

CMYK

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Cabinet Meets.....

Sinha that the Union Territory's legislature hold its next sitting in Srinagar between October 13 and 20.

After deliberations, Ministers agreed that the week-long schedule would be the most suitable window to ensure compliance with constitutional requirements and allow lawmakers to debate issues of governance.

"This schedule fits within the legal requirement that no more than six months should elapse between two sessions of the legislature. The Cabinet felt October 13 to 20 was the most suitable window," sources privy to the meeting said.

The recommendation now goes to the Lieutenant Governor, who under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, holds the authority to summon the legislature. If approved, this will mark the third full legislative session of the Omar Abdullah-led government since it assumed office last year.

The first session took place in November 2024, just weeks after the swearing-in of the Council of Ministers. That four-day sitting was largely introductory, with members welcoming the return of an elected government and laying out early priorities. The second session was held in Jammu during the winter, concluding on April 29 this year. In addition, a special one-day sitting of the legislature was convened in July in Srinagar, where lawmakers unanimously condemned the attack on tourists in Pahalgam.

The Reorganisation Act stipulates that "six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session," a clause designed to ensure continuity of legislative business. By recommending mid-October for the next session, the Cabinet has sought to avoid any breach of this legal provision while giving itself an opportunity to highlight achievements and respond to public concerns before the winter session in Jammu.

Officials said the upcoming session is expected to feature discussions on key developmental and financial issues. Ministers are also preparing to table reports on housing, infrastructure, and ongoing flood relief works, which were among the administrative matters finalised during Tuesday's Cabinet meeting. "The Cabinet cleared a series of decisions related to housing and development. These measures are designed to address immediate needs while sustaining longer-term growth," an official source confirmed.

The timing of the session carries political weight for the National Conference-led government. For Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who returned to power last year after a prolonged period of central rule in Jammu and Kashmir, the October sitting will be an opportunity to consolidate his administration's position before the Assembly.

Lawmakers from different parties have already begun preparing agenda items for the sitting. Opposition leaders are expected to raise questions over flood management, unemployment, and road connectivity, while treasury benches plan to highlight measures taken to strengthen welfare schemes and revive horticulture and tourism. (With inputs from KNT)

Youth, Startups.....

youth to the forefront of the nation and the world.

He said that in 2015, India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index was 91st, and today it has reached 38th. The Home Minister expressed confidence that within the next three years, India will rank among the top ten countries in the Global Innovation Index and, in the coming years, will lead global innovation.

NEW EDUCATION POLICY OPENED TREASURE TROVE FOR INDIA'S YOUTH

Shah said that Prime Minister Modi, through the New Education Policy, has created a vertical for research and study on the Indian Knowledge System, opening this treasure trove for India's youth. By leveraging this knowledge, young Indians can conduct world-class research.

The Union Home Minister said that in the 11 years of the PM Modi led government, significant transformations have been witnessed in the country, with efforts made in every sector to expand the startup ecosystem.

The credit for this expansion goes to the ecosystem created by Prime Minister Modi, as well as to students and youth. He highlighted that the number of startups has grown from 500 in 2014 to 1.92 lakh today, a 380-fold increase. Similarly, the number of unicorn startups has risen from just 4 in 2014 to over 120 today, with a total valuation exceeding \$350 billion. Shri Shah emphasized that this demonstrates how, by leveraging the ecosystem created by Prime Minister Modi, talent can be harnessed to create unicorn startups. He urged industry stakeholders to collaborate with startups to expand in every dimension.

STARTUP ECOSYSTEM HAS PROVIDED SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT TO 17.9 LAKEH PEOPLE

Amit Shah said that India currently has 21,000 startups in the IT sector and 17,000 in healthcare. Moreover, there are 11,000 startups each in agriculture, the service sector, and education. He added that startups have expanded their reach to 770 districts in India, showcasing the strength of India's startup ecosystem. Furthermore, 48% of startups are founded by women, and 900 startups in the Northeast are led by women. Shah stated that the startup ecosystem has provided sustainable employment to 17.9 lakh people so far.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that since 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created a supporting environment for startups and provided financial, policy, infrastructure, banking, and industry support for their growth. He said that a Fund of Funds of 10,000 crore has been established, a Startup India Seed Fund with a corpus of 945 crore has been launched, the maximum loan limit has been increased from 10 crore to 20 crore, support of up to 20 lakh has been approved for Proof of Concept, and funding of up to 50 lakh has been approved for prototype development. He further said that Prime Minister Modi launched Make in India, introduced PLI schemes in 14 key sectors, removed over 40,000 compliances, and removed more than 3400 laws from the category of criminal laws.

APART FROM PM MODI NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE SIMPLIFIED, REFORMED GST

Amit Shah said that apart from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, no one else could have simplified and reformed GST. After a long time, the country has seen a leader like Prime Minister Modi in whom both taxpayers and the public can place their trust.

He noted that Prime Minister Modi, with great courage and by taking all states along, successfully implemented GST.

GST collections began at 80,000 crore and today have crossed over 2 lakh crore.

Shah added that under GST reforms, Prime Minister Modi reduced the prices of many items by half, by one-third, and even to zero in some cases. Through GST reforms, Prime Minister Modi has shown the public that the government's purpose is to raise revenue to run the country, not to exploit the people.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that since India's independence, the public is witnessing such a massive tax reduction for the first time. He stated that GST reform is a bridge of trust between taxpayers and the government.

Shah recalled that when the Modi government came to power, income up to 2.5 lakh was tax-exempt, but today income up to 12 lakh is taxed at zero.

These two examples, he said, demonstrate that the government levies taxes not for exploitation, but for the people, for the country's development, and for self-reliance. Shri Shah said that his move will serve as a bridge of trust between taxpayers and the Government of India for decades to come.

STARTUP CONCLAVE 2025 WILL DELIBERATE ON PM MODI'S MISSION TO ESTABLISH INDIA'S IDENTITY IN STARTUP WORLD

Referring to the objective of the Startup Conclave 2025, Shah said, "It will deliberate on all aspects of Prime Minister Modi's mission to establish India's identity in the startup world and find solutions to challenges."

Pertinently the conclave has been organized on the theme of three mantras: innovate, elevate, and accelerate.

Shah said that over two days, discussions will be held in seven sessions on various topics, providing a significant platform to connect emerging startups with investors and realize Prime Minister Modi's mantra of "mind to market."

He highlighted that the compilation of the Indian Knowledge System was also launched during the event. "This system encompasses the finest knowledge from around the world in fields such as Ayurveda, classical arts, architecture, mathematics, philosophy, science, space, and the environment."—(KNO)

India must.....

He said India's proposed air defence system, Sudarshan Chakra, would integrate multiple protective layers, starting with counter-drone systems and extending to counter-UAV and counter-hypersonic systems. "Some elements cannot not be discussed publicly for security reasons but I assure you that it's one of the best systems in the world," he added.

The Army Chief said the system would combine sensors, missiles, surveillance apparatus, and artificial intelligence tools to provide both defence and offensive capabilities.

According to him, the concept was in the ideation phase but would be comprehensive in scope. He cautioned that adversaries were also improving their capabilities, pointing to the drones encountered during Operation Sindoor, which had shown advanced features including the use of artificial intelligence and visual navigation even after GPS jamming.

He said India's counter-drone and GPS-jamming systems had performed effectively during the operation, minimising damage. However, he added that similar results could not be assumed in the future because adversaries would adapt once they understood India's current capabilities.

He cited examples from the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict and the Russia-Ukraine war, where relatively inexpensive drones had caused significant damage to costly military assets. He said this reflected the cycle of innovation and adaptation in warfare, where the side adapting faster gained an advantage.

He said self-reliance provided not only independence but also the ability to surprise an adversary. Such surprises, he added, could only be used once before the other side learned, requiring continuous innovation.

He said the economic dimension of war also needed to be considered. Drones were now both military and commercial assets, and their wider use would affect security as well as the

economy.

General Dwivedi said Mission Sudarshan Chakra would aim to integrate multiple defence layers and advanced systems, keeping India ahead of adversaries while remaining economically viable.

A new portal was launched ahead of the symposium to connect researchers and academic institutes across the country, and the response had been substantial—(KNO)

28 More.....

restoration scheme. "These include Mughal-era gardens such as Nishat and Shalimar. Detailed project reports and estimates have already been sent to the government and we are hopeful that work will begin on these projects soon," he said.

According to officials, crores of rupees are being invested in these initiatives, which cover mosques, khanqahs, temples, imambara's and historical gardens across Srinagar district.

Beyond heritage conservation, Labroo said that the administration has taken up nearly 500 developmental works in Srinagar this year under Capex and CDF funds. These include construction of bunds, additional classrooms and smart classes in schools.

"Seventy to seventy-five works have already been allotted and execution has started. Agencies have been asked to speed up construction before the onset of winter," Labroo said.

On concerns over delays and stalled projects, Akshay Labroo admitted that hurdles such as contract disputes, legal issues, non-implementation of financial guidelines and shortage of funds had slowed down some works. "Our focus is to resolve issues wherever possible and revive pending projects at the earliest so that people benefit without further delay," he assured.

Highlighting government initiatives for youth, Labroo said about 'Mission Youth', a program designed to encourage young entrepreneurs. "Through Mission Youth, educated youth can avail loans at minimal interest rates. The administration even helps prepare paperwork and DPRs. So far, 3,000 enterprises in Srinagar have been approved by the DLIC, while 800 have already received bank disbursements," he said.

The Deputy Commissioner also underlined steps being taken to curb drug abuse in the district. "Our drug de-addiction centre is being strengthened further. If the need arises, more centres can be established with full compliance of norms. The administration is committed to providing every possible support to ensure Srinagar becomes drug-free," he said. (NTK)

Govt approves.....

providing 25 lakh deposit-free connections at the rate of Rs 2,050 per connection, Rs 160 crore for targeted subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder (for up to nine refills per year, proportionately pro-rated for 5 kg cylinders), and Rs 3.5 crore towards project management and other expenses.

Under PMUY, beneficiaries receive a deposit-free LPG connection that covers the security deposit of cylinder, pressure regulator, 'suraksha' hose, domestic gas consumer card (DGCC) booklet, and installation charges.

In addition, the first refill and stove are also provided free of cost. Beneficiaries are not required to make any payment for the LPG connection, the first refill, or the stove, as these costs are borne by the Government of India and the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

Beneficiaries have the flexibility to choose from a 14.2 kg single bottle connection, a 5 kg single bottle connection, or a 5 kg double bottle connection.

To further enhance transparency and ease of access, the process for obtaining an LPG connection under PMUY has been made fully streamlined and technology-enabled. Eligible adult women from poor households who do not have an existing LPG connection in their family can apply by submitting a simplified KYC application form and Deprivation Declaration, either online or at any LPG distributor of the public sector OMCs.

Applications undergo system-driven de-duplication checks, followed by physical verification by OMC officials, before issuance of a subscription voucher and installation of the LPG connection at the applicant's residence.

"Existing applicants with pending applications are required to undergo a revised eKYC process and submit details as per the updated proforma," the statement said.

Launched in May 2016, PMUY initially targeted 8 crore deposit-free LPG connections, which was achieved in September 2019. To cover the remaining poor households, Ujjwala 2.0 was launched in August 2021 with a target of 1 crore additional connections, achieved by January 2022. Subsequently, the government approved 60 lakh additional connections under Ujjwala 2.0, achieved in December 2022, and another 75 lakh connections, achieved by July 2024. As of July 2025, over 10.33 crore PMUY connections have been released across the country, making it one of the largest clean energy initiatives globally.

Announcing the decision, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said, "With the onset of Navratri, the decision to provide 25 lakh deposit-free LPG connections under Ujjwala is yet another testimony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to treat women with the same respect accorded to Goddess Durga. This strengthens our resolve for the dignity and empowerment of mothers and sisters. Ujjwala has emerged as one of the

most impactful social welfare schemes in India - transforming kitchens, safeguarding health, and brightening the future of families across the country.

Over 3,000.....

campaign involving law enforcement, excise and agriculture departments, and locals in a collective attempt to curb the menace that has emerged as one of the most serious social challenges in the region.

According to official figures, more than 3,000 have been registered since 2023, with 4,536 individuals arrested. The trend has continued into 2025, with regular seizures, arrests, and crop destruction reported from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

In Sopore, police arrested four drug peddlers earlier this year as part of a targeted drive to break local supply chains. In Budgam, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) seized a large cache of poppy straw in an operation described by officials as one of the most significant hauls of recent months. In Handwara, police detained a notorious habitual peddler, Farooq Ahmad Dar alias 'Jungli,' under the PIT NDPS Act, citing his repeated involvement in drug-related activities.

Simultaneously, authorities intensified their drive against cannabis cultivation, locally known as 'bhung.' In districts such as Anantnag, Ganderbal and Baramulla, teams of police, excise, revenue and agriculture officials have destroyed wild cannabis patches and crops cultivated on private lands. "The message is clear: there will be no tolerance for narcotics cultivation or trade. Our teams are working in close coordination to ensure no such activity goes unchecked," a senior police officer in Srinagar said.

Officials said the campaign is not limited to policing alone but also involves cooperation from locals. In many cases, information from villagers has led to successful operations. In Rajouri's Wagoora area, for example, police arrested a man after he was found cultivating cannabis in the yard of his house. The crop was destroyed on the spot and a case registered under the NDPS Act.

Seizures have also been made in urban areas. In June, Jammu police arrested two individuals and recovered 350 grams of opium from their possession. In Srinagar and adjoining districts, police have stepped up naka checks to intercept drug consignments being moved along highways and feeder roads.

The spread of narcotic abuse, particularly among youth, has been described by police as a grave social threat. Senior officers have repeatedly stressed that while law enforcement is working to choke supply lines, efforts must also focus on reducing demand and through awareness campaigns and rehabilitation. "The fight against drugs cannot be won by arrests alone. It requires a combination of strict enforcement, community participation, and treatment for addicts. Every family must play a role," said an officer associated with the anti-narcotics campaign.

Officials acknowledge that the profitability of narcotics trade continues to draw cultivators and peddlers. The use of wild cannabis and smuggling of poppy derivatives persist in certain pockets, while cross-border trafficking routes also pose risks. "The trade is lucrative, and unless there is constant vigilance, new networks keep emerging. That is why sustained action is essential," said a police official in north Kashmir.

Legal experts point out that stringent provisions of the NDPS Act are being increasingly invoked to ensure deterrence. Convictions under the law can lead to long prison terms and heavy fines, depending on the quantity and intent. However, they caution that alongside punitive measures, rehabilitation opportunities must be expanded for those caught in the cycle of addiction. (KNT)

J&K floods.....

of 150 people lost their lives while 178 persons were injured" data reveals, adding, "Over 13600 houses were damaged fully, severely or partially across the region during the recent natural calamities."

According to the figures 864 houses were damaged in Kashmir of which 16 were fully damaged, 57 severely and 791 partially.

An official told the KNO that the relief has already been disbursed in all these cases. On agricultural losses, more than 12,500 hectares of land got affected and nearly 315 hectares were hit in Horticulture sector, primarily in Anantnag, Kulgam and Pulwama districts with estimated losses of about Rs 59 lakh.

In Jammu, 12,800 houses were damaged. Of them, 4,200 houses were fully damaged and over 8,600 partially damaged. The data revealed that the worst-hit districts are Udhampur and Jammu.

Besides, 758 were declared unsafe after the government conducted safety audit of 8,800 schools in Jammu division.

It may be recalled that soon after the

flash floods and landslides hit Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Jammu on August 31 and toured the flood-hit Jammu and assured the victims of relief and rehabilitation.

Shah accompanied by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma and other top officials toured different areas in Jammu region to assess the situation.

He met the flood victims at Mangu Chak, one of the worst-hit villages near Jammu Airport, and took the first-hand account of the situation. He interacted with the villagers and assured them proper relief and rehabilitation.

Shah also visited Tawi bridge near Bikram Chowk and inspected the damage along the riverbanks.

Shah during his Jammu visit also chaired a meeting attended by LG Sinha, CM Omar, LoP Sharma, the DGP of police, and several officials of the Centre and the Union Territory administration.

Shah also reviewed the damage caused to the border security grid by the flash floods

Before the Home Minister's visit, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Jammu on August 24 to take stock of the situation following flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in Chisoti village in Kishtwar district. However, Singh's plan to visit the devastated village couldn't materialize due to inclement weather and the blocking of a road by a landslide in Paddar Sub-division—(KNO)

Ayushman Bharat.....

witnessing a revolution in public health-care. It has ensured financial protection and dignity."

He added, "India has shown how scale, compassion and technology can further human empowerment."

An official handle, tagged by Modi, said the government's showpiece welfare initiative covers over 55 crore citizens and lauded it as the "world's largest health assurance scheme". Over 42 crore Ayushman cards have been issued so far, it added.

It has led to the government's health expenditure rising from 29 per cent to 48 per cent, while out-of-pocket cost dropped from 63 per cent to 39 per cent, it added. "Millions of families saved from financial ruin during illness," it said.

When illness strikes, it shouldn't mean financial ruin, the statement said, claiming that the scheme has protected more than six crore families from poverty every year. (Agencies)

Adhere to.....

model. He also inspected the Mortuary Building, Administrative Building and Public Canteen being constructed under UT Capex Scheme.

Later, the Chief Secretary visited the Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla to review the ongoing Yatri Niwas project.

He inspected the progress of the work and received a detailed briefing on timelines for the remaining components. Secretary, RDD, Aijaz Asad, apprised him of the current status and pace of execution.

Emphasizing the significance of the project, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of adhering to approved timelines and maintaining high-quality standards. He directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work to ensure timely completion.

Time has.....

while hearing the plea of the organisation, which runs The Wire news portal, and its political affairs editor Ajoy Ashirwad Mahaprasasta.

"I think time has come to decriminalise all this..." Justice Sundresh observed orally. The top court was hearing a plea challenging a trial court order issuing summons to them in a defamation case filed by the former JNU professor over the publication of the dossier.

The complainant had argued before the lower court that the accused people had launched a hate campaign against her to malign her reputation.

This is the second round of litigation on the alleged defamatory report published by the portal.

The Delhi High Court in 2023 had quashed the summons issued to them. The top court, however, reversed the order and remanded the matter for fresh consideration before the trial court.

The trial court again issued a summons, and the high court also upheld it. (Agencies)

Union Bank.....

Javid Iqbal, called on the Chief Minister at the Civil Secretariat. They discussed key developmental issues concerning their respective constituencies and sought the Government's intervention in addressing the pressing needs of the people.

The Chief Minister assured them that the concerns raised would be duly examined and appropriate steps taken to ensure balanced development across all regions.

DEPUTY CM CONDUCTS EXTENSIVE TOUR OF SRINAGAR, GANDERBAL DISTRICTS

Reviews progress of works on vital road projects, bridges

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR/GANDERBAL, SEP 23: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today conducted an extensive tour to inspect the development works related to roads and bridges in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts. During the tour, the Deputy CM visited Nehru Park to review the preparedness regarding widening of Boulevard road from Nehru Park to Kralsangri. Interacting with the officers of executing agency, the Deputy CM said that this significant project will substantially augment road connectivity and ensure long-term public convenience. He further said that it will also provide a major boost

to connectivity and economic activity for the residents of Srinagar. While visiting Ganderbal, the Deputy CM assessed the progress on Hospital Road and Gozhama Bridge. He inspected the works related to road from Bus Stand to District Hospital approved under NABARD for the cost of Rs. 7.51 crore. He directed the XEN to ensure early execution of the work so that hassle free connectivity is given to the hospital. On his inspection of Gozhama bridge at Shilwat Ganderbal, the Deputy CM was informed that this bridge is double lane with 208 mtr span and the department has submitted the DPR for 44.25 crore for administrative approval. He was



also informed that the project consists of main bridge and approach roads, with main bridge approved at a cost of Rs 12.77 Crs and approach road for 5.74 Cr. The Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure that any process related to formalities of project is expedited so that the project can be completed at an earliest. Later, the Deputy CM also inspected the ongoing construction works at Noor Jahan Bridge at Qamarwari. During the inspection, the Deputy CM was informed that on completion, this 127-metre span bridge will serve as a vital alternate link across the river Jhelum, significantly decongesting traffic on Srinagar's busy routes and easing the move-

ment between Noorbagh, Qamarwari, Khanyar, Nallah-Marroad, and adjoining areas. Interacting with the officers of executing agency, the Deputy CM emphasized on timely completion of this important project without further delay, adding that the government is determined to ensure time-bound completion of all critical infrastructure works across J&K. The Deputy CM reiterated the Government's commitment to ensure time-bound completion of all vital infrastructure projects in Jammu & Kashmir. He directed the concerned authorities to closely monitor the finishing works and ensure that the bridge is dedicated to the public within the announced timeline.

8-foot-long python rescued in Rajouri, released back into forest

HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEP 23: An eight-foot-long python, which had captured a wild jackal, was successfully rescued by the wildlife protection team, police, and locals in the Nowshera area of Rajouri district on Tuesday, officials said. Wildlife Warden Rajouri-Poonch, Nadeem Iqbal Mirza, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that they received information from locals about the presence of a huge snake. "Along with police teams, we launched a rescue operation and successfully rescued the python," he said. Mirza said it was an Indian Rock Python rescued in the village, measuring approximately 7–8 feet in length. The warden said the python had hunted and swallowed a jackal. "The python was rescued and later released back into a protected forest area," he added—(KNO)

'Giran' apples rot in orchards due to highway closures, say growers

HT News Network

PULWAMA, SEP 23: In Kashmir's apple heartland, orchards are strewn with fallen fruit this year, but instead of offering relief to struggling farmers, the "Giran" apples have turned into a fresh source of worry. Locally known as "Giran", these are apples that fall prematurely from trees before harvest. Growers, who spoke to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that due to unusual weather and heavy fruit fall this season, nearly 30–40 per cent of the crop is "Giran". Yet, unlike past years, there are no takers for the produce. Traditionally, small makeshift roadside mandis would spring up across Pulwama, Shopian, and other apple belts where "Giran" apples found ready buyers for juice factories and low-grade processing. However, repeated closures of the Srinagar–Jammu National Highway have disrupted supplies so severely that these mandis were forced to shut down. "Earlier, Giran apples at least helped us recover some costs. Even if sold at Rs 100–150 per crate, it was a relief compared to nothing," said Nazir Ahmad, a grower from Pulwama. "But this year, after highway issues, traders closed their mandis. The fruit we had procured rotted in front of us because it could not be transported outside. Now, no one wants to buy it." The situation has left hundreds of youth, who earned seasonal income by trading in "Giran", without work. "The Giran business relies on quick movement. If the fruit doesn't reach outside mandis within two days, it spoils. Buyers know this risk, so they simply stopped coming," explained a trader at Jabli Pora Fruit Mandi. For many farmers, "Giran" apples once acted as a lifeline—bringing in modest earnings that supported their expenses on pesticides, labour, and packaging. Now, growers say they are forced to watch helplessly as the fruit rots in their orchards. "This is not just about a low-grade apple; it is about livelihoods," said Abdul Hameed, another grower from Shopian. "Thousands of families, from pickers to packers to transporters, are tied to this trade. If the government doesn't take immediate steps, this part of our economy will collapse completely." (KNO)

SP College's Dr. Waheed Ahmad Khanday among Stanford University's Top 2% Scientists Globally

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 23: In a moment of great pride for SP College Srinagar and the academic community of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Waheed Ahmad Khanday, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, has been recognized among the world's top 2% scientists by Stanford University, USA, for the year 2025. Dr. Khanday has made significant contributions in the field of Chemical Engineering, with a particular focus on waste management, environmental safety,

and water treatment technologies. His impactful research has earned him wide recognition at the international level. Over the course of his career, he has published more than 55 research articles in reputed journals, which have collectively received around 4000 citations, reflecting the global relevance and quality of his work. Reacting to the achievement, the Principal of SP College Srinagar congratulated Dr. Khanday, stating: "It is a matter of immense pride for SP College that one of our own



faculty members has been placed in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% scientists. This recognition not only highlights

Dr. Waheed's dedication and scholarly excellence but also underscores the potential of academic talent within college set-

ups. His achievement will serve as an inspiration for faculty and students alike. On behalf of the college fraternity, I extend my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Waheed and wish him greater success in the years to come." The recognition of Dr. Khanday's work at such a prestigious global platform is being hailed as a remarkable feat, especially for a college-based scientist. It highlights the strong research culture being nurtured at SP College Srinagar and opens new horizons for collaborative research in environmental and chemical sciences.

Wake-Up Call for Horticulture Industry: Mukhtar Ahmad Khan Sounds Alarm Over Postharvest Crisis

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 23: Mukhtar Ahmad Khan, former Area Marketing Officer (AMO) of the Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department, J&K Government, has issued a strong statement highlighting the alarming crisis facing the apple industry in South Kashmir. He termed the recent transport blockade on NH-44 as a stark reminder of the region's fragile horticulture infrastructure and repeated his long-standing call for robust postharvest management systems. "In the first week of September 2025, our worst fears were realized. The closure of National Highway 44 for over three weeks severely disrupted the movement of apple-laden trucks. As of 3 PM on September 22, the highway remains in a messy condition, resulting in huge postharvest losses," Khan said. Khan has consistently advocated for modern postharvest infrastructure, including cold storage, controlled atmosphere (CA) facilities, processing units, and an all-weather transport network. He criticized the systemic failure of institutional bodies, including the horticulture departments and government agencies, to implement such vital facilities. "Where is the infrastructure for processing C-grade apples? Where are the CA storage facilities for 10 lakh metric tonnes of A-grade fruit? Where is the all-weather transport system?" Khan asked. He also pointed out that the introduction of High-Density (HD) apple plantations—while increasing yield—has intensified the crisis due to early harvesting timelines and the urgent need to dispatch produce quickly. "We lack the CA storage cushion to handle this surge, which makes the system vulnerable to collapse in case of transport delays," he added. **Apple Industry—Lifeline of South Kashmir** Apple farming is more than just a profession in South Kashmir—it is the



backbone of rural life. The districts of Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama, and Anantnag are heavily dependent on the apple economy. From pruning in winter to harvesting in autumn, the fruit governs the rural calendar and livelihoods. The horticulture sector contributes nearly 9% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Jammu and Kashmir, with apples forming the lion's share. Apple sales generate approximately ₹11,000 crore annually, making it a key driver of the Union Territory's economy. A fluctuation in market prices or production volumes has a direct impact on the financial health of the region. **Employment and Economic Stability at Risk** Khan emphasized that the apple sector is the largest employer in South Kashmir. "From orchardists and laborers to packers, transporters, traders, and commission agents—entire communities rely on this industry," he noted. "Without apples, rural unemployment would skyrocket, and local economies would crumble." Yet, despite its centrality, the sector remains extremely vulnerable. Regular closures of the Srinagar–Jammu highway due to landslides, rains, or snowstorms routinely lead to delayed shipments and rotting produce—causing losses worth crores of rupees. Another serious challenge is the lack of modern infrastructure. Cold

storage units, CA facilities, and pack houses are scarce. "Farmers are forced to sell their crop immediately, often at rock-bottom prices due to market glut," Khan said. **Urgent Gaps in Risk Mitigation and Policy** Natural calamities like hailstorms pose yet another threat to apple orchards. "In countries like China and Italy, anti-hail nets are standard. In Kashmir, they're rare or unaffordable," Khan said. "Despite years of farmer demands, the government has failed to provide subsidized nets or protective measures at scale." He further criticized the absence of an effective export policy, lack of Minimum Support Price (MSP) or price-support schemes, and unregulated sale of substandard pesticides, which he claims expose farmers to financial and ecological risks. **A Call to Action** Mukhtar Ahmad Khan urged the government to treat the situation as a wake-up call and proposed a set of concrete reforms: Improve and maintain road connectivity, especially during harvest season. Expand cold storage and pack house facilities in all fruit-producing districts. Provide subsidized anti-hail nets to safeguard crops from weather-related disasters. Formulate a strong export policy to access international markets. Introduce MSP or price-support mechanisms to shield farmers from volatile pricing. Set up a Pesticide Regulatory Authority to monitor quality and pricing of agricultural chemicals. "The apple industry is the heartbeat of South Kashmir. If we do not act now, we are not only risking our economy but the livelihood of lakhs of families," Khan warned. With the right reforms, he believes that Kashmiri apples can shine not just across India, but also globally—as a symbol of quality, resilience, and the cultural identity of the Valley.

Pahari Scientist Dr. Mir Waqas Alam from LOC-Karnah Ranked Among World's Top 2% by Stanford University

Zubair Qureshi

SRINAGAR, SEP 23: Dr. Mir Waqas Alam, Associate Professor of Nano and Functional Material Science at King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia, has once again been ranked among the world's top 2% scientists, according to the global list compiled by Stanford University, USA, and Elsevier (Version 8, 2025 update). This is the second consecutive year (2024 and 2025) that he has earned this recognition. Dr. Alam, who hails from Dildar Karnah, a remote border tehsil in north Kashmir, belongs to the Pahari Ethnic Group. He completed his early education in Karnah before earning a B.Sc. degree from Amar Singh College, Srinagar. He later pursued a Ph.D. in Nano and Functional Material Science from Toyama University, Japan, and carried out research at Western Kentucky University, USA, and Japan's National Institute of Material Science (NIMS). Speaking about the recognition, Dr. Alam said, "This acknowledgment is a reflection of years of consistent work in my field. It also reminds me of the responsibility to continue contributing to science in ways that can bring practical benefits to society. My journey from Karnah to the international stage has been challenging, but it shows that determination and focus can overcome many barriers." Dr. Alam joined King Faisal University in 2015 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2022. His research spans nanotechnology, with applications in sustainable energy and medical technologies. A family member, Ubaid Ayoub, expressed pride in his achievement. "Coming from Karnah, where access to opportunities is limited, Dr. Waqas's journey is an inspiration for young people in the region. His success shows that students from remote areas can also make their mark globally if given the right guidance and dedication." Dr. Alam's recognition highlights not only his individual academic contributions but also brings visibility to the Pahari Tribe and the challenges faced by students from border areas like Karnah said Zubair Qureshi, writer activist of from Pahari Ethnic Group.



Sakeena Itoo addresses 10th National Ayurveda Day celebrations

Calls for launching holistic public awareness campaigns across J&K on benefits of Ayurveda, Ayurvedic medicines

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 23: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today virtually addressed the 10th National Ayurveda Day celebrations organised by Directorate of Ayush, J&K at Convention Centre, Jammu.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director Ayush, J&K, Dr. Suresh Kumar Sharma; Director Health Services, Jammu, Director Family Welfare J&K, MD JKMSCL, former Directors of Ayush, Healthcare professionals and other officers also attended the event, either in person or through video conferencing.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister underlined the significance of Ayurveda as one of the oldest and most effective systems of holistic healthcare. "Ayurveda embodies India's cultural wisdom, offering a life-

style and healthcare model deeply connected to nature. The theme 'Ayurveda for People and Planet' reminds us that the health of individuals and the health of the environment are inseparable. It is our responsibility to preserve this knowledge and make it accessible to every household," Minister Sakeena said.

The Minister called upon all the participants to carry out a dedicated awareness campaign on the benefits of Ayurveda so that people take due benefits from it.

"These celebrations will be fruitful only when the message of benefits of Ayurveda reach to common masses in every district, in every panchayat and every area of Jammu and Kashmir," the Minister said.

The Health Minister further said that there is not much awareness about Ayurvedic medicines, highlighting that people should be made aware that Ayurvedic medicines have less side affect as compared to general medicines.



Minister Sakeena also highlighted various initiatives of the government in health sector, adding that the Omar Abdullah led government is determined to take advanced medical care facilities to far flung and rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir. She called upon all the participants that every effort should be made so that the people can take due advantage of these initiatives which is the main purpose of this government.

She further lauded the Directorate of Ayush, J&K for its con-

tinuous efforts in expanding Ayush healthcare services, promoting awareness, and bringing traditional systems closer to the youth through education and outreach. She stressed on further public outreach programs, capacity building and extension of facilities in each nook and corner of J&K, so that Ayush becomes a household name.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar in his address lauded the role of Ayush in life style disorders.

He stressed on the need to focus on strength areas of Ayush like Non Communicable diseases.

Secretary Health, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed in his virtual address, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, said that Ayurveda is a science of life that goes beyond curative medicine by addressing prevention, lifestyle management, and wellness and its integrative approach is essential in combating the modern epidemic of lifestyle disorders. He stressed on Research and Devel-

opment, Scientific Validation, Standardization and mass public awareness so that Ayush becomes the most acceptable system all over the globe.

In his key note address, Director Ayush, Dr. Suresh Kumar Sharma highlighted the growing importance of Ayurveda in today's healthcare landscape. He said, "Ayurveda not only aims to cure diseases but also to maintain harmony within the body and with nature. The theme for this year reflects the need for sustainable health practices that benefit both people and the planet. The Directorate of Ayush, J&K is committed to providing quality Ayush healthcare services across the Union Territory and to integrate Ayurveda-based preventive and promotive health measures into the mainstream".

He also elaborated on the achievements of the department, including the operationalization of Ayush Health & Wellness Centres, promotion of herbal awareness campaigns,

and expanding access to traditional healthcare in rural and urban areas alike.

The mega event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of nearly 700 medical professionals, paramedical staff, students, and members of the general public. The celebration was enriched with cultural programmes reflecting India's Ayurvedic heritage, as well as inspiring lectures by renowned Ayurvedic physicians on subjects like immunity building, lifestyle disorders, mental wellness, and the ecological significance of Ayurveda.

On the sidelines of the function, 15 thematic stalls were installed, showcasing Ayurvedic methodologies, Panchakarma therapies, Unani regimental therapies, medicinal plants, and yoga asanas. These stalls attracted large crowds and provided hands-on knowledge and demonstrations, creating awareness among the participants about the practical applications of Ayush systems in daily life.

DG CRPF Flags Off Third Mahila High-Altitude Bike Expedition From Srinagar

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 23: Director General of CRPF, GP Singh, today flagged off the third edition of the Mahila High-Altitude Bike Expedition from the historic Lal Chowk in Srinagar. The expedition, organised by Srinagar Sector CRPF, will cover nearly 1,400 kilometres from Srinagar to Pangong Tso via Khardung La (17,600 ft) and back.

The bikers carried the National Flag with the Force's message to the Nation, 'Desh Ke Hum Hain Rakshak'. The event is part of a series of exclusive Mahila Bike Expeditions launched by the CRPF to instill a sense of pride and test the physical and



mental endurance of its women personnel.

The first expedition was held in March 2023 from Delhi to Jagdalpur, followed by the second in September 2023, covering routes from Srinagar, Shillong, and Kanyakumari to Kevadia.

Talking to reporters after the flag-off, DG CRPF said, "I congratulate everyone that they are going on this high-altitude motorcycle expedition from this historical place of Kashmir. "I would like to thank the people of Kashmir for their support," he added. In total, 98 women will travel from Srinagar to Pangong Lake and return from there.

The expedition will run from September 23 to October 1, traversing some of the toughest terrains of Ladakh and Kashmir.

The participants were excited to be part of the expedition. "We are looking forward to the expedition. Our objective will be to travel safely," said a female participant.

10th Ayurveda Day Celebrated at AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre Kenihama Budgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 23: AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre, Kenihama celebrated the 10th Ayurveda Day here today with series of activities under this year's theme 'Ayurveda for People & Planet'.

The celebrations were held under the guidance of District AYUSH Officer Budgam, Dr. Firdous Malik.

Addressing the celebrations, Medical Officer, Dr. Nusrat Bashir highlighted the importance of Ayurveda, stating that it is not just a system of healthcare but a complete science of life, based on the principle of harmony between the individual and the environment. She said that the observance of



Ayurveda Day reflects the collective resolve to harness the full

potential of Ayurveda for global wellbeing and a healthier planet.

As part of the programme, lectures were delivered on the

role of Ayurveda in healthy living and disease management. Free medical check-ups were also conducted for the needy and disease-specific medicines were distributed among the patients. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material was also disseminated for creating public awareness regarding preventive healthcare practices.

An awareness lecture on Yoga was also organised on the occasion, highlighting its significance for overall physical and mental well-being. Besides, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening of individuals was undertaken, while special focus was laid on anaemia screening of the needy people.

District Administration Kupwara Provides Immediate Relief to Fire-affected families in Punzwa Villgam

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 23: District Administration Kupwara provided immediate relief to families affected in unfortunate fire incident in Punzwa Villgam causing damage to four residential houses last night.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, a team led by Tehsildar Villgam, Dr. Kasir Bashir, visited the spot and distributed interim monetary relief among five affected families along with kitchen sets, tarpaulins, blankets, and one month's advance ration.

Expressing sympathy with the fire victims the Dy.commissioner assured full support from the administration, and directed assessment of property loss for sanction of relief under SDRF norms on immediate basis.

He also appealed to the general



public to observe safety precautions

in order to avoid fire incidents.

Aryans to Organize "SOK - Season 2" in Srinagar on 29th September

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 23: Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh, is all set to organize the second season of its mega talent show "SOK" (Stars of Kashmir) on 29th September in Srinagar.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group, said that Aryans is the first choice of Jk students outside Kashmir to pursue higher education. We have majority of students from J&K which are not only academically strong but they are making the valley proud by doing Innovations too.

Kataria added that various Kashmiri Artists have been performing at Aryans Campus, Chandigarh since last many years. After huge success of Season 1 motivated us to bring Season 2 with even more



enthusiasm." Those interested to participate can send their entries on 98781-08888.

The event will showcase the hidden talent of Kashmiri youth in singing, dancing, acting, modeling, and other cultural performances. In last season, around 40 stars from Kashmir including Bashir Kotur, Actor; Gulzar Fighter, Actor; Adnan Shah, Influencer; Popping Sam, Dancer; Bilal bhagat, Cinematographer; Anees Bhat, Photographer; MJ Star, Dancer; Yasir, Musician; Asif, Musician; Behzad Mallah, Stand Up; Jallad, Youtuber; Tariq Ghani, Influencer; Waqar Khan, Singer; Atif Khan, Social Activist; Shazia Bhat, Fashion Blogger; Kral Koor, Potter; Musaib Bhat, Youtuber; Raja Adam, Magician; Sethi Express, Youtuber; Kashmiri Kalkharabs, Youtuber; Idrees Mir, Youtuber; Rapper Ashu, Rap; Rap Kid Arfat, Rap; Umar Nazir, Singer; Babbar Mudasir, Singer; Ishfaq kawa, Musician; Mehmeet Syed, Singer; Yawar Abdal, Singer; Mohammad Muneem (Alif) etc. were honoured by Aryans Group.

World Recognises India's Voice – UNSC Reform Now Inevitable: Gaurav

■ HT News Desk

NEW DELHI, SEP 23: BJP Spokesperson for J&K UT, Gaurav Gupta, hailed the strong endorsement from United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric on the urgent need to reform the UN Security Council, recognising India as a pivotal force in the multilateral system.

Speaking on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric categorically stated "India is a very important part of the UN system. They are a great supporter of multilateralism. The Secretary General has very good relations with the Indian government. We have a lot of Indian colleagues who work here with us. India is an important voice within the UN system."

Gupta said, "This is not just an appreciation—it is a global acknowledgement of India's rising stature. The Secretary-General himself has made it clear that the UNSC must reflect the world of 2025, not remain trapped in the realities of 1945. India's permanent membership is no longer a matter of debate, but a necessity for global fairness and representation."

He further added that under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, India has emerged as a voice of the Global South, a trusted partner in global diplomacy, and a strong pillar of international stability. "The world today looks to India not just as the largest democracy but as a nation that stands for fairness, inclusivity, and global peace."

Gupta also commended Exter-



nal Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, who has reiterated in Parliament that securing a permanent

seat for India in the UNSC remains a top priority. "This recognition from the UN leadership validates

India's credentials—our contributions to peacekeeping, our strong democratic values, and our leadership in climate action and sustainable development," he said.

At the ongoing UNGA, India also presented its pioneering steps to tackle climate change, including Heat Action Plans, digital early-warning systems, and affordable cooling solutions. "This reflects India's readiness to not only lead at home but also share solutions with the Global South, strengthening our role as a global problem-solver," Gupta highlighted.

"India is not asking for favours; India is demanding what is just, fair, and reflective of today's global realities. The world of 2025 deserves a reformed UNSC, and India's permanent membership is central to that vision," Gupta concluded.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar makes history, holds High Court Division Bench proceedings from Gurez virtually

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GUREZ, SEP 23: In a historic first, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, senior-most Judge of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, presided over Division Bench proceedings from Gurez through virtual mode, marking a new chapter in technologically enabled justice system where geographical barriers no longer hinder access to courts.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar was on an official trip as Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority regarding the child friendly scheme of NALSA-2024 and he heard all the listed cases from Munsiff Court Gurez through virtual mode.

The historic bench comprised of Justices Sanjeev Kumar

and Sanjay Parihar, the former joined from Gurez while the latter was in Jammu wing of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The lawyers also attended their cases from Jammu as well as Srinagar wings of High Court through video conferencing facility. As many as 45 cases from Jammu wing and 5 cases from Kashmir wing were heard through digital platform exhausting the entire Cause List for the day.

While this initiative has declared the availability of virtual facility from a cut off tehsil of Gurez Bandipora in courts, it has been widely applauded by the local stakeholders.

Justices Sanjeev Kumar impressed upon utility of this service by lawyers, litigants and

defence personnel living in Gurez.

Justices Sanjeev Kumar directed Central Project Coordinator e-Court High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi to ensure seamless service of e-filing, display of timely case information, real time display of cause list for information of all the litigants to prevent any deprivation to such facilities.

For immediate installation of Kiosk in Munsiff Court Gurez, a direction was passed by Justice Sanjeev which will provide various e-Courts services to people of Gurez.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, who is also Chairman of High Court Information Technology Committee, exhorted upon impro-



ving the existing IT infrastructure to ensure leverage between physical and digital platform for ease of court business and enhancing digital access to physical platforms.

This move is first of its kind which will connect a cut off border area with rest of the world on digital platform.

By making proper use of the same, lawyers can e-file their cases anywhere in the country, e-file replies, check status of their cases, cause list of any court and keep the people of Gurez connected with all the courts across India. It will also bridge the geographical and snow barriers. People and lawyers expressed gratitude for such a unique beginning in such a distant cut off area.

BJP J&K Spokespersons Pay Tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji on Birth Anniversary

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 23: BJP Jammu & Kashmir Spokespersons today paid rich tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji on his birth anniversary.

Altaf Thakur, Er. Sahil Bashir Bhat, and Manzoor Bhat while remembering the last Dogra ruler, highlighted his historic reforms in education, social justice, and governance.

The BJP leaders stated that the best tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji is to carry forward his vision of justice, equality, and development for all sections of society. They also welcomed the decision of the Government of India to declare his birth anniversary as a public holiday, acknowledging the sentiments of the people of J&K.

Today, as we honour Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, we remember his far-sighted vision and unifying leadership that laid the foundation for modern Jammu & Kashmir. His decision to accede to India in 1947 will forever be remembered as a monumental step that integrated J&K with the great Indian nation," said the BJP Spokespersons in a joint statement.

The party leaders reiterated that BJP remains committed to carrying forward the Maharaja's ideals of justice, equality, and development for all. They added that the best way to honour his memory is by working tirelessly to ensure peace, prosperity, and progress in every corner of Jammu & Kashmir.

Kashmir Fruit Trucks Halted on Highway, Jammu Traffic Given Preference

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Apple Farmers Federation has strongly condemned what it called discriminatory treatment towards Kashmir's fruit growers, alleging that trucks loaded with apples, pears, and other perishable produce are being unfairly halted along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, while vehicles from Jammu are being given unhindered passage.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Federation President Zahoor Ahmad Rather said that hundreds of fruit-laden trucks from South Kashmir and other regions have been stranded for days, despite this being the peak harvest season. The delays, he warned, are leading to massive spoilage of produce and losses amounting to crores of rupees. "This situation is directly threatening the livelihoods of lakhs of families who depend on the timely delivery of their fruit to outside markets," Rather said.

He added that the Federation has been receiving distress calls from growers and transporters across South Kashmir, who are helplessly watching their year's hard work go to waste.

The Federation has demanded:

Immediate end to what it termed as discriminatory traffic practices.

Priority passage for trucks carrying perishable fruit.

Compensation for growers whose produce has been damaged.

Clear guidelines to prevent such disruptions in the future. "Lakhs of hardworking growers are losing their year's produce due to official indifference and systemic discrimination," Rather said, urging urgent intervention from both the UT administration and the central government.

He emphasized that the horticulture sector—particularly apple cultivation—is the backbone of Kashmir's rural economy and contributes significantly to the Union Territory's GDP. "Failing to ensure smooth transport at this critical time is nothing short of economic sabotage," he remarked.

Meanwhile, attempts to seek official comment from traffic authorities remained unsuccessful at the time of filing this report.

BJP conducts Swachhta Abhiyan, distributes food kits at Anantnag hospital

■ HT News Desk

ANANTNAG, SEP 23: Jammu & Kashmir BJP, under the ongoing Seva Pakhwada programmes dedicated to the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, carried out a massive Swachhta Abhiyan (cleanliness drive) in Anantnag district.

The campaign was led by J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, along with senior party leaders, district functionaries, and activists.

J&K BJP General Secretary Anwar Khan, Secretary Mudassir Wani, District President Rakesh Koul, district Prabhari Sofi Yousuf, and others were also present.

The cleanliness drive commenced from key public places, where BJP leaders, along with local volunteers, took active part in cleaning the surroundings,

removing garbage, and spreading awareness on the importance of hygiene and sanitation. The programme drew enthusiastic participation of the local people, who appreciated the efforts of BJP in giving priority to cleanliness and community service.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Koul said that cleanliness is not just a temporary drive but a mass movement that requires collective participation. He said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a call for Swachh Bharat with the vision of a clean, healthy, and responsible nation. He said that as part of Seva Pakhwada, BJP workers across J&K are taking this message to every district. He added that clean surroundings reflect a clean mindset, and it is our moral duty to ensure hygiene in our homes, villages, towns, and hospitals. He further



stressed that service to society in the form of cleanliness, health,

and compassion is the true way of celebrating the birthday of the Prime Minister.

Later, the BJP team also visited District Hospital Anantnag, where food kits were distributed among attendants of patients. The initiative was aimed at extending support to the needy and reinforcing the party's commitment to social service.

Anwar Khan appreciated the spirit of volunteers, saying that the overwhelming response to the cleanliness drive proves that people understand the value of hygiene. He said that it is encouraging to see citizens joining hands with BJP in this noble mission.

Rakesh Koul said that from cleanliness drives to food distribution, our workers are reaching out to every section of society. He termed the exercise as the real spirit of Seva.

CM Omar Abdullah Joins Rotary International as Honorary Member, Pledges Support

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 23: In a significant development for community service in the region, a high-level delegation from Rotary International District 3070 (Punjab, Himachal, Jammu & Kashmir) met with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, "Mr. Omar Abdullah jee, "today at Civil Secretariat srinagar. The delegation was led by District Governor Dr. Rohit Oberoi, accompanied by First Lady Aruna Oberoi. They were joined by the key officers of the Rotary Club of Kashmir: Assistant Governor Wazir Sameer, President Jagjit Singh, Secretary Dr. Touseef Ahmed, and Treasurer Adil Shah. The meeting served as a platform to discuss Rotary's extensive and ongoing humanitarian initiatives across the Union Territory. The delegation apprised the Hon'ble Chief Minister of various community service projects, with a special emphasis on the relief and rehabilitation efforts under 'Operation HUM 4 Humanity', aimed at supporting families adversely affected by the recent floods.

Expressing deep appreciation for Rotary's work, the Hon'ble Chief Minister provided gracious guidance on the future course of action for these initiatives. He assured the delegation of the full support and cooperation of the Jammu & Kashmir administration



in facilitating Rotary's humanitarian missions, recognizing their potential to create substantial positive impact on the ground. The meeting culminated in a moment of great pride for the organization when the Hon'ble Chief Minister graciously accepted the "Honorary Membership of Rotary International." To symbolize this association, District Governor Dr. Rohit Oberoi had the distinct honour of pinning Mr. Abdullah with the iconic Rotary lapel pin.

Speaking on this occasion, District Governor Dr. Rohit Oberoi stated, "This is a momentous day for Rotary in Jammu & Kashmir. The Hon'ble Chief Minister's encouragement and his commitment to public welfare are a tremendous source of motivation for every Rotarian in our District. His assurance of support significantly strengthens our resolve to serve the communities of Jammu, Kashmir, Punjab, and Himachal with even greater

zeal and dedication. Together, we can truly create lasting change."

Rotary International is a global service organization with over 1.4 million members worldwide. District 3070 encompasses clubs across Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. Rotarians are business, professional, and community leaders who volunteer their time and resources to tackle pressing humanitarian challenges, working towards causes such as eradicating polio, promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies. This gesture is seen as a powerful endorsement of Rotary's philosophy of "Service Above Self" and is expected to foster a stronger collaborative spirit between the civil administration and Rotary's network of volunteers, amplifying the reach and effectiveness of community development projects in the region.

Srinagar to host 2nd edition Kashmir Marathon on Nov 2

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 23: The second edition of Kashmir Marathon-2025, a flagship sporting event, is all set to be held on November 2 in Srinagar with the authorities keeping the registration open for the event.

According to the details available with the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Kashmir marathon, the event is scheduled to be held on 2nd November, 2025 while the winners will get the prizes are up to Rs 3 crore.

"Join the Kashmir Marathon 2025 on 2nd November in Srinagar. With prizes up to Rs 3 Crore, this is your chance to shine on the global stage. Register today," Kashmir Marathon post reads on X.

Earlier this month, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a meeting to review preparations for the upcoming Kashmir Marathon-2025, a flagship sporting event aimed at promoting sports, fitness, tourism, and Kashmir's vibrant culture.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the marathon must go beyond being a sporting event to become a holistic cultural and tourism experience.

The Director of Tourism, Kashmir, made a detailed presentation on the preparations and proposed plan of activities for the marathon.

He had directed officials to tie up with hotels, restaurants, and local businesses to provide special packages for participants and visitors, allowing them to explore Kashmir's hospitality, cuisine, and heritage during their stay.

He had also suggested introducing 10 km and 5 km runs for local participants in addition to the full and half marathons, thereby expanding community engagement and encouraging youth participation. Stressing the importance of sustainability, he called for efforts to secure a title sponsor for the mega event to ensure financial viability and greater brand visibility—(KNO)

Slathia pays glowing tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji on 131st birth anniversary

■ HT News Desk

SAMBA, SEP 23: BJP J&K MLA, Mr. Surjeet Singh Slathia, today paid glowing tribute to His Highness Maharaja Bahadur Sh. Hari Singh Ji on the occasion of his 131st Birth Anniversary.

The commemorative function was organized at Samba by Shri Amar Kashtriya Rajput Samba and witnessed the participation of a large number of prominent citizens, community elders, and admirers of the late Maharaja.

Speaking on the occasion,

Mr. Slathia, Chief Guest, dwelt in detail on the life, vision and contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, describing him as one of the most benevolent, far-sighted and reformist rulers of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the Maharaja was not only a great son of the soil but also a towering statesman whose legacy continues to inspire generations.

Mr. Slathia recalled that Maharaja Hari Singh Ji had ushered in a new era of social reforms, education and justice, ensuring equal opportunities for all sections of society. He

highlighted the Maharaja's visionary steps in expanding educational facilities, establishing institutions, and introducing progressive measures that laid the foundation for a modern Jammu and Kashmir.

"Maharaja Hari Singh Ji believed that justice must be accessible to all, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. His reign was not only about governance but about fairness, inclusivity and compassion," Mr. Slathia observed.

While describing him as a people's ruler, Mr. Slathia said

the Maharaja's reign was marked by empathy, compassion, and administrative foresight. His contribution towards infrastructural development, promotion of health services, and empowerment of marginalized communities continues to be remembered with reverence across the region.

"The youth of today must draw inspiration from the life and principles of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. By following his ideals of unity, equality and service, we can truly strengthen the fabric of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Earlier, the function began with floral tributes to the Maharaja, followed by recitations that highlighted his unparalleled service to society. The gathering observed moments of remembrance, paying homage to a leader who carved an indelible place in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Inder Singh Sambyal President Rajput Sabha Samba Karan Singh General Secretary Rajput Samba Mohan Singh Asha Rani President BJP Samba and others.

HT EDITORIAL

Come up with solution to Achan stinking problem

A huge chunk of population living in the Srinagar city and its outskirts is facing a severe civic problem and astonishingly the people at helm have failed to address the same. Successive erstwhile state governments and the present union territory dispensation have merely resorted to lip service in this regard and hardly any action has been taken up to this moment of time.

At the end of the day it is the common man who suffers with the rich and affluent able to manage the things. The problem being referred to here is the dumping of garbage in the Achan area of Srinagar city. Most of the garbage being collected from the households of the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir is dumped in the Achan area. The stink that emanates from the garbage makes the life of people living in the area miserable.

The foul smell can be felt kilometres away with the people moving in the vicinity of the same forced to cover their mouth and nose. With the superspeciality Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura located just a stone's throw away from the garbage dump one can easily feel the pain and agony of the patients as well as the attendants. These people are at the receiving end and despite this glaring problem the successive governments have done nothing to ease the situation.

Some years back the Housing & Urban Development Department had claimed that the garbage dumped at Achan would be converted into electrical energy and electricity would be produced at this place. The plan failed to take place and as such no power plant or project came up at the dumping site much to the dismay of the locals and also those who are living in the adjacent areas. Had the power plant come up at this place people would have heaved a sigh of relief and their power problems may have been eased.

Since huge tracts of land are available for the government to dump the garbage these options need to be explored so that the people of Achan and adjoining areas are absolved of daily tension. Once the new site or sites are identified it must be ensured that there is no human habitation in the vicinity of the proposed site or sites. This would mean that the human beings are not put to unnecessary trouble while the garbage is collected from different households of the city and dumped at the new garbage dumping site or sites.

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The First Day at Ramzaan College of Nursing: Lessons in Courage, Responsibility, and Hope



■ **Mohammad Arfat Wani**

The first day of college is a memory that stays with you forever. It is not merely the start of education but the beginning of a journey filled with self-discovery, responsibility, and hope. When I left home for Ramzaan College of Nursing, my heart carried two opposing emotions—excitement for the opportunities ahead and nervousness for the unknown world of new faces, teachers, and experiences that would shape my future.

As I passed through the gates of the college, pride walked with uncertainty. Walls looked unfamiliar, passages were a blur of voices never known before, and every face that went by looked as keen to recognize me as I did to recognize them. In silence, I entered a class and sat with people who were to slowly become friends, struggling to quiet down the tempest of emotions within me.

Our initial meeting was with Professor Ajaz Sir, our class coordinator. He established the tone for our journey with his words. He reminded us that being a nurse is not a mere career but a service to mankind, a science, a discipline, a responsibility. He explained to us that we were not mere students but future caretakers/healers and researchers. His words made a lasting impact, revealing to us the sacred objective of the course we had embarked upon.

Next arrived Mudassir Sir, our lecturer for Anatomy and Physiology. He spoke about more than just the human body. He spoke about courage, faith, and commitment, explaining that to be a nurse one should be completely committed. When he saw our worried faces, he urged us to adopt confidence even in the face of uncertainty. What he spoke about ingrained in me the idea that learning how to learn is as important as learning itself.

Abid Sir, our lecturer for Nursing Foundation, once taught an excellent lesson about trust—trust in Allah as well as in what is meant for us. He also told us that good role models are neither stars nor celebrities but our lecturers who create our character, value systems, and discipline. He told us that something as fundamental as good manners, being on time, and neat appearance reflects dignity and professionalism.

Zahid Sir then addressed the congregation emphasizing the religious aspect of nursing. He



termed it as worship itself where serving others grants one much more than one can earn with money. He explained with a most inspiring account regarding Hazrat Rifa'iah bint Sa'd (RA), who is credited with being the first Islamic nurse. He demonstrated how prestigious and honored a career it is indeed.

Mahek Maam also opined, emphasizing industriousness and efficient time management. "Work hard," she counseled. "Time is valuable, and a minute is a minute." It seemed to me that such admonitions were a reminder that responsible scholarship is the key to a successful varsity career.

Beyond the lectures, I explored the campus. I saw lively classrooms, well-equipped laboratories where science comes alive, the principal's office symbolizing leadership, faculty rooms full of knowledge, and the library, where rows of books quietly awaited eager minds. Watching students deeply absorbed in study made me realize that learning doesn't come only from lectures but also from curiosity, self-study, and reflection. Knowledge grows when we are patient, persistent, and dedicated.

One of the toughest moments of the day was to introduce myself to the entire class on stage. My voice never favored me for public speaking, but as I spoke, my nervous gradually turned into confidence. I learned from this episode that being a part of a college is not only about learning but also about

overcoming one's fears and transforming one's weaknesses into strengths. When they called my name as a Class Representative, pride and responsibility mingled together in my heart. It was a moment to serve, to lead, to grow.

That first day instilled me with lessons much deeper than nursing. Efforts lead to confidence, professors teach us how to live, nervousness is only natural, and growth is realized through challenges. College is about tests and grades but also about developing character, finding one's own identity, learning about responsibility, and learning to serve society with honesty. That anxious home-bound student who departed early morning returned home a changed person with lessons to be learned about courage, humility, responsibility, and hope. What is unique about the first day is not perfection but the imperfect but unforgettable beginning of learning—learning not only from books but from life. As I walked out of the college gate after evening class, I knew that the journey ahead would be tough but worthwhile, and every step would be worth having taken.

The author is a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student from Kuchmulla Tral, is also a B.Sc. Nursing student at Ramzaan College of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore. Email: wania6817@gmail.com

Teachers Uphold Reforms in Letter and Spirit, but Seek Dignity for Experience



■ **Javaid Bhat**

Our education landscape today rests on three defining pillars: the Right to Education Act (RTE), the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), and the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET). Each of these frameworks has reshaped the way we view classrooms, teachers, and learning itself. Yet, the debate continues: are these policies aligned in purpose, or do they sometimes stand in tension with one another? More importantly, what do they mean for the integrity of teachers who have already served long and performed with commitment?

The RTE Act of 2009 was a milestone, enshrining the promise of free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years. Its goal was clear; education is not a privilege but a fundamental right. Through this law, schools became more inclusive, and millions of children, who might otherwise have been left behind, found a place in classrooms.

A decade later, the NEP 2020 arrived as a transformative vision. It shifted the focus from rote learning to competency-based education, from exam-driven systems to holistic develop-



ment. It promised an education aligned with the needs of the 21st century; multidisciplinary, skill-oriented, digitally integrated, and globally competitive while rooted in Indian ethos. For teachers, NEP 2020 emphasized continuous professional development, better training, and a renewed role as facilitators of knowledge rather than mere transmitters.

The Teachers Eligibility Test, however, has been both appreciated and criticized. Introduced as a mechanism to ensure that only competent, qualified individuals enter the profession, it upholds minimum standards of teaching quality. But for those who have dedicated decades to service, often under challenging circumstances; the requirement to repeatedly

prove eligibility through written examinations can feel less like reform and more like a questioning of their lifelong dedication.

For new entrants, RTE, NEP 2020, and TET may seem like stepping stones; access, vision, and quality rolled together. For veteran teachers, however, these frameworks sometimes create an impression that experience counts for little. Many senior educators argue that their integrity has already been tested in the toughest of environments: crowded classrooms, resource shortages, and the constant challenge of shaping young minds. They ask, rightly, whether years of mentoring, guiding, and innovating can be measured by a single test score.

And yet, what remains undeniable

is that teachers across the country are implementing both RTE and NEP 2020 in letter and spirit. They are the ones who enroll and retain children under RTE, ensuring that no child drops out. They are also the ones who adapt to the new demands of NEP 2020; integrating digital tools, adopting activity-based learning, promoting critical thinking, and preparing students for a future that is both competitive and compassionate. Their resilience, adaptability, and willingness to embrace reform while staying rooted in their values reflect the highest standards of professional integrity.

In reality, these policies are not at odds. RTE guarantees access, TET safeguards quality, and NEP 2020 offers a roadmap for transformation. But synergy cannot be achieved in a vacuum. It must be built on a sensitive recognition of the role of experience. Teachers who have served with distinction for decades deserve dignity, respect, and trust; not doubt or repeated trials.

If we truly seek to strengthen our education system, we must ensure that accountability does not overshadow experience, reform does not erode dignity, and innovation does not come at the cost of trust. Teachers are not just policy implementers; they are the torchbearers of reform, the custodians of integrity, and the architects of our future. They carry forward not only the mandate of RTE and the vision of NEP 2020 but also the trust of generations who look to them for guidance.

Different Faces of Kashmir Now It's the Turn of Autumn



■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Kashmir has different faces round the year, and each one is mesmerizing, beautiful, charming, and unforgettable. Tourists from all corners of the world rush here to witness these magical transitions and capture moments that last a lifetime.

With the arrival of autumn, maize cultivation, apple plucking, and winter preparations begin. This season is also known as the season of harvest in the valley. Among all its treasures, the Chinar tree remains the most adorable attraction, drawing tourists with its fiery golden-red leaves.

Four Seasons of Kashmir

- The Kashmir Valley observes four distinct seasons:
- Spring: 21st March to 21st June
- Summer: 22nd June to 21st September
- Autumn (Harud): 22nd September to 21st December
- Winter: 21st December to 21st March

Winter begins with Chillai-Kalaan, a harsh 40-day period when every drop of water freezes like stone. Each season is unique, not only in its natural beauty but also in its economic importance for



the people of Kashmir.

Autumn in Kashmir

Autumn, locally called Harud in Kashmir and Mousam-e-Khizaan or Padjadka Mousam in Urdu, is one of the most enchanting times of the year. Every leaf changes its colour, looking like a flower

in bloom. Farmers harvest maize, pluck apples, and gather cereals. Every household stocks up on apples, walnuts, corn, rice, and fodder, preparing for the long winter ahead.

The season is also symbolic of transition. The sun softens, the days grow cooler, and people—especially the elder-

ly—enjoy sitting under the warm midday light. Farmers remain busy, and in villages, weddings and ceremonies are usually avoided until late October or November, ensuring that no effort in the fields goes in vain.

The Chinar – Symbol of Autumn

The Chinar tree, or Bouen in Kashmiri, is deeply woven into the cultural and natural identity of Kashmir. Its giant red leaves in autumn are a sight to behold. Declared the state tree of Jammu and Kashmir, cutting it down is illegal and punishable.

Tourists throng places like Chinar Bagh in Srinagar to admire and photograph these magnificent trees. The Chinar's beauty in autumn is not just nature's gift—it is Kashmir's proud heritage.

Autumn and the Youth of Kashmir

While Almighty has blessed the valley with beauty and abundance, one cannot ignore the troubling reality: the youth of Kashmir face unemployment, anxiety, and drug abuse. This is heart-breaking, especially when the tourism sector holds such immense potential.

Tourism could be a strong pillar for youth empowerment. New destinations are opening up, and with proper government support—such as district-level polytechnics for hotel management, guiding, skiing, ATV operations, and other tourist-related skills—our youth can build dignified livelihoods.

Tourists must be treated as special guests, welcomed warmly at every corner of the valley. With proper training and opportunities, our young generation can channel their energy into shaping dreams, instead of falling into despair.

Kashmir is blessed in every respect. Let us ensure its seasons not only charm the world but also empower its own people.

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Schools Nurture Creative And Critical Thinking



■ Mool Raj

Educating compassionate creative and critical thinking in schools is not merely an educational method; it is an ethical, cultural, and civilizational imperative. To teach children how to think, rather than what to think, is to free them from the prisons of dogma, prejudice, and unexamined assumptions that often shape societies. Creative and critical thinking serve as the twin lights by which the young discern possibility and responsibility, invention and evaluation, imagination and truth. They are at once cognitive disciplines and moral orientations, rooted in the recognition that human flourishing depends not only on intellectual dexterity but also on ethical judgment and social imagination. Education that emphasizes these capacities does not simply aim at producing efficient workers or informed citizens; it aspires to nurture whole persons capable of reimagining the world they inherit, questioning power and inequality, fostering empathy and compassion, and seeking harmony with their environment. At its most profound level, such an education becomes a training in freedom, where thinking itself is an act of resistance against mediocrity, conformity, and domination.

The innovations shaping the future—ranging from artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, quantum science, psychology, and advanced communications to medical breakthroughs, precision agriculture, environmental science and climate studies, data analytics, robotics, and engineering to economics, social systems, public health, cognitive science, arts and design, defense

technologies, and transformative applications in science and technology—and ethics, philosophy etc., the future of innovation depends on the integration of diverse disciplines that emerge from guided and disciplined interplay of creative and critical thinking strengthened by interdisciplinary and integrated inquiry. True innovation requires not only technical mastery but the ability to question assumptions, synthesize diverse ideas, and envision possibilities beyond conventional limits, whether in coding, biotechnology, or space exploration. Even as quantum science challenges our understanding of reality, and nanotechnology reshapes matter itself, the integration of mystical and spiritual wisdom reminds us that ethical reflection, humility, and a sense of interconnectedness must guide inquiry. Education that cultivates imagination alongside rigorous critique thus prepares learners not merely for future professions but for the conscious stewardship of civilization, where technological and societal transformation is harmonized with human values, ecological care, and profound ethical insight.

“To teach children how to think, rather than what to think, is to free them from the prisons of dogma and prejudice. Creative and critical thinking are the twin lights by which the young learn to balance imagination with truth and responsibility.”

All the greatest voices of learning remind us of this charge, for as John Dewey reminded us, “Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself”, Ivan Illich in de-schooling work emphasis “Most learning is not the result of instruction. It is rather the result of unhampered participation in a meaningful setting.” and Paulo Freire insisted, “To exist, humanly, is to name the world, to change it”. Edward de Bono's insight that “creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way” resonates with

Michel Foucault's recognition that all thought is entangled with power, while Jürgen Habermas showed that reasoning itself is sustained by the ethical fabric of communication. Martha Nussbaum warned that “without the humanities, democracy will not survive”, and Albert Einstein foresaw that “we shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive”, both of which underscore the urgency of reimagining education as the nurturing of wisdom, conscience, and imagination. At its heart, this vision is tempered by the gentle guidance of Rumi, who counseled, “Raise your words, not voice. Iqbal's call to transformative self-discovery, Tagore's dream of a fearless mind, and Vivekananda's insistence that education manifests the perfection within. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder”, reminding us that true thinking is inseparable from compassion, justice, and care for the world we inhabit.

Across the globe, exemplary education systems—from Dewey-inspired project schools in the United States to Finland's equitable, student-centered classrooms, Germany's tradition of Bildung, and Japan's collaborative moral pedagogy—demonstrate that creative and critical thinking flourishes when intellectual rigor is coupled with ethical reflection and social responsibility. Where learners are trusted, given autonomy, and guided to reflect on both ideas and consequences, thinking becomes not merely a skill but a moral and civic act. These cultures reveal a universal truth: fostering imagination, discernment, and compassion in tandem equips students not just to solve problems, but to engage meaningfully with the world they inherit.

A practical pedagogy needs four interlocking commitments: explicit instruction in skills and routines; cultivation of dispositions and meta-cognition; structuring of tasks to promote transfer; and classroom ecologies that distribute voice and responsibility equitably. Cognitive

science and education research make a consistent point: skills taught in isolation often fail to travel. Instruction that pairs ideageneration (divergent thinking) with disciplined selection, testing and revision (convergent practice)—and that makes the hidden structure of problems explicit to learners—increases the probability of trans-contextual transfer. This four-part orientation is not abstract theory; it is an empirically informed framework for lesson design that raises the odds that a student who can construct a sound argument in history can also apply the same evaluative routines to a scientific claim or a civic problem.

“Education that nurtures creativity and critique is not merely about producing efficient workers—it is about cultivating whole persons capable of questioning power, fostering empathy, and reimagining the world they inherit.”

Assessment and feedback must be reoriented from one-off correctness to formative, process-sensitive practices that accelerate learning. A large, sustained body of evidence shows formative assessment—clear criteria, low-stakes iterative tasks, teacher feedback that targets strategy, and opportunities for student self-monitoring—produces measurable gains in achievement and in students' capacity to regulate their thinking. For creative and critical habits this means assessing not only final products but the quality of inquiry moves: how hypotheses were generated and tested, how alternatives were compared, and how reasoning was revised in light of new information. These evidence-based assessment practices create the learning loop that turns isolated activities into durable competencies.

Yet learning is socially mediated; classroom norms and institutional incentives shape what counts as legitimate thinking. Who speaks, who is listened to, how group roles are assigned, the visibility of success criteria, and the distribution of

rewards all bias which ideas are tested and which criticisms survive. Equity is therefore not a sidebar but a central design constraint: outcome-centered practice must simultaneously redesign participation structures (think rotating facilitation roles, anonymized idea generation, and inclusive rubrics) so marginalized students can contribute and so the best ideas—not merely the most authoritative voices—guide refinement. International guidance emphasizes that cultural forms of knowledge and local epistemologies should be woven into tasks so that thinking is both rigorous and culturally meaningful.

The ethical and political dimension is unavoidable. Teaching critique—encouraging students to question assumptions, institutions and narratives—is intrinsically value-laden. Critical pedagogy locates teaching thinking in a broader ethical project: education can cultivate emancipatory consciousness, enabling learners to interrogate power and act to change unjust conditions; but it must be practiced with intellectual rigor, transparency about aims, and safeguards against indoctrination. In practical terms this requires scaffolding in moral reasoning, history, media literacy and standpoint awareness so that critique is informed, evidence-sensitive and connected to constructive pathways for change rather than mere negation. Educators must design spaces where students learn both to challenge and to deliberate about implications responsibly.

In addition, insistence on compassion, integrity, environmental consciousness, and other key values must be recognized as integral to creative and critical thinking rather than peripheral virtues. Without compassion, critical thinking risks becoming an exercise in demolition rather than a catalyst for constructive transformation, and without ecological awareness, creativity can veer into innovations that are tech-

nically brilliant but environmentally destructive. Embedding compassion and sustainability in the curriculum ensures that learners are not only skilled analysts and problem-solvers but also responsible stewards of social and ecological systems. This requires that schools design inquiry projects that foreground empathy (such as problem-solving for marginalized communities), sustainability challenges (such as local energy, food, or water issues), and interdependence between human and non-human life. By doing so, schools cultivate a vision of thinking that is both inventive and ethically grounded, a thinking that prepares learners not just for competitive economies but for the shared work of sustaining life on a fragile planet.

“Without compassion, critical thinking can become destructive; without creativity, education risks becoming conformity. Schools must weave together imagination, ethics, and responsibility to shape learners who can both dream and act.”

Institutional alignment is the hinge between good design and sustained classroom practice. Teachers will rationally allocate scarce instructional time toward activities that the curriculum, inspections and examinations reward. Consequently, policy levers matter: curriculum frameworks that name thinking outcomes, formative and performance-based assessment systems, teacher appraisal processes that recognize facilitation of inquiry, and investments in long-term professional learning are all essential. Short, one-off workshops rarely change classroom practice; effective professional development is sustained, content-focused, collegial, and coherent with teachers' daily work—features shown repeatedly to increase the likelihood that PD translates into changed instruction and improved student learning.

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

Towards A Healthy: Ban On Gutkha and Pan Masala



■ Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

The Haryana government has decided to impose a complete ban on gutkha, pan masala, and tobacco. Selling these products will now result in a fine of up to 10 lakh rupees. Approximately 4,000 new cancer patients are diagnosed in the state every month. Gutkha and tobacco are harmful not only to health but also to social and economic perspectives. This step has been taken to prevent people from harmful habits and inspire the new generation to lead healthier lives. The impact of this ban can be further enhanced through awareness and education campaigns.

The Haryana government recently took a bold and significant decision, announcing a complete ban on the consumption and sale of gutkha, pan masala, and tobacco throughout the state. Under this decision, shopkeepers and distributors selling these products could face fines of up to ₹10 lakh. This move is not just legal action, but a decisive step taken for the health of the people and the well-being of society.

At least 4,000 new cancer cases are being reported in Haryana every month. This figure is not only alarming, but also reflects the rapid spread of harmful habits like gutkha, pan masala, and tobacco in our society. Health experts have long pointed out this problem, and now the government has taken concrete steps to address this serious situation.

The consumption of gutkha, pan masala, and tobacco is not just a habit; it is also a cause of serious illness. Long-term use increases the risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, and digestive tract. Furthermore, it can lead to heart disease, lung problems, and other serious health issues. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), tobacco consumption kills millions of people every year. In India, the number of tobacco and gutkha-related illnesses is also increasing.

This ban by the Haryana government is an important step toward mitigating this health crisis. Its direct impact will be that people will stay away from these harmful



products and the new generation will be inspired to avoid them. It also serves as a warning to shopkeepers and distributors who are endangering people's lives by selling these products.

Tobacco and gutkha consumption are not only harmful to health, but also socially and economically. Many poor families in Haryana spend a significant portion of their limited income on gutkha and tobacco. This not only undermines their financial well-being but also impacts their children's education and other essential family needs.

From a social perspective, tobacco and gutkha consumption is rapidly increasing among the younger generation. School and college students are using these products, laying the foundation for serious health problems in the future. This government initiative is crucial to curb this trend and promote health awareness among young people.

Simply banning tobacco isn't enough. Public awareness and education are equally important. Health awareness campaigns are essential in schools, colleges, and local communities. Unless people are properly informed about the dangers of tobacco and gutkha, they won't abstain from them. The Ministry of Health and local authorities should jointly launch campaigns to educate people about the risks of cancer and other serious diseases. They should also educate people about alternative health measures and ways to live a tobacco-free life.

This decision by the Haryana government is significant not only from a health perspective, but also from a legal and administrative perspective. A fine of up to ₹10 lakh is a deterrent

that will help discourage shopkeepers from selling these products. Furthermore, this move sends a message to society that compromising health is a serious crime. Once implemented, this ban will likely resonate with other states. This step will set an example of how combining health care and law enforcement at the state level can ensure public safety.

This decision by the Haryana government is not only necessary from a health perspective, but also sends a message to society and the younger generation that distancing from harmful habits is the key to a better life. Items like tobacco, gutkha, and pan masala not only harm health but also place economic and social pressure on families and society. This ban is expected to reduce the number of tobacco- and gutkha-related diseases in the state over time. Additionally, awareness and education programs will motivate people towards healthier living. This step marks the beginning of a health revolution in Haryana, and to make it successful, the entire society, administration, and families will have to work together.

Ultimately, this decision sends the message that health is paramount and that concrete steps in the best interests of society are essential at all costs. Haryana's example can serve as an inspiration to the entire nation: that through health protection and legal measures, future generations can be protected from disease.

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

The Tuberculosis

A Persistent Global Health Challenge and the Road Ahead



■ Surinderpal Singh

The Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the oldest and infectious disease affecting the humanity. Despite the advent of antibiotics and improved diagnostic technologies, TB continues to be a significant cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. According to the various health surveys and researches more than 10 million new TB cases are reported annually, and nearly 1.5 million lives are lost to the disease. The persistence of TB is high particularly in low- and middle-income countries, underscores the urgent need to understand its causes, risk factors, prevention strategies and modern treatment modalities while also exploring future scientific endeavours for eradication.

CAUSES AND PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

TB is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, an aerobic, acid-fast bacillus that primarily affects the lungs but it can easily spread to other organs, including bones, kidneys and the brain. TB is transmitted via airborne droplets which are expelled when an infected individual coughs, sneezes or speaks. Once the bacteria is inhaled it can remain dormant in the host for years, a state known as latent TB infection (LTBI). In cases where host immunity is compromised, latent infection can progress to active disease. The unique waxy cell wall of M. tuberculosis, rich in mycolic acids, grants it resistance to many common disinfectants and contributes to its pathogenic persistence.

RISK FACTORS

Several biological and socio-economic factors increase susceptibility to TB.

1. Immunocompromised states:

The HIV/AIDS is the strongest known risk factor for TB reactivation.

2. Malnutrition:

Undernourishment can weaken the immune responses which can increase the risk of infection.

3. Poverty and overcrowding:

The dense living conditions also promotes the airborne transmission.

4. Lifestyle factors:

Smoking, alcohol abuse and diabetes mellitus increases the TB risk.

5. Occupational hazards:

Healthcare workers and miners are more exposed to TB pathogens.

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

TB prevention requires a multi-layered approach, combining medical, social and public health interventions.

Vaccination:

The Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine remains the only licensed TB vaccine. While it can provides moderate protection against severe childhood TB, its efficacy against adult pulmonary TB is variable.

Infection control:

Adequate ventilation, respiratory masks in healthcare settings and isolation of infectious patients are key preventive measures for controlling TB.

Chemoprophylaxis:

Preventive treatment with isoniazid or rifampentine is recommended for individuals with latent TB, particularly those at high risk.

Social interventions:

Addressing poverty, malnutrition and poor housing conditions is crucial for long-term TB control.

CURRENT TREATMENTS

TB therapy is complex and lengthy, often spanning over a long period of time.

1. First-line drugs:

Standard treatment involves a four-drug regimen—isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide and ethambutol for the initial two months, followed by isoniazid and rifampicin for four months.

2. Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB):

Resistance to isoniazid and rifampicin poses a major challenge. MDR-TB requires longer treatment (18–24 months) with second-line drugs such as fluoroquinolones and aminoglycosides, which are often less effective and more toxic.

3. New therapeutics:

Recently approved drugs like bedaquiline and delamanid represent significant advances in combating resistant strains.

4. Supportive care:

Nutritional supplementation and management of comorbidities, such as HIV, enhance treatment outcomes.

FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

The fight against TB demands innovation at multiple fronts.

Vaccine research:

Several candidate vaccines, such as M72/AS01E, have shown promising results in clinical trials, offering hope for stronger protection against pulmonary TB.

Rapid diagnostics:

Molecular tests like GeneXpert MTB/RIF are already revolutionizing early detection, but further improvements is essential.

Shorter treatment regimens:

The ongoing research in the field of science and technology aims to reduce treatment duration without compromising efficacy, improving patient adherence.

Host-directed therapies:

Approaches that enhance the host immune system to fight TB are under exploration, including immunomodulators and therapeutic vaccines.

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

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DLSA Srinagar raises awareness on POSH Act, drug abuse at GBHSS Zadibal

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 23: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a legal awareness programme on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act and Drug Abuse at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Zadibal.

The initiative was aimed at sensitizing students about their legal rights and responsibilities, while also highlighting the importance of legal awareness in empowering youth to build a just and responsible society.



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

During the session, Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), addressed the students on the provisions and significance of the POSH Act, underscoring the need for awareness to ensure a safe and respectful environment.

In another session, Panel

Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, delivered an insightful lecture on the menace of drug abuse, its legal consequences, and the social responsibility of youth in combating this challenge.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students, who engaged actively with the speakers and expressed keen interest in understanding their rights and duties.

The interactive sessions served as an important step towards nurturing an aware and empowered generation capable of contributing positively to society.

Sewa Parv-2025: Bandipora witnesses series of activities with enthusiastic public participation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 23: Continuing the spirit of Sewa Parv 2025, a series of cleanliness, awareness, and community-oriented activities were today carried out across district Bandipora by various departments and municipal bodies with active public involvement.

Wetlands and Wular Conservation Management Authority (WUCMA) organized an awareness programme to sensitise fisherfolk about sustainable fishing practices, and also highlighted linkages with social welfare schemes for their welfare.

Municipal Committee Hajin conducted a door-to-door plastic waste collection drive along with cleanliness campaigns at the Animal Husbandry office and the Well Baby Clinic.

Similarly, Municipal Committee Sumbal carried out an extensive door-to-door awareness campaign on source segregation and scientific waste management. Awareness programmes and on-site visits were also conducted under PMAY (U) to guide beneficiaries.

The Committee further undertook activities including cleanliness of Jhelum banks, clearance of community toilets, registration of vendors under PM SVANidhi, verification of PMAY beneficiaries, and sanitation of the revered Ziyarat Sharif Syed Abdullah Shah Bukhari.

Social Forestry Range Bandipora, Division Baramulla, organized an awareness programme at Panchayat Ghar Ashtangoo on reducing single-use plastics. The programme saw participation of locals, students, and staff, and was followed by a plantation drive to encourage eco-friendly practices.

Municipal Council Bandipora also carried out several activities under Sewa Parv, including clearance of community toilets near Papchan Bridge, cleanliness drives on the banks of Wular Lake at Lankreshpora and near Jamia Masjid Nusoo, awareness among households residing along the Jhelum at Lankreshpora, besides clearance of identified hotspots along the Onagam-Kalooa road.

Inter-division U-19 Boys Football UT level championship kicks-off in Baramulla

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 23: The three-day inter-division UT level Under-19 Boys Football competition commenced today with great enthusiasm at Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh Baramulla.

The mega event is being organised by the Youth Services & Sports department J&K under the chairmanship of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K, and the supervision of Rashid Kohli, Joint Director Youth Services & Sports, Kashmir Province, with DYSSO Baramulla as the host.



Two strong teams viz. Jammu division and Kashmir division are featuring in the championship and will compete in six thrilling matches over the course of three days.

The competition serves as a platform for talented footballers to prove their mettle, with the best performers earning the honour of representing J&K at the national level.

In the opening clash between the two divisions, Kashmir division took an early lead, scoring 2-0. The tournament will run its full course and culminate on 25th September 2025.

The event reflects the department's continued commitment towards nurturing young sporting talent and promoting football culture across the Union Territory.

Sewa Parv: Sports, cleanliness & awareness activities continue across Pulwama

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 23: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, a vibrant set of activities were organised today across Pulwama district by different departments, focusing on youth engagement, cleanliness, awareness, and community service.

Rural Development Department (RDD) conducted Clean Green Ut-sav promoting eco-friendly practices and zero-waste festivities at the block level. Special cleanliness drives were also undertaken in market areas, public places & Amrit Sarovars.

Adding to the spirit of the fortnight-long campaign, District Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) mobilised



students and volunteers through sports activities, awareness drives, and plantation initiatives. These efforts aimed at spreading the values of teamwork, service, and youth participation in social responsibility.

Further, awareness sessions were organised for Self-Help Group (SHG) members on improved livestock rearing practices, alongside digital literacy and cyber hygiene camps to empower citizens with essential knowledge.

The celebrations of Sewa Parv will continue in the coming days with a series of programmes aimed at deepening public awareness, encouraging volunteerism, and fostering inclusive community development.

Sewa Parv-2025: Shopian focuses on sustainable livelihoods & public welfare

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 23: The seventh day of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 campaign in district Shopian witnessed a vibrant series of activities across departments, reinforcing the themes of sustainability, community participation, and public welfare.

The District Sheep Husbandry Department held live demonstrations at the Sheep Breeding Farm Zawoora, where experts showcased modern husbandry practices, scientific rearing methods, and advanced wool processing techniques. Farmers were sensitized about breed improvement, fodder management, and disease control, underlining the role of livestock in strengthening rural economies.

As part of the Swachhta Hi Seva campaign, the Municipal Council Shopian carried out intensified

drives against Single-Use Plastics (SUP). Special awareness camps were held for shopkeepers and street vendors to adopt cloth and jute bags, while door-to-door collection of plastics encouraged responsible waste disposal. Officials also conducted surprise inspections in marketplaces to ensure enforcement of the SUP ban.

The Agriculture Department organized Sewa Parv events at the Hi-Tech Polyhouse in Mini Secretariat Shopian and at Killora. Farmers were introduced to innovative farming techniques, high-yield crop varieties, and organic farming practices designed to reduce environmental stress while enhancing farm productivity.

Simultaneously, the Forest Department and Forest Protection Force launched a large-scale cleanliness and anti-polythene drive



at the Sub-District Hospital Keller. Staff and volunteers removed plastic waste from hospital premises

and nearby surroundings, showcasing the district's commitment towards eco-conscious healthcare facilities.

On the health and nutrition front, awareness programmes at Ramnagri and Sedow educated families on balanced diets, maternal and child care, and the importance of immunization. Doctors and health workers conducted on-spot check-ups and counselling sessions, benefitting scores of women and children.

The Rural Development Department (RDD) mobilized Panchayati Raj Institutions and local communities to participate in cleanliness drives across Gram Panchayats. Educational pamphlets on sanitation, waste segregation, and hygiene were distributed to schoolchildren and villagers, strengthening collective responsibility.

Other departments, including

Education, ICDS, and Social Welfare, also organized special awareness sessions, plantation drives, and cultural programmes to spread the message of unity, service, and sustainable development.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian appreciated the coordinated efforts of departments and lauded the overwhelming response from the public. He emphasized that Sewa Parv is not just a campaign but "a movement towards building self-reliant, clean, and healthy communities that blend tradition with modern practices."

The day concluded with a renewed pledge by all participating departments and communities to continue such initiatives in the spirit of Sewa Parv, ensuring that the message of service, sustainability, and public welfare reaches every household of Shopian district.

Budgam witnesses diverse activities under ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 23: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 celebrations, district Budgam today witnessed a vibrant series of community-oriented activities across multiple blocks, with a focus on cleanliness, sustainability, cultural heritage, and agricultural best practices.

At Block S.K. Pora, a cultural Ladishah performance and a social play were staged in collaboration with Government High School S.K. Pora and Government Middle School Razwen. Delivered in the Kashmiri language, the performances emphasized eco-friendly behaviour, sustainable living, and collective responsibility, ensuring that the message of Sewa Parv resonated deeply with the local population.

At HSS Bugam, Chadoora, students and volunteers carried out a wall painting activity depicting themes of cleanliness, environmental protection, and civic responsibility. The initiative not only beautified the surroundings but also served as a creative tool to spread awareness, engaging youth in visual storytelling.



rytelling.

In Beerwah block, the Horticulture Department Budgam organized practical demonstrations on orchard drainage systems, water harvesting techniques, and fruit and vegetable preservation methods. Farmers were sensitized about cost-effective and sustainable practices to enhance yield, improve resource efficiency, and minimize post-harvest losses,

thereby securing livelihoods and strengthening the horticulture sector.

Meanwhile, Ratsun Block hosted a Zero Waste Celebration Festival, which highlighted eco-friendly lifestyle choices, reduction of plastic usage, and efficient resource utilization. Community members actively participated in workshops and demonstrations, reinforcing

the message of adopting responsible waste management practices in day-to-day life.

In Block Narbal, cleanliness drives were undertaken in and around Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) assets. Local volunteers, PRIs, and department officials came together to clean public spaces, strengthen awareness about hygiene, and encourage the upkeep of community assets created under SBM.

In addition, awareness rallies, plantation drives, and interactive sessions with schoolchildren were held at several other locations across the district, amplifying the message of service, sustainability, and social responsibility.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam lauded the efforts of participating departments, schools, and community members, noting that Sewa Parv is "a celebration of collective responsibility and people's power, blending culture, service, and sustainability for a better future."

The day's activities collectively reflected Budgam's strong participation in Sewa Parv-2025, ensuring that the campaign continues to inspire a cleaner, greener, and socially conscious district.

Sewa Parv 2025: Horticulture Deptt Anantnag holds awareness/ CBP, Machinery Show

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 23: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 celebrations, Horticulture department, Anantnag today organised an awareness-cum-capacity building programme (CBP) and Machinery Show at Kokernag.

The programme aimed to educate orchardists to adopt modern and scientific horticulture practices to enhance productivity, improve fruit quality, and maintain orchard health throughout the seasons.

Experts from the department provided detailed demonstrations and practical advice to farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, SDM Kokernag, Prince Kumar, who was the chief guest, said that Sewa Parv provides an important platform for farmers and common people to directly engage with government officers, share their concerns, and receive first-hand knowledge about welfare schemes.

Subject Matter Specialist, Horticulture Development Anantnag highlighted the department's flagship schemes and their benefits, urging orchardists to avail the facilities under various government programmes.

Earlier, HDO Kokernag gave a detailed overview of the achievements and ongoing initiatives of Horticulture Zone Kokernag.

During the event, orchardists actively interacted with officials, shared their challenges, and received responses from the



experts.

Later, SDM Kokernag distributed farm machinery among eligible beneficiaries of zone Kokernag in the presence of other officers.

Tehsildar Kokernag, HDO Brakpora, other officers of the department, and a number of orchardists and stakeholders also attended the program.

JMC Commissioner inspects 27 MLD STP at Bhagwati Nagar

Directs completion of pending works for early commissioning of Plant

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 23:

To ensure timely delivery of urban infrastructure and foster the sewage management system in the city, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today visited the 27 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) developed on Activated Sludge Process (ASP) technology at Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. The Project, constructed by NBCC (India) Limited in 2016 to improve sewage treatment capacity, has started partial functioning since last month.

During the inspection, the Commissioner took a detailed

review of the functioning of the plant and enquired about the status of facilities created under the project. While appreciating the progress made so far, Dr. Yadav noted that certain crucial works are still pending which are necessary to make the plant fully operational and beneficial for the public.

Directing the NBCC officials to complete all pending works within 15 days, particularly making the in-house laboratory functional and activating the gaseous chlorine system for effective disinfection, Dr. Yadav also stressed the importance of securing operational consent from the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee



(JKPCC), which is a statutory requirement to ensure compliance with environmental standards.

The Commissioner highlighted that once these steps are completed, the plant will be formally handed over to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. This will pave the way for its full-scale operation and provide much-needed sewage treatment facilities to stake-holders.

“Completion and commissioning of this plant is a critical step towards ensuring cleaner water bodies, reducing environmental hazards and improving public health in Jammu,” Dr.

Yadav said while interacting with officials.

The Commissioner further emphasized that the JMC is committed to providing modern urban infrastructure for better sanitation and environmental protection. He urged upon the executing agency to adhere to the timeline and assured full cooperation from the Corporation for expediting clearances and facilitating inter-departmental coordination.

Among others, senior officers of JMC, engineers from the executing agency, and representatives of the Housing and Urban Development Department accompanied the commissioner during the visit.

Sewa Parv 2025 activities witness enthusiastic public participation across Kathua District

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 23: Continuing the Sewa Parv 2025 campaign, a series of activities were organised today across Kathua district, reflecting collective spirit towards cleanliness, digital empowerment and sustainable development.

The Sheep Husbandry Department inaugurated a five-day training programme under CSS-ATMA at the District Complex in the presence of MLA Kathua, Dr. Bharat Bhushan, and District Sheep Husbandry Officer Dr. R.K Manhas.

Around one hundred breeders were registered for the programme. District Sheep Husbandry Officer shared a detailed training schedule highlighting modern interventions in livestock rearing, fodder management, vaccination drives, Dosing, dipping and employment-oriented schemes. On the occasion, the MLA commended the role of the department in uplifting weaker sections and handed over an on-spot sanction letter for establishment of a breed-based farm under HADP to a beneficiary.

In Billawar, the Municipal Committee organised a cleanliness drive in and around Shiv Temple to promote hygiene and community participation in maintaining public spaces.

The Municipal Committee Hiranagar carried out multiple sanitation activities including a cleanliness drive at Ward No. 9, fogging at public places in Ward No. 4 and sanitation work at CTU in Ward No. 1, ensuring cleaner surroundings for residents.

The Municipal Council Kathua conducted several impactful activities under Sewa Parv Day 7. A cleanliness drive under the “Ek Ganta Ek Sath” campaign was held from Jarai Chowk to V2 Mall with active public participation. A plantation drive under the theme “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” was organised at the Material Recovery Facility, Kathua, with installation of tree guards for sapling protection. Wall painting activities on AMRUT and NCAP themes were also carried out at PWD Colony under AMRUT 2.0 to spread awareness on sustainable urban growth.

Rajouri observes Sewa Parv Day 07 with focus on health, digital literacy, cleanliness among other welfare activities

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 23: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma, a series of impactful activities were organised today across Rajouri district as a part of the ongoing campaign under Sewa Parv.

The DSEO Rajouri (Nodal Officer Sewa Parv), in collaboration with the Forest Department and hostel inmates, took a Swachhta Pledge and carried out a cleanliness as well as plantation drive at Govt. Boys Pahari Hostel.

The seventh day of the campaign was further marked by diverse welfare activities, awareness drives, and community outreach initiatives, reinforcing the spirit of inclusive development and citizen empowerment.

Departments across the district worked in tandem to deliver services and raise awareness about various flagship schemes and initiatives.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Department conducted awareness programmes on government welfare schemes and facilitated the registration of eligible women under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) to foster maternal and child health services.

The Fisheries Department organised Kisan Goshtis to educate farmers on best practices, government support schemes, and the potential for growth in the fisheries sector.

The Common Services Centres (CSCs) played a key role in promoting digital empowerment by conducting sessions on digital literacy and cyber hygiene, equipping citizens with essential knowledge about online safety and responsible internet use.

The Health Department held screening camps and facilitated registrations under the PM Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), ensuring wider access to quality healthcare services.

J&K Bank undertook financial inclusion and enrolment drives, encouraging people to open bank accounts, avail government-backed financial schemes and embrace formal banking systems.

The Agriculture Department led awareness sessions on vital schemes such as PM-KISAN, Kisan Credit Card (KCC), and the importance of Soil Health Cards, aiming to enhance farm productivity and rural prosperity.

To promote environmental sustainability, the Forest Department launched extensive plantation drives, while Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) conducted Swachhta drives and community tree plantation events, rallying citizens around the cause of cleanliness and urban greening.

The Rural Development Department (RDD) celebrated “Clean Green Utsav”, promoting eco-friendly and zero-waste celebrations, underlining the district’s commitment

to sustainable practices.

Additionally, the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) created awareness about Mission YUVA, aimed at empowering rural youth through skill-building and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Besides these, various other departments also organised numerous welfare activities in alignment with the objectives of Sewa Parv, ensuring broad-based outreach and public participation.

Sewa Parv continues to serve as a dynamic platform for integrated service delivery, celebrating good governance and deepening citizen-government connect across every corner of Rajouri district.

From Cleanliness to Women Empowerment: Day 7 of Sewa Parv 2025 witnesses multiple initiatives

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 23: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 campaign, a series of impactful initiatives were conducted across District Kishtwar today under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma. The events focused on environmental conservation, cleanliness, health, nutrition, women empowerment and community welfare.

The Municipal Council (MC) Kishtwar led a mega cleanliness drive on the Historic Chowgan Grounds, engaging officials and Swachhta Executives. The campaign also included a door-to-door awareness drive on

waste segregation, promoting the use of the Swachhata App and encouraging citizens to minimize single-use plastics for a cleaner and greener Kishtwar.

The Government ITI organised activities focusing on women empowerment through skill development.

The Social Welfare Department organized a painting competition on environment conservation and hazards of drug abuse at the Girl Child Care Institute “Parisha,” followed by a cleanliness drive.

The ICDS Department organised orientation training for the workers of all Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) across the district, for identifying and monitoring severely and moderately acute

malnourished (SAM/MAM) children using growth monitoring devices and appetite tests.

Similarly, Health, Rural Development, ICDS, Forest, Education and Social Welfare departments conducted awareness and outreach programs across subdivisions, tehsils and blocks, ensuring widespread community engagement and reinforcing the values of civic responsibility and environmental stewardship.

Day 07 of Sewa Parv 2025 exemplified the spirit of “Seva, Sankalp, and Samarpan,” bringing together citizens from all walks of life to work towards a sustainable, healthy and progressive Kishtwar.

DC Kishtwar inspects restoration work at Naigad Water Supply Scheme

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma today conducted an extensive inspection of the Naigad Gravity Water Supply Scheme, where restoration work on the rain-affected pipeline is underway to reinstate drinking water supply to Kishtwar town and adjoining areas.

During the visit, the DC inspected two critical damaged spots—one at Bajri Point Wagam Nallah and another along the same Nallah—where water supply lines had been severely hit by recent heavy rains. While the first site had already been rectified, restoration work at the second location is currently in progress.

The DC was informed that the existing track damaged due to sinking has been realigned to facilitate interconnection with the gravity line. This step will help make the system functional in the shortest possible time and minimize inconvenience to the affected population.

The DC held detailed deliberations with the Executive Engineer, AEE, AE, and field staff of the Jal Shakti Department, reviewing both technical challenges and safety concerns associated with the restoration process. He directed the engineers to accelerate the pace of work and ensure that the supply is resumed at the earliest, keeping in view the hardships being faced by residents due to shortage of potable water.

He further assured that the District Administration will provide full logistical support, machinery, and timely arrangements required to facilitate smooth completion of the restoration work.

The DC emphasized that priority must be given to quality execution, safety of workers, and long-term durability of the restored infrastructure.

The DC also stressed the importance of preparing a comprehensive mitigation plan for the scheme to prevent such damages in the future, particularly in landslide and flood-prone stretches of the pipeline. He called for regular monitoring, early warning systems, and preventive maintenance measures to ensure uninterrupted water supply even during adverse weather conditions.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Kishtwar, Er. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, AEE Jal Shakti Kishtwar Rahul Kotwal, and other concerned officials.

The inspection reflects the administration’s proactive approach to addressing critical civic issues under the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025, with special focus on ensuring essential services and public welfare across the district.

District Administration Ramban organizes specialized Health Camps under ‘Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan’

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 23: Continuing its commitment to public welfare under the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, today organized a series of Specialized Health Camps across the district under the banner of ‘Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan’. The initiative aimed at delivering accessible, preventive, and curative healthcare with a special focus on women, children, and vulnerable sections of society.

A Specialized Health Camp was organized at NTPHC Nowgam, while two additional camps were held at AAM SC Kudgi and AAM SC Chamalwas. These camps were strategically planned to reach rural and underserved areas, ensuring equitable healthcare access at the grassroots.

During the camps, screening services were provided for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including Hypertension, Diabetes, and Oral, Breast, and Cervical Cancer. Special focus was laid on antenatal check-ups



(ANCs) for pregnant women and screening for anaemia, aiming to reduce maternal and child health risks. In addition, child vaccination sessions were conducted, alongside Tuberculosis (TB) screening and the enrolment of beneficiaries under the Nikshay Mitra initiative, further strengthening the fight against

duct, alongside Tuberculosis (TB) screening and the enrolment of beneficiaries under the Nikshay Mitra initiative, further strengthening the fight against

TB.

Extensive counselling sessions were held for women and adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene management, nutrition, anaemia prevention, family planning, and general health awareness. Interactive discussions with health experts encouraged women to adopt healthy lifestyle practices and make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

To extend the reach of health and social security schemes, on-the-spot generation of Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY Golden Cards and Vay Vandana Cards was facilitated, enabling eligible families to avail free medical treatment and financial support.

Medical teams comprising doctors, ANMs, ASHAs, and paramedical staff worked tirelessly to ensure that all participants received comprehensive health check-ups and appropriate referrals for specialized care where needed. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the doorstep healthcare services, noting that such initiatives reduce both the cost and time barriers for rural families.

Meanwhile, in line with the

multi-sectoral approach of Sewa Parv, other line departments also conducted parallel public service activities across the district. The RDD mobilized Gram Panchayats to organize cleanliness drives in villages; the Education Department held awareness programmes in schools focusing on nutrition and hygiene; while the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments organized demonstrations on sustainable farming and orchard management.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, while appreciating the coordinated efforts of departments, said that the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan is a crucial step towards “empowering women through good health, as a healthy woman forms the backbone of a strong and self-reliant family.” He urged all stakeholders to sustain the momentum by ensuring follow-up services and spreading awareness in every nook and corner of the district.

The day’s activities reflected the district’s holistic approach to service delivery, blending healthcare, sanitation, awareness, and welfare measures, thereby carrying forward the spirit of Sewa Parv with active public participation.

TRUMP MAY ACT FURTHER ON INDIA'S RUSSIAN OIL PURCHASES: MARCO RUBIO

United News of India

NEW DELHI/NEW YORK, SEP 23: US President Donald Trump has the ability to do more about the measures he has taken against India for buying Russian oil and is "considering doing more" because of the direction the entire matter has taken, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said today.

He, however, said the US hopes that the measures taken so far against India can be fixed.

"We've already seen the measures we've taken with regards to India, although that's something we hope we can fix. But – and the President has the ability to do more, and he's con-

sidering doing more because of the direction this has taken," the State Department said. The State Department released Marco Rubio's conversation with NBC on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

Marco Rubio again harped on the argument that President Trump had brought an end to the India-Pakistan war post Pahalgam terror attack. "And look what the President's done and the war he's brought about to an end – Thailand and Cambodia, India and Pakistan. Time and again, the President has been the only leader in the world that can get involved," he added.

Secretary Rubio said United States is the only country that

can talk to Ukraine and Russia. He, however, said that at some point that role might end. And at some point he (President Trump) may have to decide to impose new sanctions.

He, however, said the minute US goes heavy on the sanctions and everything else, its ability to act as a broker to bring about peace is diminished, and this war then goes on for another two years and hundreds of thousands of more people will die. "So we're trying to avoid that. We hope to avoid that."

He said right now there are countries in Europe that are still buying massive amounts of oil and natural gas from Russia, "which is absurd." He called



upon European countries too to impose sanctions. They (European countries)

are asking for the US to impose more sanctions but there are countries in Europe that are not

doing enough.

"I think it's important for Europe to impose sanctions, too. Right now there are countries in Europe that are still buying massive amounts of oil and natural gas from Russia, which is absurd. I mean, they're asking for the U.S. to impose more sanctions, but there are countries in Europe that are not doing enough. So I think they need to do more," Rubio said.

The comments by Rubio come even as he said in a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar yesterday that India is a relationship of "critical importance" for the United States. He expressed appreciation for the Indian government's

continued engagement on a number of issues including trade, Defence, energy, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, and other items related to the bilateral relationship.

A statement issued by the State Department said the two also agreed that both countries will continue working together to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region, including through the QUAD. It was their first in-person meeting after the Trump administration last month slapped 50 percent tariffs on India. The meeting also comes amid the Trump administration's decision to hike H-1B visa fees to 100,000 US Dollars for new applicants. UNI

ED arrests alleged mastermind in major Goa land grabbing scam

United News of India

NEW DELHI SEP 23: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said today that its Panaji office has arrested Mohammed Suhail, also known as Michael, in a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case related to large-scale land grabbing.

Suhail, the alleged mastermind of a large-scale illegal land-grabbing syndicate in Goa, was arrested from the Colvale Correctional Home, where he was already in judicial custody for another scheduled offence. He was produced before a Special Court (PMLA) in Mercas, which remanded him to four days of ED custody.

The ED initiated its PMLA investigation based on



a First Information Report (FIR) and a chargesheet filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT - Land Grab) of the Goa Police. The police case was registered against Suhail, his wife Anjum Shaikh, and an associate, Nure Faijal Bhatkar, for offences including cheating, forgery of valuable security, and using forged documents as genuine under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The ED investigation revealed that Suhail was the kingpin of a syndicate involved in illegally acquiring numerous properties across Goa. The probe was triggered by a specific complaint in which Suhail and his associates allegedly forged death certificates to create a fictitious legal heir. They then fraudulently executed a succession deed to illegally acquire a property in Anjuna, which was subsequently sold for Rs. 50 lakh, thereby generating proceeds of crime (POC).

Investigation under the PMLA have exposed a deep-rooted conspiracy and a consistent modus operandi. Suhail, in collusion with his associates, would identify vacant properties, forge documents, and manipulate records in government departments to create fake ownership histories. These properties were then illegally transferred to the names of their associates and sold.

In a related case where Suhail is the prime accused, the ED has already attached 52 illegally acquired properties valued at approximately Rs. 232.73 crore and has filed a prosecution complaint against him and 35 others. During that investigation, Suhail himself disclosed his involvement in the illegal acquisition of over 100 properties.

His arrest is a significant development that will enable the ED to interrogate him to uncover the money trail, identify the end-use of the POC, and unearth the involvement of other individuals in this extensive scam.

Further investigation is on. UNI

Philips Home Appliances Brings Festive Cheer with 'Sone Pe Suhaga' Campaign

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, SEP 23: The festive season in India is synonymous with joy, new beginnings, and auspicious traditions, and few symbols capture that better than gold. Embracing this festive spirit, Philips Home Appliances has announced its pan-India campaign Sone Pe Suhaga, bringing consumers the chance to celebrate the season with golden rewards alongside trusted innovations for the home.

A company spokesman said that the heart of the campaign lies Philips' belief that the festive season is about creating lasting memories while making everyday life easier. With a portfolio that includes the iconic Philips Airfryer, Mixer Grinders, Coffee Machines, Garment Steamers, Air Purifiers, and more. The brand continues to bring together inno-

vation, convenience, and care to turn houses into homes.

The month long the campaign offers shoppers the opportunity to win gold worth INR 9,999 every hour, every day. Philips Home Appliances will be announcing the winners hourly via social media, radio and daily winners via national newspapers.

Speaking on the campaign, Pooja Baid, Chief Marketing Officer, Versuni India, said: "Festivals in India are about joy, togetherness, and meaningful moments. Gold has always been a cherished part of these celebrations; a symbol of prosperity and good fortune. With our 'Sone Pe Suhaga' campaign, we are combining the excitement of winning gold with the assurance of Philips' trusted innovations. It's our way of adding even more sparkle to every celebration this festive season."



The Sone Pe Suhaga campaign reflects Philips' long-standing promise of bringing relevant, purposeful innovation to Indian homes while making the festive season even more rewarding. Running nationwide from September 22 to October 22, 2025, it invites consumers to purchase

any Philips product above Rs. 1,000 at any offline store or on the Philips Home Appliances website, register via the campaign QR code, and stand a chance to win gold vouchers worth Rs. 9,999 every single hour, along with exciting assured gifts on select products making every purchase

President Presents Dada Saheb Phalke to Mohanlal; SRK, Vikrant, Rani Win Best Actor Awards

United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 23: President Droupadi Murmu today conferred the Dada Saheb Phalke Award 2023, on the iconic Malayalam actor Mohanlal, fondly known as Lalettan in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the Indian cinema.

Actors Shah Rukh Khan and Vikrant Massey shared the Best Actor Award for their outstanding performances in the films 'Jawan' and '12th Fail', respectively. Rani Mukerji was awarded the Best Actress Award for her performance in the movie Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway.

The Awards were presented at the 71st National Film Awards at a ceremony held at the Vigyan Bhawan here.

The award for the Best Feature Film was presented to 12th Fail (Hindi) directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra.

Sudipto Sen was conferred with the Best Direction for The Kerala Story. Prasanna Mohapatra was given the Best Cinematography award for The Kerala Story.

Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani won the Best Feature Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment and Sam Bahadur was awarded the Best Film Promoting National, Social Values.

Vijayaraghavan and Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar were given the National Film Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for their performances in Pookkaalam (Malayalam) and Parking (Tamil), respectively, while

Urvashi and Janki Bodiwala were



honoured with the Best Actress award in a Supporting Role for their performances in Ullozhukku (Malayalam) and Vash (Gujarati), respectively.

The award for the Best Documentary was presented to God Vulture and Human (English, Hindi and Telugu) directed by Rishiraj Agarwal; films Mo Bou, Mo Gaan (Odia) and Lentina Ao - A Light on the Eastern Horizon (English) presented the Best Biographical / Historical Reconstruction / Compilation Film award; Mau: The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw (Mizo) received the National Film Award in the Best Non-Feature Film category.

The President presented the Best Non-Feature Film to Flowering Man (Hindi) directed by Soumyajit Ghosh Dastidar;

Bhargav Jagtap, Shrinivas Pokale and Treasha Thosar were conferred with the Best Child Artist award for the Marathi film Naal 2.

Vaibhavi Merchant was awarded the Best Choreography for the song 'Dhindhora Baje Re' from the movie

Rocky aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani and Shilpa Rao received the Best Female Playback Singer Award for her melodious performance in the song 'Chaliya' from the film Jawan.

The award for the Best Short Film (Up to 30 Min) was presented to 'Giddh the Scavenger' (Hindi) directed by Manish Saini.

Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani won the Best Feature Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment and Sam Bahadur was awarded the Best Film Promoting National, Social Values.

Meanwhile, in his address, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a vision to make India a hub of content creation.

"Earlier our creators used to go abroad, now the world is coming to India. Through WAVES Bazaar, the product of our content creators is now finding new markets everywhere," Vaishnaw said. UNI

US Secret Service Busts Device Network Threatening UNGA Security

United News of India

NEW DELHI/NEW YORK, SEP 23: The U.S. Secret Service has dismantled a network of electronic devices located throughout the New York tristate area that were used to conduct multiple telecommunications-related threats directed towards senior U.S. government officials, which represented an imminent threat to the agency's protective operations.

This protective intelligence investigation led to the discovery of more than 300 co-located SIM servers and 100,000 SIM cards across multiple sites, the Secret Service said in a statement.

These devices were concentrated within 35 miles of the global meeting of the United Nations General Assembly now underway in New York City. In addition to carrying out anonymous telephonic threats, these devices could be used to conduct a wide range of telecommunications attacks. This includes disabling cell phone towers, enabling denial of services attacks and facilitating anonymous, encrypted communication between potential threat actors and criminal enterprises.

While forensic examination of these devices is ongoing, early analysis indicates cellular communications between nation-state threat actors and individuals that are known to federal law enforcement.

"The potential for disruption to our country's telecommunications posed by this network of devices cannot be overstated," said U.S. Secret Service Director Sean Curran. "The U.S. Secret Service's protective mission is all about prevention, and this investigation makes it clear to potential bad actors that imminent threats to our protectees will be immediately investigated, tracked down and dismantled." Given the timing, location and potential for significant disruption to New York telecommunications posed by these devices, the agency moved quickly to disrupt this network, the Secret Service said.

The U.S. Secret Service's Advanced Threat Interdiction Unit, a new section of the agency dedicated to disrupting the most significant and imminent threats to our protectees, is conducting this investigation. UNI

Hezbollah Has 'Zero' Incentive to Disarm Amid Israeli Strikes: US Envoy

United News of India

WASHINGTON, SEP 23: US Ambassador to Turkey and special envoy to Syria Thomas Barrack said that the Lebanon-based Islamic hardline militant-political group - Hezbollah has "zero" incentive to lay down their arms, as Israel's military campaign in Gaza, and strikes in Syria, Lebanon, Iran, and Qatar have exacerbated security worries in the

Middle East.

In an interview with UAE-based IMI media, he said, "I mean, this is the problem, especially when Israel is attacking everybody," reports Times of Israel.

"Israel is attacking Syria. Israel is attacking Lebanon. Israel is attacking Tunisia. As it goes on, their argument gets better and better as we're here to protect the weapons from Israel," he remarked. Lebanon's govern-

ment, earlier this month, approved a plan by its military to disarm the Iranian-backed terror group. Hezbollah has dismissed the plan and vowed it won't give up its weapons.

Israel has been striking in Syria to prevent the former Assad regime's weapons from getting into the hands of hostile forces, specifically religious hardline elements which have gained even more power in the new Al-Sharra

regime, while also vowing protection of the Syrian Druze.

Likewise, it has been striking Lebanon to prevent the militant group from restoring its offensive capabilities after last year's war.

However, Israel has not confirmed any strike in Tunisia. The organisers of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla accused Israel earlier this month of twice launching a drone strike on one of their boats in Tunisia. Commenting on the issue

of the strike in Qatar, the US diplomat called Doha a "great and valued ally" to Washington, praising its leaders. He further proceeded to defend the country from allegations of harbouring and funding terrorists, due to its history of hosting the Afghan Taliban and Hamas, claiming that people get 'confused' on this issue, and thus accuse Qatar of owing its allegiance to Islamic terror groups.

"They did it at our request," he said, adding, "If we didn't have some conduit to be able to speak to them, we would never get them."

The US envoy, remarking on the new regime in Damascus, was not shy of making his distrust known, adding that this distrust extended to all countries in the Middle East, Israel included.

"Quite honestly, in this business, I don't trust any of them.

Our interests are not aligned. Ally is a mistaken word."

Regarding the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Barrack commented that "America is divided" on the issue of funding Israel's military, owing to a plethora of factors, which include the strong political divide between the Democrats and the Republicans, the sharp contrast in public opinion between the young and old, and humanitarian concerns. UNI



Suryakumar Yadav: India vs Pakistan isn't a rivalry anymore

India captain lauds Shivam Dube's spell as the turning point of the game

■ **Shashank Kishore**

NEW DELHI: Suryakumar Yadav has dismissed the notion that an India vs Pakistan clash is a rivalry anymore. He was responding to a question on whether Pakistan raised their standards on Sunday night compared to their opening bout last week - which they lost by seven wickets, with 25 balls to spare. "I would like to say one thing on this question. I feel that you should stop asking this question on the rivalry," he said, before being reminded the question wasn't about rivalry at all.

For the record, India have now beaten Pakistan in seven straight games [in men's internationals alone] since their previous loss to them at the Asia Cup in 2022 in Dubai.

"Standards and rivalry are the same," he continued. "According to me, if two teams play 15-20 matches and if [head-to-head] it is 7-7 or 8-7, then that is called a rivalry. But 13-0, 10-1....I don't know what the stats are. But this is not a rivalry anymore. But yeah, I feel we played better cricket than them." Prior to being asked about his take on the "rivalry", Suryakumar highlighted what he felt was the game's decisive phase - the halfway mark of

Pakistan's innings - with Pakistan 91 for 1 in ten overs, by far their highest half-time score in T20Is against India. It's at this point that Suryakumar rallied his team around as the umpires called for a drinks interval. Post that, India managed to put the brakes on Pakistan with the next seven overs producing just 38 - the lowest tally for teams that have batted between overs 10-17 at this tournament.

"According to me, the turning point was in the first drinks in the first innings," Suryakumar said. "People changed their body language after that. You always see the game changes generally after the powerplay.

"But today, the game changed after ten overs, when the bowlers changed their line and lengths, understood what was needed in that situation, and showed a little more energy. The spinners bowled well. And according to me, Shivam Dube's spell, you can say that it was a turning point."

This was only the third time in 38-match T20I career so far that Dube has bowled his full quota of overs. Dube's spell helped make up for Jasprit Bumrah having an off-day. After conceding 34 off his three overs - his most expensive powerplay spell - Bumrah finished with figures of 4-0-45-0.

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