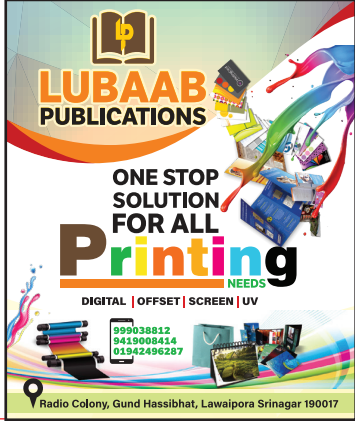


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HEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Govt to Seek Centre's Relief Package for Restoration: CM Omar Abdullah

Omar Abdullah Reviews Post-Flood Relief, Restoration in J&K

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to take a comprehensive review of flood relief and restoration measures across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javid Ahmed Dar & Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta; Principal Secretary PWD; Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs; Secretary School Education; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir divisions; Inspector General of Police (NH); Deputy Commissioners; and other concerned officers also attended the meeting. Several officials joined the meeting through virtual mode.

The Chief Minister directed all departments to expedite their assessment so that



projections for relief and restoration could be submitted to the Government of India without delay. He enquired about the funds released during the floods and was informed that in several districts these funds have been utilized in temporary restoration works. Stressing the importance of durable

solutions, he directed the Jal Shakti Department to avoid temporary fixes and instead focus only on permanent restoration of water supply schemes.

He also reviewed the safety audit of schools undertaken after the floods, calling for the certification process to be fast-tracked. Responding to rumours and misinformation circulating on social media about "deliberate delay" in movement of fruit trucks on Srinagar-Jammu Highway (NH-44), the Chief Minister instructed the Divisional Commissioners and IGP (NH) to issue verified information promptly so that people remain updated with facts.

Chief Minister was informed that slow movement has been on account of poor road conditions in certain stretches of National Highway and not deliberate.

During the meeting, Omar Abdullah expressed concern over damage to the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex in Jammu. Divisional Commissioner

● Turn on Page 2

CDS Urges India to Lead in Next-Gen Defence Tech

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, SEP 22: Calling for a whole-of-nation approach to make India a global leader in next-generation defence technologies Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Monday urged academia to scale innovation for making the country self-reliant.

Addressing a tri-services symposium here, CDS Chauhan, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The changing nature of modern warfare driven by convergence across kinetic and non-kinetic domains has necessitated advanced and integrated technological solutions."

He emphasised the critical role of academia, start-ups and industry in developing indigenous capabilities across platforms, weapons, networks and doctrines to meet future operational demand.

Meanwhile, in a statement, a Defence Ministry spokesman said that the inaugural edition of the Tri-Services Academia Technology Symposium (T-SATS) was held at the Manekshaw Centre at Delhi Cantonment, synergising the services-academia R&D ecosystem for development of niche and futuristic technologies tailored for the Indian armed forces.

It said that the symposium was inaugu-



rated by Gen Chauhan and the event witnessed participation from directors and heads of departments of academic and premier R&D institutions, along with students from 62 institutes including IISc, IITs, IIITs and private technology institutes.

The CDS also inaugurated a technology exhibition showcasing 43 selected innovative exhibits by academia.

"These innovations were evaluated by subject matter experts from various technology domains of the three services for their potential military applications. Projects showing promise will be considered for R&D collaboration

● Turn on Page 2

New Laws Boost Transparency in Criminal Justice: DGP Prabhat

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 22: Stating that new criminal laws have brought greater transparency to the justice system, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, on Monday said the J&K Police have become the first police force in the country to use the eSakshya application.

Addressing the inaugural function of three-day mega exhibition on new criminal laws organized by EOW Crime Branch Jammu on the directions of the Union Home Ministry here, DGP Prabhat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "It's important to create awareness among people, especially the youth, about the new criminal laws that have replaced the colonial-era statutes. New laws have brought greater transparency to the justice system, with technology being a key enabler."

"The objective of organizing such a grand

● Turn on Page 2

Next-Gen GST reforms Navratri gift for mothers, sisters: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPT 22: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Monday described the Modi government's new NextGen GST reforms as a Navratri gift to "all the mothers and sisters of the country."



In a series of posts on X, Amit Shah said the reforms—implemented nationwide from September 22—deliver on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of tax relief to the people. The overhaul includes historic reductions in GST on more than 390 items, covering food,

● Turn on Page 2

No program fixed yet for PM Modi's visit to J&K: LoP Sunil

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: Bharatiya Janata Party legislature and Leader of Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday clarified that there is no programme as of now regarding the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma made the remarks while speaking to reporters

● Turn on Page 2

Div Com, IGP Traffic Brief on Streamlined Fruit Transport from Valley

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg & IGP Traffic Kashmir Division, M Suleman Choudhary today held a joint press briefing to inform about the status of streamlined traffic movement on National



Highway & Mughal Road, transportation of fresh fruits from valley, restoration work on NH and availability of essential supplies in the Valley.

Addressing media, Div Com informed that during the past 10 days, under the strict Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) directed by the

● Turn on Page 2

Div Com Kashmir Orders Panel to Regulate Srinagar Traffic

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: In order to ensure hassle-free traffic movement in the city, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg today directed constitution of a

● Turn on Page 2

20,493 Water Tests Carried Out in 2,645 Villages

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: A comprehensive 15 days campaign for Prevention of Water-borne diseases and intensification of Water quality testing in flood/landslide affected areas of J&K concluded today.

The campaign was launched on 4th September 2025 to prevent the outbreak of water borne diseases after devastating floods in many districts of UT. The campaign reflects the commitment of the Jal Jeevan Mission of Jal Shakti department in restoring water supply infrastructure and

improving service delivery to citizens.

Intensive Water Quality testing of samples in affected areas was carried out through district and sub-divisional lab staff of Public Health Engineering Divisions. The main focus was to check contamination (if any) at both the Source and Consumer point level with at least three tests in each affected village.

Local communities and line departments like health, education and RDD played critical role in testing of water samples in schools, aanganwadi centre's and Health Institutions.

● Turn on Page 2

117 families affected during 'Op Sindoor' get Rs 42 lakh aid

Nana Patekar led NGF provide assistance to Rajouri, Poonch families

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEP 22: In a heartfelt ceremony at Raina Auditorium, Rajouri, the

Nirmala Gajanan Foundation (NGF) led by renowned actor philanthropist and Padma Shri awardee Nana Patekar in collaboration with the Indian Army, extended crucial support to families affected during Operation Sindoor.

A total of Rs 42 lakh rehabilitation aid was disbursed among 117 families

● Turn on Page 2

Former J&K DGP Ghulam Jeelani Pandit passes away

DGP Nalin Prabhat expresses grief

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat, expressed deep



sorrow over the passing of Ghulam Jeelani Pandit, IPS (Retd.), the fourth

● Turn on Page 2

CS REVIEWS TRANSIT HOUSING FOR MIGRANT EMPLOYEES AT ZEWAN

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today visited the Zewan site, one of the major locations identified for the construction of transit accommodation under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), to take first hand assessment of the ongoing works of flats for Kashmiri Migrant employees.

On this occasion besides the Principal Secretary, PWD and Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir he was accompanied by DC, Srinagar; Relief Commissioner; Chief Engineer, R&B (Central) and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary reviewed in detail the progress made on the construction of 936 one-BHK flats taken up at Zewan. Out of these, 624 flats have already been constructed while another 312 are at different stages of execution. So far, 703 flats have been allotted, marking an increase of 51 allotments since March 2025.

The Chief Secretary also assessed timelines for further completion and was informed that 96 more flats are targeted for completion up to September 2025, followed by 72 flats between October–December 2025, and 144 flats from January–March 2026.

Reviewing the financial progress, it was informed that the revised approved cost of the Zewan project stands at Rs197.37 Cr, out of which Rs124.07 Cr had been utilized up to March 2025. The balance cost of Rs73.30 Cr has been proposed as outlay for 2025–26, with Rs36.65 Cr already released during the current financial year.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to complete the project within the set timelines and ensure early handover of completed flats. "This project must be completed on time and the completed units should be allotted to the employees without

● Turn on Page 2

CS Reviews Progress on Additional Block at LD Hospital

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today visited Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar to review the progress of the ongoing construction of the additional block being developed under the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

On this occasion besides the Principal Secretary, PWD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and Secretary, H&ME he was accompanied by DC, Srinagar; Commissioner, SMC; CEO, ERA; Chief Engineer, R&B (Central) and other concerned officers.

● Turn on Page 2

Public Accounts Committee stresses on quality education in Government schools

Calls for hardship allowances for employees posted in far-flung areas

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review audit paras pertaining to the School Education Department. The meeting was chaired by PAC Chairman Sham Lal Sharma and members including Mubarak Gul, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Devinder Kumar Manyal, and Sajad Shaheen also participated in the meeting. The Committee undertook a detailed examination of Audit Paras 3.5 (2002-03), 2.1 (2018-19), and 4.2 (2019-20) related to the School Education Department. At the outset, members deliberated on key issues including construction of the DIET at Poonch, establishment of Model Schools, and utilization of funds for infrastructure

development and other facilities across Jammu and Kashmir. Chairman Sham Lal Sharma emphasized the need to formulate a vibrant transfer policy and ensure deployment of category based teachers and lecturers in their local remote areas to uplift the educational scenario in such far-flung areas. "Those who have benefited on categories including SC and ST should serve their own people and local population first in these remote areas," the chairman said. The Committee pitched for providing hardship allowance to employees posted in remote areas for their convince. The Committee stressed the importance of disseminating quality education to students enrolled in government schools for overall improvement of the education scenario in Jammu and Kashmir. It also called for fast recruitment to fill vacant posts and instructed the concerned



departments to expedite the process of referring vacancies to recruitment agencies. The Committee further underlined the need to fix responsibility on officers for delays in creation of infrastructure, which has caused an undue

lag in extending benefits to students under various schemes. The Chairman directed the concerned authorities to rationalize staff across schools and ensure that students in remote areas have access to quality

education and all required facilities. The Committee also directed the administration to conduct a fresh safety audit of all school buildings and related infrastructure, particularly in flood-affected areas, and to take

immediate safety measures to safeguard lives. PAC members called for timely completion of ongoing projects and urgent attention to the maintenance of damaged school buildings for the convenience of students.

They asserted that pending works must be expedited and completed within stipulated timeframes. The Chairman also instructed- ed that accountability be fixed on officers responsible for project delays and sought a comprehensive report on violations. He reiterated the PAC's mandate to promote transparency, fiscal discipline, and accountability in governance. Stressing the importance of providing the best possible facilities to students, the Committee recommended adopting vertical construction models for the judicious use of available land. The meeting was attended by Principal Accountant General J&K, K.P. Yadav; Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Secretary, Legislative Assembly; Director General, Accounts and Treasuries; Directors of School Education Kashmir & Jammu and other senior officers.



Demolition Drive Carried Out on Shamlat Land in Kilam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 22: In a decisive move against land encroachments, revenue authorities on Monday conducted a demolition drive in the Kilam area of Kulgam district. The operation was carried out under the supervision of Tehsildar Pahaloo, Mr. Showkat Ahmad, and targeted unauthorized structures raised on Shamlat (common) land falling under Survey No.



606, Section 4. During the drive, officials demolished a shop owned by Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, son of Ismail Bhat, and a residential house belonging to Noor Mohammad Beigh and Parvaiz Ahmad Beigh, sons of Mohammad Afzal Beigh. Both structures were found to be illegally constructed on common land. Authorities stated that the action was part of an ongoing anti-encroachment campaign aimed at retrieving government and community lands from illegal possession. The administration affirmed its commitment to continue such drives and warned that strict action would be taken against all unauthorized constructions in the area. The demolition drive was carried out smoothly and without incident, reaffirming the district administration's stance on protecting public resources from unlawful use.

Tributes Planned Across Kashmir on 11th Death Anniversary of Maulana Iftikhar Hussain Ansari (RA)

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: The All J&K Shia Association has announced a series of programmes to commemorate the 11th death anniversary of Maulana Iftikhar Hussain Ansari (RA) on 30 September 2025. Remembered as a religious scholar, social reformer, and political leader, Maulana Ansari's contributions left a lasting imprint on the socio-religious fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. As part of the observance, the Association organized an art competition where participants sketched portraits of the late leader. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth, offering them an opportunity to creatively engage with his legacy. To further honor his memory, the Association has also installed



hoardings featuring portraits of Maulana Ansari (RA) at prominent locations across Srinagar. Notable designs include Ishfaq

Ali Parray's work at Polo View, Owais Ahmad Malik's at the Mechanized Parking, Nadeem Ali's at Qamarwari Chowk, Muzaamil Hussain's at Shalteng, Irtiqaz Bazaz's at Kashmir University, and Nusrat Parveen's at Has-sanabad Rainawari, among several others across the city. These tributes reflect his decades-long service in religious, social, and political spheres. Speaking on the occasion, Association spokesperson Tayyab Rizvi said: "Maulana Iftikhar Hussain Ansari (RA) devoted his life to guiding the community and working for the welfare of people. His vision of unity and progress continues to guide us. Through

these small efforts, we wish to ensure that the younger generation connects with his contributions and values." Special prayers and remembrance gatherings will also be held across the Valley on 30 September, bringing together religious scholars, community leaders, and followers to reflect on Maulana Ansari's role as a reformer and to reaffirm their commitment to carrying forward his message of service and responsibility. Eleven years since his passing, Maulana Iftikhar Hussain Ansari (RA) continues to be revered for his leadership and ability to bridge faith with public life, leaving behind a legacy that remains deeply relevant today.

JKPICCA Expresses Condolences on the Demise of Shri Shalinder Kumar's Father

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: The Jammu & Kashmir Fruits & Vegetable Processing & Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the passing of the revered father of Shri Shalinder Kumar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir. In a solemn condolence meeting held at the association's headquarters near Allama Iqbal Marriage Hall, Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, members of JKPICCA paid their heartfelt tributes to the departed soul. The association, in a formal statement, offered prayers



for eternal peace to the deceased and extended sincere sympathies to the bereaved family. President of JKPICCA, Mr. Bashir

Ahmad Naik, along with other members, observed a moment of silence and conveyed that the loss is not just personal but deeply felt by the entire fraternity. "Please know you are not alone. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you navigate this challenging moment," the association stated. The meeting concluded with a collective prayer, seeking strength and courage for Shri Shalinder Kumar and his family during this difficult time. "May the noble soul attain eternal peace, and may the family find comfort and resilience in this hour of grief," the message from JKPICCA concluded.

Arms, Ammunition Recovered in Kupwara's Mawar Forests

Dr. Ab. Qayoom

LANGATE, SEP 21: Security forces on Sunday recovered a significant cache of arms, ammunition, and explosives during a joint operation in Mawar area of Langate in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. An Official told, (Indian Army) that Army's 30 RR, and BSF jointly launched a search operation in the forest area of Mawar, leading to the recovery of a



bag containing a large quantity of warlike stores. The seized items include one CANIK 9mm pistol with two magazines and 20 rounds, two 7.62mm pistols with two magazines and 14 rounds, one AK magazine with 40 rounds, eight hand grenades, and two suspected IEDs which were destroyed on the spot. The official told that the operation was still underway in the area till late night yesterday and finally concluded at around 9:00 PM yesterday. "Security forces are aggressively pursuing their mission to dismantle the terrorist ecosystem, including its cadres and sympathisers, with the aim of ushering in lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir," the statement added.

Budding Stars Shine at Zonal Kala Utsav in Bhaderwah

Amir Iqbal Khan

BHADERWAH, SEP 22: The Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Bhaderwah was abuzz with excitement as the Zonal Level Kala Utsav brought creative flair and youthful talent to centre stage drawing in students from across the region to put their artistic skills to the test. The day-long festival was thrown open under the stewardship of Chief Education Officer, Doda Mohammad Hafiz and supervision of Suresh Kumar Sharma Zonal Education Officer, Bhadar-



wah along with ZNOs Manjeet Singh and Rashmi Kotwal. The participants put forward stellar performances ranging from performing arts to fine arts, lighting up the school's auditorium. Principal Shafayat Ali, gracing the occasion as Chief Guest called on students to wear their heritage with pride and pour their passion into every brushstroke and note. On this occasion, an expert jury comprising Sajad Hussain, D.K. Bharti, Renuka Jamwal and Prakarti Kotwal judged the event. On hand to size up the talent, the competition started with bud-

ding artists vying to stand head and shoulders above the rest. Behind the scenes, organisers Devratan and Bhupinder Singh ensured the event went off without a hitch and every participant got their moment in the run. Meanwhile, the festival was hailed for not only putting young talent in the spotlight but also weaving together threads of unity and cultural pride. Organisers expressed hope that such vibrant platforms would continue to bring budding talent out of the woodwork and keep the region's artistic spirit alive.

As part of Sewa Parva, DIPR, Amar Singh College hold day long Cultural fest

Aim to enhance cultural, creative spaces; provide platform to youth to hone their talent

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: The Department of Information, as part of its ongoing Sewa Parva campaign, organised a day long cultural fest in collaboration with Amar Singh College, Srinagar here today.

Titled as Symphonies of Peace the event brought together eminent dignitaries, cultural personalities, faculty and students to celebrate the ideals of peace, harmony and cultural integration in line with the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and the spirit of Sewa Parva.

The event provided a platform to young and budding artists to showcase their hidden talent to the thunderous applause of the audience.

DIPR has been regularly holding such cultural events and aim of holding such events is to en-



hance cultural and creative spaces available to the student community and youth by providing them platform to hone their talent.

The festival featured a vibrant blend of cultural performances including music, theatre and traditional Kashmiri art forms which

captivated the audience and showcased the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. Among the art forms, Kashmiri Rauf, Punjabi Tappe, Martial art form Gatka, documentaries on Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir, Qawalis and skits were performed much to the delight of the audience.

Noted broadcaster and former Director, AIR, Srinagar, Syed Humayun Qaisar in his keynote address advised the students to identify their hidden talent by utilising the creative spaces. He said creative endeavours help in the personality development of an individual and induce positive

thinking among them.

Prof. (Dr.) Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, Principal Amar Singh College Srinagar, Dr. Ahsanul Haq Chishty, Deputy Director Information PR Kashmir, Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer Kashmir and Mushtaq Ali Ahmad Khan, noted Actor and Filmmaker from J&K also spoke on the occasion.

The joint initiative of Information Department and Amar Singh College in organising the event was appreciated by the participants and it underlined the significance of such cultural platforms in promoting peace, brotherhood and cultural vibrancy, spirit of sewa- service among others.

Notably, DIPR&K is organising a multitude of events as part of the broader Sewa Parva campaign, being celebrated from 17th September till 2nd October 2025.

Shantamanu participates in Sewa Parv celebrations at GCW Parade Jammu

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 22: Govt. College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground, Jammu today celebrated Sewa Parva with great zeal and enthusiasm, witnessing active participation from students, faculty, and dignitaries.

The occasion was graced by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education Shantmanu, who presided the event as Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACS commended the college and NSS volunteers for their dedication to service, discipline, and civic duty. He noted that such initiatives not only cultivate social responsibility in young minds but also reaffirm the role of higher education institutions as agents of community development.



Welcoming the gathering, Principal, Dr. Ravender K. Tickoo emphasized the significance of Sewa Parva in nurturing values of social service, environmental stewardship, and civic responsibility among students. He appreciated the cooperation of participating colleges and lauded their contribution in channelizing youth energy towards constructive nation-building.

The celebration began with a series of service-oriented activities including a cleanliness drive, plantation drive, donation drive, and a symbolic walkathon-exhibition led by NSS volunteers from various colleges. These initiatives highlighted the true spirit of sewa—selfless service and community engagement.

Volunteers from GCOE, GDC Paloura, GDC Akhnoor, and GDC R.S Pura actively participated and donated items to the cause. NSS and NCC volunteers of GCW Parade also contributed generously towards relief for flood victims.

The cultural segment added vibrancy to the occasion with a soulful performance on Gandhian philosophy by students of the Music Department, followed by a skit on Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan by MAM College students, and a skit on Swachhta Abhiyan by NSS volunteers of GCW Parade. The program also featured the felicitation of division-level winners of the Independence Day celebrations.

Principals from GCW Gandhi Nagar, GDC Paloura, GDC R S Pura, and Govt. SPMR College of Commerce Jammu were present on the occasion.

Ramban Admin organises multi-sector activities on Day 6 of Sewa Parv

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, SEP 22: The District Administration Ramban marked the sixth day of the Sewa Parva campaign with a series of activities across the district amid overwhelming public participation.

The Rural Development Department and local municipalities carried out door-to-door campaigns on home composting and waste segregation, spreading practical knowledge on environment-friendly practices at the household level. A special Block-Level Market Cleanliness Drive was organized in Gool, Gundi Dharam and Khari also featuring Nukkad Natak to raise awareness on hygiene and behavior change at the community level.

Cleanliness activities were also conducted at SEC Mahoo and SEC Kanthi to educate locals about Sheep Husbandry Department schemes and their benefits. Meanwhile, 20 new enterprises were established under ISDS schemes at Gool to promote entrepreneurship and self-reliance among youth.

The Health Department organized a Specialized Health Camp at NTPHC Kaskoot and two additional camps at AAM SC Chachal and AAM SC Chaknarwah under the 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan.'

A Plantation Drive was held at Government Degree College (GDC) Ramban, which was inaugurated by Principal Prof. Satish Kumar.

Similarly, a Cleanliness and Plantation Drive was organized at Government Middle School Gujarnad Lamber, jointly by Social Forestry Range Banihal, Soil & Water Conservation Department and the school. The students, staff and officials removed plastic waste from the premises and planted saplings.

The Animal Husbandry Department held an awareness programme at Halla, informing the locals cattle breeders about the departmental schemes and welfare initiatives aimed at improving livestock health and productivity.

The Agriculture Department organized an awareness drive at Zone Batote, Village Sanasar, acquainting the local farmers with PM-KISAN, Kisan Credit Card (KCC), PM Fasal Bima Yojana, organic/natural farming, urban farming and kitchen gardening to encourage sustainable agriculture practices.

Sewa Parv, Angikaar campaign gain momentum across Pulwama

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, SEP 22: The sixth day of Sewa Parva celebrations in Pulwama district witnessed a diverse range of activities organised by different departments, combining themes of cleanliness, health, culture, education, and community service.

Rural Development Department (RDD) led special block-level cleanliness drives across the district, accompanied by nukkad natak (street plays) that highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in keeping public spaces clean.

Under the cultural theme of the campaign, wall painting drives were carried out at prominent public locations, depicting messages on sanitation, education, environment, and civic responsibility.

Similarly as part of Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan, women-focused health initiatives, special screening camps, maternal and child

health awareness sessions, and counselling programmes were organised at Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs by Health Department & Ayush department. A large number of citizens, particularly women and adolescents, availed preventive and curative health services provided by doctors and paramedical staff.

Alongside these initiatives, a consolidated series of awareness and outreach programmes were carried out across the district. Departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, KPDCL, and Finance educated people about their respective schemes and services, while free medicine distribution drives were also carried out simultaneously.

Finance department guided pensioners on services of the Pension Suvidha Portal, while ITI Pampore held a skill development camp, and Mission

YUVA registration and awareness drive at Aripal promoted women-led enterprises. Educational institutions also hosted awareness sessions for students on themes of civic responsibility, health, and environment.

To engage youth and promote healthy lifestyles, a series of sports and awareness events were conducted in various zones, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and the local community.

Meanwhile, as part of the Angikaar Campaign 2025, district administration in collaboration with Municipal Council Pulwama organised a mega outreach programme, PM Awas Mela (Shehri) at Town Hall Pulwama. Aimed at accelerating the implementation of PMAY-U 2.0, the event spread awareness about the scheme's objectives, eligibility, and benefits.

The highlight of the event was the 'Run for Housing', flagged-off by the ADC Pulwama from Clock Tower to Town Hall Pulwama.

Sewa Parv: DC B'pora highlights role of parents & society at painting competition

Over 150 students participate; spread awareness on drug abuse through art

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday presided over a painting competition on the theme 'Nasha Chhodo, Desh Jodo' held at Chittarnar as part of the ongoing Sewa Parva 2025 celebrations.

The painting competition was organised by the district administration and Police Bandipora to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage students to use art as a

medium for social change.

Over 150 students from schools and colleges across the district participated with enthusiasm, conveying powerful messages of unity, resilience, and a drug-free future through their paintings.

The programme also featured a skit by students of Girls Higher Secondary School Bandipora on responsible parenting, cultural performances by students, and a play by artists from the Cultural Unit Srinagar of DIPR, all underlining the collective role of parents

and society in tackling the menace of drugs.

Speaking on the occasion, DC appreciated the creativity of the participants and emphasized that eradicating drug abuse requires collective responsibility. She underlined the importance of responsible parenting and urged parents to maintain open, two-way communication with their children, encouraging them to share their daily experiences.

She also advised students to avoid excessive use of mobile phones, noting that healthy par-

ent-child interaction can be an effective tool in addressing challenges faced by youth.

A pledge ceremony under the theme 'Nasha Chhodo, Desh Jodo' was also held, reaffirming the district's commitment to a drug-free society. Winners of the competition were felicitated with prizes, while certificates were awarded to top performers at both school and college levels. All participants were commended for their meaningful contributions.

Earlier in the day, DC attended

the Swachhta Hi Seva programme organized by the Municipal Council Bandipora in collaboration with Lead Bank at Nishat Park. Addressing the gathering, she highlighted the importance of scientific waste management, segregation at source, and reducing plastic use by adopting eco-friendly alternatives.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, volunteers, and local residents, reflecting the true spirit of Swachhta Hi Seva and Gandhiji's vision of a clean and sustainable India.

Master Plan for Ramban, Banihal Towns: Civil Society briefed on objectives, salient features

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, SEP 22: The second round of interaction on the Master Plans for Ramban and Banihal towns was today held with civil society members and other stakeholders to deliberate on the draft plans and incorporate local concerns before submission for final approval.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan and attended by Chief Town Planner Jagdish Raj Hans; CPD Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Senior Town Planner Manoj Kumar; ACD Mohammad Ashfaq and other officers and prominent citizens.

The Chief Town Planner and Senior Town Planner briefed participants on the objectives, methodology and salient features of the draft Master Plans. They explained that both plans aim to make the towns vibrant, livable and future-ready by ratio-

nalizing land use, controlling haphazard growth, bridging infrastructure gaps and promoting sustainable, systematic urban development.

Participants raised several issues related to land suitability, drainage flood control and development of public utilities. Responding to the queries, the Town Planning officers clarified various provisions of the plans and assured that the feedback would be duly considered in the final drafts.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to specifically address the provision of drainage systems in both Ramban and Banihal towns. He also instructed that the Parnote land subsidence area and the impact of the upcoming Sawalkote Hydro Power Project on low-lying areas identified under the Ramban Master Plan must be carefully factored into planning proposals.



The Draft Master Plan Ramban covers an area of 34.44 sq. km, envisaging planned development including seven villages — Pernote, Seri, Maitra, Govindpura, Tatarsoo, Chanderkot, Karol and Neera. The plan projects the town's population to grow from 17,461 (2011 Census) to 49,969 by 2035 and proposes rationalized land use, transport planning, riverfront development, an industrial area in Neera, sewage treatment facilities and other infrastructure improvements.

Similarly, the Draft Master Plan Banihal spans 19.72 sq. km, covering additional eight villages — Bankote, Charell Lamber (Deshipora), Deogal, Gund Adalkoot, Karawa, Kaskoot, Nagam and Zanzhal. It anticipates a population increase from 21,156 (2011 Census) to 36,000 by 2035 and proposes systematic expansion along NH-44 and the railway corridor, development of bus

stands, waste management systems, green belts, agro-industrial hubs, health and education facilities and improved public amenities to meet future needs.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the NHAI and BRO to provide the layout plan of their roads and bridges falling within the identified areas. The Tehsildars of Ramban and Banihal were directed to provide the cadastral maps of their respective tehsils to the concerned.

The DC further instructed the Town Planning Organisation to consider all genuine suggestions submitted by the public. Appreciating the active participation of citizens, the Deputy Commissioner urged them to continue extending constructive feedback so that the final Master Plans truly reflect local aspirations and lay the foundation for sustainable growth and a better quality of life in both towns.



Javid Dar inaugurates newly constructed building of BPS Delina

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, SEP 22: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar inaugurated the newly constructed building of Baramulla Public School (BPS), Delina here today.

MLA Baramulla Javaid Ahmed

Beigh; MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Pattan Javid Riyaz Bedar; MLA Wagoora-Kreeri Irfan Hafiz Lone; DIG North Kashmir and other senior officers of district administration Baramulla were also present on the inaugural ceremony.

The Minister, who was Chief Guest on the occasion, in his address underlined the importance of moral education, stating that it forms

the foundation of all fields of learning. He urged that moral values should be given equal importance alongside modern education to create well-rounded individuals and responsible citizens.

Javid Dar praised the remarkable achievements of BPS students in academics and extracurricular activities. Highlighting the need for a balanced approach to development, he said, "Economy and ecology,

humanity and technology must move forward together to build a sustainable and better future".

The Chairman, BPS, in his address highlighted the institution's achievements and its mission to provide holistic education.

During the grand inaugural ceremony, a vibrant cultural programme was also performed by the students which left the audience spellbound.

Reasi observes 6th Day of Sewa Parv with multiple community welfare initiatives

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, SEP 22: The sixth day of Sewa Parv 2025 was observed across Reasi district with a host of impactful activities organised under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, focusing on community welfare, awareness generation, civic responsibility, and grassroots empowerment.

The Child Helpline, under the aegis of the Social Welfare Department, conducted an awareness programme at Government Girls Middle School, Seela. Students were sensitized on Child Rights, the 1098 Child Helpline, and the menace of Child Labour. One child, identified as being irregular in attendance and engaged in labour work, was counselled individually, while a collective session encouraged all students to prioritise education and regular school attendance.

As part of the Poshan Abhiyan, SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women in collaboration with the One Stop Centre Reasi organised a Nutrition and Awareness Session at AWC Mari Gowas. Women, adolescent girls, and Anganwadi workers were educated on the importance of balanced diets, healthy cooking practices, and preventive healthcare to reduce malnutrition and improve family well-being.

The Municipal Council Reasi undertook a series of civic initiatives including a plantation drive at Bhimgarh Fort, a sanitation drive at Bus Stand Reasi, and a PM Awas Mela-Shehri in collaboration with the Revenue Department and banks. During the mela, beneficiaries were sensitized about the PMAY 2.0 scheme and keys to newly sanctioned houses were handed over to eligible families. The Council also spread awareness about PM SVANidhi and carried out enforcement drives against single-use plastics, reinforcing the message of eco-responsibility.

The Employment Department set up Yuva Help Desks at Reasi, Dharmari, Mahore, and Katra, where over 40 grievances of Mission YUVA applicants were redressed on the spot. These help desks served as a platform for counselling, guidance, and direct support to unemployed youth.

Similarly, the Labour Department organised an awareness-cum-registration camp at Ransoo, attended by nearly 100 participants. Workers were informed about key Labour Laws, rights, and JKBOWWB welfare schemes. On-the-spot services included registrations, renewals, and issuance of 83 Employment Certificates with technical support from CSC operators.

At the same time, the Rural Development Department launched special market cleanliness drives across all blocks, reinforcing hygiene and sanitation practices in busy marketplaces, thereby fostering a culture of cleanliness and public responsibility.

The day-long activities, conducted by multiple departments and agencies, showcased a strong model of convergence and collaborative governance. Each initiative addressed specific community needs—be it education, nutrition, housing, health, employment, sanitation, or environmental protection—thus reflecting the true essence of Sewa Parv.

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik lauded the efforts of participating departments and emphasised that such initiatives not only provide direct relief and awareness but also deepen the bond between administration and citizens, making governance more inclusive and participatory.

As the district moves forward with Sewa Parv 2025, Reasi continues to set an example of community-driven development, people's participation, and service-oriented governance.

Sewa Parv 2025: Day 6 witnesses district-wide cleanliness, plantation & welfare drives in Kathua

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, SEP 22: Continuing the spirit of service under Sewa Parv 2025, a host of activities focusing on cleanliness, greenery, welfare and awareness were today organised across Kathua district.

At Municipal Council Kathua, a Lok Kalyan Mela and PM Awas Mela Shehri was held with Additional District Development Commissioner Surinder Mohan Sharma as Chief Guest. He urged street vendors to avail benefits under the restructured PM SVANidhi Scheme, while felicitating two beneficiaries who completed their houses during Sewa Parv. A Swachhta Pledge and Nukkad Natak were also held to spread awareness on government schemes.

In Bani, Forest Range Bani in collaboration with Forest Protection Force and other departments conducted a large-scale Swachhta and Awareness Drive with over 250 participants. The Social Forestry Division organised plantation drives at Government Schools Bani and Kagore (Basohli), while similar activities were held by MC Hiranagar.

Cleanliness drives were carried out at Narsingh Dev Mandir Ghagwal, Horticulture Office Bani, Main Market Billawar and other locations. NSS Unit of GLDM GDC Hiranagar extended relief to flood-affected families at Village Chakra besides conducting a cleanliness drive.

The Sheep Husbandry Department held Deworming Camps in Mahanpur, while ITIs at Basohli and Bani organised Skill Demo Day and awareness on PM Vishwakarma Scheme. MC Billawar hosted a Wall Painting Competition and provided prosthetic aid to elderly persons, along with a PM SVANidhi Camp.

MC Parole organised a Swachhta Pledge during Lok Kalyan Mela with participation of Tehsildar Parole, citizens and PMAY beneficiaries. Forest Range Ramkot conducted a Cleanliness and Polythene-Free Drive at Tedi Mata, Rajwalta with local participation.

GDC Kastigarh celebrates Sewa Parv with plantation drive, program on Gandhian values

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 22: Government Degree College (GDC) Kastigarh today organised a meaningful and multidimensional programme blending environmental action with Gandhian values as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 celebrations.

The day began with an eco-friendly plantation drive across the college campus. Students and faculty members enthusiastically planted saplings of native and environment-friendly species, aiming to enhance greenery, improve air quality, and instill a long-term sense of ecological stewardship. The drive reflected the vision of Sewa Parv to link service with sustainability and promote collective responsibility towards nature.

Following the plantation activity, the college community participated in the screening of the

classic film "Gandhi", which portrays Mahatma Gandhi's lifelong dedication to truth, non-violence, simplicity, and moral courage. The movie provided an engaging medium for students to connect with Gandhian philosophy and sparked meaningful reflection on its continuing relevance in the modern world.

In the interactive discussion that followed, students shared their thoughts on how Gandhian principles could be applied in contemporary society—from practicing honesty and non-violence in daily life to advocating for environmental justice, social equality, and ethical governance. Faculty members encouraged the youth to see seva (selfless service) not just as a one-time act, but as a guiding principle for responsible citizenship.

The initiative provided a platform for holistic learning by combining practical environmen-



tal action with value-based moral education. It also highlighted the crucial role of youth in leading community-driven change, nurturing peace and empathy, and carrying forward the legacy of service and sustainability envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof. Kulbhushan Manhas appreciated the active participation of both students and faculty. He underscored the importance of integrating academic knowledge with cultural values and social responsibility, stating that such programmes help in building conscientious, compassionate, and future-ready citizens.

The event concluded with a collective pledge by participants to uphold Gandhian ideals, protect the environment, and contribute meaningfully to society, thereby embodying the spirit of Sewa Parv.

ITI Doda hosts Skill Exhibition to mark Skill Demo Day

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, SEP 22: Government ITI Doda today celebrated "Skill Demo Day" by organizing "Skill Exhibition" showcasing the works of Trainees prepared during practical training in different trades & importance of Skill Training Schemes.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ashraf Parvez was the Chief Guest at the event organised under the directions

and guidance of Administrative Department Skill Development Department under the aegis of Seva Pakhwada. Assistant Director Employment Rafiq Ahmed Jaral was the guest of honour. The Superintendent of the Institute Er Naresh Singh welcomed the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour and accompanied them during the inspection of the stalls of different trades showcasing the Jobs prepared by the trainees during practical work.

Later, the Superintendent gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Skill Training Schemes run by ITI Doda including Trades of One Year/Two Year durations, besides short-term skill courses under PMKVY, PM Vishwakarma Surya Ghar, SANKALP etc.

The Chief Guest, in his address, appreciated the performance of the institution in imparting quality training to youth in different trades with a special focus on practical training.

DC Kupwara inspects macadamization work on Lolab parallel bypass

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, SEP 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, today conducted a detailed inspection of the ongoing macadamization work on the Lolab parallel bypass, a vital infrastructure project designed to improve road connectivity and ease traffic congestion in the region.

During the visit, the DC reviewed the progress of construction, emphasizing the need for high-quality execution, timely completion, and strict adherence to safety protocols. He interacted with contractors, site engineers, and supervisory staff, instructing them to expedite the work without compromising on construction



standards.

The DC also inspected the quality of materials and machinery being used on site, underscoring the importance of deploying top-grade aggregates, binders, and modern equipment to ensure durability and long-term sustainability of the road. He reiterated that quality checks must be carried out at every stage of construction to prevent future maintenance issues and ensure commuter safety.

Highlighting the significance of the project, DC Suse stated, "The Lolab parallel bypass is not just a road; it is a lifeline for residents, traders, and commuters in the region. Efficient completion will significantly reduce travel time, improve trade con-

nectivity, and enhance socio-economic development in Kupwara district."

He directed the concerned authorities to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe and ensure that the road conforms to all technical, environmental, and safety standards. The DC also requested periodic updates on progress to maintain transparency and accountability.

The inspection reflects the administration's commitment to infrastructure development, regional connectivity, and citizen-centric governance, while reinforcing the focus on timely and quality-driven implementation of government projects in Kupwara.

Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan empowers tribal communities in Bandipora

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 22: To empower communities through grassroots leadership, responsive governance, and last-mile service delivery, district administration Bandipora is implementing the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan (AKA) across 31 tribal villages of the district. The programme is emerging as a transformative step towards strengthening governance in tribal-dominated areas of the district.

Under the initiative, more than 1,350 Aadi Karmayogis are being mobilized across six blocks including Gurez, Tulail, Bagtore, Bandipora, and Bonakoot, covering nearly 50,000 tribal citizens. The campaign is designed to create platforms for participatory planning, community-driven development, and enhanced access to government services.

Various departments including Tribal Welfare, Health, Jal Shakti, Education, Women & Child Development, Forest, and Rural Development are actively engaged in the programme. The first phase, from July 10 to November 15, 2025, focuses on capacity building, community engagement, and development planning.

District administration reiterated that the initiative is expected to ensure saturation of government schemes, promote responsive governance, and nurture local leadership in tribal areas. By institutionalizing grassroots participation, the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan is set to bring about long-term social and economic transformation in Bandipora's tribal communities.

HT EDITORIAL

Complete macadamization works before onset of winter

The summer season has almost come to its conclusion in the Kashmir valley and both the day as well as night temperatures have witnessed a dip over the past one week or so. In such a situation it is not possible to carry out the development works especially macadamization of the roads, lanes and by-lanes across the valley. As a result of this many areas of the valley are not going to receive this dose of development.

Once Omar Abdullah assumed charge in October last year the people were hoping that there would be an all round development of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Although there has been some development in some pockets of the union territory the overall picture is not so rosy. It is important that the concerned officers and officials pull up their socks and take steps for development of the areas across the length and breadth of Jammu & Kashmir.

At the same time the concerned minister should make the officers work so that there is development and there should not be any compromise in this regard. Since the winter season is round the corner in Kashmir valley it is important that extra efforts are taken to macadamize the roads. As far as the Jammu division is concerned macadamization can be done in the coming months as the winter in that division arrives late and is limited to a month or so.

As far as the night temperature is concerned it is still favourable for the laying of macadam but the same should not be delayed beyond October 15. In the past it has been observed that macadam was laid in the months of November and even December but the quality and longevity of such macadam was not up to the mark. This needs to be kept in mind by the people at helm and they should ensure that the macadam is laid by the middle of next month.

Given this fact roughly three weeks are available for the concerned department to lay macadam on roads that have been earmarked for the purpose. It is imperative that macadam works are completed on time in areas otherwise the people would get a feeling that many a slip between cup and the lip. The legislators should also play a proactive role in this regard and they should make the officers as well as officials to work in this regard and that too seriously.

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Kashmir's Fading Values: A Call to the Youth



■ Uzma Saleem Khan

Kashmir — the land of mountains that whisper stories and rivers that hum lullabies. For centuries, this paradise has been more than its breathtaking scenery; it has been a home to traditions, respect, and faith. But today, beneath its calm lakes and blooming gardens, something far more fragile is at risk — the values that once defined us.

The Quiet Erosion of Identity

Kashmir has always been celebrated not only for its beauty but also for its rich cultural soul. Our language, customs, and crafts were once the pride of every home. Elders passed down wisdom through folktales, children learned humility through tradition, and artisans carved the spirit of our land into their work.

Now, modern lifestyles, global trends, and the lure of social media have begun to overshadow this heritage. Kashmiri is spoken less in homes, traditional attire appears only on special occasions, and centuries-old crafts struggle against factory-made imitations. Even the values of hospitality, modesty, and mutual respect — the very pillars of our community — are weakening.

The Changing Face of Youth

Among young women, modesty (hayaa) and

grace (waqar), once seen as strengths, are often dismissed as outdated. Trends that blur the lines set by faith are embraced as “confidence” or “modern thinking.” At the same time, the quiet erosion of sisterhood is visible, as girls increasingly mock one another instead of supporting each other.

Young men, too, are not untouched. Words meant to uplift are instead used to objectify. Casual remarks reduce women to objects, forgetting the Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) guidance: “The best of you are the best to their women.” (Tirmidhi). Respect and dignity, once the measure of a man's character, are being replaced by careless behavior.

Technology and the Digital Rush

Technology, though a blessing, has also become a silent thief of our values. The phone that connects us to the world is disconnecting us from our families. Children who once sat around elders to hear folk stories now scroll endlessly through screens. Even gatherings that once echoed with poetry and songs of our land are replaced by the glow of reels and trends.

In chasing likes, we are losing love. In seeking attention online, we forget the attention due to those sitting beside us. The danger is not technology itself but our dependence on it — letting virtual applause matter more than real respect.

Erosion of Family Bonds

Family has always been the backbone of Kashmiri society. Once, elders guided with wisdom, youth obeyed with respect, and decisions were taken with unity. Joint families were not just a system but a shield — protecting dignity, sharing burdens, and passing down values.

Today, many families sit together at the same table but remain worlds apart — each lost in a glowing screen. Respect for parents is increasingly

challenged, and the warmth of extended families is giving way to the coldness of isolation. If family ties weaken, the entire foundation of Kashmiri society will tremble.

A Way Back Through Faith and Culture

This decline is not irreversible. Islam itself provides the framework to restore dignity. The Quran reminds us:

“The believing men and believing women are allies of one another. They enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong...” (Surah At-Tawbah 9:71)

This is a call to stand together — not to criticize but to guide, not to compete but to uplift. Families can revive traditions by telling folktales, celebrating festivals authentically, and speaking Kashmiri at home. Schools can highlight local history and crafts. Youth themselves can take pride in choosing modesty, supporting artisans, and respecting one another as brothers and sisters in faith.

Redefining Freedom

True freedom is not in chasing applause or imitating the West. It is in living with dignity, peace of mind, and harmony with Allah's guidance. Real progress lies in combining education with values, modern opportunities with cultural pride, and global awareness with spiritual grounding.

Conclusion

Kashmir's snow-capped peaks may remain eternal, but our moral foundation is not guaranteed. If we allow this erosion to continue, paradise will lose its soul. Yet, if the youth rise with faith, respect, and responsibility, Kashmir can remain not only a land of beauty but also a land of honor.

If we lose our culture, we lose ourselves — and no paradise is worth living in without its soul.

Drug Free Jammu And Kashmir

Drug Addiction: A Growing Concern Among Youth



■ Kamran Tantray

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

The Situation in Jammu and Kashmir

In Jammu and Kashmir, the problem has taken an alarming turn. The younger generation, whose energy should be invested in education, sports, careers, and cultural growth, is being diverted toward drugs. Behind this lie several factors - academic pressure, parental expectations, peer competition, unemployment, and sometimes strained family relationships.

Many students, when unable to meet the

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

The reasons are many

- **Peer Pressure** – Youngsters are influenced by friends to “try just once.”
- **Academic & Career Stress** – Intense pressure to secure top marks or professional courses.
- **Unemployment** – Lack of opportunities leading to hopelessness.
- **Mental Health Issues** – Depression, loneliness, and anxiety driving youth toward harmful escapes.
- **Easy Availability** – Ready access to drugs in society worsening the crisis.

The Way Forward

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

Educational institutions too must share responsibility—not only by imparting knowledge but also by nurturing mental well-being. Regu-

lar counseling, awareness campaigns, and motivational programs should be a part of school and college life.

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

Community support is equally crucial. Religious leaders, social workers, and local organizations should organize awareness drives, cultural programs, and sports events to channelize youth energy positively. Skill-building, arts, music, and sports can offer healthier alternatives to destructive habits.

The Future of J&K's Youth

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

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

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A Natural disaster has hit Kalaban Mendhar

The Scene is so heart wrenching that even Strong men break down in tears



■ By M S Nazki

When do natural disasters strike? When do the people receive any news? When do inhabited settlements turn into deserts? When does anyone get any warning? Even a village can be wiped off the face of the earth. It's beyond any human being's power to discover the unexpected while living there.

Something similar occurred at Khetan Gali, Panchayat Faizabad, another picturesque village in Kalaban, Mendhar tehsil of Poonch district. The rains in Kalaban started as usual, causing the green terrain to start sliding from Khetan Gali downhill, taking a very distressing turn. Two neighborhoods were affected, home to around a hundred people.

In the destructive sliding and shaking, residents' houses and land became unusable. The land was buried under debris. Houses were destroyed, submerged, leaving people homeless, forcing them to live in tents in the neighborhoods. People lay on makeshift beds of cloth and tree leaves, counting stars at night. Students' school uniforms were caked with mud, and their books were similarly affected. The scene is so heart-wrenching that even strong men break down in tears.

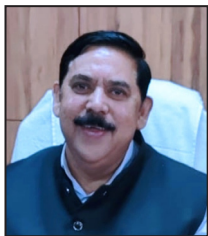


Dilkhara vividly describes the heart-wrenching scenes where women from the village witness the landslide in their homeland and break down in tears. Children are so traumatized by seeing their cherished village destroyed that they faint and collapse. The elderly villagers, grappling with the devastation, are overcome with emotion as they survey the damage around them, leading to uncontrollable sobbing.

Weeks have passed since the landslide, yet the terrain continues to slide and shift, causing ongoing concern. There's palpable tension as the situation remains precarious. If the landslide doesn't subside, areas like Hayatwali, Halwali, Akhtar, and Takiya could face catastrophic destruction.

The affected communities are receiving support from multiple quarters, including the Jammu and Kashmir Police, NDRF, SDRF, Forest Teams, Geological Experts, and the Indian Army. Government and non-government teams have pledged their utmost efforts. The Indian Army, deployed in Gali Kalaban, has been instrumental in aiding disaster victims, distributing essentials like ration, tents, and lighting. The Jammu and Kashmir Police have also been extending support. Civil organizations and volunteers are contributing to relief efforts during this challenging period. While locals appreciate these welfare initiatives, there's a contrasting sentiment regarding photo opportunities with political leaders, with some feeling that certain individuals are exploiting the situation, potentially overshadowing genuine relief work.

The Ancient Wisdom of Navratri: Fasting, Diet, and Spiritual Practice for a Modern Life



■ Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

Beginning on September 22, Navratri is a period when the entire Bharat goes spiritual for nine consecutive days. The atmosphere is charged with piety—puja pandals bloom in localities, and the skies reverberate with the sweet rendition of bhajans and devotional songs. But there's more to it than the boisterous festivity; there's an integral system of wholistic health based on centuries-old Indian philosophy. The disciplines of fasting, restricted food intake, and meditation aren't rituals; they actually work quite well with current wellness concepts, offering a solid, cohesive system for rejuvenating body, mind, and spirit. What distinguishes this early festival is the way it interweaves physical self-control with religious devotion, producing a profound impact that transcends mere religiosity.

Frolicking around the core of Navratri is the ritual of Vrat, or fasting. While usually regarded as a type of atonement, this practice is an extremely efficient method of purifying the body. This is called intermittent fasting in modern science, something that has been extensively studied for its health benefits. When we fast, our body goes into metabolic rest, which activates an important process known as autophagy. This is basically the body's process of tidying up—it disassembles and recycles faulty cells and proteins, which is very important for anti-aging and preventing chronic disease. This profound cellular purging is a critical reboot that Navratri really maximizes.

The fact that Navratri occurs during the shift from monsoon to fall isn't by coincidence, either. It

happens right as the monsoon is ending and autumn is beginning, a period Ayurveda calls Sharad Ritu, which treats the body's sensibility about change. In Ayurvedic philosophy, the sticky monsoon weather tends to cause toxin retention and worsen the Pitta dosha, resulting in digestive woes. Fasting gives our digestive systems the respite they need, cleansing the body of toxins and putting the body in position to fight the cold months with vigor and immunity. Additionally, fasting has a direct effect on hormonal balance; fasting can increase insulin sensitivity, an essential component of regulating blood sugar and stopping the onset of type 2 diabetes. It also increases the production of human growth hormone, which is responsible for fat burning and muscle preservation—seriously good for metabolism.

The foods used for Navratri fasting are not randomly selected. They follow the concept of sattvic nourishing—light, pure, and energyproducing—excluding heavy grains, onions, and garlic falling under the tamasic or rajasic categories. Instead, emphasis goes to light, nutritious foods, easy on the digestion system. For instance, buckwheat (kuttu ka atta) and water chestnut (singhare ka atta) flours are gluten-free, fiberdense, and packed with essential minerals such as potassium and magnesium. Barnyard millet (sama ke chawal) is yet another staple ingredient that contains a low glycemic index, providing a gradual release of energy without elevating blood sugar levels. The focus on fruits, yogurt, milk, and certain vegetables provides a balanced supply of vitamins, probiotics, and antioxidants that fortify the body's natural defenses. The judiciously selected diet illustrates how ancient wisdom perfectly agrees with contemporary nutritional science, highlighting foods that complement instead of interfere with the body's cleansing mechanisms.

The religious aspects of Navratri, such as dhyana (meditation), japa

(chanting mantras), and devotional worship, are equally important and have scientific rationale. Meditation goes deep into the brain—research with neuroimaging has shown that consistent meditation can shrink the amygdala, which is the part of the brain responsible for fear, resulting in less anxiety and stress. Simultaneously, it can expand the hippocampus, the part of the brain important for memory and emotional regulation. This amazing phenomenon called neuroplasticity demonstrates that we are able to actively rewire our brains for more serenity and happiness. The rhythmic nature of chanting and prayer also serve to reduce cortisol, the stress hormone. Through these practices, Navratri offers a great method of cleansing the mind of daily worries, inducing emotional balance and mental clarity.

The key to Navratri lies in the combination of these physical and spiritual practices. The self-controlled fasting cleanses the body, rendering it an open channel for spiritual forces. The light, sattvic diet keeps the mind clear and bright, preventing the heaviness of overeating. The spiritual disciplines—meditation, prayer, and devotion—quieten the mind and harden our will, allowing us to adhere more easily to the fasting plan. Worshipping the nine avatars of the goddess is not merely a matter of outward devotion; it represents cultivating our inner strength, courage, and resilience to face challenges. Navratri becomes a strong reminder that real well-being is not a patchwork but an unbroken fusion of physical health and spiritual growth. Navratri presents an ancient master plan for living in the modern era, demonstrating that age-old knowledge and scientific inquiry hand in hand.

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The stigma of the Sahitya Akademi



■ Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

The allegations of sexual harassment against the Sahitya Akademi are not just the failure of one individual, but a test of the entire literary community. The court has acknowledged the abuse of power and the attempt to suppress the complainant. Yet, the accused remains in his position as Secretary. This silence is unacceptable. Until he is removed, writers must cease cooperation with the Akademi. Literature will remain true only if it stands fearlessly against injustice and oppression. Silence is a crime, and zero tolerance is the only policy.

The Sahitya Akademi has long been considered India's most prestigious literary institution. It is not only a government body but also a symbol of diverse languages and literary traditions. When a top official of this institution faces serious sexual harassment charges and a court establishes that he abused his position, it is not just a personal moral failure but a stain on the entire literary community.

The Delhi High Court has clearly stated that the Academy's Secretary is an employer under the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment Act and that the complainant's dismissal was a retaliatory act. The court ordered his reinstatement and also held that the Academy obstructed the fair process of investigation. This observation points not to a simple administrative lapse but to the use of power within the institution for repression rather than for the upholding of justice.

The victim's allegations were

not trivial. She described experiences of unwanted touching, lewd comments, and persistent sexual pressure. This was not a single incident but a continuous process. Many within the institution were aware of this environment yet remained silent. This silence emboldens the harasser and further isolates the victim.

The true power of literature lies in its morality. If writers write about injustices in society but remain silent on injustices within their own homes, literature loses credibility. As long as the accused secretary remains in his position, participating in any Academy event would be tantamount to sharing in the stigma. Accepting awards, reciting poems, or attending seminars would be tantamount to admitting that we can ignore oppression.

What's needed now is zero tolerance. Crimes like sexual harassment and caste-based oppression are non-negotiable. When a top official of an institution is accused and yet remains in office, it sends the message that the institution is willing to cover up the crime. This not only discourages the victim but also makes other women afraid to file complaints. This environment is detrimental to the entire literary community.

Even more worrying is that some publishers continue to provide platforms for such individuals. They are being presented as prominent writers and honored at festivals and fairs. This trend is not merely a matter of sales and profit, but rather a social sanctioning of a culture of harassment. Therefore, it is the responsibility of writers and readers to question such publishers. Literary dignity should be reflected not only in words but also in conduct.

This is a time of litmus test for the writers' community. Will we remain silent and cover up injustice in the name of protecting the institution, or will we stand up for justice and dignity? The Academy's reputation isn't determined by its buildings and awards, but by its transparency and ethical conduct. If this is lost, all awards and ceremonies will become mere empty rituals.

Writers must now take a clear stand. As long as the accused remains in office, they should not participate in any Academy events. This boycott will not be merely a symbolic step but will send a clear message to society that literature cannot compromise with injustice.

We must chart the path forward together. Institutional reforms are essential; complaints committees must be made independent and their proceedings made public. Writers and readers must launch a moral boycott movement. Publishers must be held accountable and the entire cultural landscape must be sensitized. This is not just a matter for the academy, but for society as a whole.

This crisis reminds us that position and power do not make anyone above the law and morality. If the accused remains in his position, it is an insult not only to the victim but to the entire literary community. Writers, poets, critics, and readers must now unite and say that we cannot stand by injustice. Literature will only demonstrate its true power when it questions power and stands fearlessly against exploitation.

If we fail this test, future generations will remember us as a timid and silent society. But if we stand up courageously, literature can become not only a guardian of words but also of justice and dignity. This is the true identity of literature and this is our collective responsibility.

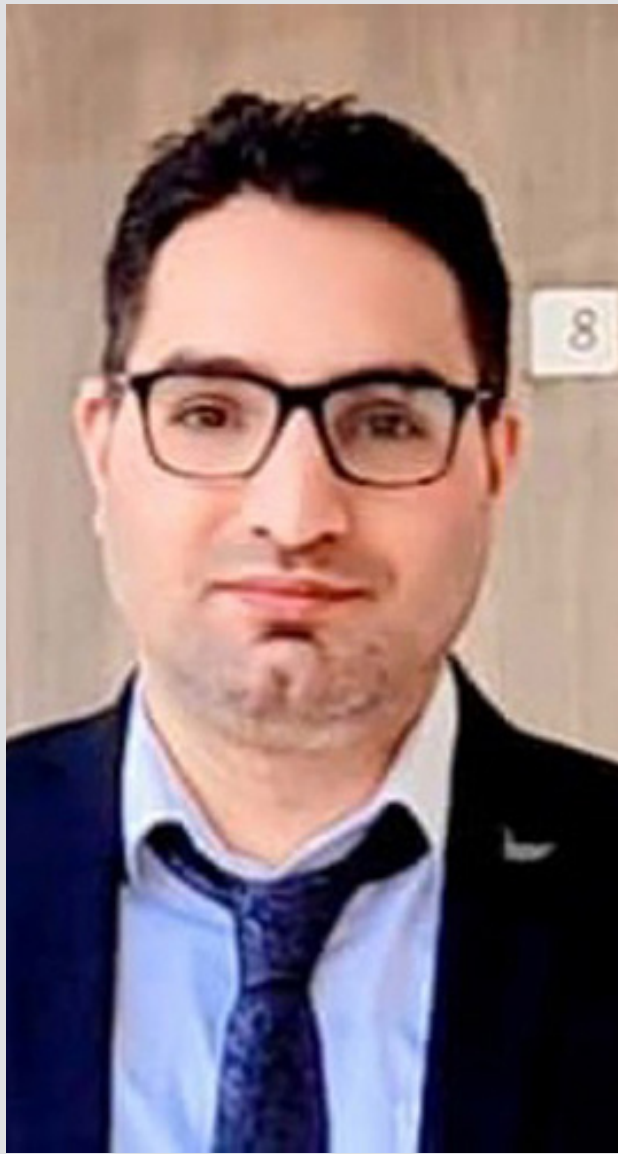
The author is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045

Dr. Itoo to Compile His Maiden Book on Public Health Awareness and Education

Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a distinguished doctor, public health expert, medical writer, and researcher, is set to compile his maiden book on Public Health Awareness and Education.

In a statement issued today Dr Itoo said that the book shall put focus on health education to empower individuals to make informed lifestyle choices, reduce the burden of chronic lifestyle diseases, and address emerging global health challenges.

"While covering a wide range of health issues—including nutrition, preventive medicine, diabetes, and mental health—the book is positioned as a resource for both healthcare



professionals and the general public," he said. "The book is envisioned to inspire healthcare professionals, policymakers, students, and communities to integrate public health awareness into everyday practice," he added.

Pertinently, Dr. Itoo is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH, UK) and the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium). He is also a member of several prestigious global medical societies, including the Endocrine Society (USA), the American College of Physicians (USA), and the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI). His contributions have been widely recognized across international medical platforms, and this upcoming book reflects his deep commitment to advancing health education and awareness among masses.

The Science To Be A Centenarian



■ **Surinderpal Singh**

The ambition to live long or longevity has always fascinated the human mind for centuries. While the genetics play an important and undeniable role in determining lifespan still the scientific research increasingly highlights the profound impact of lifestyle, environment and psychological well-being on healthy aging. Today many communities around the world exemplify how specific lifestyle practices can contribute to reaching and often surpassing the age of 100. Living for a century is no longer a distant dream but a realistic goal, provided one adopts deliberate and evidence-based choices.

Major Lifestyle Changes For Longevity

1. Balanced Nutrition Plant-Centered Diet:

The scientific studies has consistently demonstrated that diets rich in vegetables, fruits, legumes, whole grains and nuts lower the risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular ailments, diabetes and cancer.

Caloric Moderation:

Strict and controlled caloric intake without malnutrition reduces metabolic stress and extends lifespan in animal models.

Healthy Fats and Proteins:

The scientific research and studies has proved that omega-3 fatty acids from fish and plant-based proteins enhances the cardiovascular and cognitive health which are vital for long life.

2. Physical Activity

Consistency over Intensity:

Longevity is linked not with extreme exercise

but with consistent, moderate physical activity such as walking, gardening or cycling.

Muscle Strength and Flexibility:

It is very important to maintain muscular health which are essential for preventing frailty, reduces falls and enhances independence in late life.

3. Sleep and Circadian Rhythm

Adequate Sleep:

Good quality and sound sleep of 7-8 hours per night supports the immune function, brain health and hormonal balance.

Natural Light Exposure:

Aligning activities with natural day-night cycles could improve the circadian health and lowers age-related disorders.

4. Avoidance of Harmful Substances

No Tobacco:

Smoking remains the most significant preventable cause of early mortality.

Moderate Alcohol:

Research across the globe suggests that if alcohol is consumed, moderation is key, ideally in the form of antioxidant-rich red wine though abstinence remains the safest choice.

Minor Lifestyle Adjustments For Longevity

1. Hydration:

Adequate water intake maintains cellular function and supports detoxification which is highly essential to sustain longevity.

2. Social Engagement:

Strong community bonds plays an important role in reducing the stress and enhances resilience, a finding consistent across blue zones where centenarians thrive.

3. Intellectual Stimulation:

Lifelong learning and engagement in mentally challenging activities protect against cognitive decline.

4. Routine Health Monitoring:

Preventive screenings and early intervention help manage age-related diseases effectively.

The Role Of Meditation In Longevity

Meditation is increasingly recognized as

more than a spiritual practice; it is a scientifically validated tool for enhancing physical and psychological health.

1. Stress Reduction and Hormonal Balance

Chronic stress accelerates the process of biological aging through elevated cortisol levels and inflammatory processes. Meditation reduces the stress, promotes parasympathetic activation and lowers systemic inflammation.

2. Epigenetic Effects

Recent studies suggest that meditation can positively influence gene expression, slowing down processes linked with aging. Telomere length, a biomarker of cellular longevity has been shown to be preserved in long-term meditators.

3. Cognitive Preservation

Meditation enhances the attention, memory and emotional regulation, which are critical for maintaining quality of life in advanced age.

4. Mind-Body Harmony

By cultivating mindfulness and emotional stability, meditation reduces the risk of lifestyle-related diseases driven by unhealthy coping mechanisms such as overeating or substance abuse.

The aspiration to live for a century is neither purely genetic nor purely environmental; it is an art that blends science, lifestyle and inner balance. Major changes such as adopting a plant-based diet, engaging in regular physical activity and avoiding harmful habits forms the cornerstone of longevity. Minor adjustments which may include adequate hydration, social connection and intellectual stimulation, further refine this pursuit. Above all, meditation emerges as a profound practice that not only enhances mental well-being but also exerts measurable biological effects conducive to long life.

Thus, longevity is not merely about adding years to life, but life to years. By integrating scientific principles with mindful living, one can truly master the art to be a centenarian with vitality and purpose.

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

Paras Hospital Puts Seniors First: Priority Care for Elders and Physically Challenged

■ **HT News Desk**

SRINAGAR, SEP 22: Paras Hospital has taken a major step to make healthcare easier and more respectful for senior citizens and physically challenged persons. The hospital now offers priority access to doctors, faster tests, and personalized support, ensuring that those who built our society receive the care they deserve without long waits or hassle.

The Director of Paras Hospital said, "Our seniors have dedicated their lives to building our society. They should not face long waits or challenges when accessing healthcare. At Paras, we are committed to giving them priority in consultations, tests, and all medical services."

Several senior citizens were present



at the event and expressed their appreciation. One participant said, "It feels reassuring to be treated with respect

and care. Paras Hospital has made us feel valued and important." The initiative includes:

Priority appointments with doctors
Faster access to diagnostic tests
Reduced waiting time in hospital queues

Personalized support from hospital staff

Paras Hospital also plans to introduce:

A dedicated helpdesk for seniors
Special OPD days exclusively for elderly patients

Counseling and wellness programs tailored for senior citizens

Guidance and support for home care services

The hospital emphasized that caring for elders is not charity but responsibility. With these measures, Paras Hospital ensures every visit by a senior or physically challenged person is smooth, dignified, and stress-free.

HEADLINES TODAY INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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Dr Basharat Khan

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Sections (HT) at

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DC Kupwara Flags Off Beneficiaries for Exposure-Cum-Training Visit to Sheep Breeding Farm Poshnar

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 22: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse (IAS), today flagged off a group of beneficiaries from DC Office Complex Kupwara for an exposure-cum-training visit to the Government Sheep Breeding Farm, Poshnar, Rajwar Kupwara organized by the Department of Sheep Husbandry under the SEWA PARV initiative.

During the interaction, DC appreciated the department's efforts in empowering local breeders and assured beneficiaries of full support in adopting modern methods of sheep rearing. He emphasized that livestock holds immense potential for livelihood generation and income enhancement, particularly in rural areas.

On the occasion, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Dr Ishrat informed that the exposure programme is aimed at equipping the beneficiaries with hands-on training and practical demonstrations on scientific sheep



rearing, flock management, breeding practices, and animal health care. He said that such initiatives will help farmers adopt improved management practices, raise productivity, and ensure better animal welfare.

Technical experts from the department will also conduct interactive sessions at the farm, enabling beneficiaries to gain first-hand knowledge of modern techniques that ensure higher returns and sustainable

growth in sheep husbandry. The visit will also showcase innovative practices that can be replicated at the grassroots level for better outcomes.

This initiative forms part of the department's continued commitment to uplift the socio-economic condition of sheep rearers in the district and to promote self-reliance through livestock-based entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to the strengthening of the rural economy in 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 , R/O TILAGAM PATTAN

Public Notice

I have lost my daughters school discharge certificate at somewhere bearing admission no 1284 Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of GOVT BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BAGHI DED MARI SRINAGAR within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.... RIYAZ AHMAD RATHER
F/O AYAT RIYAZ
R/O ..SHUNGLIPORA , CLASS ...3RD

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

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

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

90 Bn CRPF Holds Closing Ceremony for ‘Bharat Darshan Tour’ of Anantnag Students

■ Farooq Rather

ANANTNAG, SEP 22: The 90 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) organized a closing ceremony under its Civic Action Programme to mark the successful completion of the “Bharat Darshan Tour” (Vatan Ko Jaano) for 15 students and one teacher from Government Higher Secondary School, Dadoo, Bijbehara, District Anantnag.

As part of the 6-day educational and cultural exposure tour held from September 16 to 21, 2025, the students visited prominent historical and cultural sites in Mumbai, Maharashtra, gaining insights into India's rich heritage and diversity.

On their return, the students and accompanying teacher were given a warm welcome by Shri Kamendra Pratap Singh, Commandant 90 Bn CRPF, along with other senior officers. During the closing ceremony, the Commandant interacted with the students, enquired about their experiences during the tour, and encouraged them to work hard towards a bright and successful future.

Speaking on the occasion, officials highlighted that the aim of the tour was to provide young students from Jammu and Kashmir with an opportunity to witness the vast cultural, social, and historical diversity of India. The tour also served to promote national integration and instill a sense of pride and belonging among the youth.

The initiative was widely appreciated by the students and school authorities, who expressed their gratitude to the CRPF for organizing such an enriching and memorable experience.

GDC Qazigund Holds Debate on “Gandhiji and Modern Education” Ahead of Gandhi Jayanti

■ Farooq Rather

QAZIGUND, SEP 22: In the run-up to Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, the Debates and Seminar Committee, in collaboration with the Departments of Education and Sociology of Government Degree College (GDC) Qazigund, organized a debate competition on the theme “Gandhiji and Modern Education” on September 22, 2025.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Ishtiyaa Ahmad Shah, Convener of the Debates and Seminar Committee, who spoke on the relevance of Gandhian educational philosophy in the contemporary world and elaborated on the Basic Education Scheme envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi.

Dr. Basharat Nazir, Lecturer in Political Science, highlighted Gandhiji's political ideology, while Dr. Waheed Ahmad Shah, Lecturer in Education, emphasized the importance of craft-centered education as advocated by the Mahatma.

A number of students from various semesters participated in the debate, expressing their views on the enduring significance of Gandhian principles in modern education. The performances were evaluated by a panel of judges comprising faculty members, headed by the college Principal, Prof. Aufaq Ahmad Zargar.

Sanya Rashid (1st Semester) clinched the first position, followed by Uzma Mushtaq (1st Semester) in second place and Naveeda Rashid (3rd Semester) in third place. The winners were felicitated with prizes, while participation certificates were distributed among all participants.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from both students and faculty members, reflecting the continued relevance of Gandhian thought in academic discourse.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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

It is hereby noticed that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my school records, as Aadil Ashraf while her correct name is Aadil Ashraf Teli now i have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection at The University of kashmir/ Degree College Baramulla Within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: AADIL ASHRAF TELI
S/O MUHAMMAD ASHRAF TELI
REG NO 38622-SJ- 2024
R/O: BATAGUND MAWAR
TEHSIL QALAMABAD DIST KUPWARA

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Subject: Extension Notice No. 02

In view of no response, the Bid Submission end/ opening date (Online) of technical bids in respect of e-NIT No. 28 of 2025 dated: 14.08.2025 invited by this office under endorsement No. DOFK-GS0TNDR/19/2025/E-7745644/e-NIT-28 dated: 14.08.2025 with regard to “***Outsourcing of entry ticketing system of Eidgah Park Srinagar***” is hereby extended as per the details given below:-

1.	Bid Submission End date & time	04.10.2025	Up to 02:00 PM
2.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08.10.2025	At 02:00 PM

Other terms & conditions shall remain same as laid down in the concerned e-NIT.

No: DOFK-GS0TNDR/19/2025/E-7745644/e-NIT-28
Dated: 22/09/2025

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)

DIPK: 6474/25 | Dated: 22-09-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar HQ:-Kothibagh Srinagar Phone No.: 0194-2477207, email:- xen-wwdsgr@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh E-NIT. No. 16/WWD/Sgr/Civil of 2025-26 Dated 11.09.2025

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation e-tenders are invited from Registered/Approved and valid Civil Class of Contractors/Agencies/Firms registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the following works on ‘Percentage Basis in Two Cover System’:

S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Tender Doc. Fee (in Rs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C	Class of Contractor	Tender Call
1	Providing adequate water supply to Gousia Colony Lane No. 6 Rangpora and adjoining areas by way of providing & fixing of 50/40/25/20mm dia G.I pipeline	3.20	6400/-	300/-	CDF	15 Days	DEE	2nd Fresh for e-NIT 14.S.No. 1

Position of AAA:- Accorded

Position of Funds:- Available with Competent Authority

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in As per schedule of dates given below

Table (II)	
01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents
03	Bid Submission Start Date
04	Bid submission End Date
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)

No: WW/Sgr/CC/3364-74
Dated: 11.09.2025

Executive Engineer
Water Works Division Srinagar

DIPK: 6449/25 | Dated: 22-09-2025

DHH Kashmir organises one-day capacity building programme on Branding and Packaging under RAMP

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22: Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom (DHH), Kashmir organized one-day Capacity Building Programme on Branding and Packaging at the Conference Hall, Exhibition Ground here today.

The programme was held under the World Bank supported Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, being implemented by Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir.

The programme was inaugurated by Director, Handicrafts and Handloom (H&H), Kashmir

Mussarat Islam, in presence of Deputy Director Training, Mirza Shahid Ali, and other officers from the Resource Cell of the Directorate.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Director underscored the critical role of branding and packaging in enabling Kashmir's artisans and weavers to remain competitive in the present market scenario. He urged participants to focus on forming producer companies, which would be extended support under the RAMP programme, thereby enhancing collective strength and market outreach.

The training was conducted



ed by expert faculty from the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Sheikh Nowshen and Ajaz A. Mulla, who provided hands on guidance, case studies, and design approaches to strengthen product identity and market readiness.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 100 women artisans, particularly those engaged in GI, ODOP, and DEH products. Participants were introduced to evolving consumer preferences, branding tools, and value-added packaging techniques aimed at empowering grassroots craft

producers to access wider and premium markets.

This initiative is part of an ongoing series of capacity-building efforts under RAMP, designed to strengthen MSMEs and the artisan community of Kashmir by improving product positioning and market access.

The Directorate reaffirms its commitment to extend sustained support to artisan clusters, co-operatives, and entrepreneurs through training, infrastructure development, and market linkages, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and enhanced global recognition of Kashmir's rich craft heritage.

Mission Yuva Helpdesk held at Chowki

Choura: Grievances of applicants resolved on the Spot

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22: A Mission Yuva Helpdesk was conducted today at the SDM Office Chowki Choura to address and resolve the grievances of applicants seeking benefits under the Mission Yuva Scheme. The Helpdesk witnessed the active participation of Business Help Desk (BHD) Members, Yuva Doots and officials from J&K Bank, ensuring a collaborative approach to addressing the concerns of applicants. A total of seven grievances were taken up, of which six were resolved on the spot, showcasing the administration's commitment to citizen-centric service delivery.



Additionally, three sanction letters were handed over to beneficiaries of the Mission Yuva Scheme by the SDM Ankush Hans in presence of Assistant Director District Employment and Counselling Centre, Jammu Mukhlis Ali.

Speaking at the event, Mukhlis Ali emphasized the importance of timely grievances redressal. He urged BHD Members and Yuva Doots to address issues at their level promptly and forward unresolved matters to higher authorities without delay. He also stressed the need for greater outreach and awareness about Mission Yuva to ensure that the youth of the Chowki Choura take full benefit from the scheme.

Mission Yuva Helpdesk held at Chowki Choura: Grievances of applicants resolved on the Spot

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

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GCW Parade hosts nutritional awareness activities to mark Poshan Maah

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22: The Department of Home Science Government College for Women (GCW) Parade Ground in collaboration with Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal, J&K, celebrated Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month) under the aegis of "Sewa Parv" and under the guidance of the College Principal, Dr. Ravinder Kumar Tickoo.

The celebration aimed to promote nutritional awareness and healthy eating habits among students. The event was coordinated by Head of the Department of Home Science Dr. Nitu Sharma.

The celebrations began on the 18th of September with a Poster Making Competition on the theme "Nutritious Diet for Better Living."

Thirty participants demonstrated their artistic skills by creating various posters. The competition was judged by Prof. Jasneet Kour, HOD Political Science, Dr. Prabhjot Kour, HOD Psychology and Dr. Vishal Sharma from the Electronics Department. Nooreen, Semester 1st secured first Position and Second position was given to Drishty Jain and third position went to Bindu Sharma, semester 1st Student.

Cooking Competition on the theme "Eat Right for a better Life" was held on 19th September 2025. A total of 15 teams participated, showcasing their culinary skills in the form of a variety of nutritious items. Team 7 was awarded the first position, while Team 5 secured the second and Team 6 got third position respectively. The event was judged by Dr. Ritu



Magotra from the English Department, Dr. Surinder Parihar, Dr. Shivali Rattan from the Econom-

ics Department. The final day featured a Debate Competition on the theme

"Eat Healthy, Stay Healthy." Twenty students participated, expressing their views and arguments on the importance of healthy eating, maintaining healthy life style and adopting healthy habits etc. The judges for the event were Dr. Seema Malhotra from the English Department and Dr. Arti from the Dogri Department, GCW Parade, Jammu.

Neha Sharma from semester 5th got first position whereas second position was secured by Ayesha, 3rd semester and Sakshi Sharma, semester 3rd student got third position.

Prizes and certificates were presented to participating students on valedictory function by the Principal Dr. Ravinder Kumar Tickoo along with senior professors.

DDC Reasi reviews performance of Banks at DLRC meeting

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, SEPTEMBER 22: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC)-cum-District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting in the VC Room, DC Office Complex to review the performance of banks for the quarter ending June 2025.

A detailed discussion was held on sector-wise lending in priority and non-priority sectors, bank-wise position of deposits and advances, and the progress of

various financial inclusion schemes in the district.

While reviewing the Credit Deposit (CD) Ratio, the DDC appreciated the improvement made as compared to the previous quarter. She, however, directed the banks with low CD ratios to take corrective measures and improve their performance in the upcoming quarter.

The DDC emphasised that the flow of credit to priority sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, housing and allied activities must be further enhanced to promote inclusive growth.

In terms of financial inclusion, the DDC directed all banks to submit weekly progress reports to the Lead District Manager (LDM), who will also conduct weekly reviews. She called for launching an intensive campaign at the Gram Panchayat level, with specific targets set for the next six months to ensure a net increase in financial inclusion.

The DDC stressed the need for better coordination between banks and line departments to resolve grievances, ensure timely case processing and extend maximum benefits to the public.

42 Kishtwar farmers leave for 7-Day Exposure Visit to Palampur

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today flagged off a group of 42 local farmers for a seven-day Tour-cum-Exposure Visit-cum-Farmer Training Programme to Palampur. The Tour has been sponsored under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) ATMA and organized by the Department of Agriculture.

The participating farmers, drawn from different blocks of the district, will undergo structured training at agricultural research stations, Krishi Vigyan Kendras

(KVKs) and model farms in Palampur.

They will also interact with scientists and progressive cultivators to understand practical solutions for enhancing productivity and farm-based income.

Addressing the farmers, the DC highlighted the importance of ATMA initiatives in knowledge transfer, skill development and dissemination of innovative agricultural practices.

He extended best wishes to the farmers and expressed confidence that the tour would inspire them to adopt scientific practices that will strengthen the agricultural economy of the district.

Reasi admin initiates village-level orientation drive under Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, SEPTEMBER 22: The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan is gathering strong momentum in Reasi district under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, with the administration today launching a comprehensive Village-Level Orientation Drive aimed at strengthening grassroots planning and community-led development.

The programme has brought together village nodal officers, Village Level Workers (VLWs), Sahyogis, Self Help Groups (SHGs), NRLM members, tribal leaders, youth, and women representatives, ensuring a broad spectrum of

participation.

The village-level drive will include Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises, transect walks, habitation-level dialogues, village meetings, Gram Sabhas, gap identification exercises, and formulation of Village Action Plans. These participatory methods are designed to ensure that local voices, aspirations, and challenges are fully captured in the development vision.

Earlier, Block-Level Orientation Programmes were conducted by the Block Development Officers (BDOs) at block headquarters, with the involvement of concerned departments, Aadi Sathis, Aadi



Sahyogis, District Prabhari Officer from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs Mr. Shiv, and district-level master trainers. These sessions laid the groundwork for the village-level rollout.

On October 2, special Gram Sabhas will be convened across the district to formally discuss

and approve the Village Action Plans (Vision-2030), which will serve as roadmaps for sustainable and inclusive village development.

Speaking at the launch, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik underscored the importance of integrating marginalized communities into the planning process. "The voices of women, youth, elders, landless families, laborers, and shepherds must find reflection in the Village Action Plans to ensure holistic and inclusive growth," she stated. She also highlighted the proactive role of tribal leaders, women, and youth in shaping Vision-2030 for their respective villages.

The District Prabhari Officer also interacted with students at Degree College Reasi, motivating them to take part in the campaign and contribute to the participatory planning process. He stressed that youth have a crucial role in bringing innovation, energy, and accountability into grassroots governance.

With its structured activities and community-driven approach, the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan in Reasi is emerging as a robust platform for empowering tribal communities, promoting participatory planning, and building pathways for sustainable and self-reliant village futures.

Assessment camp for children with special needs organised at Samba

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 22: The Office of the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Samba, in collaboration with ALIMCO Kanpur organised this year's first Medical Assessment Camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSNs) at Government Higher Secondary School Vijaypur, today.

A large number of identified CWSNs, along with their parents and guardians, attended the camp. The Camp aimed to assess the requirement of the identified CWSNs for different assistive devices under the Education Department's inclusive education initiatives.

The Chief Education Officer, in his address, highlighted the importance of inclusive education and assured that every effort is being made to provide necessary support to children with special needs for their holistic growth. He also informed the gathering about various welfare schemes, scholarships, and facilities available under the Education Department for CWSNs.



The Zonal Education Officer Vijaypur also addressed the parents and students, sensitising them about government initiatives and encouraging them to take maximum benefit of the schemes.

The medical team from ALIMCO Kanpur conducted assessments and identified the requirements of children for aids and appliances. Special Education Teachers and Zonal Coordinators extended full support in managing the camp, ensuring proper documentation, attendance and coordination with parents.

The parents expressed gratitude to the Education Department and ALIMCO for organising such an initiative at the grassroots level.

The camp will continue as per the schedule, with the next phase to be held at Boys HSS Samba on 24th September 2025.

EAM Jaishankar meets US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in New York, they agree to remain engaged on priority areas

■ United News of India

NEW YORK/NEW DELHI, SEP 22: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in New York today, during which they discussed bilateral and international issues of current concern.

In a post on X, the EAM said the two agreed on the importance of continued engagement for progress on priority areas.
He posted:
“Good to meet @SecRubio this morning in New York.
“Our conversation covered a range of bilateral and



international issues of current concern. Agreed on the importance of sustained engagement to progress on priority areas.
“We will remain in touch.”
The meeting between the two foreign ministers is the first in-person meeting after the Trump administration last

month slapped 50 percent tariffs on India, including 25 percent for India's purchase of Russian oil. They had last met in July on the sidelines of the Quad foreign ministers' meeting in Washington DC.
The meeting between EAM Jaishankar, who arrived in New York on Sunday, and

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also comes amid the Trump administration's decision to hike H-1B visa fees to \$100,000, for new applicants. EAM Jaishankar is scheduled to deliver India's national statement at the UNGA General Debate on September 27. UNI

Sputnik India launches month-long brand campaign on the busy Yellow Line of Delhi Metro

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 20: Sputnik India, an international news agency, has launched a brand campaign which is currently running on the Delhi Metro's Yellow Line that witnesses a daily footfall of 1.5 million passengers.

This will be the news agency's month-long campaign in the Delhi metro.

This key route connects major hubs like the New Delhi Railway Station, commercial centres such as Rajiv Chowk, and government complexes at Central Secretariat, serving over 1.5 million riders daily.

Sputnik, an international news agency and radio



service which operates under the Rossiya Segodnya media group, operates in more than 30 languages. It has 24 multimedia centres across the world. Its radio broadcasting reaches audiences in 20 countries in 14 languages.

The agency's Indian division, Sputnik India, was established in December 2022. Its editorial hubs in Moscow and Delhi produce content in English and Hindi.

Sputnik India consists of a news website and a X account, which reaches upto 36 million users a month. UNI

SC dismisses plea against lease of Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple land for Dasara celebrations

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 22: The Supreme Court today rejected a challenge to the Andhra Pradesh High Court's interim order, which had stayed a Single Judge's direction restraining the lease of Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple land in Machilipatnam to a private society for Dasara celebrations.

A Bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra dismissed the plea, observing that the High Court

Division Bench's order was only interim in nature.

Senior Advocates Ranjith Kumar and Nachiketa Joshi appeared for the petitioners. The dispute arose after land belonging to the temple was proposed to be leased by the Endowments Commissioner to the Society for Vibrant Vijayawada for a period of 56 days against a payment of Rs45 lakh. The temple authorities had consented, on the condition that the land would be returned after the festival period.



Challenging this arrangement, petitioners approached the High Court, arguing that endowment lands could be used only for religious purposes.

A Single Judge ordered the immediate restoration of the land to the temple and restrained the parties from proceeding with the lease.

However, on appeal, a Division Bench of the High Court stayed the Single Judge's order - a decision which has now been upheld by the Supreme Court. UNI

French FM Jean Noël Barrot confirms latest pack of EU's anti-Russia sanctions coordinated with US

■ United News of India

PARIS, SEP 22: French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot has confirmed that the EU's forthcoming extensive sanctions package against Russia has been coordinated with the US.

“The new large-scale package of sanctions has been coordinated with the US for the first time since Donald Trump returned to power,” Barrot said, noting that the measures had been agreed jointly with Washington and are due to be formally adopted shortly, marking the first time since the US' return to the transatlantic alignment under the Trump administration, reports Russian state media TASS.

The package, unveiled by the European Commission on 19 September, is one of the most extensive rounds of sanctions imposed by the bloc since the start of the Russia – Ukraine war.

It targets key sectors of the Russian economy, including energy revenues, military supply chains, and financial loopholes.

Among its measures, the 19th sanctions package introduces a ban on Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports into EU markets and lowers the crude oil price cap to \$47.60 per barrel.

The sanctions will particularly target Moscow's 'shadow fleet,' and will thus include maritime restrictions by sanctioning 118 vessels said to be a part of this fleet, bringing the total number of sanctioned ships to over 560.

Major Russian energy firms, including Rosneft and Gazprom-neft, face a full transaction ban, while new restrictions are set to hit third-party actors accused of facilitating sanctions evasion. This includes refineries, petrochemical companies, and oil traders in countries such as China and India,

as well as financial institutions in Russia and abroad.

For the first time, the EU will impose measures on cryptocurrency platforms and foreign banks connected to Russia's alternative payment systems, in an effort to further restrict Moscow's ability to bypass financial barriers.

Despite the scale of the package, EU officials confirmed it would not include restrictions on Russian crude oil purchases, a step long urged by Washington. European Commissioner for Economy and Productivity Valdis Dombrovskis said the omission underscored the limits of the bloc's sanctions policy.

Earlier, Russian Foreign Ministry official Vladislav Maslennikov argued that the EU's latest measures demonstrated the exhaustion of its sanctions strategy, calling it a sign of the bloc's "political impotence." UNI

Delhi CM calls on women to prioritize health, to strengthen country

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 22: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday sent a message to the women, emphasizing that the time has come to prioritize their health, adding that when they keep well, the entire family and ultimately the nation will be empowered.

She said that in a country like India, even women belonging to well-off families commonly suffer from deficiencies in haemoglobin and vitamins.

Gupta was present at the AIIMS as part of 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' campaign on Monday, where she encouraged everyone to adopt a balanced diet and maintain a healthy lifestyle, adding that Prime



Minister Narendra Modi's National Nutrition Month, also encourages all to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

CM also urged greater focus on women's empowerment, stating that they are the driving force at the forefront of the country's development and that their well-being ensures the empowerment of families, society, and the nation.

According to her, over one hundred thousand health camps are being organised, providing women with comprehensive health check-ups completely free of cost.

She praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary initiative, which places the health of the nation's women at the forefront.

The CM noted that this mega health camp at AIIMS has been ongoing since 17 September, benefiting thousands of women daily.

Gupta also mentioned that the central government has reduced GST rates on several life-saving medicines and medical devices to make healthcare more affordable, benefiting homemakers and middle-class families in particular. UNI

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa arrives in New York for UNGA session; becomes first Syrian leader to attend UN since 1967

■ United News of India

DAMASCUS, SEP 22: President of the interim Syrian government Ahmed al-Sharaa arrived in New York on Sunday night to attend the 80th UN General Assembly session. The moment is a historically significant one as it shows the gradual erosion of Syria's political isolation on the world stage, with Sharaa being the first leader from Damascus to attend the UNGA since 1967.

However, his attendance as a recognised leader is also a contentious one, given his past terrorist affiliations, as the Syrian President was also a former known Jihadist and a commander of the Al-Qaeda, with the US having issued \$10 million bounty on his head.

The former Islamic terrorist scored a major diplomatic victory in May when he won recognition from the US, during his meeting with President Donald Trump in Riyadh, which has since given him strong support. President Trump has called him an “attractive, tough guy”.

However, the Islamist group he led, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, remains on a UN terrorist blacklist.

The Syrian president is due to address the General Assembly on Wednesday and is expected to meet Trump on the sidelines, in talks closely watched for signs of shifting relations between Damascus and Washington, reports Jerusalem Post.

In parallel, al-Sharaa has confirmed that Syria and Israel are close



to finalising a security agreement. “We are on the verge of a security agreement between Israel and Syria,” he said in recent remarks, adding that

while follow-on accords might be possible, “peace and normalisation with Israel are not currently on the agenda”.

Jerusalem has attacked Damascus several times, due to religious hardliners committing atrocities against Syria's own Druze community.

A substantial chunk of Druze natives reside in Israel and constitute a strong minority, and thus Jerusalem has made their security on both sides of the border its pledge.

According to Syrian officials, discussions with the US have focused on a framework based on the 1974 disengagement agreement signed after the Yom Kippur War, with provisions to safeguard the security of Syria's Druze community.

According to the Syrian state news agency, President Ahmad Al-Sharaa will participate in the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly and the “High-Level Week,” scheduled from September 22 to 30 in New York City.

He is accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Asaad Hassan Al-Shibani and a high-level diplomatic delegation.

This will be Syria's first presidential participation since 1967, and its first ever participation in the High-Level Week.

President al-Sharaa and Foreign Minister will take part in numerous meetings and events, in addition to holding bilateral meetings with leaders of states and heads of delegations participating in the UN General Assembly, it said. UNI

Macron's Middle East advisor convinced him to recognise Palestine, deeming it essential for Israeli security

■ United News of India

PARIS, SEP 22: French President Emmanuel Macron's Middle East advisor, Ofer Bronchtein, has said he played a key role in persuading the leader to recognise a Palestinian state, despite being aware of the potential ramifications and the risk of a “small diplomatic tsunami,” in the future. Speaking to Euractiv, Bronchtein – who served as an advisor to former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during the Oslo peace process – argued that Palestinian recognition was “essential to ensure Israel's security” and would create momentum for other countries to follow, reports BBC. His comments came as France is expected to make its formal announcement later today at the UN, a day after the UK, Canada, Australia and Portugal had recognised Palestine.

Bronchtein, an Israeli-born former peace negotiator, said he had pressed Macron on the issue since joining his advisory team in 2020. The French president first signalled in July that recognition was under consideration.

He said he “managed to convince” Macron that Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack on Israel “would not have happened” if there had been a Palestinian state, pointing out the differences between the Palestinian Authority – which governs parts of the West Bank not under full Israeli control – and Hamas in Gaza, whom he called “a terrorist organisation that drives the people of Gaza into the line of Israeli fire”.

“It would have been preferable to recognise Palestine before October 7. But better late than never,” he added.

The move has been sharply condemned by Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu labelled it “a huge reward for terror” and said he would issue a formal response after returning from the US later this week.

In the meantime, Israel has pressed on with its campaign in Gaza, while the Knesset has advanced the E1 settlement expansion project – seen as paving the way for full annexation of the West Bank. UNI



Smriti Mandhana 'Huge Belief In The Whole Team That We Can Win From Any Point'

■ **ESPNcricinfo**

NEW DELHI: On a day when Australia posted their joint-highest ODI total, of 412, Smriti Mandhana gave India a strong chance to chase it down with a 63-ball 125. Her 50-ball hundred was the second-fastest in all Women's ODIs.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma made half-centuries from No. 4 and 5, but the chase eventually fizzled out, with India bowled out for 369. India lost the three-match series 2-1. Mandhana, who also scored a match-winning century in the second ODI and finished the series as its highest run-getter (300 runs), did not feel she was under too much pressure to do the heavy lifting at the top of the order, and rejected the idea that India's batting line-up is over-dependent on her. "Everyone [in the Indian side] is a match-winner - not only [the] 11 but all the 15 who are part of the team are match-winners," Mandhana said. "I never look at anyone thinking that they are adding any pressure on me or anyone, for that case."

"Secondly I have a huge belief in the whole team, that from any point we can still win the match. That is never going to change with one or two results. If you see in the last 12-odd months we've got 300 or 300-plus even when I've got out so that doesn't really say anything about the batting reliance on anyone. Pratika [Rawal], Harleen [Deol], Jemimah [Rodrigues], Harman, everyone's got a hundred in the last 12 months."

Mandhana, India's vice-captain, pointed to fielding as an area India will look to work on heading into the upcoming World Cup. India were sloppy on the field throughout the three ODIs, dropping as many as 15 catches.

"Australia is a great opposition to test ourselves [against] in terms of where we are lacking," Mandhana said. "[...] It was a good series in terms of understanding our strengths and where we are lacking. There's a lot of difference [between the teams] in the fielding. Fielding part is one thing which as a team we are on a rise but we also feel there are days where we look like a [good] fielding side and there are days where we don't."

"That's about how we find the consistency in the team in terms of fielding as a unit and not individual brilliance, but fielding together as a team. That's one thing which we thought we have to address before the World Cup. Otherwise, for everyone, it was just about [getting] the feel of the Indian conditions and how we really want to go forward."

The biggest positive from the series for India, according to Mandhana, was the "willingness" shown by the younger players to improve themselves. "The series was not like it was going to make us believe that we'll win the World Cup. That belief is always there," Mandhana said. "This series is just for us in terms of understanding what is going right and what's going wrong because Australia is the best opposition to test it out [against]."

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