

Srinagar
Sunday
September 28 | 2025
5 Rabi Al-Akhar, 1447 AH
Issue No: 231
Volume: 15
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-

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PMAY-G Special Project to Restore Safety, Stability for Thousands: LG Sinha

Sanction Granted for 5,061 Houses Damaged in J&K Calamities

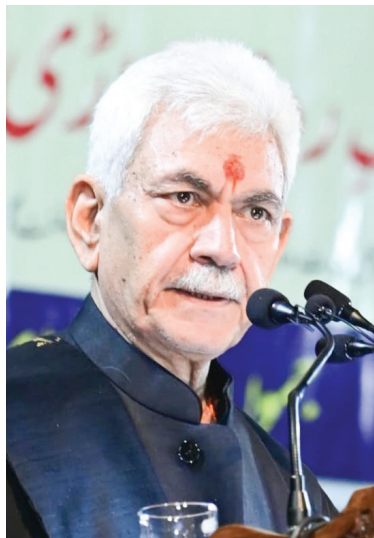
■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan for sanctioning the construction of 5,061 houses which were damaged due to the recent natural calamities across rural areas of J&K.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said:

"Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri @Narendramodi Ji & Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development, Shri @ChouhanShivraj Ji for sanctioning the construction of 5,061 houses which were damaged due to the recent

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LG Addresses Gathering of Pahari Tribal Community

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: "Vision of a sustainable growth and inclusive prosperity will shape a brighter future of tribal community in Jammu Kashmir Union Territory," the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha said earlier today. He said bringing Pahari tribal community to mainstream is

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Autumn Session of Assembly To Begin on Oct 23

■ HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: The autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly will commence on October 23, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha summoning the House to convene on that day.

According to the summons issued by the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has summoned the Assembly to meet in Srinagar on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

The LG has exercised his authority under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, to summon the Assembly.

A tentative calendar for the autumn session will be issued on Monday or Tuesday, following consultations between Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah regarding its framing.

Sources told KNO that the session is expected to include five to six sittings. "There will be no business conducted in the House on October 24, as MLAs will vote to elect Rajya Sabha members," the sources added.

The Cabinet had initially resolved to recom-

mend that the Lieutenant Governor summon the Assembly on October 13. However, the date was revised after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather raised concerns with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, citing that the time allotted was inadequate for the proper examination of questions, private member bills, and resolutions.

After the LG summoned the House, the Assembly Secretariat, in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly, directed all members to attend the session on the appointed date, time, and venue.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Assembly Secretariat today announced that each MLA may submit up to 10 questions, two resolutions, and one bill for the session.

As per the bulletin issued by the Secretariat, each MLA is permitted to submit 10 questions-five starred and five unstarred-along with two resolutions and one bill.

The deadlines for submission are October 4 for questions and bills, and October 7 for resolutions.

The upcoming autumn session is expected to be stormy, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the largest opposition party, led by Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, preparing

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Unemployment a Major Challenge, J&K Needs Special Package: Satish Sharma

■ HT News Network / KINS

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma on Saturday described unemployment as one of the most pressing challenges in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive special package to tackle the problem.



Speaking to reporters in Baramulla, as per news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS), Sharma said, "Unemployment is a big challenge in J&K. A big package is needed to resolve this issue, and we are determined to find solutions."

The minister also spoke

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BSF closely monitors LoC with advanced tools, stops infiltration attempts: IG Yadav

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF) Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav, on Saturday said security forces along the Line of Control (LoC) are maintaining a high level of readiness to prevent any infiltration attempts by terrorists.

Speaking at the BSF headquarters in



Humhama here during the unveiling of a T-shirt for the upcoming Wular Half Marathon 2.0 on October 12, 2025. Yadav, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the BSF has made its highest efforts to secure the border areas.

"The BSF is working closely with the Indian Army to monitor the LoC effectively and has successfully stopped

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Revival of 400+ Heritage, Religious Sites Planned: Director Archaeology

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Jammu and Kashmir Saturday said that the government is committed to the preservation and revival of the Union Territory's heritage and religious sites, stating that over 400 projects will be taken up in the upcoming third phase of restoration.

Director Archaeology & Museums, K.K. Sidha told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that under the government's heritage revival scheme, several prominent monuments and shrines are being restored. "The revival is not just about repairing structures but about preserving the cultural and religious sentiments associated with them," he said.

Sidha said that the foundation of three major religious projects was laid today, including the historic Martand Temple at Mattan. "The Baba Naseeb-ud-Din Gazi shrine revival is a project of around Rs 4 crore, while the Lokbhawan shrine restoration is pegged at Rs 4.45 crore. Work at the Martand Sun Temple will also commence shortly," he said.

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CBK Special Crime Wing Raids Srinagar, Budgam in Cheating & Forgery Case

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: The Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir (CBK) on Saturday morning launched coordinated raids at several locations in Srinagar and Budgam districts as part of an investigation into a major cheating and forgery case. The operation, which involved multiple teams, targeted the premises of individuals suspected to be linked with an organized fraud racket.

According to officials, the searches were carried out in connection with FIR No. 05/2025 registered at the Special Crime Wing. The case has been booked under sections 420 (cheating), 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged document), and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code. The FIR, registered earlier this year, pertains to allegations of large-scale forgery of documents

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CS Reviews Developmental Scenario In Anantnag

Emphasizes Quality Education and Improved Service Delivery in Key Sectors

■ HT News Desk

ANANTNAG, SEP 27: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo visited Anantnag today and chaired a comprehensive meeting with the concerned officers at Dak Bangalow Khanabal to review the overall developmental scenario of the district along with the implementation of various government schemes and welfare initiatives.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, SF Hamid, Principal, GMC Anantnag; ADCs; DPO; GM, DIC; ACR; ACD; SDMs, and other



district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner presented an overview of the overall developmental landscape and welfare schemes besides the progress on deliverables and key initiatives like Mission Yuva, NMBA, TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, HADP, PMSGMBY, and JK Samadhan, among others, of the district. He briefed the chair about the status of beneficiary schemes in different departments, along with the progress of ongoing

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“Matter Of Pride”: Jitendra Singh Lauds Expansion Of IIT Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 27: As Prime Minister Narendra

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Div Com Kmr reviews flood mitigation plan

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg today convened a meeting of officers



to review flood mitigation plan and river management.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Fazlul Haseeb; VCLCMA, Chief Engineer I&FC besides other officers of ERA, JTFRP, SDA, UUED & other concerned departments.

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Govt Committed to Empower Youth with Jobs & Entrepreneurship: Dy CM

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 27: In a landmark initiative to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, a Mega Job Fair was organized today under the Mission YUVA at the Convention Centre, Jammu by Employment Department J&K.

The event was inaugurated by the Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary which witnessed enthusiastic participation from all stakeholders including job seekers, employers, government officials, and academic institu-

tions.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister encouraged the youth to fully utilize the opportunities offered under Mission YUVA. "This is not merely a scheme, it is a transformative movement aimed at building a self-reliant and empowered generation," he remarked.

He reiterated that the government under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah is committed to open new avenues for the unemployment educated youths and enhanced job opportunities for

them.

Surinder Choudhary maintained that this Mega Job Fair under Mission YUVA stands as a milestone in the government's continued efforts to equip the youth of Jammu & Kashmir with the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary to succeed in a rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape.

Deputy Chief Minister said that Mission YUVA is a flagship and first-of-its-kind initiative of the J&K government, envisioned to holistically empower the youths

by providing a robust ecosystem for employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development.

He added that it offers strong institutional support and financial assistance under credit-linked schemes to support new and existing enterprises, capacity building for entrepreneurial and employability skills, career counseling, guidance, market linkage, etc.

The Job Fair attracted an overwhelming response with over 2,200 job seekers in attendance and more than 55 prominent com-

panies participating, collectively offering 1,500+ vacancies across various sectors such as IT, manufacturing, finance, retail, and healthcare. The fair served as a dynamic platform for employment generation, bridging the gap between skilled youth and potential employers.

A major highlight of the event was the inauguration of the three major Platforms on Mission YUVA app and Portal by the Deputy Chief Minister viz Online Job Matching Platform, enabling the job

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Sakeena Itoo Chairs Mega Public Darbar Cum Grievance Redressal Camp At Kulgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, SEP 27: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today held a mega Public Darbar-cum-Grievance Redressal camp at Chawalgam here to provide a direct platform for locals to voice their concerns, seek redressal of grievances and put forth developmental demands before the government.

ACR Kulgam, ACD Kulgam, SDMDH Pora, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Sheep Husbandry Officer, DFO, Executive Engineers of PHE, I&FC, PWD, PDD and PMG-

SY and other officers of district administration were present during the camp.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from cross-section of people of Kulgam district including local citizens community elders, social activists and youth. They raised varied issues related to healthcare, education, road connectivity, water supply, power infrastructure, and employment avenues before the Minister.

While listening patiently to the delegations, the Health Minister reiterated the government's commitment to responsive, transparent and accountable governance system. She assured the public delegations and citizens that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority and



time bound manner.

She also instructed the concerned officers present to take time-bound and immediate action on some grievances projected by the people.

Minister Sakeena assured the public delegations and citizens that no voice will go unheard, and no genuine grievance will remain unaddressed.

Highlighting the government's focus on people-centric policies, the Minister underlined that public darbars bridge the gap between administration and citizens by taking governance to the doorsteps of people. She further emphasized that health and allied sectors remain top priority, noting that substantial investments are being made to upgrade health infrastructure, improve diag-

nostics, and strengthen primary healthcare delivery in rural and far-flung areas of Kulgam district.

During the camp, the Minister also reviewed the status of ongoing development projects in the district and took feedback from the public regarding the quality of service delivery. She directed officials to enhance monitoring mechanisms to ensure speedy completion of works and equitable distribution of benefits under various welfare schemes.

The Minister appreciated the active participation of the people and assured that such grievance redressal camps would be held regularly to foster stronger government-public engagement.

4th District Cooperative Development Committee meeting held at Budgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 27: The 4th District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCCD) meeting was today convened at Budgam under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the agenda of making Primary Cooperative Societies economically vibrant entities. The officers discussed ways to strengthen the cooperative ecosystem in the district with special focus on agriculture, dairy, and fisheries cooperatives.

ADC stressed on the timely updation of the National Cooperative Database, preparation of a district-level plan for setting up new multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Dairy and Fishery Cooperative Societies, and ensuring that every Panchayat and village in Budgam is covered under the cooperative framework.

He directed the concerned officers to work in



coordination with District Central Cooperative Banks, State Cooperative Banks, and other block/district-level federations, so that linkages of existing and new cooperatives are effectively established.

Shah emphasized facilitating the registration of new cooperative societies, dovetailing of various Government of India schemes with PACS and primary cooperatives, and ensuring provision of infrastructure, logistics and land allotment where required.

The meeting also discussed steps for establishing district-level cooperative federations in coordination with the UT government, wherever feasible, and stressed the need for capacity building, financial inclusion, and viability assessments to strengthen grassroots cooperative institutions.

The ADC exhorted all stakeholders to extend full support for effective ground-level implementation of cooperative development plans and called for collective efforts to transform primary cooperatives into engines of rural economic growth in Budgam.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Budgam, Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Budgam, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Budgam, besides other concerned officers and stakeholders.

Sewa Parv Day-11: DC Pulwama attends Udyam YUVA fest Urges youth to become job providers instead of job seekers

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, SEP 27: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today attended the Udyam YUVA fest at Pulwama, organised by the Employment department in collaboration with ITI Pulwama.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of ITI students enrolled in different courses, as well as alumni who have successfully completed skill-based training programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that entrepreneurship is a gateway for youth to transform their energy and ideas into productive ventures. He encouraged young people to become job providers instead of job seekers and stressed that new ideas and skills will shape the future of Pulwama and help the whole society progress. Dr. Qayoom further informed the gathering that Mission YUVA is designed to transform local youth into successful entrepreneurs by providing not only financial assistance but also continuous

mentoring and handholding support. He highlighted that a door-to-door comprehensive survey has already been conducted across Pulwama to identify potential entrepreneurs and enterprises and for further handholding different committees such as YUVA Doots at Panchayat Level, Business Help Desks (BHDs) at block level and Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) at district level have already been constituted.

He further directed officials to develop curated and skill-oriented courses regarding Mission YUVA initiative, so that the training is directly linked with emerging livelihood opportunities and market demand.

On the occasion, ITI alumni also shared their entrepreneurship journeys, motivating current students to pursue innovation, self-reliance, and enterprise building. A Mission YUVA Facilitation Zone was also set up at the venue to provide participants awareness about the scheme, handholding support for applications, and on-the-spot grievance



redressal.

The two-day fest featured a range of activities. On the first day, competitions such as quiz, essay writing, speech, and painting were organised on themes including entrepreneurship, financial literacy, Mission YUVA, and the future

of youth-led enterprises.

Earlier, Superintendent ITI Pulwama, in his address, informed the gathering about the wide range of courses offered by the institute in various trades. He further mentioned that two special batches under Mission YUVA

have already been completed and the process for launching additional batches is underway.

Later, Dr. Qayoom distributed certificates and cash prizes among the winners of the competitions, appreciating their talent and creativity.

Meanwhile, as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv activities across the district, plantation drives, cleanliness drives, and awareness camps continued with active community participation. Special assemblies were also organised in schools, where students took a pledge to develop Green School Campuses by protecting the environment and adopting eco-friendly habits.

In addition, under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, free medical camps were organised at PHCs, CHCs, and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. These camps provided free screening for anaemia, tuberculosis, sickle cell disease, blood pressure, and other lifestyle-related illnesses, along with awareness sessions on maternal and child health, nutrition, and menstrual hygiene.

Udhyam Yuva Fest under Sewa Pakhwada concludes at Govt. Polytechnic College Kupwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, SEP 27: The two-day Udhyam Yuva Fest organized by Government Polytechnic College Kupwara, in collaboration with the District Employment Office Kupwara under the banner of Sewa Pakhwada from 26th to 27th September, 2025 concluded today.

The event witnessed overwhelming enthusiasm and active participation from students, supported by the faculty Govt. Polytechnic Kupwara and officers/officials of District Employment and Counselling Centre Kupwara.

On 26th September, four competitions viz. Painting, Essay Writing, Speech, and Quiz were conducted, providing a vibrant platform for students to exhibit their creativity, knowledge, critical thinking, and communication skills. The respective evaluation committees assessed the performances on the same day.

The felicitation ceremony was held today, where winners securing the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions in each category were honored with prizes and certificates of participation. The awards were distributed by the Superintendent ITI Kupwara, Assistant Labour Commissioner/AD Employment Kupwara, and the Principal of Government Polytechnic College Kupwara.

The second day of the fest also



featured awareness and guidance sessions. An entrepreneurship awareness session was followed by an insightful lecture by Arshad Qadir on employment opportunities and scholarships offered by the Labour Department.

Career Counselling Officer, Employment department, enlightened students about sector-specific career pathways and provided personalized counselling. Official from the Employment department Kup-

wara further highlighted Mission YUVA programs and other employment-related initiatives. A resume and start-up clinic was also organised to engage students in practical learning on resume building, start-up ideation, and career readiness.

Udhyam Yuva Fest concluded on a highly positive note, reinforcing the significance of skill development, entrepreneurship, and informed career planning, in alignment with the vision of Sewa Pakhwada.

Cultural programme on social issues held under Sewa Parv at Budgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 27: District Information Centre Budgam, in collaboration with the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information & Public Relations J&K, and the Chief Education Officer Budgam today organized a cultural programme under the ongoing Sewa Parv theme.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of school children from various institutions across the district, alongside artists from the Cultural Unit Kashmir.

Through a series of thought-provoking performances including skits, songs, and cultural items, the participants highlighted various pressing social issues such as the menace of drug abuse, dowry system, importance of girl education, cleanliness under Swachhta Abhiyan, and several other themes of social importance.

Speaking on the occasion, District Information Officer Budgam, Erum Aziz Khan, underlined the significance of Sewa Parv and the need for every citizen to play a constructive role in society. She said that Sewa Parv is not just a campaign but a collective responsibility, where people must selflessly come forward and contribute towards the betterment of the community. She stressed that activities focusing on awareness, cleanliness, education, and social harmony uplift society at large.

She also highlighted various social security schemes launched by the Government, urging school children to become ambassadors of change and to actively participate in awareness programmes under Sewa Parv. She emphasized that young minds, when nurtured with the values of service and responsibility, can play a pivotal role in shaping a progressive and drug-free society. The programme was highly appreciated by the audience as it effectively combined art, culture, and social awareness to spread the message of service, responsibility, and community well-being in line with the objectives of Sewa Parv.

Seva Parv-2025: DC Srinagar presides over mega awareness/ public grievance redressal camp at Harwan

Hands-over sanction letters to beneficiaries under various govt. schemes; urges youth to avail benefits from Mission YUVA, other schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 celebrations, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Saturday presided over mega awareness cum public grievance redressal camp at Harwan, aimed at bringing governance to the grassroots and empowering citizens through on-the-spot redressal and awareness.

The mega awareness cum grievance redressal camp was attended by a large number of people from Harwan, Dara, Fakir Gujri, Darbagh, Mulfaq, Khimber, Syedpora, Shalimar and other adjoining areas.

Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commissioner Development,

Tehsildar North, BDO Harwan, BMO Hazratbal, and officers from Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development, J&K Bank and other Sectoral/Zonal officers of the district were also present on the occasion.

During the camp, DDC members, public delegations and scores of individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC along with other local development concerns.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, DC assured the people of Harwan block that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be addressed on priority.

DC added that issues relating to the provision of a degree college, hospital, horticulture



mandi, and jurisdictional matters will be taken up with higher authorities. He also issued

directions to concerned officers of line departments for timely resolution of public issues.

Addressing the gathering, DC urged the local youth to avail benefits from government

schemes in Agriculture, Horticulture, and other self-employment initiatives under Mission YUVA and HADP to secure dignified livelihoods for themselves and their families.

During the camp, DC handed-over sanction letters under different schemes to the beneficiaries for the establishment of income-generating units, thereby promoting self-employment and financial independence among the local population.

Earlier, DC inspected various stalls set up by departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Industries, Animal Husbandry, Health, Social Welfare, Employment, and Banks as part of Sewa Parv-2025, aimed to showcase Government flagship schemes and enable

on-the-spot beneficiary registrations.

DC also encouraged the participating students of a painting competition organized by School Education Department and felicitated the participants of a Cycling event held under Swachhta Hi Seva Hai, part of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 activities.

Furthermore, DC led the participants in reciting the Swachhta Pledge, aligning with the broader objectives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the spirit of the Sewa Parv, which promotes volunteerism and community engagement. He emphasized the importance of individual accountability in maintaining cleanliness and conserving the environment.

DLSA Budgam organizes awareness programme on 'World Tourism Day' at Khag

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 27: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam organized an awareness programme on the occasion of 'World Tourism Day' at Khag.

The event was held under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, DLSA, Budgam, and the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, DLSA Budgam.

The primary objective of the programme was to



raise global awareness about the social, cultural, political, and economic significance of tourism, and its vital role in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The day also sought to foster intercultural understanding, promote responsible and sustainable travel practices, and highlight tourism's contribution to economic growth and global prosperity.

PLVs deputed by DLSA Budgam as resource persons highlighted the legal aspects of tourism, with a special focus on tourists' rights and protections, including consumer rights, safety regulations, and mechanisms for dispute resolution.

They also deliberated on legal challenges relating to tourism, such as the protection of cultural heritage and addressing environmental concerns.

The programme aimed at educating the general public about the significance of tourism and its legal dimensions.

DLSA Srinagar observes 'World Tourism Day'; holds awareness programme on drug abuse & POCSO Act

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme to sensitize students on critical legal and social issues, with a particular focus on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, menace

of drug abuse, and the observance of World Tourism Day, at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Telbal, Srinagar.

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

The event brought together students, teachers, and resource persons for an engaging and informative session.

Addressing the gathering, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, delivered an insightful lecture highlighting the importance of World Tourism Day and the growing threat posed by drug abuse in society. She under-

scored the need for youth to become ambassadors of responsible tourism while also remaining vigilant against substance abuse, which severely impacts communities and future generations.

In continuation, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar, spoke on the provisions and significance of the POCSO

Act. She explained how the Act serves as a robust legal framework to safeguard children from sexual offences and emphasized the responsibility of society at large to ensure the protection and well-being of minors.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, where students actively participated and expressed their views.

Agri. deptt Bandipora organises Kissan Mela/ Exhibition under MIDH

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 27: Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare department Bandipora on Saturday organised a Kissan Mela-cum-Exhibition under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) at Auditorium Hall, Kalsoosa Bandipora. The event witnessed overwhelming participation from farmers, scientists, and officers of the agriculture and allied sectors.

The programme was presided over by the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bandipora constituency, Nizam Uddin Bhat as the chief guest, while the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib attended as the guest of honour. Chief Agriculture Officer, Javed Samoon, District Agriculture Officer, and other senior officers of the department were also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, both the MLA and the DC inspected various stalls

set up by different departments and appreciated the innovations and services being showcased.

MLA Bandipora and DC also handed-over keys of farm machinery and equipment to beneficiaries under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM).

The mela provided a vibrant platform where progressive farmers shared their journeys of success, narrating how they adopted scientific farming practices to improve their livelihoods. Scientists and experts also interacted with the participants and threw light on innovative farming techniques, modern tools, and methods that can further boost production and sustainability in the district.

MLA Bandipora in his address said that farmers are the lifeline of the nation and the basic building blocks of the economy. He lauded the efforts

of the farming community for their crucial role in strengthening society and appreciated the work of the Agriculture department and district administration in uplifting the sector at the grassroots level.

He expressed hope that Bandipora will emerge as a flourishing hub of agriculture and allied sectors, thereby enhancing the economy and improving the lives of people.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the district has vast potential in the agriculture sector and called upon the youth to take inspiration from progressive farmers who act as role models for the farming community. She stressed the need for adopting scientific practices to achieve better productivity and income.

The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, during which progressive farmers were honoured for their outstanding contributions in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.

SWD Shopian organizes mega BBBP programme

Chairperson DDC stresses upon community-level awareness & participation to make BBBP campaign successful

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEP 27: A grand Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme was today organised by the Social Welfare department (SWD) here at Sports Stadium Batapora Shopian.

The function was presided over by Chairperson, DDC Shopian, Bilqees Jan and Member Legislative Assembly (MLA), Shopian, Shabir Ahmed Kulley.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; DDC members, Addl. SP, Dy. SP, Dy. LADC, DLSA, TSWO, Central Administrator, One Stop Centre for Women, District Mission Coordinator, BBBP, representatives from DLSA and officers/officials of SWD, police, students and others participated in the event.

DDC Chairperson, in her address, stressed upon community-level awareness and participation to make the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign successful on the ground.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA underlined the need for collective social reform to eradicate gender bias and ensure equal opportunities for girls in every field. ADC spoke on the importance of the BBBP programme, stressing on the need to empower the girl child and ensure gender equality and sensitise society towards women's rights and welfare.

Earlier, DSWO briefed about the objectives of the BBBP scheme and the initiatives being taken in Shopian to ensure the empowerment of the girl child through education, health and protection.

Other speakers focused on issues of women empowerment, giving women the power to stand equal to men in every field, make their own decisions and live with respect and dignity. They further said that women should also be provided equal access to quality education so that they can become self-reliant and skilled, besides spreading awareness against gender discrimination.

Representatives from DLSA highlighted the legal safeguards and rights available to women and girls under various laws and assured free legal aid to the needy. They also urged parents to encourage their daughters to pursue education and career opportunities without hesitation, eliminating gender discrimination and ensuring safety and justice.

The event concluded with a joint appeal by all dignitaries and officers for society's wholehearted cooperation in ensuring dignity and empowerment of every girl child and to continue working with greater dedication towards the vision of BBBP.

Later, an award ceremony was held to felicitate outstanding contributors for their efforts in promoting the cause of girl child education, empowerment and gender equality.

J&K Police's extensive cleanliness drive under nationwide 'Swachhta Abhiyan'

■ Mohammad Hanif Khan

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: As part of the nationwide Swachhta Abhiyan, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has launched a comprehensive cleanliness drive (Safai Abhiyan). The campaign began with pledge ceremonies and is being spearheaded by Police Wing Heads and supervised by Unit Heads in their respective jurisdictions and establishments.

The drive focuses on restoring and maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in and around police establishments and adjoining neighbourhoods. J&K Police personnel are actively engaged in clearing debris, removing accumulated waste, and ensuring proper sanitation and waste disposal.

The key highlights of the initiative remained to clear flood and landslide debris across vulnerable areas, systematic sanitation and proper disposal of waste are being carried out, sensitization sessions are being conducted to educate personnel about hygiene best practices, ecological restoration is being promoted through tree plantation drives and local youth

volunteers are being involved to enhance community participation and environmental consciousness.

JKAP 8th battalion conducting a two-week-long cleanliness drive at its newly allotted land in Ghou Manhasan. IRP 24th battalion organized a plantation drive at its upcoming headquarters in Ritti, Udhampur. Similarly, IRP 13th battalion and IRP 9th Bn conducted a comprehensive cleanliness drive at its Headquarters and Company premises besides IRP 13th Bn carried out a plantation drive in collaboration with Social Forestry Department while IRP 20th battalion launched a clean polythene waste initiative at Parihaspora. IRP 2nd Bn Fatehpur Rajouri conducted a cleanliness drive to restore hygiene and maintain a clean environment and JKAP 6th battalion stationed at Mendhar Poonch organized a cleanliness drive at Battalion Headquarters. IRP 10th battalion APC Mattan and IRP 11th Bn at Anantnag conducted a cleanliness drive as part of the Sewa Parv initiative. IRP 23rd battalion Lethpora and IRP 5th Bn Doda launched a week-long cleanliness



drive at its Unit Headquarters while JKAP 9th battalion organized a Swachhta Abhiyan and tree plantation drive. IRP 19th Bn stationed at Kathua conducted cleanliness and plantation drives at battalion headquarters. IRP 2nd Women battalion celebrated Sewa Parv with a fitness, wellness and nutrition drive while IRP 6th Bn also carried a cleanliness drive

in the battalion premises. IRP 8th Bn APC Manasbal also organised a cleanliness drive to promote hygiene, environment awareness and community responsibility while IRP 21st Bn at Check Mantrigam Bandipora witnessed enthusiastic participation from respected locals, school children and officials from the Rural Development department. IRP 18th Bn

at DPL Jammu conducted a cleanliness drive under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan initiative.

Similarly, District Police Anantnag, Handwara, Kulgam, Awantipora, Ganderbal, Sopore, and Shopian conducted cleanliness drives and administered the Swachhta Pledge across all police establishments.

Meanwhile officers and personnel of CID wing also joined hands today in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at their CID Headquarters, Canal Road, Jammu besides across its all offices in J&K. State Investigation Agency (SIA) officers & personnel also conducted cleanliness drives at their offices and adjoining premises.

The initiative has seen active participation from local residents, shopkeepers, and youth, who have appreciated the efforts of the police in promoting civic responsibility and environmental awareness.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police remains committed to environmental responsibility and community welfare through such initiatives, underscoring its role in fostering cleaner, and sustainable practices.

MLA Bandipora inaugurates Udhyam Yuva Fest under Mission YUVA

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 27: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bandipora, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, on Saturday inaugurated the Udhyam Yuva Fest at Government Polytechnic College Bandipora.

The event was organized by the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC) Bandipora in collaboration with the college under Mission YUVA and as part of Sewa Pakhwada 2025.

The fest witnessed participation from students besides faculty and officers from DECC Bandipora. Competitions in Painting, Essay Writing, Speech, and Quiz were held, providing a platform



for students to display their creativity, knowledge and communication skills.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandipora congratulated the winners and lauded the efforts of the organizers. He encouraged stu-

dents to actively pursue skill development, entrepreneurship and career planning for a brighter future.

A felicitation ceremony was also held on the occasion, where winners were awarded prizes

and certificates by MLA Bandipora, Assistant Director Employment Bandipora, and the Principal of Government Polytechnic College.

The fest also featured awareness and guidance sessions.

Resource persons including Career Counselling Officer, Employment Department delivered lectures on entrepreneurship, career opportunities, Mission YUVA programmes and employment initiatives. A Resume and Start-Up Clinic was also conducted to equip students with practical skills.

The event was attended by the DDC Vice Chairperson Bandipora Kousar Shafeeq, Principal Government Polytechnic College Bandipora, Assistant Director Employment Bandipora, and other dignitaries.

The two-day fest concluded on a positive note, reinforcing the importance of youth empowerment and participatory initiatives under Mission YUVA.

Traffic Rules Violators Face Strict Action: SSP Traffic Ravinder Paul Singh

■ Ubaid Mehdi

BUDGAM, SEP 27: The Traffic Police has intensified its crackdown on traffic violations, with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, Ravinder Paul Singh, warning that violations will no longer be tolerated.

During a special traffic drive-cum-awareness programme at Kanihama Magam, SSP Singh, accompanied by DySP Traffic Mujahid Nazir, supervised the proceedings. The initiative aimed not only at educating commuters about road discipline but also at taking strict punitive action against offenders.

As part of the drive, two bikes were seized and fines imposed on several vehicles for flouting traffic norms. Officers emphasized that adherence to traffic regulations is non-negotiable, cautioning that



repeated violations would invite stern legal consequences.

"Traffic violations put lives at risk. Drivers must understand that rules are meant for their own safety and the safety of others. A clear message has been given — follow traffic rules or face strict action," SSP Singh said.

The awareness campaign also highlighted the dangers of overspeeding, wrong parking, and reckless driving. Pamphlets were distributed among commuters, who were urged to cooperate with traffic authorities to ensure smooth and safe road movement.

The Traffic Department reaffirmed its commitment to continue similar drives across various areas to promote discipline and road safety among the public.

Kulgam Police Destroys Large-Scale Wild Cannabis Growth in Joint Operation

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 27: In a significant move to curb drug proliferation, Kulgam Police, in close coordination with the Excise and Revenue Departments, conducted a large-scale anti-narcotics operation across multiple areas of the district. The drive primarily focused on the destruction of wild cannabis (Bhang) that had grown extensively along the banks of Nallahs, adjoining fields, and roadside patches. During the operation, special teams comprising officers and field staff from Police, Excise, and Revenue Departments carried out systematic searches and cleared large stretches of land infested with wild cannabis. Both accessible and remote areas were targeted to ensure comprehensive eradication on the spot. This initiative forms a key component of Kulgam Police's strategy to tackle the cultivation, availability, and distribution of narcotic substances, aiming to dismantle the drug ecosystem from its roots. By targeting both illicit cultivation and natural proliferation of narcotic plants, authorities aim



to disrupt the supply chain at its origin.

The operation also witnessed active participation from local civil society members, including community elders and youth volunteers, who supported authorities in the drive. Their involvement highlighted a growing sense of public responsibility and awareness in combating drug abuse. Speaking on the occasion, SSP Kulgam, Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS, said:

"Kulgam Police is committed to a zero-tolerance policy against narcotics. Our priority is to eliminate the drug menace from society by dismantling its ecosystem and cutting it off at the roots. We urge citizens to continue cooperating and actively safeguard our youth from the dangers of drug addiction." Authorities have reaffirmed that such operations will continue in the coming days, with an increased focus on enforcement, community participation, and awareness campaigns to achieve a drug-free society. Kulgam Police appeals to the public to share any information regarding the illicit cultivation, possession, or trade of narcotic substances. Tips can be reported at the nearest police station or through established helpline numbers. The identity of informants will be strictly confidential.

Rouf Rehman Assigned Additional Charge of Aharbal Development Authority, Shopian-Dubjan-Peer Ki Gali

■ Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, SEP 24: As per Government Order No. 85-JK(TSM) of 2025, dated 24/09/2025, Rouf Rehman (JKAS), Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kokernag Development Authority, who already holds additional charge of Verinag Development Authority, has now been entrusted with the additional charge of CEO, Aharbal Development Authority. The order specifies that this arrangement will continue until the post is filled by the General Administration Department (GAD) or until further instructions are issued. This move is part of an administrative reshuffle aimed at enhancing the effi-



ciency and coordination of developmental authorities in the region. With this additional responsibility, Rouf Rehman will now oversee major tourism and infrastructure projects across Kokernag, Verinag, Aharbal and Shopian Dubjan Peer ki gali four prominent tourism destinations in South Kashmir.

Furthermore, a scenic belt Shopian Dubjan Peer ki gali known for its tour-

ism potential, ecological significance, and strategic connectivity between Kashmir and the Pir Panjal region. Rouf Rehman (JKAS) formally assumed charge today as CEO of Aharbal Development Authority and Shopian Dubjan Peer ki gali. He is expected to lead efforts to boost eco-tourism, improve road infrastructure, enhance tourist amenities, and promote sustainable development in these newly added jurisdictions.

Officials from the tourism department expressed confidence in Rehman's leadership, noting that his multi-agency experience and knowledge of regional dynamics will help accelerate progress on vital projects.

DC Kupwara Presides Over Mega Sewa Parv Camp at NTPHC Khurhama

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 27: In line with the ongoing nationwide campaign to bring government services closer to the people, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Bala-sahab Suse today presided over a Mega Sewa Parv Camp organized at New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC), Khurhama in Lolab sub division.

VCDDC, Haji Farooq; SDM Lolab, Mudassir Ahmad; CMO Kupwara, Tehsilidar Lalpora, SDPO Lolab, BDO, ZEO, CDPO besides, Officer from Army, Officer and officials from line departments and local residents took part in the camp.

A wide range of services including health check-ups, issuance of domicile certificates, revenue services, Aadhaar enrollment, social welfare schemes, and skill development information were made available to the public under one roof.

On his arrival, the DC along with VC took part in a plantation drive in the compound of the NTPHC. They also inspected the stalls installed by different departments providing awareness to the participants about their schemes.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of such outreach programs in strengthening the last-mile delivery of governance. He appreciated the line departments for conducting camps in different parts of the district to reach out to the people and appealed the people to take benefit under these camps. He mentioned various schemes including PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, PM Golden Card, Aabha, Ayushman Bharat, APY, Accidental Insurance, JJY, SBY etc and urged upon the people to get

enrolled under these schemes to take benefit. He said such outreach camps will be conducted in future as well by the District Administration to reach out to the people living in remote areas of the district.

During the camp various sanction letters were handed over to the applicants under Integrated Sheep Development Scheme for establishment of 20 Ewes Sheep Unit. Besides, ST and other revenue related certificates were also handed over to the concerned applicants.

Officers from Health, Revenue, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, and other line departments actively participated in the camp. On-the-spot redressal of public grievances and awareness sessions about key government schemes were also held.

Information Department Kupwara in collaboration with Cultural Unit Kashmir and Pahari Cultural Club conducted a cultural programme at the venue which attracted and enthralled the audience. School children also presented cultural variety programmes in the camp.

VCDDC Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir also spoke and expressed his gratitude towards the Deputy Commissioner for reaching out to the people at their doorsteps. He hoped that such programs will be continued in future as well so that people get more awareness of the government schemes for their benefit. The CMO Kupwara expressed vote of thanks to the dignitaries and participants. He also briefed the participants about various health schemes aimed for welfare of the people.

Locals appreciated the initiative and thanked the district administration for organizing the camp in a remote village like Khurhama, ensuring that the far flung areas are not left behind in the development process.



Udhyam Yuva Fest under Sewa Pakhwada successfully concluded at Govt. Polytechnic College Kupwara

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 27: Government Polytechnic College Kupwara, in collaboration with the District Employment Office Kupwara, successfully organized the Udhyam Yuva Fest under the banner of Sewa Pakhwada on 26th and 27th September 2025. The two-day event witnessed overwhelming enthusiasm and active participation from students, supported wholeheartedly by the

faculty Govt. Polytechnic Kupwara and officers/officials of District Employment and Counselling Centre Kupwara.

On 26th September, four competitions—Painting, Essay Writing, Speech, and Quiz—were conducted, providing a vibrant platform for students to exhibit their creativity, knowledge, critical thinking, and communication skills. The respective evaluation committees assessed the performances on the same

day.

The Felicitation Ceremony was held today, where winners securing the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions in each category were honored with prizes and certificates of participation. The awards were distributed by the Superintendent ITI Kupwara, Assistant Labour Commissioner/AD Employment Kupwara, and the Principal of Government Polytechnic College Kupwara.

The second day of the fest also featured awareness and



guidance sessions. An Entrepreneurship Awareness Session was followed by an insightful lecture by Arshad Qadir on employment opportunities and scholarships offered by the Labour Department. Nidhia Nizar, Career Counselling Officer, Employment Department, enlightened students about sector-specific career pathways and provided personalized counselling. Ishfaq Ahmad from the Employment Department Kupwara

further highlighted Mission YUVA programs and other employment-related initiatives.

A Resume and Start-Up Clinic was also organised to engage students in practical learning on resume building, start-up ideation, and career readiness. The Udhyam Yuva Fest concluded on a highly positive note, reinforcing the significance of skill development, entrepreneurship, and informed career planning, in alignment with the vision of Sewa Pakhwada.

HT EDITORIAL

Increase stipend of medical, dental graduates of J&K

The medical and dental interns of Jammu & Kashmir are at the receiving end at present since they are getting peanuts in the name of monthly stipend. These professionals are receiving an amount of Rs. 12,130 per month as stipend while as their counterparts of the different parts of the country are receiving many times more as monthly stipend. This discrimination needs to be put to an end to the earliest so that there is no more exploitation.

As soon as the Omar Abdullah led government assumed charge in October last year the health and medical education minister Sakeena Masood Itoo promised that the issue would be looked into and corrective measures will be taken. The union territory government is all set to complete one year on October 16 and no headway whatsoever has been made on the issue of stipend for the medical and dental graduates of Jammu & Kashmir and they continue to receive peanuts during their internship.

The health and medical education minister should convene a meeting of all the stakeholders in this regard at the earliest so that there is some relief for the medical and dental professionals of the union territory. Once there is a hike in the monthly stipend of these professionals it is bound to cast a positive impact on their overall psyche. They would feel relieved and consider themselves at par with their counterparts of different states and union territories of the country.

Medicine is considered to be the most sacred profession across the globe and the medical professionals are treated as intelligent people. It takes a lot of hard-work for a boy or girl to pass the medical entrance examination and this is followed by burning of mid-night oil in completing the five year course. Once the course is completed and the professionals have to join an internship they need to be paid adequately. Paying them peanuts is an insult to the profession and a disservice to humanity.

It is imperative that the present government turns out to be proactive in this regard and as such they increase the stipend of medical professionals. Sooner it is done better it will be for all especially those who are working as interns in different medical colleges and associated hospitals of the union territory. Need of the hour is that swift action is taken and the stipend of the medical professionals of Jammu & Kashmir is brought at par with the interns of other places of the country.

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Asia Cup 2025: A Special Sunday for Real Cricket Lovers



■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

29th September 2025 is going to be a memorable day for cricket lovers across the India-Pakistan subcontinent. Our nation has started the Asia Cup campaign with a comprehensive win over Sri Lanka, raising hopes for a strong run to the finals.

In the past, Australia dominated world cricket across all formats—Tests, ODIs, and T20s. But in the present era, India has emerged as the most consistent force in world cricket. Over the last decade, Indian cricket has produced legendary names such as Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni, Suryakumar Yadav, Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Mohammad Siraj, and Mohammed Shami. These names reflect India's ability to nurture talent that thrives in every situation.

India's Squad for Asia Cup 2025

Suryakumar Yadav (C)
Shubman Gill (VC)
Abhishek Sharma
Tilak Varma
Hardik Pandya
Shivam Dube
Axar Patel
Jitesh Sharma (WK)
Jasprit Bumrah
Arshdeep Singh
Varun Chakravarthy
Kuldeep Yadav
Sanju Samson (WK)
Harshit Rana
Rinku Singh
Teams Participating

Eight teams are competing in this mega tournament: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Oman, and the UAE.

Afghanistan deserves a special mention, as their rise in world cricket is remarkable. Stars like Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad, and Mohammad Nabi have put Afghanistan on the global cricketing map, proving that passion and hard work always pay off.



Why Indian Cricket Keeps Progressing

The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) is now the richest and most powerful cricket board in the world. Strong domestic cricket, robust infrastructure, and world-class coaching have ensured that young players are groomed from the grassroots level.

Cricket academies across schools, colleges, and universities train passionate youngsters under the guidance of professional cricketers. This pipeline makes sure that talent never goes unnoticed and every dream has a chance to come true.

Risks and Rewards of Choosing Cricket as a Profession

Sports are a blessing for health, fitness, and discipline. However, choosing cricket as a profession is both challenging and uncertain. Sometimes one ball makes a player a superstar, and another ball can end a career. Still, the rewards are immense for those who are determined and disciplined.

Unfortunately, many fans only care about victory—sometimes even at the cost of fair play. True fans should love the game itself, not just the result. Win or lose, professionalism and the spirit of the game must come first.

IPL – A Talent Factory

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has been a game-changer, giving young players exposure alongside international stars. Many of India's current heroes are products of the IPL, making it one of the biggest platforms for discovering and shaping talent.

Why This Sunday is Special

The India-Pakistan clash in the Asia Cup is more than just a game—it's a tradition filled with history, passion, and pride. While the pressure is immense, fans must remember to maintain peace and enjoy the spirit of cricket. Let's be real fans, not toxic ones.

Players to Watch

For India, keep an eye on: Abhishek Sharma – a rising star with both aggression and technique.

Shubman Gill – dependable and stylish at the crease.

India's spin attack – which could be crucial against Pakistan's batting lineup.

Final Words

This Special Sunday is a celebration of cricket. May both sides play with passion, may the fans show respect, and may the game of cricket emerge as the real winner.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

The Sangh and Women: A Journey from the Sevika Samiti to the Centenary



■ Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

During a series of lectures held in September 2025, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat stated that women's participation in society and nation-building is more essential today than ever before. He clarified that women's power is not limited to the family, but should also have an equal role in social, political, and economic spheres. Bhagwat stated that "a nation is incomplete without mother power." He emphasized that women have always been given a revered and decisive place in Indian culture, and therefore, the active participation of women in the branches and activities of the Sangh Parivar will determine the future direction. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is a significant organization in India's socio-political landscape. Founded by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in 1925, the organization was primarily for male volunteers. Its branches, discipline, and ideology gradually exerted a profound influence on Indian politics and society. However, when we look at the role of women, the picture is somewhat different. The Rashtriya Sevika Samiti, born in 1936, parallel to the RSS, paved the way for women's participation. Today, as the Sangh celebrates its centenary, it is important to reflect on this journey: where women's participation began and where it has reached by 2025.

Early period: 1925 to 1936

The RSS was founded in Nagpur in 1925. The organization was based on discipline, parades, branches, and nationalism. However, its structure remained

male-dominated. Hedgewar himself believed that women needed a separate platform, as the social climate of the time did not allow women to directly join male-dominated branches. Against this backdrop, in 1936, Laxmibai Kelkar founded the "Rashtra Sevika Samiti" in Wardha on Vijayadashami. Hedgewar welcomed this initiative and suggested that women run their own organization so they could independently develop their power, culture, and leadership. Thus, women's participation formally began.

Establishment of Sevika Samiti and initial struggle

In 1939, the Samiti organized its first training class. Gradually, its branches began to form in different provinces. The Samiti's aim was not only to spread nationalist ideas, but also to develop qualities such as "motherhood, action, and leadership" (matritva, kartritva, netritva) in women. This included physical training, yoga, song, sports, discipline, and social service. The Samiti's women welcomed this initiative and suggested that women run their own organization so they could independently develop their power, culture, and leadership. Thus, women's participation formally began.

1940s to 1970s: Towards expansion

The Samiti's network expanded in the decades following independence. By the time of Laxmibai Kelkar's death (1978), the organization had spread to several states. Saraswati Apte succeeded her as chief coordinator. By this time, the number of branches had reached thousands. The Samiti focused on women's education, culture, and service projects. During the Emergency (1975–77), women associated with the Samiti also participated in protests. This period made them more politically conscious and active.

1980–2000: A Confluence of Modernity and Tradition

In the 1990s, as the BJP and the Sangh Parivar's influence in Indian politics grew, women's participation also came into focus. The Samiti attempted to reach out

to urban and professional women during this time. Female teachers, doctors, and working women began joining the Samiti's programs. In 1994, Ushatai Chate and in 2006, Pramilitai Medhe emerged as prominent leaders. These leaders connected the women's wing to contemporary issues—such as the challenges faced by working women, education, health, and family balance.

2012 onwards: Shanthakka's leadership

In 2012, Venkatrama Shanta Kumari, popularly known as "Shanthakka," became the chief coordinator of the Rashtriya Sevika Samiti. Born in 1952, she had long been active in the work of the Sangh Parivar. Under her leadership, the Samiti expanded rapidly. Today, the Samiti has four to five thousand branches, spread across more than 800 districts. Although the organization does not release exact figures, it is estimated that millions of women are directly or indirectly associated with the Samiti. The Samiti runs education, health, service, hostel, and women's empowerment projects. Its branches are also becoming active in urban metropolitan areas.

The Confederacy and the woman question

Women are not granted formal membership or leadership positions within the Sangh. RSS branches are exclusively for men. Women become part of the Sangh's ideological world only through committees. Critics say this system excludes women from the mainstream, preventing them from reaching decision-making positions on par with men. However, supporters argue that having a separate organization allows women to develop independent leadership and activities. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has repeatedly stated that women's participation is increasing "naturally." However, inequality remains evident in the leadership structure.

Current status (2025)

The Sangh is celebrating its centenary. Approximately 83,000 branches are reportedly active across the country. The Rashtriya Sevika Samiti's branches are also steadily growing. The Samiti now operates in villages as well as metropolitan cities. Its training classes are attended by everyone from schoolgirls to professional women. In 2025, the Samiti's vision is a blend of tradition and modernity—on the one hand, it emphasizes motherhood and family-based values, while on the other, it also offers opportunities for social service and women's leadership. The Samiti organized millions of women, instilling self-confidence and collectivism. Education, service, and cultural programs have had a tangible impact on society, providing women with opportunities for leadership and management. Women remained excluded from decision-making roles in the mainstream RSS. The organization's ideological framework confines women to traditional roles. The Samiti's perspective conflicts with modern feminist discourse, emphasizing motherhood and culture rather than freedom and equality.

During a lecture series held in September 2025, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat stated that women's participation in society and nation-building is more essential today than ever before. The lecture series also stated that India in 2025 is at a point where women's leadership is playing a "decisive" role, not just a "complementary" one. Speakers also added that as women advance in modern education, technology, and economic self-reliance, the Sangh Parivar must also expand its structure and working methods.

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Ladakh: Land Of High Passes



■ **Mool Raj**

Ladakh, the name comes from “La Dvags” which means the Land of the High Passes. Most of us are well aware of the fact that it's a Trans Himalayan Desert. But there are other finer parts of the geography which make it more interesting and unique. It has got the majestic mountains, the rivers, Pristine lakes, lots of snow but very little greenery and vegetation. Ladakh should be viewed in terms of its imposing mountain ranges, high altitude passes, glaciers, rivers, crystal clear but saline lakes, sand dunes, hot springs, valleys and ancient monasteries perched on cliffs. It is a photographers delight and a paradise for the motor bikers. And stargazers.

Ladakh is one of the loftiest inhabited regions of the world, (9000 to over 25,000 ft above sea level). Its short but warm summers enable very limited grain and fruit crops to ripen. Owing to the great aridity of the atmosphere, the climate is one of fierce extremes, from burning heat of some of the deserts to several degrees below freezing-point at night. The climate is harsh, with long winters and short summers, but the warmth of its people and the vibrancy of its traditions more than compensate. The bare mountains also exhibit the exquisite desert coloration of the rocks due to the peculiar solar weathering.

Ladakh, often called the “Land of High Passes,” is a breathtaking region nestled in the northernmost part of India. Its beauty is stark, spiritual, and awe-inspiring, marked by contrasts that are both dramatic and serene.

1. Majestic Landscapes: Ladakh's landscapes are like no other. Towering snow-capped peaks rise above barren, golden-brown mountains. Wide, open valleys stretch endlessly, interrupted only by glistening rivers or tiny patches of greenery. The high-altitude desert terrain is punctuated by massive rock formations, sand dunes in Nubra Valley, and colorful prayer flags fluttering in the crisp mountain wind.

2. Stunning Lakes: The region is home to some of the world's most stunning high-altitude lakes. Pangong Tso, with its ever-changing shades of blue, stretches from India into Tibet and Tso Moriri, surrounded by snow-dusted hills, offers a mirror-like reflection of the sky and mountains. These lakes, set against barren backdrops, create a surreal and otherworldly beauty.

3. Spiritual Serenity: Ladakh's ancient Buddhist monasteries, such as Hemis, Thiksey, and Diskit, add a spiritual charm. Perched dramatically on hillsides, these gompas are adorned with colorful murals, golden statues, and spinning prayer wheels. The chanting of monks and flutter of prayer flags create a sense of peace and timelessness.

4. Unique Culture and People: The warmth of the Ladakhi people, with their distinct Tibetan-influenced traditions, adds to the region's charm. Their festivals, music, and dances bring vibrant color to the stark landscape. Traditional homes with whitewashed walls and flat roofs dot the villages, offering a glimpse into a way of life that's both simple and deeply connected to nature. Culturally, Ladakh is a fascinating blend of Tibetan Buddhism and Indian heritage. The region is dotted with centuries-old gompas (monasteries), prayer flags fluttering in the wind, and festivals that celebrate life with music, dance, and ritual. Leh, the capital city, serves as the gateway to this mystical land and offers a mix of modern amenities and ancient charm.

5. Clear Skies and Starry Nights: At night, Ladakh becomes a stargazer's paradise. With minimal pollution and high altitude, the night sky dazzles with constellations, planets, and even the Milky Way visible to the naked eye. It's a silent, magical experience that humbles and uplifts.

Whether you're drawn by its spiritual aura, its adventure opportunities like trekking and river rafting, or simply its breathtaking vistas, Ladakh promises an experience that is both humbling and unforgettable. In essence, Ladakh is a place where earth meets sky, where silence speaks volumes, and where natural beauty and spiritual depth exist in perfect harmony. Ladakh feels like another planet—where the skies stretch endlessly, the mountains whisper ancient secrets, and every turn reveals a postcard-perfect view. It's not just a destination—it's a journey for the soul.

Different hues of Ladakh:

Ladakh consists of a number of distinct areas, including the fairly populous main Indus valley, the more remote Zaskar (in the south) and Nubra valleys (to the north over Khardung La in the Ladakh mountain range), the almost deserted Aksai Chin (under Chinese rule) and the predominantly Shi'ite Muslim Kargil and Suru valley areas in the west (Kargil being the second most important town in Ladakh). Leh (predominantly Buddhist) & Kargil (predominantly Muslim) are the two districts of the present UT of Ladakh. Baltistan and Skardu used to be included in what is geographically referred to as Ladakh but are presently under Pakistani rule and are entirely Muslim. Before partition, Baltistan was



Unique Culture and People:

The warmth of the Ladakhi people, with their distinct Tibetan-influenced traditions, adds to the region's charm. Their festivals, music, and dances bring vibrant color to the stark landscape. Traditional homes with whitewashed walls and flat roofs dot the villages, offering a glimpse into a way of life that's both simple and deeply connected to nature. Culturally, Ladakh is a fascinating blend of Tibetan Buddhism and Indian heritage. The region is dotted with centuries-old gompas (monasteries), prayer flags fluttering in the wind, and festivals that celebrate life with music, dance, and ritual. Leh, the capital city, serves as the gateway to this mystical land and offers a mix of modern amenities and ancient charm.

one of the districts of Ladakh. Skardo was the winter capital of Ladakh while Leh was the summer capital. People of Baltistan and Ladakh speak very similar languages closely related to Tibetan.

IMPORTANT PRECAUTIONS:

At Ladakh, the sea level is around 11,500 ft above sea level and oxygen levels drop to just 60–65%. This sudden dip in oxygen can cause problems. While some travellers adjust quickly, others may take longer—and ignoring this fact can result in Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS).

1. Light Meals: For the first 48 hours, skip heavy meals like Maggi, momos, or fried food. The digestive system tends to slow down at high altitude, so lighter meals help the body to adapt easier.

2. Avoid Over-exertion. Don't head towards Khardung La (18,000 ft) straight away. This can result in severe AMS symptoms. At Khardung la, limit your time there to less than 30 minutes. and avoid pushing your body too hard, too soon.

3. Plan Wisely & Acclimatize. A Ladakh itinerary isn't just about covering spots—it's about allowing your body to adjust. Give yourself 24–48 hours in Leh before heading to higher altitudes. This simple step can save your entire trip.

4. Ladakh weather is dry. Keep yourself hydrated.

Ladakh is breathtaking, but it demands respect for nature and patience with your own body. With careful planning, you could enjoy Ladakh without

letting altitude sickness ruin your adventure.

Historical aspects of Ladakh:

The initial inhabitants of Ladakh are said to be the Changpas nomadic tribes from the Tibetan Plateau. These were followed by the Aryans and the Dards (from Gilgit) as Ladakh became a gateway to the central Asia.

Around the 1st century AD Ladakh was part of the Kushan empire. Buddhism was established in the 2nd century. Buddhism found its way to Ladakh via Tibet through Guru Padma Sambhav who is said to have been invited from Kashmir to Tibet by the then ruler. He established Buddhism in Tibet and from there to Ladakh.

In the 7th Century there was a clash between Ladakh & Tibet and in 635 AD, Tibetan commissioner was appointed. In 677 AD there was a rebellion against the Tibetan rule.

In 737AD, Tibet launched an attack against king Bru-Za of Gilgit with the help of Chinese.

In 842 AD, the Tibet monarchy collapse and suzerainty over Ladakh vanished. There was a large migration from Tibet into Ladakh. Nyima-Goh of the ancient Tibet royalty house established the first Ladakh Dynasty.

13th – 16th: century, several Muslim invasions and raids took place and Ladakh was broken into Lower & upper Ladakh. Islam arrived in the 15th century through traders, mystics and warriors from Kashmir, central Asia and Baltistan. Basgo king overthrew the king of Leh and reunited Ladakh and established the Namgyal Dynasty with Jamyang Namgyal as the king. Concerted efforts were made to convert Ladakh into Islam and destruction of Buddhist Artefacts was carried out. It was the decision of king Jamyang Namgyal that steered Ladakh towards being a cradle of diverse cultures. He entered into an alliance with Gyal Khatun the daughter of the Balti king Amir Mir. Their son, Senge Namgyal, half Buddhist and half Muslim ascended the throne in 1616 AD and became the most famous king of Ladakh.

1616-1642 AD; Senge Namgyal known as the 'Lion King' made efforts to restore Ladakh to its old glory by reclaiming lost land and rebuilding several gompas/ monasteries and shrines. The most famous being the Hemis Monastery. He moved the royal headquarter from the Shay Palace to the Leh palace. He also expanded the kingdom into the Zaskar and Spiti. He tried to expand his empire beyond but was defeated by the Mughals who had already occupied Kashmir and Baltistan.

1642-1694: Deldan Namgyal the son of Senge Namgyal picked a quarrel with his ally, Tibet prompting the 5th Dalai lama to invade Ladakh. Deldan sought help from Kashmir which was granted under the condition that the king convert to Islam and had to placate Mughal emperor Aurangzeb by building a mosque in Leh.

Early 19th century: Mughal Empire collapsed, Punjab and Kashmir came under the Sikh Rule.

1834: Gen. Zorawar Singh (Military general of the Dogra king Maharaja Gulab Singh) invaded Ladakh, king Tshespal Namgyal was dethroned and exiled to Stok.

1834-1839: Gen. Zorawar Singh led 3 expeditions to Ladakh putting an end to all possible rebellions or resistance.

1846: Ladakh was brought under the Dogra rule and became part of the Jammu & Kashmir.

1947- 48: Partition and the Pakistani raid. Pakistanis occupied Zaskar and Leh but was later evicted by the Indian army.

1949: China closed the border between Nubra and Sinkiang blocking the 1000-year-old route to Central Asia.

1950: China invaded Tibet. Dalai Lama and thousands of Tibetans take refuge in India.

1962: China occupied Aksai Chin.

1979: Ladakh reorganised into Leh & Kargil Districts.

1996: Ladakh Autonomous hill council.

2019: UT of Ladakh

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

Jhelum Weeps



■ **Rayees Ahmad Kumar**

The Jhelum—lifeline of Kashmir— for centuries nourished our fields, sustained livelihoods, facilitated trade, and adorned the valley with beauty.

But whenever its flow is neglected, its banks tampered with, this gentle stream of life turns ferocious, unleashing floods, leaving behind only ruin and despair.

The bitter memories of 2014 still linger painfully— when within days Srinagar and its suburbs lay submerged; thousands were rendered homeless, property worth billions washed away, as people stood helpless before the deluge.

This was no mere natural calamity. It was a human-made tragedy. Encroachments on riverbanks, faulty drainage systems, reckless deforestation, and lack of timely measures all conspired to transform Jhelum into an uncontrollable torrent.

Today, Jhelum has lost the strength to carry excess waters. Instead, it spills into human settlements, threatening lives and livelihoods alike.

The need of the hour is urgent: to protect and manage this river scientifically, to restore its spirit as a source of prosperity.

That means removing illegal encroachments, adopting responsible urban planning, introducing modern flood-control technologies, and carrying out regular dredging.

But if neglect continues, the floods will return— each time with greater fury, each time with deeper scars.

Ayurveda Is Called The "Science Of Life"

■ Vijay Garg

Can Ayurvedic practices be a solution for modern health problems?

Ayurveda, also called the "science of life," has always been more than a medical system. It is a way of living that connects the body, mind, and environment. In today's world of screen fatigue, stress, irregular eating patterns, and lifestyle-driven illnesses, many of Ayurveda's simple rituals feel like timely solutions. On this World Ayurveda Day, here are six practices that continue to hold the power to address modern health challenges in the most natural way.

In a world where stress travels faster than emails, Abhyanga acts like an antidote. Warm oil massage, traditionally done with sesame or medicated oils, nourishes the skin and calms the nervous system. Modern studies suggest it can reduce cortisol (stress hormone) and improve blood circulation. Many people report that after just a few weeks, they feel lighter, sleep better, and have reduced muscle stiffness, something modern desk jobs make worse.

Urban living brings constant exposure to pollution, dust, and allergens, leading to frequent sinus headaches, blocked noses, or even brain fog. Nasya involves applying a few drops of herbal oils (like Anu Taila) in the nostrils. Ayurveda explains that it clears toxins from the head region and sharpens sensory functions. While it sounds simple, many practitioners vouch for its ability to ease sinus congestion and even support mental clarity, an underrated need in

A spoonful of oil swished in the mouth for 10-15 minutes might sound old-fashioned, but Gandusha has stood the test of time. This ritual helps remove oral bacteria, strengthens gums, and reduces bad breath. Modern research links oral health to conditions like diabetes and heart disease. By cleansing the mouth daily, Gandusha indirectly.....

this digital era.

A spoonful of oil swished in the mouth for 10-15 minutes might sound old-fashioned, but Gandusha has stood the test of time. This ritual helps remove oral bacteria, strengthens gums, and reduces bad breath. Modern research links oral health to conditions like diabetes and heart disease. By cleansing the mouth daily, Gandusha indirectly contributes to better overall health, a true example of how a simple practice impacts more than just teeth.

Endless screen hours have made eye strain and mental restlessness common. Trataka, a

meditation technique involving steady gazing at a flame, offers relief. It strengthens eye muscles, reduces digital fatigue, and sharpens concentration. Many practitioners also experience a sense of calmness after this practice, making it both a physical and mental detox. In today's context, it feels like a remedy for both tired eyes and restless minds.

Ayurveda never looked at health as one-size-fits-all. Ritucharya, the practice of adapting lifestyle and diet to seasonal changes, helps the body stay in rhythm with nature. For example, consuming cooling foods in summer, warm spices in winter, or lighter meals during monsoons keeps digestion strong and immunity stable. Today, where metabolic disorders like obesity and diabetes are on the rise, Ritucharya's preventive wisdom feels strikingly modern.

Constant notifications and life's rush have made anxiety a modern epidemic. Shirodhara, the practice of gently pouring warm medicated oil on the forehead, works like therapy for the nervous system. It promotes deep relaxation, improves sleep quality, and helps reduce symptoms of anxiety. Although usually practised under professional supervision, its impact demonstrates how Ayurveda recognised the importance of mental health centuries ago, a concept that the world is only now beginning to prioritise.

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

Sleepless nights may raise risk of heart disease: Study

■ The Hans India

People with poor sleep for just three nights may be at an increased risk of developing heart diseases, according to a study.

With chronic lack of sleep growing as a public health concern, researchers from Uppsala University in Sweden found that disturbed sleep may raise inflammation, increasing the risk of heart disease.

"Many of the larger studies that have been done on the link between sleep deprivation and the risk of cardiovascular



lar diseases have generally focused on slightly older individuals who already have an increased risk of such diseases. That is why it was interesting that the levels of these proteins increased in the same way in younger and previously perfectly healthy individuals after only a few nights of sleep deprivation. This means that it's important to emphasise the importance of sleep for cardiovascular health even early in life," said Jonathan Cedernaes, a physician at Uppsala University.

The team analysed 16 healthy young men of normal weight -- all with healthy sleep habits.

The participants spent time in a sleep laboratory where their meals and activity levels were strictly controlled in two sessions.

In one session, participants got a normal amount of sleep for three consecutive nights, while during the other session, they got only about four hours of sleep each night. During both sessions, morning and evening blood samples were taken, and following high-intensity exercise lasting 30 minutes.

The researchers measured the levels of around 90 proteins in the blood and were able to see that the levels of many of these that are associated with increased inflammation rose when the participants were sleep-deprived.

Many of these proteins have already been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease such as heart failure and coronary artery disease, said the researchers, in the study published in the journal Biomarker Research.

Further, the team found that physical exercise generated a slightly different response after a lack of sleep.

However, the number of key proteins increased equally, whether the person was sleep-deprived or not. Thus, proteins that can be linked to the positive effects of exercise increased, even if the person had too little sleep.

The researchers have previously shown that exercise in the presence of sleep deprivation can result in a slightly increased load on the heart's muscle cells.

Cedernaes said that "further research is needed to investigate how these effects might differ in women, older individuals, patients with heart disease, or those with different sleep patterns".

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Aadi Karamyogi campaign: DC Bandipora engages with tribal community at Chandaji village

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, SEP 27: As part of the ongoing Aadi Karamyogi Abhiyan under Seva Prav 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with a team of officers from various departments, visited the remote tribal village of Chandaji on Saturday and attended a public darbar with the local community.

During the program, Block Level Master Trainers (BLMTs)

presented a detailed status report of the village covering education, health, agriculture, dairy and sheep farming. They informed that door-to-door surveys were conducted and awareness was generated among households and youth about different welfare schemes aimed at improving socio-economic conditions.

Students of Government Middle School Chandaji actively participated in the event by delivering speeches on the Aadi

Karamyogi Abhiyan, describing it as a transformative movement for tribal empowerment. They also presented cultural performances showcasing the rich tribal heritage, and staged a skit highlighting challenges in education, particularly the absence of a nearby secondary school, which they cited as a major cause of dropouts.

Locals raised several demands before the DC including better internet connectivity, electricity supply, drinking

water facilities, and inclusion of Chandaji on the tourist map given its natural beauty and tourism potential.

In her address, DC praised the talent of school children and lauded the efforts of school management. She directed the Chief Education Officer to prepare a plan for providing pick-and-drop facilities to middle-pass students so they can pursue secondary education without interruption. She further assured that network,

electricity, and other civic issues would be taken up for early resolution.

DC also highlighted government initiatives like Mission YUVA and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), encouraging youth to start businesses and become self-reliant. She directed the Assistant Labour Commissioner to organize a Labour Card Saturation Camp in Chandaji next week.

Notably, in a significant

step towards strengthening grassroots governance under the Aadi Karamyogi Abhiyan and Seva Prav 2025, Seva Kendras have been inaugurated in all 31 villages across six blocks of Bandipora. These Kendras serve as single-window platforms to provide easy access to government services and welfare schemes, while also acting as hubs for grievance redressal, information dissemination, and participatory governance. Their

operationalisation marks a decisive move towards responsive and inclusive service delivery in the district.

Meanwhile, as part of the campaign under Seva Prav 2025, awareness programs were simultaneously organized across the district. ADC Bandipora attended an event at Panchayat Ghar Aragam, ACR Bandipora visited Panchayat Ghar Chattibandi, and the Chief Planning Officer joined a program at High School Kudara.

Orientation session for Principals, ZEOs & Headmasters held to strengthen Vidya Samiksha Kendra initiatives

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 27: A comprehensive orientation session for Principals, Zonal Education Officers, Headmasters, and Zonal Nodal Officers of Vidya Samiksha Kendra was held at the auditorium of GGHSS Kothibagh, today.

The session organized by Chief Education Officer Srinagar, aimed to enhance the implementation of data-driven educational initiatives under the Vidya Samiksha Kendra, a transformative program by the School Education department and Literacy to revolutionize educational outcomes through advanced data integration and analysis.

The session was attended by Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat; District Education Planning Officer, Srinagar, Anjum Raja; Incharge Samagra Shiksha, District Cultural Coordinator, DNO and ZNOs of VSK from all eight zones of Srinagar.

In his address, CEO Srinagar emphasized the transformative potential of Vidya Samiksha Kendra, which integrates systems like UDISE, NAS, and DIKSHA to monitor and improve the performance of schools, teachers, and students.

He underscored VSK's role in promoting data-driven decision-making through comprehensive data analysis, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to enhance student learning outcomes, teacher accountability, and resource optimization.

He issued strict directives to Cluster Heads, ZEOs, and Headmasters to ensure 100% compliance with daily student attendance submission on the JK Attendance Chatbot and week-



ly practice tests for students from Classes 1 to 8 on the JK Study Buddy Chatbot.

He urged Heads of Institutions (Hols) to analyze average scores to track students' educational progress and collaborate with teachers to adopt innovative teaching methodologies to improve learning outcomes.

Anjum Raja, DEPO Srinagar, provided an overview of the progress made under VSK, highlighting key achievements in data updation of students and teachers, daily attendance submission on the JK Attendance Chatbot, and metrics related to student registrations, practice tests

conducted, and average scores on the JK Study Buddy Chatbot.

A technical session by DNO Vidya Samiksha Kendra Srinagar, demonstrated the user-friendly features of the JK Study Buddy Chatbot and its supporting videos, which are designed to elevate students' learning levels.

A detailed presentation on VSK's operations highlighted how students scores can be used to track class-wise learning outcomes, enabling teachers to design effective teaching strategies. The session also included an interactive segment where participants raised technical queries, which were promptly addressed by DNO.

5th Death Anniversary of Abdul Ahad Bhat



The 5th death anniversary of Mr. Abdul Ahad Bhat, a respected resident of Qazipora Delina, Baramulla, is being observed today. He left for his heavenly abode on 28th September 2020 at 20:20 hours.

Family members and loved ones remember him with deep affection, cherishing his noble deeds, humility, and guidance that continue to inspire them.

اَے تھے ہم مٹی بلبل، سیر گلشن کر چلے

"للو مالی باغ اپنا، ہم تو اپنے گھر چلے

His family expressed heartfelt sentiments: "While we miss you every day, we know you're always with us in spirit. I hope you find peace in heaven's embrace, Daddy Jaan."

Prayers are being offered for the eternal peace of the departed soul, and the family has requested friends, relatives, and well-wishers to remember him in their prayers.

**Deeply missed by
Nazir Ahmad Bhat (Son)**

Public Notice

I, Tanjela Altaf D/o Altaf Hussain Wani R/o Pahalgam, have applied for issuance of EWS Certificate.

Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

**Name: Tanjela Altaf
D.O.B.: 30/08/2002**

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No. IIND SRINAGAR

GIST OF TENDER NOTICE No:- 14 /E-Tendering OF 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e- tenders are invited on **Percentage basis** from the Registered PWD Civil Contractors whose Registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work incld. Depttl. materials (Amount in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Time of completion.	Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (Rs.)	Head of Account
01.	Construction of CC Drain from Bemina crossing to Qamarwari main drain at Taballa	Rs.86.88	Rs.1,73,760/-	AAY	40 Days	Rs. 2,600/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Drainage)
02.	Construction of drainage network at Khumani Chowk Bemina Phase 2 nd	Rs.28.73	Rs. 57,460/-	AAY/BEE	25 Days	Rs. 900/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)
03.	Construction of drainage network of uncovered areas of Qamarwari Phase Ist	Rs.37.50	Rs.75,000/-	AAY/BEE	30 Days	Rs. 1,200/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)
04.	Construction of covered drain in uncovered areas of Lane No 9 Firdous Abad Batamalo	Rs.19.39	Rs.38,780/-	BEE/CEE	20 Days	Rs. 600/-	Capex Budget 2025-26 (Additional Financial Assistance)

In terms of Government order Circular No.01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated:- 08.07.2025 that "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatory disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payment shall be released by the Government Department /Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder"

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities(B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given hereunder:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13.09.2025
02.	Period of down loading of bidding documents	15.09.2025 from 11:00 A.M. to 29.09.2025 up to 4.00 PM
03.	Bid Submission Start Date	15.09.2025 from 11:30 AM
04.	Bid Submission end Date	29.09.2025 upto 4.00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening of Bids on line	30.09.2025 at 02.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division No. II, SMC, Darsh Kadal Srinagar or any subsequent date convenient date to the tender Opening Authority
06.	List of soft copies to be uploaded	Scanned copy of Treasury challan (cost of tender document) with Sl. No. of NIT/ Name of the work (without overwriting). Scanned copy of CDR/ FDR/BG (Earnest Money) (without Over writing). Scanned copy of GST Registration with latest clearance and PAN Card. Scanned copy of JKPWDOMS Registration card with latest renewal on JKPWDOMS PORTAL, Cell No./ e-mail ID and correspondence address. NIT (Terms and conditions) duly signed by the bidder. BOQ.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- In case the bids are found unbalanced / abnormally low bid price, the Successful bidder has to produce/ deposit additional performance security in shape of FDR/CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids, as per the circular instructions of the Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025. The additional performance security shall be released after the successful completion of work till Defective Liability (DLP) period is over and the defective liability period for each work shall be reflected in the allotment order when issued.
- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Advertised cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee / security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of Bid Price Below 10% of advertised cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this Additional Performance Guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid Price.
- Where the Bid Price is 20% or more below the advertised cost put to bid the Additional Performance Grantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.28% for every percentage of Bid Price Below 20% of project cost put to bid in addition to 0.1% of the bid price.
- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Advertised cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee / security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of Bid Price Below 10% of advertised cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this Additional Performance Guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid Price.
- The Successful Bidder has to produce Hard Copies within three days after opening of Bids.
- Bidders are advised to read the NIT carefully before participate in the Bidding process.
- Treasury Challan (Tender Document Fee) should be a fresh i.e., between the date of issue of tender notice & bid submission end date.
- The Contract shall be awarded only after obtaining Administrative Approval from Competent Authority and release of funds on BEAMS portal by the Finance Department.
- The payment of work on account of work done shall be made under rules subject to availability of funds under the prescribed head of account.
- The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject or cancel any bid / tender / NIT or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

No: S&D-II/2100 | Dated: 13.09.2025

DIPK: 6594/25 | Dated: 27-09-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer, S&D Division IInd, Sgr.

Udyam YUVA Fest Held in Kulgam Under Sewa Parv (Mission YUVA)

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, SEP 27: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, a vibrant Udyam YUVA Fest was organized today in Kulgam under the banner of Mission YUVA, with the objective of inspiring, educating, and engaging youth in the fields of entrepreneurship, innovation, and skill development.

The event was presided over by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, who, in his keynote address, emphasized the importance of empowering youth to become self-reliant, confident, and future-ready. He encouraged the participants to explore new-age avenues of self-employment and innovation, urging them to take charge of their careers with clarity, purpose, and ambition.

The fest witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and job



seekers from across the district. Notable speakers included the Principal of Government Polytechnic Kulgam, Career Counselling Officer from the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC), the District Nodal Officer (DNO) from JKEDI, as well

as successful local entrepreneurs and officials from various departments.

Throughout the day, sessions were held on a diverse range of topics such as:

Entrepreneurship as a driver of local economic development

Career planning and the importance of counselling in informed decision-making

The role of skill development and vocational training in enhancing employability

Challenges and opportunities in launching a business

Success stories of home-grown entrepreneurs who have excelled in their fields

The event also featured interactive sessions and open-floor discussions, providing a unique platform for attendees to seek guidance, share innovative ideas, and receive mentorship from seasoned professionals and business leaders.

As a mark of recognition and encouragement, trophies, certificates, and mementos were distributed by the ADDC and other dignitaries to the winners of various competitions held on the first day of the fest.

The Udyam YUVA Fest served as a powerful platform for the youth of Kulgam to connect, collaborate, and develop a self-driven, entrepreneurial mindset. The event reaffirmed the government's commitment to youth empowerment through continuous engagement, awareness, and opportunities aligned with the broader goals of Mission YUVA.

Udyam YUVA Fest under Mission YUVA Concludes Successfully at GPC Chanderkote

DC RAMBAN FELICITATES WINNERS, PARTICIPANTS

■ **HT News Desk**

RAMBAN, SEP 27: The two-day "Pan-UT Udyam YUVA Fest" organised under Mission YUVA concluded successfully at Government Polytechnic College (GPC) Chanderkote today. Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, felicitated the outstanding performers and participants, lauding their talent, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

The programme, jointly organized by GPC Chanderkote and the District Employment & Counselling Centre Ramban, commenced with lamp lighting by dignitaries followed by Saraswati Vandana, invoking the blessings of Goddess Saraswati for knowledge and wisdom.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said that platforms like Udyam YUVA Fest facilitate students with exposure, skills and confidence to innovate and lead. He encouraged participants to convert their ideas into action and contribute to building a self-reliant India. He also appreciated the College and Mission YUVA team of District Ramban for empowering young minds



through such initiatives.

The two-day festival featured diverse competitions and activities aimed at nurturing creativity and innovation. Quiz (online), essay writing, painting and speech competitions held on 26th September witnessed enthusiastic participation. Winners were felicitated with cash prizes of ₹5,000, ₹3,000 and ₹2,000 along with certificates for first, second and third positions respectively.

Besides competitions, the fest hosted entrepreneurial showcases where successful local entrepreneurs shared their experiences, career counselling and awareness sessions, and live skill demonstrations by students on live projects and electrical hardware. Certificates were also distributed to beneficiaries who successfully completed capacity-building training under hybrid mode.

The Principal GPC Er. Vivek Mahajan extended gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner, District Administration, faculty and students for their support in making the event a grand success. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Superintendent ITI Ramban Parvez Iqbal, who emphasized the immense potential of youth in shaping a progressive and self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also distributed certificates among the seven young entrepreneurs who successfully completed their 10-day training in hybrid mode under Mission YUVA. The initiative, aimed at enhancing youth skills and fostering entrepreneurship, combined online and offline learning modes to provide participants with practical knowledge and hands-on experience.

Mission Shakti Organizes Distribution Programme Under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao at GHS Bankoot, Banihal

■ **HT News Desk**

RAMBAN, SEP 27: The Social Welfare Department Ramban, under Mission Shakti Sankalp – Hub for Empowerment of Women and as part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign, today organized a welfare programme at Government High School Bankoot, Banihal.

On the occasion, students were provided with school bags, water bottles, notebooks, pens, chess boards, career-oriented guide books, and other essential materials to support their educational growth and holistic development.

District Mission Coordinator Nadia Hamid, Gender Specialist Muzaima, and staff members of the school were present during the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, District Mission Coordinator and Gender Specialist highlighted that Mission Shakti, under the banner of BBBP, is committed to empowering children—especially girls—by promoting equal opportunities in education and career building.

They encouraged students to make



productive use of the distributed resources and strive for excellence in

both academics and extracurricular activities.

Sewa Parv and Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations

DC Ramban Presides Over Inter-College Competitions at GDC Ramban

■ **HT News Desk**

RAMBAN, SEP 27: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv and Gandhi Jayanti-2025 celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today presided over a grand event at Government Degree College (GDC) Ramban. The programme featured a series of inter-college competitions, including a declamation contest on the theme "Gandhian Life & Philosophy", an on-spot painting competition and a quiz competition.

Students from all five degree colleges of District Ramban including GDC Ramban, GDC Banihal, GDC Ukhral, GDC Gool and GDC

Batote enthusiastically participated in the event, showcasing their creativity, knowledge and understanding of Gandhian values.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the timeless relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's principles of truth, non-violence, tolerance and perseverance in contemporary society. He urged the students to imbibe these values in their daily lives and motivated them to work hard to achieve their goals and contribute positively to nation building. Later, he distributed medals and certificates among the winners of various competitions.

Speaking on the spirit of Sewa



Parv, the Deputy Commissioner underlined that the fortnight-long celebration across the district aims to promote community service, social awareness and sustainable development through diverse activities and youth participation. Earlier, Principal GDC Ramban,

Prof. Satish Kumar, welcomed the DC Ramban as Chief Guest and briefed him about the series of activities organised by the College under Sewa Parv and Gandhi Jayanti celebrations.

In the declamation contest, Rashida Beig (GDC Ramban), Neha

Devi (GDC Batote) and Nishika Bhutyal (GDC Ramban) secured the first, second and third positions respectively. In painting, Hameera Arshad (GDC Gool), Junaid Khatib Ganaie (GDC Ramban) and Mubasher Ahmed (GDC Gool) bagged the top three spots. In the quiz competition, teams from GDC Ramban, GDC Batote and GDC Gool stood first, second and third respectively.

The quiz was coordinated by Prof. Ram Parkash and Dr. Anuj Gupta. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Jawaid Sarver, while the programme was moderated by Dr. Vishal Baloria, HoD History.

Seva Parv-2025: Ramban Administration Hosts Series of Activities Promoting Health, Education & Welfare

■ **HT News Desk**

RAMBAN, SEP 27: As part of the ongoing Seva Parv-2025 celebrations, a series of activities were organized across district Ramban to promote education, health, cleanliness, sustainability, and social awareness.

At Primary School Nari Mahakund, SDM Gool Imtiaz Ahmed, along with other officers, spent the day with students to encourage an effective teaching-learning process. The programme focused on promoting health, cleanliness, sustainability, and community responsibility. Various interactive activities were conducted to spread awareness on hygiene, eco-friendly practices, and building a responsible society. The initiative witnessed active participation of teachers, students, and community members, reflecting the spirit of collective responsibility for a healthier and sustainable future.

Meanwhile, the Labour Department Ramban, in collaboration with Tata Project Ltd. and Shreshvendra Construction Pvt. Ltd., organized a free health check-up camp for construction workers at a site



near Army Camp Digdole. A total of 110 workers benefited from the camp, where a team of doctors conducted health screenings and consultations. In addition to medical services, workers were sensitized about various welfare and pension schemes offered by the J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCVWB). Company authorities were also directed to arrange similar health camps regularly to ensure the well-being of their workforce.

Further, the Health Department under the 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan' organized a specialized health camp at NTPHC Chanderkote and two additional camps at AAM SC Kainthgali and AAM SC Jhatgali Wanga, focusing on the health of women and children.

All initiatives under Seva Parv-2025 were well received by the community, showcasing the administration's commitment to promoting health, education, and welfare for all sections of society.

Sewa Parv-2025: DC Ganderbal presides over mega awareness/ grievance redressal camp at Kangan

■ **HT News Desk / DIPR**

GANDERBAL, SEP 27: As part of the ongoing fortnight-long Sewa Parv-2025 celebrations, district administration Ganderbal today organized a mega awareness-cum-grievance redressal camp at Kangan subdivision, which witnessed overwhelming participation of the general public.

The camp was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, who interacted with the locals and took stock of various developmental concerns and grievances raised by the people.

On the occasion, President Traders Association Kangan projected demands related

to upgradation of basic amenities in Kangan market, including installation of street lights, addressing menace of stray dogs, improvement in drainage system, additional staff for J&K Bank, uninterrupted power supply.

Similarly, representatives from other areas raised issues such as maintenance of roads, macadamization of Kangan-Wangath road, development of parks, establishment of a Horticulture zone at Tehsil Gund, augmentation of potable water supply, removal of encroachments, poor mobile connectivity in Naranag, upgradation of school infrastructure in Naranag and Kawcherwan, and construction of check dams in flood-prone areas. Addressing the public, DC gave

on-spot directions to concerned departments for prompt redressal of grievances in a time-bound manner, reiterating the administration's commitment to provide basic facilities at people's doorsteps.

Regarding sanitation in Kangan market, DC assured that necessary measures would be taken to maintain cleanliness and sought the cooperation of locals in the drive.

During the camp, DC inspected departmental stalls, interacted with officials about on-spot registration of beneficiaries, and reviewed awareness activities regarding various Government schemes.

Public was provided on spot registrations, IEC material, and information about welfare

initiatives. On the occasion, DC also distributed sports kits to school children, revenue certificates, authorization letters under different schemes, and other welfare benefits among the beneficiaries. The camp was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; SDM Kangan, Programme Officer ICDS, ACD, and other district and sectoral officers.

Later, DC visited the Sub District Hospital (SDH) Kangan to inspect healthcare facilities being provided to the patients. He took a detailed round of various sections including CT Scan, ECG, X-ray unit, laboratory, casualty ward, and also inspected the under-construction 100-bedded hospital building.

Delhi Court Grants Bail To BMW Case Accused, Questions Prosecution's Homicide Theory

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 27: A Delhi court granted bail to Gagampreet Makkad, the main accused in the BMW accident case, noting the CCTV footage of the incident contradicted the prosecution's claim of a deliberate high-speed ramming, showing instead an accidental loss of control and flip of the vehicle.

Navjot Singh (50), an employee of the Ministry of Finance, was killed in the accident while his wife was severely injured.

The court also found that the "highly unprofessional" conduct of ambulance paramedics, who

left the scene without helping the victims, broke the causal chain linking the accused's actions directly to the death.

Furthermore, the judge noted the prosecution failed to provide evidence, like a post-mortem report, to prove the victim could have survived with different medical care, thereby weakening the serious charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Additional Sessions Judge Ankit Garg ordered her release on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh with two sureties, ruling that the prosecution's case for the severe charge of "culpable

homicide not amounting to murder" was on a "fragile foundation" at this stage. The decision hinged significantly on the court's analysis of CCTV footage, which presented a sequence of events starkly different from the initial police report.

The court found that the CCTV footage critically weakened the prosecution's narrative. Instead of a high-speed ramming from behind as alleged, the video showed the BMW losing control, hitting a divider, flipping over, and then tragically coming into contact with the motorcycle. This, the court noted, pointed more



towards rash or negligent driving rather than an act implying knowledge of causing death.

Furthermore, the footage revealed the "highly unprofessional" conduct of an ambulance

crew that arrived instantly but left within 40 seconds without rendering any aid to the unconscious victims. The judge stated that this lapse by the paramedics, the first responders, "materially erodes the prosecution's claim that the golden-hour loss is attributable solely, or even primarily, to the accused."

While granting bail, the court imposed a set of stringent conditions to ensure the integrity of the ongoing investigation. "Gagampreet Makkad is prohibited from tampering with evidence or contacting any staff from Nulife Hospital or the ambulance service involved in

the case. She must surrender her passport, regularly report to the police, and appear for all court hearings."

The court acknowledged the gravity of the incident, the death of Navjot Singh, but emphasised that bail is the norm and jail the exception, especially given the accused's clean record, roots in the community, and the current lack of compelling evidence requiring her continued custody. The prosecution retains the right to seek cancellation of bail if any of these conditions are violated.

Advocate Pradeep Rana was appearing as the defense counsel in the matter. UNI

Cabinet approves 10,023 new medical seats within next five years

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 27: The union Cabinet has approved addition of 10,023 new medical seats with an investment of Rs. 15,034 crore as part of the goal to create 75,000 medical seats within the next five years. These include 5,000 post-graduate and 5,023 undergraduate seats in existing government colleges and hospitals by 2028-29, an official spokesman said today.

At a meeting here chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi it was also decided to double the number of medical colleges to 808 in 2025-26 from 387 in 2013-14, with undergraduate seats up 141 percent and postgraduate seats up 144 percent.

New 2025 regulations allow experienced government specialists to become professors without mandatory residency requirements. Initiative specifically targets underserved communities while positioning India as a global hub for affordable healthcare.

"This will improve our healthcare system and enhance medical education infrastructure. It will ensure that every part of India has availability of skilled doctors," the Prime Minister Narendra said in a post on X on September 24.

The country has significantly expanded its medical infrastructure over the past decade, yet the demand continues to outpace supply.

The total investment is Rs. 15,034 crore covering the period from 2025-26 to 2028-29. Of this, 68.5 percent amounting to Rs. 10,303.20 crore will be funded by the union government while the remaining Rs. 4,731.30 crore will be contributed by the states. The investment per seat is Rs. 1.5 crore.

Prime Minister Modi envisions 75,000 additional medical seats in the next five years, and this new approval made on September 24, 2025, is a step towards that goal, the spokesman added.

India has the highest number of medical colleges (808) and has been expanding its medical educational infrastructure for years.

There are 1,23,700 MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) seats today. In the last decade, 69,352 seats were added, a growth of 127 percent. During this period 43,041 post-graduate seats were added, a growth of 143 percent. A total of 22 new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) were approved under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, which aims to make affordable and reliable tertiary healthcare accessible to all people and regions and improve the quality of medical education in the country, the spokesman added. UNI

CISF overhauls training to transform into battle-hardened & future-ready force

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 27: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has unveiled major upgrades to its training modules and standards to transform into a battle-hardy, tech-savvy, and future-ready force.

The reforms were finalized during the Annual Training Conference 2025, held at the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), Hyderabad, chaired by CISF Director General Rajwinder Singh Bhatti.

The two-day conference brought together senior officers from across the country and set out a bold roadmap to raise the security force's operational preparedness to the highest levels.

One of the prominent reforms announced is the adoption of a "One Force, One Outdoor Standard" policy across all ranks.

This means that all CISF personnel, including officers, from their basic training, will now be

trained to meet the same rigorous physical and battle benchmarks followed by elite forces like the National Security Guard (NSG).

Similarly, Battle Obstacle Assault Courses (BoAC), with all 26 obstacles having the same difficulty level and timing standards as followed by NSG, have been implemented in the CISF.

To further boost physical fitness, the force has introduced half marathons across all basic courses.

The training curriculum will now also include modules from counter-terrorist experts drawn from the special forces, who will impart practical skills in field operations and battle craft.

These measures are aimed at instilling toughness, tactical acumen, and confidence in every CISF recruit, preparing them to handle high-stress security scenarios effectively.

Based on the various security solutions implemented by CISF in its security protocol, the force



is developing integrated training modules to incorporate 20 cutting-edge technologies, used for screening, monitoring, and detection, into its training programs.

Recruits will gain direct exposure to drones, counter-drone systems, cybersecurity tools, artificial intelligence applications, and Integrated Command & Control Centres.

For the first time, trainees will get hands-on exposure to these

technologies from day one of their academy training.

Digital Integrated Command and Control Centers will be established at all training centers to consolidate the above modules and provide trainees with hands-on experience in operating and handling these advanced technologies.

All personnel will be trained to act as first responders in cases of fire, disaster, and medical con-

tingencies.

They will undergo certification courses in fire safety, disaster management, and medical first response from reputed institutions.

The force will build a pool of 2,000 empanelled instructors, with 10 percent of training seats reserved for women personnel.

To meet the manpower demand of a steadily expanding force, CISF is also increasing its training capacity.

With the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the intake capacity of all Recruit Training Centres (RTCs) has been increased by 50 percent, raising it to 1,500.

Approval has also been granted for the establishment of three new RTCs, which will be completed on priority.

DG Bhatti said that these reforms will make CISF battle-ready in the field, tech-driven in operations, and a multi-skilled, future-ready force. UNI

US reveals 21-point proposal for ending Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, calls for demilitarisation, future Palestinian state

■ **United News of India**

NEW YORK, SEP 27: The US has revealed its proposal for ending the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, which quaintly enough sees Washington explicitly encouraging Palestinians to remain in the war-ravaged Strip, outlining a potential pathway for the establishment of a potential future Palestinian state, according to a copy obtained by The Times of Israel. The 21-point document shared by the US with a handful of Arab and Muslim countries earlier this week on the UN General Assembly sidelines combines longstanding Israeli demands with new concessions to Palestinians. The plan calls for the release of all hostages, the removal of Hamas from power, demilitarisation of Gaza, and deradicalisation of the enclave. Simultaneously, it also envisions post-war reconstruction, reform of the Palestinian Authority,

and the creation of a "political horizon" for peaceful coexistence.

The exact sequencing for these steps isn't specified, but it appears that they are intended to come into effect in parallel with the ending of the war.

The plan marks a major shift for Washington, given that back in February, Trump had given the bizarre proposal of a US military takeover of the Strip to aid in the relocation of its two million population to another area.

His statement had emboldened the far-right figures in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition who have openly supported "voluntary migration." By contrast, the new proposal envisions a potential pathway to a future Palestinian state, after Gaza's redevelopment has advanced and the Palestinian Authority's reform has been completed, also appears to be a major departure from the Trump administration's policy to date, given that it has

avoided expressing backing for a two-state solution. The plan—largely crafted by US special envoy Steve Witkoff—and poised to be fine-tuned in the coming days—reportedly would even see the US establishing a dialogue with Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a "political horizon" for "peaceful coexistence." However, its provisions also support Jerusalem's key demands for ending its war, with many calling its adoption dubious, owing to Hamas' likely rejection, particularly as the terror group has refused any calls for disarming. The Israeli premier has been fiercely against any establishment of a Palestinian state, and echoed his animosity to such a suggestion during the UNGA session on Friday, where he stated "Giving the Palestinians a state one mile from Jerusalem after October 7th is like giving Al-Qaeda a state one mile from New York City after September 11th. (UNI)

UAE FM presses for Gaza ceasefire, affirms total rejection of West Bank annexation in meeting with Israeli PM

■ **United News of India**

ABU DHABI/JERUSALEM, SEP 27: UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed met with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, and stressed on the need for an urgent ceasefire in Gaza and firmly rejected Jerusalem's potential annexation of Palestinian territories.

According to statements by the UAE Foreign Ministry, the top Emirati official also warned that the UAE's normalisation agreement with Israel could be harmed, if Tel Aviv moved ahead with the initiative, as per Times of Israel.

According to the UAE Foreign Ministry, the meeting, also attended by Ambassador to Israel Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Khaja and special envoy Lana Nusseibeh, focused heavily on the humanitarian toll

of the conflict.

"The foreign minister stressed the urgent need to end the war in Gaza, reach a permanent and sustainable ceasefire, prevent further loss of life, and put an end to the tragic conditions facing civilians," the ministry said in a statement on X.

He also reaffirmed Abu Dhabi's support for efforts to achieve a "comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution" and endorsed international initiatives for the release of hostages.

Abdullah bin Zayed's meeting with Netanyahu marked Israel's first public encounter with a senior Gulf official since Israel's failed and globally condemned Sept 9 strike against the Hamas leaders in Qatar.

The UAE—which was party to the global condemnation—had summoned Israel's deputy



ambassador in protest.

Jerusalem has not offered any comments on the meeting as of now, though the situation is a domestic politics hotpot, as the premier's right-wing flank has strongly demanded the annexa-

tion of parts of the West Bank in response to the global spree of Palestinian statehood recognition by various countries this week, such as the UK, France, Canada, Australia, Canada.

The UAE's intervention reflects

growing unease in the Gulf over the trajectory of the war—now in its second year—with Emirati officials signalling hostility to any Israeli move to annex the West Bank, stating that it will hamper diplomatic ties established under the Abraham Accords, which normalised relations between the two countries.

Hamas terrorists—who according to Israeli estimates still number in a few thousand in the war-torn enclave—currently still hold 47 of the 251 Israeli hostages abducted in the October 7 massacre, as well as the body of a soldier killed fighting in the Strip in 2014.

At least 26 of the captives have been confirmed dead by the IDF, while 20-28 are believed to be alive, with grave concerns being expressed for the well-being of two captives. UNI

Natural gas found on East Coast of Andaman islands

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, SEP 27: India has announced "an ocean of energy opportunities" in the Andaman Sea with the occurrence of natural gas on the east coast of Andaman islands at a depth of 295 meters.

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri said this occurrence of natural gas will help India in taking forward exploration ambitions in coordination with global deepwater exploration experts and will be a significant milestone in our journey through Amrit Kaal.

"Very happy to report the occurrence of natural gas in Sri Vijayapuram 2 well at a distance of 9.20 NM (17 km) from the shoreline on the east coast of the Andaman Islands at a water depth of 295 meters and target depth of 2650 meters," the Minister said on X.

Initial production testing of the well in the range of 2212–2250 meters has established the presence of natural gas with intermittent flaring. The gas samples were brought by ship to Kakinada, were tested and found to be 87 percent methane.

The size of the gas pool and commercial viability



ity of the discovery will get verified in the coming months but establishing the presence of hydrocarbons in the Andaman basin is a major step in confirming India's long held belief that Andaman basin is rich in natural gas, in line with discoveries in the entire area from Myanmar in North to Indonesia in the south in this belt.

Under the deepwater mission announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day, large number of deepwater exploration wells are planned in our offshore basins in order to find new discoveries and fully exploit our hydrocarbon reserves.

"This occurrence of natural gas will help us in taking forward our exploration ambitions in coordination with global deepwater exploration experts and will be a significant milestone in our journey through Amrit Kaal," he said. UNI

Suryakumar Told To Refrain From Making Political Comments

■ **Shashank Kishore**

Suryakumar Yadav, India's T20I captain, has been told to refrain from making comments that could be construed as political following an ICC hearing conducted by match referee Richie Richardson on Thursday in Dubai. It's not yet clear if Suryakumar faces any other sanctions.

An official hearing was necessary because the Pakistan team management had filed a complaint alleging that Suryakumar made political remarks following India's Asia Cup group-stage win over Pakistan on September 14, which the PCB's top brass had pointed out at a press conference in Lahore last week.

ESPNcricinfo understands Suryakumar's use of the term "Operation Sindoor" - a term coined by the Indian government during the military skirmish between the two

countries that followed the Pahalgam terror attacks in April - was one of the PCB's points of objection. Suryakumar had used the term at the post-match press conference following that September 14 match, while dedicating the win to the victims of the terror attacks as well as India's armed forces.

That match also caused another controversy, with Pakistan lodging a "formal protest" against match referee Andy Pycroft because he had "requested the captains not to shake hands during the toss". At the time, the PCB had demanded Pycroft to be taken off the roster for their matches, which the ICC rejected.

That incident threatened to snowball into something bigger when Pakistan didn't arrive on time for their match against UAE. They eventually relented after Pycroft apologised for the "miscommunication" over the handshake incident.

Meanwhile, India's complaint to the ICC over gestures made by Sahibzada Farhan and Haris Rauf during their Super Fours clash will be heard on Friday since Pakistan were involved in a match on Thursday evening against Bangladesh.

The gestures were made on the field during a tense game where the two sets of players exchanged words multiple times.

At a press conference ahead of Pakistan's match against Sri Lanka on Tuesday, Farhan had been asked about his machine-gun celebration after reaching his half-century against India. "That celebration was just a moment at that time," he had said. "I do not do a lot of celebrations after scoring fifty. But, it suddenly came to my mind that let's do a celebration today. I did that. I don't know how people will take it. I don't care about that."

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