply and directed that vacant and fallen timber be recovered immediately and distributed through timber depots.

The Chairperson emphasized that the department should pick up many areas to develop them as green city

areas, with planting variety of trees and also steps be taken to preserve our water body for sustainability of flora and fauna.

The members raised issues of man-animal conflict and asserted that sterilization drives be taken to control the rising monkey population in Jammu areas, causing damage to crops and orchards.

Senior officers present in the meeting included Commissioner Secretary, Forest Department, Sheetal Nanda; PCCF, J&K, Suresh K. Gupta; CWLW, Suresh Rai; MD FDCL, Suneesh Buxy; DG Budget Finance, M.S. Malik; Special Secretaries and other senior officers.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan Launched at SDH Sopore

Khan Jahangeer

SOPORE, SEP 17: The Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan was inaugurated at Sub District Hospital Sopore on Wednesday.

As per news agency JKNS the Abhiyaan was inaugurated by by MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar. The initiative will be observed from September



17 to October 2 across Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on improving healthcare and nutrition services for women, adolescent girls, and children.

During the inauguration, MLA Kar stressed the importance of women's health and empowerment, saying that a healthy mother is the foundation of a strong family and society. He appreciated the efforts of the health department in implementing the programme.

The event was attended by Dr. Ab Rasheed, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad (Nodal Officer), Dr. Javid Ahmad, Parvaiz Ahmad Khan, and several other health officials and staff. (JKNS)

LoP Sunil Sharma Meets LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan Srinagar

Road Connectivity, Power & Water Supply, Flood Relief, and Postponement of Examinations Among Matters Discussed

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly, Shri Sunil Sharma, today called on Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan Srinagar and held an extensive discussion on several critical issues affecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of recent natural calamities.

During the meeting, Shri Sharma highlighted the issue of road connectivity across the Union Territory, particularly in areas cut off due to landslides and floods. He stressed that many villages and towns remain disconnected, which is severely hampering public movement,



delivery of essentials, and access to healthcare.

The power supply and water supply crisis was also raised in detail. Shri Sharma pointed out that many flood-hit and hilly regions are facing acute electricity cuts and irregular drinking water facilities, creating immense hardships for common people. He urged the adminis-

tration to ensure restoration on a war footing.

On the matter of flood relief, Shri Sharma emphasized that the current allocation for damaged houses is grossly inadequate. He requested that the financial support for affected families be increased substantially, so that people whose homes have been destroyed or

partially damaged can rebuild their lives with dignity.

The postponement of competitive examinations, including the JKPSC Lecturer recruitment and Munsiff examinations, was also discussed at length. Shri Sharma conveyed the concerns of aspirants who are unable to prepare or even reach examination centres due to poor connec-

tivity, floods, and internet issues. He appealed to the administration to ensure fairness by rescheduling these exams.

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha gave a patient hearing to all the issues raised and assured Shri Sunil Sharma that these matters will be taken up on priority for timely resolution.

Shri Sunil Sharma expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble LG for his understanding and prompt assurance. He said, "As Leader of Opposition, it is my duty to be the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. I will continue to raise their concerns with full sincerity and commitment, ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard and addressed."

Digital Clock with GPS Monitoring System Installed in Verinag to Boost Tourism & Local Engagement

Farooq Rather

VERINAG, SEP 17: In a significant step towards enhancing tourist facilities and promoting the town's appeal, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tourism Development Authority Verinag, has installed a state-of-the-art Digital Clock with GPS/Satellite Monitoring Control System in the heart of Verinag Town.

The digital clock, equipped with real-time Time and Temperature display, is aimed at benefiting locals, visitors, and tourists by keeping them

informed round-the-clock. This modern initiative is expected to improve public utility infrastructure while contributing to the broader goal of boosting tourism and the local economy.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO of Tourism Development Authority Verinag stated, "Verinag is a key tourist destination with immense potential. The installation of this digital clock is a small yet meaningful step toward making Verinag more tourist-friendly and technologically integrated. Such facilities add to the visitor experience while also

serving the local community."

Locals have appreciated the move, calling it a "welcome step" that adds a touch of modernity to the town and reflects a positive shift towards smart tourism infrastructure in the region.

The Tourism Development Authority has hinted at more such initiatives aimed at improving tourist amenities, beautification, and digital connectivity, in alignment with the government's broader vision of sustainable and smart tourism development in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sewa Parv celebrated at Kulgam

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: As part of the Sewa Parv programme, the Department of Labour conducted a comprehensive inspection across key establishment units to ensure strict compliance with existing labour laws at Kulgam.

Labour officers, labour inspectors of the office reviewed working conditions, wage records, and safety measures to uphold workers' rights and welfare. The inspection was followed by an awareness program aimed at educating employers and employees on legal obligations and entitlements.

Interactive sessions highlighted topics such as minimum wage, working hours and grievance



redressal mechanisms. The department reaffirmed its commitment to regular inspections and community outreach. This program marks a significant step toward fostering transparency and fairness in the labour ecosystem.

In addition, death compensation of Rs. 2,05,000 was released in favour of one deceased registered worker at the programme. On this very occasion beneficiaries registered under building and other construction workers Act have also been provided fair awareness so that they may get the benefits under various social security schemes. Moreover, registration of gig workers has also been initiated in the particular area.

Kulgam Embraces Sewa Parv with Zeal and Enthusiasm

Volunteerism and Social Contribution Take Center Stage, Says DC Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 17: With spirited community participation and official involvement, Kulgam district kick-started the Sewa Parv 2025 campaign with immense zeal and enthusiasm.

The fortnight-long celebration was formally inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Shafi Khan (IAS), who flagged off an awareness rally, launched an IEC Swachhata Van, and initiated a plantation drive at the Mini Secretariat, marking the official commencement of the district-level campaign.

The inaugural day witnessed a wide range of activities across the district, including sanitation drives, awareness camps, Swachhata pledges, and registration/enrolment drives.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Kulgam said, "The soul of Sewa

Parv lies in volunteerism and collective social contribution. Every citizen has a role in shaping a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous society."

He added that a comprehensive action plan and activity calendar has been developed to ensure that all departments reach out to citizens with their schemes and services, ensuring no eligible beneficiary is left uncovered.

Emphasizing the need for environmental responsibility, the DC urged people to keep rivers, water bodies, and surroundings clean, stressing that national development is a shared duty.

Throughout the day, the district was abuzz with various events, including:

- Awareness rallies
- Sanitation and plantation drives
- Health check-up and blood donation camps
- Information sessions on gov-



ernment schemes

Various departments also set up awareness stalls at the Mini Secretariat for on-the-spot registration, enrolment, and dissemination of scheme-related information.

Government employees, stu-

dents, and local citizens actively participated in Swachhata Pledges, reaffirming their commitment to cleanliness, hygiene, and public service.

As part of the mega function, sanction letters for agricultural machinery were distributed to

eligible farmers under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The event was attended by Additional District Department Commissioner (ADDC) Altaf Ahmad Khan (JKAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Vikar Ahmad Giri (JKAS), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Reyaz Ahmad Shah (JKAS), Assistant Commissioner Development Bilal Ahmed kamgar (JKAS) Sub-divisional Magistrate DH Pora Bashir ul Hassan (JKAS) district officers, officials from various departments, and a large number of local residents.

The Sewa Parv campaign will continue throughout the fortnight, featuring initiatives focused on healthcare, sanitation, environmental protection, and public awareness, making it a people-centric celebration of service and civic duty.

Sakeena Itoo virtually attends 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' launch ceremony

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today virtually attended the inaugural ceremony of 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' (Healthy Women, Empowered Families) Abhiyaan, a 16 days National Health Campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

Senior officers of health and medical education department also attended the launch ceremony alongside the Health Minister.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Minister urged upon the officers of health department to carry this unique national health outreach campaign regarding women's health and well-being to every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir. She asked them to involve all stakeholders from Panchayat level into this campaign so that its desired objectives can be achieved.

The Health Minister also called upon the officers to conduct awareness among the masses through electronic, print and social media, so that maximum people can take benefits from this Abhiyaan.



The Minister, on the occasion, also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister for launch-

ing a dedicated campaign for the women's health and well-being.

Pertinently, 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' Abhiyaan is considered to be the largest ever health outreach for women in the country and over One Lakh Health Camps will be organized across the country from 17th September to 2nd October under this initiative.

The camps will be organized at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres (CHCs), District Hospitals and other government health facilities across the country. Daily health camps will also be held

in all government health facilities.

This nationwide intensified campaign seeks to provide women-centric preventive and curative health services at the community level. It will strengthen screening, early detection, and treatment linkages for non-communicable diseases, anaemia, tuberculosis, and sickle cell disease, while also promoting maternal, child, and adolescent health through antenatal care, immunisation, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, lifestyle and mental health awareness activities.

Committee on Environment calls for introducing Environmental Science as mandatory subject in all J&K Schools

Stresses expert consultation to mitigate floods, land erosion other climatic challenges

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: The Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today emphasized the need to introduce Environmental Science as a mandatory subject across all schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Committee during a meeting today observed that the recent floods, frequent cloudbursts, and flash floods across the Himalayan region should serve as an eye-opener, underscoring the urgent need for preparedness to mitigate their adverse impacts.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman Committee on Environment, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, and members including Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khattana, Yudhvir Sethi, and Darshan Kumar also participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed the recent devastation floods in Himalayan range due to ecological disorder and measures being taken to prevent disasters in the future.

At the outset, the Chairman stressed the importance of consulting environmental experts

with experience across the Himalayan range to devise a comprehensive strategy for safeguarding the region against future climatic challenges.

Highlighting the significance of protecting J&K's fragile ecosystem, the Chairman instructed the concerned departments to involve subject experts and prepare an annual action plan for rural sanitation.

The Committee reviewed the ongoing flood-related works and measures undertaken by the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Pollution Control Board, and Environment & Ecology Department

to prevent future flood situations and other climatic challenges in J&K.

The Chairman directed the concerned departments to submit detailed reports on dredging, desilting, and flood protection works across all rivers and tributaries.

He further emphasized smooth functioning of all WSSs so that ensuring the supply of clean and safe drinking water to the public.

The Committee also sought comprehensive reports on mining operations and plantation drives in affected areas.

It was decided that aware-

ness meetings and seminars on the importance of environment protection would be conducted across various districts. The Committee also resolved to undertake spot visits to key infrastructure sites and facilities to strengthen environmental safeguards.

Senior Officers from the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Pollution Control Board, and Department of Environment, Ecology & Remote Sensing briefed the Committee about ongoing projects and preparations aimed at improving environmental safeguards.

AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre, Kenihama holds series of camps under Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 17: To commemorate the launch of Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan, AYUSH Health and Wellness Centre, Kenihama, under the guidance of District AYUSH Officer, Budgam Dr. Firdous Malik today organised series of health camps here.



The initiative is aimed to promote health and wellbeing of women, thereby strengthening families and communities as a whole.

A special outreach camp was held in local High school where female students actively participated, besides another camp was held at AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre, Kenihama which witnessed enthusiastic participation of women from the local community.

During the camps, free health check-ups for anaemia, hypertension, diabetes, thyroid disorders and other lifestyle-related conditions, along with awareness sessions on nutrition, menstrual hygiene, maternal and child health were held. Yoga, meditation and stress management demonstrations were also conducted to encourage holistic wellbeing, besides one-on-one counselling sessions were held on reproductive health, mental wellbeing and lifestyle modifications.

During these camps, free medicines were also distributed among the participants.

Speaking on the initiative, Dr. Nusrat Bashir, Medical Officer, AHWC Kenihama, emphasised that women's health is the cornerstone of a healthy society. She highlighted the importance of regular health check-ups and preventive care for overall well being of an individual.

Abdul Rahim Rather inaugurates macadamization works on vital Chadoora-Brenwar road

HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 17: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today inaugurated the much-anticipated macadamization works on vital road connecting Chadoora to Brenwar.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, the Speaker emphasized on the Government's commitment to upgrading rural infrastructure. "This road is a lifeline for the people of this area. Its macadamization will not only end the long-standing difficulties faced by the residents but will also act as a catalyst for the overall development of the area", the Speaker said.

He added that the improved connectivity will open new avenues for economic growth, enhance access to markets, healthcare facilities and significantly improve the quality of life of local community.



On the occasion, Executive Engineer PMGSY assured the Speaker that the macadamization work will be completed efficiently within a strict time-frame of 20 days. He informed the Speaker that this 9.90-kilometer road project, undertaken at an estimated cost of 2.15 crores, is a key infrastructure initiative aimed at providing a smooth and safe travel experience for commuters, farmers, and local businesses.

Pertinently, the macadamization of this vital road marks a significant step towards improving connectivity and boosting the socio-economic development of the region. It is expected to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce vehicle maintenance costs, and provide all-weather connectivity to the surrounding villages.

The event, among others, was attended by local dignitaries, community leaders, and large number of enthusiastic residents who have long advocated for the upgradation of this crucial road.

Sewa Parv: Free Medical & Screening Camp inaugurated at GMC Baramulla

HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, SEP 17: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Baramulla, Javed Hassan Baig and Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today inaugurated a Free Medical and Screening Camp under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan at Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla.

The camp was specially dedicated to women and children, providing free medical consultations, health check-ups, and screening services. On the occasion, nutritional kits were also distributed among TB patients as part of the government's efforts to support patient care and recovery.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Baig said that such initiatives reflect the government's priority to ensure accessible and quality healthcare for women, children, and other vulnerable sections of society. He appreciated the efforts of GMC Baramulla for organizing the programme and urged citizens to take maximum benefit from such healthcare initiatives.

Earlier in the day, a live streaming session of the Swasth Nari Sashakt



In his remarks, Deputy Commissioner emphasized that special focus on maternal and child health is essential for building a strong and healthy community. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to supporting such programmes and commended the medical fraternity for their dedicated services.

Earlier in the day, a live streaming session of the Swasth Nari Sashakt

Parivar Abhiyaan launched by Prime Minister was organized at GMC Baramulla, which was attended by MLA Baramulla, Javed Hassan Baig; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Principal GMC Baramulla, Prof. Dr. Majid Jahangir; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. A.G. Raina; Medical Superintendent Associated Hospital GMC, other officers, faculty members, and medical students.

Commr Secy H&UDD launches Mega Plantation Drive under 'Sewa Parv 2025' at Srinagar

Urges citizens, community groups, students to actively participate in plantation drives

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: In a major push towards enhancing Srinagar's green cover and making all waste management facilities of J&K green with dense bio fencing, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur today launched a Mega Plantation Drive under the banner of "Sewa Parv 2025" in collaboration with Self Help Groups (SHGs) and UEED.

MD NULM; CEO Urban Development Agency; SE, UEED and other senior officers of UEED, Urban Forestry Division SMC, and members of SHGs participated in the inaugural event.

Speaking on the occasion, Mandeep Kaur emphasized on the importance of expanding urban green spaces to obviate the ugly



look and public nuisance created by bad odour emanating from these facilities. She added that the expanded green cover will also enhance the air quality and create a healthier living environment.

She urged citizens, community groups and students to actively participate in the plantation drives and adopt the motto "Ek Paed Maa Ke Naam, Ek Paed Desh Ke Naam".

The drive, formally kick-started at the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Allochi Bagh, will cover four STPs across Srinagar, with a target of providing two layered bio fence around each STP facility and surround all these facilities by dense green cover over the years which will not only improve the aesthetics of the neighbourhood, but will also enhance green cover of the city.

Dy. CM reviews progress on Boulevard road widening project

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along-with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, convened a meeting to review the progress on the widening of Boulevard Road Project.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman LCMA; Chief Engineer, R&B Central Kashmir; Superintending Engineer R&B; Executive Engineers and other senior officers of PWD.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the PWD to immediately restart the work on the widening of Boulevard Road, considering



its prime importance and vital significance for tourism development. He instructed them to initiate the process on priority and expedite the pace of execution of works.

The Deputy CM directed the concerned executing agency to complete the project in a stipulated time frame while maintaining the quality of works.

The Deputy CM also instructed the Vice Chairman LCMA to facilitate the concerned executing agency for smooth implementation of the project.

During the meeting, Chief Engineer (R&B) presented a detailed report and gave a presentation outlining the current status of the projects.

DC Bandipora Inaugurates SEWA PARV Campaign with Series of Activities Across the District

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today inaugurated the SEWA PARV campaign at District Hospital Bandipora with the launch of Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; DPO ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan; ACD Bandipora, CMO Bandipora, MS DH Bandipora and other concerned officers.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan offers a comprehensive range of healthcare services for women and adolescent girls, including screening for anaemia, counselling on nutrition and menstrual hygiene, and intensified services at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres, and the District Hospital, aimed at empowering women and building healthier families.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner presided over the SEWA PARV event at the Conference Hall, where she addressed CDOs, Supervisors, Anganwadi workers and other participants. On the occasion, the DC emphasized that hard work is essential, particularly for women, and cautioned that while smartphone addiction can reduce efficiency if misused, digital tools can also generate revenue when used constructively. She further stressed that work should speak louder than appearance and appreciated the creativity of Anganwadi workers in poster making. The DC underlined that slowness in a child's learning does not bar them from pursuing a career, urging Anganwadi workers to pay special attention to specially-abled children.

The programme was attended by DPO ICDS Bandipora Yaar Ali Khan, CDOs, Supervisors, Anganwadi workers, NRLM members, officials of line departments, and community representatives.

Across the district, multiple departments and institutions organized diverse activities to mark the launch of SEWA PARV. A cleanliness drive was held at Wular Vintage SK Payeen by WUCMA, while the Agriculture Department Bandipora conducted training sessions on organic farming and sustainable agricultural practices, creating awareness and inspiring collective action towards a greener and healthier future. The Municipal Committee Hajin, in collaboration with the Pollution Control Board Bandipora, organized an awareness programme on Single-Use Plastic, alongside a plantation drive in association with the Social Forestry Department Bandipora. The Fisheries Department carried out a cleanliness drive in the Zurimanz area of Wular Lake and also conducted awareness campaigns regarding enrolment in social security schemes.

The Municipal Council Bandipora spearheaded a series of sanitation drives, Swachhta pledges, plug runs, and clearance of waste at important locations such as Nishat Park, District Hospital Bandipora, Papchan Bridge, and Government Boys' High School Bagh Bandipora. At the same time, GMS Aragam undertook Swachh Vidyalaya activities that transformed the school into a beacon of hygiene and hope.

At Nadihal Panchayat, the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Bandipora inaugurated a 15-day cleanliness programme which featured Swachhta pledges, sanitation drives across public spaces, shop-to-shop awareness campaigns, targeted efforts to eradicate single-use plastics, cleanliness drives at the Amrit Sarovar, and clean-up operations at the cleanliness target unit (CTU).

In Sub-Division Gurez, the SEWA PARV programme was marked by the inauguration of the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar initiative at CHC Dawar by SDM Gurez and BMO Gurez, aimed at promoting women's health and empowering families in the valley. At the Sheep Development Office Gurez, the campaign was launched with an oath-taking ceremony followed by a cleanliness drive in the office complex.

Latet, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, e-launched an Internship Programme on Solid Waste Management aimed at engaging youth and volunteers in sustainable waste practices. The initiative is designed to create awareness on segregation, recycling, and reduction of waste at the source, while also encouraging collective action towards building a cleaner and greener Bandipora.

JK Pollution Control Committee observes 'World Ozone Day'

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: J&K Pollution Control Committee observed the World Ozone Day to highlight the significance of the Ozone layer, which is our planet's natural shield and absorbs harmful UV rays.

JK Pollution Control Committee observed the day with the theme 'From Science to Global Action' in the conference hall of JKPCCK Srinagar Kashmir. The event was attended by renowned scientists, scholars, industrialists, students, environmentalists and officials of JKPCCK Kashmir.

During the event, Regional Director JKPCCK Kashmir apprised the audience about the significance of OZONE layer and the substances responsible for its depletion, and the importance of adopting eco-friendly practices to contribute to this Global



mission. Officials and office bearers from Industrial Association Khonmoh spoke on the importance of the day.

Students from Little Angels School participated in the debate.

NIESBUD J&K flags-off batch of 30 participants for an exposure visit to Solar Plant

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, SEP 17: National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), J&K, with support of Government Polytechnic College, Baramulla, today flagged-off a batch of 30 participants for an exposure visit to a Solar Plant.

The exposure visit is being organized as part of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) – PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) programme being implemented by NIESBUD in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The initiative aims to provide participants first-hand technical experience of solar plant operations, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal, Government Polytechnic College Baram-



ulla, said, "Renewable energy is the need of the hour, and such exposure visits play a vital role in motivating our youth to take up green technologies and contribute to a sustainable future."

Through such initiatives, NIESBUD is committed to promoting skill development and entrepreneurship in the renewable energy sector, enabling youth to explore emerging opportunities in the green economy.

Comm. State Taxes J&K chairs review meeting to strengthen tax administration in Kashmir region

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: To evaluate on-going departmental activities, address key operational challenges, and strategize enhanced tax compliance and revenue augmentation, Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P.K. Bhat, chaired an extensive review meeting of the State Taxes department, Kashmir division.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina; State Taxes Officers from all circles across the division besides others.

The meeting discussed threadbare identification of fake ITC suppliers, realisation of revenue from fake ITC cases, monitoring of TDS payments, timely filing of returns, action on intelligence reports, addressing dormant dealers, audit and revenue realization, verification of e-Way bills, leveraging MIS & GST prime tools, sector-specific enforcement, and taxpayer engagement and education.

Commissioner highlighted the critical need to identify taxpayers who issue Input Tax Credit (ITC) through GSTR-1 but fail to file GSTR-3B returns, leading to significant revenue short-

falls. He also stressed the importance of expediting efforts to recover revenue from fake ITC cases that have already been identified.

Officers were instructed to ensure that taxpayers receiving Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) payments from deductors are filing their GSTR-3B returns on time. Emphasis was also laid on strict adherence to return filing deadlines to ensure consistency in revenue inflow.

CST directed prompt and decisive action against taxpayers flagged through intelligence inputs. Officers were asked to thoroughly analyze these cases and initiate necessary corrective measures.

Commissioner underscored the need to track and scrutinize dormant dealers who file Nil returns but continue receiving goods using PAN and Aadhaar details. Officers were asked to ensure such practices are identified and curbed.

On the occasion, a review of audits conducted under Section 65 of the J&K GST Act, 2017 was undertaken. Officers were directed to submit action-taken reports along with details of revenue realized post-audit.

Commissioner also advised officers to ensure timely responses to AG Audit queries to prevent delays in revenue recovery.

He also called for proper scrutiny of e-Way Bills as a key measure to prevent revenue leakage. Officers were instructed to routinely verify the movement of inward and outward supplies to ensure proper tax realization.

Bhat encouraged officers to utilize technological tools like MIS (Management Information System) and GST Prime, emphasizing their value in generating actionable insights, saving administrative time, and enhancing compliance monitoring.

He called for special focus on high-risk sectors such as cement, iron, and mobile phones, where revenue leakage is often observed. Officers were directed to enforce GST laws strictly and close existing loopholes.

Commissioner reiterated the need to raise awareness among taxpayers about the importance of timely return filing and fulfilling tax liabilities in cash, where applicable. Officers were urged to actively engage with the taxpayer community to provide support and guidance.

J&K Judicial Academy organizes Technical Training programme for officials

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy Wednesday organized a one-day training programme on digitization, for Court Managers, Administrative Head Staff, and Digitization Officials of Kashmir Province.

The programme, titled "Digitization (ECT_5_2025 & ECT_6_2025)", aimed to strengthen the digital skills of court personnel and advance the ongoing e-Courts implementation across the region.

The event opened with an address and introduction by Sonia Gupta, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, who underlined the Academy's commitment to improving access to justice through technology.

The first session was jointly conducted by Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer (I.T.), and Uzair Nazir, Senior System Officer. They provided a comprehensive overview of the e-Courts Project, its phases, objectives, and benefits.

Speakers explained the role of digital tools in daily court functions and reviewed core e-Courts initiatives such as the Case Information System (CIS), National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP), Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), and e-filing. Emphasis was placed on standardized, accurate data entry and on how these platforms interoperate to improve case management and public access.

The second session, led by Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi, CPC eCourts, focused on the practical aspects of preparing and digitizing court records. He emphasized that empowerment in the digital era comes from self-learning and adaptability, reminding participants that technology will only be beneficial if individuals equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and skills.

Qureshi outlined step-by-step procedures for preparing case files for scanning, stressed the correct sequencing and arrangement of documents, and demonstrated best practices to ensure high-quality, searchable digital archives. He also highlighted the importance of time management and productivity in digitization, drawing attention to how consistent, accurate practices ensure transparency and efficiency.

The training concluded successfully, with participants reporting improved clarity on both policy and operational fronts of court digitization.

The programme reaffirms the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy's ongoing efforts to modernize court operations, enhance efficiency and transparency, and build the technical capacity required for a sustained transition to digital judicial services.

Fortnight-long Sewa Parv Program Commences in Ganderbal with Mega Swachhta Drive

DC administers Swachhta Pledge, urge citizens to embrace cleanliness as a way of life

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, SEP 17: The District Administration Ganderbal today launched the fortnight-long Sewa Parv celebrations with a grand Swachhta Drive, inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, from the Mini Secretariat premises.

The nationwide campaign, aimed at promoting environmental conservation, social service, community participation, and awareness about sustainable development, commenced with enthusiastic participation from officers, employees, and students.

The drive witnessed the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihaqi,



Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sheikh Salahuddin, ACD, EO Municipal Council Ganderbal, employees of the Municipal Council, and students, who collectively undertook a cleanliness exercise in and around the Mini Secretariat. The initiative was in line with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, reinforcing the importance of hygiene and sanitation.

Earlier, the DC administered the Swachhta Pledge to all participants in the mini secretariat lawns, reaffirming the district's commitment to cleanliness.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC appealed to the people of Ganderbal to adopt cleanliness as a part of their daily lives and behaviour. "Cleanliness is not just a habit but a safeguard for our health

and the environment. Let us all commit to making it a way of life," he said.

Highlighting the upcoming activities under the Sewa Parv, the DC informed that Grievance Redressal Camps will be held in the district in the coming fortnight. He emphasized that the fortnight-long program is focused on connecting with people, reaching out to their doorsteps, spreading awareness about government schemes, and engaging with the vulnerable sections of society.

Meanwhile, similar cleanliness drives were organized across the district in Panchayats, educational institutions, health centres, and government offices, reflecting district-wide participation in the campaign.

HT EDITORIAL

Come out of rhetoric and take some practical steps

Few days back taking part in a function organized by a leading private school in Srinagar chief minister, Omar Abdullah said that facilities in the government schools need to be improved and these need to be made at par with the private schools. It is an established fact that many of the government schools lack the facilities with even basic facilities like drinking water and toilets not available to students.

There are scores of schools in the government sector that don't have doors and windows and the children have to brave odds while facing the vagaries of weather. Even though huge funds are made available to the department of education for improving the infrastructure in the schools, very little progress has been made in this regard. It is important that the funds are utilized in the right direction so that the facilities are improved and the students heave a sigh of relief.

It has been observed that the focus of the education department has been the schools operating in the Srinagar city, district headquarters and towns. Very little attention is being paid to the schools located in the countryside and as such the facilities in such schools are not up to the mark. At the same time the department has chosen some of the schools located in the city, district headquarters and towns as model schools and no such step has been taken with regards to schools located in the villages and far-off areas.

Had some schools of the villages been selected as model schools the facilities would have been improved. This would have meant that the students of these schools consider themselves to be lucky and they would be entitled to the facilities given to the students of the schools located in city, district headquarters and towns. Since this has not happened the children feel neglected and as such crave for even the basic facilities which they are entitled to.

Most of the people opine that since the children of ministers, legislators, bureaucrats and government officers read in the private schools the government does not feel it prudent to improve the facilities at the government schools. Day in day out the politicians deliver speeches that the children of well off people need to be admitted in the government schools but on ground nothing of this sort is visible. As a result of this there is no improvement in the condition of most government schools.

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Celebrating Modi ji's Birthday and Baba Vishwakarma's Legacy: India's Skill Revolution and Kashi's Renaissance



■ Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

You know, there's something magical about September 17—Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday tumbling right into Bhagwan Vishwakarma Jayanti, that vibrant festival saluting the god of craftsmanship and creation. As I sit here, penning these thoughts from my perch at BRA Bihar University in Muzaffarpur, where I'm Vice Chancellor, my mind drifts back to Kashi, my birthplace. Those narrow lanes of Varanasi, alive with the clang of artisan hammers and the murmur of Ganga's waves. Modi ji, as Kashi's MP since 2014, has poured that same creative fire into our city, turning ancient heritage into a launchpad for modern dreams. Today, on this day of dual joys in 2025, it feels right to reflect on how India's policies—Skill India, startups, NEP 2020, and the PM Vishwakarma Scheme—stitch together a bolder, more self-reliant nation. Drawing from my three decades in education, where I've watched students morph from wide-eyed learners into confident innovators.

It all starts, with equipping our youth with the tools to build their lives. The Skill India Mission, kicking off in 2015, just hit its 10th anniversary this year, and what a ride it's been. Over 6 crore young folks—think farmers' kids from Bihar's dusty fields or urban hustlers eyeing tech gigs—have picked up skills across 38 sectors, from AI tinkering to sustainable farming. Take Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY): by July 2025, it'd trained 1.63 crore candidates, with women making up nearly 45% of them, a shift that's quietly rewriting family stories across the country. Push on World Youth Skills Day rolled out AI skilling through Bharat Skill-Nxt, closing the gap between dusty classrooms and digital jobs. Sure, rural spots still lag, and syncing with industry whims isn't always smooth. It's like laying the first bricks of a grand archway, ready for the sparks of innovation to fly.

And fly they have, straight into our startup boom, where those skilled hands turn ideas into empires. Start-



up India, nine years young now, has greenlit over 1.8 lakh ventures by June 2025—22,000 fresh ones just this year—spawning millions of jobs in everything from fintech apps to eco-friendly agritech. I've mentored a few at Bihar University: one alum, certified under Skill India, bootstrapped a dairy processing startup with a Rs 604 crore seed fund nudge, now churning out probiotic yogurts for export. Tax perks and red-tape cuts have smoothed the runway, but let's be real—deep-tech funding's patchy, and 6,000-plus closures by mid-year whisper of tougher storms ahead. Still, with projections for an even hotter 2025, it channels Vishwakarma's vibe: solitary creators banding into forces that reshape economies. This isn't just business; it's the next breath of that skill foundation, exhaling possibility. And what nurtures it all? Education that doesn't just teach but transforms—enter NEP 2020, five years in and humming with potential. NEP's magic lies in baking skills

right into the curriculum, aiming for 50% of kids to taste vocational training by 2025, starting with coding basics in grade 6 and ramping up to hands-on apprenticeships. From our Bihar classrooms, I've seen interdisciplinary courses spike job readiness, blending theory with real-world grit. Studies back it: it's chipping away at skill chasms, pushing equity and fresh thinking. But hey, rollout's bumpy—some states ace teacher training, others scramble for basics. For me, a Kashi boy at heart, NEP hits home because it honors our roots, weaving tradition into tomorrow's toolkit. Remember Modi ji inaugurating the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam in Varanasi back in 2022. That three-day huddle at Rudraksh Convention Centre drew 300-plus education bigwigs to hash out NEP's nuts and bolts—like skill development and employability—right amid our artisan alleys. It sparked talks on turning local crafts into global gigs, prepping youth where ghats meet gigeconomy. That

ethos, it's the heartbeat of Modi ji's Kashi vision, where national blueprints touch the soil.

Speaking of which, wandering Kashi's lanes as its MP, Modi ji has masterminded a renaissance that fuses faith, function, and future-proofing. Since 2014, over Rs 12,000 crore in projects have bloomed: the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor easing pilgrim paths, Vande Bharat zipping folks home faster, ghats reborn as tourism gems. This September 17 alone—his birthday gift to us—saw Rs 111 crore unveiled, from civic upgrades to community hubs. August brought Rs 2,200 crore more: Kalika Dham's glow-up, healthcare boosts, eight kuccha ghats reimagined for eco-tourism. April piled on Rs 3,880 crore with bridges, tunnels, and power grids that cut daily drudgery. Chatting with old neighbors over chai, I hear the cheers—for weavers now exporting via new trade centers, farmers tapping skill-linked irrigation. Yet, whispers of clogged streets and Ganga floods remind us: progress needs balance, like a well-tuned sitar. These aren't isolated builds; they're NEP in action, skill hubs sprouting where Vishwakarma's once toiled solo, now linked to national dreams.

Crowning it all is the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, birthed on this day two years back, a nod to those unsung makers. For 18 trades—from carpentry to pottery—it doles out recognition cards, 5-7 day trainings, tool kits up to Rs 15,000, and loans to Rs 3 lakh, collateral-free. By mid-2025, 2.71 crore applications flooded in, 1.68 crore cleared Stage 1 checks, and 76 lakh hit advanced verification—Karnataka's 5.7 lakh beneficiaries leading the pack. Stories pour in: a J&K carpenter scaling his workshop, a Bihar potter digitizing sales. Tied to MSMEs till 2027, with 4.2 million training slots eyed via allied pushes, it's a B-plus performer—vast reach, but verification snags and rural blind spots cry for tweaks.

Pulling these strands—from Skill India's vastnet to Kashi's vibrant pulse—India sketches Atmanirbhar Bharat, where smarts, startups, and soul entwine. As a Kashiite who's traded Ganga dips for lecture halls, I dream of our kids, Vishwakarma-kissed, leading this symphony. Happy birthday, Modi ji—keep crafting our shared saga.

The author is a Vice-Chancellor, BRA Bihar University, and Proud Resident of Kashi. Email: dcrail@bhu.ac.in

The Curse of Letting Go



■ Jawaid Iqbal

In the journey of education, every student encounters crossroads where choices must be made—subjects to select, opportunities to seize, and ambitions to nurture. At such junctures, the temptation to "let go" of certain pursuits often arises. While letting go can sometimes be an act of maturity, it can also become a silent curse when done too quickly, without struggle, and without perseverance.

Letting Go: A Growing Concern

In classrooms across our district and beyond, we observe a worrying trend. Students often drop subjects at the first sign of difficulty. Mathematics is abandoned as "too tough," science is feared as "too lengthy," languages are ignored as "less important," and arts are sidelined as "useless for jobs." In the race for instant success, students let go of passions and possibilities without realizing the long-term consequences.

This tendency is not confined to academics alone. When career choices loom, many youth let go of

their original dreams. A student once passionate about becoming a doctor may withdraw after one failed test; another who loved painting may abandon the canvas under societal pressure to pursue a "secure job." In such cases, letting go becomes less about choice and more about surrender. And surrender, at an early stage, often casts a long shadow over one's career.

The Hidden Curse

The curse of letting go does not strike immediately. It reveals itself slowly, in moments of regret and self-doubt. Years later, many adults confess, "I wish I had tried harder. I wish I had not given up so easily." This silent curse—of unfulfilled potential—haunts individuals for a lifetime.

Letting go of dreams without fully testing one's limits can rob students of resilience, courage, and growth. Instead of learning to overcome obstacles, they learn to escape them. Instead of building character, they build excuses. And the worst tragedy is that society loses talent that could have blossomed with just a little more patience.

The Role of Teachers and Parents

Here lies the responsibility of the education department, teachers, and parents. Students must be taught that struggles are not signs of failure, but stepping stones to success. A difficult chapter in physics, a low grade in mathematics, or a rejection in an entrance test should not be viewed as full stops. They are commas in the long sentence of life—pauses that prepare us for the next word.

Teachers should encourage persistence by celebrating effort, not just results. Parents should remind their children that failure is not shameful, but quitting too early often is. The education system should provide counseling, mentorship, and career guidance so that students learn to differentiate between wisely changing paths and recklessly letting go.

A Culture of Perseverance

It is time we build a culture of perseverance in our schools and colleges. Workshops on resilience, motivational sessions with achievers, and platforms for students to explore multiple talents can help. Equally important is to highlight stories of local youth who succeeded not because they never failed, but because they never abandoned their journey.

Conclusion

Letting go can sometimes be necessary—for instance, when one realizes a career path is truly mismatched with one's abilities or interests. But letting go prematurely, out of fear, laziness, or peer pressure, is the real curse. It deprives students of discovering their true capacity and leaves behind a lifetime of "what ifs."

The duty of educators and parents is to remind students that challenges are not barriers but invitations to grow. If our young learners embrace persistence, they will not only secure better careers but also build stronger characters. For in education, as in life, the curse of letting go is heavy—but the blessing of holding on is far greater.

FROM KITCHEN TO EDITOR: THE IMMORTAL STORY OF 'IRON LADY' SANTOSH VASHISHT



■ Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Santosh Vashisht's life is a unique example of struggle and simplicity. She started her journey from the kitchen and gave direction to the society by becoming the editor of Dainik Chetna.

Soft-spoken, gentle and friendly, yet firm on principles—this was her true identity. She made Vashishtha Sadan the center of politics and society and looked after the Chetna family like a mother. She was truly the 'Iron Lady' of Haryana, whose memories and teachings will always inspire us.

Sometimes life brings us face to face with such personalities who appear ordinary but are filled with extraordinary energy and strength from within. These people do not shine with the help of any stage or light but shine with the dignity of their deeds themselves. Santosh Vashisht ji, born on the land of Haryana, was one such name. People used to call her Iron Lady with affection and respect. But this title was not a recognition of her harsh nature but of her indomitable courage and unshakable principles.

Santosh ji's life is as simple as it appears, but it is equally profound and inspiring. She was one of those rare women who carried out household responsibilities and social duties simultaneously. Her speech was sweet, her behaviour was polite and her nature was mild, but when it came to principles, she was as firm as a rock. This



duality of her personality made her extraordinary.

His life testifies to the fact that the basis of greatness is not grand stages or high positions, but self-confidence and loyalty. He gave equal importance to his family, society and journalism – all three areas and left his mark everywhere.

Journey from kitchen to editor
Santosh ji's life journey started from the kitchen like any other ordinary woman. She would cook food, manage the house, and fulfill the responsibilities of the

family. But destiny did not allow her to remain confined to household chores only. Circumstances, time and the determination within her put her on a path where she had to write and speak for the society.

She entered the world of journalism through Dainik Chetna. The foundation of this newspaper was laid by her husband, late Devvrat Vashisht. But Santosh ji's contribution behind its continuity and strength was no less than a pillar. She would get up from kitchen work and sit at the editorial table and put the pulse of

the society into words. This was the journey which people respectfully call "from kitchen to editor".

For him, journalism was not just a profession but a medium to express the soul of society. He never craved sensational news but always gave priority to truth, morality and social welfare. This was the reason that readers accepted Dainik Chetna like family and trusted it.

Vashishtha Sadan: A confluence of ideas
Santosh ji's house, Vashishtha Sadan, remained the centre of Haryana's politics and society for years. This house was like an open platform for leaders, thinkers and social workers. People of every ideology would come here, sit, discuss and get direction.

Santosh ji was the force that kept this entire environment in balance. She respected everyone, listened to everyone, but remained impartial and principled herself. Due to her easy-going nature and gentle behaviour, every visitor felt a sense of belonging to her. She proved that a home is not just a name of four walls, but can also become a mirror of the society.

Chetna is the mother of the family
Santosh ji was not just a mother to her children. She considered every colleague, every journalist, every employee of Dainik Chetna as a part of her family. Encouraging them, standing with them in their difficulties and providing better opportunities for them – all this was part of her nature.

She considered journalism as a service and inspired every worker with this vision. This was the reason why the Chetna family treated her like a mother.

The image of the Iron Lady
It is easy to say 'Iron Lady' but difficult to understand its meaning. Santosh Vashisht earned this title not because of her hard heart but because of her firm resolve. She was soft from within, knew how to

manage relationships, but when the time came, she did not bow down to any pressure.

Financial crisis, social protests and political pressure are common in the world of journalism. But Santosh ji faced every situation with courage. She knew that speaking the truth is never easy, but she did not step back from the truth. This courage sets her apart from others.

The power of simplicity
Her greatest strength was her simplicity. No matter how many ups and downs came in her life, she accepted every situation with a smile. She believed that simplicity is the biggest weapon. This quality of her life impressed people the most.

She used to say, "The real education of relationships is not learnt from books, but from the courtyard of the house. First take care of your blood relations, only then you have the right to teach brotherhood to the society."

This sentence is the essence of his life. He not only said it, but also lived it.

A Legacy
Today when Santosh Vashisht is no longer amongst us, her memories and teachings are like a legacy to us. She taught us that if a woman is determined, she can step out of the house and give direction to the entire society. She also proved that journalism is not just a name of news printed on paper, but it is the heartbeat of the thoughts and future of the society.

His legacy is not limited to the newspaper. His legacy is integrity, courage, simplicity and service. This is a legacy that no time can erase.

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Digitization of Manuscripts: A Pledge of India's Intellectual Identity

Digitization will protect heritage, stop intellectual theft, and open the way for national renaissance



■ Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

India's ancient manuscripts are not just words on paper, but the soul of our civilization. They contain priceless treasures of science, medicine, philosophy and art. Neglect and colonial plunder put them at risk. Prime Minister Modi's call that digitization of manuscripts will prevent "intellectual theft" is timely. Digitization will ensure preservation, research and India's intellectual identity at the global level. This is not just a cultural project, but a campaign for national renaissance.

India is a country that is identified by its civilization and cultural tradition. The stream of knowledge has been flowing here for thousands of years. From Vedas and Upanishads to Ayurveda, mathematics, astronomy, literature and music, our manuscripts have given the world something that is unique and incomparable even today. But we have repeatedly failed to secure this heritage in a systematic manner and to make it accessible to the world. This is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent statement that digitization of manuscripts will prevent "intellectual theft" is extremely relevant and visionary. This statement does not only point to a technical solution, but is also a resolve to protect our cultural identity.

Indian manuscripts are not just words written on paper or palm leaves. They are the memory of society, the story of traditions and the heritage of knowledge. They contain the entire experience of science, medicine, astronomy, philosophy and art as well as lifestyle. Even today, in the manuscripts of Ayurveda, there is mention of such medicines and treatment methods whose relevance is also accepted by mod-

ern medical science. In the manuscripts related to mathematics and astronomy, there is such a detailed description of zero, decimal and the movement of planets and stars that the western world took inspiration from them and gave direction to its scientific research. Manuscripts of music and dance are the basis for keeping our artistic tradition alive.

Unfortunately, we proved careless in protecting these manuscripts. During the colonial period, the British and other European scholars took away countless texts from here. They studied them and many times published their translations in their own names. The methods of yoga and meditation, which are the soul of India, were presented in a different form abroad and huge commercial profits were made from them. Foreign patents were registered on Ayurvedic prescriptions and medicinal plants. Companies tried to claim their rights even on common knowledge like turmeric and neem. All this is a warning for us that if we do not protect our knowledge, the world will usurp it.

This is the context in which digitization becomes important. When a manuscript is digitized, its source and ownership will remain permanently in the name of India. This will be the most effective means of preventing intellectual theft. Apart from this, digitization will keep the manuscripts safe. Manuscripts written on paper and palm leaves are prone to decay due to time, moisture, insects and temperature changes. Digitization will keep them safe from generation to generation. The biggest thing is that the digitized material will be available to researchers and students around the world. India's knowledge will not remain confined to the shelves of museums but will come alive on the global platform.

This is not an easy task. There are an estimated five million manuscripts in India. They are written in different languages and scripts—Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Urdu, Arabic, Persian and others. Many scripts are now obsolete. Reading, deciphering and digitising them requires expertise. Maintaining authentic-

India is a country that is identified by its civilization and cultural tradition. The stream of knowledge has been flowing here for thousands of years. From Vedas and Upanishads to Ayurveda, mathematics, astronomy, literature and music, our manuscripts have given the world something that is unique and incomparable even today. But we have repeatedly failed to secure this heritage in a systematic manner and to make it accessible to the world. This is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent statement that digitization of manuscripts will prevent "intellectual theft" is extremely relevant and visionary.

ity is also a challenge. If errors are made during translation or digital scanning, the original knowledge may get distorted. In addition, such a huge task will require huge financial resources, trained experts and modern technology.

The government has taken initiatives like the National Manuscript Mission, which is a commendable step. But this work should not be limited to government institutions only. Universities, research institutes, private organizations and technical experts will also have to participate in it. Modern technology will have to be fully utilized. Technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning and blockchain can not only make digitization easier, but can also make the process of data security and search reliable.

Here we should also learn from global experience. In Europe, millions of documents and artefacts were made available online under the "Europeana" project. The US and Japan also digitised their cultural heritage and shared it globally. These efforts strengthened the intellectual and cultural identity of those countries. If India moves rapidly in this direction, it will not only be able to save its heritage but will also be able to show the world where the real birthplace of knowledge is.

The Prime Minister also remembered Bhupen Hazarika on this occasion. This remembrance is not just a formality but has deep symbolism. Hazarika gave voice to the soul of Assam and India through his songs and music. His works were not just entertainment but a source of cultural consciousness. They tell us that if culture survives, society survives. Just as Hazarika's works will inspire generations to come, similarly the digitization of manuscripts will immortalize our intellectual memories.

In this context, it must also be understood that digitization is not just a work of preservation. It is a campaign of national renaissance. When we connect our knowledge with modern technology, then we will realize the dream of self-reliant India, in which both tradition and innovation go together. This will not only strengthen our identity but will also establish us as the true masters of knowledge on the global platform. This will also be a big step towards a knowledge-based economy.

In today's world, competition is not only

about economic resources or military power. Competition is also about who has more original knowledge and intellectual property. If India digitizes its manuscripts and secures their patent and ownership, it can become a leader in this global competition of intellectual property. Apart from this, it will also become a means of connecting our young generation to its roots. The generation that is growing up in the world of internet and mobile today will get a real introduction to its tradition only when it will see, read and understand it in digital form.

Manuscripts are not just a burden of the past but a guide to the future. They teach us that knowledge is never static. It needs to be protected, preserved and shared as per the times. If we do not do this, our heritage will remain locked in museums and the world will be deprived of it. Digitization will act as a bridge that connects the depth of the past with the possibilities of the future.

Undoubtedly, digitization of manuscripts is a long and difficult task. But it is the same task with which our cultural identity and intellectual self-respect are linked. It is not just a question of protecting books and papers, but a resolve to save our soul and identity. Prime Minister Modi's statement that digitization will stop "intellectual theft" is the call of the times. Today there is a need for the government, society and technical experts to come together and make it a national movement.

Manuscripts are our memory. Their digitisation gives us the confidence that India is not just the land of the past, but also the direction of the future. When we preserve our knowledge and make it accessible to the world with modern technology, India will truly reach the place where it should have been for centuries—a global leader in knowledge.

The author is a Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana.

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Dr. Itoo conferred with the Indian Achievers' Award 2025

■ HT News Desk

Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, an accomplished physician, medical writer, researcher, and public health expert, has been honored with the Indian Achievers' Award 2025 by the Indian Achievers' Forum. This recognition celebrates his outstanding professional achievements and his remarkable contribution towards nation building.

Currently serving at Narayana Health, Dr. Itoo has earned distinction through his clinical expertise, academic contributions, and public health initiatives. His work extends beyond hospital care, as he actively engages in medical research, health awareness programs, and medical writing aimed at improving community health outcomes.



Dr. Itoo's achievements have gained international recognition. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH), United Kingdom and a Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow), Belgium. He is also an active member of leading global medical societies, including the American College of Physicians (USA), RSSDI (India), European Society of Endocrinology and the Endocrine Society, USA, where he has been nominated for the Early Career Director position on the Board of Directors (2025-26). His contributions were further highlighted in the GAPIO Newsletter (March 2025 edition) under the prestigious section "Global Indian Physicians in the News."

The Indian Achievers' Forum, established in 2000, is one of the nation's most respected platforms that recognizes excellence across sectors. Its awards honour individuals whose work inspires progress, innovation, and social impact. By receiving this accolade, Dr. Itoo joins a distinguished group of leaders whose efforts reflect dedication to professional excellence and service to society.

Expressing gratitude for the honour, Dr. Itoo stated, "I am humbled to receive the Indian Achievers' Award 2025. This recognition inspires me to continue my mission of advancing healthcare, research, and public health awareness, while contributing meaningfully towards nation building."

Health Benefits of CARROT



■ Sahil Manzoor

Due to the presence of vital components of food in vegetables, doctors and dieticians often suggest green leafy and fresh vegetables to patients with different disorders. Vegetables are rich in vitamins, minerals, and other essential nutrients, which make them an important part of our daily diet. Some vegetables are imported from other states or countries, while many are cultivated locally in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Today, with the help of advanced techniques, the Department of Horticulture is tackling the shortage of fresh vegetables by providing seasonal saplings promptly to growers.

In this article, I am going to highlight the health benefits of carrots.

Carrot is a cylindrical, conical-shaped root vegetable. The edible part grows beneath the soil. Carrots contain natural sugars that give them a mild sweetness.

They are widely consumed as salads, often mixed with cabbage, radish, tomatoes, green chilies, beetroot, cucumber, and other vegetables. Carrots can also be eaten raw, cooked, or juiced. Because of their nutritional value and refreshing taste, carrots enjoy great demand in the market throughout the year.

The botanical name of carrot is *Daucus carota*, and it belongs to the *Apiaceae* family.

Benefits of Carrots

Good for Eyesight – Carrots are rich in Vitamin A (Retinol), which plays a vital role in maintaining good eye health and vision.

Improves Digestion – The fiber content in carrots helps improve bowel movement and provides relief from constipation.

Boosts Immunity – Vitamin C in carrots strengthens the immune system and helps the body fight infections.

Heart Health – Carrots are packed with antioxidants that support cardiovascular health and help regulate blood pressure due to the presence of potassium.

Controls Blood Sugar – Carrots, with Vitamin A and beta-carotene, can help reduce the risk of diabetes by regulating blood sugar levels.

Cancer Prevention – Antioxidants in carrots fight free radicals, lowering the risk

of developing certain types of cancer.

Suggestion

It is well said that "Health is Wealth". We should never compromise with our health because our future, dreams, and hopes are directly linked to it. To stay healthy:

Go for regular medical check-ups.

Avoid self-medication.

Stay away from junk food.

Eat raw vegetables along with meals and dinner.

At the same time, the Department of Horticulture must continue to support growers by providing timely facilities and meeting their demands effectively.

sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com

Health Benefits of Carrots to Your Diet



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Pulwama Youth Compiles Book on Drug Menace, Showcasing Young Voices

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: In a remarkable initiative to provide a platform for young writers and raise awareness on pressing social issues, Faheem Ul Islam, an emerging author and social commentator from Pulwama, has compiled a thought-provoking book titled "When the Light Fades".

The book brings together the writings of 15 contributors, including students and scholars, who have expressed their concerns and reflections on the growing menace of drug abuse in society. Through essays, articles, and narratives, the book highlights the devastating impact of substance abuse on youth, families, and the community at large.

Speaking about the compilation, Faheem said



that his aim was not only to highlight the seriousness of the drug menace but also to provide a platform to young and emerging writers to express themselves on social issues.

The book has been published by JEC Publication and has already received appreciation from literary circles for its timely theme and for encouraging youth participation in addressing societal challenges.

Faheem Ul Islam, hailing from Achan Pulwama, is the author of The Midnight Silence, Beyond the Boundaries, and Confronting the Crossroads: Muslim Youth in the 21st Century. A recipient of national awards, he is widely recognized for his work on youth empowerment, social justice, and human dignity.

Srinagar Police Observes Seva Parv with Swachhta Pledge and Safaai Abhiyaan

■ Mohammad Hanif Khan

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: As part of the ongoing "Seva Parv" celebrations, Srinagar Police today organized a series of cleanliness and awareness initiatives across the district, aligning with the vision of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

These activities were aimed at fostering community involvement and promoting hygiene and environmental responsibility.

The observance commenced with the administration of the "Swachhta Pledge" across all Police establishments, including District Police Headquarters, District Police Lines, Police Stations, Police Posts and other units.

Officers and staff members enthusiastically participated, reaffirming their collective commitment to maintain



ing cleanliness and sustainable practices in both their professional and personal lives.

Following the pledge, a comprehensive "Safaai Abhiyaan" (Cleanliness Drive) was conducted simultaneously across all police premises. Supervised by senior officers, Police personnel actively cleaned office complexes, barracks, public interaction zones, and surrounding localities. Special attention was given to public-facing areas to ensure a clean, welcoming, and citizen-friendly environment.

Moreover, Police teams reached out to the local community—engaging shopkeepers, youth, and residents—to raise awareness on the importance of sanitation, hygiene, and sustainable living.

This community-driven approach embodied the spirit of Seva Parv, underscoring the values of service, responsibility, and partnership.

Srinagar Police remains steadfast in its commitment to public welfare, environmental sustainability, and community engagement. Initiatives like Seva Parv serve as a powerful reminder that collective, consistent efforts can lead to meaningful and long-lasting change.

SKUAST-K hosts IFS officers for climate mitigation training

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 17: A first for a J&K institution, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir is holding capacity building training for all-India service officers. SKUAST-K is conducting a three-day training program on 'Climate Mitigation and Biodiversity Conservation' for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers from across the country.

Described as a 'Conclave of Change Makers', the event is organised by SKUAST-K's Division of Basic Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Horticulture and sponsored by Research and Training Wing of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The 13 participating IFS executives nominated by the Union Ministry of Environment with an aim to enhance their understanding and create actionable strategies for environmental protection and bio-diversity conservation.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest

Force for Jammu and Kashmir, Suresh Kumar Gupta, who was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session, said climate change is a reality and a challenge. "We all are seeing it happening and have to work together so that we can circumvent it," he stressed.

Gupta said J&K is blessed with mountains, meadows, water bodies with rich flora and fauna and conserving it is the responsibility of all. He said J&K's 54% of geographical area is forests as per a recent report. 11.5% of the geographical area of the UT is under protected area network. Among the four national parks, in three there is no human habitation. We have 14 wildlife centuries, 30 conservation reserves. Out of the 30, 14 are wetland conservation reserves. There are five Ramsar sites and J&K is fourth in the country to have Ramsar sites. He said J&K has witnessed increase of about 400 square kilometers in the forest cover from 2013 to 2023.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who



was the Guest of Honour on the occasion, said the university has a strong footing as far as the forestry, wildlife and climate change issues are concerned. Besides food, nutrition and economic security and equity and inclusion, the ecosystem sustainability is equally important, he said. "If we do agriculture, it has not to be at the cost of the ecosystem and the environment and we are fully aware of it as an institution."

Prof Ganai said north Himalayan region is rich in aromatic and medicinal plants but due to rampant extraction there is danger that those species may disappear. Therefore, we must look for the ways to cultivate these pre-

cious plants, which only grow in forest areas. Therefore, need of the hour is that we move from conservation to production, he added.

Dr Javeed Iqbal Ahmad Bhat, head Division of Basic Science and Course Director of the training hailed the participating IFS officers, who have journeyed from diverse ecosystems including "vibrant tiger reserves, dense biodiversity hotspots, critical wildlife corridors, and community-conserved forests" across states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Telangana. Their presence, as described

by the organizers, transforms the event into a "conclave of change-makers."

Over the three days, the program is designed to be a platform for sharing on-ground success stories and engaging in solution-driven dialogues. Beyond interactive sessions, the participants will gain firsthand experience with key ecosystems of the region. They will visit the Gulmarg Biosphere Reserve, led by Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Prof. Arshad Mugal, and the Dachigam National Park, a culturally and ecologically vital lifeline of Kashmir, led by Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Sajad Ahmad Gangoo.

The program, sanctioned by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), aligns with the national IGOT Karmayogi initiative. This platform is designed to transform civil servants from "Karamchari" (employee) to "Karmayogi" (a work-yogi), who sees their work not just as a job but as selfless service, making them "future ready."

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Medical Superintendent Emergency Hospital Qazigund

No: EST/MS/EHQ/732 | Dated: 15/09/2025

Dasti Quotation

Subject: Re-Publication of Dasti quotation for X-Ray Cassette
Dear Suppliers,
We would like to inform you that the quotation request for X-Ray Cassettes, previously published vide DIPK No-6136-25 dated: 10-09-2025, has been reopened due to limited responses (only two quotations were received).
We are therefore inviting all eligible and interested suppliers to submit their quotations again.
Submission Deadline: 19/09/2025 till 1.00 PM
Delivery Location: Emergency Hospital Qazigund

S.No	Name	Quantity
1	Koncia X Ray Cassette 17*14	2
2	Fuji X Ray Cassette 17*14	1

Sd/- Medical Superintendent
Emergency Hospital Qazigund

DIPK: 6338/25 | Dated: 17-09-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Civil Secretariat

Tel. No. 0191-2564763 (J), 0194-2506269 (S) website: https://jkpanchayat.jk.gov.in

Notice

Whereas, this department vide Advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2025 dated 24-06-2025 invited applications from eligible candidates for selection of Ombudsperson through online mode.

Further, as per approval of the authorities, this department vide Notice issued endorsement No.RDD/NRGA/19/2020 (C-5308) dated 04-07-2025 extended the deadline upto 13-07-2025.

Whereas, this department in response to the above said Advertisement Notification received 72 application forms.

Whereas, after examining the eligibility and age criteria, 09 candidates have been shortlisted for interview purpose.

Now therefore, the below listed candidates are hereby directed to appear in person or through virtual mode before the selection committee for interview scheduled to be held on **22-09-2025** at 03:30 PM onwards at 5th Floor, Room No.563, Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

S.No	Name	Qualification	Pay Grade / Rank at the time of Retirement
1	Abdul Hamid Fani	MSC Physics	Rtd. Joint Director School Education
2	Mohan Lal	BA, Master of Social Work	Social coordinator
3	Sushil Kumar Khajuria	BSC. Agriculture	Rtd. Addl. Secy
4	Ramesh Chander	MA Economic & Pol Science	Rtd. ADDC
5	Suram Chand Sharma	BSC Non Medical & PG in Education	Rtd. JKAS, Special Secretary YSS and Information Deptt
6	Mohammad Ishaq Shah	MSC Botany & BED	Rtd. JKAS, Secretary BOPEE
7	Anam Ul Haq Siddiqui	MCOM & PG Diploma in Business Administration	Rtd. Joint Director Information
8	Sohan Lal	B.Com	Rtd. JKAS Registrar GCET Jammu
9	Sheikh Mudasir Hamid	MBA & PG Diploma in Rural Management & Agri Business	Sr. Project officer Monitoring of Skill development, Consultant

The candidates are required to come alongwith copies of following documents:-

1. Self-attested copy of Birth Certificate alongwith original.
2. Domicile Certificate in original and a self-attested.
3. Copy of service Book/PPO self-attested.
4. Qualification Certificate.

No: RDD-NRGA/19/2020-08(5308) | Dated 16.09.2025

Sd/- (Rajani Bala) JKAS
Technical Officer (MGNREGA)

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Javid Dar urges public to take active role in maintaining cleanliness, promoting environmental sustainability

Addresses 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' event at Gulmarg

HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, SEP 17: Directorate of Rural Sanitation today organized the 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' event at picturesque Gulmarg here, with the aim to spread awareness among the masses about the importance of cleanliness.

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department, and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized on the significance of maintaining

cleanliness to protect the environment for future generations. "Let us work together to save our environment and ensure a healthy and prosperous future for our children," he said.

The Minister stated that 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' event aims to promote cleanliness and sanitation awareness among the public, encouraging community participation in maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

He added that the event's theme, 'Cleanliness for a Better Future', resonates with the audience, inspiring them to take collective action towards a cleaner and greener tomorrow.



The Minister urged the public to take an active role in maintaining cleanliness and promoting environmental sustainability. He underlined that individual efforts, when combined, can lead to significant positive change and a better future for all.

MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the importance of cleanliness and plantation drives in the current situation, stressing that it is crucial to keep our surroundings clean and plant more trees to mitigate the impact of climate change.

The event marked the begin-

ning of a concerted effort to promote cleanliness and environmental awareness in the region, with the participation of local communities, government officials, and stakeholders.

Among others, the event saw presence of DDC, Chairperson Baramulla, Safina Beigh; MLA Pattan, Javid Riyaz Bedar; MLA, Wagoora- Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone; Director General Rural Sanitation J&K, Anoo Malhotra; Director Rural Development Department Kashmir Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director Panchayati Raj, J&K Sham Lal and other senior officers of Rural Sanitation and Rural development departments.

DC Bandipora conducts extensive tour of Gurez sub-division

HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, undertook a three-day comprehensive tour of Gurez Sub-Division, covering Tulail, Izmarg, Dawar, Chorwan, and Achoora, to review developmental works, assess winter preparedness, and interact with the local population to address their concerns.

During the visit, DC chaired a meeting of district and sectoral officers at Gurez, where she conducted a sector-wise review of ongoing developmental activities and stressed their timely execution to ensure that the benefits reach the grassroots level.

DC directed officers to work in close coordination for effective service delivery and to make advance arrangements for adequate stocks of ration, fuel, and medicines in view of the harsh winter months. She further emphasized the need for uninterrupted power supply and healthcare services throughout winter.

On the occasion, DC launched the 'Transect Walk' under the Aadi Karmayogi initiative, aimed at empowering tribal villages as agents of change and promoting sustainable development.

DC visited Tulail Block and inspected various developmental works underway. She interacted with locals to receive first-hand feedback on issues related to health, education, electricity, PHE, and connectivity. She also visited fire-affected families in Kashpot, Tulail, and assured them of all possible administrative support.

At Badugam, DC inspected the Cluster Level Federation Sahelian and directed the NRLM, in collaboration with BDOs of Gurez and Tulail, to implement solid waste management and sanitation initiatives. She instructed SHGs to establish tuck shops for cloth bags in view of the ban on Single Use Plastic and encouraged them to engage in plastic shredding for proper waste disposal.

During her visit to Izmarg, DC held a public interaction, where residents raised issues regarding poor mobile connectivity, shortage of lecturers at Higher Secondary School Izmarg, and demands for an ATM and Fire Service Station. Indu assured that genuine grievances would be taken up with the concerned authorities and advised residents to adopt fire safety measures and learn the proper use of fire extinguishers.

DC also visited the Mountain Agriculture Research & Extension Station (MAR&ES) Izmarg, where she was briefed on research and extension activities being carried out by SKUAST-K to improve agricultural productivity and promote organic farming practices.

At Dawar, DC visited the Sub-District Hospital and interacted with doctors, paramedical staff, and patients to review health facilities. She also inspected the Fire and Emergency Station Dawar and held discussions with the staff regarding preparedness and response mechanisms.

Sewa Parv at Pulwama; DC inaugurates launch event

Community Participation, Service & Inclusive Governance Drive Celebrations: Dr. Qayoom

HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, SEP 17: A mega function was held today at Circuit House Pulwama to mark the commencement of the fortnight-long celebrations of Sewa Parv, a nationwide initiative promoting service, inclusivity, and community engagement.

The inaugural event was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom along with Senior Superintendent of Police Pulwama, P.D. Nitya.

The day began with the inauguration of a live fish vending van and the launch of a plantation drive by the DC. Further, in line with the spirit of Sewa Parv, motorised tricycles, prosthetic aid appliances, and other entitlements were distributed among various beneficiaries.

DC later inspected stalls set up by multiple departments, including Health, Cooperatives, Agriculture, Horticulture, Labour & Employment, Revenue, KVIB, SHGs, Handicrafts & Handloom, J&K Bank, Fisheries, ICDS, and Sheep Husbandry. A blood donation camp was also organised on the occasion by the Health Department.

Dr. Qayoom interacted with officials at the stalls, reviewed

their activities & progress, and directed them to ensure maximum outreach and delivery during the Sewa Parv campaign.

Additionally, during the event officers of the various departments briefed the participants on various Govt. schemes, eligibility criteria, entitlement procedures, delivery mechanisms, and the department-wise action plan for Sewa Parv.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that Sewa Parv is aimed at inclusive governance and public service through multi-departmental interventions. He informed that a series of programmes including cleanliness drives, blood donation camps, plantation drives, awareness sessions, enrolment camps for social security schemes, skill development and entrepreneurship workshops, and cultural activities will be organised at the sub-district, block, Municipality, panchayat, and ward levels throughout the fortnight.

He specifically emphasized the initiatives such as free health check-up camps, women focused health screening camps, awareness sessions on maternal health and child care, counselling sessions among others being undertaken during the campaign under the



Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan by the Health Department in convergence with Poshan Mah initiative of ICDS Department.

He further informed the gathering that during the campaign the health department will undertake anemia screening of the 100% population ensuring time-

ly treatment and follow-up measures.

Emphasising the importance of community participation, Dr. Qayoom said that the objectives of Sewa Parv can only be realised with the active involvement of the people. He urged senior citizens, members of civil society, trade

union members, NGOs, social activists, and local Auqaf and Gurdwara Committees to take the lead in supporting the campaign and promoting the values of service and inclusiveness.

He further encouraged the youth to come forward, participate actively in self-employment and skill development programmes such as Mission Yuva, and motivate others to take advantage of similar opportunities.

The event saw the active participation of various district and sectoral officers, officials from line departments, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and members of Self Help Groups, while senior citizens, civil society members, trade union members, social activists, youth, and the general public also attended the event.

Additionally, as part of the Sewa Parv celebrations, a series of activities were organised across the sub-districts of Awantipora and Tral. At Awantipora, a plantation drive and a mega cleanliness campaign were carried out at the historic Awanti Swami Temple, while in Tral a cleanliness drive was organised at Shikargah. Similar activities were also undertaken at the municipality, block, panchayat, and ward levels,

VC DDC Kupwara reviews pace of developmental works of Wavoor block

HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 17: Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir today chaired a meeting here to review the ongoing projects of Wavoor block.

CEO DDC, Mufti Fareed uddin was also present in the meeting, which was also attended by Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab, Executive Engineer PHE Kupwara, Tehsildar Lalpora and officials from YS&SO and Forest department.

VC highlighted various projects which need to be paced up for development in the Wavoor block. These projects include construction of Ala-



ma Anwar Shah Kashmir Stadium Kuligam, Surigam-Khodi road, Kuligam-Maidanporaroad, Aafan Khurhama

Road, Malgund Sever Bridge, Shahabad Bridge, Lone Mohallah Aafan Bridge and Batnard road.

He enjoined upon the concerned officers to speed up the pace of work on these projects so that people in large are benefitted in these areas.

He also raised the issue regarding requirement of pipes at Check Warnow, execution of works under SAMAGRA Shiksha, PMGSY works, water supply schemes and construction of sports stadium at Khurhama Branwar and Kawari.

Tehsildar Lalpora was directed to visit the identified locations for construction of different projects.

Sewa Parv-2025 kick-starts in Anantnag

HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 17: In line with the national launch of Sewa Parv-2025 by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi from Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, the district-level observance of the campaign kick-started in Anantnag today with Deputy Commissioner (DC), S. F. Hamid inaugurated the fortnight-long programme at Town Hall Anantnag.



Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted that visible cleanliness, targeted service delivery and effective grievance redressal will be the central focus areas for the district during the campaign. He added that Sewa Parv is a citizen-centric initiative aimed at strengthening service delivery and ensuring measurable outcomes across key sectors.

DC administered the Swachhta Pledge to participants and distributed uniforms among sanitation workers as recognition of their vital contribution.

The launch event also featured the live streaming of the Prime Minister's address, where he outlined the four campaigns, Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, Poshan Mah, Suman Sakhi Chatbot and Adi Sewa Parv- nationwide.

As part of the planned activities over the fortnight, Anantnag district will witness cleanliness and plantation drives, awareness programmes on government schemes.

Sewa Parv at Shopian: DC inaugurates celebrations by leading a pledge ceremony, Swachhta drive

Initiative aimed to promote the spirit of service, volunteerism & collective responsibility: Gupta

HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEP 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today inaugurated the Sewa Parv celebrations at a district level function held at Mini Secretariat by leading a pledge ceremony, wherein officers, officials, students, and citizens reaffirmed their commitment towards public service, cleanliness and community welfare.

On the occasion, Swachhta drive within the Mini secretariat premises was held to mark the initiation of the cleanliness campaign.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted that the Sewa Parv is being observed across the district to promote the spirit of service, volunteerism and collective responsibility among all stakeholders. He emphasized that the campaign is not only about cleanliness but also about selfless service for the good of society.

As part of the programme, DC also flagged-off the Swachhta Seva Vans, which will travel across different blocks and town areas to spread awareness regarding sanitation, waste segregation and eco-friendly practices.



During the campaign, information dissemination on various government schemes linked with

health, social welfare & social security, child and women development, employment generation, agri development schemes, etc shall be focused along with conduct of grievance redressal camps at tehsil and block levels.

DC urged all stakeholders, including officials, students and civil society groups to actively participate in the activities being organized under Sewa Parv.

The inaugural day of Sewa Parv witnessed a host of activities carried out by various departments across the district including the

sanitation drives in offices and markets, pledges for environmental cleanliness, awareness of flagship schemes, awareness on entrepreneurship among various other activities.

All these activities collectively marked the beginning of a two-week campaign dedicated to public service, cleanliness and community participation.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik; ACR, and other district and sectoral officers were present at the event.



Amit Shah Slams Opposition Over 'Infiltrators', Bats For Cleansing Voter List

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 17: Home Minister Amit Shah today launched a sharp attack on the Opposition, questioning their stance on the alleged inclusion of infiltrators in the country's voter rolls.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday here, Shah asked whether infiltrators should be removed from the voter list or not, and accused the Opposition of running a campaign he dubbed the "Ghu-spaithiya Bachao Yatra" (Save Infiltrators Yatra), a Home Ministry statement said.

Without naming anybody, Shah said the leader of the main

Opposition party is "trying to win elections on the strength of infiltrators" and alleged that the party does not have confidence in the people of India.

"They want infiltrators to remain in the voter list because they don't have faith in the people of this country," Shah stated.

He asserted that the Modi government fully supports efforts to cleanse the electoral rolls, ensuring only legitimate citizens are allowed to vote.

On the occasion, Shah inaugurated and laid foundation stones of various development projects worth about Rs 1,723 crore of the Delhi Government under the 'Seva Pakhwada' here.

In his address, Shah said that



today every citizen of the country and people of Indian origin

across the world are wishing from their hearts for the long

life and good health of Prime Minister Modi.

He said that when Modi became the Prime Minister, it was decided to celebrate his birthday as 'Seva Pakhwada'. For the past 11 years, the entire nation has been celebrating Seva Pakhwada from 17th September to 2nd October. Under Seva Pakhwada, village panchayats, district panchayats, state governments and various offices of the Government of India not only undertake cleanliness drives but also launch many welfare schemes for the poor.

He further said that today, the Delhi Government too has started Seva Pakhwada and has launched 17 public welfare

schemes.

"Through Seva Pakhwada, our government has started the tradition of caring for the welfare of every person. In the last 11 years, Prime Minister Modi has not only provided facilities to 60 crore poor citizens of the country but also helped 25 crore people rise above the poverty line. Bringing 25 crore people above the poverty line and providing basic facilities to 60 crore people is a very big effort and resolution," Shah said.

Shah highlighted that the long-standing desire of the nation to build a Ram Temple in Ayodhya was fulfilled during PM Modi's tenure with the construction of a grand temple. He mentioned that whether it was

about building the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, restoring the Somnath Temple with gold, or constructing the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, Modi resolved many long-pending issues.

The Home Minister said that during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the PM resolved to make India the top nation globally. Modi has set a goal for India to lead in every field by August 15, 2047, uniting the entire nation with this vision. He emphasized that Modi is moving forward with the resolve to build a developed, secure, and prosperous India.

Present were Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, union Minister Harsh Malhotra and other dignitaries. UNI

Delhi Police opposes bail, alleges "Intentional Negligence" in BMW Case

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 17: Delhi Police have in a reply filed before the Delhi's Patiala House Courts in connection with the sensational BMW accident case strongly opposed the bail application of the accused woman driver Gaganpreet Kaur, citing a "nascent stage" of investigation and conduct that "casts serious doubt on her bonafide."

Navjot, a deputy secretary with the Ministry of Finance was killed in the incident.

In their plea before the court, the prosecution outlined a series of allegations suggesting a calculated effort to manipulate circumstances. A key point of contention is the decision to take the criti-



cally injured victim to Nulife Hospital in GTB Nagar, located nearly 20 kilometers away, despite several hospitals being available nearby.

The police asserted that this choice was not incidental. While the accused allegedly denied any connection to Nulife Hospital, the investigation has reportedly revealed that the facility is owned and managed by her relatives. This claim is bolstered by the recorded statement of a taxi driver, who stated that Gaganpreet insisted on going to that specific location.

Further raising suspicions, the police noted that the accused got herself admitted to the ICU despite not having sustained severe injuries. The prosecution labelled this a "deliberate attempt to create a false defense."

The plea also highlights that the investigation is incomplete with the victim's husband yet to be interrogated and several material facts still to be verified. Expressing concern over witness safety, the police argued there is a "strong likelihood" that Gaganpreet would intimidate material witnesses if released on bail.

Concluding their opposition, the police stated that her acts "prima facie indicate intentional negligence," and that the life of the deceased could have been saved had timely medical treatment been provided. The court is expected to hear the bail arguments shortly.

The court will hear the matter on Saturday. Delhi Police has added sections under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and Section 238A (destruction of evidence) in the FIR. UNI

CM reiterates govt's commitment to provide Delhiites with quality healthcare, infra & welfare schemes

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 17: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today reiterated her government's commitment to providing national capital's every citizen with quality healthcare, modern infrastructure, and welfare schemes designed to ease daily life, all delivered within defined timelines.

Delhi government hosted the inauguration, marking the launch of several key projects in health, education, energy and social welfare on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday.

She recalled PM Modi's leader-

ship and the cooperation of the central government, noting that he never regarded power as a privilege, but as a medium of service, which is why his birthday is observed as Seva Pakhwada (a fortnight of service).

Delhi CM said that over the next 15 days, 75 schemes will be dedicated to the residents of the national capital as part of the service fortnight, and these will cover various domains such as health, modern infrastructure, education, social welfare and others.

Gupta has said that the government will put in all efforts to make things better for the people of the national capital under the



leadership of PM Modi.

The CM stated that for the first time, Delhi is witnessing such extensive cooperation from the Central Government, free from discrimination or political considerations.

She called upon the people to join in advancing towards a developed Delhi in line with the vision of a developed India under the leadership of PM Modi.

The state government has launched several new initiatives in the fields of sanitation, health, education, social welfare and security, marking a significant step towards making the capital more developed, safe and compassionate. UNI

Bangladesh Home Advisor assures full security for Hindu community in Durga Puja processions

■ **United News of India**

DHAKA, SEP 17: Bangladesh's interim government has pledged full security for the Hindu community during the upcoming Durga Puja processions, with Home Advisor Jahangir Alam Chowdhury assuring that the festivities will proceed as planned and without disruption, reports Daily Star. Speaking to reporters after inspecting arrangements at Dhaka's Ramna Kali Temple, Chowdhury said, "The law-and-order situation will remain stable during the festivity. No problem will arise. Do not pay attention to rumours."

His remarks come amid heightened concerns over rising communal tensions in the country.

In recent years, Bangladesh has seen a steady increase in religious extremism, with calls for ending secularism in the country by hardliners, putting its Hindu and other minority communities under strong pressure as attacks on them and their places of worship become more frequent.

The largest Hindu procession in the country, Durga Puja pandals have in past years been facing increased vandalism, idol desecration, and online hate campaigns, fuelling fears that hardline groups could attempt to incite violence again this season.

The rise of religious extremism has markedly increased since Chief Advisor Mohammed Yunus took office, with his administration large-



ly perceived to be pandering to Islamic hardliners. Against this backdrop, security for the upcoming Puja is being seen as a crucial test of the state's commitment to minority protection and communal harmony.

To bolster safety, Chowdhury announced that all Puja mandaps across the country will be placed under 24-hour surveillance, with personnel from the police, Ansar, and other security forces deployed to ensure order.

He added that the government has increased this year's allocation for Durga Puja to Tk 5 crore (\$411,746), up from Tk 4 crore (\$328,640) last year. He noted that this was a significant rise in fund allocation, as the Awami League in the past 15 years had only allotted Tk 2 crore (\$164,320).

The Home Advisor urged Puja committees and law enforcement agencies to work in close coordination to guarantee a peaceful celebration.

He also warned against the spread of misinformation during the festival, stressing that Durga Puja is "a celebration that draws people of all religions, not just Hindus."

In a bid to modernise oversight and responsiveness, the government has also launched a mobile application that will allow real-time reporting of incidents, enabling faster intervention by authorities.

Chowdhury expressed confidence that this year's Durga Puja would be celebrated in a "more vibrant atmosphere" than in previous years, provided vigilance and cooperation remain high. UNI

ECI introduces clearer EVM ballot papers with colour photos, starting from Bihar

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 17: In a move aimed at enhancing voter clarity and reducing confusion during elections, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced that all Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) will now have colour photographs of candidates.

The ECI has revised the existing guidelines under Rule 49B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, for the design and printing of EVM ballot papers to enhance their clarity and readability, an official statement said.

The updated ballot papers will now feature colour photographs of candidates for the first time, beginning with the upcoming elections in Bihar. The candidate's face will occupy three-fourths of the photo space to ensure better visibility for voters.

Additionally, the serial numbers of candidates, including the NOTA (None of the Above) option, will be printed in the international form of Indian numerals using a bold font size of 30. All candidate names and NOTA will appear in a uniform font type and size to improve readability.

The EVM ballot papers will be printed on 70 GSM paper, with pink-coloured sheets (of specific RGB values) designated for Assembly Elections.

This initiative is part of the 28 reforms introduced by the ECI in the last six months to streamline the electoral process and make voting more accessible.

The upgraded ballot design will be implemented in all future elections, starting with Bihar. UNI

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu slams Qatar's status as peace mediator, calls it a supporter of Hamas

■ **United News of India**

JERUSALEM, SEP 17: Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu today blasted Qatar, blasted calling all its peace attempts insincere, and accusing it of being a supporter of Hamas. "If Qatar wanted, it could easily have applied much harder pressure, which would help us free all of our hostages in the first months of the war," he told Times of Israel.

Accusing Doha of being

directly tied to the group, he remarked, "It strengthens Hamas. It hosts Hamas. It funds Hamas. It has much stronger levers, and it chose not to do that." As such, he called the Doha attack - blasted by the international community - "entirely justified."

"There was an attempt to use them partially" during the war, Netanyahu continued, without mentioning he had worked with Qatar to send millions of dollars

into Gaza every month in the years before the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led terror onslaught that started the war. He declined to give an update on whether any of the targeted Hamas leaders were killed in the September 9 attack, which is largely considered a military failure. "We're still checking it out. It's not yet fully conclusive. We're waiting to see it."

He also declined to comment on shouted questions about his



own advisors' connections to Qatar - as many are under inves-

tigation for allegedly receiving money from Doha - to push a

public relations campaign to portray the Gulf state in a positive light after the Hamas massacre in Israel.

The attack - initially intended to be a ground operation to be carried out by Mossad - was turned into a missile strike after the intelligence wing's chief David Ben-Gurion refused the order, deeming it tactically unviable. The missile strike was overall considered a failure by both the IDF as well as external

observers, as it has not managed to eliminate any of the intended targets. Obscure reports only lend more credence to the claim, as the full extent of the damage is yet to be fully verified. The Israeli premier nonetheless had called the operation a partial success, while acknowledging its military failure, stating that it demonstrated the country's will when it came to combatting terror, as it would kill them no matter where they go. UNI



Smriti Mandhana back on top of ODI batting rankings

The India vice-captain claimed the No. 1 ranking for the fourth time in her career



CHANDIGARH: India batter Smriti Mandhana has reclaimed the top spot in the ICC rankings for women's ODI batters following her half-century in the first ODI against Australia on Sunday. Mandhana's 63-ball 58 helped her overtake England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt at the top of the charts. Australia's Beth Mooney also rose three places to fifth, while Annabel Sutherland and Phoebe Litchfield are joint 25th after their half-centuries.

Australia chased down their 282-run target in New Chandigarh with eight wickets and 35 balls to spare. The teams play the second of three ODIs on Wednesday.

This is the fourth time Mandhana has achieved the No. 1 ranking for ODI batters. She did it first in January 2019 and most recently in July before Sciver-Brunt overtook her. Harmanpreet Kaur (12th) and Jemimah Rodrigues (15th) are the other India batters in the top 20. In the bowling rankings, Australia's Kim Garth and Alana King achieved their career-best rankings of fourth and fifth. India offspinner Sneha Rana, who took 1 for 51 moved up five places to 16th. England spinner Sophie Ecclestone continues to lead the ODI bowling rankings with Deepti Sharma at No. 7 being the only Indian in the top ten. Smriti Mandhana, ranked No. 1 among batters in the ICC ODI rankings for women, has gone past Tahlia McGrath to move to No. 3 on the T20I table after her match-winning 62-ball 112 against England in the first match of the series. The other big mover after the match was Lauren Bell, the England quick who returned 3 for 27. She moved up to No. 4, pushing team-mate Sophie Ecclestone and India's Renuka Thakur down. Mandhana's 112, her first T20I century in what was her 149th appearance in the format, also gave her the best rating of her career - 771 points. No. 2 Hayley Matthews is just three rating points in front, and well within Mandhana's reach when England India play their second T20I on Tuesday, but table-topper Beth Mooney is quite a distance away, with 794 points. Shafali Verma, who returned to India's T20I XI and partnered Mandhana at the top in the first game after last having played a T20I in October 2024 after which she was dropped, also moved up a spot to No. 13 after scoring 20 in 22 balls and looking fairly rusty.

Harleen Deol also re-entered the rankings at joint-86th after she scored 43 in 23 balls. Deol had last played a T20I in July 2023 and had dropped out of the rankings. Bell's rise in the bowlers' rankings has created something of a traffic jam at the top of the table. Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal is the No. 1 with 746 rating points, but Bell - with Australia's Annabel Sutherland (736 points) and India's Deepti Sharma (735) above her - is just 19 points behind. In fact, Deepti, Bell and Ecclestone (725) are all a good performance or two away from getting to the top of the table.

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