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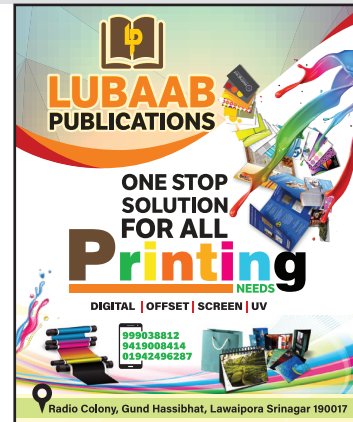
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15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATIONHEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless

PM Modi Extended Great Support To
J&K's Health Sector: LG Sinha

LG Inaugurates New Centre of Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital in Srinagar

■ HT News Desk

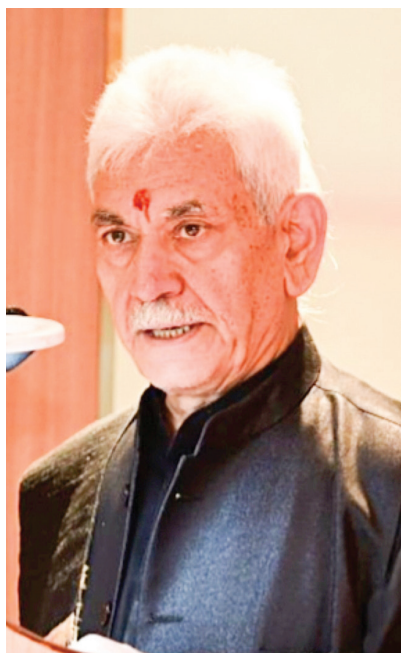
SRINAGAR, SEP 20: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the new Centre of Dr. Agarwals Eye Hospital at Qamarwari in Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the hospital and medical fraternity for ensuring accessible and affordable care for all and connecting the specialists with patients in rural and far-flung areas of J&K.

"Over the past decade, modern technologies have fundamentally transformed the eye care field and today it is offering faster and more accurate diagnoses with precise treatments. The new technologies have also increased access to care in health sector and personalized treatment.

AI-powered systems have enabled doctors to detect early signs of disease

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Elimination of
terrorism nation's biggest
priority: LG Sinha

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: Asserting that the biggest priority for our nation is the elimination of terrorism, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that the encouraging fact is that terrorism today has been greatly reduced and is now limited to very small pockets.

Addressing the 4th CII Northern Regional Council Meeting here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Whether it was left-wing extremism or Naxalism the dream once

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CM Omar Abdullah calls for equal
tourism and industrial growth in J&K

Invites investors to harness J&K's untapped potential



■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today emphasized the need to complement Jammu and Kashmir's tourism success story with an equally robust industrial growth, calling upon industry leaders to view J&K as a viable and promising investment destination.

Addressing the 4th meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Northern Regional Council 2025-26, held in Srinagar, the Chief Minister acknowledged that while the focus in recent months has largely been on tourism,

industrial growth has not received the same attention. He assured stakeholders that the government is determined to correct this imbalance by strengthening the investment ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Tourism is one part of our growth story, but the other part that requires equal attention is industrialisation," Omar Abdullah said while interacting with business leaders. "Jammu and Kashmir remains an attractive place for investment despite challenges, and we are committed to making it easier and more rewarding

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Soldier dies in
Udhampur encounter,
hunt on for trapped
terroristsLG Sinha pay solemn tributes
to fallen jawan

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 20: An Army soldier lost his life in action during an intense gunfight with terrorists in the rugged Seoj Dhar forest area along the Doda-Udhampur border, officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) on Saturday.

They said the gunfight broke out on late Friday evening prompting a massive joint operation by security forces.

Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand was critically injured when a joint search party from the Army, Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police came under sudden fire from hiding terrorists during a cordon-and-search mission.

"Acting on specific intelligence about terrorist presence in the high-altitude region, the teams had launched the operation in the Dudu police station limits near

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No guilty should escape, no innocent be harmed: DGP

Calls for night patrolling, naka checks to foil anti-national designs

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP), Nalin Prabhat on Saturday called for enhanced night patrolling, naka checking and close coordination with sister agencies to foil the nefarious designs of anti-national elements.

The police chief, while chairing a high-level security review meeting



in Sopore, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), also underlined the principle of balanced policing, stressing that "No guilty should escape and no innocent should be harmed."

Highlighting the importance of operational vigilance, the DGP called for enhanced area domination, intensive naka checking, and round-the-clock night patrolling to counter

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India's 'Jewel in the
Crown' sinking: Houseboats
empty since April attack

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: On Srinagar's Nigeen and Jhelum lakes, silence has replaced the laughter of tourists. The beautiful houseboats, once the pride of Kashmir's hospitality, now float deserted, their owners struggling to survive

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Over 6,400 Tonnes Apples Transported
From Kashmir To Delhi In 2 Weeks

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 20: Over 6,400 tonnes of apples have been transported from Kashmir to Delhi via parcel trains within two weeks, Jammu Division of Northern Railways said on Saturday.

Kashmir produces around 2-2.6 million metric tonnes of apples annually, accounting for about 70-80 per cent of the country's total apple production.

The Jammu Division of Northern

Railway is operating parcel trains carrying apples from Kashmir to Delhi after starting the service on September 11 with two parcel van coaches — one destined for Jammu and the other for Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.

"Each parcel van coach was loaded with approximately 23 tons of goods. This was considered a historic achievement, as a parcel van coach first reached Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, from Budgam

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LoP Sunil Sharma Reviews Flood
Damage, Relief in Warwan's Margi

■ HT News Desk

KISHTWAR, SEP 20: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma today visited the far off Margi village in the Warwan area which suffered severe devastation due to the recent incessant rains and flash floods.

The natural calamity has caused widespread damage, washing away several houses and extensively damaging the road connectivity, cutting off the entire population from the rest of the

district. Many families have been left homeless, and the region is currently grappling with acute shortages of shelter, food, drinking water, medicines, and basic amenities.

Sunil Sharma was accompanied by officials of local administration and civil society members. Despite difficult terrain and disrupted routes, he reached Margi to meet with affected families and to have a firsthand assessment of the extent of destruction. He interacted with the

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Overspeeding on Narbal-Bemina Stretch
Endangers Commuters, Pedestrians

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: The Srinagar Baramulla highway stretching from Narbal to Bemina, has increasingly turned into a speedway for vehicles, raising serious concerns over public safety.

Residents and commuters along this stretch report frequent accidents caused by speeding vehicles, with tragic consequences.

The highway, which passes through several

critical junctions, has witnessed multiple accidents in recent years. Just a day ago, a couple lost their lives after being hit by a speeding vehicle near Umarabad. Witnesses say that vehicles often travel at dangerously high speeds, leaving pedestrians with little chance to avoid collisions.

Local residents warn that the problem is exacerbated by several poorly managed junctions along the route.

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JK Govt warns hospitals against
unnecessary referrals to SKIMS

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday issued strict directions to Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and District Hospitals of the Kashmir Valley not to unnecessarily refer patients to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS).

Officials said frequent avoidable referrals are putting an extra burden on the Valley's premier health institution and leaving deserving patients in distress.

As per reports received by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), SKIMS often receives referrals of patients whose treatment could easily be handled

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Div Com Reviews
NH-44 Restoration,
Traffic at Thard

■ HT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEP 20: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today conducted an extensive visit to the damaged stretch of National Highway (NH-44) at Thard to review the pace of ongoing restoration works and regulation of traffic movement.

The Div Com was accompanied by IGP Traffic, Regional Officer NHAI, SSP Udhampur, SSP Traffic NHW, Additional District Development Commissioner along with other officers from the civil Administration, Police and NHAI.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner took stock of the progress of restoration works, which include road widening, laying of Water Bound Macadam (WBM), construction of an additional lane for smooth vehicular movement and restoration of the second tube of NH-44. He was also informed about the prevailing single-lane traffic management along the stretch.

The Div Com personally monitored the traffic movement and directed NHAI authorities to expedite the restoration process for the convenience of commuters and the general public. He enquired about the daily vehicular flow on NH-44 and instructed the concerned officers to create an additional lane by filling

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CS for framing effective action plan
to implement VVP in J&K

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo while taking a comprehensive review of the implementation strategy of Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) here emphasized on the concerned to devise an effective strategy to implement it in the given timeframe.

The program is a centrally funded initiative aimed at the comprehensive development of strategically important border villages. With a total budget of Rs 6,839 Cr for fiscal years 2024-25 to 2028-29, the program is a key part of the vision for



Viksit Bharat @2047.

The meeting besides ACS, Planning was attended by MD, KPDCL; Representative from R&B Department; Representative from BSNL and the concerned DCs through video conferencing.

The VVP-II initiative will cover villages in 15 states and 2 Union Territories that share international land borders. In J&K, the program will be implemented in 124 strategically selected villages across 43 blocks in 8 border districts, including Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, and Poonch.

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Atal Dulloo visits
Baramulla, inaugurates
Sewa Parv Mela

■ HT News Desk

BARAMULLA, SEP 20: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today conducted an extensive visit of Baramulla and reviewed the overall developmental scenario of district Baramulla.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Director School Education, Director RDD, and other officers accompanied the Chief Secretary during the visit.

At the outset, Chief Secretary inaugurated Sewa Parv Mela at Dak Bungalow Baramulla in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and other officers as part of the ongoing nationwide Sewa Parv campaign.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM Modi Extended.....

and eye problems. Dr. Agarwals Eye Centre and other hospitals must take advantage of new technologies and provide the same treatment to the people of J&K, which is available to the citizens in cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the landmark transformation of Jammu Kashmir's healthcare sector over the past few years.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we are ensuring that every citizen has access to quality healthcare. The rapid expansion of both Government and Private healthcare infrastructure has also ensured a healthy and prosperous future for every citizen of Jammu Kashmir," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon Dr. Agarwals Eye Centre and other hospitals to organise free eye check-up camps in different parts of J&K, especially in rural and border areas, with spirit of selfless service. He said, for greater reach, people should be served from time to time through telemedicine, virtual consultations and digital examinations.

Dr. Ashar Agarwal, Chief Business Officer, Dr Agarwals Group of Eye Hospitals; Dr Atif Ali Mir, Head Clinical Services, Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital, Srinagar, Doctors, staff members of the hospital were present.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Science & Technology department; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Rajiv Pandey, DIG Central Kashmir Range, Dr GV Sundeeep Chakravarthi, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, besides Shri Imran Reza Ansari, President All J&K Shia Association and senior officials also attended the inaugural ceremony.

Elimination of....

seen of creating a Nepal style guerrilla movement it has now been confined to a few districts. I firmly believe that in the next three to four months, the nation will be completely free of Naxalism."

"However, terrorism has not disappeared completely. Some activities still remain in parts of Karnataka, Kerala, and a few regions of Jammu and Kashmir. I have always said that where terrorism exists, there is potential for greater danger. Its elimination cannot be the sole responsibility of the police or security forces society as a whole must take part," he said.

"When narratives are created that weaken the nation, they give rise to division and hostility. That is why I particularly urge the industrialists of the Valley to take responsibility. If you choose to remain silent spectators, your businesses and progress will suffer," LG Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "The world has shown growing confidence in India. Now, it is the responsibility of the industry to rise to the challenge of making our growth processes faster and more competitive. We need focused approach to enhance productivity & export of MSMEs & foster innovation economy."

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to accelerate the pace of industrial development in Jammu Kashmir and bring this region at par with the rest of the country.

LG Sinha commended the business leaders for their vision and reach & asked them to work together to realise the dream of developed India.

He also, highlighted need for private investment in research & development.

"The world has shown growing confidence in India. Now, it is the responsibility of the industry to rise to the challenge of making our growth processes faster and more competitive. We need focused approach to enhance productivity & export of MSMEs & foster innovation economy," he said.

LG Sinha said, "Big companies, corporate houses, MSMEs of the country must take a pledge that the industrial development of Jammu Kashmir will be their personal responsibility. The industrial ecosystem of the country should come forward and support rapid Industrialisation of the Union Territory. Today, the country's top industrial houses should invest in Jammu Kashmir keeping in mind that it is their collective responsibility to ensure the complete integration and inclusive development of Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He commended the business leaders for their vision and reach and asked them to work together to realise the dream of developed India. "The world has shown growing confidence in India. Now, it is the responsibility of the industry to rise to the challenge of making our growth processes faster and more competitive," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He emphasised the need for a focused approach to enhance productivity and export of MSMEs and foster innovation economy. "Micro and Small Industries in J&K have demonstrated their ability to be globally competitive and we are open to new ideas on how we can spread industrialization across the UT and encourage new enterprises at Panchayat level," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the Next Generation Reforms will greatly benefit MSMEs and Handicrafts Units and building a self-reliant India. The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the need for private investment in Research & Development (R&D), with special focus on defence, space, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors.

He said, for a developed India, we must create an innovation economy where growth and wealth are driven by new technologies and innovations.

Anjali Singh, Chairperson, CII Northern Region; Dr. M.A. Alim, Chairman, CII J&K; Shri Iqram Shafiee, Vice Chairman, CII J&K; Shri Puneet Kaura, Deputy Chairman, CII Northern Region; Business & Industry leaders and members of Confederation

of Indian Industry were present. Dr GV Sundeeep Chakravarthi, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

CM Omar.....

for industry to operate here."

The Chief Minister presented an overview of ongoing investments and incentives in J&K, noting that industrial hubs such as Kathua, Samba, Bari Brahmana in Jammu, and Laspipora in Kashmir continue to attract the highest inflow of capital.

He underlined recent government efforts to simplify procedures, while candidly admitting gaps in the single-window clearance system:

"We must ensure that our 'single window' is truly a single window, not one that leads to a ventilator, then an exhaust fan, and eventually nowhere. I have directed the Industries Department to engage directly with recent investors and learn from their experiences to fix this system once and for all."

The Chief Minister highlighted J&K's comparative advantages: cheaper land and electricity than neighbouring regions, GST reimbursement benefits, and availability of skilled labour. He encouraged manufacturers to explore J&K for investment in certain investor-friendly sectors which offer competitive advantage and to weigh their options in the wake of new GST rate slabs.

On the perception-versus-reality gap about peace and security in the region, Omar Abdullah said: "J&K today is calm, peaceful, and open for business. Yes, there have been difficult times, but those are behind us. Tragic incidents like the one at Pahalgam are aberrations, not the norm, and every step is being taken to prevent its recurrence."

The Chief Minister urged investors to look beyond subsidy-driven models and invest in sectors where J&K has inherent strengths. He cited examples from agriculture, horticulture, and dairy production, noting that only 4% of milk in Kashmir is processed, compared to 80% in Gujarat.

"This is a ready-made opportunity for value addition. We produce the raw material, we have the market, and yet we under-utilise our potential. The same is true for other sectors where J&K can provide both raw materials and skilled manpower."

Calling unemployment a pressing challenge, he stressed that the state cannot continue to rely only on government jobs. "Industrialisation and tourism together must create new employment avenues for our youth," he asserted.

The Chief Minister encouraged candid feedback from CII members so that the government will work on shortcomings, if any.

"Those of you investing in J&K, tell us what went well and what hasn't. Those of you who are reluctant, tell us why not—and if it is within our power, we will address it. Your feedback is critical to shaping a business-friendly future here."

Among others who addressed the gathering were CII Northern Region Chairperson Anjali Singh, CII Delhi State Council Chairman Puneet Kaura, Vice Chairman CII J&K Council MA Alim and CII Northern Region Director Rachna Jindal.

The event witnessed wide participation from industry leaders across the region.

The Chief Minister thanked CII for organising the meeting in Srinagar and reaffirmed his government's commitment to facilitate investment, promote value addition and build a sustainable industrial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

Soldier dies in....

the Seoj Dhar heights. Chand was evacuated to a nearby medical facility but succumbed to his injuries overnight," said an official.

"The encounter site, spanning the border between Udhampur's Dudu-Basantgarh area and Doda's Bhaderwah, was placed under a tight cordon through the night. Operations resumed at dawn with reinforcements, including drones and sniffer dogs, deployed from both districts," they said, adding,

"No fresh contact was established with the holed up terrorists as of Saturday afternoon."

In a solemn tribute, the White Knight Corps (Indian Army's Northern Command) stated on X: "GOC White Knight Corps and all ranks pay solemn tribute to Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand, who made the supreme sacrifice during an ongoing operation at Kanji, Udhampur on the night of 19-20 Sep 2025. His indomitable courage and the valour of his team will never be forgotten. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved family."

Senior Army and police officers have rushed to the site to oversee the hunt. The operation remains underway, with forces vowing to neutralize the threat.

Pertinently, on June 26 this year a top JeM commander Haider was shot dead by the security forces in the same forest belt.

LG Sinha pays tributes

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid rich tributes to the brave army personnel, Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand, who made supreme sacrifice in the ongoing operations against terrorists at Kanji, Udhampur.

In a statement, LG Sinha said, "Salute to the indomitable courage of braveheart Lance Dafadar Baldev Chand, who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation during the anti-terror operation in Udhampur. The grateful nation will forever be indebted to his valour and unwavering commitment to duty. We stand united in solidarity with the family of the martyr in this hour of grief," he added—(KNO)

No guilty....

terrorist activities.

He urged officers to maintain continuous pressure on militants and their support networks through both kinetic and non-kinetic measures

while ensuring that the rights and safety of law-abiding citizens are protected.

Addressing the officers, DGP directed SDPOs and SHO's to strengthen public engagement, ensure free movement for citizens and provide prompt redressal of genuine grievances. He emphasized that police stations, as the basic units of policing, must remain strong, responsive and people-oriented.

During his visit, the police chief inaugurated the newly established SOG complex in Sopore and chaired a high-level security review meeting with senior officers, including IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi and DIG North Kashmir Maqsood-ul-Zaman. SSP Sopore Iftkhar Talib briefed him on the prevailing security scenario and operational challenges in the district.

During his interaction with officials of the SOG Sopore, the DGP appreciated their dedication and urged all ranks to work with professionalism, synergy and commitment to protect lives, property and the hard-earned peace of the Union Territory—(KNO)

India's 'Jewel.....

after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that killed many tourists.

Mohammad Yaqoob Dungoo, a renowned houseboat owner, says this is the hardest period he has ever witnessed in his lifetime.

"From April 22 till now, I have had only one booking worth Rs 1,500. After that, nothing. Even in the 1990s, when the situation was worst in Kashmir, we still had some work. But this time, we are finished," Dungoo told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a cold sigh slipping from his lips.

Dungoo said his family is suffering deeply. "I have three children, and my brother has two. We are unable to pay school fees. My children stayed home for over a month because we did not have admission money," he said.

"The school finally agreed because the principal knew me — I too had studied there. But not everyone is that fortunate," he added.

Dungoo said houseboats require expensive annual repairs. "Each houseboat needs at least Rs 1.2 lakh every year just for maintenance and caulking. But right now, we can't even manage basic household expenses, let alone repairs," he said.

The Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association told KNO that the crisis is rippling across the sector. "Out of over 3,000-plus rooms across 750 houseboats, only 30 to 40 are occupied. The rest are empty," said its chairman, Manzoor Ahmad Pakthoon, adding that staff have been laid off and families have no income.

Dungoo said the situation has pushed many families to the brink. "We are not asking for luxuries. We just want enough to pay fees, buy books for our children and feed our families. Right now, we cannot do even that," he said.

Shikara operators and shopkeepers around Dal Lake said they too are badly affected. "No tourists means no rides, no buyers. Everyone linked to tourism, from vendors to artisans, is suffering," said a local shopkeeper.

It is worth mentioning that the government's decision to close 46 tourist destinations for security reasons has further added to the slump. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah earlier termed the ban "counterproductive," saying it undermines the Valley's tourism promotion campaigns.

Notably, the history of Kashmir's tourism sector has been chilling. In 1995, foreign tourists were kidnapped in Pahalgam, and one of them was killed. In 2000, the Amarnath Yatra massacre claimed multiple lives in Pahalgam. In 2017, eight Amarnath pilgrims were killed in an Anantnag attack, and in 2025, over 25 tourists and a local guide were killed in Pahalgam — the deadliest attack in recent memory—(KNO)

Over 6,400 Tonnes.....

Railway Station (in Kashmir) in less than 21 hours, and another in Jammu in less than six hours," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singh said in a statement here.

On September 15, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off an eight-parcel van coach train, each with a weight capacity of 23 tonnes, from Srinagar to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.

The start of the service coincided with the closure of 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, owing to massive damage caused by heavy rainfall between August 26 and September 6.

LoP Sunil.....

affected people, listened to their grievances, and took stock of the ground situation.

Sunil said that the scale of destruction is heart-breaking. He expressed his pain that many families have lost everything

He assured the villagers that he would raise the matter at the highest levels and press the administration for immediate relief and rehabilitation measures. Relief must reach to the people at the earliest, he said and added that temporary shelters, emergency food supplies, medicines, and restoration of road links must be treated as top priority.

Sunil Sharma called upon the Union Territory administration and disaster management authorities to deploy emergency teams, including medical staff and engineers, to the area on an urgent basis. He also appealed to NGOs and civil society to come forward and support the people of Warwan in this critical time. He assured the residents of Margi and adjoining areas that they would not be left alone in this hour of crisis and that he would continue to monitor the relief efforts closely.

Sunil Sharma batted for a long-term plan to strengthen infrastructure in remote regions like

Warwan, which remain especially vulnerable during extreme weather events. Our remote areas need better preparedness, not just sympathy after disaster strikes, he emphasized.

Overspeeding.....

News agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS) reported that areas such as Shalteng Crossing, the Fruit Mandi, and near Ansari Motors are particularly dangerous, with vehicles frequently moving on the wrong side, ignoring traffic rules.

Despite occasional interventions, traffic authorities have largely been unable to maintain control over these high-risk zones. While traffic police occasionally step in to manage flow during peak hours, enforcement remains inconsistent, leaving pedestrians and local commuters vulnerable.

The presence of two major hospitals along this highway adds another layer of concern. While the JVC Hospital has an overhead bridge that allows commuters to cross safely, the Children's Hospital lacks any such facility. Parents and children are often forced to navigate the fast-moving traffic to reach the hospital, exposing them to serious risks. Residents point out that without proper pedestrian crossings or safety measures, crossing this busy highway is a daily gamble.

One of the major challenges, according to locals, is the inadequate monitoring of vehicle speed. Speed limits, though officially in place, are rarely enforced. "Vehicles come at such high speed that it's impossible to cross safely," says a resident near Umarabad. "Even traffic police cannot control all areas at all times, and that leaves pedestrians extremely vulnerable."

Adding to the danger is the lack of proper traffic calming measures along this stretch. The combination of wrong-side driving, high-speed vehicles, and frequent junctions creates a hazardous environment for both pedestrians and commuters. Local shopkeepers, daily wage workers, and school children often find themselves at risk as they attempt to navigate the busy road.

Authorities, while occasionally tightening traffic enforcement, have yet to introduce systematic measures such as speed cameras, pedestrian bridges near hospitals, and dedicated crossings at critical junctions. Residents demand immediate action, warning that without effective regulation, the highway will continue to claim lives.

The recent tragedy near Umarabad has once again highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive traffic management on this highway stretch. Experts argue that a combination of stricter enforcement, speed monitoring, public awareness campaigns, and infrastructure improvements is necessary to prevent further loss of life.

In the meantime, local citizens remain apprehensive. "We cannot even step out safely during peak hours," says another resident. "The highway, which is meant to connect communities, has become a zone of fear." (KINS)

JK Govt warns.....

at district or sub-district hospitals.

Data shows that out of 1,000 patients referred to SKIMS, only about 80 are admitted, while the rest are discharged after preliminary checks.

Experts say that despite the availability of doctors and adequate facilities at government hospitals, people tend to bypass local hospitals even for minor health issues and rush to tertiary centers like SKIMS. This leads to overcrowding and unnecessary strain. They argue that if the referral system is properly followed, doctors at SKIMS would be able to focus more on serious patients.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sakina Itoo has directed district and sub-district hospitals not to send patients unnecessarily to SKIMS, stressing that adequate facilities are already in place at the district level for the local population.

Sources told KNO that the Health Minister has sought detailed data from SKIMS about referrals from each district to determine why hospitals, despite having facilities, are still shifting patients for minor treatments.

"We have received reports that patients are being shifted to SKIMS without valid reasons, and this trend cannot be accepted. It needs to be probed. We may have to take action against doctors who, without justification, refer patients and put additional pressure on SKIMS. We are seeking details of each referral and the discharge status of those patients," a senior Health Department official said—(KNO)

Div Com Reviews.....

with stone to ensure smooth passage of vehicles.

The Div Com directed NHAI to double their efforts to restore the 300-metre affected stretch on priority and maintain uninterrupted flow of traffic on a daily basis. He also asked the Traffic Department to strictly regulate traffic movement on NH-44. He further instructed the executing agencies to mobilize adequate men and machinery to ensure timely completion of the works.

CS for framing.....

The Chief Secretary took theme wise appraisal of the gaps found in each district

after carrying out the gap analysis by respective Deputy Commissioners. He enjoined upon the concerned to prepare DPRs for bridging all these gaps on priority.

He directed the DCs to ascertain all these gap areas through the Nodal Officers designated for each such village. He emphasized on the fact that the for electricity the RDSS scheme could be leveraged, for road connectivity PMGSY, for livelihood opportunities NRLM, Mission YUVA, HADP, KCC, PMEGP, REGP like schemes should be considered. Similarly for education PM-SHRI and in Health Telemedicine can be leveraged to obtain the desired objectives under convergence mode.

He also advised for holding regular outreach campaigns to promote Tourism in these villages. He asked for conducting regular camps, festivals and fairs in these villages in order to make them culturally vibrant. Similarly he asked for saturating both the social security and financial inclusion schemes. He made out that the saturation of these initiatives should be our common goal.

While speaking about the VVP implementation the ACS, Planning, Ashish Chander Verma revealed that a three-pronged strategy for comprehensive development has been formulated to ensure the achievement of set objectives.

He added that the program's strategy is designed to create better living conditions and provide livelihood opportunities in border villages. The program will ensure that existing Central and Union Territory schemes reach all 1,421 villages in the border blocks, focusing on four key thematic areas livelihood opportunities, health infrastructure, education facilities, and financial inclusion.

The initiative also aims to build and reinforce essential infrastructure, including all-weather roads, telecom and television connectivity, and on-grid electrification. A gap analysis has been completed to identify villages needing connectivity and electrification, with plans already underway to address these needs. For instance, 41 villages are proposed to be connected under the PMGSY-IV scheme, and 220 villages are yet to be covered with telecom connectivity.

Moreover the program will focus on creating an enabling environment for expanded livelihood opportunities. This includes promoting tourism, organizing cultural events and awareness campaigns, and providing medical and veterinary camps.

To ensure effective implementation, a comprehensive planning process is in place. This includes a baseline survey to conduct a gap assessment and village profiling, which will be followed by the preparation of detailed Village Action Plans (VAPs).

Committees have been established at both the UT and district levels to oversee the program, ensuring proposals are technically feasible, cost-effective, and aligned with the program's goals.

Atal Dulloo visits.....

The Chief Secretary also inspected the stalls set up by various departments like Health, Education, Social Welfare, ICDS, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development, and others, to provide on-the-spot services, guidance, and information about a wide range of government schemes and welfare initiatives to the people.

During the Mela, Chief Secretary distributed sanction letters among beneficiaries under Mission YUVA, agriculture & allied sectors, thereby extending direct support to young entrepreneurs, farmers, and self-help groups.

He further handed over the keys of retro-fitted scooters to specially-abled persons and nutritional kits to TB patients, underlining the government's commitment to empower every section of society and ensure inclusive development.

During the visit, Chief Secretary chaired a comprehensive meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to review the district's developmental landscape, focusing on progress of ongoing projects, status of government run beneficiary schemes and other key initiatives across various sectors.

During the meeting, the DC provided a detailed presentation on the overall developmental scenario of Baramulla district, covering the status of ongoing projects across key sectors like Public Works (PWD), Health, PHE, Education, Power, Agriculture, and allied areas.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary urged the officers to ensure effective implementation and saturation of key Centrally and UT-sponsored schemes, emphasizing that their prompt execution is essential for strengthening livelihoods and maximizing benefits to the people.

During the review of the health and education and other sectors, Atal Dulloo noted that significant investments have been made towards improving the infrastructure, the priority now must shift towards enhancing service delivery so that citizens experience real improvement in these vital sectors.

Later, Chief Secretary, along with Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, DIG North Kashmir, and other senior officers, participated in a plantation drive in the premises of Dak Bungalow Baramulla as part of the Seva Parv campaign.



Sakeena Itoo inaugurates newly constructed PHC at Devsar Kulgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, SEP 20: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited Devsar Kulgam and inaugurated newly constructed Primary Health Centre (PHC).

MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroz Ahmad; senior officers of district administration, health department, besides large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the new PHC will greatly benefit the local population by providing accessible and quality healthcare services



near their vicinities.

She reiterated the govern-

ment's commitment to expanding health infrastructure in rural and far-flung areas so that no one is deprived of basic medical facilities.

Highlighting some remarkable initiatives launched by Government in health sector, the Minister urged health staff to work with dedication and compassion in serving the people.

She further said that under the leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, the government is committed to transparency, accountability, and pro-people approach, while ensuring holistic development across all regions of J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroz Ahmad Shah, said that the PHC at Devsar will significantly augment healthcare services in the area. He assured continued efforts for the overall development of the region and also requested the Minister for upgradation of hospitals and schools in the constituency.

Later, the Minister also interacted with locals and took stock of various issues and demands related to development of their area.

Minister Sakeena assured them that their genuine issues and concerns will be addressed promptly.

JKJA organises one day Special Training Programme on 'Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) and Commercial Courts Act' at Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: Under the patronage of Justice Arun Kumar Pali, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy (JKJA), the Judicial Academy organized a One Day Special Training Programme on "Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) and Commercial Courts Act" at Mominabad here for Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary of Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The programme commenced with the introductory remarks by Sonia Gupta, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, who outlined the objectives and scope of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015. She emphasized that the Act has ushered in significant reforms for the speedy and effective adjudication of high-value commercial disputes. She noted that the introduction of pre-institution mediation, case management systems, streamlined pleadings, and provisions for summary judgment have shifted the judicial approach towards efficiency, specialization, and alternate dispute resolution.

Session 1st of programme was conducted by Faisal Qadri, Senior Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who elaborated on the background, objectives, and jurisdictional aspects of the Commercial Courts Act. He explained how the Act was conceived to address gaps in the Civil Procedure Code, which was inadequate to meet the needs of complex commercial disputes. He highlighted key features such as the creation of expert courts, streamlined procedures, and the introduction of pre-institution mediation to minimize litigation costs and delays.

While acknowledging the transformative potential of the Act, he also drew attention to practical challenges in implementation, including jurisdictional overlaps, lack of clarity in multi-party disputes, and questions regarding judicial expertise in highly technical commercial matters.

Illustrating with a case study involving a power generation contract dispute, Qadri urged judicial officers to remain vigilant of jurisdictional conflicts and parallel proceedings, while steadily developing their expertise in commercial jurisprudence.

Session 2nd was led by Z.A. Shah, Senior Advocate, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who reflected on the evolution of commercial courts and the principles of judicial interpretation in commercial law. He emphasized that judges must look beyond the literal text of laws and interpret them in light of their underlying purpose, societal needs, and technological changes.

Highlighting the role of integrity and wisdom in decision-making, he stressed that commercial jurisprudence demands a balance of legal precision with pragmatic understanding.

He further discussed the streamlined procedures under the Act, the growing role of mediation in dispute resolution, and the challenges of inconsistent application across regions. Mr. Shah underlined the need to standardize practices, clarify jurisdictional thresholds, and train judges and lawyers to strengthen the efficacy of the specialized commercial court system.

The programme concluded with an interactive exchange, where participants shared experiences and raised queries regarding the application of CPC provisions in commercial disputes. The deliberations highlighted the need for continued training and practical guidance to ensure effective implementation of the Commercial Courts Act.

The training programme was marked by active engagement and reflective discussions, reinforcing the Academy's commitment to equipping the district judiciary with the knowledge and skills necessary to handle specialized domains of law with efficiency and clarity.

Javid Dar visits Kissan Ghar Kolkata, reviews progress of ongoing renovation, upgradation works

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KOLKATA, SEP 20: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today visited Kissan Ghar Kolkata and reviewed the progress of ongoing renovation and upgradation works of the facility.

During the visit, the Minister inspected various sections of the facility, which serves as a crucial support hub for farmers from Jammu and Kashmir. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the renovation works to ensure timely completion and readiness of the facility for growers visiting from the Union Territory.

The Minister also instructed that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) be prepared and submitted for all pending works so that

Kissan Ghar can be developed into a state-of-the-art commercial facility with modern amenities.

He emphasized that the facility must be equipped to offer comprehensive services and support to farmers, enabling them to access better markets and infrastructure while in Kolkata.

Later, the Minister also visited Cold storage facility at Chingrihata, on which civil work has been completed.

The Minister instructed to take up the mechanical part on fast track basis so that facility can be utilised as soon as possible for marketing of horticulture produce from Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was accompanied by Director Horticulture Marketing and Planning, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, along with other senior officers of the J&K Government.

GMS Kenihama, AYUSH HWC Kenihama organise plantation drive under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 20: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, Government Middle School (GMS) Kenihama in collaboration with AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre (HWC) Kenihama today organised a plantation drive under the theme "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam".

The program witnessed participation of students, teachers, healthcare staff and local community members who came together to plant saplings in and around the school & Health centre premises. The initiative was aimed at promoting environmental conservation, raising awareness about the importance of trees, and dedicating each plantation to the spirit of motherhood.

Speaking on the occasion, the organisers highlighted that trees not only help in



maintaining ecological balance but also symbolise nurturing, care and sustenance, which are main qualities closely associated with mothers. The participants pledged to protect and nurture the saplings to ensure their healthy growth.

The joint effort by the school and AYUSH Centre reflects the commitment of both institutions towards creating a greener and healthier environment, while also instilling values of responsibility and sustainability among the younger generation.

Sewa Parv 2025: District Kishtwar organises mega plantation drive, community welfare activities on Day 4

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, SEP 20: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 campaign, a series of impactful activities and awareness programs were organized across District Kishtwar today, focusing on environmental conservation, health, nutrition and community welfare.

The Municipal Council Kishtwar conducted a plantation drive at the MRF (Material Recovery Facility) site in Khangwari themed Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, Ek Ped Desh Ke Naam.

Additionally, a Swachhata Rally was organized by the Municipal Council in the main market area of the town with enthusiastic involvement from sanitation staff and Swachhata Executives.

The rally emphasized cleanliness, scientific waste segregation and discouraging single-use plastic, while motivating citizens to contribute towards a cleaner, greener and healthier society.

The BMO Office Chatroo organized a health camp and voluntary blood donation drive at PHC Chatroo, drawing active participation from the local community.

At GHS Pathernaki, a painting competition on 'Clean India & Environment' was held alongside an awareness session on women's health and hygiene.

The Forest Department also carried out a plantation drive under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative at Government PS Doori and at other locations across the District.



The ICDS Department organized a range of activities including a recipe demonstration on nutritious meals, a 'Healthy Child' competition and experience-sharing sessions between mothers of healthy children and mothers of malnourished children. Parents of healthy children were also acknowledged for their positive practices.

Dr Karwani inspects under construction transit accommodation sites for PM Package Employees in North, Central, South Kashmir

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani during this week inspected under construction transit accommodation sites for PM Package Employees at North, Central, and South Kashmir.

During the inspections, Dr Karwani was accompanied by senior officers from the district administration and line departments.

While interacting with the site engineers at the construction sites, he emphasized on achievement of targets in a time bound manner before the onset of winters. He particularly underlined on the importance of early completion of allied works like boundary wall, internal roads and basic amenities at the sites, so that the possession of allotted quarters can be handed over to the employees at the earliest, as per the criterion laid down by the Government. He enjoined upon the engineers to ensure quality of the works, strictly as per the approved DPR.

Dr Karwani also interacted with



PM package employees at Baramulla, Kupwara, Srinagar, Budgam and Anantnag and gave a patient hearing to their demands, particularly related to the allotment of quarters, basic amenities like water supply, power supply, sanitation, education and recreation facilities for children. He assured them

that all of these demands will be addressed promptly.

Pertinently, 6000 quarters at 20 different locations across the Kashmir valley under PMDP programme are being constructed for PM Package employees, out of which about 3500 stand constructed.

Director Tourism Jammu flags-off Paragliding Pilots to Himachal Pradesh for Advance course

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 20: Directorate of Tourism Jammu, under the guidance of Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma has sponsored a group of 19 paragliding pilots to Himachal Pradesh for the SIV / P4 Paragliding Course. The group of trainees was flagged off by Director Tourism Jammu Dr. Vikas Gupta.

The course is scheduled from 20th September to 27th October 2025 in three phases and is designed to provide advanced paragliding training and skill enhancement to participants. Directorate of Tourism, Jammu has sponsored the course in collaboration with Atal Bihari Institute of Mountaineering, Manali.

The Director Tourism Jammu extended best wishes to the par-

ticipants, highlighting that the initiative is a step towards promoting adventure tourism and creating new opportunities of self-employment and professional growth for local youth. He further added that tourism is committed to upgrade Adventure infrastructure in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Aijaz Qaiser underlined that the initiative would not only empower trained youth but also help establish Jammu as a leading destination for adventure sports. The upcoming paragliding site at Aithem in Jammu will provide a platform for the local youth to fly solo and tandem providing opportunities to the adventure enthusiasts of Jammu.

Savita Chouhan, Deputy Director Tourism, Jammu; Vishal Sad-



hotra, Assistant Director Tourism, Jammu and Arif Lone Assistant Director Tourism, NNW were also present on the occasion along with the entire staff of the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu.

The group 19 paragliders has already completed their P1, P2, P3 course from NIMAS (National Institute of Mountaineering and allied sports) and heading towards their last and final P4 / SIV course from -Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports.

After completion of the said course, they will be finally eligible for solo flying and tandem flights. Their SIV/ P4 training course will be conducted at Bilaspur (Govind Sagar Lake) and Bir-billing (Himachal) which is considered as Asia's best in class institute/infrastructure for paragliding and related activities.

Javed Rana reviews functioning of EMRSs across J&K

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 20: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the functioning and progress of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across Jammu and Kashmir, with a comprehensive focus on infrastructure development, academic performance, staffing, and student welfare.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Principals of various EMRS institutions, and other senior officers of the department.

Highlighting the transformative role of EMRSs, Rana reiterated that these institutions are instrumental in empowering tribal youth by providing quality and inclusive education.

He underscored the importance of robust infrastructure, adequate human resources, and essential facilities to ensure holistic development and equal opportunities for



tribal students.

During the meeting, the Minister conducted a detailed review of the status of infrastructure works, assessing the progress made under the approved Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

He stressed the need for efficient utilization of sanctioned funds and emphasized timely completion of all ongoing construction projects. Rana directed officials to expedite pending land transfers for EMRS projects to prevent any further de-

lays in execution.

Reviewing academic operations, Rana urged the concerned authorities to focus on enhancing the quality of classroom teaching, strengthening co-curricular engagement and improving the overall learning environment.

He also evaluated student enrollment trends to ensure that schools are operating at optimal capacity and effectively reaching the intended beneficiary groups.

Assessing staffing adequacy,

both academic and non-academic, Rana emphasized that schools must be equipped with the necessary human resources to ensure smooth and effective functioning. He called for immediate steps to address any gaps that could hinder the delivery of quality education and comprehensive student support.

The Minister also reviewed the provision of facilities for residential students, directing that all services be provided in full accordance with the allocations under recurring grants.

He stressed that the hostel environment must be safe, comfortable, and conducive to learning, in line with prescribed quality standards.

The Minister reaffirmed the Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to strengthening EMRS institutions as centres of excellence for tribal education in J&K, and called for coordinated and time-bound efforts from all stakeholders to achieve this vision.

JMC intensifies thermal fogging, spraying drive to prevent dengue, malaria, other vector-Borne diseases

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 20: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted a review of the ongoing citywide thermal fogging and spraying campaign aimed at preventing the spread of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. The Commissioner reiterated that safeguarding the health and well-being of citizens is the foremost priority of the Jammu Municipal Corporation and emphasized the need for sustained and coordinated efforts at all levels.

Directing the field teams to intensify operations in sensitive, waterlogged, and densely populated areas, where the risk of mosquito breeding remains high, Dr. Yadav appealed to residents to extend their cooperation by keeping their surroundings clean, avoiding water stagnation in household containers, overhead tanks and open drains and by covering stored water properly. He further advised citizens to adopt preventive practices such as using mosquito nets, repellents, and wearing full-sleeved clothing to reduce exposure to bites.

The special campaign, which is being jointly executed by the JMC, Health Department, and Anti-Malaria Department, marks the third round of fogging this year. The first campaign was launched in July, and in continuation, the present round covers various wards on a daily basis. As part of today's schedule, thermal fogging and spraying were conducted in Ward No. 41 (Bohri area) and Ward No. 61 (Patta Paloura area). The Malaria Control Teams are carrying out door-to-door spraying, while JMC's specialized machinery is engaged in large-scale thermal fogging.

To ensure systematic coverage, JMC has prepared a ward-wise roster, under which teams are deployed to different localities every day. The Commissioner informed that the campaign will continue till 18th October, thereby ensuring protection during the post-monsoon period, when the risk of dengue and malaria remains at its peak.



Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yadav said, "Through thermal fogging and spraying, we are making consistent efforts to protect the people of Jammu from vector-borne diseases. However, the success of this campaign depends not only on government action but also on people's cooperation. Citizens must take responsibility by maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings, not allowing water to stagnate, and adopting basic precautionary measures. Together, we can minimize the risk of diseases like dengue, malaria, and chikungunya."

The Commissioner also highlighted that while dengue cases reported this year are significantly lower compared to 2024, the JMC is leaving no stone unturned to prevent any sudden rise. Awareness drives are being conducted alongside fogging to educate people about the importance of personal hygiene, safe water storage, and timely medical consultation in case of fever or related symptoms.

Malaria Expert of Jammu Health Department, Dr. Dhruv Raina and Health Officer of JMC, Dr. Vinod Sharma, were also present. They briefed the Commissioner about the technical aspects of the campaign and the precautions being suggested to residents. Both officers stressed that consistent efforts by health authorities, combined with active public participation, are the key to keeping Jammu city free from mosquito-borne illnesses.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation once again appeals to the citizens to support the campaign by ensuring cleanliness in their neighbourhoods and by promptly reporting any issue of water stagnation or mosquito breeding sites to the concerned authorities.

Telemedicine Facilities for Dhar Sakri, Badhaal and Bagla Kotli on the anvil

HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, SEP 20: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a key meeting to finalize the roadmap for setting up telemedicine facilities at Dhar Sakri, Badhaal and Bagla Kotli in coordination with Government Medical College Rajouri.

During the meeting, the CMO briefed that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the proposed telemedicine centers would be prepared in consultation with GMC Rajouri. The concerned GMC official was asked to identify suitable rooms to be used as dedicated spaces where doctors will provide tele-consultations.



The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the need to explore telediagnostic services to expand the scope of healthcare delivery. He also instructed the integration of Common Service Centres (CSCs) with ASHA workers to facilitate and manage telemedicine services at the village level. It was further decided to set up a committee to finalize the operational framework for these facilities.

Reaffirming the administration's commitment to leveraging technology for public welfare, the DC said that telemedicine will close healthcare gaps in remote areas. He underscored the importance of inter-departmental coordination and timely execution so that people in every corner of the district can access quality medical services.

The initiative is expected to ease the pressure on tertiary care hospitals while ensuring timely consultations and better healthcare access for people living in far-off areas.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rajouri, Chander Prakash; Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), Devi Dayal; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; CMO, Dr. Manohar Rana; Deputy Superintendent GMC & AH, Dr. Javed, besides other concerned officers.

ADDC Udhampur hands over sanction letters to Mission YUVA beneficiaries

HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEP 20: Additional District Development Commissioner Udhampur Rajinder Singh today handed over sanction letters to the beneficiaries under Mission YUVA, a flagship programme of the Jammu and Kashmir Administration.

Mission YUVA has been started to encourage youth to become entrepreneurs and turn their ideas into successful businesses. The programme aims to create job opportunities and promote self-reliance among young people.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC



said that banks are playing a key role in supporting this programme by providing financial help to the youth. He advised the beneficiaries to take full benefit of the scheme and also motivate others to join this initiative. This programme will help in promoting entrepreneurship in Udhampur and contribute to the overall development of the district.

JMC organizes special sanitation drive at Bawe Wali Mata Temple under "Swachhata Hi Seva",

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 20: Continuing its commitment towards a cleaner and healthier Jammu, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is conducting a series of special sanitation drives under the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva and Seva Parv 2025 campaign.

The program, which commenced on September 17, will continue till October 2, coinciding with the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. The campaign aims to promote mass awareness, community participation, and collective responsibility towards cleanliness across the city.

As part of this initiative, a large-scale cleanliness drive was today organized at the historic and highly revered Bawe Wali Mata Temple in Bahu Fort under the leadership of Commissioner, JMC Dr. Devansh Yadav. The drive saw active participation from volunteers, social activists, members of the temple committee, local residents, sanitation staff of JMC and senior officials of the Corporation. The team carried out a thorough cleaning of the temple premises, surroundings, pathways, and adjoining areas to ensure a neat and welcoming environment for devotees.

The Commissioner said that Navratri holds immense cultural and religious importance for the people of Jammu, and the Bawe



Wali Mata Temple attracts thousands of devotees during this sacred period. Keeping in view, the JMC has made comprehensive arrangements for cleanliness, sanitation, and waste management to facilitate a safe and pleasant pilgrimage experience.

The Commissioner further appealed to the public, particularly devotees visiting the temple, to extend cooperation to the Corporation by maintaining cleanliness and refraining from littering. "It

is the responsibility of every citizen to keep their surroundings clean. Cleanliness is not just a service to society but also a true form of devotion. By keeping our holy places clean, we show respect not only to our faith but also to our fellow citizens," he maintained.

Dr. Yadav also emphasized that the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign is not limited to official efforts alone but is a people's movement aimed at building a sustainable culture of hygiene and cleanliness.

He encouraged the public to actively participate in the drives being held in different wards of Jammu and to adopt practices such as proper waste disposal, segregation of garbage at source, and reducing the use of plastic.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation reaffirmed its commitment to intensifying the sanitation campaign in the coming days, particularly in sensitive areas, marketplaces, religious places, and densely populated localities. The

Corporation has also planned awareness drives, door-to-door campaigns, and engagement activities with schools, resident welfare associations, and NGOs to ensure wider public participation.

With collective effort and citizen cooperation, the JMC aims to transform Jammu into a model clean city that reflects the spirit of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the vision of a green and hygienic future.

GCW Parade organizes interactive session "Aao Baat Kare" – Little Problems, Big Impact: Managing the Mind

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 20: The Department of Psychology, Government College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu, today proudly inaugurated the student-led Psychology Club – Mind Matters Club on the campus.

The initiative was graced by the presence of the respected Principal, Dr. Ravender K. Tickoo, the distinguished Resource Person, Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD DIET Jammu, and the Head of the Department of Psychology, Dr. Probhjot

Kour.

The Mind Matters Club marks a pioneering step towards establishing an open forum where students can exchange ideas, engage in critical dialogue, and explore the practical applications of psychology in everyday life. The club's broader vision is to encourage peer learning, emotional well-being, stress management, and a deeper understanding of mental health concerns in the student community.

The highlight of the inauguration was the interac-

tive session "Aao Baat Kare – Little Problems, Big Impact: Managing the Mind", where more than 100 students actively participated. The workshop included discussions on common issues like exam stress, peer pressure, anxiety, time management, and maintaining balance in academic and personal life. Students shared their experiences openly, while Dr. Romesh Kumar guided them with practical coping strategies, including mindfulness techniques, resilience-building activities, and the

importance of seeking professional support whenever needed.

In his address, Principal Dr. Tickoo applauded the Department for initiating a much-needed platform, emphasizing that mental health is as crucial as physical health in today's academic environment. He stressed that such clubs can play a transformative role in building a healthy, supportive, and empathetic campus culture.

Faculty members also echoed these sentiments,

underlining that the initiative aligns with the Supreme Court's recent observations on the urgent need for mental health awareness and structured support systems in educational institutions across India.

The Department expressed pride in the leadership and enthusiasm displayed by the students, crediting their efforts in making the club a reality. It was announced that the Mind Matters Club would be conducting a series of upcoming activities, includ-

ing workshops, awareness drives, mental health camps, debates, and peer-support circles, thereby creating a safe space for discussion and learning.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Manya Gupta, student of the Department of Psychology, who appreciated the collaborative efforts of faculty, students, and guests.

Among others who attended the workshop were Dr. Anita Sharma (Associate Prof. Mathematics), Qayoom

Chauhan (Associate Prof. Economics), Prof. Tazim Akhtar (Assistant Prof. Home Science), Dr. Ramesh Chander (Assistant Prof. Philosophy), Dr. Asad Imran (Assistant Prof. Urdu), besides other distinguished faculty members.

The inauguration ended on a hopeful note that the Mind Matters Club will evolve into a vibrant platform, enriching student life while contributing positively to society by nurturing resilience, empathy, and mental well-being.

HT EDITORIAL

All Eyes on PM Modi:

J&K Awaits More Than Sympathy

The devastation in Jammu and Kashmir has left behind not just broken bridges and ruined roads, but shattered lives and livelihoods. Over 330 bridges and 1,500 kilometers of roads have been washed away, government infrastructure lies in tatters, and the agricultural backbone of the Valley crops and dry fruits has been dealt a crippling blow.

At such a juncture, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's call for a comprehensive relief package from the Prime Minister during his forthcoming visit is not just an appeal, it is a necessity.

Disasters test the resilience of a people, but they also test the sincerity of governance. The immediate images may fade from the national consciousness, but for the people of J&K the long road to recovery has just begun. Connectivity in the hilly terrain depends on those very bridges that now lie in ruins; mobility, trade, education, and healthcare remain hostage to damaged infrastructure. Without urgent restoration, the state risks slipping into deeper isolation and economic despair.

Merely assessing damages is not enough. Relief must translate into time-bound reconstruction, fair compensation, and revival of agriculture and trade. Packages announced in the past have too often drowned in bureaucratic red tape and slow disbursement. What J&K needs now is not just promises but a clear roadmap for rebuilding transparent, accountable, and participatory.

The Prime Minister's visit comes at a moment when people are looking for more than sympathy. They seek assurance that the Union stands shoulder to shoulder with them in their grief and recovery. Announcing a robust relief and rehabilitation package will not only help rebuild bridges of steel and concrete but also strengthen the more important bridges of trust between Delhi and the people of J&K.

This is an opportunity for the Centre to rise above token gestures and show that national solidarity is not seasonal. The broken roads and washed-out bridges are visible scars, but the invisible wounds of displacement, loss of livelihood, and shattered confidence will take longer to heal. A serious, compassionate, and well-monitored relief package is the least the people deserve.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir are watching closely. The question is: will New Delhi respond with vision and urgency. Impartial observer of the scene believes that PM Modi will definitely set an example by announcing the right package at right time...

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Dreams vs. Reality: The Allure of Foreign Lands for Indian Youth



■ Munish Bhatia

In today's modern era, the aspirations of Indian youth are changing rapidly. One of the most prominent desires is to go abroad to pursue higher education, secure better employment, or settle permanently in a foreign country. This trend is particularly noticeable in rural India, especially in states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. Many villages are experiencing a sense of emptiness, and agricultural fields are lying fallow, as the younger generation seeks opportunities first in cities and then abroad. Parents, too, often sell ancestral land and property to fulfill their children's dreams of going overseas, which has significant social and economic implications for India.

There are several reasons behind this strong desire among Indian youth to go abroad. The primary reason is the belief that a prosperous and respectable life is only possible abroad. Many think that incomes are higher and lifestyles more convenient in foreign countries. This perception is often fuelled by media, social media, and stories from relatives living abroad, which tend to present only a glamorous image. However, the reality is very different. Not everyone going abroad secures a high-ranking position or an impressive job. According to a 2023 United Nations report, approximately 18 million Indians live abroad, many of whom, despite their high skills or education, work in lower-level jobs. For instance, they may work as restaurant servers, taxi drivers, delivery agents, or factory labourers. The irony is that the same jobs are often considered "low status" in India, but abroad, the allure of earning in dollars or pounds makes them seem acceptable. This mindset highlights how external glamour can disconnect youth from their roots, as they chase a life of appearances.

Life abroad is not as simple or attractive as portrayed on social media. Living expenses are high. Data from 2022 indicates that in countries like Canada, a student's annual cost averages between roughly ₹16-24 lakh, including tuition fees, accommodation, food, and insurance. In addition, rent, insurance, taxes, and healthcare can be extremely expensive. The mental pressure and challenges are significant. Adapting to a new culture and language, living away from family, and coping with loneliness can be mentally exhausting for young individuals.



In recent years, countries like Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom have tightened visa regulations for migrant workers. In Canada, 2023 saw an increase in financial requirements for international students. Similarly, the UK has made dependent visa regulations stricter, making permanent residency and family reunification difficult. Surveys indicate that nearly 40% of Indian youth living abroad face mental health issues such as depression and anxiety due to social isolation and financial stress.

Meanwhile, India itself is rapidly developing, and opportunities abound for young people—if they can recognize and utilize them. India boasts the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world. By 2023, India had over 100,000 startups, including more than 100 unicorns. These startups provide youth the opportunity to experiment and launch their own ventures. Government initiatives like 'Startup India' and the 'Mudra Scheme' provide financial support to help turn ideas into reality. Agriculture, too, offers immense potential. Young people can innovate in agriculture-based industries such as organic farming, food processing, and agri-tech. Government programs like the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' and 'Kisan Credit Card' support farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs. These measures can make villages self-reliant and reduce migration.

India is also the world's largest IT and BPO hub. There are countless opportunities in IT, digital marketing, e-commerce, and technology. Programs such as 'Digital India' and 'Make in India' are promoting technological growth, while the 'Skill India Mission' equips youth with employable skills. When youth migrate abroad, villages face labour short-

ages. Agricultural land remains uncultivated or is leased at low productivity. This affects rural economies negatively. Elderly parents face loneliness and insecurity, sometimes forcing them to live in old-age homes. Family ties weaken as children abroad gradually disconnect from their culture and roots. Prolonged exposure to foreign lifestyles can lead youth to adopt Western customs and practices, weakening the preservation of Indian cultural heritage.

The critical question is: is going abroad the only option? If a young person can do menial jobs abroad, why can't they do the same in their own country? The difference lies only in perspective. With a population exceeding 1.4 billion, India offers a vast market and immense human resources. Real respect and satisfaction come from self-reliance, hard work, and dedication. Youth must understand that the fulfilment of advancing while staying connected to their land cannot be achieved by performing small jobs abroad. Change begins with mindset. Young people should be inspired to use their skills and potential for the progress of their own country. Instead of pursuing dreams alone abroad, they should aim for prosperity while uplifting their villages and society. The government must focus on expanding education, healthcare, and employment opportunities in rural and semi-urban areas. The private sector should be encouraged to invest in these regions as well. Only when India's youth fully utilize their capabilities on their own soil will the country achieve economic strength along with social and cultural richness.

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India's AI Mission and the DPDP Act: A Unifying Strategy or Contradiction?



■ By Dr. Navin Kumar

India's quest for leadership in the world in the field of artificial intelligence, being led by the IndiaAI Mission, is a strategic necessity. Parallely, the promulgation of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act is an important step in safeguarding the privacy of its people. Although these two programs may seem to be in conflict with each other, they are a moment of reckoning for India to create a world-class AI ecosystem based on trust and ethical data governance. This two-pronged strategy, however, has substantial structural and regulatory hurdles to overcome that require to be addressed with immediacy, lest to convert an integrated vision into a disjointed reality.

The Symbiotic Imperative of Trust

The success of the IndiaAI Mission is strongly dependent on trust among people. In a country with over a billion citizens, data is a peerless asset, and its judicious use is most important. The DPDP Act's focus on consent, data minimization, and purpose limitation is intended to create this very same trust. By creating a

strong legal framework that endows citizens with the right over their data, the Act builds public confidence necessary for continuous data contribution. For India's AI ecosystem to flourish, its citizens must be confident that their data won't be misused. Against this background, the DPDP Act cannot be considered a regulatory hindrance but a pillar of support for a secure and ethical AI economy. It serves as a much-needed check on the unbridled collection and usage of personal data, something that would otherwise create an anarchic and unsafe digital environment. Without such trust, an AI economy driven by data cannot survive.

The Data Commons and the Talent Paradox

The government's suggestion to establish a national data "commons," or AI Kosh, is one of the central components of the IndiaAI Mission. The idea is to make high-quality, non-personal data accessible to everyone, so that data monopolies are avoided and there is a level playing field for researchers as well as startups. Although the spirit behind it is right, this exercise generates governance issues and the fear of a new kind of centralized power. The line between "personal" and "non-personal" data may be blurred, particularly when bulk, anonymized datasets are aggregated to re-identify individuals. In the absence of strict independent monitoring and open systems of data handling, a central database might ironically result in a concentration of

power—and hence the risk of state surveillance—instead of obviating it.

In addition, the DPDP Act's obligation regime poses a paradox for the nation's growing startup scene. While a reputable legal framework is a necessity for a trusted AI hub, the high standards of granular consent and compliance may be a huge ask for smaller companies. Industry associations, like the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), have complained that the lack of clarity in the law, especially concerning the utilization of publicly available data, puts an undue burden on them. This regulatory tension may have the effect of disincentivizing the best AI talent and start-ups from opting for India, thus defeating the very human resources the AI Mission wants to develop. The nation must hit a fine balance between trust building and creating a malleable, innovative ecosystem.

The Regulatory Mismatch of Deepfakes

The most important challenge, perhaps, is the regulatory gap around AI-generated content, in particular, deepfakes. The DPDP Act, as it stands today, is focused most intensely on personal data and doesn't quite cover the unauthorized use of a person's digital likeness. This creates a large gap in liability because the current legal system isn't well-suited to impose responsibility through the involved chain of events of creating and spreading a deepfake. The problem goes far beyond data privacy; it is a categorical

attack on a person's "digital persona" and on the integrity of public debate.

This void in the law is starkly contrasted with what is happening on the international stage. The European Union's AI Act, for example, requires a disclosure obligation and transparent marking of AI-generated content, putting clear onus on creators and platforms. Similarly, a few U.S. states have signed into law legislation focused on deepfakes for fraud or election interference. In India, recent court decisions, including those in Anil Kapoor and Amitabh Bachchan cases, have set some precedent by using existing common law entitlements, but these are no substitute for an overarching legislative framework.

For India to reassert its leadership in AI, it needs to look beyond data privacy to safeguard an individual's digital identity. There should be a distinct legal framework or a significant amendment to the DPDP Act to define clear liability and compelled disclosure for deepfakes so that technological progress is not at the expense of public faith and democratic integrity. This anticipatory measure is necessary to ensure that the digital future of India is one of innovation and integrity.

The author is a faculty member in Langat Singh College, Muzaffarpur, and an expert in electronics and computers with a continuing interest in India's AI mission as well as cyber security. Email: navinkumar.elec@brabu.ac.in

Agrasen Jayanti – 22 September 2025

Maharaja Agrasen: Architect of Ideal Governance and Socialism



■ **Lalit Garg**

Maharaja Agrasen is remembered among those luminous rulers of Indian culture and history whose glory was not bound by a single era. His people-centric vision became timeless. He enriched not only his subjects but also civilization and culture, making them stronger and more prosperous. His governance was not centered on power, but on humanity and society. He was a karmayogi, a people's leader, a builder of a balanced socialist order, and a guide who gave humanity a new direction. He was not merely a king of the Agrawal community, but a pioneer of ideal social order, founder of republican principles, worshipper of non-violence, and messenger of peace. At a time when our society is struggling with inequality, violence, selfishness, and political disintegration, his thoughts and principles become all the more relevant.

According to tradition, Maharaja Agrasen, regarded as the forefather of the Agrawal community, was born about 5,150 years ago in the Suryavanshi Kshatriya dynasty, the 34th generation of Lord Ram, in the royal family of King Vallabh of Pratapnagar. At his birth, sage Garg had predicted to King Vallabh that this child would be radiant, would establish a new form of governance, and would be remembered for thousands of years. Indeed, his reign resembled a manifestation of Ramrajya, where his life and vision guided humanity towards greatness. A radiant beacon of his times, his birth anniversary—Ashwin Shukla Pratipada, the first day of Navratri—will be



observed this year on 22 September 2025.

Agrasen's rule was based on justice, equality, compassion, and coexistence. He was not only a monarch but also a philosopher and visionary. He lived the principle, "The king is the servant of the people." His personality evokes memories of Mahavira, Buddha, and Ashoka—the great messengers of peace. Rejecting violence, he made non-violence, cooperation, and collective responsibility the soul of his society. To establish true socialism, he framed a remarkable rule: every citizen of his city would contribute one rupee and one brick to help any newcomer settle and start a livelihood. This not only provided economic support but also fostered fraternity and shared respon-

sibility. In many ways, this system foreshadowed today's concepts of cooperative societies and corporate social responsibility.

Agrasen's core message was simple yet profound: lasting happiness lies not in violence but in peace and cooperation. He distanced himself from wars, nurturing instead an atmosphere of harmony and integration. In his order, there was no place for discrimination or social hierarchies. Transparency and honesty were paramount in the economy, and women were accorded dignity and rights. At a time when our society is plagued by corruption, violence, and inequality, Agrasen's ideals can guide us toward a new path. His republican outlook in politics can restore sanctity to democracy.

Maharaja Agrasen ruled for 108 years. Later, on the advice of his family deity Mahalakshmi, he handed over the reins of the Agreya Republic to his eldest son and withdrew into penance. He believed that progress of individuals, society, and nations rests on four pillars—economic, political, cultural, and social—and his philosophy fortified all four, laying the foundation of a better world. Yet history has largely sidelined his grandeur, reducing him to the patriarch of a single community, though his message was universal.

Born in the Suryavansh, Agrasen was only 15 during the Mahabharata war. When Pandavas invited allies to join their side, King Vallabhshen fought alongside them with his son Agrasen, attaining martyrdom on the 10th day

under Bhishma's arrows. After this, Agrasen took over the kingdom. Skilled in scriptures, politics, economics, and warfare, he later married Princess Madhavi, daughter of King Kumud of the Nagas. He founded the kingdom of Agroha and received blessings from Goddess Lakshmi that his lineage would always remain prosperous as long as they worshipped her. He had 18 sons, giving rise to 18 gotras of the Agrawal community. For Agrasen, society was duty, and religion was integrity. That is why the Agrawal community still practices vegetarianism, non-violence, and faithfulness. He considered dharma the protective armor of politics, believing that without moral strength, weapons and power could not ensure justice. His reign was marked by refinement of the old and creation of the new.

A devastating fire once destroyed much of Agroha, forcing many citizens to disperse across India. Yet they preserved their identity as Agrawals and their 18 gotras, continuing to follow his path of social service. Even today, their contribution to India's economy and philanthropy is remarkable. Surveys suggest that though barely one percent of the population, Agrawals account for more than 24% of the country's income tax, 62% of charitable donations, and nearly 25% of overall development. A true tribute to this great ruler would be to name major welfare schemes after him. His Jayanti reminds us that if we wish to create a happy, prosperous, and peaceful society, we must embrace his ideals: wealth is meaningful only when shared, power is noble only when used for collective welfare, and governance succeeds only when it is rooted in justice and compassion.

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Holistic Science of Balance in Physical, Mental Health



■ **Vijay Garg**

Ayurveda is not just the method of treatment of diseases, apitu it is an overall science of life, health and balance. It shows the path to keeping man healthy at a physical, mental, social and spiritual level. The knowledge of Ayurveda in Rigveda and Atharvaveda is available in seed form. While Ashtangharh of Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita and Vagbhat are its major texts. The basic purpose of Ayurveda is to ensure the quality, health and longevity of life. It values person-centric therapy for treatment and lifestyle improvement.

The role of trifles and triplets

The nature of each individual in Ayurveda is determined by birth, which is based on the ratio of Tridosha Vata, Pitta and Kapha. This nature determines the fundamental characteristics of the individual's physical, mental, and disease-sensitivity. Balanced doshas maintain health, while imbalances produce disease. Similarly, triplets control the satva, rajas and the tam mental tendency.

Ayurveda towards the whole life

The value of health in an Ayurvedic approach is not limited to physical condition only. A happy life means the balance of the body and mind, the sense of the senses, the complete personality consisting of enthusiasm, sharp and self-sufficient, the sustenance of respect and responsibility in the society. In contrast, unhappy life has been considered prone to disease, mental imbalance and social instability. Ayurveda is also the guide of religion, meaning, work and salvation Purusha Chatushtya. Religion teaches moral and social values, meaning is the basis of economic prosperity, work is the path of life's desires and contentment and salvation shows the direction of selflessness and perfection. Thus Ayurveda is the science that leads life to perfection.

Drugs and Scientific Recognition



Ayurvedic medicines are not only based on therapeutic substances, apitu is also aimed at preserving health and nurturing life-power. Drugs such as Arishta, Asava, Avaleha, Churna, Til, Ghrita and Kwath are considered safe and effective. Identification, correctness and stability tests of active components, chromatographic fingerprinting and pharmacological evaluation are necessary to ensure their quality in today's era. These procedures are helpful in recognition of the authenticity and therapeutic efficacy of drugs globally.

Practical features of Ayurveda

Charaka has said that a person who does a wholesome diet and has restraint on the senses survives thirty-six thousand ratries i.e. a hundred years. At the time the term such as laboratory testing did not even exist, the principals instructed iron yoga for anemia and pointed out that there is no substance superior to iron in the bloodstream. Diabetes was diagnosed without laboratory and medicines were reported for

the same. Hot water in fever, camel milk in ventral disease, goat milk in evidence and use of buffalo milk in bringing sleep - such instructions show the unique practicality of Ayurveda. Vegetables made of oil, ghee and water are wholesome, but on re-heating, venom becomes as effective. Triphala subverts obesity when taken with water in the morning and is beneficial for the eyes when taken with honey at night. It is an excellent example of polymorphism of drugs.

Emergency Medicine and Specific Knowledge

The effect of the toxin is such as the burning house, which should be attempted to save immediately. That is, in the same way, one should be tolerant of medicine for venom. As the water does not stay on the lotus paper, the effect of the toxin does not remain on the gold-consuming. Atrial diseases (sudden severe disease) such as hicca and breathing diseases spread instantly like venom. The instruction of caution in pregnancy has asked to explain that as one has to move the oil-filled character without moving it should take care of

the pregnant in the same way.

Ayurveda and Quack

The risk of quack has been clarified in the texts. It has been said that quack flourishes only because of unskilled governance. This type of process has also been described as more lethal than drinking copper venom. It has also been said that one can avoid the thunder of Indra falling but the person who is healing the quack does not survive.

Importance of tenses and diet

Ayurveda has described the new grain pathologist. One year old is heritable, while more than two years old becomes powerless. Root is beneficial in piles when old and old ghee destroys mental diseases. The intake of ghee before meals benefits in stone disease while breathing, cask, headache and rajyaksha are directed to drink ghee after meals.

Avichal theory

The bravest feature of Ayurveda is that its principles never change. Chyawanprash was the first to boost immunity, boost today and boost in the future as well. The mixture of amla and turmeric was beneficial in diabetes, is and will remain. The consumption of curd in the night was also prohibited earlier and is still today.

Sleepiness and mental health

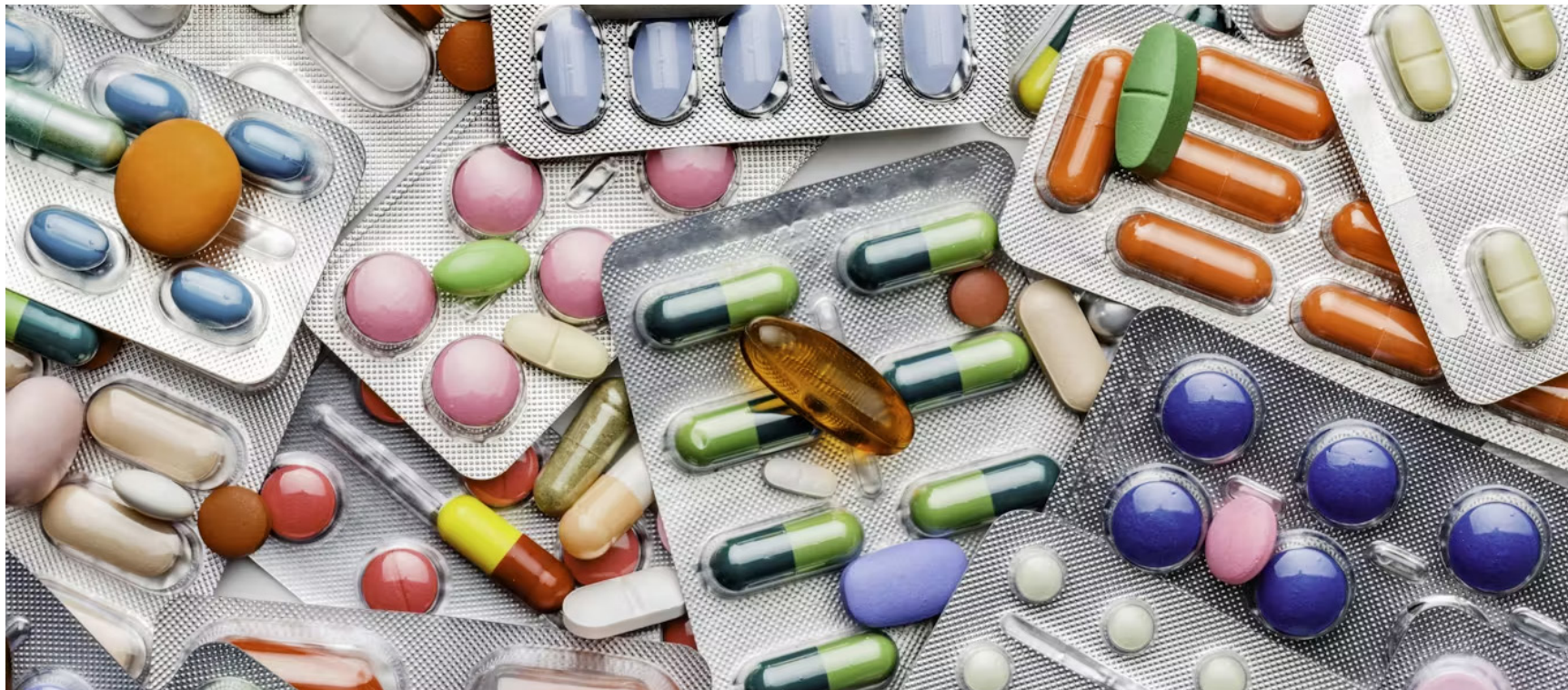
Ayurveda has considered sleep as the basic basis of life. Happiness and sorrow, wretchedness, force-able, knowledge-ignorance, even life and death depend only on sleep. If sleepiness is consumed untimely, improper amount or excessive or not at all, it destroys a happy life and is proven as deadly as death. On the contrary, time consuming, balanced and regular sleep makes both the body and the mind happy, healthy and longevity. It is the mother of force, fertility-power, memory-power and life-energy. Ayurveda is not limited to drugs and treatments only, but it is the overall vision of life. On Ayurveda Day we should remember that this tradition is not merely the heritage of the past, but also the guide for the present and future. With scientific authentication and international cooperation it can present sustainable and effective health solutions for the entire humanity.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

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The Generic and Ethical Medicine

(A Scientific and Ethical Perspective)



■ **Surinderpal Singh**

The Modern healthcare rests upon two key pharmaceutical pathways: generic medicine and ethical (branded) medicine. Although both categories aim to deliver therapeutic benefit to the humanity yet they differ in terms of production cost, market accessibility, research investment and ethical considerations. For policymakers, clinicians and patients, understanding the difference between the two is essential to ensure equitable healthcare.

DEFINING GENERIC AND ETHICAL MEDICINES

ETHICAL (Branded) MEDICINES:

Ethical medicines are those medicines which are marketed under a brand name by the innovator pharmaceutical company. They are typically the outcome of extensive research and development (R&D), including drug discovery, preclinical studies, and multiple phases of clinical trials. Because of the large investment the owner companies hold patent protection which is a legal right allowing them to exclusively market the drug for a certain period.

GENERIC MEDICINES:

Generic medicines are pharmaceutically equivalent versions of branded drugs, produced once the patent expires. They must demonstrate bioequivalence—meaning they deliver the same active ingredient, dosage, safety profile, strength and therapeutic effect as the branded medicine. Importantly, generics are sold under their chemical name without the marketing costs or brand premiums associated with ethical drugs.

SCIENTIFIC BASIS AND REGULATORY STANDARDS

Regulatory bodies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in India mandate strict equivalence standards. Generics must meet criteria for:

1. Pharmacokinetics (absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion).
2. Pharmacodynamics (drug action and therapeutic effect).
3. Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to ensure safety and quality.

Thus from a strictly pharmacological perspective, a generic medicine is not inferior to an ethical medicine if manufactured under proper compliance.

ETHICAL DIMENSIONS

The debate between ethical and generic medicines is not purely scientific but also socio-economic and ethical:

1. Access and Affordability: Branded medicines are often priced beyond the reach of lower-income populations. Generics democratize healthcare access by reducing cost.
2. Reward for Innovation: Ethical medicines incentivize innovation by rewarding pharmaceutical companies for their research and development investment. Without patent protection, fewer companies would invest in developing novel therapies.
3. Equity in Healthcare: An ethical dilemma arises when life-saving drugs remain inaccessible due to prohibitive pricing, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

PROS AND CONS

ETHICAL MEDICINES

PROS:

1. They are backed by rigorous, long-term research and development and extensive clinical testing.
2. Generally first to market, offering novel therapeutic solutions.
3. Higher accountability due to brand reputation.

CONS:

1. Extremely high cost due to research and devel-

opment recovery and patent monopolies.

2. Limited affordability due to their high costs restrict the access in developing countries.
3. Aggressive marketing practices may influence prescription behavior.

GENERIC MEDICINES

PROS:

1. Substantially lower cost with benefits of improving accessibility and affordability.
2. Equivalent in therapeutic effect aspar with ethical medicine when manufactured properly.
3. Encourages competition, reducing monopolistic pricing.

CONS:

1. Quality inconsistencies are possible if manufacturing standards are compromised.
2. Due to lack of research & development contribution the generics medicine rely on prior innovation.
3. The perception bias among patients and physicians that generics are inferior despite equivalence.

GLOBAL AND INDIAN CONTEXT

Globally over 80% of prescriptions in the United States are filled with generics, a reflection of trust in regulatory oversight. In India, initiatives such as the Jan Aushadhi scheme aim to promote generic drug availability at subsidized prices. However, challenges such as variable quality control and lack of public awareness persist.

The debate between generic and ethical medicines is not a battle of superiority but a call for balance between innovation and accessibility. Ethical medicines fuel progress in pharmaceutical science, while generics ensure the fruits of this progress reach society at large. Policymakers must therefore strengthen regulatory oversight, enforce stringent quality checks and promote patient education. In doing so, healthcare systems can achieve the dual objectives of innovation and equity, ensuring that scientific advancement does not become a privilege of the few but a right of all.

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

Should You Get a Flu Shot This Fall? Here's What Experts Think

■ **Healthline**

While many forecasts predict a somewhat moderate influenza season this coming winter, health officials continue to recommend that everyone who is eligible get vaccinated against the flu.

They say this applies in particular to people who are more vulnerable to developing more serious illnesses from the flu virus, including older adults, children, and people with compromised immune systems.

Federal agencies' flu vaccine recommendations are consistent with last year's guidelines and differ from the recently changed recommendations concerning COVID-19 vaccinations.

Experts note that the flu can cause serious complications, even among healthy people, so the illness should not be taken lightly.

"While most cases are mild, some are more severe leading to hospitalizations and tens of thousands of those affected die yearly from the flu," said David Cutler, MD, a family medicine physician at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, CA.

"Influenza can be severe or even deadly, and the vaccine prevents severe disease, albeit not all infections," added Monica Gandhi, MD, a professor of medicine at the University of California San Francisco. "Pediatric hospitalizations for influenza last year were particularly high, so we encourage everyone to get the flu vaccine this year."

Last year, the United States experienced what some experts described as the most severe flu season in more than a decade.

Preliminary data Trusted Source from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that between 47 million and 82 million influenza illnesses occurred in the United States during the 2024–2025 flu season.

There were an estimated 610,000 to 1.3 million hospitalizations and between 27,000 and 130,000 deaths associated with the flu.

In addition, Australia has been recording a strong flu season. In July, Australian officials said this year's flu season was shaping up to be their country's second-worst in a decade.

Flu cases in the Southern Hemisphere, where July and August are considered winter months, often give a glimpse into what the flu season will be like in the Northern Hemisphere during the fall and winter.

In the United States, flu season Trusted Source usually begins in October and lasts through March, with the peak period being between December and February.

The CDC released Trusted Source a report in August stating that the upcoming fall and winter respiratory virus season will likely have a similar number of hospitalizations as last year.

However, those estimates include projected cases of COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and influenza.

William Schaffner, MD, an infectious disease specialist and a professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, said this year's flu season might be more moderate compared to last year.

"Last season was quite severe and it is unusual to experience two severe seasons in a row, especially as no new flu strains have appeared on the global scene. Thus, likely we'll have an average, moderately severe season," he told Healthline.

Cutler agreed that flu season severity is difficult to predict.

"It is impossible to predict with certainty the nature of any upcoming flu season. The number of cases, the timing of the peak, and the exact nature of variants are always variable," he told Healthline.

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SCAN ME

Kulgam Police Facilitates Educational Tour for Students to Police Stations and Posts

Promoting Legal Awareness and Police-Public Engagement Among Youth

■ [Farooq Rather](#)

KULGAM, SEP 20: In a significant step towards fostering police-public relations and enhancing legal literacy among youth, the Kulgam Police on Friday organized an educational tour for students from various educational institutions across the district to



local Police Stations and Police Posts. The initiative, part of the department's broader community outreach and awareness programme, aimed to familiarize students with the functioning of the police system, the legal framework, and the role of law enforcement in ensuring public safety and justice.

During the visit, the students were received and welcomed by DySP Headquarters Kulgam, Shri Nisar Ahmad (JKPS), along with Station House Officers (SHOs) and In-Charges of various police establishments. The officers briefed the students on the organizational structure of the police, their duties in maintaining law and order, crime prevention, and the investigative processes involved in upholding the rule of law.

A major highlight of the programme was a session on the new criminal laws recently introduced in the country. Officers explained key provisions and reforms in detail, emphasizing their role in protecting citizen rights, ensuring speedy justice, and promoting accountability within the system. Students were also sensitized about their responsibilities as law-abiding citizens and the critical importance of legal awareness in a democratic society. As part of the guided tour, students were shown various functional units within the Police Stations, including the FIR registration counters, investigation sections, record rooms, lock-up areas, and other operational wings. They also visited the Women's Cell, where they interacted with lady officers who spoke about mechanisms for handling gender-sensitive cases, women's safety measures, and the support services available to victims.

Throughout the tour, students actively engaged with police officials, asked questions, and shared their views on issues related to policing and public safety. Officers, in turn, encouraged the youth to view themselves as partners in peace-building and emphasized the need for cooperation between police and the public. The programme concluded on a highly positive note, with students describing the experience as insightful, educational, and inspiring. Many expressed newfound respect for the police and appreciated the department's transparency and commitment to community service.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS) said "Kulgam Police is dedicated to building a strong, positive relationship with the youth. Through such educational visits, we aim to help students understand the vital role of police in society and inspire them to become responsible and law-conscious citizens. These engagements are key to fostering mutual trust and shaping a peaceful, progressive future."

This initiative marks another milestone in Kulgam Police's ongoing efforts to promote legal literacy, youth empowerment, and community-police partnership in the district.

Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi Calls for Dialogue on Kashmir at Conference on Combating Hate Crimes

■ [HT News Desk](#)

NEW DELHI, SEP 20: Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, Secretary of the Anjuman Interfaith Dialogue Chapter, attended a two-day conference on Combating Hate Crimes and Hate Speech organized by the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) at Jawahar Bhawan Auditorium, New Delhi.

Speaking at the event, Aga Muntazir emphasized the urgent need to counter rising hate speech and communal polarization in the country.

"We gather here, at this crucial Conference on Communal Harmony, not merely as representatives of different communities, but as a collective conscience. I have seen firsthand the delicate, beautiful tapestry of human relationships in Jammu & Kashmir, and also witnessed how easily its threads can be frayed by hatred. Our presence here is a testament to our shared commitment to mend that fabric," he said.

Highlighting the dangerous impact of hate speech, Aga Muntazir added, "We are confronted with a rising tide of hate that threatens to drown this legacy. Hate speech is not mere rhetoric; it is a corrosive acid that dehumanizes its victims, erodes social cohesion, and creates fertile ground for prejudice and violence."

Urging for a constructive way forward, he appealed to the people of India to initiate dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, "who remain the primary casualties of hate speech and dehumanisation," and to play a role in the restoration of their dignity and political rights.

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE BARAMULLA

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It is hereby noticed that my father's name has been incorrectly in my school records, as Mohammad Altaf Mir while his correct name is Altaf Ahmad, Mir, now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education sub Office Baramulla Within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

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Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of MEHMOODA BEGUM S/O AB GANI TRUMBOO R/O KREERI Tehsil kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/05/1960 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN S/O HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN R/O CHUTUMAIL WANTS TO TRANSFER HIS VEHICLE BEARING NUMBER LA 01 1437 ALTO TO STANZINDOLKAR S/O TASHIRAGZIN R/O KHACHAY ANYBODY HAVING ANY OBJECTION MAY CONTACT THE CONCERNED AUTHORITY WITHIN THE PERIOD OF 7 DAYS.

**NAME: MOHAMMAD HUSSAN
S/O: HAJI MOHAMMAD SADIQ
R/O: YULJUK-PANIKHAR**

Public Notice

It is hereby informed that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my L.C.R. bearing No. 8309 as "Zahra Shaikh." The correct name is "Shaikh Zahra Mohammed Ali," daughter of Mohammed Ali.

Any person having any objection to this correction may raise the objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

**Shaikh Zahra Mohammed Ali
D/o Mohammed Ali
R/o Thila Khandi**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Aadhar regard Ayaz Ahmad Shiekh S/O Ab Ahad Shiekh while his correct name is Shiekh, Ayaz Ahmad S/O Shiekh Ab Ahad R/O Magam Handwara now we have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Nayabat Office Magam within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted .

**Name: SHIEKH AYAZ AHMAD
S/O : SHIEKH AB AHAD
R/O: MAGAM/ Tehsil/ Handwara
District/ Kupwara**

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh seeds and fertilizers license under the name of M/S KOHINOOR seeds /Fertilizers situated at AGLAR PATTAN BARAMULLA if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICER BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will entertained

**Name.... SALEEM JAN
S/O ABDUL RAHMAN BHAT
Contact8825055816**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my father's name GH AHMAD WANI S/O AB AZIZ WANI R/O TILAGAM Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0213040000215 wantsto be registered on name HILAL AHMAD WANI S/O GH AHMAD WANI R/O TILAGAM .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name....HILAL AHMAD WANI
S/O GH AHMAD WANI**

Public Notice

My daughters name has been wrongly written as FARHAT SHOWAT D/O SHOWAAT AHMAD MALIK in her date of Birth certificate while her correct name is FARHAT SHOWKET D/O SHOWKET AHMAD MALIK R/O WAGILLA which needs to be corrected .If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file his /her objection in the office of TEHSILDAR Wagoora/BDO Wagoora Within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name.... SHOWKET AHMAD MALIK
F/O FARHAT SHOWKET
R/O WAGILLA
ZONE ...WAGOORA**

Public Notice

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

**Name....MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN MANSOOR
S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD PANDITH
R/O ATHOORA
Distt....BARAMULLA.**

Heartfelt Gratitude



We, the family members of Ab Rehman Wani, son of Hubaibullah Wani, resident of Gund Khuru Kargama, deeply express our heartfelt gratitude to all relatives, friends, and well-wishers who stood by us in our time of grief. Your presence, prayers, and support during the Rasm-e-Charam held on Thursday, 18/09/2025, at our native village, have been a source of strength and comfort. We remain indebted for your sympathy, love, and kindness, and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

**Family Members of
Ab Rehman Wani,
S/o, Hubaibullah Wani,
R/o, Gund Khuru Kargama, Handwara Kmr.**

IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL SESSION JUDGE BANDIPORA

(Designated NIA Court) | CORAM: Susheel Singh

JOC: JK00144

File No:

DOI: 15/09/2025

Date of Decision: 15/09/2025

In the case of: U.T. of J&K through SHO P/S Bandipora

Case FIR No. 05/2020

Offences US 19,38,39,40 ULA(P) Act 7/25 IA Act 120B,121,121A,123,124A RPC

Vs.

Ashiq Ahmad Ganie and others

In the matter of: Proclamation under section 82 CRPC.

ORDER

Proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused. namely, Abid Rashid Dar S/O Ab Rashid Dar R/O Papchan Bandipora 2 Shakir Hussain Bhat S/O Mohd Altaf Bhat R/O Plan Bandipora.

Whereas, in the above titled challan in case FIR No.05/2020 Offences under sections, 19,38,39,40 ULA(P) Act 7/25 IA Act 120B,121,121A,123,124A RPC RPC the accused Abid Rashid Dar S/O Ab Rashid Dar R/O Papchan Bandipora 2 Shakir Hussain Bhat S/O Mohd Altaf Bhat R/O Plan Bandipora has been arrayed as the accused and general warrant of arrest issued by this court has been returned with the report that the said accused could not be found.

From the statement of the Tameeli as well as conduct of the accused this court is satisfied that the said accused persons has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant.

As such proclamation is hereby made that the accused Abid Rashid Dar S/O Ab Rashid Dar R/O Papchan Bandipora 2 Shakir Hussain Bhat S/O Mohd Altaf Bhat R/O Plan Bandipora are required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of Publication of Proclamation falling which proceedings under Section 83 Cr.P.C shall be initiated against him. Given under my hand and seal of the court today on 15/09/2025.

**Sd/-
Additional Sessions Judge, Bandipora
(Designated NIA Court)**

DIPK: 6432/25 | Dated: 20-09-2025

Office of the District Legal Services Authority

Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre (District Court Complex Kupwara)

National Photography & Art Showcase On the Occasion of National Legal Services Day, 2025

Theme: "Justice for All: Through the Lens of Legal Aid"

Invitation for Entries

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), in commemoration of National Legal Services Day 2025 and to mark three decades of dedicated service in advancing access to justice, is organizing a National Photography & Art Showcase.

This objective of this initiative is to highlight, through creative expression, the human stories of resilience, empowerment., and justice made possible through legal aid.

As such, this authority invites members of the legal fraternity, legal aid professionals, Para-legal volunteers (PLVs), students, and the general public to submit original and unpublished works in the following formats:

- Photography (High-resolution digital files, JPEG/PNG, 300 dpi minimum)
- Paintings
- Sketches
- Short Videos (Maximum 1 minute, MP4/MOV, HD minimum 720p)

Guidelines for Submission

- Each participant may submit a maximum of three (3) entries (including video).
- All entries must be original and unpublished.
- Each entry must include:
A title/caption, and
A brief description of the context and chosen sub-theme.
- Submissions must connect with the unifying theme:
e. "Justice for All: Through the Lens of Legal Aid."
- Sub-themes include: Voices of Dignity, Justice Where Life Happens, Pathways of Justice, Horizons Ahead (details in Concept Note).
- Consent must be obtained for identifiable individuals featured in submissions.

Important Dates

- Last Date for Submission to District Legal Services Authority Kupwara: 22nd September, 2025
- Exhibition of Selected Entress: 8th – 9th November, 2025 during the National Conference

Categories of Participants

- Legal Aid & Justice Fraternity
- (Legal Services Authorities, Legal Aid Counsels, PLVs, Judicial Officers, Court Staff)
- Students & Youth Creators
- (School, college, and university students; emerging young artists/photographers)

e. Community Lens

(Open category for the general public, including mobile photography submissions)

Outcomes

- Selected works will be exhibited at the National Conference.
- Entries may feature in a Coffee Table Book / Calendar and be integrated into NALSA awareness campaigns.
- A permanent digital gallery will be hosted on NALSA's website.

How to Submit

- Submit your entries to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kupwara on E-mail: kupdlsa@gmail.com, or Whatsapp No. 910310740.

- File naming convention: Last name, First name Category (e.g., Lone Iqbal_Student).

- Subject line of email: "Submission to National Photography & Art Showcase".

This is your opportunity to blend art and justice, and to contribute to a national visual archive that celebrates the transformative power of legal aid.

Join us in telling the story of "Justice for All" story of "Justice for All."

No. DLSA/KUP/2025/ 452 | Dated: 20-09-2025

DIPK: 6440/25 | Dated: 20-09-2025

**Sd/- (Moneer Ahmad) Sub-Judge/ Secretary
District Legal Services Authority Kupwara**

Deputy Commissioner reviews functioning of Social Welfare Department in Jammu

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 20: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Social Welfare Department and the implementation of various welfare schemes in the district.

Programme Officer, Integrated Child Development Services, Pankaj Anand, gave a detailed presentation on the working of the department. The DC was briefed about the implementation of key schemes including Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Ladli Beti Scheme, Mission Poshan and



the functioning of Anganwadi Centres.

Dr. Minhas issued directions for immediate interventions to further strengthen service delivery under these schemes. He stressed the need to improve the functioning of Anganwadis and suggested measures for better monitoring and outreach.

District Social Welfare Officer, Nawaz Sharif, presented the progress under Integrated Social Security Schemes and apprised about other flagship activities of the department, such as the provision of prosthetic aids, State Marriage Assistance Scheme, Beti Bachao

Beti Padhao, Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out of the coverage of the schemes.

Functioning of various statutory bodies including the Juvenile Justice Board, as well as interventions for children in street situations, was also reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Ajaypal Singh, besides Tehsil Social Welfare Officers and Child Development Project Officers.

Reasi celebrates 4th Day of Seva Parv with enthusiasm, mass participation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, SEP 20: The spirit of service, community participation, and collective responsibility continued to shine on the fourth day of Seva Parv 2025 in district Reasi.

The celebrations, being held under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Ms. Nidhi Malik, witnessed a wide range of activities with enthusiastic participation from government departments, educational institutions, social organizations, and the general public. The initiatives reflected a strong commitment towards cleanliness, environmental conservation, healthcare, and social welfare.



The Animal Husbandry Department, in collaboration with Cross Swords Gunners, organized a veterinary and medical camp at Pony Dispensary, Banganga, extending essential healthcare services to both animals and the local community.

The Rural Development Department carried out extensive plantation drives across all 153 Panchayats, with a special focus on 57 Amrit Sarovars, promoting greenery and ecological balance.

The Education Department mobilized 803 schools, engaging 48,983 students and 1,976 teachers in plantation drives, thereby instilling values of environmental protection, community service, and social responsibility among the younger generation.

Similarly, the Poshan Project Office, Reasi organized awareness programmes on PMMVY, Healthy Nutrition Recipe, and Swasth Naari Sashakt Parivaar, alongside a plantation drive at Bhaga Poshan Project under the banner of Seva Parv 2025.

The Social Welfare Department, Reasi conducted engaging activities at Child Care Institute, Parisha Home, Reasi, where children created drawings and posters on the theme "My Rights, My Future". Indoor sports activities including Carrom, Chess, Ludo and Badminton were also organized, along with a motivational talk on moral values. Similar activities were also conducted at CCI Palash, Mahore.

DC Doda reviews arrangements for Navratras, Mahanavmi, Dussehra and Diwali

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 20: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review and finalize the arrangements for the upcoming festivals of Navratras, Mahanavmi, Dussehra and Diwali, commencing from September 22. The meeting focused on ensuring smooth and peaceful celebrations across the district with adequate civic, security, and administrative measures.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination to maintain law and order, regulate traffic, and ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during the festive days. He directed officials to take preventive measures related to fire safety, crowd management, sanitation,



and medical emergencies, especially around religious places, marketplaces, and Ram Leela venues. Instructions were also issued

for the availability of essential commodities, strict market inspections, and action against overpricing or adulteration.

Special directions were given to the Police, Municipal bodies, Food Safety, Legal Metrology, Fire & Emergency Services, and Health

Department for providing sufficient security, sanitation, fire tenders, and first aid facilities at all major congregation points. The DC urged all stakeholders, including market associations and community leaders, to extend full cooperation for maintaining communal harmony and festive spirit.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda, Additional District Development Commissioner Doda, Assistant Commissioner Development Doda, ASP Headquarters Doda, Chief Medical Officer Doda, Medical Superintendent GMC Doda, District Information Officer Doda, Executive Engineers of PHE, PWD and JPDCL, and representatives of the Sanatan Dharam Sabha. Besides, ADC Bhaderwah, ASP Bhaderwah, SDMs of Gandhoh, Thathri and Assar, SDPOs, and Executive Officers of MC Thathri and Bhaderwah joined virtually.

Series of cleanliness, awareness & plantation activities organised across Udhampur

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, SEP 20: As part of the ongoing Seva Parv campaign, a series of impactful activities were today conducted across Udhampur district with the active participation of allied departments, educational institutions, and local communities under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai.

The day began with an intensive morning cleanliness drive carried out in various wards of Udhampur town by the Sanitation Team of Municipal Council. Safai Karamcharis, volunteers, and local residents joined hands to clean public places, drains, and streets, sending out a strong message on the importance of individual and collective responsibility in maintaining hygiene. Students from schools also participated by holding placards with messages on cleanliness and responsible waste disposal.

At the same time, the Municipal Committee Ramnagar launched a public awareness campaign on household waste segregation, highlighting the concept of green colonies. Door-

to-door teams interacted with residents to explain the use of separate bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, encouraging sustainable practices for cleaner and healthier surroundings. Demonstrations were also conducted on composting kitchen waste at the household level.

To reinforce the environmental goals of the campaign, a plantation drive was organized at Amrit Sarovar, Panchayat Chani, Block Majalta, where saplings of fruit-bearing and shade-giving trees were planted. Local PRI members, youth clubs, and school children took part with great enthusiasm. The event not only aimed at increasing green cover but also at sensitizing citizens about the long-term benefits of afforestation for ecological balance and climate resilience.

In addition, a one-day training programme was organized at Village Katwalt, Chenani, focusing on skill enhancement and community awareness under Seva Parv. The sessions covered topics such as rural entrepreneurship, self-help groups, and sustainable farming practices, with an emphasis on women's empowerment.

The Chenani Horticulture Zone, under the chairmanship of the Chief Horticulture Officer, also organized a farmers' awareness camp at Panchayat Katwalt. The officer appealed to farmers to prepare plantation plans for high-density plants of imported varieties, stressing that substantial incentives are being provided under various UT and Central government schemes such as CAPEX, HADP, PMDC, and JKICP. He also emphasized the importance of value addition of fruits and vegetables, which can significantly enhance farmers' incomes while improving the socio-economic condition of rural households, particularly women.

More than 200 farmers, besides Ex-Sarpanchs, Panches, and other locals, attended the camp. They were given practical demonstrations on grafting, orchard management, and post-harvest techniques. Subject Matter Specialist Rajesh Gupta briefed the participants about the array of departmental schemes, encouraging them to adopt diversified farming techniques like floriculture, apiculture, and vegetable cultivation.

Day 4 of Sewa Parv 2025: Health & Disaster Management Awareness events held in Doda

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 20: On the fourth day of Sewa Parv 2025, an engaging lecture on Disaster Management was streamed across Educational institutions of District Doda, focusing on preparedness, resilience and the importance of community responsibility in handling natural and man-made disasters.

HoD, Environmental Sciences, Dr. Sumit Kotwal delivered the session, empowering youth to act as ambassadors of safety and promote sustainable practices during emergencies.



Students actively participated in discussions and interactive activities, learning about early warning systems, technological tools for disaster response, and strategies to reduce risks in their communities. The lecture also emphasized the vital role of local participation and awareness in creating safer and more resilient environments.

This event was part of the broader Sewa Parv 2025 campaign, with various departments including Health, Agriculture and AYUSH organizing initiatives to serve and empower communities. Activities ranged from eye and general health check-up camps for transport workers to women's wellness programs and nutritional awareness sessions, reflecting the true spirit of service, welfare, and inclusive development.

An awareness camp was organized at Block Neeli to educate sheep farmers about various employment generation schemes. First aid camps were set up to ensure the smooth migration of livestock. Meanwhile, VAS Doda inspected the local slaughterhouse, interacting with butchers and emphasizing the importance of hygiene and cleanliness for public health.

A true reflection of Sewa Parv—serving communities, empowering farmers, and promoting health & safety at every step.

Sewa Parv: Plantation, cleanliness drives, health camps and awareness programmes held across Rajouri

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, SEP 20: The fourth day of the ongoing Sewa Parv, being observed from September 17 to October 2, 2025, was marked by a series of welfare activities, environmental initiatives, and awareness programmes in Rajouri district.

Under the initiative "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", students across government schools planted tree saplings, instilling in them a sense of responsibility towards Environment.

The Rural Development Department also carried out plantation drives near Amrit Sarovars to promote water conservation and strengthen local biodiversity.



Cleanliness of Amrit Sarovar bodies was also taken up at Kalakote.

Free medical camps were organized across Government Degree Colleges providing students free consultations and basic diagnostics.

College teams also visited old age homes to extend care and support. Meanwhile, the second day of the Donation Drive at Government PG College Rajouri witnessed contributions amounting to 12,500.

The Health Department facilitated mass registrations under Ayushman Bharat—PMJAY to expand the reach of health insurance. The Social Welfare Department generated ABHA IDs to strengthen digital health records. Urban Local Bodies conducted special cleanliness

drives in towns and also created awareness among street vendors regarding PM SVANidhi.

The Labour Department, in coordination with Akhil Bharatiya Safai Mazdoor Sangh, organised an awareness camp at Town Hall Rajouri on labour welfare schemes of the J&K Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (JKBOCW), enabling workers to know their rights and entitlements.

Other services offered included registration under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), SILK Samagra-2, Daksh uploading, and a cleanliness campaign at the Sericulture Complex, Chatyar.

Studying full implications of proposed restrictions on US H-1B visa program, says India

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 20: As the Trump administration hiked the H-1B visa fees to a massive \$100,000 annually, India said that it is studying the full implications of the measure and added that it would cause disruption for families and expressed hope that this aspect could be addressed by the US authorities.

US President Donald Trump on Friday (September 19) signed a proclamation -- 'Restriction on entry of certain non-immigrant workers', that will raise the fee for H-1B visas to a staggering \$1,00,000 annually, in a move to crack down on immigration. The new rule is effective September 21, 2025.

The fee, which currently

ranges from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per application, may now amount to \$300,000 for the initial three-year H-1B visa period.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that industry both in India and the US have a stake in innovation and creativity and can be expected to consult on the best path forward.

The MEA statement reads: "The Government has seen reports related to the proposed restrictions on the US H1B visa program. The full implications of the measure are being studied by all concerned, including by Indian industry, which has already put out an initial analysis clarifying some perceptions related to the H1B program."

"Industry in both India and



the US has a stake in innovation and creativity and can be expected to consult on the best path forward.

"Skilled talent mobility and exchanges have contributed enormously to technology development, innovation, eco-

nomie growth, competitiveness and wealth creation in the United States and India. Policy makers will therefore assess

recent steps taking into account mutual benefits, which include strong people-to-people ties between the two countries.

"This measure is likely to have humanitarian consequences by way of the disruption caused for families. Government hopes that these disruptions can be addressed suitably by the US authorities."

The H-1B visa is a US work visa that allows companies to employ foreign professionals in specialised fields like technology, engineering, and medicine. Indians account for the largest share of H-1B visa holders, making up 71% of all beneficiaries in FY2024. The Trump administration's move has been described by US lawmakers and community leaders as "reckless" and "unfortunate".

President Trump signed the proclamation saying the abuse of the H-1B visa programme is a "national security threat".

Companies have asked H-1B visa holders or their family members currently outside America for work or vacation to return within the next 24 hours or risk being stranded and denied entry into the US after the proclamation comes into effect from 12:01 am September 21. According to reports, Amazon has 10,044 workers using H-1B visas as of June, 2025, with TCS having 5,505 H-1B visas approved.

Other top companies include Microsoft (5,189), Meta (5,123), Apple (4,202), Google (4,181), Deloitte (2,353), Infosys (2,004), Wipro (1,523) and Tech Mahindra Americas (951). UNI

South star Mohanlal to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023: I & B Ministry

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 20: Malayalam movie superstar Mohanlal will be awarded the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023 on September 23 at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting posted on X, "On the recommendation of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee, the Government



of India is pleased to announce that Shri Mohanlal will be conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023."

"Mohanlal's remarkable cinematic journey inspires generations. The legendary actor, director, and producer is being honoured for his iconic contribution to Indian Cinema. His unmatched talent, versatility and relentless hard work have set a golden standard in Indian film history."

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the highest honor in Indian cinema, recognizing an individual's outstanding lifetime contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema. UNI

PM Modi congratulates Mohanlal on receiving Dadasaheb Phalke Award

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today congratulated veteran actor Mohanlal on being honoured with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest cinematic accolade.

The award will be presented at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony scheduled for September 23. In a message on his social media platform X, the Prime Minister lauded Mohanlal's versatility and excellence, noting his

enduring contributions to Malayalam cinema and theatre.

"Mohanlal's epitomises excellence and versatility. With a rich body of work spanning decades, he stands as a leading light of Malayalam cinema and theatre and is deeply passionate about the culture of Kerala," he wrote.

Modi also acknowledged the actor's significant performances in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi films, describing his artistic brilliance across multiple mediums as "truly inspiring," and wished that Mohanlal's achieve-



ments continue to inspire future generations.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) announced earlier today that the renowned actor will be honoured with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2023, as recommended by the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee.

Mohanlal's illustrious career as an actor, director, and producer has made an indelible mark on Indian cinema, the Ministry said. UNI

ED seizes properties worth Rs 4.5 crore in Alirajpur Block Education Office fraud case

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 20: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Indore Sub-Zonal Office has attached 14 immovable properties valued at Rs 4.5 crore in connection with a case of fraudulent bill clearance and misappropriation of government funds from the Block Education Office (BEO) in Katthiwada, Alirajpur district, Madhya Pradesh. The assets are linked to Kamal Rathore and his associates.

The action stems from an FIR registered by Katthiwada Police against officials and employees of the BEO. Investigations revealed large-scale misappropriation of government funds between 2018 and 2023



through fraudulent bills prepared and cleared on the state's Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS). Earlier searches led to the seizure

of incriminating documents and the freezing of several lakh rupees. Rathore was arrested by the ED on August 7, 2025, and remains in judicial custody.

According to the ED, funds amounting to Rs 20.47 crore were siphoned off through 917 fake bills and routed into 134 bank accounts. The accused allegedly laundered the money by withdrawing large cash amounts, transferring funds to relatives, and investing in properties in Alirajpur and Panna. Several assets purchased in the names of family members were later sold to conceal the illicit origin of the funds.

Further investigation is underway. UNI

CDS to inaugurate Tri-Services Academia Technology Symposium on Sept 22

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 20: In an effort to foster innovation and deepen collaboration between the Armed Forces and India's academic institutions, a Tri-Services Academia Technology Symposium (T-SATS) will be conducted from September 22-23 here.

Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan will inaugurate the event on Monday. He will also open the exhibition featuring shortlisted innovations from 222 responses submitted by academic institutions through the official symposium portal (www.tsats.org.in), a Defence Ministry statement said.

Organised by the Indian Army under the aegis of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, the symposium aims to synergise the Services-Academia R&D ecosystem for the development of niche technologies critical to national defence. The theme of



this maiden symposium is "Vivek va Anusandhan se Vijay" (Victory Through Wisdom and Innovation).

The event will bring together directors and heads of departments from over 200 top academic and 50 R&D institutions, students from IITs and Tier II and III technical institutes and subject matter experts on technology domains from all three services. It will serve as a vital platform for identifying, discussing and promoting cutting edge research and technological solutions relevant to the operational needs of the services.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth and Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi will be present on the concluding day. UNI

Europe's bid to reimpose curbs on Iran strengthens as UNSC resolution votes down lifting sanctions

■ **United News of India**

NEW YORK, SEP 20: In a political win for Europe, a UNSC resolution on Friday on whether to permanently lift international sanctions on Iran was voted down, giving an edge to the E3 nations' bid to reimpose snapback sanctions on September 28, over Iran's nuclear non-compliance with the IAEA.

The resolution, tabled by South Korea which is currently holding the Security Council presidency, was a procedural part of a process launched last month after the E3 nations - UK, France, and Germany - threatened to trigger the so-called snapback mechanism under the dictates of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, accusing Iran of "significant non-performance" due to its refusal to allow IAEA inspections, and its vast stores of heavily enriched uranium.

The decision not to lift Iran sanctions means all pre-2015 UN sanctions on Iran will automatically return once the 30-day snapback period ends on Sept 28, unless the Security Council takes further action, reports Iran International.

The move was slammed by Iran, which was supported in its opposition by two of the UNSC's permanent member states Russia and China. Both nations lambasted the vote on Friday as a blow to diplomacy.

Algeria, China, Pakistan, and Russia voted to lift Iran sanctions, while Denmark, France, Greece, Panama, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia, the UK, and the US voted against the resolution.



Guyana and South Korea abstained on the issue.

US's acting UN representative Dorothy Shea said the European troika was right to pursue sanctions given what she called Iran's clear violations.

"In July, the E3 offered to extend the snapback mechanism if Iran were to take steps to address concerns regarding its highly enriched uranium stockpile, comply with its IAEA obligations, and resume direct diplomacy with the United States," Shea said.

"Despite suggestions to the contrary from Iran and others, Tehran has not yet fulfilled those conditions."

The resolution outcome does "not impede the possibility of real diplomacy," Shea added, without elaborating. UNI

Japan may see first female PM as LDP's Sanae Takaichi emerges heavyweight

■ **United News of India**

TOKYO, SEP 20: Japan could soon see its first female prime minister, with Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) heavyweight Sanae Takaichi emerging as a leading contender in the party's leadership race, scheduled for 4 October.

Her candidacy in the highest echelon of political power is rare development, as women have rarely risen to the strongest positions of power.

Takaichi, 64, is a hard-line conservative and a long-time ally of the late former prime minister Shinzo Abe, whose policies she has pledged to continue.

A strong public favourite alongside agriculture minister Shinjiro Koizumi, she narrowly lost to outgoing Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in last year's runoff for the LDP leadership, reports Japan Times.

If victorious this time, she would become Japan's first female premier - a potential historical milestone in the country's political history - showcasing Tokyo's gradual progress on the issue of gender equality in politics.

Since the country's post-war constitution was adopted in 1947, no woman has ever served as prime minister. Only a handful have held senior cabinet posts, and female candidates have historically faced institutional barriers within the male-dominated LDP, which has governed almost continuously since its founding in 1955.

Notably, former Foreign Minister Yuri Koike came close to breaking the glass ceiling when she became Tokyo's first female governor in 2016, but she never secured

strong enough support within the LDP to contend for national leadership.

Similarly, past female contenders in LDP leadership races, including Takaichi herself, often struggled to win backing from powerful party factions despite polling well with the public.

Her policy positions lean heavily towards national security and conservative social values. Takaichi has been outspoken on countering Beijing's growing military presence in the Asia-Pacific, advocating for a shift from Japan's strictly defensive military posture towards a more active armed force.

She has also supported major government spending and ultra-low interest rates, echoing Abe's economic legacy.

On social and cultural issues, Takaichi has courted controversy through her repeated visits to the Yasukuni Shrine, which honours the soldiers who died in WWII, as many of these soldiers were also convicted war criminals.

The former Imperial Japan is noted to have committed many atrocities and brutalities, and as such visits to the shrine have long provoked strong criticism from neighbouring countries like China and South Korea, which endured the worst brunt of Japanese military occupation.

Takaichi has contested several previous LDP leadership races and has steadily built a stronger base within the party.

In this election, she will face competition from three declared male candidates, including Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi, a political moderate known for his policy expertise, as well as other senior figures within the ruling party. UNI

Mentor Zaheer Khan parts ways with Lucknow Super Giants



It's understood his vision did not align with that of head coach Justin Langer and team owner Sanjeev Goenka

■ **Nagraj Gollapudi**

KOLKATA: Lucknow Super Giants' team mentor Zaheer Khan has parted ways with the franchise after just one season. ESPNcricinfo has learned Zaheer informed LSG of his decision on Thursday. It is understood that the primary reason for Zaheer quitting is that his vision for the franchise did not align with that of head coach Justin Langer and team owner Sanjeev Goenka. While Zaheer's relationship with captain Rishabh Pant remained strong, he was affected by the thought process that played a role in LSG sliding down the points table in the second half of IPL 2025.

Zaheer had joined LSG in August 2024, filling the vacancy left by Gautam Gambhir's exit after IPL 2023. Zaheer had been with Mumbai Indians from 2018 to 2022 and agreed to a two-year contract with LSG, taking charge of scouting, planning and strategy. After making the playoffs in their first two IPL seasons in 2022 and 2023, LSG did not reach the knockouts in the last two seasons. In 2025, they finished seventh with six wins from 14 games. It was a season of contrasting halves: LSG had five wins in their first eight matches but only one in the last six. Of the eight games they played at their home ground, the Ekana Stadium, they won only two. LSG had made headlines at last year's mega auction when they bought Pant for INR 27 crore (USD 3.2 million approx.), making him the most expensive player ever in the IPL. The team was built around him, but Zaheer put in place building blocks he felt were needed to grow stronger every season. Despite there being a lot of chatter about Pant opening the batting, Zaheer spoke to the wicketkeeper-batter early on and told him that the better strategy would be for Mitchell Marsh to open with Aiden Markram. That strategy, Zaheer impressed on both Pant and the leadership group, would reduce the burden on their best batter, Nicholas Pooran, who was the No. 3.

The role clarity allowed the batters to play with freedom and perform consistently. Markram had never opened in the IPL before, while Marsh, despite having been in the IPL for more than a decade, had never made a major impact. The move worked: Marsh was the fifth highest run-getter in IPL 2025 with 627 runs at a strike rate of 163.70, Pooran made 524 runs at 196.25, and Markram 445 at 148.82.

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Sher-e-Kashmir Memorial T20 Tournament Begins at Dungdara Kreeri

■ **Aashiq Hussain**

BARAMULLA, SEP 20: In a remarkable celebration of unity, enthusiasm, and passion for sports, JKNC North Kashmir proudly organized the Sher-e-Kashmir Memorial T20 Tournament, with its grand inaugural ceremony held today at Dangdura Playground, Kerri constituency.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of: MLA Pattan – Mr. Javid Riyaz Badar, MLA Sopore – Mr. Irashid Rasool Kar, Joint Secretary Province – Mr. Mohammad Yaqoob Wani, Zonal President JKNC North Kashmir – Mr. Zahid Mughal, District President JKNC – Adv. Shahid Ali, Vice Presidents JKNC – Mr. Jehangir Wani & Mr. Ab. Majeed Akhoun, North Secretary – Mr. Farhat Mir, District President JKNC – Mr. Ubaid Organiser sajad lone T 20 Tournament Along with several senior leaders of JKNC

The tournament, organized and sponsored by Mr. Zahid Mughal, reflects a vibrant step towards encouraging the youth, fostering brotherhood, and celebrating the everlasting legacy of Sher-e-Kashmir.



celebrating the everlasting legacy of Sher-e-Kashmir.

The atmosphere at the playground brimmed with excitement – a true reflection of cricket's spirit, youth empowerment, and the collective vision of unity across North Kashmir.

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