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Voice To The Voiceless



P:12

Gosens sparks Schalke to first Bundesliga win since return

HT BRIEFLY

NIA Conducts Searches at 10 Locations Across J&K in LeT-Linked Conspiracy Case
HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at 10 locations across Jammu and Kashmir as part of an ongoing investigation into an alleged cross-border conspiracy involving Pakistan-based handlers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and their suspected network of local over-ground workers.

According to officials, the searches were carried out at locations in Kupwara, Kulgam, Bandipora, Baramulla and Sopore to gather further evidence related to the alleged conspiracy and ascertain the roles of individuals suspected of providing logistical and other support to infiltrated terrorists.

The searches were conducted at residential premises, with NIA teams assisted by local police and security personnel during the operation.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Bandipora-Gurez Road Closed After Fresh Snowfall at Razdan Top

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BANDIPORA, SEP 12: The Bandipora-Gurez road has been closed to vehicular movement following fresh snowfall at Razdan Top, with the district administration ordering suspension of traffic on the route until further orders.

An order issued by the Bandipora administration directed that all types of vehicular movement on the Bandipora-Gurez road remain suspended with immediate effect.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Jammu-Srinagar Highway Blocked After Landslides, Traffic Suspended

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

RAMBAN, SEP 12: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was blocked on Saturday after fresh landslides, mudslides and shooting stones affected multiple stretches in Ramban district, leading authorities to suspend vehicular movement on the strategic road.

Officials said traffic would not be allowed from either side until the affected stretches are cleared and the highway is restored for safe movement. The blockade has been reported in the Ramban sector, including the vulnerable stretch around Mehad, where landslides and continuous shooting stones have hampered traffic movement.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

At Least 41 Patwari Arrests Recorded by J&K ACB Since 2019

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 12: At least 41 arrest instances involving Patwaris have been identified in the records of the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) reviewed by KNT since 2019, with the number of documented arrests showing a notable rise during the past two years. The review shows that two Patwaris were arrested in 2019 and another two in 2020. The number increased to five in 2021

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Hailstorm, Strong Winds Damage Crops and Orchards in Beerwah, Farmers Seek Relief

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: A sudden hailstorm accompanied by strong winds during the intervening night damaged standing crops and orchards across parts of Beerwah in Budgam district, with farmers reporting losses to fruit trees, agricultural crops and other produce and urging the administration to initiate an immediate assessment of the damage.

The hailstorm, which struck Beerwah suddenly, affected agricultural fields and orchards,

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

BRICS Is Not Against Anyone : PM Modi Calls for Urgent UNSC Reforms

At 18th BRICS Summit, PM urges concrete roadmap for inclusive global governance, stronger multilateralism and maritime security

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council, saying the long-pending restructuring "can no longer wait", and urged BRICS nations to prepare a concrete roadmap for a more representative and effective global governance system. Addressing the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, Modi placed "Humanity First" at the centre of India's presidency and stressed that BRICS was "not against anyone", but aimed at cooperation, development, innovation and a more balanced global order.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday opened the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi with

a strong call for reform of the global governance architecture, declaring that the reform of the

United Nations Security Council "can no longer wait" and urging BRICS nations to prepare a concrete roadmap to strengthen multilateralism, innovation and resilience.

Addressing the session on "Inclusive Global Governance and Strengthening Multilateralism" at Bharat Mandapam, Modi placed "Humanity First" at the centre of India's BRICS presidency and argued that institutions created for an earlier era could no longer adequately respond to today's economic, geopolitical and security realities. Welcoming the participating leaders and dignitaries,

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

J&K Government Approves ₹49.34 Crore Parking Projects in Jammu
Parade complex and SMGS Hospital multilevel facility aimed at easing congestion and improving urban mobility



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded administrative approval for two major parking infrastructure projects in Jammu at a combined estimated cost of ₹49.34 crore. The projects include a Parking-cum-

Commercial Complex at Parade and a Multilevel Car Parking facility at SMGS Hospital, aimed at easing traffic congestion, improving parking management and supporting more planned and sustainable urban development.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded administrative approval for two major parking infrastructure projects in Jammu, aimed at easing traffic congestion and strengthening planned urban infrastructure in the city.

The approved projects include a Parking-cum-Commercial Complex at Parade and a Multilevel Car Parking facility at SMGS Hospital, Jammu, with a combined estimated cost of ₹49.34 crore.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Iranian President Pezeshkian Meets President Murmu in New Delhi
Leaders discuss longstanding India-Iran ties, cultural links and regional peace



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12: Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday met President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan during his first visit to India, with the two leaders

discussing the longstanding ties between India and Iran, including strong cultural and people-to-people relations. President Murmu appreciated Iran's support during India's BRICS presidency and reiterated India's commitment to lasting regional peace.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Nadda Hails Andhra Pradesh's Sanjeevani Programme for Taking Healthcare to Doorsteps

10 Critical Care Blocks and 12 Integrated Public Health Laboratories inaugurated across the state

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12: Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on Saturday inaugurated 10 Critical Care Blocks (CCBs) and 12 Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHLs) in Andhra Pradesh, describing the facilities as an important step towards strengthening the state's health-security architecture. Nadda also praised Andhra Pradesh's Sanjeevani programme for taking healthcare closer to communities and facilitating testing for 41 health parameters, saying the initiative could offer a valuable model

for strengthening primary healthcare across the country.

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda today inaugurated 10 Critical Care Blocks (CCBs) and 12 Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHLs) in Andhra Pradesh in the presence of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister for Health, Family Welfare & Medical Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh Shri Satya Kumar Yadav, along with Members



of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, senior officers, doctors and healthcare professionals.

The 10 Critical Care Blocks inaugurated today are located at GMC Kadapa, ACSR GMC Nellore, GMC Srikakulam, AMC Visakhapatnam, GMC Ongole, District Hospital Anakapalli, GMC Rajamahendravaram, KMC Kurnool, District Hospital Hindupur and SMC Vijayawada, while the 12 Integrated Public Health Laboratories are located at Area Hospital Seethampeta, Area Hospital Guntakal, Area

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HT BOTTOM NEWS

Darakhshan Andrabi Inaugurates T20 Cricket Super League at Charar-e-Sharif

Waqf Chairperson says grassroots sports can nurture talent and help keep youth away from drugs



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: J&K Waqf Board Chairperson and Minister of State Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday inaugurated the T20 Cricket

Super League at Alamdar Sports Stadium, Charar-e-Sharif, and unveiled the tournament trophy. She said grassroots sporting events were vital for identifying and nurturing young talent, promoting fitness and healthy

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Apprenticeship Scheme, Directs Departments to Meet Targets

Departments, PSUs, MSMEs and agencies asked to register establishments and engage apprentices
HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12:

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Saturday reviewed the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) across Kashmir Division and directed departments, PSUs, MSMEs and contracting agencies to step up apprenticeship engagement. He called for registration of establishments on the NAPS portal and engagement of apprentices within the prescribed 2.5 to 15 per cent workforce band,



while directing Deputy Commissioners to facilitate registrations and monitor progress regularly. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg,

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

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‘BRICS Is

Modi said the BRICS grouping had emerged as an important voice on the world stage over the past two decades and described the 20th anniversary of its formation as a "historical milestone". "Humanity First" must remain the guiding principle, Modi said, stressing that the world needed cooperation rather than confrontation at a time when developing countries, particularly those in the Global South, were bearing the consequences of conflicts and instability.

He said the existing global order could not continue to operate through outdated structures and double standards. Institutions meant to represent the international community, he argued, must reflect contemporary geopolitical and economic realities and provide developing countries a greater role in decision-making. Modi made a particularly strong pitch for reform of the UN Security Council, saying the issue could no longer be postponed.

"Reform of the UN Security Council can no longer wait," he said, giving what amounted to a clarion call for accelerating the long-pending restructuring of the UN's principal body responsible for international peace and security. He called on BRICS to work towards a clear reform roadmap and pressed for changes across the wider multilateral system, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and multilateral development banks. The objective, he said, should be to create institutions that are more representative, effective and responsive to the aspirations of the developing world.

The Prime Minister also sought to underline that the expansion and growing influence of BRICS should not be interpreted as an effort to create a bloc against any country or group. "BRICS is not against anyone," Modi said, stressing that its purpose was to promote cooperation, development and a more balanced global order. The message from the summit, he said, should be clear to the world: BRICS sought partnership, dialogue and collective progress rather than confrontation. He reiterated India's consistent position that disputes and conflicts should be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy rather than war.

The Global South, he said, was often among the first and worst affected by geopolitical conflicts, disruptions in trade and instability in global supply chains. Modi also made a pointed appeal for the protection of seafarers and the security of international maritime routes, saying the safety of those working at sea must be protected "at all costs". Secure sea lanes, he said, were essential not only for international commerce but also for the economic security of developing countries.

The emphasis on seafarers comes against the backdrop of growing maritime insecurity and disruptions to shipping routes in several parts of the world, which have increased transportation costs, affected supply chains and created additional vulnerabilities for economies dependent on international trade. Modi said BRICS should work towards building a "secured seafarers network", reinforcing the need for coordinated international action to ensure the safety of maritime workers and the uninterrupted movement of goods.

He also highlighted innovation and resilience as key requirements for the global economy, arguing that BRICS nations were rapidly emerging as important centres of innovation, resilient value chains and inclusive growth. The grouping, he said, should use its collective economic and technological strengths to create practical partnerships, strengthen supply chains and promote inclusive development.

The emphasis on resilience assumes added importance amid geopolitical tensions, trade barriers and disruptions to global supply networks. Modi urged BRICS members to remain united and ensure that the benefits of cooperation reach all sections of society and all participating countries. The objective, he suggested, should not be to create a new hierarchy within the grouping but to build a broader platform for partnership. In a reference to inequalities embedded in the existing global system, Modi argued that the "pyramid of privilege" should give way to a platform where partners have a meaningful voice and role in global policymaking.

His remarks placed India's BRICS presidency firmly within New Delhi's broader diplomatic push for greater representation for the Global South in international institutions. India has consistently argued that the UN Security Council's permanent membership structure, designed in the aftermath of World War II, does not adequately represent the contemporary distribution of economic and political power. The 18th BRICS Summit, being held in New Delhi on September 12 and 13, marks the fourth time India is hosting the grouping after its presidencies in 2012, 2016 and 2021.

India assumed the BRICS chairship on January 1, 2026, with the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" and has placed "Humanity First" at the centre of its presidency. The summit also comes 20 years after the emergence of BRICS as a formal grouping and at a time when its membership and global footprint have expanded significantly. The grouping now brings together 11 member countries and has also developed a wider circle of partner nations. Against this backdrop, Modi sought to present BRICS as a platform capable of bridging differences among developing and emerging economies while advocating reforms in the international system.

He said the challenges confronting the world could not be addressed through fragmented approaches and called for collective action, greater cooperation and renewed faith in multilateralism. The Prime Minister's opening remarks thus combined a call for institutional reform with an

appeal for unity within BRICS, arguing that innovation, resilience and inclusive growth must accompany changes in global governance.

"Want to take all together, stay united," was the underlying message of his address as he urged the grouping to speak with a stronger and more coordinated voice on issues affecting the Global South. With the summit bringing together leaders from major emerging economies as well as representatives of partner countries, Modi's intervention sought to establish a broad agenda for BRICS: faster reform of global institutions, greater representation for developing nations, protection of maritime security, stronger economic resilience, technological innovation and a continued commitment to dialogue and diplomacy.

The Prime Minister's opening message was ultimately aimed at positioning BRICS not simply as an economic grouping, but as an increasingly influential platform for shaping the rules of a changing international order—one that India believes must move from a "pyramid of privilege" towards a more inclusive partnership-based system.

PM Package Employees

"For the last 16 years, we have been making a sincere but extremely difficult effort to resettle ourselves in Kashmir and rebuild our lives in our homeland. We returned with hope, courage and faith in the Government of India and made every possible effort to live peacefully, work honestly and become part of the social fabric of the Valley once again. However, since 2021, the targeted killings of civilians and members of the Kashmiri Hindu community have created a deep sense of fear among our families. Every such incident revives the painful memories of the 1990s and raises a genuine concern that Kashmiri Hindus may once again be forced into displacement from their homeland," the letter read.

The forum said that while the situation may appear normal on the surface, "at the grassroots level, a sense of uneasiness and tension continues to exist", with many families remaining concerned about their safety and the future of their children.

It particularly highlighted what it described as a recent increase in threatening letters and intimidation directed towards Kashmiri Hindus and PM Package employees.

"These developments cannot be viewed in isolation. We remember that during the 1990s, threatening letters and notices were among the early warning signs that created fear among Kashmiri Hindu families and contributed to the atmosphere that ultimately resulted in their mass displacement," the letter read.

"Today, when the Government of India is taking steps to provide secure accommodation to PM Package employees at different locations in Kashmir, the re-emergence of such threatening communications is particularly alarming. The recent communication carrying threats against Kashmiri Hindus and references to their residential settlements has caused considerable anxiety among employees and their families," it added.

The employees' body also referred to recent government initiatives concerning migrant properties and encroachments, including the collection and verification of property details through government portals. It said the developments had added to apprehensions among some displaced families regarding their safety and property rights.

At the same time, the forum clarified that its concerns were not directed against any community, stressing that its demands were centred on security, dignity, justice and the right to live peacefully in Kashmir.

The forum sought a thorough investigation into recent threatening communications and strict legal action against those found responsible for issuing threats, intimidation or inciting violence. It also called for stronger intelligence gathering and preventive security measures around PM Package employees, their families and residential colonies.

Among other demands, the forum sought a comprehensive security review of PM Package accommodations and settlements, an effective mechanism for employees to report threats and receive timely protection, and close monitoring of any emerging pattern of targeted intimidation.

It further urged the authorities to ensure that employees were not forced to choose between their livelihood and personal safety and sought protection of the legitimate property rights of displaced Kashmiri Hindus through a transparent and legally sound process.

"We do not want another displacement. We want to stay in Kashmir, work here and live here with dignity and security," the forum said.

The employees' body expressed faith in the Government of India's commitment towards the rehabilitation and security of Kashmiri Hindus and urged the authorities to issue appropriate directions to the concerned civil and security agencies before, it said, the prevailing atmosphere of fear develops into another humanitarian crisis.

About 6000 Pandit employees are working under the PM package in Kashmir and stay in transit camps under security cover.

Nadda Hails

Hospital Palamaner, Area Hospital Aganampudi, Area Hospital Nandigama, Area Hospital Chirala, Area Hospital Araku, Area Hospital Narasaraopeta, Area Hospital Banaganapalli, Area Hospital Anaparthi, Area Hospital Tuni and Area Hospital Gudur. Shri Nadda said the facilities mark an important step towards strengthening public health preparedness and health-security architecture in Andhra Pradesh and across the country. Addressing the

gathering, Shri Nadda said the inauguration was "not simply an infrastructure inauguration, but an important step towards building a stronger health security architecture for Andhra Pradesh and the nation." He said Critical Care Blocks and Integrated Public Health Laboratories represent two essential dimensions of a resilient health system: "the capacity to save lives when a patient is critically ill, and the capacity to detect and respond to disease threats before they become major public health emergencies."

Recalling the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union Health Minister said the crisis demonstrated how quickly a health emergency can become an economic, social, livelihood and ultimately a national emergency. "COVID-19 taught us that health security is national security," Shri Nadda said. The pandemic also highlighted the need to ensure that health infrastructure can withstand emergencies without disrupting routine healthcare services.

Shri Nadda noted that during the pandemic, regular hospital infrastructure had to be converted into isolation and COVID-care facilities, affecting the delivery of several non-COVID essential health services. The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) was conceived against this background, with the objective of strengthening the health system's ability to respond to future pandemics and public health emergencies while ensuring continuity of routine healthcare.

"We can no longer think of hospitals only in terms of the number of beds," Shri Nadda said, adding that "a resilient health system must have critical-care capacity, oxygen and medical-gas systems, isolation facilities, trained manpower, laboratory capacity and the ability to detect outbreaks early while maintaining routine health services."

The Union Minister said PM-ABHIM represents a fundamental shift in India's approach to public health infrastructure. "The objective is not merely to build more facilities. It is to create a health system that is: prepared, connected, resilient and capable of responding to future health emergencies," he said.

Under PM-ABHIM, the Government of India has sanctioned 631 Critical Care Blocks across States and Union Territories, creating a nationwide network of critical-care capacity. For Andhra Pradesh, the Government of India has approved 1,271.80 crore for the five-year scheme period under four key components — Critical Care Blocks, Integrated Public Health Laboratories, Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and Rural Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Shri Nadda said this reflects the Government's comprehensive approach to strengthening healthcare from the community level to district and tertiary-care facilities.

Under PM-ABHIM, 24 Critical Care Blocks have been sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh, with an estimated investment of approximately 606 crore. These have been planned across Government Medical Colleges, District Hospitals and Area Hospitals. Emphasising the importance of timely access to advanced care, Shri Nadda said, "Critical care must be available close to the community."

Shri Nadda said that while CCBs strengthen the health system's capacity to respond to critically ill patients, Integrated Public Health Laboratories strengthen its ability to understand, detect and control disease. Under PM-ABHIM, 26 Integrated Public Health Laboratories have been sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh with an allocation of 32.50 crore. Civil works of all 26 IPHLs have been completed; 14 are already functional and the remaining 12 are ready for inauguration.

"The lesson from COVID-19 was very clear: We cannot fight a health emergency effectively if we cannot detect it early," Shri Nadda said. He described laboratory capacity as more than a diagnostic service, calling it "a component of national health security."

The Union Minister said the Government's vision under PM-ABHIM extends beyond tertiary hospitals and encompasses all levels of healthcare. At the grassroots level, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs bring comprehensive primary healthcare closer to communities. Strengthened PHCs and CHCs provide referral and secondary care, while Critical Care Blocks provide advanced emergency and intensive care at the district level and IPHLs provide diagnostic and surveillance capacity. "Together, these components create a continuum of care and public health preparedness," he said. He described this as an important change in India's health policy: "We are moving from a hospital-centric approach to a health-system approach."

Shri Nadda said the transformation of India's health sector must be seen in the context of the National Health Policy, 2017, which marked an important shift towards a preventive, promotive and comprehensive approach to healthcare. He said that prior to 2017, the focus was largely on preventive healthcare, while the approach thereafter has been to develop a strong linkage between preventive, primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare. "We have tried to develop a strong linkage between preventive, secondary and tertiary healthcare so that healthcare becomes comprehensive and people-centric," he said. He added that this approach has resulted in the creation of a more integrated healthcare framework, with simultaneous strengthening of primary and secondary healthcare and expansion of tertiary healthcare institutions.

Shri Nadda said more than 1.75 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been established across the country, bringing comprehensive primary healthcare closer to people's doorsteps. These centres provide a range of services including screening for diabetes and hypertension, antenatal check-ups, immunisation and other preventive

and promotive healthcare services. He said more than 42 crore people have been screened for diabetes and hypertension, over 36 crore for oral cancer, more than 17 crore women for breast cancer and over 9 crore women for cervical cancer. He also highlighted the introduction of the HPV vaccine as an important step towards strengthening preventive healthcare and protecting future generations from cervical cancer.

The Union Health Minister also highlighted the strengthening of India's immunisation programme through digital technology. He said 12 vaccines are administered from birth up to the age of 16 years, with vaccination records being digitally tracked through U-WIN. The platform enables digital recording of vaccinations and helps ensure that children and pregnant women receive their due vaccines on time. Shri Nadda praised Andhra Pradesh for its strong performance in immunisation and said the State has done very well under Mission Indradhanush, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring high vaccination coverage.

Highlighting the broader outcomes of India's health-system transformation, Shri Nadda said institutional deliveries have reached over 90 per cent in 2023-24. He noted that India's maternal mortality ratio has declined by 86 per cent, compared to a global decline of 48 per cent, while under-five mortality has declined by 79 per cent compared to a global decline of 61 per cent. Neonatal mortality has declined by 70 per cent, against a global decline of 54 per cent. He further noted that, according to the WHO 2025 report, India's TB incidence has declined by 25 per cent compared to a global decline of 12 per cent, while treatment coverage for TB has crossed 90 per cent. Shri Nadda said the decline in out-of-pocket expenditure to 43.4 per cent is also an important indicator of the increasing financial protection being provided to citizens. He added that the country's health infrastructure has expanded significantly, with 16 new AIIMS being established in a span of just 12 years, taking the total number of AIIMS in the country to 23.

Shri Nadda also praised Andhra Pradesh's Sanjeevani programme for taking healthcare to people's doorsteps and facilitating testing for 41 health parameters. He appreciated the State's innovative approach to bringing screening and healthcare services closer to communities and said that such initiatives provide valuable models for strengthening primary healthcare. He expressed interest in examining the potential of replicating the Sanjeevani model at the national level.

Div Comm

today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) across Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Director, Department of Skill Development; Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Division; Director, Airport Authority of India; and senior officers from NHPC, BEACON, KPDCL, Industries & Commerce, Excise and other concerned departments and agencies.

During the meeting, Director Skill Development, Dr. Owais Ahmad, gave a detailed presentation on the contours of the NAPS, covering eligibility criteria, benefits, registration of establishments, trades covered, registration of apprentices, training components, and the potential for engagement by Central and State PSUs, Corporations and

Banks.

It was informed that NAPS aims to enhance apprenticeship engagement, support establishments, and promote skilling across 12 strategic domains comprising 261 designated trades, by organizing specialized vocational training into structured industrial pipelines.

Addressing the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner stated that department-wise targets have already been fixed to enhance workforce engagement under the scheme.

He urged all departments, PSUs, MSMEs and contracting agencies to register their establishments on the NAPS portal and engage apprentices in the prescribed band of 2.5% to 15% of their total workforce.

He further instructed corporations and executing agencies to ensure project-wise registration on the portal.

The Divisional Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioners to facilitate registration of apprentices from colleges and schools and to monitor progress on a daily basis.

To ensure effective coordination, the Divisional Commissioner appointed Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Zahoore Ahmad Magray, as the Divisional Nodal Officer for NAPS to facilitate inter-departmental coordination and achievement of targets.

Emphasizing time-bound achievement, the Divisional Commissioner said there is no scope for slippage as goalposts have been clearly defined, and called upon all officers to make concerted efforts to surpass the assigned targets within the stipulated timeframe.

Darakhshan Andrabi

talent in a competitive environment.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Andrabi said the transformation of the sports sector in Jammu and Kashmir was a matter of pride, crediting the Khelo India programme for giving a major boost to sports infrastructure and activities in the region.

She said J&K youth were increasingly excelling at national and international levels, particularly in cricket, with several young cricketers making their mark nationally, including in the Indian Premier League.

Dr Andrabi said grassroots-level sporting events were important for identifying and nurturing young talent and keeping youth away from the drug menace. She expressed hope that the tournament would encourage more youngsters to pursue cricket and other sports.

Mohamad Rafeeq Abdullah, Chief Organiser of the League, Academic Dr Aijaz Ashraf, Assistant Superintendent of Police Dr Rameez Raja, BJP Co-Convenor Khalid Rathore and Umer Jan were present at the inaugural event.

Later, Dr Andrabi paid obeisance at Ziyarat-e-Sheikh-ul-Aalam (RA) at Chrar-e-Sharif and reviewed the ongoing construction works at the shrine.

Waqf Board Administrator Mohammad Amin Dar and members of the engineering team, including Executive Engineer Er Qazi Mushtaq, In-Charge Officer Er Rehmat Ullah Bhat, Assistant Engineer Er Ghulam-e-Murtaza and Er Javed Wani, accompanied her during the visit.

Dr Andrabi directed the concerned officers to ensure completion of the ongoing works within the stipulated timeframe. (KNS)

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Speaker directs accelerated execution of new Legislative Assembly Complex, stresses adherence to October 2027 deadline

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today visited the new Legislative Assembly Complex and reviewed the progress of ongoing works, taking detailed stock of the physical and infrastructural development achieved so far.

During the visit, the concerned officers briefed the Speaker about the status of various components of the prestigious project, including the works completed, those nearing completion and the activities presently in progress. A detailed assessment was also made of the works pending and the pace of execution of different components.

It was informed that several important works have already been completed in full. These include internal plumbing, granite work on service stairs, door and window frames, and plastering, which have achieved 100 per cent completion. The Speaker was further apprised that work on other components of the project is also progressing at a brisk pace and is presently in full



swing.

Taking note of the progress achieved, Speaker Rather emphasised that the New Assembly Complex is a prestigious and important institutional project, which is expected to provide modern and comprehensive facilities for the effective functioning of the Legislature. He underscored the need for maintaining sustained momentum in the execution of the project so that all components are completed within the prescribed timeframe.

The Speaker directed the concerned officers and executing

agencies to expedite the pace of work and gear up men and machinery to ensure timely completion of the remaining components. He called for close and continuous monitoring of the progress at every stage and directed that any bottlenecks affecting the pace of execution be identified and resolved promptly.

Speaker Rather stressed that the stipulated timeline for completion of the project must be adhered to in letter and spirit. He directed the concerned agencies to put in place an effective execution and monitoring mechanism so that the remaining

works are taken up simultaneously, wherever feasible, without compromising on the quality and prescribed standards.

Later, during the review meeting, the Speaker specifically directed that the entire project be completed within the stipulated deadline of October 2027, stating that timely completion of the New Assembly Complex should remain a priority for all concerned.

He further called upon the executing agencies to ensure effective coordination and sustained supervision of the works, with particular emphasis on quality, workmanship and adherence to approved specifications and timelines.

The Speaker reiterated that the New Assembly Complex carries significant institutional importance and expressed the expectation that concerted efforts by all stakeholders would ensure its timely completion and operationalisation as planned.

Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit besides CE Mechanical, SER&B and others senior officers from concerned departments were present in the meeting.

Later, Speaker Rather convened

a meeting with the Director Estates and officers of the concerned departments to review the preparedness of the Old Assembly Complex and associated facilities ahead of the Darbar Move.

During the meeting, the Speaker took stock of the overall condition of the premises and directed the concerned authorities to undertake necessary repairs, renovation and maintenance works wherever required well before the Darbar Move, so that the complex remains fully functional and adequately equipped for the ensuing legislative requirements.

Speaker also directed the officers to keep in view the ongoing implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project while undertaking repairs, renovation and other works in the Old Assembly Complex.

He emphasised that the infrastructure and facilities required for the effective implementation of the NeVA system must be adequately planned and maintained so that the transition to technology-enabled legislative functioning takes place smoothly.

Anil Kumar inspects Transit accommodation at Kulangam, reviews development works

HT News Network



KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 12: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Public Works (R&B) Department, Anil Kumar Singh, today conducted an on-site inspection of the Transit Accommodation at Kulangam and reviewed the ongoing development works being executed in the area.

The ACS was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Shrikant Suse and officers of the concerned departments and executing agencies.

During the inspection, Anil Kumar took a detailed assessment of the ongoing works and reviewed the progress of various developmental projects at the Transit Accommodation. The concerned officers briefed him about the status of the works, execution timelines and the facilities being provided to the residents.

The ACS appreciated the quality and overall execution of the works there, describing it as one of the best-developed migrant colonies in Kashmir. He directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to ensure that all the remaining buildings are completed in a similar manner, maintaining the same standards of quality, planning and aesthetics. He stressed upon the need for proper plantation, landscaping and development of small parks and green spaces within the colony to further enhance its overall appearance and provide a pleasant and healthy environment for the residents.

He directed the officers to maintain close coordination and ensure that all necessary civic and basic facilities are made available at the Transit Accommodation at the earliest. He reiterated the administration's commitment towards timely completion of development projects and provision of better facilities and a conducive living environment to the residents.

Div Com reviews removal of bottlenecks for Srinagar Ring Road Phase-II, II-A

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review the clearance of impediments for Srinagar Ring Road (SRR) Phase-II and II-A to expedite the completion of the project.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, SSP Traffic Rural, Project Director NHAI, and officers from R&B, PHE and KPDC. On the occasion, officers of NHAI gave a detailed presentation on the project, highlighting the impediments faced by the executing agency, including land acquisition status, compensation disbursed, demolition of Government and private structures, shifting/alteration of establishment structures, utility shifting, court cases and tree felling. During the meeting, the Div Com directed the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal to depute a joint team comprising ADC Ganderbal, Tehsildar, NHAI and the contractor.

Div Com Kashmir reviews implementation of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) across Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Director, Department of Skill Development; Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Division; Director, Airport Authority of India; and senior officers from NHPC, BEACON, KPDC, Industries & Commerce, Excise and other concerned departments and agencies.

During the meeting, Director Skill Development, Dr. Owais Ahmad, gave a detailed presentation on the contours of the NAPS, covering eligibility criteria, benefits, registration of establishments, trades covered, registration of apprentices, training



components, and the potential for engagement by Central and State PSUs, Corporations and Banks.

It was informed that NAPS aims to enhance apprenticeship engagement, support establishments, and promote skilling across 12 strategic domains comprising 261 designated trades, by organizing specialized vocational training into structured industrial pipelines. Addressing the meeting, the Divisional

Commissioner stated that department-wise targets have already been fixed to enhance workforce engagement under the scheme. He urged all departments, PSUs, MSMEs and contracting agencies to register their establishments on the NAPS portal and engage apprentices in the prescribed band of 2.5% to 15% of their total workforce. He further instructed corporations and executing agencies to ensure project-wise registration on the portal.

DC Kulgam chairs awareness program on National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: An awareness program under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was held today at Kulgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam.

The awareness program was organised to sensitize local construction firms and contractors about the scheme's benefits and implementation framework.

Superintendent ITI Kulgam

gave a comprehensive briefing on the NAPS scheme, highlighting the critical role, the construction establishments play in onboarding apprentices to bridge the local skill gap.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that registration on the NAPS portal is mandatory for all eligible establishments and urged contractors and construction firms to actively engage for nourishing industry-ready talent. He called upon local firms to register promptly, noting that industry

participation in apprenticeship programs directly enhances the district's skilled manpower pool. During the program, a detailed presentation was delivered to guide participants through the step-by-step registration process on the NAPS portal for both establishments and aspiring students/trainees. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A where officials addressed queries from contractors regarding portal navigation, stipends, and engagement guidelines.

DC Bandipora reviews NAPS Implementation

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting to review the status of implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) in the district and deliberate on measures for ensuring registration of eligible establishments on the NAPS portal. The meeting focused on expediting registration of eligible establishments, particularly major establishments, contractors, vendors, hotels, private institutions and other organisations, besides ensuring greater apprenticeship opportunities for local youth. The DC directed all concerned officers to undertake establishment-wise mapping in their respective areas and ensure timely registration of eligible establishments on the NAPS portal. She stressed close coordination among departments.

DC Budgam review progress of ongoing works at Campus site Rakh Arath Bemina

HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with Director Kashmir Campus, University of Jammu, Dr. Guneet Singh Sudan today visited Kashmir Campus at Rakh Arath, Bemina, to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure works.

During visit, the Deputy Commissioner instructed expediting work on the installation of High Tension (HT) line to ensure power connectivity to the campus at the earliest.

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department was directed to extend water supply to the campus on priority.

Besides, other works, the Deputy Commissioner asserted on speedy construction of approach road for easy accessibility.

During inspection, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of the boundary wall, protective fencing and prefabricated structures, including the mini-office and Chowkidar room. He directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to work in coordination,



maintain the required quality standards and complete the remaining works within the prescribed timelines.

The DC said that timely completion of the ongoing works is important for making the campus functional and accessible.

Among others, Director, University of Jammu, Joint Director Planning Budgam, Tehsildar Budgam, Executive Engineer R&B and representatives of the concerned departments were present.

Chief Justice inaugurates 3rd National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex Srinagar Says "Lok Adalats promotes amicable dispute resolution, access to Justice for all"

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: In a significant stride towards delivering timely and amicable justice, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, successfully organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026 at the District Court Complex Mominabad, Srinagar and Court of the Additional Special Mobile Magistrate/JMIC Pantha chowk.

The National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Dr. Pushpendra Singh Bhati Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) in presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by M.K Sharma Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairman, DLSA Srinagar, along

with Secretary, DLSA Srinagar and other Judicial Officers of District Court Complex Srinagar.

Moreover, ceremonial Guard of Honour was presented by the Jammu & Kashmir Police, marking a dignified and respectful beginning to the proceedings. Following the guard of honour, a Chinara sapling and a yellow maple sapling was planted by the Chief Guest and Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority, within the court premises, as a gesture towards environmental protection and promotion of a greener and cleaner environment.

The dignitaries visited and observed the functioning of various benches at the District Court Srinagar, offering encouragement to litigants and reinforcing the ethos of participatory justice.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice emphasized the transformative role of Lok Adalats in the justice delivery system, stated "Lok Adalat is not just a mechanism for resolving disputes, it is a platform that creates a win-win situation for all parties



involved. It saves time, reduces litigation costs, and fosters goodwill. I encourage the public to actively participate in this initiative for peaceful, timely, and amicable settlements. Justice through Lok Adalats strengthens the very foundation of participatory

and compassionate justice."

The Lok Adalat received an enthusiastic response from litigants, a testament to the growing public trust in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. A wide range of cases, including civil matters, matrimonial disputes,

criminal compoundable offences, bank recoveries and pre-litigation issues were taken up, with a significant number being resolved on the spot.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, 11 benches were constituted in the district. The Bench where MACT claims were settled was presided over by Mr. Farooq Ahmad Bhat (Add. District & Sessions Judge Sgr) and Mr. Dinesh Gupta 3rd Add. District & Sessions Judge Sgr) in which 85 cases were taken, out of which, 33 cases were amicably settled and Rs 6,72,35,000 were awarded as settlement amount and cheques amounting Rs 3,42,45,000 were on-spot distributed among the claimants by the Chief Justice in presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority), Haq Nawaz Zargar Principal District & Sessions Judge Srinagar, Ms. Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and other I.D. Judicial Officers of District Court Srinagar.

Javid Dar inaugurates Fashion Designing Centre at GDC Hadipora; terms skill education essential for youth empowerment

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 12: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated a Fashion Designing Centre for cutting, tailoring and sozni work at Government Degree College Hadipora, Rafiabab, here.

The initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening the skill-based education and creating avenues for vocational training, self-employment and livelihood generation among students and local youth.

The newly established centre will provide practical training in cutting, tailoring, fashion designing and traditional Sozni embroidery, enabling participants to acquire market-oriented skills and explore opportunities in entrepreneurship and income generation.

The initiative is expected to particularly



benefit young women by equipping them with employable skills, fostering self-reliance and encouraging their participation in

economic activities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized the importance of skill-based

education in enhancing employability and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the younger generation. He said that educational institutions have a crucial role in preparing students not only for academic pursuits but also for the changing demands of the employment and entrepreneurial landscape.

The Minister stressed the need to promote vocational training alongside formal education so that students can develop practical expertise, build confidence and pursue self-employment opportunities.

Highlighting the importance of traditional crafts, Javid Dar said that initiatives promoting Sozni embroidery can help preserve the region's rich cultural heritage while creating new avenues of livelihood for skilled artisans and aspiring entrepreneurs. He appreciated the college administration for establishing the centre and encouraged the students and local youth to make the best use of the facilities being provided.

Mission Shakti Budgam organizes Awareness Programme on Cyber Safety, POCSO Act

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 12:

Safety Commando, Cyber Police Station, Budgam. He sensitized the participants about various cyber threats, safe use



SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Budgam, under the guidance of DSWO Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, today organized an awareness programme on Cyber Safety and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, at Spring Buds Higher Secondary School, Ompora, Budgam. The programme aimed to sensitize students and participants about online safety, responsible use of digital platforms, and the legal safeguards available for the protection of children.

During the programme, an awareness session on Cyber Safety was conducted by Raies Ahmad, Cyber

of social media and digital platforms, protection of personal information, online fraud, cyberbullying, and the importance of reporting suspicious online activities to the appropriate authorities.

The participants were also apprised of the key provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012 by Advocate Yawar Ahmad, Assistant LADS, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam. He explained the legal provisions relating to the protection of children from sexual offences and emphasized the importance of awareness, timely reporting, confidentiality, and the role of parents, teachers.

SWD Srinagar organizes Anemia Health Camp under BBBP

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: The Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, through the office of the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Khanyar, organised an Anemia Health Camp in Zone Boud Dal, Srinagar, with the objective of promoting awareness and early detection of anemia among the community. A dedicated health team from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Srinagar's office visited the camp and conducted anemia screening tests among the beneficiaries. The health team also provided necessary medicines to those requiring treatment, on the spot. During the camp,

participants were sensitised about the causes, symptoms and preventive measures related to anemia. Special emphasis was laid on maintaining a nutritious and balanced diet, consuming iron-rich foods and undertaking regular health check-ups for timely detection and management of anemia. The initiative reflects the Department of Social Welfare's continued efforts to strengthen community-level health and nutrition interventions and improve the overall well-being of women and children in the district. Officials from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, along with the health team, actively participated in the camp and extended necessary guidance and support to the beneficiaries.

Traditional Rouf Dance Captivates Visitors at Nishat Garden

GULFAM BARJI

Srinagar/September: 12 As part of the ongoing International Film Festival J&K "IFFJK" a series of cultural programmes are being organised at various tourist and heritage destinations across the Kashmir Valley. As part of these celebrations a vibrant cultural programme was organised at the historic Nishat Garden in Srinagar, where artists associated with the Nishat Foundation and Cultural Group "NFCG" presented the traditional Kashmiri Rouf dance captivating the audience and visitors. The programme was organised by the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages under the banner of the



International Film Festival J&K "IFFJK" During the programme, artists of the "NFCG" presented traditional Rouf dance to the accompaniment of Kashmiri folk music. Their graceful and well-coordinated performance beautifully reflected the rich cultural traditions and artistic heritage of Kashmir. The performance added a

vibrant cultural dimension to the picturesque surroundings of Nishat Garden. Local as well as tourists from outside J&K watched the programme with keen interest and appreciated the artists for their impressive presentation. Through the programme, the artists showcased the beauty of Kashmiri culture.

3rd National Lok Adalat held at District Anantnag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 12: Under the directions of Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Patron in Chief J&KLSA and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, 3rd National Lok Adalat was organized today, in District Court Complex Anantnag and Taluka Courts of District Anantnag.

The National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Masarat Roohi Incharge Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairperson District Legal Services Authority), Anantnag, at District Court Complex Anantnag.

Each Court had identified cases

for Lok Adalat beforehand and same were placed before eight different benches constituted by DLSA Anantnag for their settlement in National Lok Adalat. The first Bench comprised of Masarat Roohi, I/C Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge Anantnag and Adv. Raja Mohammad Maqbool, while the second Bench comprised of Sajad Ur Rehman, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Anantnag and Ahtzaz Ahmed, Principal Magistrate JJB, Anantnag. The third Bench comprised of Lubna Sultan, Special Mobile Magistrate, Anantnag and Anuraj Khajuria, District Mobile Magistrate, Anantnag. The fourth Bench comprised of Rajeev Kumar Tedyal, Sub Judge Bijbehara and Advocate Imam Khurshid Ahmad Shah.

Apprenticeship Mela held at Govt Polytechnic Reasi to boost youth employability, NAPS 2.0 enrollment

■ HT News Network

REASI, SEPTEMBER 12: In a major push toward youth empowerment and skill development, a grand Apprenticeship Mela was successfully organized today at the Government Polytechnic Reasi, in active collaboration with the Industrial Training Institute (ITI).

The event witnessed an overwhelming response, drawing more than 500 aspiring candidates from across the region looking to kickstart their professional careers.

The primary objective of the Mela was to bridge the gap between local youth and the industry, bridging technical education with real-world employment opportunities. A central focus of the event was raising awareness about the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) 2.0, ensuring students know how to leverage government platforms for career growth. To facilitate



candidates to seamlessly navigate the regulatory onboarding, a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the NAPS 2.0 registration process was showcased. The step-by-step visual guide walked the students through profile creation, document verification and applying for active apprenticeships online.

The Mela provided a vibrant networking ground, featuring active participation from leading public and private establishments. Top employers

present at the venue to interact with candidates were NHPC, Creative Engineers, Great Elegants, Madan Electrical etc. The event concluded on a high note, with organizers reaffirming their commitment to hosting similar career-oriented drives in the future to continuously support the local student community.

The event was graced by ADDC Krishan Lal, who urged the youth to avail the benefits of such interactive industry platforms and register.

Awareness Programme on "Know Your Water" held at Oho Paisan Shangus for Students

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG SEPTEMBER 12: An educational and awareness programme under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), titled "Know Your Water," was organised at Oho Paisan, Shangus, for students by the Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara.

As part of the programme, students were taken on an exposure visit to the Water Treatment Plant at Oho Paisan, where they were familiarised with various stages involved in making water safe for consumption and supplying it to households.

The students were briefed about the source of raw water and the processes of treatment, filtration, disinfection, testing and distribution. The visit provided them an opportunity to understand how water travels from its natural source



through treatment infrastructure before reaching a household tap.

The programme aimed to create awareness among the younger generation about the importance of safe drinking water, water conservation and the achievements made under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Students thanked the Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara for organising the exposure tour. They said the visit helped them understand the process of water treatment and made them realise the importance of preserving and conserving water

for future generations. The programme also provided them with an opportunity to learn about the efforts being made under the Jal Jeevan Mission to improve rural drinking-water infrastructure and provide functional household tap connections.

The students were also sensitised about the need to prevent water wastage, protect water sources and use drinking water responsibly.

The programme highlighted that a water treatment plant is more than just infrastructure, as the

journey involves source collection, treatment, filtration, disinfection, quality testing and distribution before water reaches the household tap. The initiative also sought to familiarise students with the broader social impact of improved rural water supply. Under JJM, the shift from fetching water over long distances to accessing water through household taps has the potential to save time, improve convenience and contribute to better health, hygiene and quality of life.

The programme emphasised that the sustainability of water systems depends not only on infrastructure but also on community participation and responsible water management.

Students were encouraged to protect water sources, prevent pollution, avoid wastage, report leakages and make conservation a part of their daily lives.

DLSA Budgam facilitates amicable settlement of 260 Cases in 3rd National Lok Adalat

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: Under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (J&KLSA), District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam successfully organized 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026 at the District Court Complex Budgam and at the Taluka Courts across the district today.

The National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by O.P. Baghat, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, in the presence of Judicial Officers posted at the District Headquarters, members of the Bar, panel advocates, staff of DLSA Budgam and other stakeholders.

The Lok Adalat was conducted under the overall supervision of the Chairman and under the guidance of Tabassum Qadir Parry,

Secretary DLSA Budgam with the objective of providing litigants with an effective, expeditious and accessible mechanism for resolution of disputes through mutual settlement and compromise.

For ensuring smooth and effective disposal of cases matters amenable to settlement were identified in advance by the respective courts and placed before seven dedicated Lok Adalat Benches constituted by DLSA Budgam.

The Lok Adalat provided a comprehensive forum for settlement of a wide range of disputes, including civil disputes, compoundable criminal cases, cheque bounce cases, bank recovery matters, Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) claims, land compensation matters, matrimonial and family disputes, pre-litigation matters, social welfare disputes, labour disputes, revenue matters, BSNL-related issues,



municipal matters and cases

concerning various government

schemes, besides other matters

amenable to settlement in accordance with law.

During the Lok Adalat, a total of 439 cases were taken up before the seven benches, out of which 260 cases were amicably settled through mutual consent and compromise.

A total settlement amount of 24036591 was awarded/realized by way of compensation, recovery and settlement during the Lok Adalat.

The successful conduct of the National Lok Adalat reflects the continued commitment of DLSA Budgam towards strengthening access to justice and providing a people-centric platform for amicable resolution of disputes. Lok Adalats provide litigants with an opportunity to resolve disputes in a less formal, expeditious and cost-effective manner while also reducing the burden of prolonged litigation on

the parties as well as the courts.

DLSA Budgam has been consistently undertaking various legal services and awareness initiatives aimed at ensuring that no person is denied access to justice on account of economic or other disabilities. Through its legal aid machinery, awareness programmes, counselling initiatives, legal literacy activities, pre-litigation intervention and Lok Adalats, DLSA Budgam endeavours to bring legal services closer to the people, particularly those who require assistance in accessing the justice delivery system.

The successful disposal of the cases during the 3rd National Lok Adalat 2026 is a significant step towards the objective of "Access to Justice for All" and reaffirms the commitment of DLSA Budgam to facilitating speedy, affordable and amicable resolution of disputes.

HT EDITORIAL

Drugs Are Stealing Our Future-The Fight Must Begin Before Addiction Takes Hold

The arrest of people associated with drug menace every now and then following the recovery of banned substances is a welcome step in the continuing battle against the drug menace, but it also serves as a stark reminder of a much larger social crisis confronting Jammu and Kashmir. Just today according to police, the three individuals were intercepted during naka checking and 3 grams of heroin-like substance and 13.94 grams of cannabis-like substance were recovered from their possession. Their arrest, seizure of the vehicle allegedly used in the offence and registration of a case under relevant provisions of law demonstrate that enforcement agencies are acting against those involved in drug-related activities. Yet, the real measure of success will be whether such action succeeds in disrupting the wider supply chain and preventing narcotics from reaching vulnerable sections of society, particularly the younger generation.

The drug problem cannot be reduced to statistics relating to arrests, seizures and registered cases. Behind every case of addiction there is often a broken family, an interrupted education, a lost career and a young life gradually moving away from its potential. What makes the situation particularly alarming is the ease with which addictive substances can find their way into communities. The availability of drugs, combined with curiosity, peer pressure, unemployment, frustration and a lack of awareness, can push vulnerable youngsters towards experimentation and eventually dependency.

This is why the fight against drugs must be approached on multiple fronts. Strong and sustained policing is indispensable. Those who manufacture, transport, distribute and profit from narcotics must face decisive legal action. Investigations should not end with the arrest of individuals found carrying small quantities. The larger networks, financiers, suppliers and channels through which drugs enter and circulate in the region must also be identified and dismantled. Intelligence-led policing and close coordination among enforcement agencies can play a vital role in achieving this objective.

At the same time, society cannot police its way out of addiction. Families, schools, colleges, religious institutions, community organisations and civil society must become active partners in prevention. Young people need credible awareness programmes that explain the physical, psychological, social and economic consequences of drug abuse. Parents and teachers should be encouraged to recognise early warning signs and guide vulnerable youngsters towards professional help rather than allowing stigma and silence to deepen the problem.

There is also an urgent need to strengthen rehabilitation and counselling facilities. A person battling addiction should be seen not only as someone who requires legal accountability where an offence has been committed, but also as someone who may need medical treatment, psychological support and an opportunity to rebuild life. Effective rehabilitation, followed by social and economic reintegration, can prevent recovering individuals from falling back into the same cycle.

The administration and police deserve public support for taking firm action against the drug trade, but the responsibility cannot rest with them alone. Communities must refuse to provide social space or protection to those who facilitate the narcotics business. Information about suspicious activity should be reported to the authorities, while schools and local institutions should create safe environments where young people can seek help without fear or humiliation.

The message must be unequivocal: there can be no normalisation of drugs in our society. Every consignment stopped, every supply chain dismantled and every young person kept away from addiction is a victory worth pursuing. But the ultimate goal should be bigger than arrests and seizures. It should be to create a society in which drugs find neither a market nor a social acceptance.

The action in Tral should therefore be treated as a reminder of the urgency of the challenge. The battle against drugs is a battle for the future of our youth, the stability of our families and the health of our society. It requires firm enforcement, effective rehabilitation, public awareness and collective vigilance. The time to act is not after another generation is lost—it is now.



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

The 2026 BRICS Summit in New Delhi is more than another diplomatic gathering. It is a powerful demonstration of India's changing position in the international system. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosts the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12-13, New Delhi is sending a clear message to Washington: India seeks partnership with America, but it will not accept a world in which strategic choices are dictated by any single power. India wants an international order in which the Global South has a larger voice, emerging economies have greater economic space, and national interests remain central to foreign policy. The message is loud precisely because it is not an anti-American message. India is not walking away from the United States. On the contrary, the India-US relationship remains strategically important. But New Delhi is demonstrating that its relationship with Washington exists alongside, rather than instead of, India's partnerships

with Russia, China, the Gulf countries, Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. This distinction is fundamental to understanding the significance of BRICS 2026. India's BRICS presidency comes at a particularly important moment. The grouping now has 11 full members—Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Together, these members account for about 49.5 percent of the world's population, around 40 percent of global GDP and approximately 26 percent of global trade. That is not a marginal economic grouping. It represents a substantial part of humanity and an increasingly important portion of global economic activity. India's presidency therefore gives New Delhi an opportunity to shape the conversation about the future of globalisation. The official Indian theme—"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"—is significant. It places development, technology, economic cooperation and sustainability at the centre of BRICS rather than presenting the organisation merely as an anti-Western political platform. This is perhaps India's first major message to America: BRICS should not automatically be interpreted as an enemy of the West. India has consistently maintained that its foreign policy is based on strategic autonomy. Strategic autonomy does not mean

isolation. It means maintaining the freedom to make independent decisions according to national interests. India can simultaneously deepen its partnership with the United States, maintain its historic relationship with Russia, engage China, expand economic relations with the Gulf and strengthen its role in Africa and the wider Global South. The presence of Russia and China within BRICS makes this approach particularly significant. Prime Minister Modi's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin immediately before the summit has once again demonstrated the durability of the India-Russia relationship. The two sides discussed energy, defence, trade and regional conflicts, while India and Russia are seeking to raise bilateral trade substantially in the coming years. For Washington, this is an important strategic reality. India cannot be expected to abandon relationships developed over decades simply because geopolitical competition has intensified between Washington and Moscow or Washington and Beijing. At the same time, India's BRICS diplomacy is not equivalent to accepting every Russian or Chinese position. India has repeatedly pursued its own approach to international crises, emphasizing dialogue, diplomacy and national sovereignty. At the BRICS business forum, Modi again stressed dialogue and diplomacy as the preferred

route for resolving conflicts.

The second message to America is therefore equally important: India is a partner, not an alliance-dependent state. This distinction has become especially relevant in the field of trade. The United States and India reached a framework for an interim trade agreement in February 2026. The framework included an 18 percent reciprocal US tariff rate on Indian-origin goods and substantial Indian commitments to reduce tariffs on American industrial, agricultural and other products. The two countries also agreed to work toward a broader bilateral trade agreement. This demonstrates that India and America have enormous economic complementarities. The United States is an important market for Indian goods and services, while India is an enormous and increasingly sophisticated market for American companies. But trade cannot be reduced to tariffs alone.

International Tagore Awardee
Formerly Affiliate Faculty Virginia Commonwealth University, Retd Head Post Graduate Dept of English Dum Dum Motijheel College, President Kolkata Indian American Society & multilingual International Poet cum Columnist for national Dailies

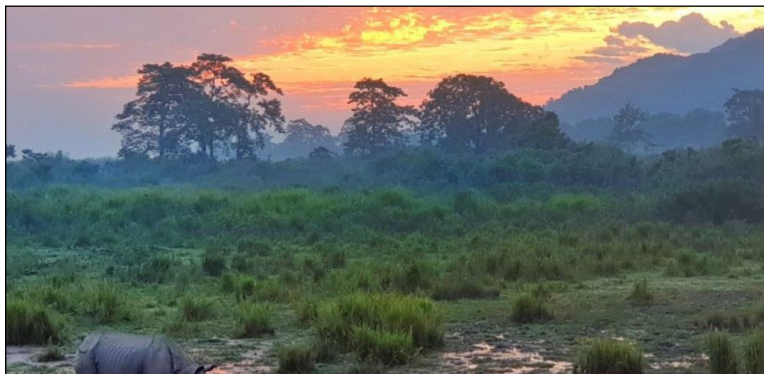
Forests need special attention from the society.



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Our society is quite vigilant and have great potential to bring revolution in every field like environment, sports, agriculture, horticulture, science and technology but some fields are necessary and we cannot live without their existence and some have options so it is our duty to keep our surroundings neat and clean and every bit related to environment never be ignored at any level. Today we are facing environmental threats like flash floods during the month of July. Jammu and Kashmir lost hundreds of lives due to flash floods, and we know flash floods cause floods and disturb our environment.

Nature has bestowed humanity with a great and luxurious carpet-like environment, and we humans are utterly selfish, and we have no idea where we are going. We are heading towards environmental destruction, like we are harming our environment. We are bad and selfish; we have polluted our environment, and still we have no idea. This is not fortuitous for our future that we selfish people drink alcohol in the lap of nature. Nature is not happy with us that we are making our



environment polluted, and we have no regret about what we have done and what we are giving to nature.

Recently I saw a post on Facebook where some selfish goons drank and the residue was thrown in the environment. This is never the best and most best option for the environment.

The forests of Kashmir are among the Valley's greatest natural treasures. They enhance its breathtaking beauty, regulate the climate, protect water resources, prevent soil erosion, and provide habitat for countless endemic and endangered species. Forests are not merely collections of trees; they are living ecosystems that sustain biodiversity and human life by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, conserving water, and maintaining ecological balance. They are nature's lifeline, supporting every form of life that depends upon them.

Kashmir is blessed with magnificent forests dominated by majestic coniferous trees such as deodar, kail, fir, spruce, and pine. These forests shelter diverse wildlife, including the endangered Hangul, Himalayan black bear, leopard, musk deer, red fox, Himalayan monal, kashmir pheasant, and numerous other birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects. Every tree, stream, and meadow forms part of a delicate ecological network that has evolved over thousands of years. Disturbing this balance can have consequences far beyond what is immediately visible.

Recently, a worrying trend has emerged across several forested areas of Kashmir. Many meadows and forest clearings have gradually been converted into informal cricket grounds, especially during weekends and holidays. While I wholeheartedly support cricket and

all other sports, I strongly believe that forests are not the appropriate places for such activities. Sports are essential for a healthy society, but they should. While sports are essential for a healthy society, they should take place in designated playgrounds and sports complexes instead of ecologically sensitive habitats. In designated playgrounds and sports complexes rather than in ecologically sensitive habitats.

Sports play a vital role in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, teamwork, discipline, and protecting our youth from drug abuse and other social evils. The government has invested significantly in developing sports infrastructure, and these efforts deserve appreciation. However, encouraging sports should never come at the cost of environmental degradation. Instead of allowing forests to become recreational playgrounds, authorities should continue establishing and improving sports facilities in towns, villages, and educational institutions where such activities can be conducted safely and sustainably.

On 4 July, while visiting Hajijan Branwar on a local picnic, I witnessed a large number of people playing cricket inside a forest area. The surroundings were littered with plastic bottles, disposable cups, snack wrappers, and other waste.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
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The Mahila Commando Conversion Course represents both a training milestone for the NSG and a broader effort to empower women



By M S Nazki

I was alone. Completely and abjectly alone. Maybe not in the physical sense, but certainly in my soul, where I was trapped by memories of what had been and dreams of what could've been! Everyone thinks that way ad women today are no different

-Me. That was why I didn't want to talk to people. You had to give up a part of yourself to do it, and I wasn't prepared to share my pain

-Humanity was free in the only way that truly mattered—humans had an implicit understanding that they could express their emotions however they pleased.....

-Organizational values are gauzy and assessed in terms of aspirations rather than actual behaviors that can be taught, measured, and evaluated...

-When something goes wrong, individuals and teams are rushing into ineffective or unsustainable solutions rather than staying with problem identification and solving. When we fix the wrong thing for the wrong reason, the same problems continue to surface. It's costly and demoralizing

-Too much shame and blame, not enough accountability and learning...

-The story which we got was something like this:

-A new chapter in women empowerment and nation-building at NSG. The Opening Address of the inaugural NSG Mahila Commando Conversion Course (MCCC-01) was delivered today at the NSG Training Academy by IG Training Academy Maj Gen Vikas Choudhary, AVSM, YSM. The historic 12-week course, which commenced on 24 August 2026, brings

together Mahila personnel for an intensive journey designed to build strength, resilience, tactical competence and leadership. The address reinforced NSG's vision of empowering and equipping the trainees through rigorous commando training—grooming them into confident, mission-ready national assets capable of leading from the front.

two persons, a cousin and a particular friend, members of the regiment, knew that I was a woman," Williams said, according to Army archives. "They were partly the cause of my joining the Army. Another reason was, I wanted to make my own living and not be dependent on relations or friends."

Documents show Williams served



-But before I come to the main story here are a few anecdotes:

-Women have blazed a trail of innovation and made military history. They have been fighting and sacrificing for this country much longer than you may think.

-Here are some pioneering women who forever changed the modern military landscape:

-Private Cathay Williams, aka William Cathay

-Post-Civil War

-Born a slave near Jefferson City, Missouri, Cathay Williams was the first known Black woman to serve in the United States Army --enlisting under the name "William Cathay" to hide the fact she was a woman. "The regiment I joined wore the Zouave uniform and only

alongside the men in her unit -- without being recognized as a woman -- until she contracted smallpox and became ill. The disease caused her to be in and out of military hospitals until it was discovered she was female and immediately discharged.

-Private Opha May Johnson

-World War I

-Opha May Johnson was the first woman to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. She joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1918 during World War I, officially becoming the first female Marine. Johnson, due to the good fortune of being first in line that day, was the first of over 300 women to enlist in the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve during World War I.

-According to 1918 newspaper articles, as well as the published history of female Marines in World War I, Johnson's first duties were as a clerk at Marine Corps headquarters, managing the records of other female reservists who joined after she did. On July 11, 1919, the American Legion granted a charter to the first post of women's Marine Corps reservists. Known as Belleau Wood Post No. 1, its membership consisted of 90 women who had worked at Headquarters Marine Corps. Johnson was a charter member of this post.

-Rear Adm. Grace Brewster Murray Hopper

-World War II, Korean War, Vietnam

-Known as "Amazing Grace," Commodore Hopper's importance in U.S. naval history is apparent everywhere you turn: a destroyer was named after her (USS Hopper, DDG-70), as was the Cray XE6 "Hopper" supercomputer. As founder of the COBOL programming language, a precursor to many of the software code approaches of today, her work is legendary among computer scientists and mathematicians.

In 1943, during World War II, she joined the United States Naval Reserves. She was assigned to the Bureau of Ordnance Computation Project. There, she became the third programmer of the world's first large-scale computer, called the Mark I. When she saw it, all she could think about was taking it apart and figuring it out. "That was an impressive beast. She was 51 feet long, eight feet high and five feet deep," Hopper said. She would subsequently master the Mark I, Mark II and Mark III computers. While trying to repair the Mark I, she discovered a moth caught in a relay. She taped the moth in the log book and, from that, coined the phrase "a bug in the computer." During her career, she also mastered the UNIVAC I, the first large-scale electronic computer, and created a program that translated symbolic math codes into machine language. This breakthrough allowed programmers to store codes on magnetic tape and recall them when they were needed -- essentially the first compiler.

Dr. Aziz Hajini - The Unbroken voice of Kashmiri Language

Remembering Dr. Aziz Hajini on his 5th death anniversary



Sheikh Ghulam Muhammad

"People often say "time dulcifies the grief", but I learned that time does not heal the loss of a dear one like Dr. Aziz Hajini, it simply teaches us how to carry the ache quietly." Hajin has given birth to some of the most prominent literary figures who have brought name and fame to this township, and among them Dr. Aziz Hajini stands like a uniquely shining star. Dr. Aziz Hajini was a multifaceted personality – a poet, writer, critic, researcher, translator, playwright, theatre expert, broadcaster, filmmaker, teacher, language activist, academic administrator, educationist, and above all, a good human being. In loving memory of Dr. Aziz Hajini, a powerful and influential literary icon, we mark the 5th death anniversary of this multifaceted personality. Hajini devoted his life to enriching and preserving the Kashmiri language, literature, and culture. Born on March 7, 1957, in Hajin, Dr. Aziz Hajini hailed from a zamindar family blessed with substantial land assets and other possessions, leading a contented and self-reliant life. His early education, from primary to secondary level, took place in his hometown of Hajin. He pursued his higher education at Government

Degree College Bemina, Srinagar, where he graduated with distinction. His dedication and excellence were evident when he became the first recipient of the Gold Medal in Kashmiri Studies from the University of Kashmir in 1979. He further distinguished himself by earning a Ph.D. in Kashmiri Studies from the same university. After serving for a period as a government teacher, he embarked on a new journey as a Lecturer in Kashmiri through JKPS (Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission) in 1992. Dr. Aziz Hajini's influence extended beyond the classroom; he played a pivotal role in the establishment and growth of the Cultural Educational Wing initiated by the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), which flourished under his leadership. Dr. Aziz Hajini served JKBOSE (Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education), first as an Academic Officer and later as Deputy Director Academics. During his deputation, Kashmiri textbooks from Grade 1 to Grade 10 were revised or prepared afresh. He also served as Assistant Professor at the Centre for Shaikh-ul-Aalam Studies at the University of Kashmir. Lastly, Dr. Aziz Hajini was appointed Secretary of JKAACL (Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages). Superannuation: March 2019. Dr. Aziz Hajini made a commendable contribution to the Adbi sector as a prolific writer in Kashmiri language and literature. For a long time, he served as: * President of Wahab Dramatic Club (now Wahab Cultural Society) * Media and General Secretary of HAS (Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari), Hajin * Media and General Secretary of AMK (Adbi Markaz Kamraz)



* Three-time elected President of AMK (Adbi Markaz Kamraz)
* Patron of AMK (Adbi Markaz Kamraz)
* Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi
Dr. Aziz Hajini authored a number of books in Kashmiri, Urdu, and English. Some of them include:

1. Me and My Animal
2. Aen-e-Khane
3. Asi Cha Puran Hamsayan Tal
4. Vitasta Ki Saer
5. Ze Gaz Zameen
6. Pantchahan Variyan Hund Kashur Adab
7. Paer Zaan
8. Noor-e-Nooran

9. Kashur Aqeedati Adab
10. Moulvi Sidiq-Ullah Hajini
11. Mir Ghulam Rasool Nazki
12. Monograph on Amin Kamil
Dr. Aziz Hajini received several prestigious awards and honours at State and National levels. A few are mentioned below:
1. Khalet-e-Hajini (2021) by Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari, Hajin
2. Sharf-e-Kamraz Award (2018) by Adbi Markaz Kamraz
3. Best Book Award for Aen-e-Khane (2015) by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi
4. Mir-e-Karwaan (2012) at the Karwani Adab Conference, Ganderbal
5. Khalet-e-Shaikh-ul-Aalam (2008) awarded by the Department of Information, J&K Government
6. Sharf-e-Saqafat (2004) by Sangar Stage Kashmir
Dr. Aziz Hajini devoted his life to enriching and preserving the Kashmiri language, literature, and culture, earning respect and recognition far beyond Jammu and Kashmir. Bottom Line Dr. Aziz Hajini was a powerful and influential literary icon, a prolific writer of Kashmiri language and literature, a legendary poet, and above all, a good human being. Dr. Aziz Hajini passed away on 12-09-2021 at his residence in Kursu Padshahibagh, Srinagar. May! his soul rest in heaven (Ameen).

Sheikh Ghulam Muhammad
Retd. DIET Principal
Former Principal, JK Sainik School, Manasbal
21C Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari, Hajin
Senior Member, Wahab Cultural Society, Hajin

Adbi Markaz Kamraz Marks 47th Annual Conference with a Grand Celebration of Kashmiri Language and Literary Heritage

Eminent scholars, writers and cultural luminaries converge to celebrate the richness of Kashmiri language, literature, spirituality and the timeless traditions of Kashmir's cultural legacy.

promotion and preservation of Kashmiri language and literature.

and works of scholars belonging to almost every school of thought while undertaking this enormous

and development.

Sheikh-ul-Alam and Lalla Ded: The Roots of Our Identity

The first business session of the conference centred on an extensive and thoughtful discussion on Sheikh-ul-Alam and Lalla Ded, two towering early figures of Kashmiri poetry and spirituality. Moderated by Mir Tariq, the session brought together Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem, an eminent scholar of Sheikh-ul-Alam studies, Shahbaz Hakbari, Dr Ayaz Rasool Nazki, Ghulam Nabi Adfar and Inayat Gull. Under the theme "Sheikh-ul-Alam and Lalla Ded: The Roots of Our Identity," the speakers explored the profound spiritual, philosophical and devotional dimensions of the poetry of the two legendary figures. The session generated considerable interest among the audience and was widely appreciated. Many participants expressed the desire that AMK should organise more such scholarly and thought-provoking sessions in its future programmes. The session paused for Magrib prayers, after which the literary galaxy assembled once again for another engaging and significant programme.

Naat and Marsia: Devotion in Verse

The next session focused on Naat and Marsia, two important forms of devotional poetry. Noted poet and critic Fayaz Tillagami presented a beautifully composed devotional Naat-e-Sharif, beginning with the evocative line, "Lekhan yeli chusti chukh mushkaan mei harfan, Ya Rasulul La Saw," composed in the tradition of the renowned Persian poet and Naat composer Moulana Jami. The composition was subsequently analysed and reviewed by distinguished writer Gulzar Jafar, who examined the Naat line

by line and word by word. His detailed, research-based critical appreciation did complete justice to Tillagami's creation. Gulzar Jafar possesses not merely a smart appearance but, more importantly, an equally sharp and perceptive way of analysing literary creations. The second presentation was an emotionally charged Marsia by Syed Abbas Jawhar of Dab, Ganderbal. His deeply moving composition, "Chei kya gasi hie agar kahn treash chei hai," reproached the River Euphrates for denying water to the martyrs of Karbala, particularly the innocent children who longed for every drop of water amid the scorching heat.

The highly emotional and deeply devotional composition moved the audience profoundly. It was critically analysed by Dr Wahid Raza, who explored its emotional intensity, literary craftsmanship and devotional dimensions. The

second business session was jointly presided over by Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq and Dr Ayaz Rasool Nazki. Both speakers reflected on the depth, aesthetics and art involved in composing Naat and Marsia, enriching the session with their literary insights.

Dinner, Kashmiri Cuisine and the Spirit of Hospitality

Soon it was time for Isha prayers, followed by dinner in the large tent erected beside the conference venue. The arrangements for welcoming, guiding and serving the guests were exemplary. Every member of the organising team, along with the NSS volunteers of the institution, appeared to be on their toes, ensuring that every participant was comfortably accommodated and served. Even the cuisine reflected the cultural spirit of Kashmir. Traditional Wazwan delicacies were prepared with great care and served to the guests, earning widespread appreciation and applause.

Poetry Till 2 am

After dinner, participants were requested to assemble in a large hall on the second floor of the new school building. Instead of retiring for the night, they were invited to attend another eagerly awaited session—the poetry recitation programme. The decision proved worthwhile. Twenty poets presented their creations, and the audience received each poem with enthusiasm. The session was moderated by Farooq Shaheen, noted poet, author, critic and Secretary of AMK, while eminent poet and author Manshoor Banihali presided over the gathering. With the President seated at one corner, the Patron at another and the audience filling the space between them, the hall became a miniature literary universe. Poets from different corners of the region brought with them diverse shades of human experience. Romance, separation, devotion, patriotism, satire, humour and the pain of loss flowed freely through their verses. The quality and variety of the poetry kept the audience engaged until nearly 2 am. Despite the late hour, hardly anyone seemed eager to leave. Even those who had gone to bed remained awake and attentive to the poetic creations. After 2 am, it was decided that the remaining poets would be heard on the second day. Among those who particularly captivated and inspired the audience were Dr Riyaz Rabani, Amin Ashraf, Farooq Fida and Ghulam Qadir Naag, whose poetic presentations left a lasting impression. The first day of the 47th annual conference thus came to an end not merely as a literary gathering, but as a vibrant celebration of Kashmiri language, spirituality, culture, tradition and collective identity. Hajin, true to its reputation as a cultural and literary capital of the Valley.



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Adbee Markaz Kamraz (AMK), a federation of more than 30 literary organisations and one of North India's most vibrant and prominent literary bodies, held its 47th two-day annual conference on September 5 and 6 at Hajin, Bandipora, the cultural and literary capital of the Valley. The central theme of this year's grand literary congregation was "The Role of Devotional Literature in Kashmiri Language." The mighty gathering brought together hundreds of poets, litterateurs, authors, intellectuals, writers and columnists from different parts of the Valley, with some participants travelling from the Jammu division as well. The formal inauguration of the conference was scheduled for 2 pm on September 5. However, torrential rain for nearly an hour delayed the proceedings by about an hour. The guests seated inside the beautifully erected tent, nevertheless, remained captivated by the melodious and soulful voice of Mohammad Aslam Sodnari, who presented heart-touching ghazals of the legendary poet Janbaz Kishitwari in a Mehfil-e-Sama followed by the aroma of traditional Kashmiri Kehwa and Kulcha. Held in the vast and verdant campus of Government ML Higher Secondary School, Hajin, the conference was formally inaugurated in a distinctly Kashmiri traditional manner. The ceremony began with the burning of Isband (Rue seeds) in a finely woven and beautifully decorated Kangri, filling the atmosphere with an unmistakable fragrance and evoking the cultural traditions of Kashmir. This year's conference also featured a special attraction, a painting exhibition, inaugurated by retired Justice B A Kirmani. The exhibition beautifully portrayed the history, culture, emotions and values that were once integral to the land and its people but unfortunately, have gradually faded with the passage of time. With the recitation of Surah Al-Tariq, the proceedings formally commenced in an atmosphere of devotion and solemnity. It was followed by the welcome address of Mohammad Amin Bhat, President AMK, who warmly welcomed the guests and emphasised the need for dedicated, sustained and result-oriented efforts for the



Soon thereafter, the presidium was constituted. It comprised retired Justice Bashir Kirmani, renowned literary figure Dr Satish Vimal, Dr Ab Hafeez Masoodi, JKAS Special Secretary Information Technology Department, eminent poet and author Manshoor Banihali, and AMK President Mohammad Amin Bhat. A major highlight of the inaugural session was the release of the Golden Jubilee special number of Prav, chronicling the contribution, achievements and success story of Adbee Markaz Kamraz over nearly half a century in the promotion of Kashmiri language and literature. The organisation's Patron Dr Rafeeq Masoodi was ceremonially turbaned in recognition of his selfless contribution towards strengthening the organisation and promoting Kashmiri language and literature. The commemorative issue was prepared in a remarkably short period of just one month. Published free of cost by Lubaab Publications, owned by Dr Jahangeer Bukhari, it was distributed among members of the presidium and award recipients. After a brief thirty minute break for traditional pink salt tea and Asr prayers, the conference resumed with another significant literary and spiritual milestone—the release of the Kashmiri translation of the Holy Qur'an, translated by Gulzar Ahmad Parray of Kapran, Shopian. Speaking on the occasion, Parray said that it had taken him nearly fifty years of study and perseverance to reach this milestone. He revealed that he had consulted translations

task. His achievement was warmly applauded by the gathering and appreciated in the strongest terms. Renowned Islamic scholar Showkat Hussain Keng also arrived during the proceedings and honoured Gulzar Ahmad Parray by ceremonially turbaning him with his own hands. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Satish Vimal, who presented a remarkably composed, artistically woven and extensively researched discourse on the contribution of devotional literature to Kashmiri language and literature. His presentation explored the historical, spiritual and literary dimensions of devotional expression in Kashmiri.

This was followed by addresses from the members of the presidium. The speech of Moulana Showkat Hussain Keng was particularly noteworthy. His thought-provoking lecture, enriched by profound knowledge and deep insight, left the audience spellbound.

Retired Justice Bashir Kirmani, known for his characteristic wit and humour, once again entertained the audience with his lively address. The prestigious Khilati Hanafi Sopori Award was presented to Prof Sheikh Ajaz in recognition of his tremendous contribution to Kashmiri language and literature. The award was presented a day earlier than scheduled owing to his busy engagements on the following day. In his response, Prof Ajaz thanked the literary organisation for recognising his services and prayed for its continued growth

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Kishtwar plans celebration of 6 Yrs of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan; DC reviews preparedness

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness for the celebration of six years of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in the district.

The department also deliberated to chart a comprehensive strategy for attracting maximum public participation and effective implementation of the campaign.

District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Tariq Parveez Qazi, delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation, apprising the meeting about the objectives of the upcoming campaign, proposed activities and the roadmap for the district-level celebrations.

The DSWO informed the meeting that the dates for the National-level



Event celebration are yet to be notified. He stated that the schedule would be communicated separately to all concerned as and when it is officially notified.

It was further informed that the main District-level event shall be organized at the Conference Hall New DC Office featuring live telecast of the National Level celebration.

The live telecast would be organised in every government office, educational institution, health institution, Anganwadi Centre and other venues across the District.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure effective coordination, meticulous arrangements and maximum participation. The meeting decided to chart a comprehensive District Action Plan and Calendar of Activities with the active involvement of the Rural Development Department (RDD), Education, Health, ICDS, Motor Vehicle Department (MVD), Revenue, Police, CRPF and other concerned departments.

The plan will encompass awareness, sensitization, community mobilization and outreach programmes across the district.

The DC laid special emphasis on

the active involvement of youth, spiritual, religious and community-based organizations, besides Beopar Mandal, drivers, transporters and other community stakeholders.

The concerned SDMs were directed to monitor the implementation of activities at the Sub-Divisional level and ensure effective coordination among all departments and stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS, Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO/DSEO Kishtwar, Suresh Kumar Sharma, EO Municipal Council Kishtwar, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, ARTO Kishtwar, Tasleem Wani, Dy. SP Hqr, Dr. Ishan Gupta, Principal GDC Kishtwar, Lekh Raj Badyal, AD Planning RDD Kishtwar Ashraf Wani besides other officers, representatives from GDC Chatroo, GDC Paddar and concerned staff.

DC reviews implementation of NAPS in Udhampur District

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today convened a review meeting of officers of the line departments to assess the status and progress of the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and other district officers. During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the project-wise manpower engaged under SASCI, AMRUT 2.0 and other major schemes/projects along with their registration status under NAPS. The DC directed the concerned departments to expedite the registration of eligible business establishments and industrial units on the NAPS portal and ensure achievement of the prescribed targets by September 20, 2026.

Political delegation calls on Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar

■ HT News Network



KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 12: A political deputation comprising members of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) from Dachhan, Thakrie and Nagseni and led by District President Ravi Parihar met with Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma here today in his office chamber at the Mini Secretariat, New DC Office Complex Kishtwar. Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal was also present on the occasion. The deputation put forth various demands and grievances before the Deputy Commissioner, seeking early commissioning of Kishtwar Airport, check on dust pollution in Dool area due to overloading of dumpers of HEPs, expediting pace of construction work of High School Kiyar-Dachhan, early construction/restoration of the wooden bridge at Surnoo, Dachhan, damaged due to recent cloudburst. They also demanded compensation for livestock loss and damaged agricultural land due to cloudburst in the Dachhan area.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured that the genuine demands will be looked into on priority.

DC Udhampur inspects ongoing development works at Birma, Devika Ghat and Town Hall

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today conducted a site visit to Birma and Town Hall areas of Udhampur town to inspect the progress of the ongoing and pending development works, including the PRI building at Birma and the multi-level car parking and Municipal Council building at Town Hall.

During the visit, the DC took a detailed assessment of the ongoing construction works and reviewed the pace of progress being achieved by the executing agencies. He emphasized the need to maintain quality standards and ensure timely completion of all works.

He also inspected the ongoing construction of the protection wall at Devika cremation ghat. He directed the



executing agency to expedite the work and ensure its completion within the stipulated timeline, while maintaining the required quality standards.

While reviewing the progress of the multi-level car parking, Municipal Council building at Town Hall and PRI building at Birma, the DC stressed the importance of effective resource mobilisation and close

monitoring of the works. He directed the concerned executing agencies to accelerate the pace of construction and ensure that all projects are completed within the prescribed timelines without compromising on quality. While reviewing the progress of the multi-level car parking, Municipal Council building at Town Hall and PRI building at Birma.

DDC Reasi reviews progress of NABARD RIDF works

■ HT News Network

REASI, SEPTEMBER 12: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting to review the progress of development works being executed under the NABARD Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in the district.

During the meeting, a detailed work-wise status of NABARD RIDF projects being executed by the PWD (R&B) was presented. The meeting reviewed the physical and financial progress of ongoing and completed works, with particular emphasis on road connectivity and bridge infrastructure.

The DDC took a detailed review of ongoing works and assessed the issues affecting their progress, including pending forest clearances, land and alignment disputes and other site-related impediments. He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the projects and take all necessary measures to resolve bottlenecks and ensure their timely completion.

He further directed the officers to submit the Project Completion Reports (PCRs) of all completed works to the concerned agencies without delay.

The meeting also reviewed works proposed for foreclosure and stressed the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination for the proper implementation



of NABARD-funded projects. The DDC directed the concerned officers to accord priority to newly approved projects requiring pre-execution formalities and ensure their expeditious processing.

Emphasising the importance of improved road connectivity and infrastructure development for the people of the district, the DDC directed that all ongoing works be executed in strict adherence to prescribed quality standards and timelines.

Superintending Engineer, PWD; Chief Planning Officer; Executive Engineer, PWD and other concerned officers attended the meeting. Emphasising the importance of improved road connectivity and infrastructure development for the people of the district, the DDC directed that all ongoing works be executed in strict adherence to prescribed quality standards and timelines.

NAPS Registration Camp at BBIA Bhawan attracts active participation from Industrial Units

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: A two-day registration and awareness camp under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was organised at Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA) Bhawan on September 11 and 12. The camp witnessed encouraging participation from industrial units, HR representatives and their teams.

The camp was organised in pursuance of the directions of the Industries & Commerce Department and District Administration Jammu, to facilitate industrial units in registering on the NAPS portal



and to create greater awareness about apprenticeship opportunities. NAPS provides a platform for establishments to engage apprentices and helps bridge the gap between industry requirements and the skills available among young people. It enables establishments to provide practical, on-the-job training while helping youth gain workplace experience and

improve their employability.

A team from District Industries Centre (DIC), Jammu, along with representatives of the Skill Development Department, J&K is undertaking the exercise under the guidance of Dr. Arun Manhas, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu in coordination with the District Administration. During the camp, officials interacted with

unit holders and HR teams, explained the registration and onboarding process and provided on-the-spot technical assistance to eligible units. Queries relating to registration, eligibility and implementation were also addressed. Tarun Singla, President, BBIA and Chairman, Federation of Industries Jammu (FOIJ), welcomed the initiative and said that such camps helping bring industry and Government departments closer while creating more apprenticeship and employment opportunities for youth. He assured continued cooperation from BBIA and FOIJ for wider participation under NAPS. BBIA.

Extension & Publicity Wing AHD Jammu concludes 2-Day tour of Rajouri & Poonch districts

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: On the directions of Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, the Extension & Publicity Wing, Directorate of Animal Husbandry Jammu, successfully concluded a two-day extensive tour of Rajouri and Poonch districts, aimed at strengthening field-level outreach, creating awareness among livestock farmers about various departmental schemes and programmes and promoting scientific animal husbandry management practices.

During the tour, the team of Extension and Publicity Wing, headed by Dr. Suresh Kumar,



Extension Officer, organized dedicated awareness camps at Chingus, Rajouri and Naka Manjhari, Poonch as part of the department's ongoing efforts to establish connect with the farmers especially those residing in remote and hilly areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Suresh Kumar apprised farmers about various

government schemes and programmes, including Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), Integrated Poultry Development Programme (IPDP) and other initiatives aimed at promoting entrepreneurship development in dairy and poultry sectors.

A significant component of the awareness programmes was livestock disease prevention and management with particular emphasis on Lumpy Skin Disease. Farmers were sensitised regarding the clinical signs of the disease, preventive measures, vector control and the importance of immediately reporting suspected cases to the nearest veterinary centre or dispensary. The officers and staff of the Animal Husbandry Department in twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch extended their full cooperation in facilitating the awareness programmes and ensuring good participation of the local farming community in the camps.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal inaugurates 3rd National Lok Adalat-2026 at District Court Complex Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: The 3rd National Lok Adalat for the year 2026 was conducted today in District Court Complex, Jammu, under the guidance of Chairman DLSA/Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina and overall supervision of Civil Judge Senior Division & Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma.

The event was graced by the presence of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Administrative Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir

and Ladakh.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal along with DLSA Chairman Tahir Khurshid Raina inaugurated the National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex Janipur.

Justice Oswal highlighted the importance of Lok Adalat in resolving long-pending disputes through mutually acceptable settlements. His Lordship emphasized the benefits of Lok Adalat including speedy justice, reduced litigation costs and preservation of relationships, making it an attractive option for litigants seeking efficient dispute

resolution. Later, Justice Oswal along with the Principal District & Sessions Judge inspected the Courts where the Lok Adalat benches were constituted. They also distributed cheques of the MACT settled compensation amounts to the concerned parties/claimants during the Lok Adalat proceedings.

An amount of Rs. 1,15,00,000/- was awarded in favour of Ajay Misri (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd. An amount of Rs. 82,00,000/- was awarded



in favour of Koushalya Devi (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation through J&K Bank. An amount of Rs. 57,00,000/- was awarded in favour of Neeta Kanth (claimant) after settlement. The amount

was paid as compensation through J&K Bank. An amount of Rs. 43,00,000/- was awarded in favour of Satpal Sharma (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Company.

An amount of Rs. 1,00,00,000/- was awarded in favour of Darshan Lal (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by Liberty General Insurance. An amount of Rs. 85,00,000/- was awarded in favour of Mehnaz Akhter & Ors (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by IFFCO TOKIO General Insurance Company. An amount of Rs. 25,00,000/- was awarded in favour of Shiwani Tahotra (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation through J&K Bank. An amount

of Rs. 20,00,000/- was awarded in favour of Chinta Devi (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation through J&K Bank. An amount of Rs. 19,50,000/- was awarded in favour of Shakeela Banoo (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation through J&K Bank.

Many litigants participated in the Lok Adalat to avail the opportunity for amicable settlement of their disputes. A wide range of cases including Civil disputes, Bank Recovery

cases, cases U/s 138 N.I. Act, Compoundable Criminal cases, MACT claims, Matrimonial disputes, Labour matters, Revenue cases and other compoundable cases were taken up.

Twenty Six benches comprising Judicial Officers along with Panel Lawyers/LADCs of DLSA Jammu were constituted at District Court Complex. In all, 904 cases pertaining to different nature were taken up, out of which 409 cases were settled. The total amount recovered stood at Rs. 22,16,27,013/-.





Rana holds public outreach programme at Bhata Dhurian; assesses public grievances

■ HT NEWS DESK

BHATA DHURIAN (MENDHAR), SEPTEMBER 12: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today held a public outreach programme at Bhata Dhurian, where he interacted with the local residents and listened to their grievances and development related concerns.

The people from the area apprised the Minister of various issues concerning road connectivity, water supply, basic infrastructure and other essential services.

The Minister assured them that their genuine concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments for timely resolution.

The people raised demands pertaining to construction and improvement of school buildings, upgradation of educational institutions, road connectivity, augmentation of water supply, healthcare facilities and other basic infrastructure requirements.



Rana emphasised that regular interaction with people at the grassroots level is essential for understanding their concerns and ensuring that development reaches every section of society.

He said that the government is committed to strengthen the public infrastructure and improving basic amenities, particularly in remote and hilly areas. He directed the concerned officers to examine the issues brought to their notice and take necessary measures for their early resolution.

The Minister also inspected the NH-144 road from Kallar to Shadhra Sharief via Kamlo Gali, taking stock of condition of the vital road link and the requirements for its

improvement. He reviewed the road connectivity issues along the route and interacted with the officials regarding the measures required to ensure smoother and safer movement of people and traffic.

Rana stressed the need for close coordination among the concerned agencies to address the bottlenecks, expedite necessary works and ensure timely execution of road improvement measures. He called for sustained attention towards streamlining connectivity in the hilly and remote areas, noting that reliable road infrastructure is essential for facilitating access to essential services, supporting local livelihoods and improving the

overall quality of life of the people.

He directed the concerned officers to remain responsive to the requirements of the area and ensure that works are taken up in a planned and time-bound manner, keeping in view the difficulties faced by residents due to challenging terrain and connectivity constraints.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, briefed the Minister on various government schemes and welfare programmes being implemented by the different departments in the district. He also apprised the gathering about the benefits available under these schemes.

Rana inaugurates Rest House, lays foundation stone for 1.86 cr Water Supply Augmentation Scheme, launches PMGSY road project

■ HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inaugurated the newly constructed Rest House at Jaran Wali Gali and laid the foundation stone for a major Water Supply Augmentation Scheme aimed at strengthening the drinking water infrastructure in the area.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Surankote, Choudhary Mohammad Akram along with senior officers and officials of the concerned departments.

The newly constructed Rest House, completed at a cost of 45 lakh under UT CAPEX 2025-26, marks an important addition to the field infrastructure in the challenging area. The facility is expected to provide essential support to the departmental officers and field staff, enabling them to undertake field visits, inspections and



monitoring of developmental works more efficiently.

The Rest House will also facilitate better coordination among the field functionaries and contribute towards strengthening the government's administrative outreach in remote and difficult-to-access areas. The Minister appreciated the efforts of the concerned departments in completing the facility and stressed the importance of creating adequate infrastructure for personnel working in far-flung areas.

On the occasion, the Minister also laid the foundation stone

for the 185.58 lakh Water Supply Augmentation Scheme at Jaran Wali Gali. The scheme is aimed at augmenting the existing drinking water infrastructure and improving the availability, adequacy and reliability of potable water in the area. The project, once completed, will benefit the residents of Jaran Wali Gali and adjoining habitations, augmenting their drinking water requirements and strengthening the local water supply network.

Later, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the PMGSY road connectivity project from

Sanghiote Road to Hattan Ferozalan, covering 4.702 km. The project will provide all-weather connectivity to remote habitations, easing the movement of residents and improving access to healthcare, education, markets and other essential services.

The Minister said that it will strengthen the local connectivity and support socio-economic development in the hilly and far-flung areas of the region. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensure equitable, inclusive and balanced development across the Pir Panjal region, with special emphasis on remote and geographically challenging pockets. The Minister said that strengthening basic infrastructure and ensuring reliable access to essential public services remain among the foremost priorities of the government. He emphasized the need for timely completion of ongoing and newly sanctioned projects.

Satish Sharma tours Chhamb Constituency, reviews development works; lays foundation stones for projects worth over 7 crores

■ HT News Network



CHHAMB, SEPTEMBER 12: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today undertook an extensive tour of the Chhamb Assembly Constituency and took stock of ongoing developmental activities besides laying foundation stones for a number of new projects aimed at strengthening civic infrastructure and improving public amenities.

During the tour, the Minister interacted with local residents, public representatives and officers and reviewed the pace of development works in different areas. He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely execution of projects while maintaining quality and transparency.

At Khour Town, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of storm-water drains in different wards of Khour Town, being executed at an estimated cost of 4.50 crore. The project is aimed at improving drainage infrastructure and addressing water logging and related problems faced by residents.

Satish Sharma also laid the foundation stone for construction of lanes and drains in all wards of Municipal Committee Khour, at a cost of 99.06 lakh, with the objective of improving local connectivity, sanitation and civic infrastructure across the town.

At Rakh Malal, the Minister laid the foundation stone for a Multipurpose Hall and creation of facilities for a Reading Room, estimated to cost 19.43 lakh. He also laid the foundation stone for construction of a Tin Shed at Baba Badbachaig Dev Sathan, Rakh Malal, at a cost of 5 lakh, aimed at improving facilities for devotees and visitors.

At Nikkia, Tehsil Khour, the Minister laid the foundation stone for improvement of the existing Devsthan/religious site, including augmentation of the shed, development of public amenities, provision of a ramp and washroom for specially-abled persons, tile work and allied works. The project has an estimated cost of 60 lakh.

Another important project taken up during the tour was the construction of a 16-metre vented crossway connecting Romali to Thun Naryani, for which the foundation stone was laid at an estimated cost of 70 lakh. The project is expected to improve connectivity and facilitate movement of people between the adjoining areas.

The developmental projects for which foundation stones were laid during the tour have a combined estimated cost of approximately 7.03 crore, covering drainage, roads and lanes, public amenities, religious-site infrastructure and connectivity.

The Minister emphasised that development must reach every habitation and that civic infrastructure, connectivity and basic amenities remain among the government's key priorities. He called upon the executing agencies to work in close coordination with local communities and ensure that the benefits of developmental projects reach the people in a timely manner. Satish Sharma also interacted with local residents and listened to their demands and grievances. He assured them that their genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action.

The concerned officers briefed the Minister about the status of ongoing works and proposed development initiatives in the constituency. The Minister directed the officers to maintain close monitoring of the projects and ensure adherence to prescribed quality standards and timelines.

DC Ganderbal reviews implementation of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

■ HT News Network



GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) in the district.

During the meeting, the District Nodal Officer, NAPS, gave a detailed presentation on the scheme, highlighting its eligibility criteria, benefits, registration of establishments and apprentices, designated trades, training components and opportunities for apprenticeship engagement by PSUs, corporations, banks and other establishments.

It was informed that NAPS aims to promote apprenticeship engagement, enhance employability and provide structured vocational training opportunities to youth by facilitating their association with industrial and institutional establishments.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated that department-wise targets have already been fixed to enhance workforce engagement under the scheme. He urged all departments, PSUs, MSMEs and contracting agencies to register their establishments on the NAPS portal and engage apprentices as per the prescribed provisions under the scheme.

The DC further directed all concerned departments, corporations and executing agencies to ensure project wise registration of establishments on the portal and identify suitable apprenticeship opportunities in accordance with their workforce requirements and designated trades.

Emphasising the importance of institutional coordination, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Principals of Government Degree College Ganderbal, Government Degree College Kangan, ITIs and Government Polytechnic College, besides other educational institutions, to facilitate registration of eligible students and on the NAPS portal and promote available apprenticeship opportunities among the youth.

He also directed district officers and representatives of participating PSUs and contracting agencies to ensure timely achievement of assigned targets, maintain regular coordination with the District Nodal Officer and furnish progress reports for periodic review.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon all stakeholders to make concerted efforts for effective implementation of NAPS in the district, stressing that the scheme can play an important role in bridging the gap between education and employment and equipping local youth with industry relevant skills and practical training opportunities.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREER

Subject: Application of MANZOOR AHMAD DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal) in favour of Wards namely AMIR ALI DEADER & IMRA JAN R/O BANDI BALA
PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and DEADER community, having annual income is 9,35052 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

1...MANZOOR AHMAD DEADER Father 41 years employee
2.... RUKSANA BEGUM Mother 38 years House wife
3...AMIR ALI applicant 15 years student
4...IMRA JAAN applicant 13 years student
5..BABAR MANZOOR brother of applicant 04 Years minor
.The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self
if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI



Industrial Training Institute

Department Of Skill Development (J & K)
Office of the Superintendent, Govt. Industrial Training Institute Rohama
Tele : Email: itirohamarf@gmail.com



Skill India
कौशल भारत-बुद्धि भारत

Advertisement Notice

Applications are invited from the interested candidates for temporary engagement as Guest Faculty in Govt. ITI Rohama for the academic Session 2026-27 conducting Employability Skills Classes for all trades. Interested candidates will submit their application to this Office on the prescribed format forming Annexure "A" to this advertisement notice within 07 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the newspaper/official Site.

S.No	Name of assignment	Trade/Subject	Minimum Educational Qualification
01	Guest Faculty	Vocational Instructor (Employability Skills)	MBA/BBA/any Graduate/Diploma in any discipline with Two Years' experience with short term Training of Trainer (TOT) course in Employability Skills from DGT institutes. (Must have studied English/Communication Skills and Basic Computer at 12 th /Diploma level.

The duly completed Application Form in the prescribed format must accompany with the self-attested copies of the following certificates/ documents:

1. Academic/ Technical Qualification Certificate/ Marks Certificate.
2. Date of Birth Certificate.
3. Domicile Certificate.
4. Character Certificate (in original).
5. Experience certificate, if any.

Age: Minimum age 18 years Maximum 45 years as on 01 Jan 2026

The calculation of the merit points shall be on Pro-rata basis as under:

S.no	Criteria	Maximum Points
A	Basic essential qualification as per DGT Norms (marks obtained in the prescribed qualifying examination/trade certificate)	70
B	Higher relevant qualification	10
C	Professional/technical certification — NET/SET/GATE	5
D	Relevant full-time teaching/training/field experience in a J&K UT recognized technical or skill institution, post-qualification	5
E	Structured interaction/demonstration before the Selection Committee, assessed against a pre declared rubric (subject knowledge, communication, practical/demonstration skill)	10
Total		100

Terms and Conditions for Assignment:

1. The Engagement of Guest faculty will be for the Academic session 2026-27 only on need basis. The assignment of the engagee shall be co-terminus with the academic session. It can also be terminated on account of non-performance by the engagee as per the guidelines or regular appointments/transfers are made by the Department.
2. The undersigned reserves the right to reject incomplete/deficient application received after assigning proper reasons.
3. The criteria for Engagement of the candidate as Guest Faculty and remuneration shall be strictly as per Guidelines/directions/instructions issued from time to time in this regard.
4. The candidates engaged shall have to maintain proper discipline and punctuality and shall have to work to the entire satisfaction of the students as well as the HoI. Indiscipline, misconduct, moral turpitude or false documentation of any kind will entail disengagement.
5. Every selected candidate shall, before joining, execute an undertaking/affidavit, duly attested by a First-Class Judicial Magistrate, in the prescribed format, expressly stating therein that:(i) the candidate is fully aware about the nature of engagement being purely temporary in nature, session-specific and terminable in accordance with this Policy; (ii) the candidate shall not, at any time, claim regularization, permanent absorption, continuation on whatsoever grounds; and (iii) the candidate shall abide by the Code of Conduct as specified in extant Policy.
6. Mere submission of application or eligibility shall not entitle any candidate for his/her engagement, and the engagement shall be made only as per the Jammu and Kashmir Guest Faculty in ITIs Engagement Policy.

DIPK-5648/26
Send Date: Sep 12 2026

Sd/-
Superintendent
Govt. ITI Rohama

ANNEXURE – A

Application for engagement of Guest Faculty In Government Industrial Training Institute Rohama.

Trade for which applying: _____

- 1) Name of the Candidate (In Capital Letters) : _____.
- 2) Parentage (In Capital Letters) : _____.
- 3) Permanent Address (As per PRC) : _____ Tehsil _____ Distt _____
Pin: _____
- 4) Address for Correspondence : _____
- 5) Date of Birth : _____.
- 6) Qualification : _____

S.No.	Examination Passed	Year of Passing	Name of the Institute / University/ Board	Total Marks	Marks obtained	%age marks of

B) Technical

S.No.	Examination Passed	Year of Passing	Name of the Institute / University/ Board	Total Marks	Marks obtained	%age marks of

- 7) Contact No. : _____
- 8) Experience (relevant) if any _____

Signature of the Applicant

Note:-

Self-attested authenticated copies of all academic/ technical qualification certificates and experience certificates must be enclosed with the application.



SSP Traffic urges girls to use their Soft Power for Road Safety at GDC Poonch

No-challan, only counselling initiative also held

■ HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: As part of the ongoing two-week intensive awareness-cum-enforcement drive across the jurisdiction of Traffic Police Rural Jammu, a student symposium and PowerPoint presentation were organized at Government Degree College- Poonch on the theme "Can Heavy Fines and Strict Penalties Change Road Behavior?".

Addressing the gathering, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu Farooq Qaiser emphasized that the objective of traffic enforcement is not merely to issue challans or impose penalties, but to prevent crashes, save lives

and bring about lasting behavioral change among road users.

A significant highlight of the interaction was the SSP's appeal to girls and young women to use their "soft power" within their families to promote road safety. He urged them to persuade their fathers, brothers and other family members to wear helmets, use seat belts and follow traffic rules, emphasizing that a sincere reminder from a daughter or sister can sometimes achieve what a fine or penalty cannot. He described this influence as a powerful form of positive persuasion rooted in care, trust and family bonds, which can help transform everyday road behavior without confrontation.



The SSP also delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the road-accident scenario, major contributing factors and the

vulnerability of two-wheeler users. He called upon students to become road-safety ambassadors and carry the message of safe and responsible

road use to their families, peers and communities.

Dr. Jasbir Singh, Principal, Government Degree College, Poonch, in his address appreciated the initiative of Traffic Police Rural Jammu and emphasized the importance of sustained road-safety education among students. He stressed that educational institutions have an important role in shaping responsible citizens and that road safety should become part of the everyday consciousness and conduct of young people. He also appreciated the efforts of the Traffic Police in engaging students through dialogue and awareness rather than relying solely on enforcement.

DC Rajouri felicitates National Teachers' Awardee Mohammad Ayaz Raina

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today felicitated Mohammad Ayaz Raina, Lecturer in Botany, Government Higher Secondary School, Dalhori, who recently received the prestigious National Teachers' Award 2026 from the President of India Droupadi Murmu, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Congratulating Ayaz Raina on the remarkable achievement, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated his dedicated contribution to the field of education and lauded him for bringing the National Teachers' Award to Rajouri for the first time. He described the achievement as a matter of immense pride for the entire district and particularly, the Pir Panjal region.

The Deputy Commissioner honoured him with a shawl & presented him with Dr. A.P.J.



Abdul Kalam's inspirational book Wings of Fire, recalling the inspiring life and journey of the former President and eminent scientist.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar Sihag; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; Chief Education Officer Rajouri, Mohammad Hafiz; and ARTO Ashiq Rafiq Malik were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner

Abhishek Sharma expressed hope that Raina's achievement would inspire other teachers and students of the district to pursue excellence and contribute towards bringing greater recognition to Rajouri at the national level.

He also congratulated Chief Education Officer and Principal Government Higher Secondary School Dalhori Raj Kumar for their support and contribution towards the awardee's success.

DLSA Samba successfully organises 3rd National Lok Adalat

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 12: Under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and pursuant to the directions of the J&K Legal Services Authority, Jammu/Srinagar, the District Legal Services Authority, Samba successfully organised the 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026 today at the District Court Complex.

The National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Samba and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Samba Ashwani Kumar Sharma, in the presence of judicial officers, members of the Bar, litigants, court staff and other stakeholders.

The National Lok Adalat was organised with the objective of providing an effective, expeditious and cost-free mechanism for amicable resolution of disputes, thereby reducing the burden of litigation upon the courts and facilitating access to justice for all sections of society. The Lok Adalat mechanism enables parties to resolve their disputes through mutual consent and settlement in a cordial and non-adversarial environment.

For the effective conduct of the National Lok Adalat, seven benches were constituted at the District Court Complex, Samba. The benches comprised judicial officers and empanelled advocates, as under:

Chairman DLSA and Principal District &



Sessions Judge Ashwani Kumar Sharma chaired the Bench No 1 with Advocate S.K. Khanmotra; Additional District & Sessions Judge Arvind Sharma chaired Bench NO 2 with Advocate Ganesh Sharma; Chief Judicial Magistrate Smriti Sharma with Advocate Ajay Gupta chaired Bench No. 3; Secretary, DLSA (Sub-Judge) Shafeeq Ahmed with Advocate Rahul Sharma formed Bench No. 4; Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Rashi Verma, with Advocate Vijay Gupta led Bench No. 5; Munsiff Ritika Jamwal with Advocate Hitesh Sharma formed Bench No. 6 and Additional Munsiff Kritika Sethi with Advocate Rajeev Gupta led Bench No. 7.

In addition, suitable benches were also constituted by the District Administration Samba, under the administrative side, for taking up and amicably resolving compoundable matters pending before the administrative authorities, as deemed appropriate.

RTA approves 26 new route permits in Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) in his office chamber to review various matters pertaining to regulation and management of passenger transport services in the district.

At the outset, ARTO Mudassir Iqbal briefed the chair about the agenda items and the proposals placed before the Authority for consideration.

After a comprehensive discussion, the Regional Transport Authority approved 26 route permits, comprising 02 heavy buses, 16 mini buses, 08 four-wheeler Magic vehicles to operate within the jurisdiction of Jammu and Kashmir.

The DC emphasized the need for prompt implementation of the approved route permits, while maintaining strict regulatory monitoring to prevent overloading, overcharging and other irregularities in vehicular operations.

He also stressed the importance of close coordination among all concerned departments and enforcement agencies to ensure smooth traffic movement, passenger convenience and effective regulation of public transport services.

Manimahesh Yatra flagged off from Ramban

■ HT News Network



RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 12: Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Shokat Hayat Mattoo along with Tehsildar Deep Kumar and Police Officers today flagged off devotees for the sacred Manimahesh Yatra here from Raghunath Temple Ramban.

Led by the Baba Devi Dass Maharaj, the devotees will undertake the pilgrimage via Bhaderwah-Chamba route to Manimahesh Lake, a sacred high-altitude pilgrimage destination situated at an elevation of around 13,000 feet in Himachal Pradesh.

The flag-off ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation of hundreds of devotees including men, women and children, who embarked on the spiritual journey carrying the holy mace (Chhari Mubarak). The atmosphere resonated with devotional chants of "Har Har Mahadev" as the pilgrims commenced their pilgrimage to the revered Manimahesh Lake.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACR extended his best wishes to the pilgrims. He called upon the devotees to uphold the values of communal harmony, brotherhood and mutual respect throughout the journey.

The police authorities informed that adequate security and traffic management arrangements have been put in place for the movement of the devotees. The pilgrims were appealed to strictly follow safety guidelines, adhere to weather and traffic advisories and cooperate with police personnel and other officials deployed along the route.

DC Poonch chairs meeting to review CLU cases

■ HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting at the DC Office, Poonch to review and dispose of the cases related to Change of Land Use (CLU) permissions.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Muhammad Sayeed; General Manager DIC Naheem Un Nissa; Chief Executive Officer PDA, along with concerned district officers and representatives from line departments.

The committee held detailed deliberations on the land use change cases received from Poonch, Surankote, Mandi, Mendhar, Mankote and adjoining areas. The cases were examined with regard to the relevant revenue records, departmental requirements, land-use provisions and applicable rules and regulations.

Farmers' Awareness Camp held at Ghordi-Udhampur Director Horticulture Jammu interacts with participants

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 12: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed today visited Ghordi in Udhampur District, where a Farmers' Awareness Camp was organised at Dalsar Panchayat. He attended the programme as the Chief Guest.

At the outset, Chief Horticulture Officer Brij Vallabh Gupta briefed the participants about the various horticultural activities being undertaken in the district in the current financial year.

The Director interacted with the farmers and held detailed discussions on the development and promotion of horticulture in the area. He listened to the



issues, requirements and suggestions put forth by the farming community and assured them of all possible technical support and assistance from the Department. He highlighted the importance of adopting modern horticultural practices, using quality planting material, scientific orchard management

and crop diversification to enhance productivity and improve the farm income.

The awareness camp provided an effective platform for direct interaction between the Department and the farming community. The objective was to strengthen farmer-oriented services and promote the overall development of the horticulture sector in Ghordi and adjoining areas of Udhampur District.

The Director was accompanied by Assistant Director Horticulture, Sunil Gupta and District Horticulture Officer Vijay Kumar, Technical Officer, Sandeep Sharma, Horticulture Development Officers Rajesh Gupta, Adarsh Kumar and Raman Thappa.

Bhaderwah Administration ensures elaborate arrangements for Zajru celebration

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 12: After the successful conclusion of the annual Kailash Yatra, devotees and yatris have begun participating in the traditional Zajru/Zagara celebration at the revered Shri Vasuki Naag Ji Temple, Gatha-Bhaderwah.

In view of the large gathering of devotees and visitors expected during the celebrations, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal has put in place elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth, peaceful and successful conduct of the event.

Comprehensive arrangements have been made



by the administration, covering security and law-and-order, uninterrupted power and water supply, healthcare facilities, sanitation and cleanliness, traffic regulation and fire safety. Medical teams along with ambulances have been stationed to meet any emergency requirement, while fire tenders have also been deployed as a precautionary measure.

To ensure effective coordination and crowd management, Magistrates have

been deployed at strategic locations. Concerned departments have been directed to maintain close coordination and remain vigilant throughout the celebrations.

The coordinated arrangements aim to ensure that the traditional Zajru/Zagara celebration is conducted in a safe, peaceful and orderly manner, while providing necessary facilities and assistance to the visiting devotees and yatris.

Spawn Production Lab Jammu conducts Cordyceps Mushroom Trial

DAJ reviews Mushroom Development Activities

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 12: Director Agriculture Jammu (DAJ) Anil Gupta today visited the Spawn Production Laboratory where he reviewed the trial of Cordyceps mushroom production successfully undertaken by the Department.

Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Sanjay Anand; Mushroom Development Officer Arun Gupta and other officers from the Spawn Production Lab and Mushroom Development

Scheme accompanied the Director during the visit.

Anil Gupta interacted with the technical staff and took stock of the progress of the trial. He appreciated the efforts of the technical team in exploring new and high-value mushroom varieties and emphasized the need to promote mushroom cultivation as a viable and remunerative enterprise for farmers, mushroom growers and young agripreneurs in the region.

He said that Cordyceps

mushroom has significant potential as a high-value crop and the successful trial at the Spawn Production Laboratory is an important step towards exploring its commercial potential in Jammu. The Director further stated that farmers, mushroom growers and young agripreneurs interested in Cordyceps mushroom cultivation will be provided training and technical guidance through DCTC Jammu, enabling them to take up the activity in a scientific and economically



viable manner.

Later, the Director also inspected the Mushroom Controlled Cropping Unit at DCTC Jammu and reviewed the facilities available for controlled-environment mushroom production. He interacted with the technical personnel and took detailed information regarding the functioning and utilization of the unit.

Anil Gupta said that controlled cropping technology can enable farmers to cultivate mushrooms throughout the

year by providing a suitable production environment, thereby reducing dependence on seasonal conditions. He emphasized that adoption of such technology can help farmers increase production cycles, improve productivity and create additional and more stable sources of income. "Besides Button mushroom, the Department is also focusing on strengthening the cultivation of Oyster (Dingri) and Milky mushroom and extend all possible technical support to

farmers interested in adopting these varieties" he said. He said that Cordyceps mushroom has significant potential as a high-value crop and the successful trial at the Spawn Production Laboratory is an important step towards exploring its commercial potential in Jammu. The Director further stated that farmers, mushroom growers and young agripreneurs interested in Cordyceps mushroom cultivation will be provided training and technical guidance through DCTC Jammu.



From a Small Village in Kashmir to the Global Stage of Medicine: Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo's Remarkable Journey

The journey from a village in Kashmir to the global medical community is not simply a story of personal success. It is a message to countless young students and aspiring professionals: dream beyond your circumstances, work beyond your limitations and remain committed to your purpose.”

From humble beginnings in a small village of Kashmir to the global stage of medicine, the journey of Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, FRCP, is a story of perseverance, purpose and an unwavering commitment to service.

Every remarkable journey begins somewhere. For Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, it began not in a world-renowned medical institution, but in the modest surroundings of a small village in Kashmir. What followed was a journey shaped by ambition, hard work, education, resilience and a deep desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Today, Dr. Itoo stands among the accomplished physicians and medical professionals who have earned the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP), London—a distinction that represents professional achievement, contribution to medicine and recognition by one of the world's most respected medical institutions.

From Humble Roots to a Larger Vision
Growing up in Kashmir, Dr. Itoo's early life was rooted in the values of simplicity, perseverance and education. The challenges and limitations of a modest beginning did not become barriers; instead, they became part of the foundation upon which his aspirations were built.

His journey reflects an important truth: great achievements do not necessarily begin in places of privilege. They often begin with a dream, sustained by determination.

For Dr. Itoo, education became a pathway to opportunity and service. Medicine, in particular, offered him not merely a profession, but a means to contribute to society, serve patients and continue learning throughout life.

A Career Beyond Clinical Practice
Over the years, Dr. Itoo's professional journey has extended beyond the traditional boundaries of clinical medicine. His work has encompassed patient care, medical



education, research and public health, reflecting a broader vision of what it means to be a physician in the modern era.

For a doctor, success is not measured only by qualifications or titles. It is also reflected in the lives touched, students inspired, knowledge shared, research pursued and communities served.

This wider commitment has remained an important part of Dr. Itoo's professional identity.

The Significance of FRCP, London
The award of FRCP represents a significant milestone in this journey.
The Fellowship of the Royal College of

Physicians of London is among the most respected professional distinctions in medicine. It carries with it recognition of professional standing and contribution to the medical profession.

For Dr. Itoo, receiving this honour is therefore more than the addition of another credential after his name. It represents the culmination of years of learning, clinical responsibility, professional contribution and dedication to medicine.

It is also a moment of particular significance for Kashmir, demonstrating how talent nurtured in a small and geographically distant part of the world can reach institutions and

professional platforms of global standing.

A Journey That Inspires
The story of Dr. Itoo is particularly inspiring because it speaks to young people who may begin their journeys with limited resources but unlimited aspirations.

A small village can produce a global professional.

A humble beginning can lead to extraordinary achievement.

And a person's circumstances at the beginning of life do not have to determine the destination.

The journey from a village in Kashmir to the global medical community is not simply a story of personal success. It is a message to countless young students and aspiring professionals: dream beyond your circumstances, work beyond your limitations and remain committed to your purpose.

Carrying Kashmir to the World
For many in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Itoo's achievement represents a moment of collective pride.

His story connects two worlds—the simplicity of his roots in Kashmir and the international professional community in which he now stands. It demonstrates that excellence can emerge from anywhere when supported by education, determination and sustained effort.

The FRCP honour may mark a milestone, but it is unlikely to be the final chapter.

For someone whose journey has been defined by medicine, education, research and service, the greater significance of the achievement lies in what comes next: using experience and knowledge to contribute even more to patients, colleagues, students and society.

More Than an Achievement
Behind every professional distinction lies a human story—years of study, examinations, long working hours, difficult decisions, setbacks, responsibilities and countless moments when perseverance matters more than recognition.

Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo's journey reminds us that achievement is rarely the result of a single moment. It is built gradually, through thousands of decisions to keep learning, keep working and keep moving forward.

From a small village in Kashmir to the global stage of medicine, his story is ultimately a story of possibility.

From Gundbal to the Heart of Modern Cardiac Care Dr Mustafa Bashir's Journey of Service and Excellence



By Bisma Ashraf

Baramulla-based cardiologist combines advanced interventional expertise, academic commitment and a strong resolve to bring specialised cardiac care closer to the people of Jammu & Kashmir

Born in October 1992 in the quiet village of Gundbal in Pattan, Baramulla, Dr Mustafa Bashir represents a remarkable journey from rural beginnings to becoming a specialised cardiac physician contributing to the growth of advanced cardiovascular care in Jammu & Kashmir.

Raised in an environment where discipline, education and service were deeply valued, Dr Bashir developed an early interest in science and medicine. He completed his higher secondary education at Government Higher Secondary School, Ghoushbugh, before pursuing MBBS at SKIMS Medical College, Bemina. He subsequently completed his MD in Internal Medicine and Pulmonology from Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura.

His postgraduate training and subsequent experience as a Senior Resident in Internal Medicine at SKIMS strengthened his clinical acumen, diagnostic abilities and understanding of patient-centred

healthcare. With a growing interest in cardiovascular medicine and minimally invasive procedures, he went on to pursue advanced training in Interventional Cardiology at Government Medical College, Srinagar.

That specialised training equipped Dr Bashir with expertise in both interventional and non-invasive cardiology. Today, as Consultant Cardiologist and Assistant Professor at Government Medical College, Baramulla, he is involved in the management of a wide range of cardiovascular conditions and procedures.

His clinical expertise includes coronary angiography, percutaneous coronary intervention, including primary PCI, comprehensive echocardiography, stress echocardiography, heart failure management and cardiac pacing, including permanent pacemaker implantation. Having performed more than 500 cardiac interventions, he has emerged as an important contributor to the expansion of specialised cardiac services in north Kashmir.

One of his significant professional contributions has been the establishment and development of Permanent Pacemaker Implantation Services at GMC Baramulla. His efforts have also supported the advancement of cardiac catheterisation and interventional cardiology services at the institution, helping strengthen the availability of timely cardiac treatment closer to patients' homes.

For patients suffering from serious cardiac conditions, access to specialised services can be critical. The development of such facilities at GMC Baramulla has helped reduce dependence on distant tertiary-care centres and has contributed to building local capacity for advanced cardiac treatment.

Dr Bashir's contribution extends beyond clinical practice. As an Assistant Professor, he is actively engaged in teaching and mentoring medical students and young doctors. He places emphasis

on evidence-based medicine, continuous learning and the integration of contemporary medical knowledge into clinical practice. His academic role reflects his belief that strengthening healthcare also requires investing in the next generation of medical professionals.

Despite his demanding professional responsibilities, Dr Bashir maintains a strong interest in travel and adventure. Long-distance driving and exploring off-beat destinations are among his favourite pursuits. For him, travel provides an opportunity to step away from the intensity of hospital life, discover new perspectives and nurture a sense of curiosity and resilience.

What distinguishes Dr Mustafa Bashir's professional journey is the combination of technical expertise with a service-oriented outlook. Coming from a rural background, his career reflects the possibilities that education, perseverance and dedication can create. His work at GMC Baramulla is particularly significant in the context of expanding specialised healthcare services beyond major urban centres.

As Jammu & Kashmir continues to strengthen its healthcare infrastructure, professionals like Dr Bashir have an important role in taking advanced medical services to communities that have traditionally had to travel considerable distances for specialised treatment. His journey from Gundbal to the cardiac facilities of GMC Baramulla is therefore not merely a story of personal achievement, but also one of professional commitment to improving access to quality cardiovascular care.

With aspirations to further enhance clinical services, expand medical education and contribute to healthcare infrastructure, Dr Mustafa Bashir continues to pursue a career rooted in three fundamental values—clinical excellence, compassionate care and service to society.



Asian Games Basketball Roundup: China cruises in opener, Japan & South Korea stay unbeaten

United News Of India

NAGOYA (JAPAN), SEPT 12 :China opened its Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games men's basketball campaign with a commanding 99-61 victory over Kazakhstan here, while Japan and South Korea both secured their second straight wins.

China seized control with a 14-0 run in the opening quarter and built a 31-12 lead. A 6-0 burst early in the second stretched the advantage to 25 points on Friday.

Kazakhstan briefly cut the deficit to 17, but China quickly responded. Liao Sanning and Cui Yongxi converted fast-break opportunities before Yu Jiahao completed a three-point play,

elping China take a 58-31 lead into halftime.

China extended the lead to 79-44 by the end of the third quarter and led 86-48 midway through the fourth before comfortably closing out the win.

China forward Li Hongquan acknowledged that an early tip-off and the opening game of a major tournament had presented challenges, but was pleased with the team's approach.

"We came out with good energy. We started on defense, and I'm really proud of how we played today," Li said.

China shot 57 percent from the field and outrebounded Kazakhstan 44-23. Six Chinese players scored in double digits, with Pang Zhenglin and Yu sharing game-high honors with 17 points apiece. Li contributed 16 points and nine rebounds, while Cui added 12. Liao and Jiao Boqiao each scored 10, according



to Xinhua.

In the other Group C game, Bahrain held off defending champion Philippines 89-85. Bahrain led 76-61 after three quarters before the Philippines mounted a late rally, outscoring its opponent 24-13 in the final period. Jakarr Sampson paced Bahrain with 24 points and eight assists, while Elijah Thomas and Mustafa Rashed each scored 20. Calvin Oftana led all scorers with 31 points for the Philippines. South Korea clinched its second victory in Group A after routing Indonesia.

102-48. Leading by nine at halftime, South Korea

overwhelmed its opponent 63-18 in the second half. Lee Hyun-jung scored a game-high 24 points, while Indonesia's Yudha Saputera finished with 17.

Host Japan also recorded its second consecutive victory with an 86-80 win over Saudi Arabia. Japan carried a 51-35 advantage into halftime and held firm despite being outscored by 10 points after the break.

The 12 participating teams are divided into three groups, with the top two from each group and the two best third-placed sides advancing to the quarterfinals.

Star-studded Archery Premier League returns for its second season this October

United News Of India

HYDERABAD, SEPT 12 :The Archery Premier League (APL) will return for its second season with 36 of India's leading archers set to compete alongside 12 international stars from 10 different countries, in Hyderabad from October 8 to 18.

Four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari and World Championship silver medallist Atanu Das lead the home recurve squad, alongside reigning Asian champion Dhiraj Bommadevara.

India's compound section is equally stacked, anchored by multi-time World Cup and Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma, joined by former World Champion Ojas Pravin Deotale.

The domestic stars will go head-to-head against an international lineup featuring Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Mete Gazoz of Turkey, Paris 2024 bronze medalist Casey Kaufhold of the United States, World No. 1 Marcus D'Almeida of Brazil, World No. 2 Ella Gibson of Great Britain, and Dutch compound legend Mike Schloesser, a former World Champion and four-time World Cup Final winner.

Adding further weight to the domestic lineup, all 12 members of the Indian squad heading to the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya later this month are part of the APL ecosystem, giving the league a direct connection to the country's immediate international campaign.

Speaking on the upcoming campaign, Anil Kamineni, Director, Archery Premier League, noted, "Following an incredible response to our inaugural season, we are ready to deliver an even bigger Season 2. Having the world's top international archers join our league transforms the APL into a truly global spectacle, while continuing to give our Indian archers an invaluable competitive platform to test themselves directly against the best in the world." Selected on the basis of World Archery and national rankings, the 36-member Indian roster features a mix of established names and emerging talent, with 21 archers returning from the inaugural season and 15 making their APL debut. Among the debutants are World Championships silver medallist Rajat Chauhan and World Cup stage gold medallist Ridhi, along with World University Games.

Kilo T20 League Concludes Successfully at Naidkhai BPR, Strengthening Youth Engagement and Army-Public Relations



Aijaz Baba

BANDIPORA :The North Kashmir Kilo T20 Cricket League, a sector-level T20 cricket tournament organised by the Naidkhai Army Camp, concluded successfully at the Sports Ground Naidkhai, witnessing enthusiastic participation from players, youth and cricket enthusiasts from across the area.

A total of 16 teams participated in the tournament, providing a competitive platform for young cricketers to showcase their talent while promoting sportsmanship, discipline, teamwork and camaraderie among the youth.

In the much-anticipated final, Nanda

Sports Hajin emerged victorious after an exciting contest, while the Naidkhai team secured the runner-up position.

The final witnessed an impressive gathering of spectators and active participation from the local community, reflecting the strong interest of the people in sporting activities.

The concluding ceremony was graced by the presence of the Commanding Officer, 13 Rashtriya Rifles,

along with the SDPO Sumbal and other senior Army officers. The dignitaries interacted with the participating teams, appreciated their sporting spirit

and encouraged the youth to pursue sports as a constructive avenue for personal growth and community development.

Sarthak Chavan leads podium sweep for Petronas, Ann Jennifer, teenager Kabilesh Rajini Krishnan script fine wins

United News Of India

CHENNAI, SEP 12 :Shrugging off lack of sleep and jet-lag following an overnight journey from Spain to Chennai, and starting from the last row of the grid, a gritty 19-year-old Sarthak Chavan from Pune still found reserves of energy to win the premier Super Sport

301-400cc Open race in the second round of the MRF 2W Indian National Racing Challenge at the Madras International Circuit, at Irungattukottai, about 40 km from here, on Saturday.

Sarthak, who arrived in Sriperumbudur at six in the morning today, missed Friday's practice and qualifying sessions, but found his rhythm at the right moment to pull off a stunning win, while acknowledging that leader Rahul Pillarisetty's retirement at the end of the penultimate lap played a part in his victory.

In the process, Sarthak led a podium sweep for Petronas TVS Racing team as Chennai teenager Rakshith Dave finished second ahead of Bengaluru's Chiranth Vishwanath who started last having missed the practice and qualifying sessions yesterday, due to a bout of

Gosens sparks Schalke to first Bundesliga win since return

United News Of India

BERLIN, SEPT 12 :Robin Gosens scored against his former club as Schalke 04 claimed their first Bundesliga victory since returning to the top flight, beating union Berlin 3-1.

Both sides entered the third matchday still searching for a first league win after collecting one point from their opening two games, but Schalke quickly grew into the contest after an energetic start from union on Friday.

Captain Kenan Karaman, making his first start of the season after recovering from a hip injury, fired over from distance before Adil Aouchiche was denied by Frederik Ronnow after breaking clear in the 20th minute.

Schalke's pressure paid off

five minutes later when Soufiane El-Faouzi's cross was flicked

line, while Ronnow produced another strong save to keep



on

nd former union defender Gosens met the ball on the volley to score the promoted side's first Bundesliga goal since May 2023.

The visitors remained the more threatening team before halftime. Tom Rothe cleared an Aouchiche effort near the

out Junior Adamu. Schalke doubled their advantage immediately after the restart as Aouchiche exchanged passes with Adamu and finished with the help of the crossbar in the 46th minute. An initial offside decision was overturned by VAR. Union responded with their strongest spell.

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