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PM Modi's Mission "No One Is Left Behind" Is Need of The Hour: LG Sinha

LG Attends 'Sewa Parv' Celebrations Organised by Housing & Urban Development Department

HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 29: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha graced the 'Sewa Parv' celebrations organised by Housing & Urban Development Department.

The Lieutenant Governor laid

the foundation stone for 60 projects of AMRUT 2.0 worth Rs 699.79 crore.

In his address the Lieutenant Governor lauded the efforts of Housing & Urban Development Department and Jammu Municipal Corporation for fostering inclusive growth and improving

their infrastructure and services for city's residents. He said our sustainable urban planning and execution on the ground is a bold roadmap for future cities.

"Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, my mission

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Cong delegation call on LG Sinha

HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 29: A delegation of senior leaders of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee led by its Working President and former Minister Raman Bhalla called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

on Monday.

The members of the delegation discussed various welfare issues of families and farmers affected due to recent natural calamities in Jammu Kashmir. They submitted a memorandum requesting the

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LG Sinha Vows to Bridge the Gap Between Rural & Urban J&K

HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 29: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, graced and addressed the 'Swachhata Vijayotsav' organised by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj under 'Sewa Parv' today in Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed his commitment to bridge the gap between Rural and Urban J&K and to ensure prosperity. He said true evidence of the Central Government's commitment to J&K can be seen in performance over the last 5-6 Years.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the significance of cleanliness drives to promote public health and well-being and fostering community participation for happier and healthier villages.

"Initiatives under Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Urban Development, Healthcare are integral to build a just and inclusive society. We must push through challenges to achieve the goals of prosperous rural J&K," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed for a dedicated environmental protection

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Div Com Kmr for multi-pronged approach to curb substance use

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Monday convened an urgent meeting to address the alarming issue of drug addiction



& substance use by youth in the Valley.

The meeting was attended by Director Health Services Kashmir; HOD Community Medicine, GMC Srinagar; CMO

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District Ganderbal Will Be Set On a Steady Growth Path: CM

CM Omar Abdullah Launches ₹36 Cr Development Projects in Ganderbal

HT News Desk

GANDERBAL, SEP 29: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated and laid foundation stone for more than a dozen development projects worth ₹36.50 crore during an extensive tour of Ganderbal district, reaffirming his government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure in sports, power sectors and improving road connectivity in the district.

At Beehama, the Chief Minister inaugurated six major sports infra-

structure projects including the upgradation of Beehama Stadium, Madr-e-Meherban Stadium, and playfields at Gund Rehman, Manigam, Wakura, and Batwina. These projects mark a significant investment in nurturing local sports talent and promoting a healthy sporting ecosystem across the district.

Unveiling new sports equipment for youth, the Chief Minister also witnessed impressive performances in Judo, Thang-Ta, and Yoga, showcasing Ganderbal's vibrant sporting spirit.



At Saloor, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated and dedicated a 33/11 KV, 1x6 MVA receiving station to the public.

Later, he inaugurated the Pre-Fab Indoor Badminton Hall at the Government College of Physical Education (GCOPE), Gadoora, and even participated in a friendly badminton match.

In the same complex, the Chief Minister inaugurated a 400-meter Synthetic Athletic Track and a Synthetic Football Turf, flagging off a

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Doors open for dialogue on Ladakh matters: MHA

LG Kavinder Gupta Chairs Law & Order Meet, Stresses Peace for Development

HT News Desk / KNO

NEW DELHI/LEH, SEP 29: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday said that the Centre remains open for dialogue on Ladakh matters with Apex Body Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) at any time and the doors will always remain open.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the MHA said, "The Government has always been open for dialogues on Ladakh matters with Apex Body Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) at any time. We would continue to welcome the discussion with ABL and KDA through the High-Powered Committee



(HPC) on Ladakh or any such platform."

"The dialogue mechanism established with Apex Body Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) through the HPC on Ladakh has yielded good results till date in the form of increased reservations to the Scheduled Tribes of Ladakh, providing

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12 Tourist Spots Reopen In J&K

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has announced the reopening of 12 tourist spots for visitors.

These include Aru Valley, Rafting Point Yanner, Akkad Park, Padshahi Park, and Kaman Post in Kashmir; Dagan Top in Ramban; Dhaggar in Kathua; and the Shiv Cave in Salal, Reasi. With this, travellers can once again enjoy river rafting, alpine meadows, mountain views, and spiritual sites across the region.

For hoteliers, shopkeepers, pony owners, and artisans, this reopening is more than just access — it is the return of livelihoods after nearly six months of uncertainty. The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) welcomed the move but stressed that all 87 closed

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Kashmir Police Chief Urges Proactive Intelligence to Tackle Emerging Threats

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: Kashmir Police chief V K Birdi on Monday reviewed the security scenario across the valley and called for proactive intelligence gathering and swift response mechanisms to effectively deal with emerging threats.

Birdi, the Inspector General of Police (IGP),

Kashmir, chaired a security review meeting at the Police Control Room here, a spokesperson said.

At the onset of the meeting, range deputy inspectors general of police (DIGs) and senior superintendents of police (SSPs) briefed the chair about the overall crime and security situation in their respective jurisdictions, he said.

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'Over 4,200 MW to 10,000 MW energy deficit likely by 2034-35'

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to witness an energy deficit ranging from more than 4,200 Megawatts (MWs) to 10,000 MWs in next ten years.

According to the official documents

available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), "J&K and Ladakh is likely to witness energy deficit ranging from 4293 MUs to 9929 MUs in different years from 2024-25 to 2034-35 with the existing and planned capacity addition."

The official documents further

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Secy RDD Reviews Progress on Implementation of PMAY-G Across J&K

HT News Desk

JAMMU, SEP 29: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a meeting to review the overall performance of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, implementation of recently approved Special Package under PMAY-G (Awaas Plus) by the Union Ministry of Rural Development was also discussed in detail and action plan for same was also finalized.



The package allocates 5,061 houses for the rehabilitation of households affected by natural calamities, specifically floods, in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Secretary took stock of the beneficiary registration process for this special package. He directed officials to swiftly complete the identification and uploading of eligible beneficiaries' details using the Awaas+ 2024 Mobile App, in line with the laid down framework.

The meeting also held detailed assessment of the completion status of

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Northern Railway To Resume 8 Long-Distance Trains From Jammu Starting October 2

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEP 29: The Northern Railway on Monday ordered the resumption of eight long-distance trains from Jammu station starting October 2, after ensuring the safety and continuity of tracks damaged by heavy rains and floods in August this year.

Heavy rainfall in the Jammu-Pathankot and Jammu-Katra sections had severely affected rail services in the division, with tracks and bridges bearing the brunt of the floods. More than 50 trains were suspended, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded at the Jammu railway station in late August.

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Union Secretary DoSEL inspects various schools in Srinagar, Budgam districts

Says students in J&K display high confidence; asserts no child should drop out of school before Class 12th

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: Union Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Sanjay Kumar today conducted extensive field visits of various schools in Srinagar and Budgam districts. Secretary, School Education department J&K, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director General School Education, Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo; and other senior officers of the school education department also accompanied the Union Secretary during the visit. During the visit, the Union Secretary inspected Higher Secondary School Rajbagh, SP Higher Secondary School MA Road Srinagar, Government Boys Middle School Yarikalan Chadoora, KGBV Lanilab, PM

Shri Higher Secondary School Draggar Khansahab, and DIET Beerwah in Budgam district. During his extensive tour, Sanjay Kumar inspected classrooms, science laboratories including Atal Tinkering Labs, and took on spot assessment of ongoing works and available infrastructure and facilities for students. The Secretary and his team of officers interacted with students, appreciated their science and innovation models, inaugurated sports events, participated in plantation drives, and witnessed cultural performances presented by students. The Students and faculty on the occasion put forth demands for digital libraries, upgraded laboratories, and improved infrastructure.



Speaking on the occasion, Union Secretary emphasized that no child should be left out of schools and called for achieving 100 percent school attendance. Union Secretary urged that no child should drop out of school before completing higher secondary education. "After the 12th grade, students are mature enough to decide whether they want to pursue medicine, engineering, government service, research, or any other career. Education till Class 12 is essential to help students realize their interests and potential," he said. The Secretary maintained that education helps students to become confident and students here have high level of confidence.

"This confidence comes from competence, from the ability to communicate and express oneself. It gives me hope that we are doing something right in our schools," he said while interacting with students at PM Shri Higher Secondary School, Draggar. Later, Union Secretary chaired a review meeting with officers of the School Education Department from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions to review the implementation of the Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) in J&K. He reviewed the progress made under VSK, which seeks to strengthen data-driven governance in school education by enabling real-time monitoring of key indicators such as student learning outcomes, teacher performance, school infrastructure, and digital learning initiatives. The Secretary stressed the importance of timely data collection, effective analysis, and proper utilization to improve learning outcomes and ensure accountability at all levels of the education system. Senior officers of Union Ministry including Anand Rao V. Patil, Additional Secretary, DoSEL; A. Srija, Economic Adviser DoSEL; Pankaj K. P. Shreyaskar, DDG (Stats), DoSEL; Hari Kumar Janakiraman, Director, DoSEL; Sreekala P. Venugopal, Director, DoSEL; Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Director, NCERT; Ram Singh, Deputy Director; Abdul Momin, TSG and Akhilesh Mishra, Chairman, NIOS also accompanied the Secretary during the visit.

Combined efforts key to sustaining fight against TB: DC Anantnag

FELICITATES NIKSHAY MITRAS OF THE DISTRICT

HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, SEP 29: As part of the National TB Elimination Programme, Deputy Commissioner (DC), who is also the chairman of the District Health Society, Anantnag, SF Hamid, today felicitated the Nikshay Mitras of the district during 'Nikshay Mitra Meet' organized by the Health Department under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan (PMT-BMBA) at GDC Women, Anantnag. Speaking on the occasion, DC said Anantnag was declared TB-free two years ago, and combined efforts of the administration, health authorities, and community volunteers have been key to sustaining the



fight against the disease. He emphasized the need for continued awareness, regular screening and early detection, and community participation, and urged citizens to come forward and register as Nikshay Mitras to further strengthen the fight against TB. Earlier, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr. Khalid Parvez, provided an overview of the various initiatives undertaken by the Health Department for TB elimination in the district. He credited the dedication of health workers and community support for sustaining the TB-free status. Among those present were the Principal of the college, ACD, District Tuberculosis Officer, Secretary District Red Cross Society, faculty of the college, health professionals, and other stakeholders, who reaffirmed their commitment for the fight against TB.

Sewa Parv: DC Srinagar holds mega public grievance redressal camp at Central Shalteng

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday conducted a mega public grievance redressal camp here at Central Shalteng under the ongoing fortnight long Sewa Parv-2025 campaign aimed to bring administration at the doorsteps of the people and address their issues and developmental demands. The programme held within the premises of SDM/Tehsil Office Shalteng witnessed large participation of people from Bemina, Alochibagh, Batamalo, Qamarwari, Panzinara, Rambirgarh, Shalteng, Parimpora, Khushi Pora, Zainakote, HMT, Maloora, Mujgund, Lawaypora, and other



adjoining areas of Shalteng Tehsil of the Srinagar district. Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid; SDM West, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildar Shalteng, and sectoral/ zonal officers of the district were also present on the occasion. During the grievance redressal camp, scores of public delegations and individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC including augmentation of drainage system & water supply, macadamization of inner roads, development of playgrounds, upgradation of health and school infrastructure, resolution of jurisdictional disputes, timely release of land compensation, development of Parimpora Fruit Mandi & Parimpora Bus Terminal and other issues. DC gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands put forth by the public and assured

the residents of Shalteng Tehsil that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up for rule bound appraisal with proper follow-up. He also gave on the spot directions to the concerned officers of the line departments to conduct field visits of the areas and take first hand appraisal of the public issues, ensuring their time bound redressal. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, DC emphasized that the primary purpose of holding such grievance redressal camp is to bring administration at the doorsteps of the people in district administrations effort for responsive governance, efficient public service delivery and inclusive development across the district.

Kashmir's Carpet Legacy Strengthened as IICT Starts Silk Weaving Training in Pulwama

HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, SEP 29: In a significant initiative to strengthen the traditional carpet industry of Kashmir, the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar has launched a two-month Short Term Skill Upgradation Programme in Silk Carpet Weaving at Wakherwan, Pulwama. The programme is being implemented under the Guru Shishya Hastshilp Prashikshan Programme (GSHPP) of the National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP), sanctioned by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Union Ministry of Textiles. In a press statement issued today, Director IICT, Zubair Ahmad, stated that the programme has been initiated to build a skilled

workforce in South Kashmir—where the presence of carpet weavers is comparatively limited. "The initiative seeks to revive and sustain the region's age-old weaving traditions. A distinctive feature of this programme is the engagement of a Shilp Guru Awardee in Carpet Craft, who is imparting training directly to the participants, ensuring the transfer of rare, high-level weaving expertise to the next generation," he explained. At present, 30 registered carpet artisans, predominantly women, selected by a designated committee are undergoing training at the newly-established Advanced Carpet Training Centre in Wakherwan. "The centre is fully equipped with modern steel carpet looms and allied accessories to provide a professional learning environment," Director IICT added.

To encourage focused participation, each trainee is being provided with a stipend of ₹15,000 (₹7,500 per month) through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). In addition, biometric attendance systems and loom-wise productivity targets have been put in place for effective monitoring and evaluation. Building on this momentum, The Director stated that IICT has also announced the establishment of another Advanced Carpet Training Centre at Kupwara, where a similar Skill Upgradation Programme will commence from October 27, next month. "These measures will not only contribute towards the revival and preservation of Kashmir's centuries-old carpet heritage but also create sustainable livelihood opportunities, particularly for women artisans," he added.

Sewa Parv: DC Baramulla visits Sopore, convenes mega public outreach/ grievance camp at Tujar

HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, SEP 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today visited Sopore sub-division and chaired a mega public outreach-cum-grievance redressal camp at Tujar Sopore as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv campaign. The programme began with a plantation drive, during which the DC planted a sapling in the premises of the Community Hall, Tujar, symbolizing the commitment of the district administration towards environmental sustainability. During the camp, locals and PRI representatives put forth a range of developmental issues and demands including drinking water supply, macadamization of roads and inner links, deficiency of staff in health institutions, restoration of bus service, desilting of Zaingeer canal, improvement in road connectivity, infrastructure upgradation of school buildings, shortage of staff in several schools, and construction of a playground for the area. DC patiently listened to the concerns and issued on-spot directions to the concerned officers for immediate redressal of genuine issues. Several demands were addressed on the spot, bringing much relief to the local population. DDC Member Sopore, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, and other district and sectoral officers were present on the occasion besides a large gathering of local citizens. Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the programme is part of Sewa Parv, and a major focus of the campaign is public outreach and grievance redressal camps, aimed at bringing governance closer to the people. He also urged locals to avail the benefits of government welfare schemes, including PM Surya Ghar Yojana, Muft Bijli Yojana, Mission YUVA, and other schemes designed for the welfare and development of citizens. Similar outreach-cum-grievance camps were also organized across the district under Sewa Parv at sub-divisions Pattan, Uri, Tangmarg, and at Baramulla Headquarters, ensuring maximum public participation and redressal of grievances.

Sopore Police Holds "Run for Unity" at Bomai for Sardar Patel's 150th Anniversary

HT News Desk

SOPORE, SEP 29: As part of the run-up to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, Sopore Police today organized a "Run for Unity" event at Bomai, Sopore. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from people of all walks of life, including stu-



dents, teachers, youth, and elders. Participants ran together to spread the message of peace, national integration, and the values of unity and pride championed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

This program was among a series of events being held across all police stations of Police District Sopore to mark the historic occasion. The initiative also reflects Sopore Police's commitment to strengthening community bonds, promoting patriotism, and encouraging the younger generation to uphold the spirit of unity and national pride.

Sakeena Itoo reviews developmental scenario of Mendhar, Rafiabad Assembly Constituencies

Government committed to ensure equitable development to all regions

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today convened a comprehensive review meeting to assess developmental works, infrastructure projects and welfare initiatives in the Mendhar and Rafiabad Assembly Constituencies.

Besides, Cabinet Ministers Javed Ahmed Rana and Javid Ahmed Dar, the meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education Shantamanu; Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director School Education Jammu; Director Health Services Kashmir/Jammu, and other senior officers of concerned departments.

During the review, Sakeena Itoo emphasized the need to accelerate ongoing projects in both constituencies, with focus on healthcare, education and implementation of social welfare

schemes.

She impressed upon the concerned officers to iron out all the issues that delay public service delivery.

Highlighting the government's responsibility towards border and rural constituencies, she said that Mendhar and Rafiabad deserve equal opportunities in development.

"Our priority is to ensure that healthcare, education and basic facilities reach every household to ensure equitable access to public services for remote and border areas," she said.

She said that our government is committed on the promise of outreach, inclusion and today's evaluation will feed into immediate corrective steps and future planning.

Earlier raising the issues of school education sector in Mendhar, Minister Javed Rana highlighted the lack of staff strength in border areas in schools and called for urgent measures to fill those staffing gaps.



He urged upon the concerned to expedite the completion of Model School in Pathanatr, girls hostel in Balakot and Mendhar and other buildings where work has been going on for a long time.

During the meeting, Rana highlighted the issue of the absence of science subjects in several schools across the constituency. He stressed for the immediate introduction of science streams in these institu-

tions, emphasizing that access to modern education is essential for empowering the youth and enabling them to compete at par with students from other regions.

Regarding the health sector in the Mendhar constituency, Rana stressed the urgent need to fill the existing vacancies in the Health Department. He emphasised to expedite recruitment and ensure that health centres

and hospitals are adequately staffed so that quality medical facilities are made accessible to all residents. He further called for optimal utilisation of Medical Mobile Units in the constituency so that medical care is provided to nomadic and underserved populations.

Minister for Agriculture, Javed Dar highlighted the issues pertaining to his constituency and stressed for filling of vacan-

cies across all educational institutions. He also raised the issue of abandoned buildings and called for taking some concrete measures to complete those buildings. He also raised certain issues of Government Degree College Bomai, Girls Hostels in Watergam and Rohama. He also raised the issue of SDH Rohama and called upon the concerned to arrange funds for its completion.

He also raised the issue of pending compensation to land donors and urged upon the concerned to resolve the matter at an earliest.

While listening to the issues raised, Sakeena Itoo emphasised on transparency in the completion of pending projects and assured that raised issues will be taken to its logical conclusion.

She also said that a plan will be drawn to fill staffing gaps in healthcare and educational institutions in both the constituencies for better public service delivery.

She directed the concerned to undertake several measures like rational deployment of existing human resources and creating mechanisms to ensure timely filling of future vacancies, so that hospitals, health centres, schools, and colleges in these constituencies function at their full capacity and provide uninterrupted services to the people.

Awantipora Police Organises 'Run for Unity' event at Tral

■ Junaidd Ali

AWANTIPORA, SEP 29: As part of the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Awantipora Police today organised a "Run for Unity" under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2025-26.

The run, held from Bus Stand Tral to Bajwani, witnessed enthusiastic participation of students of different school of Tral area.



The event was flagged off by SDPO Tral Shri Rajesh Kumar along with SHO PS Tral Inspector Abdul Rashid in the presence Teachers, and students. The first three winners were presented with mementos and appreciation certificates.

On the occasion, Awantipora Police lauded the efforts of the students and reaffirmed its commitment to promoting unity, integrity, and patriotism, keeping alive the vision and legacy of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Kulgam Police Organise Cleanliness Drive at Devsar under Seva Parv Celebrations

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEP 29: As part of the ongoing Seva Parv celebrations, Kulgam Police in collaboration with the Municipal Committee Devsar organized a cleanliness drive at Devsar to promote awareness about the significance of cleanliness and hygiene. The initiative was carried out under the theme of public service and aimed at encouraging community participation in maintaining a clean and healthy environment. The drive was spearheaded by SHO Devsar Masood-Ul-Hassan and conducted under the close supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police National Highway, Shri Mumtaz Ali Bhatti (JKPS), and SDPO Qazigund Mansoor Ahmed, following the directions of SSP Kulgam, Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS). During the drive, police officials, municipal workers, and local residents actively participated in cleaning public spaces, collecting waste, and spreading the message of civic responsibility. Speaking about the initiative, officials stated that such drives not only help in improving the physical environment but also serve to instill a sense of collective duty among citizens toward building a cleaner and more sustainable community. The event concluded with a call for continued community cooperation in cleanliness efforts, echoing the values of the Seva Parv and reinforcing the importance of grassroots action in achieving national goals of hygiene and sanitation.

SKUAST-K, JKSTIC Organize National Conference on AI in Data-Driven Decision Making

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: The Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), organized a One-Day National Conference-cum-Workshop on "Role of AI in Data-Driven Informed Decision Making" at the Conference Hall, FoA, Wadura, on September 25, 2025. The event was held to commemorate the 132nd birth anniversary of Professor (Dr.) P.C. Mahalanobis, the father of modern statistics in India.

The programme was held under the patronage of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, with Prof. (Dr.) Haroon Naik (Director Research) and Prof. (Dr.) Shakeel A. Mir (Dean, FoA) as Patrons. It was organized by Prof. (Dr.) Bilal A. Bhat, Head, Division of Agricultural Economics & Statistics, with Prof. (Dr.) Showkat Maqbool as Co-Organizer.

Prof. Bilal Ahmad welcomed the guests and, in his brief speech, highlighted the importance of organizing such a conference. He also expressed gratitude to Hon'ble VCSKUAST-K, Dean FoA, JKSTIC, speakers, and participants for their support in making the programme successful.

The inaugural session featured eminent speakers including Prof. Aquil Ahmed, Former Head, Department of Statistics and Operations Research, AMU Aligarh, who delivered the keynote address. In his lecture, Prof. Ahmed emphasized the role of statistics in effective decision-making. Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, graced the occasion as Special Guest of Honour, while Dr. Kaukab Azeem, Head, Physical Education, Central University of Kashmir, also addressed the gathering, stressing that health management is vital for improving quality of life.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than



20 research scholars who shared their perspectives on the role of AI and statistics in contemporary research. Over 120 students from various degree colleges, high schools, and middle schools attended the conference. Many of them presented papers, both orally and through posters, showcasing their

understanding of AI applications in different sectors.

The technical session included talks by Prof. Ab Shakoar, Prof. Bilal A. Bhat, Prof. Showkat Maqbool, Dr. Sajad A. Bhat, Dr. Bilal A. Zarger, Prof. Parmil Kumar, and Dr. Pir Bilal Ahmad, who discussed the applications of AI and

statistics in agriculture, economics, and allied sciences.

Dr. Sajad A. Bhat delivered the welcome address, while Dr. Sajad A. Saraf presented the vote of thanks, extending gratitude to the Hon'ble VC, Dean FoA, Organizing Committee, speakers, participants, volunteers, media, and all those who contributed to the success of the programme.

Dr. Imtiyaz A. Lone, HoD Horticulture, was also present as Guest of Honour and appreciated the efforts of the Division of Agricultural Statistics and Economics, remarking that "without this division, academic and research progress would not have been possible."

Throughout the sessions, speakers emphasized that Artificial Intelligence and big data are transformative tools for optimizing resources, combating climate change, and ensuring sustainable food security. They also paid rich tributes to Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis for his monumental contributions to statistics and national planning in India.

Massive Plantation Drive At Khimber Marks SEWA PARV 2025; Hundreds of Saplings Planted

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: In a remarkable display of collective spirit, a massive plantation drive was held today at Khimber under SEWA PARV 2025, uniting participants from every walk of life — universities, NIT Srinagar, colleges, schools, associations, the travel trade fraternity, lawyers, environmentalists, social activists, and volunteers.

The drive was graced by distinguished personalities alongside the Chief Guest, Waseem Raja, JKAS, Joint Director Tourism Kashmir, including SFA Gillani (IFS, Retd.), former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K; Dr. Farooq A. Peer, former Secretary JKBOSE; Farooq Kuthoo, President TAAK; Social Activist Raja Muzaffar; GN Var, President PSAJK; Prof. M.A. Shah, Dean Alumni NIT Srinagar; Dr. Shah Nawaz, University of Kashmir; Manzoor Pakhtoon, President KHBOA; Advocate Nadeem Qadri; Peerzada Faiyaz, State Convenor RTSOI; Mush-taq Reshi, President DTOAK; Burhan Misgar, Chairman TAFI; Er. Abdul Rashid, University of Kashmir; Nazir Wani, Vice President TAFOK; Bilal Kawosa, General Convenor PHD Chamber Kashmir; and Dr. S.A. Bhanday, Faculty SKUAST-K, besides faculty of NIT Srinagar, University of Kashmir, and school educators.

The event was jointly organised by JKLCMA and NLCO, in collaboration with, NIT Srinagar, JK Tourism, TAAK,



TAFI, IATO, JKHC, NNTA, Green Valley School, Bilaliya Educational Institute, DTOAK, UTTA, TTIG, TAFOK, RTSOI, Crescent Public School, ATOAK, KHBOA, TAAI, and Birla Open Minds School Pampore.

Administering the SEWA PARV pledge, the Chief Guest, Waseem Raja, remarked "Environment is synonymous with tourism. A greener Kashmir is the foundation of a sustainable tourism industry." Joint director Tourism while praising the efforts of Manzoor Wangnoo & team NLCO asserted that concerted practical and focused efforts are needed to preserve our environment. He opined that civil society particularly the younger generation has to play a proactive role in this endeavor.

The plantation witnessed overwhelming participation, particu-

larly from BEI school students who enthusiastically joined hands with professors, teachers, and volunteers to plant hundreds of saplings across Khimber. The drive symbolised a collective resolve to turn Khimber green and revive its natural heritage.

On the occasion, Manzoor Wangnoo, Chairman NLCO, expressed gratitude to all collaborators and participants, especially the young students, "We all have to do our bit. Plant by plant, effort by effort, we can increase the green cover of Kashmir. Today's drive proves that when people unite, nature heals."

The event concluded with renewed determination and a shared pledge to protect and expand Kashmir's green spaces, ensuring a healthier environment and sustainable future. (NTK)

Srinagar Police Participates in Drug Disposal Drive at Lassipora

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: In a sustained and relentless crackdown against the menace of drug trafficking and the infrastructure supporting the illegal narcotics trade, Srinagar Police actively participated in the disposal of seized contraband and narcotic substances under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPSA) for the year 2025.

The disposal exercise took place at IGC Lassipora, Pulwama, and involved narcotics seized in connection with 49 FIRs registered under the NDPS Act in Srinagar. It was conducted in the presence of the members of Drug Disposal Committee, as per the provisions laid down in NDPS Act.

In total, approximately 1140 kilograms of seized narcotic substances were destroyed, including:
144.47 kgs of Poppy Straw
45.63 kgs of Ganja
5.01 kgs of Charas
0.93 kgs of Heroin
9,247 bottles of Codeine Phosphate
6,664 tablets of psychotropic substances.

This translates to a combined weight of around 196 kilograms of banned drugs, forming part of the total 1140 kgs of seized materials disposed off.

This initiative underscores the unwavering commitment of Jammu & Kashmir Police in eradicating drug abuse and dismantling the networks behind it. Srinagar Police remains steadfast in its commitment to making the district drug-free and continues to take strong action against those involved in drug peddling and trafficking.

Srinagar Police urges the community to join hands in this fight by remaining vigilant and reporting any suspicious activities related to narcotics.



Mission Director reviews progress on implementation of JJM across J&K

Urges Chief Engineers to expedite ongoing works for timely scheme completion

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurshid Ahmad Shah today convened a virtual meeting to review the progress on implementation of JJM in all Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Jammu, Superintending Engineers of respective circles in J&K, Executive Engineers of all civil and Mechanical divisions and other officers of Mission Directorate.

During the meeting, the MD enquired about the present status of Water Supply Schemes under JJM. He was informed about the current phase of execution of projects.

The MD directed the Chief



Engineers to commission those schemes which are nearing completion in first instance, so that the beneficiaries of these vil-

lages are connected with tap water network.

The MD also took a district wise review of scheme comple-

tion under JJM. He reaffirmed the ending 2025 deadline for project completion and directed the Superintending Engineers to

assess the ground situation and review the progress of works fortnightly so that the timelines set for scheme completion are adhered in letter and spirit.

Khurshid Shah also discussed on boarding of JJM 2.0 dashboard, uploading of KML files of pipe networks and assets on PM Gat Shakti portal, Geo tagging of JJM assets, Har Ghar Jal certification of reported villages in the current month and water quality monitoring and surveillance being undertaken by the water testing laboratories in the UT.

The Mission Director assured the officers that financial matters related to JJM have been taken up with Ministry Of Jal Shakti, Government of India, who have assured full financial and institutional support in implementation of JJM in J&K.

Kupwara Woman's Death Triggers Outrage, Family Alleges Murder; Police Launch Probe

■ Dr. Ab. Qayoom

HANDWARA, SEP 29: Tension gripped Wahi-pora village of Langate in north Kashmir's Kupwara district after a 32-year-old woman, five months pregnant, was found dead on Sunday evening under suspicious circumstances. The family of the deceased has alleged that she was strangled to death by her husband. The woman has been identified as Jas-meena Begum, wife of Ghulam Hassan Nadroo. Emotional scenes unfolded when her body reached her native village, with relatives and locals breaking down in grief. Her family alleged that her husband attempted to portray the incident as suicide, but visible marks on her neck suggested otherwise. Jasmeena's elder sister claimed she had spoken to her minutes before the incident and that the victim had complained of harassment by her husband. She



was later shifted to Sopore Hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. The body was then moved to GMC Handwara, where it remained in the mortuary overnight. Family members said her death has devastated them, leaving behind a three-year-old daughter and the unborn baby she was carrying. Her brother recalled that the couple had been living separately from the joint family, with relatives even helping them build their own house in Baagislam Colony, Unisoo. The incident triggered peaceful protests, with locals blocking the Kupwara-Sopore road for some time, demanding stern punishment for the accused. "The killing of a pregnant woman is inhuman and should be dealt with under the harshest provisions of law," protesters said. Police confirmed the accused husband has been detained for questioning under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNSS). A senior officer told HEADLINES TODAY that all legal formalities were completed and the body was handed over to the family after post-mortem. He added that the report would confirm the exact cause of death. Assuring justice, police said strict action will be taken against those found guilty. Meanwhile, the bereaved family has vowed to continue their fight for justice, describing Jasmeena's death as a shocking crime that has shaken the entire locality.

World Heart Day: Every Paddle Strengthens Your Cardiac Rhythm

Dragon Boat Event at Dal Lake Promotes Heart Health Through Physical Activity

■ Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, SEP 29: In a vibrant celebration of World Heart Day, the Jammu & Kashmir Dragon Boat Association organized a unique awareness event at the iconic Dal Lake, aimed at highlighting the critical role of physical activity in maintaining heart health.

Held under the theme "Every Paddle Strengthens Your Cardiac Rhythm," the event featured an early morning paddling session with enthusiastic participation from dozens of paddlers. The rhythmic movement of dragon boats gliding across the serene waters of Dal Lake — set against the majestic backdrop of the Zabarwan hills — created a visually inspiring spectacle for residents and tourists alike.



Speaking on the occasion, M. S. Punoo, President of the Association, said the initiative was designed to encourage individuals of all age groups to embrace healthier lifestyles. "On World Heart Day, we want to send a clear message that fitness can be both enjoyable and impactful. Paddling is a simple yet highly effective way to keep the heart active, strong, and healthy," he said.

He further emphasized that the Association plans to host more such events in the future, not only to boost public awareness about heart health but also to promote Dal Lake as a hub for recreational and fitness-oriented water sports. The event successfully merged the scenic beauty of Kashmir with a strong public health message, underscoring the need for regular exercise to prevent cardiovascular diseases and improve overall well-being.

Handwara Police Cracks Three Hit-and-Run Cases in 15 Days, Solves Blind Gund Kuhroo Case

■ Dr. Ab. Qayoom

HANDWARA, SEP 29: In a significant achievement, Handwara Police has cracked three hit-and-run cases within just 15 days, including a blind case from Gund Kuhroo that initially had no leads. The breakthrough was made possible due to the dedicated teamwork of SHO Handwara, DO Langate, and their teams under the close supervision of SDPO Handwara, who expressed appreciation for their relentless efforts. As per the official statement, one of the most challenging cases was reported on September 12, 2025, when an unknown vehicle hit a pedestrian at Gund Kuhroo. The victim, identified as Ab Rehman Wani, son of Habib Ullah Wani, a resident of Gund Kuhroo, was shifted to GMC Handwara and later referred to SKIMS Soura, Srinagar, where he tragically succumbed to his injuries. Following the incident, Police Station Handwara registered FIR No. 209/2025 and launched a comprehensive investigation. A team led by Incharge Police Post Langate, PSI Rayees Ahmed, pursued all possible leads in the case. After hectic efforts, the police successfully identified the accused driver, who was subsequently arrested. The vehicle involved, bearing registration number JK09C8246, was also seized. The swift action has been



widely appreciated by the community members of Gund Kuhroo, who expressed satisfaction with the investigation and praised the police for ensuring justice in the matter. Speaking on the development, SSP Handwara reiterated that police will act tough against reckless drivers who endanger public lives. He emphasized

that such successful investigations should reassure the community that police remain fully committed to maintaining safety and upholding the law. Police have once again urged citizens to strictly follow traffic rules and immediately report any such incidents to the nearest police unit, ensuring safer roads for all.

Review meeting on implementation of PMJVK held at Budgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 29: To assess the status of the proposed projects under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah today chaired a comprehensive review meeting.

During the meeting, ADC took block wise stock of the progress made on the formulation and submission of Detailed

Project Reports (DPRs) for the proposed projects. He emphasized the importance of timely and proper documentation and directed all BDOs to submit the DPRs of each project along with a complete checklist.

The checklist must include crucial elements such as land availability, feasibility reports, and department-specific approvals. This will ensure a seamless review and approval process at higher levels and accelerate the implementation

phase of the projects.

ADC stressed that the proposed projects are to be drawn from key sectors including Youth Services and Sports, Health, and Education, which are pivotal to the holistic development of the district under the PMJVK mission.

Highlighting the significance of inter-departmental cooperation, ADC urged all BDOs and BMOs to work in close coordination to ensure that the objectives of the

PMJVK aimed at the socio-economic empowerment of minority communities through infrastructural development are met effectively and within the stipulated time frame.

"All necessary documents, as per the checklist, must be submitted along with the DPRs to avoid any delays. PMJVK offers a unique opportunity to uplift marginalized sections through critical sectoral interventions. We must work

with urgency and dedication," ADC said.

The meeting concluded with the ADC reiterating the administration's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development and assuring full support from the district administration for all efforts under the PMJVK framework.

The meeting was attended by, ACD, CPO, all Block Development Officers, all Block Medical Officers, and other concerned.

Bhadarwah Rallies for Cleanliness as MCB, AIPWS Roll Out Swachhotsav Drive

■ Amir Iqbal Khan

BHADARWAH, SEP 29: Turning up the volume on civic hygiene Municipal Committee, Bhadarwah along with All India Peoples Welfare Society has rolled out an ambitious door to door awareness campaign under the banner of "Swachhotsav Swachhta Hi Seva 2025". The program aims to root out open dumping and instill best practices in household waste management in the picturesque town.

Leading from the front, MCB and AIPWS under the guidance of Executive Officer MCB Ravi Saini and Zaffar Hussain Wani,

General Secretary Umar Farooq Tak, Managing Organiser Anikat Sharma (AIPWS) assisted by the officials including dedicated sanitation staff of MCB set out on Monday morning reaching out to residents in Ward No 6 with a clarion call for healthier sanitation habits. Volunteers and safai karamcharis went the extra mile, sensitizing the public about the virtues of waste segregation, the critical use of dustbins and the environmental dangers of dumping garbage in public spaces.

The campaign also showcased live demonstrations to drive home the message of effective waste



disposal methods, drawing substantial engagement from households eager to lend a hand in sprucing up their neighborhoods.

Residents were introduced to the newly launched "Swachhta App" on the Play Store, a technological leap that enables citizens to flag sanitation related issues from the comfort of their homes for swift redressal—an innovation officials assured would pave the way for more responsive civic management.

In a direct appeal to the community, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Bhadarwah, Ravi Saini laid out the mission's aspirations, stating, "Active

community participation is the key to driving real visible changes on the ground".

"Swachhotsav Swachhta Hi Seva 2025 is not just a campaign but a movement designed to motivate every citizen to step up and take ownership of their surroundings. With the adoption of door to door garbage collection and declining reliance on open dumping, Bhadarwah stands to improve its rankings under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Our goal is to set a benchmark for civic consciousness and cleaner and greener public spaces, Saini further emphasised".

Addressing the media,

Zaffar Hussain Wani urged the people of Bhadarwah to rally around the cause highlighting the vital role of teamwork in keeping surroundings spick and span. He commended the praiseworthy efforts of frontline sanitation staff urging them to continue spreading the message of clean living across every street and lane.

The campaign, which has gained traction with grassroots volunteers and local authorities alike, is poised to stretch across the entire district in the coming weeks with organizers hopeful that the collective action will fuel Bhadarwah's bid for a cleaner tomorrow.



HT EDITORIAL

Implement ITMS in totality in Srinagar, other parts of Kashmir

The Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) is one of the important components of the traffic management system in the cities especially in those which have been designated as smart cities in the country. This type of traffic management system provides an insight to the motorists as well as those who have to cross the roads in cities located across the country. People as a whole have welcomed ITMS and hailed the same as a revolutionary step in the traffic management system.

Like the other cities of the country Srinagar too was entitled to have this type of traffic management system. Since the summer capital of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir is one of the smart cities of the country, people of the city should have all the up to date facilities. Some months back the people at helm had claimed that ITMS would be installed in the Srinagar city and people would feel relieved while driving their vehicles and moving around.

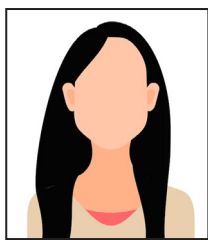
Some of the steps might have been taken by the traffic police department in this regard but a lot more needs to be done. As part of ITMS, cameras have been installed at some of the traffic lights across the city so as to catch the people found violating the traffic rules and regulations. These cameras need to be installed at all the traffic lights not only in Srinagar, but at the other district headquarters as well as towns of Kashmir and Jammu divisions of the union territory.

A significant and important feature of ITMS is the timers installed at the top of a traffic light. In this regard the Srinagar city is lagging behind and there are one or two traffic lights that have the timers installed at their top. The other traffic lights don't have this facility and as such both the motorists as well as pedestrians experience difficulties. Once the timer is working at the traffic lights it gives an idea to the motorist as well as a pedestrian as when to start and when to stop.

Yet another interesting step related to this concept is that it depends upon the wish of the traffic police personnel to keep the timer system on or not. One fails to understand the thinking of the traffic police personnel in not making the timer system a regular feature at the traffic lights. There is no need to tinker with the timer system and the same needs to be understood by the traffic police personnel posted at the traffic lights.

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The Other Side of Happiness



■ **Madeeha Farooq**

Once upon a time, there was a girl who was highly extroverted. She smiled in every situation – whether sad or happy. Everyone loved being around her because of her lively, cheerful nature. Friends, family, or even strangers she met felt happier after meeting her. She became like therapy for unhappy souls.

She also loved this part of herself. Yet, deep inside, she never formed lifelong friendships – not because she was not worthy of love, but because she thought she was not perfect enough to be anyone's close friend. She constantly doubted her value in other people's lives.

She never let anyone know she was unhappy. Even during her saddest moments, she forced a smile so no one could guess her pain. Inside her room, she cried silently but stepped out with the cheerful face everyone knew.

The Silent Struggles

Academically, she was weak, and people doubted her abilities. Some even judged her, saying she would not qualify her board exams. But she proved them wrong and passed with a great score, believing in herself.

Time passed, and she reached the stage of her life where she had to



qualify for her competitive exams (NEET). She tried her best but failed. Yet she gained something far more valuable – friends who believed in her and loved her sincerely.

All four friends later got admission in different regions, but their love and affection remained the same. Even when busy with their own work, their bond stayed strong, as if they met each other every day.

From Happy Girl to Sad Girl

The “loser” in whom no one believed had now become the girl everyone admired. But the “happy girl” suddenly turned into her sad version. Everyone began to notice her

sadness, and it raised a big question in their minds – “Why?”

Seeing her sad, others became sad too. When they asked her what was wrong, she would laugh and say, “Nothing happened, I'm okay.” When someone pressed her, she would even reply sharply, “You're the problem, always asking me what's wrong. I'm okay, did you get it? I'm okay.”

This made her appear rude in people's minds. Without knowing the reason, they began judging her. Perhaps she was thinking of something deeply disturbing. Maybe the absence of her three close friends had left her unable to share her problems. And she couldn't confide in her par-

ents either, fearing she would worry them.

The Lonely Phase

The happy girl was now in her worst phase, with only herself for company. Slowly, she began turning into an introvert who didn't talk to anyone. In her mind, she fixed an image of people as those who wouldn't like her no matter what.

She began doubting her self-esteem and feeling worthless. Every morning, she wished she wouldn't have to go out and meet people – not because she disliked them, but because she disliked her current version of herself.

Her colleagues noticed this change and advised her to focus on herself and not think about the things that disturbed her. But again and again, she refused with the same words, “I'm good. Nothing is wrong with me.”

The Hidden Strength

And so, she became the introverted and sad version of herself, forgetting that she could still do anything she wanted. She forgot that she was once a role model for people who found happiness and hope in her cheerful self.

The author is a student of B. Sc. Nursing, 6th Semester, Kular College of Nursing, Ludhiana, affiliated with Baba Farid University of Health Sciences. She has also been a disciple of the renowned writer Aubaid Akhoun, whose guidance has deeply influenced her writing journey.
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The Legendary Personality; Remembering Molvi Ifthikar Hussain Ansari



■ **Mudasir Karim**

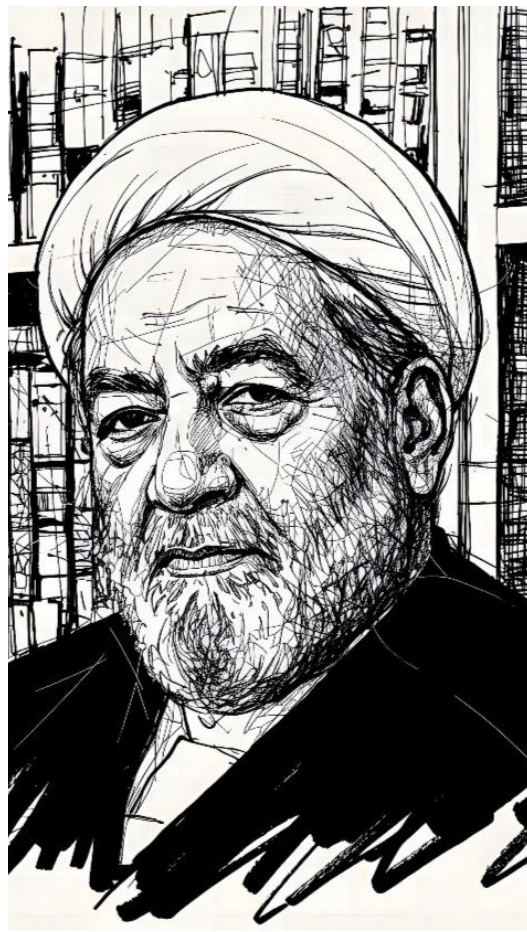
There is a distinction to be made between a mere politician and a figure who fundamentally alters the political grammar of a region. Molvi Ifthikar Hussain Ansari was undeniably the latter. His journey into public life was not an opportunistic grab for power but an assertive, almost intellectual, response to a vacuum. Inspired by the call for self-reflection and empowerment by Ayatollah Khomeini, he took action at a time when a particular voice in Kashmir was being quietly suppressed.

I remember the anecdotes passed down, the subtle ways the identity of a community could be suppressed. I have heard from my elders how people would routinely refer to Zadibal as 'Hawal' and Hassanabad as 'Rainawari' or Bagwanpora as 'Lal Bazar', a linguistic camouflage borne of political prudence, if not outright necessity. Molvi Sahab's decision to step into the political arena in 1978 was not just about contesting an election but a political declaration, all so he could give his people a separate identity. It gave a distinct population a public face and a space in the mainstream narrative, an identity they could finally assert without apology.

His defining political characteristic was a pragmatic, unyielding Indian nationalism. He was a staunch Indian, a fact he never compromised, even when it placed him in the crosshairs of extremism. He understood that the best way to secure the rights of his community was through engagement with the democratic structure of the country, maintaining necessary and often intense relationships with leaders across the spectrum, from the Gandhis to Abdullahs and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Gani Lone, Muzaffar Beig or even Mirwaiz Molvi Farooq for that matter. He did not just passively exist in mainstream politics but was one of its crucial, non-negotiable pillars.

But the real measure of his stature lies outside the assembly halls. His genius lay in his institution-building, recognizing that political power is fleeting, but educational infrastructure is permanent. The massive expansion of Imambargahs, the establishment of the Jamia Imam Jafar Sadiq (a), and especially the founding of Haus-e-Zanabia for higher Islamic learning for women was a truly progressive endeavor, which house and mould 18,000 students today.

The power of his personal charisma was immense, built on consistency and self-respect. His Sham-e-Ghariban majalis became a cultural touchstone, reaching across religious divides. His message resonated because it was authentic, transcending



sectarianism. This authenticity was reinforced by his financial independence. Choosing not to rely on traditional donations, he built a robust business empire. This was a critical choice. His success as a businessman, a major Maruti dealer and an importer allowed him to serve as a benefactor without being beholden to any political or religious lobby. This self-reliance empowered him to channel aid, education, and support to thousands of people indiscriminately, demonstrating leadership that was genuinely free of obligation. The role of Molvi Sahab in Kashmir was defined by both his religious authority and his community connections. He maintained links with leading Mujtahids in Iran, Iraq, and Syria. Within the Valley, he worked closely with prominent figures such as Aga Syed Yousuf, Aga Mehdi, and Aga Syed Baqir. He also took responsibility for the sacred relic of Imam Hussain (A.S.), tracing its path to Kashmir and placing it at Imambargah Zadibal. His influence extended across Srinagar, Budgam, Bandipora, Baramulla, Pulwama, and reached Rajouri, Poonch, Uri, and Jammu, and his leadership was marked by quiet authority, built on trust, scholarship, and a lasting connection with people across regions.

The anecdotes of his influence underscore the moral authority he wielded. I often recall the story of a teacher from Karnah. When facing an unfair transfer order that jeopardized her ability to care

for her infants, her simple threat to take the matter to “Molvi Sahab” was enough to overturn the bureaucratic decision. The senior officer understood that challenging the name of Ansari was challenging a force greater than his own authority. This kind of influence is not earned through patronage but built on decades of principled action.

His enduring courage, surviving multiple assassination attempts while refusing overtures from Pakistan rooted in his uncompromising Indian identity elevates his story beyond mere political biography. His faith gave him an almost philosophical fortitude, as he declared, “I will not die because of an attack. I will die only when Allah calls me.” This profound acceptance of destiny, coupled with his absolute agency in life, reminds me of the stoic resolve celebrated in classical thought: “The best revenge is not to be like your enemy,” a principle he embodied by refusing to let violence or external pressure define his purpose or alter his fundamental loyalty. Indeed, as the great philosopher Plato noted, “The measure of a man is what he does with power.” Molvi Sahab used his power, both political and moral not for self-aggrandizement, but for service and upliftment, especially for his people.

As they say, the one who comes into the world has to leave. But there are funerals that speak. Funerals that testify that the deceased has lived a life of depth and purpose. A life that touched others in ways words cannot fully capture. They remind us that while death is inevitable, the way one lives defines how they are remembered. This is exactly what happened on 30th September 2014. Molvi Sahab left this world for eternal abode, and his funeral became a testament to the popular reverence he commanded. He was a leader who never flattered the powerful but sought to empower the marginalized, leaving behind a permanent infrastructure of identity, education, and proud Indian commitment. He was, quite simply, the essential voice of his generation. While his physical presence may be gone, the infrastructure he created, the political space he secured, and the sheer legend of Molvi Sahab, a leader who stood tall against all odds, lives on.

We struggle to find the words that do Molvi Sahab justice. He was a person of such towering character that no simple summary could ever grasp the depth of his spirit or his influence. Though we know a book can only ever be a partial echo of the man, the work to record his life is passionately underway. It is our heartfelt effort to ensure that the remarkable warmth and wisdom he shared will continue to “The Legend of Molvi Ifthikar Hussain Ansari Sahab”

The author is a Youth President of J&K Peoples' Conference. He is an outspoken advocate for youth issues, dedicated to uplifting his community and striving for equality for all. He tweets at @Mudasir_Karim

A Small Tribute to the Legendary Zubeen Garg

Mujhe Kuch Pal De Qurbat Ke...Fakher Hum Teri Chahat Ke.....



■ By M S Nazki

Mujhe kuch pal de qurbat ke, faqeer hum teri chahat ke, Rahey baychain dil kab tak milay kuch pal to rahat ke, Chahat pe ishq pay haan, mita du luta du mai apni khudi , Yaar pe haan luta du, mita du mai yeh hasti, Ya Ali rehem vaali, Ya Ali yaar pay qurban hai sabhi, Ya Ali madad vaali Ya Ali yeh meri jaan yeh zindagi.....Who would have sang this song in a way Zubeen Garg did?....

A tribute is much more difficult to write than a normal story but still we will make an effort. 'And now the time has come, and so, my love, I must go, and though I lose a friend, in the end you will know.....'(MD)

"My heart cries out for love, And all that goes with loving. Love in song – love in song.

Honestly Beatles was not my favorite group though I have several posters of theirs but now when I hear these lyrics my eyes do tend to get moist!..... My, you're so fine, When love is mine. I can't go wrong, Love in song – love in song. I can see the places that, We used to go to now. Happiness in the homeland!..... (MD)

Can anyone forget this song from Amitabh Bachhan led ensemble of cast from the movie Kaante.....!

Collar ko thoda sa upar chadha ke..., Cigarette ke dhoe ka chala banake..., Collar ko thoda sa upar chadha ke, Cigarette ke dhoe ka Dil Ki Pukaarchala banake, Soch na hai kya jo hona hai hoga, Chal pare hain fikra yaaro dhoe mein uda ke, Jaane kya hoga Rama re jaane kya hoga maula re.....!

There are several but here is another one from Ritik Roshan's franchise Krish-3!

Dil Tu Hi Bata, Kahan Tha Chhupa, Kyun Aaj Suni Teri, Dhadkan Pehli Baar, Dil Tu Hi Bata, Kahan Tha Chhupa, Kyun Aaj Suni Teri, Dhadkan Pehli Baar, Haan Dil Ne Mere, Sun Li Tere Dil Ki Pukaar.....

His songs were not just music—they were a reflection of our culture, pride,

and spirit. Through his art, he celebrated the soul of Assam and India, uniting hearts across generations. The state of Assam has declared a three-day mourning period to honor his extraordinary contributions. His legacy will continue to inspire, and his patriotic spirit will forever resonate

Zubeen Garg was an Indian musician, singer, composer, songwriter, instrumentalist, actor, director, filmmaker, poet and philanthropist who primarily worked and sang in the Assamese, Bengali, and Hindi-language films and music industries.

He had also sung in 40 other languages and dialects, including Bishnu-priya Manipuri, Adi, Boro, Dimasa, English, Goalpariya, Gujarati, Kannada, Karbi, Malayalam, Marathi, Mising, Nepali, Bhojpuri, Odia, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Tiva and Urdu.

Garg was a multi-instrumentalist and played 12 instruments including anandalahari, dhol, dotara, drums, guitar, harmonica, harmonium, mandolin, keyboard, tabla, and various percussion instruments.

He was regarded as one of the most influential musicians in Assam, and was also the highest-paid singer in Assam.

Over a career spanning 33 years, he recorded more than 38,000 songs.

Garg was born into an Assamese Brahmin family in Tura, Meghalaya, to Mohini Mohon Borthakur and Ily Borthakur.

His first name was chosen in homage to Zubin Mehta. His last name was initially given "Borthakur" but later instead of continuing with his parental surname Borthakur, he chose "Garg", the title of his Brahmin gotra.

Garg's family had ancestral roots in Tamiluchiga (Jhanji), Jorhat, Assam.

His father was a Magistrate, and is also known as a lyricist and poet under the pen name Kapil Thakur.

As a son of an Assam Civil Service officer, his father was frequently transferred, due to which he spent parts of his childhood moving with the family.

His mother, Ily Borthakur, was a singer. His sister Jonkie Borthakur, who was a singer and actress, died in a car accident in February 2002 in Sonitpur district while travelling to perform a stage show along with her co-artists. He had released the album Xixhu in 2002, in memory of Jonkie Borthakur.

His younger sister Palme Borthakur is a geography professor.



Garg did his primary education at Carmel School, Jorhat, and later attended Karimganj High School and Bijoni Bandhoh School. He passed his matriculation exam (class 10th) from Tamulpur Higher Secondary School, Nalbari in 1989.

In the same year, he moved to Bongalpukhuri, Jorhat, completing his higher secondary education in science at J.B. College between 1990 and 1992. He went to pursue Bachelor of Science degree in B. Borooah College, but dropped out to concentrate on his singing career.

Garg started to sing from the age of three. His first guru was his mother from whom he learnt to sing and he learnt playing the tabla from Pandit Robin Banerjee for 11 years. Guru Ramani Rai introduced him to Assamese folk music. Garg had been composing songs since his school days.

Sweet Love, why don't you come to me, all these years I've, been waiting for you, sweet love, my heart is waiting beating, waiting beating waiting waiting... na ri ni ne na na ne na ne, sweet sweet love, na ri ni ne na na ne ne ne ohoo sweet love!.....Zubeen Garg Mukha]

Garg went to become a professional singer when he got a gold medal for his western solo performance in a youth festival held in 1992. He entered professional music with his debut Assamese album Anamika, which was released in November 1992.

Garg's first recorded songs were "Tumi Junu Pariba Hun" and "Tumi Junaki Hubakh" for the album Ritu, but

it was not released until 1993. He released many other albums such as Xopunor Xur (1992), Junaki Mon (1993), Maya (1994), Asha (1995) and more. Before he moved to Mumbai in 1995, he released his first Bihu album Ujan Piriti which was a commercial success.

In the mid 1990's, Garg moved to Mumbai to work in the Bollywood music industry where he debuted his first Indipop solo album Chandni Raat. Later, he recorded Hindi albums and remixes including Chanda (1996), Shradhaanjali Vol. 1 (1996), Shradhaanjali Vol. 2 and 3 (1997), Jalwa (1998), Yuhi Kabhi (1998), Jadoo (1999), Sparsh (2000), and others.

He sang for films including Gaddaar (1995), Dil Se (1998), Doli Saja Ke Rakhna (1998), Fiza (2000), Kaante (2002). In 2003, he sang "Sapne Saare" and "Khwa-bon Ki" from the movie Mudda-The Issue, "Maango Agar Dil Se Toh Khuda" from the movie Chupke Se, "Holi Re" from the movie Mumbai se Aiya Mera Dost and "Jo Pyar Tumne" from the movie Jaal: The Trap.

Garg got his biggest breakthrough in Bollywood from the movie Gangster where he sang the song "Ya Ali". The song won him the best playback singer Global Indian Film Awards (GIFA) in 2006. His next Hindi album Zindagi was released in 2007. In 2007, he collaborated with Ustad Sultan Khan to sing "Jag Lal Lal Lal" for the movie Big Brother.

Apart from singing in the Bollywood and Assamese film and music industries, he debuted in the Bengali music indus-

try in 2003 where he sang two songs in the movie Mon. In the next year, he sang three songs in the movie Shudhu Tumi and was the film's music director. In 2005 he sang "O Bondhure" and "Lage-na Bhalo" in the film Premi. In 2008, he recorded several Bengali songs like "Mon mane Na" from the movie Mon Mane Na, "Piya re Piya re" from the movie Chirodini Tumije Amaar, and "Mon Jete Chay Shudhu" from the movie Love story.

Apart from singing, Garg also made his debut as an actor and director for the film Tumi Mor Matho Mor, which was released in early 2000 under NK Production. He acted some films like Prem Aru Prem (2002), Dinabandhu (2004), Mon Jaai (2008), Gaane Ki Aane (2016), Mission China (2017), Priyaar Priyo (2017), The Underworld (2018), Kanchanjangha (2019), Rajneeti (2022), Dr. Bezbaruah 2 (2023) and more.

The Final hour:

On 19 September 2025, Garg died in Singapore, at the age of 52. He died while swimming in the sea without a life jacket. He was administered CPR and rushed to Singapore General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead in the intensive care unit !

On 22 September 2025, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that Garg would be cremated with full state honours. The decision followed both cabinet discussions and the family's preference against cremation in Jorhat, where public groups had demanded the last rites.

His wife Garima Saikia Garg and sister Palme Borthakur cited the frail health of his 85-year-old father and the difficulties of performing rituals away from Guwahati. As a compromise, the government announced that Garg's ashes would be immersed in Jorhat and that memorials would be constructed both in Jorhat and at the Guwahati cremation site.

Again the time for a good bye for tonight with these lines: Dollarr bhi chahiye ine pound bhi chahiye, Sone ki siko ka sound bhi chahiye, Hey, bandha yeh thik hai yeh kuch nahin jaanta, Bandha yeh thik hai yeh kuch nahin jaanta, Issko jo maangta to maal pani maangta, Soch na hai kya jo hona hai hoga, Chal pare hain fikra yaaro dhoe mein uda ke, Jaane kya hoga Rama re jaane kya hoga maula re.....! (this was a tribute by small in stature men like us to a huge figure Zubeen Garg)!

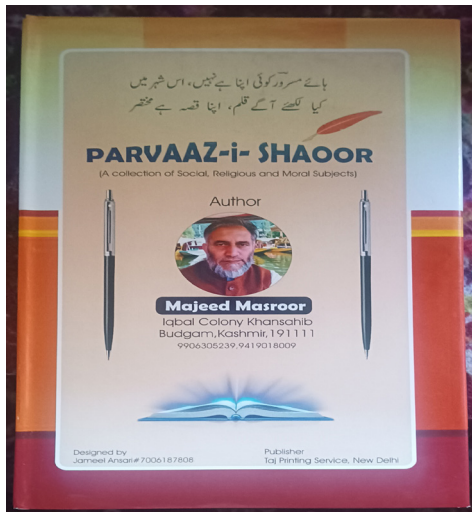
Parvaaz-i-Shaoor by Majeed Masroor



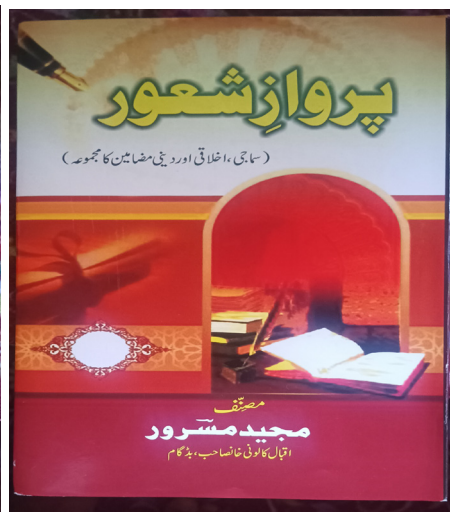
■ Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Back in the 1990s, during my early childhood, I fondly remember my grandfather often listening to popular Kashmiri songs such as "Khash Koruth Meanan Amanar Jaan Gou" and "Keal Watakh Chi Yel Meanis Mazras Peath Waai Pata Feari", aired frequently on Radio Kashmir's Yuvawani service. At that time, I was too young to know much about their origin, but only a few years ago I discovered that the soul behind these timeless lyrics was the renowned poet, writer, and broadcaster Majeed Masroor. Belonging to the Khan Sahab area of Budgam district, Majeed Masroor has carved a special place in Kashmiri literature and music. He has penned hundreds of poems and ghazals, many of which have been brought to life by celebrated singers and veteran vocalists of the valley. His contribution continues to enrich the cultural and artistic heritage of Kashmir. At times, he writes articles and essays that are published in leading local and national newspapers. His primary focus remains on education, social evils, rising immorality, and culture. In 2022, his first collection of articles, titled Parvaaz-i-Shaoor, was published by Taj Printing Service, New Delhi. The book comprises 31 articles across 127 pages and is dedicated to the youth of the valley as well as

to men and women committed to propagating the message of the Prophet (PBUH). Pictures of Majeed Masroor with his mother, grandson, and friend adorn this book, reflecting his deep attachment to them. The author has written the foreword himself, wherein he states that his sole motive is to serve society through his pen. He also highlights the multidimensional aspects of human personality and society. Maulana Mohd Muzaffar Qadri, Imam of Khanqah Moula Sopore, has penned some thought-provoking remarks about the book and its author. According to him, Majeed Masroor is diligently working to eradicate social evils and promote community well-being by writing comprehensive articles on the social, moral, and cultural dimensions of society. Similarly, Ishfaq Gouhar observes that Majeed Masroor is deeply sensitive to the wrongdoings prevalent in society. His writings, Gouhar notes, are aimed at guiding the youth towards a positive direction, with the ultimate intention of building a crime-free society. "Ikhlāq: Ek Azim Niyamat" is the opening article of this book, which highlights the importance of noble virtues and exemplary character as the foundation of a morally upright society. The author has cited some well-known sayings of the Prophet (PBUH), who strongly emphasized good conduct and decent behavior in interactions with fellow human beings. "Ye Kashmir Hai" is another article in this book, beautifully sketching the charm and grandeur of Kashmir—the paradise on earth. The author describes the valley as a land blessed with lofty snow-clad peaks, sprawling green meadows, and crystal-clear water bodies, while also being the birthplace of globally acclaimed scholars. In this piece, he cites poetic couplets of Jahangir, Iqbal, Chak-



bast, and Prof. Aal Ahmad Saroor, all of whom have unanimously celebrated the valley's natural beauty as well as the warmth and hospitality of its people. Madri Zaban – Mother Tongue, in this article, the author presents a detailed account of the importance of the mother tongue. He emphasizes that when an individual or an entire community forgets their native language and develops an inferiority complex about it, they gradually move towards extinction. A nation or community continues to survive and thrive only as long as it preserves and communicates in its mother tongue. "Khidmati Khalaq hi Insaniyat" – in this article, the author, while citing two popular poetic couplets of Iqbal and Ab Ahad Azad, has meticulously highlighted the significance of serving humanity. According to him, to serve humanity is to serve God. There can be no precedence or supremacy on the basis of colour, creed, caste, or tribe. True piety and nobility lie only in extending



help to humanity, especially in times of hardship and adversity. Buzurgon ka Ehtram – Indeed, every religious scripture emphasizes the importance of respecting elders. In this article too, the author reiterates that today's children are tomorrow's youth, who will eventually grow old, weak, and dependent. Thus, by showing respect to our elders today, we not only uphold moral values but also ensure that we, in turn, receive honour and dignity in our own old age. Ustaad – The Teacher, there is no doubt that teachers are the true builders of a nation. They burn the midnight oil to shape individuals and, through them, the society at large. History bears witness that only those nations have achieved real progress and success which respected their teachers. Teaching is indeed a prophetic profession and the noblest of all callings. Therefore, it is imperative that we honour their contributions and accord them the respect they truly deserve. In this article,

the author has cited numerous examples and quotes from great thinkers, all affirming the greatness and unmatched role of teachers. Maa – Mother, The author begins this write-up with an emotional line: the word "mother" is sweeter than honey. Among all the articles in this book, this one stands apart—it moved me to tears while reading. The inclusion of poetic couplets by Munawar Rana and Majeed Masroor has enhanced its beauty even further. Indeed, a mother is the most beautiful creation in this world, whose love for her children is immeasurable and purely selfless. Lala Ded not LD, Lala Ded was not only a pious woman but also an ace poetess and philanthropist. She is regarded as the first Kashmiri poetess, whose vakhs still remain on the lips of every Kashmiri. Her poetic genius and patience remain unmatched to this day. In Kashmiri culture, language, and literature, she stands as a towering figure and a source of identity. Unfortunately, the only tertiary care maternity hospital in Srinagar, named after her as "Lal Ded Hospital," has over time come to be casually referred to as "LD Hospital." This abbreviation is a grave injustice to such a great personality and must be corrected. My Village Khanshab – In this article, the author expresses his deep attachment to his native village. He sketches its historical background, narrating how the village got its name. According to him, Syed Ismail Khan once refused to give his pious son, Soleh Khan, to his brother. Over time, Soleh Khan grew into a saintly figure, and people thronged to his place. From this legacy, the village came to be known as Khanshab.

Writer is a columnist based in Gazigund Kashmir

Hygiene and Cleanliness as Cornerstones of Human Health



■ Surinderpal Singh

Hygiene and cleanliness are amongst the most fundamental determinants of health. They serve as primary preventive measures against communicable diseases by enhancing quality of life and promote social well-being. From ancient practices to modern scientific understanding hygiene has consistently been recognized as a vital safeguard for individuals and communities.

Health is not merely the absence of disease but a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. While medical science has advanced in treating diseases, prevention remains more cost-effective and impactful than cure. Hygiene and cleanliness whether personal, environmental or societal constitute the first line of defense in preventing illness. They influence disease patterns, life expectancy and even socio-economic development. In today's interconnected world, where infectious diseases can spread rapidly across borders, the importance of hygiene has become more pronounced than ever.

The Scientific Basis of Hygiene
Hygiene refers to practices that maintain health and prevent disease, primarily through cleanliness. The relationship between hygiene and disease prevention is deeply rooted in microbiology and epidemiology:

Microbial Control: Proper hand-washing with soap removes pathogenic microorganisms such as *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and viruses like influenza and SARS-CoV-2. According to the various health surveys effective hand hygiene can reduce diarrheal diseases by up to 40% and respiratory infections by about 20%.

Breaking the Chain of Infection: Infectious diseases spread via direct contact, contaminated food and water or environmental reservoirs. Hygiene practices like sanitation, safe water storage, food safety and waste disposal disrupt these transmission pathways.

Immune System Support: A clean environment reduces unnecessary exposure to harmful microbes, allowing



ing the immune system to function effectively without being overwhelmed by preventable infections.

Types of Hygiene and Their Health Impacts

Personal Hygiene: Practices such as bathing, oral care, clean clothing and menstrual hygiene protect against skin infections, dental decay, parasitic infestations and reproductive health complications.

Hand Hygiene: Considered the single most effective measure in healthcare settings, hand hygiene prevents hospital-acquired infections, which are otherwise responsible for significant morbidity, mortality and economic burden.

Food and Water Hygiene: Safe preparation, handling and storage of food prevent outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and food poisoning. Clean drinking water alone is estimated to prevent nearly 1.4 million child deaths annually from diarrheal diseases.

Environmental Hygiene: Proper waste management, sewage treatment and clean surroundings prevent vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue and plague by disrupting breeding grounds of mosquitoes, flies and rodents.

Community Hygiene: Public sanitation facilities, school hygiene programs and workplace cleanliness

enhance collective well-being and productivity, while reducing healthcare expenditure at the community level.

Hygiene and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

While hygiene is often associated with infectious diseases, it also plays a role in reducing risk factors for chronic illnesses. For example, oral hygiene lowers the risk of cardiovascular disease through its association with periodontal health. Proper food hygiene reduces exposure to carcinogenic toxins such as aflatoxins. Clean and safe environments reduce stress and improve mental well-being, indirectly protecting against lifestyle-related disorders.

Social and Economic Significance

Hygiene and cleanliness go beyond medical benefits; they have profound socio-economic implications:

Educational Outcomes: Children in schools with better sanitation and hygiene facilities have higher attendance and learning performance.

Economic Growth: Reduced disease burden translates into fewer lost workdays, increased productivity and lower healthcare costs.

Gender Equality: Access to menstrual hygiene facilities enables girls and women to participate fully in

education and employment.

Challenges and Global Perspectives

Despite progress hygiene practices remain inadequate in many regions. The health organization across the globe estimates that nearly 2 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation facilities. Urbanization, poverty and lack of awareness continue to hinder progress. Recent global health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted how fragile hygiene systems can compromise entire nations.

Hygiene and cleanliness are more than cultural or aesthetic values; they are scientifically validated determinants of health and development. They prevent disease, prolong life expectancy and ensure societal prosperity. Investment in hygiene infrastructure and education should therefore be considered a top public health priority, not a secondary measure. As medical science advances, the age-old truth endures: prevention through cleanliness remains superior to cure.

In essence, the practice of hygiene and cleanliness is not just a personal responsibility but a collective duty that shapes the health of humanity.

The Author is a Faculty in Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib Punjab

Regular Exercise May Reshape Heart Nerves: Researchers

Healthline

Scientists have long known that regular exercise can lower your heart rate and strengthen your cardiovascular system. However, new research on rats suggests that aerobic workouts may also reshape part of the body's nervous system.

The study, published on September 23 in *Autonomic Neuroscience: Basic & Clinical*, examined the stellate ganglia, a pair of nerve clusters in the neck that help control the heart's activity.

After 10 weeks of moderate treadmill training, the rats' right-side ganglion showed a large jump in neuron numbers but a shrinkage in neuron size, while the left-side ganglion saw the opposite, with fewer changes in number but an increase in neuron size.

This side-to-side difference hints that exercise might prompt the autonomic nervous system to adapt in more complex, asymmetrical ways than previously thought, according to the authors.

This could potentially open doors to new treatments for heart rhythm problems and other conditions that involve nerve control of the heart.

Effects of aerobic exercise on heart-control nerves

To learn how exercise might alter the structure of the stellate ganglia, researchers worked with Wistar rats, a common laboratory strain known for its reliability in physiological studies.

The animals were divided into trained and untrained groups.

The trained rats followed a moderate-intensity aerobic program composed of running on a treadmill for 10 weeks. This level of exercise has previously been shown to lower heart rate without changing blood pressure in rats.

After the training period, scientists examined both the left and right stellate ganglia from each animal. These clusters of nerves sit on both sides of the neck, just in front of a deep neck muscle, and serve as an important connection between the brain and the heart.

To get a detailed look at their structure, the team used advanced three-dimensional imaging combined with stereological methods, a type of quantitative microscopic analysis that allows researchers to measure volumes, cell counts, and cell sizes with mathematical accuracy.

The researchers measured three main factors: total neuron count (the number of nerve cells in each ganglion), mean neuronal volume (the average size of each neuron), and overall ganglion volume (the total size of the ganglion structure).

Four experimental groups were studied: untrained left stellate ganglion, trained left stellate ganglion, untrained right stellate ganglion, and trained right stellate ganglion.

In addition to structural measurements, the scientists recorded cardiovascular data, including systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), mean arterial pressure (MAP), and heart rate (HR).

This helped them link any changes in ganglion structure to possible effects on heart function.

Left and right side differences after exercise The differences between trained and untrained rats — and between the left and right sides — were pronounced.

In untrained animals, the left and right stellate ganglia were fairly symmetrical in neuron count and size.

However, in trained rats, the right ganglion contained four times as many neurons as the left ganglion.

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Seminar themed 'Vision of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel towards Viksit Bharat@2047' organised at GCW Gandhinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, SEP 29: A one-day National Seminar on the theme, "Vision of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel towards Viksit Bharat@2047," was organized at Sachdev Government College for Women (PSPS GCW), Gandhi Nagar. The Seminar, aimed to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, was organised by Range Police Head Quarters Jammu, in collaboration with the management of the Host College and Dean Student Welfare, Cluster University of Jammu (CUJ) here. The event focused on exploring the enduring relevance of Sardar Patel's principles—specifically his emphasis on unity, good governance, and self-reliance—as essential foundational elements for achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat@2047. Program began with a floral welcome of the chief guest, Prof. K.S Chandrasekhar, vice chancellor, CUJ and Shiv Kumar Sharma (IPS), DIG JKS range

followed by floral welcome of Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Twinkle Suri. Inaugural session began with the tradition of lamp lightning. Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, the Principal of the College presented a formal welcome address.

The Resource Persons Dr. Varun Sharma GCW Udhampur, Dr. Harmeet Singh GDC Katra, Dr. Piyush Kant Sharma GDC Ramnagar shared their views on the vision of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel (Iron Man of India), and his contribution towards the Nation. In his address, while addressing the media gathering and audience present in the program DIG JSK Range Shiv Kumar Sharma (IPS) shared that the Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel made a remarkable contribution in bringing together and uniting India in the wake of Independence his clear vision, selfless approach and devotion to his motherland played a crucial role in merging the different region of the country, forming a modern and United India.



Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu Prof. (Dr.) K.S Chandra Shekhar also spoke on the occasion. He expressed in detail about the Process of Unification of India after independence and creation of "Akhand Bharat". He appreciated Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra for successful organisation of the

event. He also thanked the Jammu and Kashmir Police Dept. for organizing such an event. Mementoes were presented to the dignitaries and organizing committee members. The Technical session began with the presentation by the students from all the constituent Colleges and Schools of

Cluster University who spoke on the important role that Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel played in the unification process of India. Mementoes were presented to all speakers and student coordinators Lavanya Jammwal, Vice President Presidium and SUO Diksha of 9 J&K Bn. The whole program was coordinated by

coordinators, Prof. D.S Manhas, DSW CUJ, Dr. Rabia Javed, Dean Students Welfare and Prof. Shivani Sharma, Convenor along with other committee members in coordination with Sanjay Kumar Sharma JKPS SSP staff officer to DIG JSK range under civics action program. Vote of thanks was present-

ed by Prof. Shivani Sharma, Convenor of the seminar and proceedings of the program were carried out by Mahi Gupta.

Program was attended by all Deans, directors and principal of constituent Colleges of Cluster University of Jammu, a large number of students, members of presidium and NCC cadets. SP South Jammu Ajay Sharma, SDPO South Sunil Jasrotia, DySP RPHQ Jammu Neelam Sharma, DySP RPHQ Jammu Anuradha Sharma, Insp. Anjoo Pandita, Insp. Rozy Bhatt of RPHQ Jammu, Prob.DySsP, SHO Gandhi Nagar Insp. J.P. Sharma, Staff of Cluster University Jammu and Team of CAP members of RPHQ Jammu SI Suresh Chander, SI Nirmal Singh, ASI Jasbir Singh, SgCt Yashpal Sharma, SgCt Sudesh Sharma, SgCt Pardeep Choudhary, SgCt Ravinder Sharma, SgCt Deepak Jyoti, Ct. Hardhik Kumar and Ricky Salotra also present in the venue for smooth conduct of the Program.

Development Boost for Bishnah: MLA Rajeev Bhagat Launches Road Macadamization Project worth 20 lacs

■ HT News Desk

BISHNAH, SEP 29: Bringing a major relief to the residents of Sarore and Upper Sarore, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, the Member of Legislative Assembly Bishnah constituency, officially launched the macadamization work on the vital Sarore to Hasla Chak road and key stretches in Varindavan Colony Upper Sarore on Monday. The much-anticipated infrastructure project, sanctioned under the Cities and Towns Sector Capex Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year, carries an cost of ₹20.00 Lakhs. The start of the work marks a significant stride toward improving connectivity and daily commute for thousands of villagers and colony residents in the area, a long-pending demand that has now been successfully addressed by the local representative.

Dr. Bhagat, a representative of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), kick-started the development by personally overseeing the initial phase. The project falls under the purview of the Public Works Department (R&B) Sub Division Bishnah and has a clearly defined scope of work aimed at providing a durable and high-quality road surface. The ₹20.00 Lakh project encompasses several critical layers of road construction to ensure longevity and resilience against weather fluctuations.

The bulk of the work, totaling 900 meters, is dedicated to the top-layer finishing with SDBC, a premium material that promises a smooth, all-weather surface, significantly enhancing the driving experience and reducing maintenance requirements. The inaugural event saw the presence of Shri Rafiq Manhas, Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Sub Division Bishnah, who, along with his technical team, accompanied the MLA. Their presence underscored the commitment of the engineering wing to execute the project with efficiency and adherence to specified quality standards.

The occasion was also a significant event for the local community, which turned out in good numbers to witness the launch. Among the prominent local figures present were Shri Vinod Charak, former Sarpanch; Shri Sonu Charak, General Secretary; and respected elders and citizens including Master Som Dutt, Abhinandan Sharma, and Ashwani Kumar.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat reaffirmed the his focus on bolstering grassroots infrastructure. "This macadamization project is not merely about laying tar on a road; it is about connecting our people to progress," Dr. Bhagat stated. "The road from Sarore to Hasla Chak, along with the internal lanes of Varindavan Colony, has been a critical concern, especially during the monsoon season. By allocating funds under the Cities and Towns Sector Capex Budget 2025-26, we are delivering on our promise of providing quality, all-weather connectivity."

He further lauded the PWD team for their prompt technical groundwork, adding that continuous monitoring would be done to ensure the work is completed within the stipulated timeline and budget. He stressed that improved roads are fundamental to better access to education, healthcare, and market connectivity, thereby accelerating economic activity in the rural and semi-urban periphery of Bishnah.

Former Sarpanch, Vinod Charak, echoed the public sentiment, expressing gratitude to the MLA. "For years, the residents have faced hardships due to the deteriorated condition of these stretches. This ₹20 lakh investment is small in cost but monumental in impact for our daily lives. We thank Dr. Rajeev Bhagat for prioritizing our area's developmental needs," he said. The enthusiasm among the locals was palpable, with many viewing the project as a testament to responsive local governance. The completion of this project is expected to bring a substantial upgrade to the road network in the Bishnah constituency, specifically benefiting the settlements around Sarore and reinforcing the region's overall infrastructure.

DLSA, Education deptt Ganderbal conduct one-day child sensitisation programme

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, SEP 29: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, in collaboration with Chief Education Office, Ganderbal, successfully conducted a one-day child sensitisation programme at Auditorium Hall, Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Ganderbal.

The programme focused on sensitizing participants about the rights of children, particularly those with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

In his address, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain, emphasized the importance of creating an inclusive environment in educational institutions, where every child can thrive regardless of their abilities or background. He highlighted the significance of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Right to Education Act, 2009, in promoting inclusive education and equal opportunities for all.

Secretary DLSA also highlighted the significance of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, and its role in providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society, especially children. He emphasized the importance of working together to create a safe and inclusive environment for all children and requested participants to disseminate the information gained from the programme to students, teachers, and provide support to students with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal, Oneel Kumar Bhat, highlighted the importance of inclusive education in the district, emphasizing the need to empower children with special needs through education. He outlined several initiatives undertaken by the Education department to ensure inclusive learning opportunities, providing accessible infrastructure, reasonable accommodations, and support



services to meet the diverse needs of students in district Ganderbal.

Deputy Chief Education Officer, Rumaiysa Sangeen, emphasized the importance of creating an inclusive environment in educational institutions, where every child can thrive regardless of their abilities or background.

Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Tanveer Ashraf, emphasized the importance of recognizing the rights of students with mental illness and intellectual

disabilities.

He highlighted the importance of legal provisions, such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Right to Education Act, 2009, in protecting the rights of students with disabilities.

Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Aasimah Khaliq, delivered a comprehensive overview of the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024, and the NALSA

(Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024.

Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), Ganderbal, Burjeena Hamid, delivered an informative session on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, highlighting the crucial role of school authorities and teachers in preventing child abuse.

Teacher Resource Person, Rafiq Reshi delivered an insightful presentation on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focusing on its implications for Children with Special Needs (CVSN).

The one-day child sensitization programme concluded with a panel discussion, where participants actively engaged with the speakers and resource persons.

The programme was attended by Principals, Zonal Education Officers, Headmasters, teachers, students from various schools across the district.

District Level Kala Utsav Competition Showcases Cultural Brilliance at GHSS Rajouri

■ HT News Desk

RAJOURI, SEP 29: The District Level Kala Utsav Competition was successfully organized today at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Rajouri showcasing the vibrant cultural talent of students from across the district. The event was held under the supervision of Chief Education Officer Rajouri Mohammad Hafiz. The program was graced by ACR Rajouri Jahangir Khan, as the Chief Guest. The event began with a warm welcome address by Principal GHSS Rajouri Gulzar Ahmed, who extended greetings to all the participants, jury members, and staff. The function was also attended by District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Rajouri, Sardari Lal Dutta, who in his address encouraged the students to actively participate in cultural activities to nurture and showcase their hidden talents. Speaking on the occasion, ACR Rajouri, Jahangir Khan, lauded the initiative of organizing Kala Utsav and appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students. He said that such platforms not only provide an opportunity to display hidden talent but also play a vital role in preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the region. He further encouraged the students to balance academics with extracurricular activities, as both are essential for overall personality development. It was highlighted that the students who participated at the District Level had first showcased their talent at the School Level, then at the Zonal Level Competitions, and after qualifying these rounds, they were selected for the District Level Competition. The winners of today's event will now represent District Rajouri at the Divisional Level Kala Utsav Competition. The competition was coordinated by Geeta Bharti, DRG, while the performances were evaluated by an esteemed panel of jury members. A wide range of cultural items were presented by the students, highlighting the rich local traditions and cultural heritage of Rajouri, and received great appreciation from the audience. The formal Vote of Thanks was presented by Dr. Shahid Rasool, Sr. Lecturer GHSS Rajouri.

The overall management of the event was carried out by DNO Kala Utsav Shahzad Mughal who has been successfully organizing the program for the past several years. Notably students from Rajouri have participated at the National Level for the last two consecutive years, bringing pride to the district.

Public Notice

I, Ambreena Jan, daughter of Abdul Rashid Shah, resident of Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby solemnly declare that my name has been recorded as Amreena Rashid in my school records and certificates, whereas in my Aadhaar Card my name appears as Ambreena Jan. I hereby state that both names refer to one and the same person i.e., myself. Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized as Amreena Rashid for all official, educational, and legal purposes. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the undersigned within 7 days of this notice.

Sd/- Ambreena Rashid (formerly Ambreena Jan)
D/o Abdul Rashid Shah
Date: 29/09/2025, Place: Anantnag, J&K

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as ASIF ALTAF DAR in my driving licence bearing license No JK04 2018 0003196 while my correct name is AASIF ALTAF DAR as per Aadhar record which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of ARTO SRINAGAR within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..... AASIF ALTAF DAR
S/O ...MOHD ALTAF DAR
R/O ...NASARULLAHPORA
Distt....BUDGAM

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla Advertisement Join MISSION YUVA - Call for External Trainers

The District Administration Baramulla invites applications from qualified external trainers to join the Capacity Building program in hybrid mode across Jammu & Kashmir.
Position: External Certified Trainer (Resource Person)
Remuneration: Up to Rs. 60,000 per month subject to achieving batch and performance incentives (details available in guidelines)
Eligibility:
Age: 25-45 years as on the date of notification
Domicile: Jammu & Kashmir
Qualification: Minimum 3-year graduate degree with at least 60% marks or equivalent CGPA from a UGC-recognized university in any of the following disciplines:
Business Administration, Management, Commerce, Accounting, Finance, Economics, or Engineering
Relevant experience in entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, or capacity building preferred
Role and Responsibilities:
Conduct in-person and hybrid training sessions under the hybrid capacity building model
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Apply Online: Register anytime at <https://missionyuva.jk.gov.in/Home> Registration Resource person (Hybrid Course)
The application process is open year-round.
For full eligibility, incentives, and selection criteria, refer to the official Capacity Building Guidelines available online.
Yuva Sapne, Nayi Ummedein - Mission YUVA
Issued by: District Administration Baramulla
(This is a public service advertisement. No application fee is required.)
No: DCB/BLA/2025-26/1415-21
Dated: 26/09/2025

Sd/- Addl Deputy Commissioner
(Nodal Officer, Mission YUVA) Baramulla

DIPK: 6667/25 | Dated: 30-09-2025

ADC Kupwara Reviews Implementation Of Recent GST Reforms In District Kupwara

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEP 29: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad today chaired a meeting with concerned officers to review the implementation of recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms and ensure that the benefits of reduced tax rates directly reach consumers on the ground.

The ADC emphasized the need for strict enforcement to prevent unjustified pricing and directed the concerned departments to constitute special market-checking teams for

inspection of the shop establishments. These teams will monitor different markets in the district to ensure that commodity prices are reduced in proportion to the GST rate cuts recently announced by the Central Government. The market inspections will be intensified in coming days to verify compliance and take strict action against any violations.

The ADC directed the departments to intensify the IEC campaign of the GST reforms so that the people at large get informed about it and get benefited of the price decrease in the commodities.

Officers from Health, Rev-



enue, RDD, Food & Civil Supplies and other concerned attended the meeting.

Later, the ADC chaired a separate meeting of District Level Advisory Committee on safe food and healthy diets to review the measures being implemented in the district.

During the meeting, the ADC reviewed the action taken by departments towards promoting safe food practices, awareness campaigns, and initiatives for ensuring hygienic food in markets, schools, and Anganwadi Centres. He emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination for creating mass awareness regarding

food safety standards and adoption of healthy diets at community level.

The ADC directed the Food Safety Department to intensify inspections of food establishments, maintain strict vigil on adulteration, and ensure compliance with quality standards. He further asked the Education and ICDS Departments to sensitize students and children through regular health and nutrition awareness programs.

CEO Kupwara, AC Food Safety, AD Food, besides, officers from Health, Police, Revenue, Municipalities and other concerned attended the meeting.

DLRC/ DCC meeting for 1st Quarter 2025-26 held at Shopian

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEP 29: The District Level Review Committee/ District Consultative Committee (DLRC/ DCC) meeting for the 1st quarter of the financial year 2025-26 was convened today under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, at the Meeting Hall of Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

The meeting was informed that the growth in deposits as on 30th June 2025 has shown an increase of 18% on YOY basis and 4% decrease as compared to previous quarter ended 31st March 2025. The growth in advances as on June 30th 2025 has shown an increase of 7% on YOY basis and 6% increase as compared to the previous quarter ended 31st March 2025.

Priority sector advances have shown an increase of 8% on YOY basis and 10% increase as compared to the previous quarter ended 31st March 2025. Non Priority sector of the district has shown an increase of 16% on YOY basis and 12% increase as compared to previous quarter 31st March 2025.

CD ratio of the district is ideal at 129 as on June



30th 2025 against minimum stipulation of 60%. Against the financial target of Rs. 2016.87 crores and physical targets of 43814 beneficiaries under DCP 2025-26, the various banks operating in the district have disbursed Rs. 524.21 Crores to 16529 beneficiaries during 1st quarter of financial year 2025-26, thereby achieving the financial targets by 25% and physical targets by 38%.

The meeting was attended by the Lead District Manager (LDM), Farooq Ahmed, Cluster Head J&K Bank, district officers of line departments, representatives of RBI, NABARD, financial institutions and sponsoring agencies.

During the meeting, ADDC took a comprehensive review of the performance of banks and line departments under Annual Credit Plan (ACP), priority sector lending, government-sponsored schemes including PMEGP, PMFME, PM Vishwakarma, MUDRA, NRLM, PMAY, HADP, PM Kisan, PMFME, JKREGP and other flagship programmes.

Lead District Manager presented the quarter-wise performance through power-point presentation on the occasion.

ADDC stressed upon banks to improve Credit-Deposit Ratio (CDR), ensure timely sanction and disbursement of loans and give focused attention to employment generation schemes so that the youth are provided with sustainable livelihood opportunities. He directed banks to adopt a beneficiary-friendly approach and to ensure that cases sponsored by line departments are disposed-off within the stipulated time.

ADDC further emphasized the need for coordination between banks and departments, saturation of social security and financial inclusion schemes.

Concluding the meeting, ADDC directed all banks and departments to work with renewed commitment to achieve the fixed targets within the prescribed timeline and ensure that the benefits of financial inclusion percolate to the grassroots level.

Distt Budgam celebrates 'Sewa Parv' with multi-faceted awareness, health, & community service initiatives

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, SEP 29: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, a wide array of activities focusing on social awareness, community service, health, education, and skill development were carried out across various blocks of district Budgam, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, staff, municipal authorities, and the local community.

At Block Surasyar, an awareness programme on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act was conducted to sensitize participants about safe, inclusive, and respectful workplaces. The initiative aimed at creating a better understanding of rights, responsibilities, and preventive measures among working professionals and community members.

In HSS Kandoora, Beerwah, a series of activities under Sewa Parv engaged students and staff in promoting values of service, social

responsibility, and community welfare. The activities included interactive sessions and hands-on initiatives to instill a spirit of selfless service among the youth.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), a Greh Pravesh celebration and awareness camp was organized at Block S.K. Pora, where beneficiaries joyfully stepped into their new homes, marking a significant milestone in the district's mission of 'Housing for All.'

A medical camp was held at Palaash, Budgam, providing essential healthcare services, free check-ups, and awareness on health and hygiene to the local community, emphasizing the importance of preventive healthcare.

MC Chadoora actively participated in Sewa Parv by distributing IEC material to spread awareness on cleanliness, sanitation, and other community welfare initiatives. Additionally, the municipal body organized a



painting competition, encouraging students to creatively express themes related to social aware-

ness and civic responsibility. At HDO office Khansahib, a practical demonstration on fruit

and vegetable preservation and training on post-harvest handling was conducted, equipping farmers with vital skills to enhance agricultural productivity and reduce food wastage. Yoga classes were organized at HSS Bugam Chadoora as well as across various schools of Budgam, promoting physical fitness, mindfulness, and overall well-being among students and staff.

Officials highlighted that the Sewa Parv serves as a platform to foster civic consciousness, social responsibility, and community participation. Through these diverse initiatives, district administration continues to strengthen public engagement in programs aimed at health, education, cleanliness, social welfare, and skill development.

Sewa Parv activities will continue in the coming days, further encouraging citizens to actively participate in community-building and service-oriented initiatives.

Sewa Parv: Distt admin Pulwama organises mega outreach camp at Sangerwani

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, SEP 29: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, district administration Pulwama today organised a mega public outreach camp at Sangerwani, bringing together a wide range of government departments and services under one roof.

Departments including Education, Social Welfare, Labour & Employment, Cooperatives, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Forest and others had set up stalls at the venue that facilitated on-the-spot registrations, enrolment of beneficiaries, scheme consultations, grievance redressal and dissemination of information.

Health department also organised a medical camp under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, providing free health check-ups, screenings and awareness.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. S.M. Ashraf. He emphasised the essence of Sewa Parv, which lies in serving the people and ensuring that welfare schemes reach every household.

Dr Ashraf highlighted the series of activities being undertaken across the district during the campaign, while stressing the importance of cleanliness and behavioural change to achieve the goals of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

He further urged locals, particularly women, to benefit from the medical camps being organised under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, stressing regular health check-ups to prevent anaemia, lifestyle disorders and other illnesses common in the region.

The occasion also featured cultural programmes, student speeches, and awareness campaigns on cleanliness, hygiene, drug de-addiction,



and welfare schemes. A plantation drive was carried out to reinforce the themes of environmental protection and community service.

The outreach event witnessed overwhelming public participation and was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Pulwama; Chief Education Officer, Pulwama; concerned Block Development Officers & Tehsildars, and other district and sectoral officers.

Meanwhile, as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv activities across the district, plantation drives, cleanliness drives, and awareness camps continued with active community participation.

Rural Development department

organised awareness programmes on cattle dung management and vermi-composting at panchayat level while the Education department held yoga and fitness sessions in schools to promote physical and mental well-being among students.

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

Cleanliness, Health & Fitness lead the way in Shopian's Sewa Parv

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, SEP 29: Sewa Parv campaign in Shopian continued with renewed vigour today, highlighting cleanliness, health, fitness, and community outreach as core themes.

Multiple departments organized impactful programmes across the district, ensuring strong citizen participation.

MC Shopian, under the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva campaign, carried out a drain cleanliness drive in the town. Additionally, a drawing competition at Eternal Success School engaged students creatively, spreading messages of hygiene and social responsibility through art.

In the health sector, Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar programmes were held under which screening and awareness activities were conducted, ensuring community members received guidance on preventive care and wellness.

Similarly, Ayush department conducted health camps under 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan', focusing on women's health with diagnostic testing, diet counseling, and yoga sessions to encourage a holistic lifestyle.

Sheep Husbandry department continued its community outreach and awareness drive, with experts sensitizing farmers about modern sheep rearing practices and the benefits of adopting scientific methods for better productivity.

Social Welfare Shopian held an awareness-cum-registration camp at Tehsil Keller, where people were briefed about key welfare schemes including pensions, senior citizen support, marriage assistance, OSC, and child/ women helplines, with on-the-spot enrollment for beneficiaries.

Education department turned its focus on physical and mental fitness, organizing Health and Wellness Yoga & Fitness classes in schools of the district.

Students and teachers actively participated, taking away practical lessons on the importance of balancing studies with health.

These activities once again reflected the spirit of Sewa Parv community participation, service and awareness, bringing together citizens, students, and officials to contribute towards a healthier and cleaner Shopian.

BJP lauds India's Asia Cup win, criticises Congress for silence

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 29: The BJP today hailed India's commanding win over Pakistan in the Asia Cup final in Dubai, while criticizing Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for their silence following the triumph.

Addressing the media here, BJP spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "India's triumph marks its ninth Asia Cup title, with the team securing a clean sweep by winning all matches, including a hat-trick of victories over Pakistan. Captain Suryakumar Yadav and his teammates deserve heartfelt congratulations."

He also quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks, which likened the sporting success to the country's strategic achievements, such as Operation Sindoor.



However, Dr Trivedi took a dig at Congress leaders for failing to celebrate the victory by being absent in congratulatory mes-

sages. "Sports should be kept separate from politics. The Congress' silence reflects underlying frustration and political rivalry,"

he said. The BJP spokesperson also took a swipe at former union Home Minister P. Chidambaram's past statements about Pakistan

and India's diplomatic engagements post-26/11 attacks. Dr Trivedi highlighted the 2009 joint declaration with Pakistan in Sharm El-Sheikh, including references to Balochistan, to underscore what he described as Congress' leniency towards Pakistan.

He further alleged that the Congress and opposition alliances consistently side with Pakistan, whether in diplomacy or sports, pointing to their lack of reaction to India's recent sporting success.

Dr Trivedi contrasted this with the government's handling of Operation Sindoor, accusing the opposition of demoralising the Indian armed forces. "An alliance named 'INDIA' must demonstrate genuine patriotism. Their actions indicate otherwise, prioritising political interests over national pride," he added. UNI

India, Kenya hold talks to strengthen maritime cooperation and bilateral ties

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 29: Major General Paul Owuor Otieno, Commander of the Kenya Navy, currently on an official visit to India, today held a meeting with Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, during which both sides agreed to strengthen maritime collaboration and deepen bilateral relations.

Major General Paul Owuor Otieno is on a visit to India from September 28 to October 2, aiming to enhance maritime collaboration and deepen bilateral relations.

Their discussions focussed on a wide range of issues related to maritime cooperation, including operational, training, and hydrographic engagements, the conduct of multilateral Exercise AIKEYME, and consolidation of the partnership under the India-Kenya 'BAHARI' Maritime Vision, a Defence



Ministry statement said.

Moreover, Major General Paul Owuor Otieno also called on General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff. The interaction highlighted the enduring friendship between India and Kenya, with discussions focused on advancing bilateral defence cooperation and enhancing regional security.

Both leaders also deliberated on the prevailing geostrategic environment in the Indian Ocean Region and reaffirmed their shared commitment to peace & stability.

During his visit, Major General Otieno is scheduled to visit the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram, as well as training establishments of the Indian Navy's Southern Naval Command in Kochi, with a view to enhancing training cooperation.

The Kenya Navy remains a valued maritime partner in the Indian Ocean Region, with active participation in multilateral Exercise AIKEYME, the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), the Goa Maritime Conclave and the Djibouti Code of Conduct - Jeddah Amendment (DCoC-JA).

Highlighting the ongoing partnership, ships of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron - INS Tir, INS Sujata, INS Shardul, and ICGS Sarathi - recently made a port call at Mombasa, Kenya, as part of their long-range training deployment to the South West Indian Ocean. The visit included a series of professional and social interactions, further deepening bilateral maritime engagement. UNI

ED uncovers forex racket in Goa

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 29: The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Panaji Zonal Office recently conducted search operations under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) at the premises of 'Loja Shamu', located at 22, Mapusa Municipal Market in Goa.

The action was initiated based on specific intelligence received from the Airport Customs in Goa regarding the seizure of foreign exchange worth \$35,000.

During the search, foreign currency equivalent to approximately Rs 3 lakh, Indian currency amounting to Rs 13 lakh, incriminating chits and records of illegal forex transactions, and two mobile phones were seized.

An initial examination of the digital evidence revealed telephone chats and communications indicating that the shop owner was engaged in unauthorized foreign exchange dealings. The total value of such transactions is estimated to be around Rs 2-3 crore.

The seized material provides strong evidence of systematic illegal forex trading in violation of FEMA, 1999. The seized records and devices are undergoing detailed examination to identify the wider network of individuals and entities involved.

Further investigation into the matter is ongoing. UNI

PM Modi pens foreword to Italian PM Giorgia Meloni's memoir, calls it her 'Mann Ki Baat'

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 29: Describing Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's memoir as her "Mann Ki Baat", Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India and Italy are joined in spirit by a respect for tradition and an embrace of modernity, which also forms the bedrock of their personal friendship.

In his foreword to the book 'I am Giorgia, My Roots My Principles', PM Modi has said that India and Italy are bound by much more than treaties or trade.

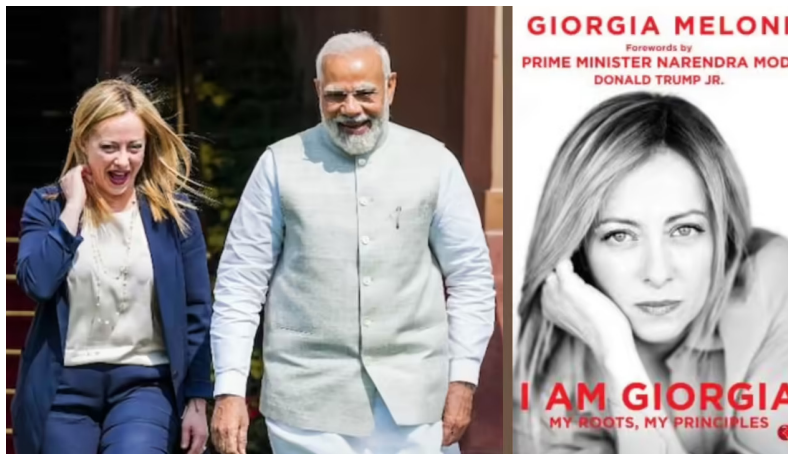
"We are bound by shared civilizational instincts like the defence of heritage, the strength of community and the celebration of womanhood as a guiding force.

"Our nations are joined in spirit by a respect for tradition and an embrace of modernity.

"This is the bedrock of my own personal friendship with Prime Minister Meloni."

He expressed hope that as India and Italy deepen their partnership, the book will enrich their understanding of each other and reinforce the importance of human connection at the heart of global cooperation.

He also expressed confidence that



the book will be well received "as a refreshing story of an outstanding contemporary political leader and a patriot".

"It has been a great honour to have written this foreword. It is not just an autobiography; it is her Mann Ki Baat.

"With respect, admiration, and friendship, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India."

The foreword by PM Modi comes as both Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and PM Modi have been known to strike a warm chord, and their friendship has been described as "Melodi", with a play on the words Meloni and Modi.

EU renews all pre-2015 nuclear deal economic sanctions on Iran amid UN's sweeping reinstatement of restrictions

■ United News of India

BRUSSELS, SEP 29: The EU, in light of the recent UN move to reimpose all economic sanctions pre-2015, confirmed today that it has followed through with the measure and reimposed sweeping financial sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program, after the global body determined that Tehran was non-compliant with the dictates of the deal. "Today, the EU reinstated sanctions against Iran in response to its continued non-compliance with the nuclear agreement. The door for diplomatic negotiations remains open," said the EU presidency in an official statement.

The European Commission's Vice President and former Estonian PM Kaja Kallas said that the bloc's sanctions included freezing the assets of

the Iranian Central Bank and other Iranian banks, as well as travel bans on certain Iranian officials.

Additionally, the bloc is banning both the purchase and transportation of Iranian crude, as well as the sale or supply of gold and certain naval equipment to the Islamic Republic.

The UN reimposed the sanctions under the 2015 nuclear deal's "snap-back" mechanism, at the behest of the E3 nations - the UK, France, Germany - after they threatened Iran with the reimposition of all economic sanctions due to its lack of cooperation with the IAEA, and filed a formal appeal to the UNSC which gave it the greenlight.

The E3 countries had given Tehran a deadline of September 28 to resume full cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, and allow inspectors to its

nuclear facilities, or otherwise face crippling sanctions.

The EU's sanctions go in hand in hand with the UN's broader arms embargo, and bar any dealing with entities known or suspected of funding Tehran's nuclear and ballistic missile activities.

Tehran has blasted the UN actions, calling them "unjustifiable" and threatened strong retaliation. Israel has hailed the move, and called it as pivotal to ensure that a nuclear-armed Iran never comes about.

Despite the reimposition, Western leaders stressed that diplomacy was still very much on the table, with communication channels open. Kallas confirmed this on Sunday, stating that the reimposition of all pre-2015 sanctions "must not be the end of diplomacy". UNI

President Putin open to talks with US President Trump, says Kremlin, discussions not shelved despite spat

■ United News of India

MOSCOW, SEP 29: Russian President Vladimir Putin remains willing to host US President Donald Trump in Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, despite a brief spat between Moscow and Washington amid the recent hardening of White House's rhetoric over the war in Ukraine. "The invitation still stands," Peskov told the state news agency TASS. "Putin is ready and will be glad to meet President Trump. It will then all depend on Trump's decision."

The two leaders last met in Anchorage, Alaska, in mid-August, where they described their summits "frank" and "substantive." At the time, Putin proposed Moscow as the venue for their next encounter, and Trump said he was

open to the idea, though he acknowledged it could spark domestic criticism. Since then, however, Trump's position on the Ukraine conflict has dramatically shifted. Despite his early criticism of Kyiv and urging them to settle, stating that Ukraine could not win the war, Trump took a full U-turn on this stance last week. He urged Moscow to settle with Kyiv, declaring that it was incapable of winning, - citing a supposed economic collapse and massive loss of life with little gains - while maintaining that Ukraine could still win with the continued support of Europe and NATO, labelling Russia "a paper tiger."

The Kremlin had rebuffed the US claims, with Peskov mocking the POTUS' 'paper tiger' comment by stating that Russia has always been symbolised by a bear, adding, "there

is no such thing as a paper bear."

He also rejected claims of economic collapse, arguing that Russia had adjusted to the pressures of war and Western sanctions, even if challenges remain. Moscow pointed to its growth of more than 4% in 2023 and 2024, with further albeit slower growth expected this year. Despite the diplomatic tussle, the Russian official said on Sunday that Putin "highly values" Trump's "sincere efforts" to broker a peace between Moscow and Kyiv, while also describing the personal rapport between the two leaders as "warm."

Trump, weirdly enough, also somewhat softened his tone this week, retracting his "paper tiger" comments, telling reporters at the White House he would avoid using the phrase again. UNI

Outgoing IDF commander Maj Gen Nimrod Aloni slams IDF for its failure in stopping Oct 7 massacre

■ United News of India

JERUSALEM, SEP 29: Outgoing Israeli military commander, Maj. Gen. Nimrod Aloni, delivered a scathing critique of the military's leadership as he stepped down on Sunday, slamming the IDF of failing to take responsibility for its lapses before and after the Hamas-led October 7, 2023 massacre, as per Times of Israel.

"I am leaving an army in which the concept of responsibility has been trampled and desecrated, and which has lost the confidence to put its failures on the table," Aloni said at the

handover ceremony for the Depth Corps, which he had commanded in years prior to the war.

Aloni, who previously commanded the Gaza Division between 2020 and 2022, however stopped short of mentioning his own role in Gaza before the attack, though he did acknowledge the IDF's many broader strategic missteps.

"Two years ago, we tried to contain our enemies from south and north, thinking that time would do us good, for the economy and growth, and that we could preserve the status quo over time," he said. "We were

wrong, all of us."

The remarks underscored growing unease within the Israeli military's senior ranks as it continues to fight in a multi-front war, facing Hamas terrorists in Gaza on one end, while also engaging in ever-escalating clashes with forces of Lebanon's hardline Islamic militia - Hezbollah.

This was further compounded by Jerusalem's latest military incursions into Syria, where it launched several airstrikes into Damascus, to quell the religious hardline discrimination against its Druze community, owing to its stated policy of protecting

Druze on both sides of the border.

Aloni had been serving as head of both the IDF's Military Colleges and the Depth Corps, a shadowy command overseeing operations beyond Israel's immediate borders.

Last month, Maj. Gen. Dan Noyman succeeded him at the Military Colleges. On Sunday, Maj. Gen. Dan Goldfus formally took over the Depth Corps.

Goldfus, in his first address as commander, warned that the threat environment had shifted rapidly and cautioned that the Jewish state could no longer rely on distance for safety.



"The transformation of the Depth Corps is not the result of an organisational initiative or

distant vision, but rather a matter of urgency," he said.

"Our enemies are learning, strengthening, and changing. The range of fire is extending, and their technological capabilities are expanding. And the threat is not dependent on their geographical proximity."

He pointed to a Houthi missile fired toward Israel earlier in the day as proof that threats from Yemen and elsewhere in the "second circle" - Iran's regional proxies - demand attention alongside the war in Gaza and daily exchanges of fire with Hezbollah.

The Depth Corps, reorgan-

ised in recent months, is now tasked specifically with confronting these distant adversaries, including militias in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.

Goldfus, until now seen as a relatively junior figure on the General Staff, previously commanded the 98th Division in Gaza and the Northern Corps.

Aloni's unusually candid rebuke added to the public and political pressure on Israel's military establishment - itself at odds with the political command - with many Israelis still demanding that those who failed to stop the Oct 7 massacre be held accountable. UNI

Suryakumar: 'I Am Not Out Of Form, I Am Out Of Runs'

■ Shashank Kishore

DUBAI: It was well past midnight on Monday in Dubai when Suryakumar Yadav walked into the press conference room. It had been a night mired in chaos and confusion. Who would present India the Asia Cup trophy? Would India accept it if it came from ACC chairman Mohsin Naqvi? Would Pakistan even turn up for their press conference, amid rumours that their team bus had already left? We got the answers by and by.

Suryakumar had endured a poor tournament, and the non-cricketing issues may or may not have taken a toll on his form.

There was the unbeaten 47 in India's second game of the tournament, against Pakistan, but he had scores of 0, 5, 12 and 1 to end the Asia Cup with. On Sunday, his dismissal attempting to loft Shaheen Shah Afridi on the up left India precariously placed at 10 for 2 in their chase of 147.

"I feel I am not out of form, I feel I am out of runs," Suryakumar said. "I believe more in what I am doing in the nets and my preparation. So in matches, things are on autopilot." His record as captain, though, has been impeccable. Since becoming

full-time T20I captain, he has racked up series wins over Sri Lanka, South Africa and England and now at the Asia Cup, where India won seven games in a row to win their ninth title.

Having answered the question on his form, Suryakumar directed the mic jovially the other way, egging journalists on to direct some of the questions towards Abhishek Sharma, the Player of the Tournament who sat alongside him. "I've felt personally that when you are not scoring runs, it is difficult to take the team along. But Surya bhai is the same irrespective of whether he has scored runs or not," Abhishek said, throwing his weight behind his captain.

Suryakumar had to contend with more than just cricket at the Asia Cup. It began with a handshake with Asian Cricket Council and PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi during the captains' press conference - a routine gesture that quickly turned contentious and set the tone for what followed.

Days later, at the toss on September 14, Suryakumar's refusal to shake hands with Pakistan captain Salman Agha added fresh spark to the issue. Next came a series of gestures and confrontations from both sides, eventually forcing the match

referee to step in for disciplinary hearings.

"I feel it was not that difficult [to deal with]," Suryakumar said. "The boys took it in their stride. Since day one, I was just telling them to focus on cricket and enjoy the game. The boys took it in a positive way. We were very focused in every game." Suryakumar stressed that despite everything that went on, there was a bigger sense of satisfaction around where India were at in the runway to the T20 World Cup early next year, where they are defending champions.

"What we wanted to achieve in this tournament, we have achieved," he said. "There are a lot of things which you don't get to achieve in a bilateral tournament. This was like a knockout tournament. "As soon as we entered the Super Four, I told the boys that let's approach it like a quarter-final, semi-final and final. So we played a semi-final type of game against Sri Lanka, and then it was a perfect final. There are nerves, responsibility and pressure, and it was a perfect final." When asked about half-century and Player of the Match Tilak Varma, the only name barely touched upon in an unusually long press conference, Suryakumar chose to throw the spotlight on the entire team.

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