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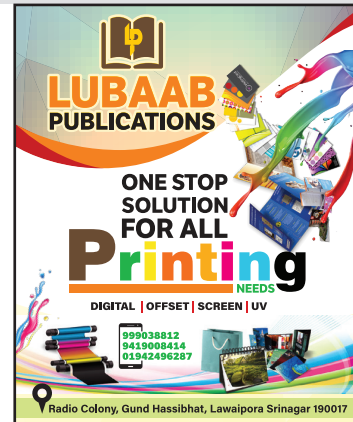
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15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATIONHEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Tourism Promotion Demands Re-Opening of Tourist Destinations: CM Omar to Home Minister

Addresses 17th AGM of TAAK at Gulmarg Convention Centre

■ HT News Desk

GULMARG, SEP 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today assured tourism stakeholders and players that he will take up their concerns with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and request for opening up of several closed tourist destinations in Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said this while addressing the 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) at the Gulmarg Convention Centre.

"On one hand we promote tourism, but on the other, many destinations remain closed. This is one of the biggest challenges in our difficult

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CM Omar Opens Gulmarg Convention Centre, Eyes 'Asia's Davos'

■ HT News Desk

GULMARG, SEP 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the Gulmarg Convention Centre, expressing hope that the world-class facility would help position Gulmarg as a premier destination for international events and conventions, "on the scale of an Asian or Indian Davos." Constructed at a cost of Rs 21 crore

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Access to safe drinking water Govt's duty: CM

■ HT News Desk

TANGMARG, SEP 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday inaugurated and dedicated to the public five major water supply schemes of the Jal Shakti Department in Tangmarg, promising that these schemes mark only the beginning of a broad transformation of the Gulmarg-Tangmarg Assembly constituency.

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PM Modi's Will Enabled Forces to Shatter Terror Networks in Pakistan: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

PATNA, SEP 18: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asserted that India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has dealt a decisive blow to terrorism and its sponsors.

Shah, while addressing a gathering here, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Through surgical

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Srinagar's Growth Mirrors J&K's Progress: Sakina Itoo

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired the review meeting of district Srinagar and took a comprehensive review of ongoing development projects and other welfare initiatives being undertaken across the district.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Ali Mohammad Sagar; Mubarakh Gul; Shamim Firdous; Salman Ali Sagar; Tanvir

Sadiq; Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo and Sheikh Ahsan Pardesi; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Commissioner SMC, Director SKIMS; HoDs and Directors of various line departments and other senior and district officers of district administration Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Minister took comprehensive assessment of performance of each department, besides progress on implementation of flagship schemes like Mission Yuva, HADP, PM Surya Ghar, National TB Elimination Pro-

gramme and others. She also took evaluation of physical and financial progress of various projects being executed under district CAPEX, MPLAD's, CDF, SASCI, AMRUT 2.0, and other schemes.

While reviewing status of healthcare infrastructure, rural development, road connectivity, education, and drinking water facilities across the district, the Minister directed the officers to ensure timely completion of projects and called for a result-oriented approach to

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4,873 Fruit Trucks Cleared in 2 Days

500 More to Leave Qazigund Tonight: Div Com

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: In a major push to support fruit growers and traders, the Divisional Administration has successfully facilitated the evacuation of 4,873 fruit-laden trucks over the past two days. The operation, supervised by IG Traffic included evacuation of 2,239 trucks via the National Highway and 2,634 via the Mughal Road.

Additionally, the last lot of 500 trucks are scheduled to be dispatched from Qazigund by Traffic police later tonight, thus clearing the entire backlog of stranded vehicles and streamlining the flow of traffic on the National Highway.

The Divisional Administration, under continuous guidance from Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, has mobilized all available resources to expedite the transportation of horticultural produce. Pertinently, the Chief Secretary has been monitoring the situation closely, conducting daily reviews with all stakeholder departments to ensure expeditious restoration of the highway, streamline

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CS Seeks Guidance of NITI Aayog on Tele-ICU Setup in New GMCs

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a detailed discussion with Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. V.K. Paul, on the establishment of Tele-ICU facilities across the newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in the Union Territory of Jammu and

Kashmir.

During the interaction, Dr. Paul shared valuable insights and highlighted successful Tele-ICU models being implemented across the country by leading health technology providers such as Apollo Tele Health, Medanta, Cloudphysician, and Health Net. He emphasized the importance of studying these mod-

els to identify suitable strategies for J&K hospitals.

Dr. Paul further advised that the needs and aspirations of individual hospitals, as well as their existing infrastructure, must be carefully assessed before rolling out the Tele-ICU initiative. He underscored the significance of capacity building

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Revival Of Ujh Project To Benefit J&K, Punjab: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

PATHANKOT, SEP 18: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that the revival of Ujh Multipurpose Project would benefit Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir in multiple ways. The project was first proposed nearly 100 years ago, he recalled.

The Union Minister said, after its completion, the Ujh project would enhance utilisation of waters of Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas

and Sutlej) allotted to India as per the Indus Water Treaty to address chronic water shortages and help curb cross-border infiltration. He said, this would facilitate irrigation of nearly 90,000 hectares of agricultural land in Gurdaspur and Pathankot in Punjab, and Samba and Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir.

Talking to local residents and media persons, The Union Minister was speaking during his visit to the flood-hit villages in the Sujanpur area on Day 2 of his tour

to the affected places in Punjab, Dr Jitendra Singh disclosed that the Ministries of Defence and Home Affairs have also now intervened in the matter from the security point of view.

The inter-ministerial arrangement between the Ministries of Home and Water Resources is aimed at pushing forward the proposal for construction of the dam on Ujh forward without further delay, Dr Jitendra Singh added. He said presently, the uncontrolled

flow of water is causing damage farmland and BSF establishments during natural disasters like the recent spate of floods in Punjab. At the same time, it is also providing vulnerable entry points for cross-border infiltration, he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that the work on the Shahpur Kandi dam, located on river Ravi, had also been held up for several decades, and it was revived by this government only after the intervention by Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi.

During his tour of the flood-affected areas of Pathankot today, Dr Jitendra Singh visited Kailashpur, Pangoli and other villages in Sujanpur and met the victims.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister directed the accompanying authorities to undertake immediate measures for rehabilitation of the affected and built new structures with better qualities to withstand floods in

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Almuqet Systems Wins Top Honours at Global Telco Awards in Spain

Zaffar Owais Andrabi From Muraadbad Kreeri Receives International Recognition by Securing Two Highest Excellence Award at AMGT Spain

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: Almuqet Systems has once again brought laurels to the country by clinching two prestigious titles at the Antonio Meucci Global Telco Awards, held during the Wholesale Worldwide Congress (WWC) in Madrid, Spain.

The Antonio Meucci Global Telco Awards, named after the true inventor of the telephone, annually recognise the most innovative and outstanding telecom service providers from across 160 countries.

This year, Almuqet Systems emerged as a standout winner, bagging the awards for Best CPaaS and

OTT Provider and Best Wholesale Messaging Platform – considered among the highest honours in the telecom industry.

The awards were personally received by the company's Owner and CEO, Mr. Zaffar Owais Andrabi, who is hailed as a proud son of

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Zaffar Owais Andrabi

Chief Executive Officer

Industry should not hesitate to invest: FM

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, SEP 18: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the government has delivered policies as per the expectation of industry, and it's now time for India Inc to invest more and expand capacities.

Speaking at the IFQM Symposium, Sitharaman also asked the industry to partner with the government in skilling youth and also to have a continuous engagement with the government throughout the year, and not just before the Budget.

To a question by Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran on what the industry should be doing now, Sitharaman said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has never relented on reforms, nor has he ignored the wishlist of the industry.

The government has been moving as per the industry's

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CS reviews functioning of FCS&CA and Legal Metrology Departments

Calls for strengthening food security measures and enhancing transparency

■ HT News Desk / D1PR

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a detailed review meeting of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and Legal Metrology Departments, where Commissioner Secretary, Saurabh Bhagat, presented a comprehensive overview of the functioning, achievements, and upcoming deliverables of the department.

Others who were present in the meeting includes Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir/Jammu; Controller, Legal Metrology along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary commended the department for its achievements in digitization, Aadhaar integration, and ensuring transparency in food distribution. He stressed on the need to remove undeserving beneficiaries, strengthen consumer protection mechanisms, and ensure timely completion of deliverables to enhance efficiency in service delivery.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that the National Food Security Act (NFSA) is benefiting over 102.54 lakh individuals across 25.61 lakh families in J&K, ensuring food security to the vulnerable



sections. The distribution includes 3.70 lakh quintals under NFSA, 1.59 lakh quintals under non-NFSA, 1.24 lakh quintals under PMGKAY, and 0.20 lakh quintals under State Ayushman Ann Yojana (SAAY) on a monthly basis.

It was further informed that J&K has achieved 100% Aadhaar seeding of ration cards and beneficiaries, with 96.55% authenticated transactions, thereby ensuring transparency in public distribution. The network comprises 6611 sale outlets, of which 6362 operate online through e-Pos devices.

About the implementation of NFSA here it was given out that the AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana)



consumers constitute 2.21 lakh families (8.76 lakh beneficiaries) receiving 35 kg food grains per ration card monthly, free of cost.

Moreover PHH (Priority Households) constitute 14.39 lakh families (58.63 lakh beneficiaries), receiving 5 kg of food grains per person per month and NPHH (Non-Priority Households) includes 8.11 lakh families (31.80 lakh beneficiaries), with food grains provided at subsidized rates along with 0.89 lakh families (3.34 lakh beneficiaries) not entitled under NFSA/Non-NFSA under exclusion category.

The Commissioner Secretary outlined key technology-driven reforms under SMART-PDS, which

includes 100% FPS automation using e-Pos devices, Digitization of beneficiary databases and Aadhaar-based biometric authentication, Migration to the new RCMS portal, with integration of migrant ration cards under process.

With respect to E-grievance redressal mechanisms via JK-Grams portal, toll-free numbers, and WhatsApp grievance numbers, the meeting was apprised that multiple modes are in place for the consumers to reach to the authorities for redressal of their complaints in a time-bound manner.

It was also revealed that the enforcement of strict penal provisions to curb misappropriation, black-marketing, and diversion of food grains, including fines up to Rs. 8,000/quintal of wheat/rice, Rs. 120/kg in case of sugar, along with additional penalties for supervisory officers in case of non-reporting of such malpractices had been implemented successfully in the Department.

The Department has set clear timelines for future deliverables, which includes 100% e-KYC saturation by December 2025, Full integration of migrant ration cards with PDS database by November 2025, Re-organization of the FCS&CA Department and

Legal Metrology Department by December 2025, CUF facility at Bajalta (1.13 lakh KL capacity) and land acquisition for 49,000 KL storage at Srinagar, Upgradation of PoS machines from L0 to L1 by March 2026.

As far as the working of the Legal Metrology Department is concerned it was given out that the mandate of the department is inspection and verification of all the Weights & Measures (Weighbridges, Tank Lorries, storage Tanks, Petrol Dispensing Nozzles etc) besides regulation of packaged and imported commodities; inspection/regulation of E-Commerce entities; Regulation of LPG and Petroleum Products, Lodging of consumer complaints before Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, awareness of consumers, handling of traders under BRAP/ EQDB etc besides other functions.

For safeguarding the interests of the consumers the Department had conducted 20455 inspections of shops & establishments, held 242 awareness camps, with 100 complaints received from consumers, 1256 challans booked and Rs 182.51 lakhs revenue realized from composition and other measures.

Explore innovative, practical solar energy solutions for J&K: Satish Sharma

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: In a bid to accelerate the Government's renewable energy initiatives, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today paid a surprise visit to 'Tawanai Ghar' of the Science & Technology (S&T) Department at Bemina here and took stock of its functioning.

During the visit, the Minister directed the concerned officers to explore innovative and practical solar energy solutions that could be implemented across Jammu and Kashmir. He underlined that Mission Solar Energy, envisioned by the Chief Minister of J&K, requires dedicated efforts from all stakeholders to achieve self-reliance in the renew-



able energy sector.

"The Government is committed to making Jammu & Kashmir a model in the adoption of renewable energy technologies. Solar energy has vast potential here, and it is our duty to harness it in a scientific and result-oriented manner," Satish Sharma maintained.

He instructed the department to prepare detailed proposals and implementation roadmaps focusing on expanding solar installations in government buildings, public institutions, and public utilities, promoting household-level adoption of solar energy through incentives and collaborating with research institutions and private stakeholders to innovate cost-effective solutions. He also asked them to ensure timely completion of ongoing renewable energy projects under various government schemes.

Satish Sharma also took stock of the issues and grievances of the employees of the department. He assured that their genuine demands will be addressed on priority and directed senior officers to maintain a supportive working environment.

He stressed that employee welfare is directly linked with efficiency and productivity, and the Government stands committed to resolving service-related matters in a time-bound manner.

Reiterating the Government's focus on sustainable growth, Sharma said that adoption of solar and other renewable sources of energy will not only reduce dependence on conventional power but also help protect the fragile ecology of Jammu & Kashmir.

He urged the officials to work with renewed zeal and accountability so that the vision of the Chief Minister in making Jammu and Kashmir a clean energy hub becomes a reality.

CEO JAKEDA, P.R. Dhar and other senior officers of Science and Technology Department were also present on the occasion.

CEO Ganderbal visited MS Fatehpura along with Dy. CEO and Headquarter Assistant

■ HT News Desk

GANDERBAL, SEP 18: Chief Education Officer Ganderbal Shri Oneel Kumar Bhat along with Dy. Chief Education Officer Gbl Mtr. Rumysa saangeen accompanied by ZEO Ganderbal Mr. Mohd Hussain and Headquarter Assistant, CEO Office, Mr. Rafiq Ahmad today visited PM SHRI School MS Fatehpura and MS Gadoora to review the existing infrastructure and inspected the kitchen garden developed within the school premises.

During the visit, the CEO interacted with the Head of Institution and staff members regarding the effective utilization of available facilities for the benefit of students.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining clean and student-friendly infrastructure and highlighted the role of kitchen gardens in promoting healthy eating habits, practical learning, and environmental awareness among students.

The CEO appreciated the efforts of the school in developing the kitchen garden and urged the staff to further involve students in its upkeep, making it a hands-on learning experience.

Swastha Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan: DC Kupwara inaugurates Healthcare Outreach Programme

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 18: In continuation of the Sewa Parv celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse (IAS), today inaugurated a Free Medical and Screening Camp under the "Swastha Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan" at SDH Kupwara. The event was attended by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kupwara Dr. Masarat Iqbal Wani, Deputy CMO Kupwara, Medical Superintendent SDH Kupwara, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Kupwara, DDC Members and the general public in large.

The camp, dedicated to women, adolescents, and children, provided free consultations, health check-ups, and screening services. Besides medical examinations, awareness sessions were conducted on nutrition, hygiene, and preventive healthcare practices. Specialized services included maternal and child care, screening for non-communicable diseases, and adolescent health counseling.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara stressed the Government's commitment to delivering accessible, quality healthcare



at the grassroots level. He underscored the importance of women's health as a cornerstone for the well-being of families and communities and urged active public participation to ensure long-term benefits from such initiatives. CMO Kupwara Dr. Masarat Iqbal Wani highlighted that similar health camps are being organized across all blocks of the district as part of the ongoing fortnight-long campaign set to conclude on October 2, 2025. He lauded the dedication of medical teams

and assured comprehensive coverage to maximize outreach.

Earlier, simultaneous health camps were conducted at Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across the district. Doctors and paramedical staff provided preventive and curative services to a sizeable number of beneficiaries, especially women and adolescents, demonstrating robust community involvement in the campaign.

Omar Abdullah Slams Tourism Contradictions, Pitches Gulmarg as 'Asian Davos'

CM Questions Leaders' House Arrests After Prof. Bhat's Demise

■ Aaqib Khan

GULMARG, SEP 18: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday criticised the government for projecting normalcy in the Valley while keeping several tourist destinations out of bounds, saying such contradictions weaken efforts to promote tourism.

"It is strange that we go out and talk about bringing tourists here, but on the ground, many destinations remain closed. Drang, Doodhpathri, Yusmarg, Tosa Maidan, and beyond Pahalgam—Aru and Betab Valley—are shut. These contradictions weaken our efforts. Either open these destinations or compensate those whose livelihoods depend on them," Omar told reporters in Gulmarg.

Earlier, Omar inaugurated the Gulmarg Convention Centre, describing it as a much-needed facility that must not remain idle. "This convention centre must not remain idle; it should generate revenue. People talk about Davos in Switzerland. Why can't Gulmarg host events like an Asian Davos? Even if not on that scale, Gulmarg should aim for at least two to four major gatherings annually," he said.

The Chief Minister added that the centre should serve multiple purposes, including conferences, MICE tourism, weddings, restaurants, coffee shops, and even digital cinema, to ensure it becomes financially sustainable. He said Gulmarg must not meet the same fate as the underused Pahalgam Club, which declined due to poor utilisation.

Omar also questioned the need to place opposition leaders under house arrest following the demise of former Hurriyat leader Professor Abdul Gani Bhat, who passed away on Wednesday evening at his Sopore residence in North Kashmir.

"What would have happened if Sajad Lone and Mehbooba Mufti had gone to the family to offer condolences? Nothing. They were going only for condolences. Is our security grid so fearful that it cannot even trust leaders to visit for condolences? This is not good for J&K, especially for Naya Kashmir," he said.

On developmental issues, Omar said several projects pending since 2010 had seen no progress after 2014. "Now funds have been allocated, and God willing, we will complete these structures during this government," he added.

IRP-10th Bn. organizes Quiz Competition at Kheribal Mattan

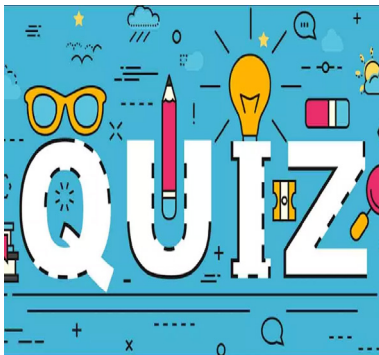
06 Schools participate, position holders awarded with cash prizes, stationery kits & medals also distributed among participants

■ HT News Desk

ANANTNAG, SEP 18: IRP 10th Battalion organized quiz competition under civic action programme (CAP) at Battalion Headquarters Kheribal Mattan, Anantnag.

On this occasion, Rajinder Katoch, Commandant IRP 10th Battalion, along with Imtiyaz Ahmad, SP (Dy. CO), and other officers were present.

Addressing the students and teaching staff, Commandant IRP 10th Battalion highlighted that the event is part of the ongoing efforts of J&K Police to strengthen the Police-public relations and urged the students and staff to refrain from drug abuse and harmful practices, and focus on



education for building a bright future.

Total six teams with five students each from six schools of Mattan zone namely GHS Kheribal, GHS Nambal, GHS Fohar, GHSS Mattan, GHSS Akad and GHS Gopalpora participated in the competition

In the competition GHSS Mattan got 1st position and was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 5000, similarly GHS Fohar got 2nd position and was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 3000, and GHS Gopalpora got 3rd position and was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 1500. Stationery kits and medals were also distributed among all the 30 participants.

Appreciation cum participation certificates were also presented to all participants and teaching staff as a token of appreciation.

The initiative aimed to encourage students to actively participate in such competitions and educate themselves regarding general knowledge and stay away from drugs and other anti-social activities.

Dy. CM visits NIFT Budgam, reviews institution's academic functioning, infrastructure, ongoing developmental works

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 18: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive visit to the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Campus in Budgam, undertaking a first-hand review of the institution's academic functioning, infrastructure, and ongoing developmental works.

During the visit, the Deputy CM held a brief review meeting to assess the institute's academic progress, pedagogical methodologies, and student welfare initiatives aimed at holistic development.

Afterwards, the Deputy Chief Minister held detailed tour of state-of-the-art laboratories and workshops, which form the core of NIFT's practical learning ecosystem.

He meticulously inspected the Garment Construction Lab, the Weaving Lab, the Jewellery

cum Leather Lab, and the Photography Lab. He observed that students engaged in creative processes and interacted with faculty to understand the technical nuances and industry relevance of the training being imparted.

Demonstrating a deep affection and personal connect with the students, the Deputy CM engaged in candid interactions with students from various disciplines. He encouraged them to leverage their world-class education to become cultural ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir, showcasing the region's rich heritage and new-age potential across India.

Keeping in view the interest of students in the various sports activities, he assured them that government will try to develop a patch of land nearby to campus as a sports field.

Highlighting the government's focus on inclusive growth and skill upgradation, the Deputy



Chief Minister urged the NIFT administration to initiate specialized workshops and training programs for local ITI students

and craft persons.

He emphasized the importance of handholding these artisans by providing them ad-

vanced techniques in craft technology, thereby enhancing the quality, marketability, and global demand of indigenous

products.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also conducted a thorough inspection of the ongoing infrastructural upgradation and developmental works across the campus.

He issued strict directives to the executing agencies to ensure the highest quality standards are maintained and to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards the use of substandard construction materials. He further instructed them to immediately identify and carry out all necessary repair works within the institution's premises to provide a safe and conducive environment for learning and innovation.

The Deputy CM expressed satisfaction with the overall progress of the institute and reaffirmed the government's steadfast support for NIFT to emerge as a premier center of design excellence.

During the visit, Director

NIFT, Prof. Dr. Monika Gupta informed the Deputy CM that community engagement is already an integral part of the institute's academic curriculum. She elaborated that NIFT students regularly undertake visits to various districts to interact with and provide advanced technical guidance to local artisans, effectively bridging the gap between traditional craftsmanship and modern design sensibilities.

Pertinently, this visit underscores the government's commitment to fostering excellence in education and skill development, particularly in the vibrant sectors of fashion, design, and traditional crafts for which Jammu and Kashmir is renowned.

Among others, the Deputy CM was accompanied by Managing Director SIDCO, Superintending Engineer of R&B Budgam and other concerned officers.

CSIR-IIIM Hosts One-Day Outreach on Conserving Medicinal Plants at Tangmarg

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: A one-day outreach program on "Conserve Medicinal Plants: Safeguard Nature, Safeguard Life" under the CSIR Mission Mode Project, Bioresource Conservation & Prospection (BioCap), was conducted at CSIR-IIIM Experimental Farm Yarikah, (Tangmarg), Kashmir, which was attended by 70 participants from tribal and farming communities.

The event was graced by Feroz Ahmad, Divisional Forest Officer, Special Forest Range, Gulmarg.

The outreach programme was organized under the mentorship and guidance of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu and Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist and Head, Branch Laboratory, Srinagar. The main objective of the programme was to make the participants aware about the importance of conserving medicinal plants for human well-being and healthy ecosystem.

Speaking on the occasion, Feroz Ahmed, appreciated the efforts of the CSIR-IIIM towards the conservation of natural treasure trove of medicinal plants. He also emphasized the importance of different departments and indigenous communities, joining hands for the success of this Mission. He also expressed his willingness to enter into an MOU with the Institution for Bioresource conservation.

Dr. Nasheeman Ashraf, Nodal Scientist of the mission project on "Bioresource conservation and prospection", talked about the objectives of the project and the importance of the community role for its successful implementation. She highlighted the role of this multi-institute project in conserving the rare, endangered and threatened plant species of the North-Western Himalayas.

She also lauded the efforts of the Director, CSIR-IIIM in facilitating the Scientist-Farmer connect for the development of sustainable agro-technologies and science-driven agricultural practices.

Earlier, Dr. Riyaz-ul-Hassan, Senior Principal Scientist, welcomed the participants and dignitaries, highlighted the role of inter-organisational interaction in maintaining the forest ecosystems.

Among others, Dr. Qazi Parvaiz Senior Principal Scientist, Dr. Khalid Yousuf, Senior Scientist, Dr. Phalsteen Sultan, Principal Technical Officer, Iftikhar Ahmad Qadri, Range officer, Tangmarg and Mr. Gh. Mohiud din Malik, SDAO Tangmarg and officers from forest and agriculture departments were also present on the occasion.

Committee on Subordinate Legislation asserts on seamless Revenue services delivery to public

Discusses digitization of Revenue records, mutations

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to examine and review the rules and regulations framed by the Revenue Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Hasnain Masoodi and attended by members Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Hilal Akbar Lone, Satish

Kumar Sharma, and Dr. Rameshwar Singh.

At the outset, the Committee held a threadbare discussion on the digitization of revenue records, mutations, and settlements. The Committee stressed the need to ensure easy access and seamless disposal of services across all government offices for the benefit of citizens.

The Committee conducted a detailed examination of various rules, sub-rules, regulations, and bye-laws of the Revenue Depart-



ment. Issues related to fair land compensation, rehabilitation of affected persons, and the process

of mutations were discussed in detail.

Chairman Hasnain Masoodi

emphasized the importance of land laws in ensuring justice and equity, reiterating the Committee's commitment to safeguarding public welfare. He urged members to offer constructive suggestions for the betterment of all sections of society.

Members of the Committee shared valuable recommendations and raised pertinent issues within its jurisdiction, reaffirming their resolve to uphold transparency and accountability in subordinate legislation.

Day-2: Budgam observes Sewa Parv with enthusiastic public participation across schools, panchayats & ULBs

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 18: District administration Budgam organized a number of activities under Sewa Parv today on day two with great zeal and public participation across all 17 blocks and municipal committees of the district.

Sewa Parv activities are being carried out with the vision of promoting community service, awareness, and saturation of Government welfare schemes.

On the occasion, programs were organized at schools, ICDS centres, Panchayats, and health institutions to ensure active involvement of students, youth, and the general public.

Series of awareness and outreach activities were held, which included Swachhta drives & pledge ceremonies. Schools across Budgam, including HSS Hardapanzoo, HSS BK Pora, Boys HSS Khansahib, GPS Magraypora BK Pora, and various others, held Swachhta pledge ceremonies and cleanliness drives, instilling the spirit of hygiene and responsibility among students.

Mobile vehicles also moved across towns and villages spreading the message of Swachhata Hi Seva; aware-



ness on Nasha Mukta Bharat: Special drives and awareness sessions on drug de-addiction were held under NCORD initiatives, urging communities to play an active role in eradicating substance abuse; Poshan Mah activities in ICDS centres of BK Pora and other blocks highlighted the importance of nutrition, hazards of junk food, and healthy dietary practices, particularly focusing on children and mothers.

Besides, eco-awareness campaigns were held in Raithan Forest Range which falls under Pir Panjal Forest division on forest conservation, biodiversity protection, and the role of

community in safeguarding the environment.

Similarly, door-to-door campaigns were conducted in all Municipal Committees of Budgam including Chadoora. Also in other urban areas house-to-house awareness campaigns under PMAY-Urban and other welfare schemes were held to ensure maximum enrollment.

Sewa Parv also witnessed enthusiastic participation from women and youth, with cleanliness drives, plantation drives, and awareness rallies being organized at village levels.

District administration Budgam stressed that the essence of Sewa Parv lies in community participation, collective responsibility, and extending the benefits of welfare schemes to every household.

District administration has called upon all sections of society to actively contribute in spreading awareness about Government schemes on health, education, nutrition, sanitation, social welfare, and livelihood.

The Sewa Parv activities will continue till 2nd October 2025, culminating with special events to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

DDC launches Springshed Climate Adaptability Project approved under NABARD at Shopian

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEP 18: District administration, led by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Shishir Gupta, has launched the pioneering Springshed Climate Adaptability Project, approved recently by NABARD.

This initiative, a first of its kind in the district marks a significant milestone in the district's pursuit of sustainable development, capacity building, livelihood opportunities, and water security.

The project aims to conserve natural springs, recharge groundwater, provide sustained irrigation and drinking water facilities, and preserve cultural heritage connected with water resources in the Zainapora block of the district.

DDC emphasized the importance of conservation of springs, capacity building, and livelihood improvement through convergence.



He was briefed on project components, progress, and potential issues, highlighting the need for a complementary approach. DDC directed that local administration's technical expertise and community needs be considered, emphasizing that project success depends on stakeholder participation and a convergent approach.

Comprehensive discussions were held with line departments viz. Horticulture, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Jal Shakti to ensure seamless project execution.

The meeting was attended by SDM Zainapora, LDM Shopian, DGM NABARD and team, CHO, CAO, Tehsildar Zainapora, BDO Zainapora, and other officers.

Day-2 of Sewa Parv: Distt Shopian focuses on public health & drug awareness

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEP 18: In alignment with the nationwide celebration of Sewa Parv, the District Administration Shopian today conducted a series of activities aimed at promoting cleanliness, drug and health awareness, community service, and public participation.

On the second day of the campaign, multiple departments organized dedicated programmes with active involvement of officials, students, and local community members, thereby reinforcing the values of collective responsibility and volunteerism.

The Municipal Committee Shopian organized awareness programmes on water conservation and sustainable practices to encourage judicious use of natural resources. The Agriculture



Department carried out soil testing demonstrations and spread awareness about Soil Health Cards to promote scientific farming methods. The Social Welfare Department contributed with plantation drives and Swachhta campaigns, reinforcing the importance of a clean and green environment.

The Rural Development Department (RDD) launched cleanliness drives across several blocks, engaging Panchayati Raj Institutions and local volunteers in large numbers. The Health Department set up health camps focusing on maternal and child health check-ups, nutrition counselling, and anaemia prevention, ensuring direct benefits to rural households.

Meanwhile, the Education Department mobilized students through creative activities like

poster-making and essay-writing competitions under the theme "Say No to Drugs", spreading a strong message against substance abuse and creating peer-driven awareness.

The FCS&CA Department also joined the campaign by conducting cleanliness activities at ration depots, thereby linking service delivery with hygiene promotion.

Officials highlighted that these initiatives reflect the spirit of Sewa Parv, which is aimed at fostering volunteerism, enhancing awareness, and strengthening community participation in developmental and social causes across the district. The programme also sought to motivate citizens, especially the youth, to actively contribute towards public health, sustainable living, and the fight against drugs.

MP- Main Altaf inaugurates Mega Kissan Mela at KVK Kulgam; felicitates farmers, distributes sanction letters

Awareness sessions, exhibitions showcasing modern agri-practices mark the event

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, SEP 18: As part of the ongoing Seva Parv celebrations, a Mega Kissan Mela was today organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Pombay Kulgam, organized by Agriculture Department & Farmers Welfare, Kulgam under centrally sponsored sub-scheme Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

Member of Parliament (MP), Main Altaf Ahmad Larvi inaugurated the mela in presence of DDC Chairperson, M Afzal Parrey; MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami; DCKulgam, Athar Aamir Khan; Director Extension SKUAST-K, Dr.Rehana Habib; DDC members, M Abas, Jameela Choudhary, M Ibrahim, and other officers.

The mela witnessed enthusiastic participation of farmers.

Addressing the gathering, MP praised the farmers of Kulgam for their awareness, ability to stay updated, and adoption of modern agricultural techniques for better production.



He appreciated the strong coordination between farmers and the district administration, terming it a model worth emulation.

Main Altaf emphasized that awareness and proper implementation of government schemes is

key to empowering farmers and urged intensified efforts to spread information about the wide range of schemes and programmes available for their benefit.

He added that agriculture and allied sectors are priority sectors,

and there are several schemes in place. Awareness is essential so that people can avail themselves of their full benefits.

DDC Chairperson in his address said that such melas provide an effective platform for showcasing and demonstrating modern farm technologies. He urged farmers to adopt modern practices and machinery to enhance productivity and income.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kulgam said that although modern farm technology is available, much more needs to be done to make the agriculture sector more profitable. He emphasized that farmers' experiences and experiments must be valued.

He further stressed that SKUAST should focus its research on controlling leaf miner and other diseases that have adversely affected apple orchards.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner highlighted that farmers in the district are increasingly adopting modern agricultural practices. He added

that agriculture and allied sectors form the backbone of the economy of the region which is a top priority sector. He highlighted various achievements in agriculture and allied sectors.

Director Extension and other officers also spoke on the occasion.

The mela witnessed enthusiastic participation of farmers, who actively engaged with experts, exhibitions, and demonstrations showcasing modern agricultural innovations.

Stalls and exhibitions were installed during the Kissan Mela, showcasing various schemes, agricultural machinery, innovative practices, and technologies aimed at benefiting farmers. The event provided a platform for awareness, knowledge sharing, and interaction between farmers, experts, and different departments.

Later progressive farmers were felicitated and sanction letters were distributed among the beneficiaries to extend the benefits of various schemes.

BBBP: Debate on 'Ending Stigma on Menstruation' held at GBHSS Khonmoh

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: The Social Welfare Department Srinagar, under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), today organized an open debate on the theme "Ending Stigma on Menstruation" at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Khonmoh. The programme was conducted by SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women - Mission Shakti Srinagar, with the aim of eradicating deep-rooted taboos and misconceptions surrounding menstruation.

The debate saw active participation of young students, who spoke passionately and shared their thoughts, experiences, and perspectives on the sensitive issue. Through their arguments, they highlighted the need to break the silence and normalize discussions on menstrual health, thereby promoting dignity, equality, and respect for women and girls.

The initiative sought to challenge negative social and cultural perceptions of menstruation—often considered dirty, embarrassing, or something to be hidden—and instead reinforce the understanding that it is a natural biological process. Experts emphasized that stigma around periods not only perpetuates harmful myths but also leads to discrimination, silence, and lack of access to menstrual products and information, which in turn adversely affects women's health, education, dignity, and quality of life.

Teachers, students, and staff from the host school actively engaged in the discussions, stressing the importance of hygiene practices, access to sanitary products, and sensitizing both boys and girls on the subject to promote inclusivity.

During the event, the SANKALP team also provided detailed information about women-centric government schemes, livelihood opportunities, skill development courses, and legal services available under Mission Shakti, encouraging students and teachers to spread awareness in their communities.

The programme concluded with the distribution of appreciation and participation certificates among the students who took part in the debate, acknowledging their courage and contribution in voicing opinions on a subject often considered a taboo.

100 Farmers flagged-off from Baramulla for awareness/ training program on Horticulture practices

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, SEP 18: Horticulture department, district Baramulla, today organized a one-day awareness-cum-training program under the CAPEX Budget 2025-26 with a focus on information, publication and dissemination.

As part of the program, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Horticulture Officer Baramulla and senior officers of the department were present at the flag-off ceremony.

On the occasion, 100 farmers were flagged-off from across the district in



three buses from Dak Bungalow to the Fruit Plant Nursery (FPN) Raipora, Ganderbal, where the main training sessions were scheduled.

Speaking at the event, ACR highlighted the importance of such capacity-building programs in empowering fruit growers with updated knowledge,

modern techniques, and best practices in orchard management.

He emphasized that such initiatives play a vital role in strengthening the horticulture sector, which is the backbone of the district's economy.

The training program will cover multiple aspects including scientific orchard management, plant protection measures, soil health, and awareness about various departmental schemes.

Experts from the horticulture department will interact with farmers, disseminate information, and provide hands-on guidance to ensure better productivity and profitability.

J&K KVIB organizes awareness camp/ interaction program at K.G. Polytechnic College Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: On the directions of Deputy Chief Minister J&K UT (Chairman J&K KVIB), Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) organized an awareness camp cum interaction program today at Auditorium of Kashmir Government Polytechnic College Gogji Bagh Srinagar.

The program aimed to sensitize the general public, educated unemployed youth & especially differently-abled persons about the various government schemes being implemented by the Board.

Deputy CEO KVIB KD, Director RSETI, Principal K.G. Polytechnic College, Assistant Director (EMP) NCSC Gogji Bagh Srinagar, officials from line departments, branch heads of various banks, senior of-



ficers from LDM office Srinagar & Cluster JKB office and other dignitaries attended the program.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic response from the local community, entrepreneurs, aspiring persons, NGOs, especially differently-abled persons.

On the occasion, participants were educated about the wide range of opportunities available under the flagship programs of KVIB, including the Prime Minister's Employment Generation

Programme (PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) designed to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship in urban as well as rural areas.

Addressing the gathering, Dy. CEO KVIB KD informed that during the last financial year district Srinagar KVIB sponsored 2447 number of cases involving project cost of Rs. 174.80 Crs and margin money of Rs. 44.25 Crs thereby creating employment

opportunities for 14682 persons under PMEGP, and under JKREGP scheme 15 number of cases were sponsored involving margin money of Rs. 45.50 lacs thereby generating employment to 120 persons.

He further emphasized the importance of availing these schemes to boost local industries and empower urban/rural communities.

The session included detailed presentations about the financial assistance, subsidies, and technical support provided under these schemes to facilitate the establishment of small and medium enterprises & the training programmes offered by the JKRSETI.

He asked the youth to involve themselves with the schemes being implemented by the J&K KVIB for their upliftment to get the benefits of the schemes to estab-

lish their income generating ventures/units, and create employment without going after the jobs.

Special emphasis was laid on the production of eco-friendly products and leveraging traditional crafts to enhance economic sustainability. Participants were also guided on the application process, eligibility criteria, and necessary documentation required availing these benefits.

The event featured interactive sessions, where experts addressed queries and provided personalized consultations to attendees. Success stories of beneficiaries who have established thriving businesses under KVIB schemes were also shared to inspire and motivate others.

The camp concluded with the distribution of informational booklets and registration forms to interested participants.

Fire & Emergency Services organizes activities under Swasth Nari Sashakt Pariwar Abhiyan

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: As part of the nationwide campaign Swasth Nari Sashakt Pariwar Abhiyan, J&K Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) today organized a free medical camp, drug de-addiction awareness programme, and blood donation camp at its Headquarters in Batamaloo, Srinagar.

The initiative was held under the leadership of Alok Kumar (ADGP), Director Fire & Emergency Services, reflecting his strong commitment towards the health, fitness, and welfare of the jawans, who tirelessly serve as frontline responders in emergencies. The programme aimed to not only ensure the well-being of personnel but also to encourage a culture of preventive healthcare and healthy living.

During the medical camp, comprehensive screening for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes, and fatty liver was conducted using advanced diagnostic tools. Specialists from the Directorate of Ayush offered consultations on lifestyle management and preventive care, while experts from Paras Hospital provided ENT and audiology services to the participants.

In collaboration with Lal Ded (LD) Hospital and NGO Red Drop, a blood donation camp was organized where more than 30 personnel of F&ES voluntarily donated blood. Their participation showcased their dedication to saving lives, even outside their professional duties as rescuers.

The drug de-addiction awareness session was a key highlight, featuring expert guidance from the Director, Rehabilitation Centre, and a motivational talk by a social activist. The sessions focused on the harmful effects of tobacco and drug use, strategies for smoking cessation, and the availability of medicines and counselling support to aid quitting.

The event was attended by Deputy Director Command Srinagar, Medical Officer F&ES, eminent specialists including the Director Ujala Cygnus Hospital, and other social activists, who interacted with the personnel and emphasized the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle.

The Director F&ES expressed gratitude to the participating hospitals, NGOs, and medical professionals for their support and stressed that such initiatives not only enhance the physical and mental well-being of the firefighters but also inspire them to serve society with renewed energy and dedication.

The programme concluded with a pledge to make health and fitness an integral part of the department's routine, thereby strengthening the spirit of Swasth Nari, Sashakt Pariwar and ensuring a healthier workforce dedicated to public service.

Bandipora witnesses series of activities on Day 2 of Sewa Parv 2025

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 18: The spirit of Sewa Parv 2025 continued to echo across Bandipora district on its second day as a series of activities were carried out by various government departments, educational institutions, and community organizations, showcasing the collective commitment towards cleanliness, awareness, plantation, and anti-drug initiatives.

Educational institutions carried forward the campaign with remarkable enthusiasm. MS Bonapora Shahgund, HSS Ajas, GHSS Plan, and Govt HS Banyari Sharkie organized pledge-taking ceremonies and cleanliness drives. At HSS Budob, students participated in an anti-drug rally, raising slogans and placards against

substance abuse, while HSS PTL Gurez hosted an essay competition on "Say No to Drugs", encouraging students to reflect and write about the harmful consequences of drug addiction.

In the spirit of community outreach, Darul Uloom Rahmaniya hosted a special cleanliness drive, while the faculty of GDC Bandipora visited Govt MS Malangam to hold motivational classes and distribute stationery items among students, strengthening bonds between higher institutions and schoolchildren.

The Municipal Council Bandipora undertook major sanitation drives across the town, including the cleaning of Papchan Nallah in collaboration with Swachhta Ambassadors of HKM Degree College. Other activities included cleanliness



of Edan Nallah, awareness on waste segregation, grass-cutting at public places, cleaning of Kaloosa Bus Stand and community toilets, besides door-to-door campaigns on solid waste management.

Similarly, Municipal Committees Hajin and Sumbal carried out sanitation drives at CHC Hajin, Army Goodwill School, and localities across Sumbal. They also organized anti-polythene campaigns, seized banned plastic items, and held awareness sessions on PM SVANidhi and PMAY 2.0, educating citizens about government flagship schemes.

The Social Forestry Range Bandipora organized an awareness programme on waste management and a plantation drive at MS Balhama, attended by the DDC member for Block Arin. In addition, plantation activities

were conducted at SK Payeen schools by WUCMA and by the Range Officer Lakes. The Forest Division Bandipora, in collaboration with PCC Bandipora, also held a cleanliness drive at Chiternar with the participation of students from Universal Educational Trust, sensitizing them on the harmful effects of single-use plastics and promoting eco-friendly alternatives.

The day's activities, conducted under the overall supervision of the District Administration Bandipora, not only reinforced the message of Sewa Parv but also reflected the district's commitment to service, sustainability, and collective social responsibility. The events inspired citizens, especially the youth, to contribute actively towards a cleaner environment, healthier lifestyles, and a drug-free society.

HT EDITORIAL

Make return of drug addicts to mainstream comfortable, happy

In a shocking incident a middle aged woman sustained serious injuries after she was attacked by her son in the Bemina area of Srinagar city. The son of the woman is a drug addict and he in a fit of anger attacked his mother after both of them entered in a hot argument. The drug addict son could not bear the objection of his mother and he carried out an attack on his without caring about the consequences.

All the religions being practiced in the world emphasize the importance of parents especially the mother and people are impressed to treat their parents with love and compassion. However, in the contemporary times there has been a social and moral degradation and there are many children across the globe that doesn't pay respect to their parents. It is due to this reason that there are reports that children carry out attacks and assaults on their parents.

In some of the cases the situation turns ugly since either the parents or one of them die thus leaving a scar on their child. Drug addiction has come up as a glaring social problem in the contemporary times and Kashmir is no exception to the same. Thousands of youth have fallen into the dragnet of drug addiction and it gets difficult for them to come out of this morass. Efforts are being made to make their lives normal but in many cases the success is not there.

The people as a whole should acknowledge the fact that most of the people who have become drug addicts have been forced to take this route and they have not done it deliberately. These people need love, empathy and compassion from the others in the society so that they consider themselves as a part and parcel of the society. As on date the drug addicts after returning to the mainstream are named and shamed in the society.

It is due to this reason that many of the drug addicts return to the fold of drug addiction and are not ready to live a normal life. These things need to be looked into by the members of the society and it should be ensured that drug addicts are given a chance to live a normal and happy life. These people too have a right to live and that too with dignity and whosoever opposes the same is an anti-social element and not a normal fellow.

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Cyber Security In The Digital Age: Securing India

Why Cyber Security Matters More Than Ever



■ Maajaaz Faisal

Cyber Security plays an important role in the field of information technology. Securing the information has become one of the biggest challenges in the present day. Whenever we think about the cyber security the first thing that comes to our mind is cyber crimes which are increasing immensely day by day. Various Governments and companies are taking many measures in order to prevent these cyber crimes. Besides various measures cyber security is still a very big concern to many.

In recent years, headlines about cyber security have become increasingly common. Thieves steal customer social security numbers from corporations' computer systems. Unscrupulous hackers grab passwords and personal information from social media sites or pluck company secrets from the cloud. For companies of all sizes, keeping information safe is a growing concern.

From the age of commencing innovation, the nation of India has achieved remarkable technological achievements. From urban centers to rural villages, technology is reshaping daily life, streamlining government services, connecting loved ones, and fueling innovation where ever possible. With this rapid Digitalization comes a powerful new challenge i.e. cyber security. How can India protect its people, infrastructure, and aspirations in an era when threat can strike silently from anywhere in the world.

The Journey of India in the field of Technology has been extraordinary. The country's investments into the Digital India initiative and



programs to provide affordable smart mobile phones to the country's citizens and the indiscriminate expansion of internet broadband has led the country to making online access a reality for hundreds of millions. Services like telemedicine and programs that offer online education along with mobile applications that offer e-commerce a reality to millions of Indians has translated the once distant ideal of a cashless economy into a practicing reality with the hundreds of millions of citizens that use the UPI system. There also services like e-commerce which services the country's remote inhabitants. With such a digital and cashless economy, the country also requires adequate infrastructure for supporting the digital economy.

Cyber criminals grew along with the growth of technology. No longer confined to tech-savvy residents of large cities, anyone can be a target. Sending emails and scam phone calls, doctored websites, and social engineering all bridge a gap between human and electronic weakness. Driven by the work from Home economy, the pandemic has seen a surge in cyber incidents in India. Cyber criminals find the most lucrative targets in India's beleaguered healthcare, finance, and even police sectors.

Without the cooperation of the citizenry, technology can do little to keep India safe. Weak passwords, obsolete security software, and careless downloading of suspicious email attachments continue to be the main culprits behind many cyber attacks. Vulnerable people, and in particular rural communities, are often the most exposed. They are exposed to unsophisticated, crude forms of social engineering, designed for local circumstances.

Firewalls and awareness are as important as education. Updating the defenses of fundamental digital structures, campaigns by the government, simple step workshops by NGOs, and advanced social media engagement teach updating apps, and the sensible practice of not over sharing and source checking before clicking. Digital India now rests on several crucial interlinked control systems and networks like power grids, interconnected control systems, the water supply, and transport, and systems integrated into healthcare. Any cyber upheaval of these can cause disruption to critical services and can even result in the loss of lives.

Legislators have taken action toward the safeguarding of citizens and the digital assets of India. The

National Cyber Security Policy and Data Protection frameworks focus on privacy, resilience, and best practices from around the globe. The Personal Data Protection Bill seeks to ensure that Indians have ownership and control of their information, while also punishing those that treat the information irresponsibly. There is also the contribution from private sector enterprises. IT conglomerates to corner shop entrepreneurs are jointly fostering 'made in India' solutions to Indian problems such as digital policing in regional languages, rural Internet training, and critical infrastructure surveillance and control. India's engagement in international cyber crime meetings demonstrates the country's focus on addressing crimes that are perpetrated across the borders and left unresolved. The absence of borders is more pronounced in cyber crime therefore international collaboration establishes joint protocols, exchanges critical information, and responds to the crises.

The dream of digital India is not just about connectivity it's about confidence and safety. To secure India's future strong policies smart technology and culture of awareness are needed. Collaboration between government industries and citizens can create a future where digital progress uplifts everyone while keeping threads at Bay. Cyber security is not just technology issue for India it's a social mission. It protects trust independence and supports ambition at every level of the society. Weather its farmers checking crops price on his mobile phone login into his online startup founder building tomorrow's solution everyone extending its benefits to every citizen India can turn the challenge of cyber security into an enduring strength. In the digital age confidence

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We Invest In Talent; Others Reap The Rewards?



■ Aadil Ghulam Bhat

India has faced a dilemma for years. On the one hand, it is proud of its large diaspora, as the CEOs of multinational companies such as Google, Microsoft, and IBM can find their ancestors on Indian land. On the other hand, it subtly laments the ongoing migration of its most creative minds, who leave not just in pursuit of more rich territory but also usually for a future they perceive their hometown is unable to offer.

Although this phenomenon—which has been labelled as "brain drain" for a long time—is neither unique to India nor new. Its scale in India, nevertheless, is rather amazing. With over 17 million Indians living and working overseas, the World Bank estimates India to be the top source of human capital movement worldwide. These people are more than just workers; they are scientists, engineers, researchers, and doctors, many of whom have studied at famous Indian universities, sometimes substantially sponsored by state money.

The Starting of the Exodus

Why is one leaving this? The pressure to succeed and the allure of opportunities abroad, when combined, provide the answer. India's problems—bureaucratic red tape, poor research, slow career development, and limited innovative incentives—often inspire people to seek possibilities elsewhere. By

comparison, countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Germany provide not just better pay but also world-class research infrastructure, academic freedom, and career mobility.

For instance, UNESCO notes that India spends about 0.7% of its GDP on research and development, compared to nearly 3% in nations like South Korea and Israel. Constant underfunding affects even the most esteemed universities, including AIIMS and the IITs. It is thus not unusual that an Indian scientist could choose to work in a laboratory at MIT or Stanford, where financing is more consistent and excellence is usually acknowledged in a more predictable way.

These are the two sides of a coin.

Brain drain, however, is not without complexity. This phenomenon has both positive and negative aspects. Remittances sent home, which the Reserve Bank of India estimates will be worth more than \$125 billion in 2023, boost India's economy. Furthermore, the diaspora significantly contributes to India's global visibility and social impact. The creation of international policy, the attraction of investments, and the building of cultural bridges all owe much to diaspora networks.

These benefits, however, hide a more serious problem. Every expert leaving affects the underprivileged rural health clinics throughout India. Every programmer who moves helps to reduce the inventiveness in the growing Indian startup scene. In fields like artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and biotechnology, where worldwide leadership is vital, the loss is particularly negative, as they are front stage for innovation.

Creating Brain Gain from Brain Drain
How then can India turn this drain into a source of riches?

Reform Research Funding: Simplify grant distri-

bution to guarantee that it is more merit-based and less bureaucratic; increase R&D spending to a minimum of 2% of GDP.

Initiatives like the "Ramanujan Fellowship" and "VAJRA" in India have shown promise; yet, they need further integration and growth. Reverse fellowships and return schemes. China and South Korea actively sought their diaspora scientists throughout their growing stages; India needs to follow suit.

Give Indian universities research autonomy and pay commensurate with global norms, both academically and commercially. Working on cooperative projects and research centres with international institutions helps to create paths for return.

Provide initial money, tax incentives, and quick regulatory clearance to help highly qualified returnees become enterprises. Many Silicon Valley veterans would be happy to come back and provide their expertise if the local challenges could be eliminated.

Create mentoring and investment initiatives headed by the diaspora. Imagine if every CEO of Indian origin mentored a young entrepreneur back home.

All things considered, a Futuristic Outlook India is not lacking in intelligence. It lacks an environment that values and challenges ability. Our finest brains won't have to leave if we can establish an environment that fosters invention, acknowledges quality, and encourages creativity. Even if they do, they'll take a piece of India with them, ready for return, investment, and inspiration. Brain drain has no cause in destiny. Vision and commitment help one to develop brain circulation, a cycle that not only benefits the person but the country as well.

The author is a poet, author and a local newspaper column writer. Email aadilghulamhat@gmail.com

Kashmir Apple Industry at the Mercy of Blocked Highway Backbone on the Brink



Er Ishfaq Khaliq

In the heart of Kashmir, where mountains cradle valleys and orchards stretch like green carpets, the apple is more than just a fruit. It is dignity, survival, and the very backbone of the local economy. For decades, Kashmiri apples have traveled from these orchards to markets across India, winning hearts and feeding families. Today, however, this backbone is breaking — not because the trees stopped bearing fruit, but because the roads that carry them remain blocked.

Apples Trapped, Farmers Broken

Imagine a farmer who has worked all year pruning branches in biting winters, spraying pesticides in spring rains, praying through summer storms, and finally plucking bright red apples in autumn. That crate of fruit is his year's hope, his children's school fee, his household's ration money, his loan repayment. But when the truck carrying those apples is trapped for days on the Srinagar-Jammu highway, hope begins to rot along with the fruit.

Each delay steals more than freshness; it steals trust. By the time apples reach Delhi or Mumbai, their shine has dulled, their taste soured, and their price dropped. Farmers are forced to sell at throwaway rates, while debts keep rising.

Numbers That Speak of Pain

Kashmir produces around 20 lakh metric tons of apples every year, making it the largest apple producer in India. Nearly 7 lakh families depend directly or indirectly on this trade. Yet, during every harvest season, reports of trucks halted,



highways blocked, and markets missed repeat like a cruel ritual. What natural calamities once did occasionally, road restrictions now do regularly. The Valley's economy bleeds silently, season after season.

When an Industry Suffers, Valley Trembles

The apple industry is not just about farmers. Packers, drivers, cold-store workers, commission agents, and even street

vendors survive on its strength. When trucks stand still on blocked highways, thousands of people lose their daily earnings. Schools go unpaid, medical bills pile up, and the youth instead of dreaming of innovation and business inherit a life of frustration.

Solutions are not impossible. Farmers demand only the basics:

- Uninterrupted passage for perishable goods during harvest season.

- son.
 - Better cold storage within the Valley, so fruit can wait for markets instead of markets waiting for fruit.
 - Railway freight connectivity as an alternative to the vulnerable highway.
 - Transparent compensation when losses occur because of preventable delays.
- These are not luxuries, but necessities.

To ignore them is to suffocate the one industry that keeps Kashmir's economy alive.

A Cry from the Orchards

Walk through the orchards in September, and you'll hear it: not just the rustle of leaves, but the unspoken anxiety of farmers. Their apples gleam in wooden crates, but their eyes carry fear. "Will my fruit reach the market on time?" is now the question that overshadows harvest joy. If these voices remain unheard, if policies remain unmoved, the orchards may still bloom each spring, but their pride will wither. Kashmir's backbone cannot endure endless blockages. Saving the apple industry is not just about saving fruit; it is about saving families, futures, and the very spirit of the Valley.

Better cold storage within the Valley, so fruit can wait for markets instead of markets waiting for fruit.

Better cold storage facilities in Kashmir could transform the fate of the apple industry. With the ability to preserve fruit for months, farmers would no longer be at the mercy of blocked highways or fluctuating market prices. Instead, they could sell when demand peaks and prices are fair. But such infrastructure comes at a cost far beyond what small growers can afford. "Cold storages mean hope, but without government support, they remain a distant dream, as this is never possible without the support of government due to various reasons like subsidies, loans etc.

Kashmir's apple industry the backbone of the Valley's economy is withering under repeated highway blockages. Trucks loaded with fruit remain stranded for days on the Srinagar-Jammu Road, turning months of farmers' toil into roadside waste. With nearly 70% of India's apples coming from Kashmir, the crisis affects lakhs of families and the wider economy. Experts stress that better cold storage and alternate transport could give farmers hope, but without strong government support, Kashmir's pride may continue to rot before it reaches the markets.

Threats to the Copper Industry in Kashmir



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

With every passing day, Kashmir faces growing challenges in various business sectors. Recently, the exposure of rotten meat was a tragedy for hoteliers and their associates—such incidents never bode well for trade. A stable life in the valley is possible only when every sector functions smoothly, whether it be tourism, horticulture, agriculture, pisciculture, transport, or traditional crafts.

The government has indeed introduced initiatives like smart buses and battery-powered rickshaws, but such steps also bring unintended consequences. Smart buses often cause traffic jams on narrow roads, while free bus services have directly impacted the livelihood of auto-rickshaw drivers. Development should never mean creating a mess in cities—it should balance environmental issues, employment, and sustainability.

We also face serious environmental threats. Deforestation in the upper reaches leads to storms and property damage, while floods in cities create uncertainty. Being in seismic zone 5, the valley is highly vulnerable to earthquakes, yet giant constructions are being permitted without considering safety. Illegal encroachments, such as hoteliers

narrowing flood canals, only increase flood risks. Development must not come at the cost of society's future.

Scams and Loss of Trust

Why are scams common in medicine, horticulture, copper, tourism, and handicrafts? Why do Kashmiri traders lack customer trust? Why do buyers hesitate before purchasing our world-famous handmade embroidery, carpets, papier-mâché, or copperware?

The answer lies in quality assurance. Customers—both domestic and foreign—fear adulteration and fake products. To restore trust, the government should introduce special authenticity tags and scanning applications for Kashmiri handmade items. This will ensure buyers receive genuine products, boosting tourism, exports, and ultimately our economy.

The Copper Industry: A Heritage Under Threat

The copper industry, introduced in the 14th century by Shah Hamdan (RA), has historically provided employment to thousands and remains one of the valley's cultural treasures. But today, it faces serious threats:

Major Threats:

Machine-made products flooding markets, undermining handmade authenticity.

Cheap imitations sold at lower prices, deceiving customers.

Adulteration in copperware, leading to loss of trust.

Lack of financial support and recognition from the government.

Declining youth interest due to lack of incentives and innovation.

Competition is healthy, but it must never mean cheating customers. Instead, traders should embrace professionalism, uphold authenticity, and adapt to modern trends.

Way Forward

Government Support: Provide financial aid, training workshops, and incentives for copper artisans.

Authenticity Certification: Introduce scannable tags and official seals to ensure originality.

Product Innovation: Expand into new items like copper flower pots, wall clocks, trophies, and modern décor—similar to the trending samovar trophies gifted at local cricket events.

Tourism Integration: Position copperware as signature souvenirs of Kashmir, strengthening cultural identity.

Awareness & Planning: Ensure development projects safeguard against environmental threats like floods, earthquakes, and deforestation.

Conclusion

Kashmir can become a model for sustainable development and cultural preservation if we act with foresight. The copper industry, once a symbol of our heritage and employment, must be revived with authenticity, innovation, and proper government support. By safeguarding our crafts, environment, and trust, we can make our valley truly unique—like no place else in the world.

sahilmanzor411990@gmail.com

From Generation G to Generation Alpha: Changing world, changing children



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

With the changing times and societal environment, the thinking, lifestyle and challenges of each generation change. The Greatest Generation and the Silent Generation faced war and hardship. Baby Boomers witnessed industrialization, Gen-X experienced the technological dawn, and Millennials lived a youthful life with the internet and globalization. Gen-Z are digital natives, self-reliant and quick-thinking, while Gen Alpha is growing up in a completely digital environment. Mental health, social connectedness and job uncertainty are their major challenges. Balance, creativity and experience-sharing can make the future sensitive and progressive.

The changes that take place in society from time to time are not limited to politics or technology, but have a deep impact on human thinking, lifestyle and culture. This is the reason why people born in different years are identified as different "generations". Nowadays, words like "Gen-G" and "Gen Alpha" have become common in schools, colleges and even in the corporate world. But the question is what are these generations, in what ways are their thinking and challenges different and is this difference strengthening the society or creating division?

Generation is actually a group that is born in almost the same time period and experiences similar social and cultural circumstances in their childhood and youth. There is a huge

difference in the thinking and lifestyle of the children born during the freedom struggle and the children born in today's digital age. This difference becomes the identity of every generation. The trend of classifying generations started in the beginning of the twentieth century in America and Europe and now it is being adopted all over the world including India.

Many generations have emerged since the beginning of the twentieth century. The "Greatest Generation" born between 1901 and 1927 faced the difficult circumstances of the First World War and the Great Depression. Their lives were full of discipline and sacrifice. After this, people born between 1928 and 1945 were called the "Silent Generation". This was the generation that spent its childhood amid the Second World War, poverty and displacement. In India, this generation witnessed both independence and partition. The generation born between 1946 and 1964 was known as the "Baby Boomers". After the war, the birth rate increased rapidly and the world moved towards reconstruction. In India, these were the people who got the status of independent citizens for the first time and witnessed the era of industrialization and the Green Revolution.

"Generation X" born between 1965 and 1980 grew up with the sound of technological revolution. TV and radio became a part of their lives. In India, this generation witnessed the times of emergency and economic crisis, so it is considered practical and self-reliant. After this, the generation born between 1981 and 1996 was called "Millennials" or "Gen-Y". It witnessed the era of internet and globalization. These youth, full of new ambitions and dreams, took advantage of the IT revolution and mobile technology.

"Generation-Z" born between 1997 and 2012 are called digital

natives. These children have made the internet, smartphones and social media a part of their lives since childhood. They are identified with confidence, creativity and quick thinking, but impatience and competition are also clearly visible in them. After this, children born between 2013 and 2025 are known as "Generation Alpha". These children are growing up in an environment where artificial intelligence, virtual reality and robotics have become a part of everyday life. Their toys are also smart devices and education is becoming completely based on online platforms.

Some special characteristics of Generation-Z differentiate them from others. This is the first generation that created a digital ID since childhood. YouTube, Instagram and Netflix became their choice instead of books and newspapers. They are experts in multitasking, self-reliant and have independent thinking, but their biggest challenge is the lack of ability to concentrate. Comparison on social media affects their mental health and sometimes also creates problems like anxiety and depression.

The future of Generation Alpha will be even more unique. This is the first fully digital native generation in human history. Their toys are robots, education is taking place in virtual classrooms and their playground is the metaverse and augmented reality. They will think globally because they are getting connected platforms to the world since childhood, but at the same time there will be a danger that their connection with the real world will weaken.

The author is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hilar (Haryana)-127045

Festival Look For Navratras



■ Shahnaz Husain

With an aromatic smell in the air, we just know that the festive season is here. It is the season of great enthusiasm, rituals & customs and faith while celebrating Goddess Durga with faith, fun, songs, and dance. It is important to take care of your skin and hair during this time, to elevate your looks and enhance your confidence.

Women of all age groups find the festival fascinating and there is no stopping them as they groove to the latest Navratri songs. However, the long, tiring hours and makeup is dulling your skin. The constant sweat and pollution which the skin is exposed to during the long hours outside homes needs to be dealt with carefully. It is time for the female folk to indulge in skincare rituals for flawless, radiant skin and to look totally stunning.

While you might be ready to indulge in the festivities, are your skin & hair ready too? It is an opportunity to be at your attractive best in a traditional way in the evening when the weather is cooling down. Apart from the religious significance, the nine days festival is perfect time to get your jewellery, makeup, accessories and traditional

outfits ready for Navratri.

Since this is also a chance to meet new people, it is the best time to showcase your beauty sense and dancing prowess.

So here are some quick fixes for you to start gearing up for skin, hair make up to look gorgeous and attractive even before the festival begins.

Your skin is called the mirror of your body. During festivals like Navratri, there are bright lights. So, for your night make-up, you will need bright colours, otherwise your face will look pale.

First, cleanse the skin and apply a liquid moisturizer. For oily skin, apply an astringent lotion with cotton wool.

Wait for a few minutes. Then, cover blemishes with a concealer, before applying foundation. Or, use a lighter colour foundation on dark blemishes and then apply normal foundation on the entire face. If you wish to cover a pimple or spot, it should be done before applying foundation or powder. Concealing sticks are available for this. Using a thin brush, paint over the spot with a little concealer, or lighter shade of foundation. Then, apply a little powder.

Dot foundation on the face and blend with a damp sponge or with finger tips. Don't forget the neck. Apply loose powder, or try compact powder to set the foundation. Use foundation with beige tones, rather than pink. I feel beige suits Indian skin colour better. If you have a very fair ivory skin, go for beige with a rosy tint. If the complexion is fair, but pale (yellowish), avoid pink tones and go for beige or biscuit. Darker complexions look better with brownish beige. I feel that most Indian skin tones look better

in beige or biscuit shades of foundation, rather than pink.

Or go for gold foundation for this special occasion. Dot the face with it and blend with a moist sponge, to give the skin a golden glow. When you apply make-up, remember not to smear too much or rub it. Whether it is foundation or blusher, it is best to dot it with a light touch, using a fingertip, or an applicator. It can also be applied lightly and evenly with a damp sponge.

Try tinted powders, like warm yellow tones of powder. Powder with a golden tint will also suit. It should be lightly applied. If you want a really healthy glow without the shine, go for a bronzing powder. Avoid applying too much. It should be lightly applied, using a big powder brush.

A hint of blusher should be used on the cheeks. A powder blusher is easier to apply. Use it after you have applied powder. Apply on the cheeks and blend it outwards and slightly upwards. Then, apply light coloured highlighter on the cheekbones. Blend well.

Blusher colours for the night need not match lip colour exactly, but it should be in the same colour tone. For example, if you have worn an orange lipstick, avoid pink blush on. For fair skin, try pinks and reds. If you have a yellowish skin, avoid orange. For wheat complexions, colours like rose, coral, copper are flattering, while plum, wine, bronze may suit darker complexions.

For eyes, apply lighter brown shadow on the upper eye lid and dark brown eye shadow in the crease, to add depth. Outline the eyes with dark eye pencil

or eyeliner. For a smudged effect, a dark eye shadow also works well on the upper lid, close to the lashes. Extend it a little beyond the outer corner of the eyes, slightly upwards. Smudging can be done with a spongetipped applicator. Eye liner or dark eye shadow may be applied on the lower lid and then smudged.

Actually, dramatic and heavy eye make-up, with the black eye-lined or winged eyed look has been the trend and is gaining in popularity. It will be ruling fashion trends. Go for dark eyeliner just under the lower lashes and on upper lid close to the lashes. Extend the lines on upper and lower eyelids beyond eyes, like the 60s heavy eye make up look. Coloured liner can also be used with black eyeliner, as it is becoming a trend. Pastel eyeliners, in blue, yellow and even orange will be "in" during the coming seasons.

For Navratri make-up, you may want to try gold, silver or bronze shadow to line the eyes over your eyeliner on the upper lid. Highlight under the brows with gold, ivory or light coloured eyeshadow.

Then apply mascara. Roll-on mascara is easy to apply. While applying mascara on the upper lashes, look downwards. Apply it both above and below the upper lashes, for a thicker look. Apply on lower lashes too. Wait for a while and apply a second coat. Then brush out the lashes, with a small eyelash brush. To make lashes appear thicker, apply powder between two coats of mascara.

Gloss is popular for the lips. Use a lip liner the same colour as your lipstick. Apply lip gloss in the centre, after applying

lipstick.

For normal Indian complexion, go for warm earthy colours, like coral, wine, plum, strawberry, red and shades of red in lipstick. A dark pink or rose-red would look good too. Orange and shades of orange are very much "in," from apricot and amber, to coral and tangerine. You can find orange shades that suit most skin colours. Use orange to coral for darker skin, while orange and peachy shades suit fair skin. If you use orange, go subtle for the rest of your face. Go for light orange or beige lipstick, lilac, mauve and light pink during the day, with a hint of pearl. Clean your makeup thoroughly once you are back from dandiya DJ. Makeup products left on your skin overnight do a lot of damage to your skin particularly if you are prone to acne, pimples and rashes. Get the perfect curl on medium heat for 10 seconds only to warm up your eye lash curler. begin curling your eye lashes from the roots. Keep pressing through the length till you reach the ends of the lash hair. Once you are happy with the way the lashes have curled, you can apply a curl enhancing mascara.

A Bindi is an integral part of make-up for festivals. Look for a decorative bindi, to match the colour of your dress. A bindi, studded with small sparkling stones, combined with a bright colour would be most attractive.

The author is international repute beauty expert and is known as herbal queen of india



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DC Kupwara Reviews Progress Under Mission Yuva,764 New Cases Approved by DLIC

■ Dr. Ab. Qayoom

KUPWARA, SEP 18: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Kupwara, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Shrikant Balasahb Suse, convened today to review progress under the Mission YUVA. Following detailed scrutiny and deliberations, the Committee approved 764 eligible cases to receive financial assistance and capacity-building support for entrepreneurship development. During the discussion, DC directed to focus on specific potential groups, including college students, Self Help Group members—especially Lakhpati Didis—Vishwakarma-sponsored artisans, and existing nano-enterprises for upgradation. He directed that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) must be prepared meticulously to minimize the risk of failure of business units and emphasised on the need for continuous capacity building of applicants. Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering local



youth and promoting sustainable livelihoods. He called upon concerned departments to intensify awareness activities and ensure maximum participation from aspiring entrepreneurs across the district. The Deputy Commissioner also conducted a review of bank branch-wise progress and directed LDM to monitor the disbursement process of sanctioned cases on daily

basis. The DLIC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting youth-led enterprises and promoting self-employment in Kupwara.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Kupwara Mufti Fareed Ud Din, Assistant Director Employment, Lead District Manager, officers from Social Welfare, JKEDI, and other relevant officials.

Handwara Police Observes Thana Diwas/ Lok Darbar Across the Police District

■ Dr. Ab. Qayoom

HANDWARA, SEP 18: As part of its sustained public outreach efforts, Handwara Police today observed Thana Diwas across all police establishments within the district. The meetings were chaired by the respective jurisdictional officers and saw enthusiastic participation from community representatives, civil society members, trade bodies, and other prominent citizens of the respective areas. During the interactive sessions, participants raised various issues of public concern. The officers assured that all genuine grievances related to policing would



be addressed on priority. Issues falling under the purview of civil administration would be promptly forwarded to the concerned departments for timely redressal. Thana Diwas is a flagship initiative of J&K Police aimed at fostering closer police-public relations, enhancing transparency, and providing a dedicated platform for citizens to express their concerns and suggestions. Handwara Police reiterated its commitment to community-friendly policing and vowed to continue such people-centric initiatives to build trust, encourage cooperation, and ensure effective and accountable governance.

SKUAST-K to host national symposium on entomological advancements

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 18: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir's Division of Entomology in collaboration with the Entomological Society of India (ESI), is holding a two-day National Symposium on 'Technological Advancements: Emerging Trends in Entomology (ESI-ETE-2025)'.

The symposium is scheduled to take place on October 8th and 9th, 2025, at the main campus of SKUAST-K in Shalimar, Srinagar. The event aims to bring together leading experts, researchers, and students to discuss the latest advancements and emerging trends in the field of entomology. The symposium will focus on how these technological innovations can provide meaningful insights for the scientific community and offer direct, practical benefits to stakeholders, particularly the farming community, through the application of cutting-edge entomological research.

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that I am applying for the issuance of a Date of Birth Certificate for my son/daughter Zahid Ahmad Sheikh, S/o Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, R/o Pahalgam from the office of the Municipal Committee, Pahalgam.

As per school records, his/her date of birth is 14-07-2010 (Fourteenth July Two Thousand Ten).

If any person has any claim, objection, or interest regarding the said Date of Birth, they may submit the same in writing to the office of the Municipal Committee, Pahalgam within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no claim/objection shall be entertained and the Date of Birth Certificate shall be issued accordingly.

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that in the school records of Govt. Higher Secondary School, Pahalgam, the date of birth of my son Zahid Ahmad Sheikh, S/o Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, has been recorded as 14-07-2010.

If anyone has any objection regarding the said Date of Birth, they may contact the undersigned or the concerned school authorities within 7 (seven) days from the publication of this notice. After that, no claim/objection shall be entertained.

Demise



'Surely to Allah we belong and to Him we will all return.'

Surah Al-Baqarah – 156

With profound grief we announce the demise of Mohammad Shafi Kira presently residing at Batapora, Fazal Haq Colony, Zakura. He breathed his last on Wednesday evening after brief illness. May Allah (SWT) bestow him a high place in Jannah. Congregational **Fateh Khawani** will be observed on Sunday **21st of September 2025 at 10 am**, at our ancestral graveyard at Kolipora Khanyar, Srinagar. Near City Central Educational Institute.

Bereaved

Yawar And Yasir Shafi (Sons)
And Family

Public Notice

I, Manzoor Ahmad Itoo, S/o Ghulam Nabi Itoo, R/o Watrigam, Anantnag, hereby inform the general public that the Registration Certificate (RC) of my vehicle (Scooty) bearing Registration No. JK03N-1248 has been lost/misplaced and could not be traced despite best efforts. I have applied for issuance of a duplicate Registration Certificate with the office of the Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Anantnag. If any person has any claim, objection, or interest with respect to the said vehicle/Registration Certificate, they may submit the same in writing to the office of the RTO, Anantnag, within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no claim or objection shall be entertained and the duplicate Registration Certificate shall be issued accordingly.

Sd/- Manzoor Ahmad Itoo, Mob. No.: 6006736762

Public Notice

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No:0832040100002914, my name and address was mentioned as Rubeena Bano, D/O Mohd Muzuffar, R/O Arhama kangan Gandarbal. Now i want to apply for Change my name and Address as per my Aadhaar Card as Rubeena Akhter, W/O Riyaz Ahmad Kalas, R/O Aragam Bandipora, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch office Garoora Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Rubeena Akhter.

W/O Riyaz Ahmad Kalas.

R/O Aragam Bandipora, District Bandipora.

Office of the ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER SINGHPORA PATTAN

AUCTION NOTICE

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K, it is notified for the information of the General Public that Damaged Old (Single Story) School Buildings at Govt. Boys Middle School Goom Ahmadpora (GA Pora) Zone Singhpora Pattan will be auctioned as per the Government Order No:774-Edu of 2017 Dated:12-10-2017 by the Committee constituted for survey and auctioning of dilapidated School Buildings and other stock related items by Chief Education Officer Baramulla vide his order No.: CEO/Plg/Bl/36646-49 Dated:30-08-2025. The bidders can submit EMD for auction by or before 25-09-2025 with cash demand draft Amount Rs. 5000/- (Five Thousand Rupees Only). Forms and Condition document can be had from the Office chambers of Zonal Education Officer Singhpora Pattan on working day. Auction will be held in school premises and will start at 11:00 am on 27-09-2025. For any further details and queries contact the office of the Zonal Education Officer Singhpora Pattan.

S.No	Description	Specifications	%age(X)	% in position	Category of building	Rate	Analysed Rate
1	U/G Foundation	RR Stone Masonry	10	10	D	1263	12.63
2	Plinth	RR Stone Masonry	6	50	D	1263	37.89
3	Superstructure	In Col by stone work	15	60	D	1263	113.67
4	Doors/Windows	C- Class Kail wood only Chowkate	13	40	D	1263	65.67
5	Flooring	Damaged C. Concrete Floor	7	20	D	1263	17.68
6	Ceiling	Playwood Ceiling	10	15	D	1263	18.94
7	Roofing	Wood work, B-Class Budloo wood with CGI sheeting	33	70	D	1263	291.75
8	External Finish	Nil	1.5	0	0	0	0
9	Internal Finishing	Colour was on Plaster	4.5	20	D	1263	11.36
Total							569.59
Plinth Area							795.0 Sft
Cost of Building=795.0 X 569.59							Rs. 452824
D/d depreciation for approximately 48 years Age @0.50% :							Rs.108677
Net Total Cost of structure: =							Rs. 344147
Saving Value @ 20% of Total Cost of Structure: =							Rs. 68829

(Salvage value= (INR) 68829)

The Terms and Conditions of the auction notice are as under:-

- Each Bidder Must deposit earnest money of Rs 5000/- (Five Thousand Only) as given above in the shape of CDR from any Nationalized Bank/Scheduled Bank Pledged to the Zonal Education Officer Singhpora Pattan. Earnest Money deposited (EMD) in the form of a CDR should reach this office before 25-09-2025..
- The Open auction shall be conducted by the auction Committee at 11:00 am on 27-09-2025 in presence of bidders.
- Earnest money of the successful bidders and the second highest bidder shall be retained and earnest money of rest of the bidders will be returned within 10 days after auction proceedings are over.
- The successful bidder shall have to enter into an agreement with the department within seven days from the date the sanction of the contract is communicated to him. Failing to execute the agreement with the stipulated period, the earnest money deposited by successful bidder shall be forfeited in favour of the department and contract shall be allotted to the second highest bidder. Any loss on this account shall be made good from the 1st highest bidder in terms of arrears of the land revenue rules besides blacklisting the contractor/bidder participating from future department tenders/auctions.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.
- Any other condition that the department may like to impose shall be announced on the date of opening the auction and shall be binding on the bidders.

No: ZEO/SP/Plg/25/837-42 | Date: 18/09/2025

Sd/- Zonal Education Officer
Singhpora Pattan

DIPK: 6353/25 | Dated: 18-09-2025

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION PULWAMA

E-Tendering of e-NIT No : 04 of 2025, Dated 17-09-2025

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

Name of Works:

S.NO	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in Lacs	EMD Percentage of Adv. Cost	Tender Document Cost	Class Of Contractor	Time of Completion in Days
1	Providing and Fixing of 06 Strands of Black Annealed Wire with Angle Iron Fence Posts in Cement Concrete at National Highway-44 Lethpora. <i>Scheme:CAPEX</i> RFTS: 2000 Plantation: 2000 No of Conifer Plants. Location National Highway Lethpora. Range: SF Range Awantipora 1 st <u>Details of Work To be Executed: strictly as per the estimate and BOQ uploaded.</u>	4.95	2%	500	"D"	30
2.	Construction of Inspection Path at Banderpora Nursery <i>Scheme:CAPEX</i> Location Details:Banderpora Range: SF Range Awantipora 1 st <u>Details of Work To be Executed: strictly as per the estimate and BOQ uploaded.</u>	1.35	2%	500	"D"	20
3.	Construction of Tinshed at Banderpora Nursery <i>Scheme:CAPEX</i> Location Details:Banderpora Range: SF Range Awantipora 1 st <u>Details of Work To be Executed: strictly as per the estimate and BOQ uploaded.</u>	0.95	2%	500	"D"	20
4	Providing and fixing/Installation of Laminated Panelling at Divisional Office SFD Pulwama. <i>SCHEME: CAPEX, District Pulwama.</i> Location: Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Arigam Pulwama. <u>Details of Work To be Executed: strictly as per the estimate and BOQ uploaded.</u>	3.00	2%	500	"D"	20

Important Note: Conifer Plants to be provided Departmentally to the Successful Bidder with in a lifting range of 100kms from the site.

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

Position of Funds: Budgeted/Available

Position of AA: Accorded.

Position of TS: Accorded.

Publishing Date :-	18-09-2025 at 9.00 AM
Download Start Date :-	18-09-2025 at 9.00 AM
Bid submission Start Date :-	18-09-2025 at 4.00 PM
Bid submission End Date :-	29-09-2025 Till 6.55 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid (online) :-	30 -09-2025 in the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Pulwama
Date of Opening of Financial Bid (online) :-	To be notified separately after opening of technical cover.

No.:SF/PUL/Plg/116-120,
Dated: 17-09-2025

Divisional Forest Officer
SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION
Pulwama

DIPK: 6354/25 | Dated: 18-09-2025

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Div Com reviews implementation of National Clean Air Program in Jammu City

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 18: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee to review the implementation of action plan for improvement of Air quality in the district and implementation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Regional Director, Pollution Control Committee, Jammu, Additional Deputy Commissioner and Joint Commissioner JMC.

The Divisional Commissioner was apprised about the expenditure of funds under NCAP for 2024-25 with sector wise interventions to reduce the air pollution in the city.



The key focus areas included end to end paving of Roads for dust control, greenery development, mechanical road sweeping, greening of open areas and traffic corridors, improvement of traffic junctions for decongestion.

He was also apprised on the involvement of schools and colleges for mass awareness and public outreach programs.

Reviewing the proposals of projects for the year 2025-26, the Divisional Commissioner was informed that a total of 14 road improvement works worth Rs 868.14 lakh and eight projects for development of green spaces at the cost of Rs 721.26 lakh have been taken up by the Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The new projects include end to end paving of different roads in the city, laying of concrete interlocking tiles and beautification of garbage vulnerable points. Projects under Green spaces development include landscaping and construction of Green strips along different major roads.

Enquiring about the tendering process of the projects, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officials for expeditious implementation of all projects with focus on quality of works and timely competition.

He issued directions to ensure downward flow of water from the drains along the roads and construction of water soaking pits to avoid water logging.

District Admin intensifies Sewa Parv activities across Ramban

HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 18: District Administration Ramban, under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, has intensified the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations by organizing a series of activities across the district to promote community welfare, environmental protection, and social awareness. The departments and institutions actively participated to ensure inclusive outreach at the grassroots level.

Specialized health check-up and wellness camps were held at CHC Banihal, Ayushman Arogya Mandir Tethar, Chapnari, and Mahakund (Sub-division Gool) under Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, focusing on preventive healthcare, maternal and child health and awareness about hygiene, nutrition, vaccination, and mental well-being.

A cleanliness-cum-plantation drive was held at Mazimkund Ground, Gool as part of Swachhata Hi Seva. The officials, students, and locals termed cleanliness and plantation as essential for ecological balance and community health, urging youth to sustain these efforts.

Meanwhile, the Social Welfare Department held an awareness programs on flagship welfare schemes such as Marriage Assistance, Old Age Pension, and Widow Pension, targeting women, children, senior citizens, and specially-abled persons.

Essential aids including walking sticks were distributed among beneficiaries, with officials underlining inclusivity and social justice as the core values of Sewa Parv.



The Forest Department marked the occasion with cleanliness drives across various locations, stressing the need for public cooperation to protect green cover and maintain ecological harmony.

Educational institutions including GDC Banihal and GDC Gool organized anti-drug campaigns provided books and stationery to needy students, conducted cleanliness drives, painting competitions, debates, and discussions to sensitize students on their role in building a progressive society.

The Rural Development Department also mobilized block-level activities under Swachhata Hi Seva, drawing enthusiastic participation from youth and local communities.

DC Ramban reviews implementation of Capex Budget, Financial Inclusion, Social Sector Schemes

HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted a comprehensive review of the District Capex Budget 2025-26, financial inclusion, job-oriented initiatives, and other social sector schemes.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Assistant Commissioner Development Mohammad Ashfaq; Executive Engineers of PWD, Jal Shakti, JPDCL, Lead District Manager, district officers, and representatives of banks.

Reviewing the progress of 3,554 proposed works under District Capex Budget, including 1,373 ongoing projects, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Rural Engineering Wing (REW) to expedite tendering and allotment processes to ensure timely execution. He also intervened to resolve local bottlenecks hampering office progress.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed all executing agencies to complete works within stipulated time frame, emphasizing equitable development in both rural and urban areas. He also took a sector-wise review of Health, Education, Urban Local Bodies, RDD and PWD Divisions of Ramban and Banihal.

Progress under the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) and Tribal Plan was also discussed, with directions for early completion of sanctioned projects. Executive Engineer JPDCL informed that the tendering process for all Capex Budget projects is underway.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the all executing agencies including PWD, RDD, JPDCL, Jal Shakti and REW to complete the developmental works of their respective departments in time bound manners.

He also reviewed restoration of roads and bridges damaged by recent heavy rains, flash floods, and cloudbursts.

Reviewing financial inclusion initiatives, the Deputy Commissioner directed bankers to achieve targets under APY, JPY, Jan Dhan Yojana, and ASY schemes.

Further, the Assistant Labour Commissioner was directed to intensify workers' registration drives. The District Social Welfare Officer was instructed to ensure coverage of all eligible beneficiaries under old age, widow, and disability pension schemes, marriage assistance, and other social security schemes.

Municipal authorities conduct enforcement drive against Single Use Plastic in Reasi Town

HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, SEPTEMBER 18: Municipal Council today carried out an enforcement drive against the use of single-use plastics in the town.

A MC team, led by Executive Officer Mohammad Ajaz, recovered a fine of 7,000

from shopkeepers found violating the ban. The Pollution Control Department also extended its support to the Municipal Council during the drive.

The enforcement action was taken as part of the "Sewa Parv 2025" campaign aimed at promoting environmental protection, cleanliness and public awareness.

EVM Verification Exercise for AC-61 Chenani conducted successfully in Udhampur

HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 18:

The District Election Office, Udhampur, successfully conducted the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) Checking and Verification (C&V) Exercise for Assembly Constituency 61 - Chenani, in strict adherence to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) laid down by the Election Commission of India.

The exercise was held today at Government Degree College

(Boys), Udhampur from 10:00 AM to 07:00 PM, under proper security arrangements and in the presence of designated election officials, engineers from the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and eligible candidates.

The C&V process was undertaken for three polling stations - Mada-A, Mada-B, and Kud-A - following a request by applicant Harsh Dev from National Panthers Party, who had raised concerns regarding alleged tampering. The

entire exercise was conducted transparently, systematically and within the prescribed time frame, ensuring complete satisfaction of the applicant. Copies of the outcome were also provided to the applicant as per SOP.

During the exercise, three Control Units (CUs) from one polling station showed a minor clock error during diagnostic checks. Officials clarified that this was purely a technical issue and had no bearing on the polled data. Pertinently, the polled data

from these machines which showed clock errors was demonstrated to the applicant, confirming that it remained completely intact and exactly as recorded on the actual poll day i.e., 01 October 2024. In line with the SOP, the applicant was given the option of random selection of EVMs from other polling stations within the same Assembly Constituency. The process continued with diagnostic checks, mock polls and verification of polled data with VVPAT slips,

which fully matched and satisfied the candidate.

The District Election Office Udhampur emphasized that the entire procedure was video-recorded, carried out under tight security and followed the laid-down protocols of the Election Commission of India. The public is urged not to believe in rumours or misinformation regarding EVM tampering, as due process has been duly followed to the complete satisfaction of all concerned.

Community welfare, awareness activities held across Udhampur on Day two of Sewa Parv

HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 18: The District Administration Udhampur, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, organized a series of activities across the district on the second day of the nationwide Sewa Parv initiative.

The day witnessed diverse events including cleanliness and plantation drives, elimination of single-use plastic campaigns, Poshan Maah activities, painting competitions on Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, waste segregation awareness, health check-up camps, demonstration programmes under ATMA and administration of the Swachhta pledge. Staff members



from various departments also sensitized the public about different government schemes and flagship programmes.

An extensive drive was also conducted by the Municipal Committee Ramnagar at the bus stand, focusing on the elimination of single-use plastics and removal of encroachments. The field staff carried out both awareness and enforcement measures to ensure strict compliance.

The initiative reflects the Administration commitment to building a clean, sustainable and organized environment.

The Municipal Committee has appealed for the continued cooperation of the public in supporting such drives and contributing towards the vision of a plastic-free Ramnagar.

Seva Parv: Multi public welfare, cleanliness, plantation initiatives in full swing in Rajouri

HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 18: In continuation of the ongoing 'Sewa Parv' being observed across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir from 17-09-2025 to 02-10-2025, different departments organized a series of community-focused activities in Rajouri district on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma.

The Deputy Commissioner participated in a plantation drive held at Danidhar, Rajouri, reiterating the administration's commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development.

The departments undertook multiple initiatives aimed at public welfare and awareness. Health camps were established by the Health Department, providing essential medical services to the residents. The Labour Department conducted awareness sessions regarding various welfare schemes of the Jammu and Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (JKBOCW). Extensive cleanliness drives, including the cleanliness of school



premises and public spaces, were carried out with active community participation.

Events focused on farmers included dissemination of information on government agricultural welfare schemes such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). The 'Mission Yuva' was also promoted to encourage youth engagement. Solid waste management received emphasis through mass awareness

on waste segregation and door-to-door waste collection drives across the district.

Additionally, drug awareness programmes were conducted in different schools aiming to sensitize students towards the ill-effects of substance abuse and promote healthy living. Cleanliness drives were also carried out in school premises. Other activities like awareness on digital literacy, AB-PMJAY, Social security schemes,

registration under PMMVY were also carried out with added zeal in Rajouri.

The Sewa Parv serves as a platform where service to the nation finds expression through culture, art, heritage, knowledge sharing and inclusive community engagement. It will encompass diverse areas such as cultural heritage, women-led progress, care for general health and wellbeing, environmental stewardship, innovation and empowerment of marginalized communities.

Meanwhile, multiple activities were organized across different municipalities of the district as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv campaign, focusing on welfare, awareness, sanitation and outreach. In Municipal Council Thanamandi, a Health Check-up Camp for Sanitation Workers was organised in collaboration with the AYUSH and Health Departments where free medicines were also distributed.

Furthermore, MC staff sensitized street vendors about the benefits and provisions of the PM SVANidhi scheme, aimed at empowering small vendors through

collateral-free working capital loans.

In addition, Joint teams of MC Thanamandi and Jal Shakti collected water samples from local springs and raised awareness on cleanliness and water conservation.

The PMAY-Urban team promoted awareness on housing schemes, encouraged households to fast-track construction, organized Grih Pravesh ceremonies, and disseminated information about Angikaar 2025 and the PM Surya Ghar program.

A dedicated cleanliness campaign was conducted in the market area with active support from market shopkeepers, prominent citizens, and former ward members. Waste collection and awareness on waste segregation were carried out.

Similarly, in Municipal Council Kalakote, the PMAY-Urban team undertook an outreach campaign to promote PMAY, Angikaar 2025, and the PM Surya Ghar program. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Government for ensuring last-mile outreach under the Housing for All initiative.

Seva Parv 2025: GPC Kishtwar organizes awareness rally

HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 18: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 campaign, the Government Polytechnic College (GPC) Kishtwar today organized a spirited awareness rally that began from the college premises, passed through Hidayal Chowk and Bun Astan, and culminated at the iconic Chowgan Ground.

Students and faculty members participated with great enthusiasm, carrying placards and raising slogans on Swachhata (cleanliness), hygiene, and civic responsibility to sensitize the public about the importance of keeping the surroundings clean and adopting eco-friendly practices. The rally attracted attention from locals along the route, spreading the message of community service and collective responsibility.



sponsibility.

The event formed an important part of the broader Seva Pakhwada activities under Sewa Parv, which aim to promote cleanliness, public welfare, and volunteerism through outreach programmes, awareness drives, and community participation.

Parallel activities were also conducted across Sub-Division, Tehsil, and Block levels by different departments including Health, Rural Development (RDD), ICDS, Forest, Education, Social Welfare, and Agriculture. These departments organized plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, health check-ups, and awareness sessions to mark the occasion.

The Municipal Council Kishtwar added further significance to the celebrations by organizing a Greh Pravesh (Home Inauguration) ceremony under PMAY-HFA (Urban). Keys to five newly constructed houses were handed over to eligible beneficiaries, fulfilling their dream of owning a pucca house and highlighting the government's commitment to inclusive development.

PM Modi speaks with Nepal's interim PM Sushila Karki, conveys India's support towards restoring peace and stability

■ [United News of India](#)

NEW DELHI, SEP 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with Nepal's Interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki today during which he conveyed India's full support to Nepal in its efforts towards restoring peace and stability.

In a post on X, PM Modi said: "Had a warm conversation with Mrs. Sushila Karki, Prime Minister of the Interim Government of Nepal. Conveyed heartfelt condolences on the recent tragic loss of lives and reaffirmed India's steadfast support for her efforts to restore peace and stability. Also, I extended warm greetings to her and the people of Nepal on their National Day tomorrow."

During the phone call, that lasted 20 minutes, Prime Minister Sushila Karki conveyed her heartfelt greetings and best wishes to Prime Minister

Modi on his 75th birthday and appreciated the Prime Minister Modi for his message of solidarity.

Prime Minister Karki said "... responding to the call of recent Gen-Z movement, elections will remain topmost priority of the present government, with strong determination for accountable, responsive and corruption-free governance, reflecting the aspiration of the youth," according to the Nepal Foreign Ministry.

She also highlighted the centuries-old friendly relations between Nepal and India, and briefed him on the recent political developments in Nepal. The two leaders also discussed bilateral relations, shared interests, and mutual concerns.

This was PM Karki's first ever bilateral conversation with the head of government of a foreign country following her appointment as the Prime Minister of Nepal on September 12.



A readout by the MEA said, during the phone call, Prime Minister Modi congratulated Prime Minister Karki on her appointment and conveyed best wishes on behalf of the Government and people of India.



Prime Minister extended heartfelt condolences for the tragic loss of life during the recent protests in Nepal.

Prime Minister conveyed India's readiness to continue working closely to further

strengthen the special ties between the two countries and India's full support to Nepal in its efforts towards restoring peace and stability, and for the progress of the people of Nepal.

Prime Minister Karki

thanked Prime Minister for India's firm support to Nepal and reciprocated Prime Minister's desire to further strengthen ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister Modi also extended felicitations on the occasion of the upcoming National Day of Nepal.

The leaders agreed to remain in touch, it added.

Prior to today's conversation, on Tuesday, Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, had paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Karki at Singha Durbar.

During the meeting, Ambassador Srivastava expressed India's continued commitment to supporting Nepal's progress and prosperity, assuring that this support would persist in the days ahead, too.

He further expressed India's assistance in development and reconstruction, stating that India stands in favor of peace,

good governance, and stability in Nepal.

Earlier, in his message of congratulations to PM Karki on taking over as Interim Prime Minister, PM Modi had wished for Nepal's prosperity, and during a speech at an event in Manipur, he had welcomed the formation of a civil government in Nepal following the widespread unrest.

Following the September 8-9 Gen Z mass movement in Nepal and the consequent violence, CPN (UML) Chairman KP Sharma Oli resigned from the post of Prime Minister on September 9. Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel appointed former Chief Justice Sushila Karki as the Prime Minister of the interim government on the night of September 12.

President Paudel dissolved the Parliament (House of Representatives), and announced general elections for March 5, 2026. UNI

US revokes visas of Indian biz executives over fentanyl trafficking allegations

■ [United News of India](#)

NEW DELHI, SEP 18: The US has revoked and subsequently denied visas for certain Indian business executives and corporate leadership for their alleged involvement in "trafficking fentanyl precursors", the US Embassy said today.

The US said the action has been taken as part of the Trump Administration's "efforts to keep Americans safe from dangerous synthetic narcotics".

These actions are taken pursuant to section 221(i), section 212(a)(2)(C), and 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. As a result of this decision, these individuals and close family members may be ineligible for travel to the United States, it said.

"The Embassy is further flagging executives connected with companies known to have trafficked fentanyl precursors for heightened scrutiny if and when they apply for US visas."

Chargé d'affaires Jorgan Andrews said: "Individuals and organizations involved in the illegal production and trafficking of drugs to the United States, along with their families, will face consequences that may include being denied access to the United States."

"Stopping the flow of fentanyl, including its precursors, to the United States is one of our top priorities. We are grateful to our counterparts in the Government of India for their close cooperation to combat this shared challenge. Only by working together will our two governments address this transnational threat and keep both our people safe from illicit drugs," the statement added.

Fentanyl is a synthetic drug linked to thousands of deaths in the US last year.

The US action follows a September 15 Presidential Declaration in which President Donald Trump named India among 23 countries as major drug producers or transit hubs.

The US President named China, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan among the 23 major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries, saying that by manufacturing and trafficking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, these nations are threatening the safety of the US and its citizens. UNI

NHRC issues notice to MP Govt over poor medical services at Barela PHC in Jabalpur

■ [United News of India](#)

NEW DELHI, SEP 18: Citing media reports, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports highlighting the poor condition of medical services at a government-run Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Barela, Jabalpur, located on National Highway-30.

The Commission said today in a statement here that it has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, seeking a detailed report within

two weeks on the matter.

According to the report, despite four doctors being posted at the PHC, none attend duty during the night shift. This absence of medical staff has forced patients—particularly those injured in accidents—to be referred to the District Hospital for even basic first aid and care. There have been instances where patients reportedly lost their lives due to the unavailability of doctors at the centre during critical hours, it said.

The lack of doctors at night has also hampered medico-legal



examinations (MLCs) for accident victims. Police officials bringing such patients to the PHC are compelled to take them to the District Hospital instead, causing unnecessary delays in urgent medical intervention, the Commission took serious note of the media reports in this regard.

The rights body said that "if these reports are verified, they indicate serious violations of the human rights of patients and victims relying on the health centre for essential medical services." UNI

US FED MAKES FIRST RATE CUT OF THIS YEAR AMID EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS

■ [United News of India](#)

WASHINGTON, SEP 18: The US Federal Reserve on Wednesday decided to lower the target range for the federal funds interest rate by 25 basis points to 4 to 4.25 per cent, the first rate cut since December 2024.

Recent indicators suggest that growth of economic activity moderated in the first half of the year. Job gains have slowed, and the unemployment rate has edged up but remains low. Inflation has moved up and remains somewhat elevated, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), the principal monetary policymaking body of the Federal Reserve System, said in a statement after a policy meeting. "In support of its goals and in light of the shift in the balance of risks, the Committee decided to lower the target range for the federal funds rate by 1/4 percentage point

to 4 to 4-1/4 percent," the statement said. "In considering additional adjustments to the target range for the federal funds rate, the Committee will carefully assess incoming data, the evolving outlook, and the balance of risks."

The FOMC reiterated its commitment to supporting maximum employment and returning inflation to its 2 per cent objective.

All 12 members of the FOMC, including Lisa Cook and Stephen Miran, attended the meeting. While 11 members voted for the 25-basis-point cut, Miran voted against the action, preferring a 50-basis-point cut.

On Monday, a US federal appeals court rejected President Donald Trump's bid to remove Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook, just hours before the Fed's two-day meeting was set to kick off. Also on Monday, the US Senate narrowly confirmed Stephen

Miran, one of Trump's top economic advisers, to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, succeeding Adriana Kugler who resigned from the board in early August.

Miran was sworn in on Tuesday and is expected to serve through Kugler's remaining term ending on Jan. 31, 2026.

Along with its policy decision, the FOMC released updated economic projections, forecasting US real GDP growth of 1.6 per cent in 2025, 1.8 per cent in 2026, 1.9 per cent in 2027, and 1.8 per cent in 2028.

The figures are slightly above the June projections of 1.4 per cent, 1.6 per cent, and 1.8 per cent for 2025 through 2027, respectively.

The Fed projected the US median unemployment rate would remain at 4.5 per cent in 2025, ease to 4.4 per cent in 2026, and decline further to 4.3 per cent in 2027. UNI

WEF report flags \$1.5 trillion loss from climate-driven health risks by 2050

■ [United News of India](#)

NEW DELHI, SEP 18: A new global report has warned that climate-driven health risks could cost the world economy at least USD 1.5 trillion in lost productivity by 2050, painting a grim picture of an economy already grappling with the escalating toll of climate-related illnesses and extreme weather events.

Released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) today, the report 'Building economic resilience to the health impacts of climate change,' underscores the growing vulnerabilities in critical sectors such as food and agriculture, the built environment, and health and healthcare, calling for urgent and coordinated action to safeguard public health and economic stability.

Developed in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group (BCG), the report has called for urgent and decisive action by businesses and governments to safeguard worker health and ensure operational resilience before the costs spiral beyond control.

According to the report, failure to adapt promptly could cripple the productivity of vital sectors.

"This wake-up call serves as a reminder that unchecked climate change will not only devastate natural ecosystems but also cripple human health and the very fabric of economic stability worldwide. The food and agriculture sector alone faces a potential loss of USD 740 billion due to climate-induced health risks, threatening global food security and the livelihoods of millions," said the report.

The built environment sector is projected to lose USD 570 billion, while the health and healthcare sector may suffer USD 200 billion in productivity losses, compounded by soaring demands on medical services. Experts warn that rising temperatures and extreme weather events are rendering millions of jobs unsafe or obsolete, exacerbating poverty and displacement.

"Delays in integrating climate resilience into business strategies will push worker health risks higher and inflate adaptation costs," said Eric White, Head of Climate Resilience at the WEF. The insurance sector is also bracing for a surge in claims related to climate health damages, which could destabilize financial systems and further strain economies worldwide.

Despite the dire projections, the report highlights a path forward through investment in climate health innovations such as climate-resilient crops, heat-stable medicines, cooling technologies for outdoor workers, and new insurance models addressing coverage gaps.

However, Elia Tziambazis, Managing Director at BCG, cautions, "While momentum is growing, financing and deployment of adaptation solutions lag far behind what is urgently needed." With COP30 climate negotiations on the horizon, the report calls for placing health adaptation at the centre of global climate action, blending private sector innovation with robust policy frameworks. UNI

One of highest honours of my life', says Trump

■ [United News of India](#)

LONDON, SEP 18: The opening day of US President Donald Trump's second state visit to the UK has boasted a packed itinerary - complete with a carriage procession, a Red Arrows flypast and even a new Transatlantic cocktail.

Being the first president to receive an invitation for a second state visit to the UK was a "singular privilege", he said as per BBC. "Such respect for you and such respect for your country."

Calling it one of the "highest honours" of his life, Trump joked he hoped it will be the last time someone is invited twice.

In his speech at the state banquet, he paid tribute to the special relationship the two countries enjoy.

Talking of the phrase "special relationship" from the American point of view, he explained that "The word special does not begin

to do it justice."

He further said the two countries are joined by a number of things including history, language and transcendent ties of culture, tradition, ancestry and destiny.

The King, in his turn, spoke of today's events as a renewal of the UK-US bond - referencing the "unshakeable trust in our friendship" and the "shared commitment to independence and liberty".

The key message from the King's speech has been about the deep ties between the US and the UK.

"Our people have fought and died together for the values we hold dear," he said while talking about the deep ties between the US and the UK.

He continued, "Today, as tyranny once again threatens Europe, we and our allies stand together in support of Ukraine, to deter aggression and secure peace."

King Charles in his state banquet speech linked this modern threat



to democracy with the wartime alliance of the US and UK.

"Our countries have the closest defence, security and intelligence relationship ever known," he said.

Touching upon the shared history, he even mentioned about America's battle for independence from his "five times great grandfather, King George III".

The King also commended the president's "personal commitment to finding solutions to some of the

world's most intractable conflicts". He then proposed a toast to Trump and Melania, "and to the health, prosperity and happiness of the people of the United States of America".

Earlier in the day, Trump used the occasion to pay his respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II, laying a wreath at her tomb in a private moment away from cameras.

The president and the King now sit side-by-side at a banquet

table - flanked by members of the Royal Family and the US administration among the 160 attendees.

Among those who mingled in banquet hall included British PM Sir Keir Starmer, Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper, former foreign secretary David Lammy, big tech names including Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Blackstone CEO Steve Schwarzman and media mogul Rupert Murdoch. From American side, there were Secretary of State Marco Rubio along with his wife Jeanette Rubio, US special envoy Steve Witkoff and US Masters-winning golfer Nick Faldo.

Trump's visit continues tomorrow when his focus turns to the political domain. He'll be sitting down with Prime Minister Starmer and is also expected to meet leader of the opposition Kemi Badenoch. UNI

