

Srinagar
Thursday
September 17 | 2026
4 Rabi al-Thani 1448 AH
Issue No: 224
Volume: 16
Pages: 12
Price :Rs: 2/-

www.dailyheadlinestoday.com

16TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION

HEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



P:12
From 98.6 pc in Class 12 to Asian Games: How Aashima Ahlawat struck a deal with her mother to pursue shooting

HT BRIEFLY

Cabinet approves hike in EPFO wage ceiling to Rs 25,000

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16 : The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to enhance the wage ceiling for mandatory coverage under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 per month, a move expected to bring more than 51 lakh additional employees under mandatory social security coverage. The decision, taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is aimed at widening social security protection for workers and strengthening the formalisation of employment. The EPFO wage ceiling had remained unchanged throughout the decade from 2004 to 2014 before being enhanced to Rs 15,000 in September 2014. The latest revision seeks to

>>> MORE ON P02

PIB Srinagar organises 'Vartalap' on three-year roadmap for drug-free India

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16 : The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Srinagar, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), on Wednesday organised 'Vartalap' to create awareness about the government's Vision Document 2026-2029 for a drug-free India. The programme focused on the key aspects and salient features

>>> MORE ON P02

Four days after son, grandson die in Budgam crash, grandfather passes away

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BUDGAM, SEPT 16: In another tragic turn for a family in Budgam, a 62-year-old man died on Wednesday, four days after his son and three-year-old grandson were killed in a road accident. The elderly man, identified as Ghulam Hassan Mir, a resident of Ghoom Ahmadpora in Magam, reportedly collapsed at a graveyard while attending the funeral rites of his deceased family members. Relatives and neighbours said Mir suddenly fell unconscious during the proceedings.

>>> MORE ON P02

J&K FDA conducts food safety inspections of hotels, restaurants across UT

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, conducted food safety inspections of hotels and restaurants across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to assess compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made thereunder. A total of 229 hotels

>>> MORE ON P02

Two Earthquakes Hit Nepal's Mugu Within Three Hours

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPT 16: Two earthquakes struck Nepal's north-western Mugu district within nearly three hours early Wednesday, with no immediate reports of casualties or damage, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Center. The first earthquake, measuring 4.5 magnitude, occurred at 1:51 am, followed by a 4.2-magnitude tremor at 4:28 am. Both quakes were recorded with their epicentres around

>>> MORE ON P02

"We Shall Guide The World" : LG Manoj Sinha

Highlights unity, harmony and universal welfare at Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAEBARELI, SEPTEMBER 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today attended the Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha in Raebareli in the presence of revered spiritual leader Pandit Pradeep Mishra Ji, where he highlighted the values of unity, harmony and universal welfare. Expressing gratitude to Uttar Pradesh Minister Manoj Kumar Pandey for organising the gathering, Sinha said the teachings of Sanatana tradition emphasise human welfare and peaceful coexistence, and referred to Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam as a timeless vision of a world united as one family. He also called upon saints and enlightened members of society to contribute towards national development and expressed confidence that the spirit of unity would help India regain its ancient glory. The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the



Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha in Raebareli, in the holy presence of the revered Pandit Pradeep Mishra Ji. He observed that the divine teaching of Lord Shiva is a sacred pilgrimage for seekers of truth.

The Lieutenant Governor extended heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Manoj Kumar Pandey, for organising this extraordinary spiritual gathering, which has infused new vitality among

the people. He remarked that just as gold is refined by fire, holy company rekindles and purifies the spiritual energy within our souls.

Highlighting the eternal vision of universal welfare, the Lieutenant Governor recalled that Sanatana Dharma has always emphasised unity and harmony. He noted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is manifesting this philosophy globally. Referring to the recent BRICS Summit in Delhi,

the Lieutenant Governor observed that the ancient mantra Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- "the world is one family"- is now being embraced by nations worldwide as a foundation for peace and collective welfare.

"What our ancestors envisioned millennia ago is now being embraced by nations worldwide, as they step forward to adopt this philosophy for peace and harmony," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged society to remain vigilant against divisive elements and emphasised that unity is India's greatest strength. He reminded the gathering that Sanatana culture nurtures diversity, harmony, and human welfare. He called upon saints and enlightened members of society to guide the nation in realising comprehensive development.

The Lieutenant Governor affirmed his confidence that the spirit of unity will once again make India a developed nation, restoring its ancient glory.

"A time has come when we shall guide the world and saints and enlightened members of society will play a vital role and bear great responsibility in this mission. The power of unity and its spirit will once again make India a developed nation, and I am fully confident that we shall regain our ancient glory," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"Factual Accuracy and Public Interest Should Remain the Guiding Principles" : Ab Rahim Rather

Speaker Urges Responsible Coverage of Assembly Proceedings Ahead of Autumn Session



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather today urged the media to maintain accuracy, objectivity and responsibility while covering the forthcoming Autumn Session of the Assembly beginning September 21. Interacting with media representatives, Rather stressed that substantive debates, constructive deliberations and issues of public importance should receive due prominence, while isolated disruptions should not overshadow legislative business. Journalists raised concerns regarding media passes, entry, parking, working facilities, sound systems and Wi-Fi connectivity, with the Speaker assuring them of necessary facilitation and informing them that arrangements had been made for hassle-free entry and designated parking for accredited media vehicles. Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired a meeting with representatives of the media fraternity ahead of the forthcoming Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly, scheduled to

commence on September 21.

The purpose of the meeting was to seek their suggestions and addressing the issues concerning the smooth and effective coverage of proceedings of the House.

Addressing the representatives of the print, electronic and other media organisations, the Speaker acknowledged their significant role in strengthening the democratic institutions and facilitating communication between the government, the legislature and the people. He said that the media serves as an important bridge between the public and the government, enabling information regarding government schemes, programmes and welfare initiatives to reach the people. It simultaneously provides an effective channel through which public concerns and grievances are brought to the attention of the government and concerned institutions, he added.

He said that the responsibility of the media assumes even greater significance while covering the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, which constitute an important forum for deliberation on matters of

>>> MORE ON P02

"Do Not Trust Any Promise Until it is Given in Writing" : Omar Abdullah

CM cites J&K's statehood assurance while advising Ladakh leaders

HT NEWS NETWORK

foundation stones laid in the

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday advised leaders from Ladakh and Kargil not to rely on verbal assurances from the Centre and to seek commitments in writing and with a signature. Referring to the Centre's assurance on restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Omar said nearly two years had passed since elections but the promise remained unfulfilled. Speaking to reporters after reviewing development works in Pulwama, he also directed officials to accelerate expenditure during the remaining working season and said projects worth around Rs 100 crore had either been inaugurated or had their



district, covering roads, schools, hospitals, bridges and agriculture-related infrastructure. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday advised leaders from Ladakh and Kargil not to rely on verbal assurances from the Centre, saying they should seek any

>>> MORE ON P02

"The visit reflects the importance attached to sustained military diplomacy"

Army Chief Gen Dheeraj Seth begins three-day Russia visit to deepen defence cooperation

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16: Chief of Army Staff General Dheeraj Seth on Wednesday embarked on a three-day official visit to Russia aimed at further strengthening military cooperation and the long-standing defence partnership between the two countries. During the September 16-18 visit, Gen Seth is scheduled to hold talks with senior Russian military and defence officials on matters of mutual interest, including military cooperation, training, defence industry and procurement. He will also visit the National Defence Control Centre



in Moscow and the Mikhailovskaya Military Artillery Academy in Saint Petersburg, besides paying homage at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow.

Chief of Army Staff General Dheeraj

Seth on Wednesday embarked on a three-day official visit to Russia aimed at further deepening the long-standing defence partnership and military cooperation between the two countries.

The visit, from September 16 to 18, comes amid continued momentum in India-Russia defence engagement.

During the visit, Gen Seth will be accorded a formal Guard of Honour and will pay homage to fallen soldiers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow, the Army said in a statement. He is scheduled to hold talks with Colonel General Andrey

>>> MORE ON P02

HT BOTTOM NEWS

"Assessments should translate into structured interventions"

CS Atal Dulloo directs time-bound revival of recoverable MSMEs



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today directed the Industries and Commerce Department to expedite field assessments and prepare actionable revival plans for 6,576 recoverable

MSME units identified under the J&K MSME Health Clinic initiative. Reviewing the programme, Dulloo called for stronger field-level mechanisms, regular follow-up and coordinated interventions to ensure that diagnostic assessments result in tangible rehabilitation of stressed

enterprises. The meeting was informed that 2,94,014 of the 3,42,261 registered MSME units under monitoring had undergone assessment, with 6,682 units requiring active intervention, including 6,576 recoverable units and 106 prone to chronic sickness. Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and functioning of the J&K MSME Health Clinic, a digital initiative aimed at monitoring, diagnosing and revitalizing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the Union Territory through timely assessment and targeted interventions. The meeting was attended by Additional

>>> MORE ON P02

Security arrangements must remain dynamic and responsive

IGP Kashmir reviews preparedness across Central Kashmir Range

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Sujit Kumar today directed officers to maintain heightened vigilance and strengthen preventive security measures across the Central Kashmir Range. Chairing a security review meeting at PCR Kashmir, Kumar reviewed the prevailing security situation, deployment and operational preparedness with senior officers from Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal. He directed officers to strengthen counter-insurgency operations, area



domination, naka checking at vulnerable locations and surveillance along inter-district borders, while stressing regular assessment of security arrangements,

>>> MORE ON P02

Continue from Front Page.....

Cabinet approves

align the ceiling with sustained wage growth, rising incomes and the expansion of formal employment.

At present, a fresh employee joining employment at a wage above Rs 15,000 per month is not automatically covered under the EPF framework and may remain outside mandatory provident fund, pension and associated insurance protection.

With the ceiling raised to Rs 25,000, employees in the Rs 15,000-Rs 25,000 wage band will be brought within the statutory social security framework, subject to applicable provisions.

The expanded coverage will provide access to provident fund savings, pension protection under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and insurance protection under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI), in accordance with the applicable scheme provisions.

The government said the move will also enable the statutory contribution and pensionable-wage framework to better reflect prevailing wage levels.

Since the last revision in September 2014, India has witnessed sustained wage growth, rising incomes and continued expansion of formal employment. In several states and occupations, minimum wages have also moved closer to the existing threshold.

The enhancement is expected to provide further impetus to employment formalisation, worker retention and long-term retirement security. Wider social security coverage is also expected to support employee retention, workforce stability and morale among employees.

The proposal underwent detailed inter-ministerial consultations and was recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee at its meeting held on June 16, 2026.

The annual government outgo under the measure is estimated at about Rs 11,339 crore, against the existing annual budgetary support of around Rs 10,250 crore. The estimated expenditure over five years is approximately Rs 56,696 crore.

EPFO operates one of the world's largest social security systems, administering the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI).

According to the latest EPFO data, the organisation has around 7.98 crore contributing members across about 7.68 lakh contributing establishments, while the EPS provides pension benefits to around 82 lakh pensioners. EDLI provides insurance protection linked to EPF membership.

The government said the measure will ensure that the social security framework keeps pace with rising wages and expanding formal employment, enabling a larger number of workers to receive statutory social security protection.

It said the decision marks another step towards building an inclusive, resilient and future-ready social security architecture as India moves towards Viksit Bharat@2047.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment and EPFO will undertake the necessary statutory and administrative steps for implementation of the decision.(KNS)

PIB Srinagar

of the three-year roadmap aimed at achieving the goal of a 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' by 2029.

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah had launched the Vision Document 2026-2029 in June this year as part of the government's efforts to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

The 'Vartalap' was conducted by NCB Zonal Director for Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh region Piyush Kumar Ankit, PIB Srinagar Director Qazi Salman and Assistant Director (Media), Ministry of Home Affairs, Rajeev Kumar Rustagi.

During the interaction, media persons were briefed about the government's initiatives and key achievements in combating drugs, including seizures, arrests, deep-level investigations and destruction of seized narcotics.

The roadmap, covering the period from July 2026 to July 2029, is based on four pillars -- intelligence and operation-based enforcement, precursor and synthetic drugs control, demand and harm reduction, and capacity building and coordination.

The operational approach under the four pillars is based on the mantra of "Detect, Disrupt and Destroy".

Under the strategy, agencies will focus on identifying drug sources, routes, peddlers, technology, payment channels and kingpins; disrupting transit, logistics, precursor supply, darknet networks, hawala and narco-financing; and destroying clandestine drug laboratories, illicit cultivation, cartel assets, leadership and distribution networks.

The government has identified the fight against drugs as a national security priority, with special focus on dismantling clandestine drug laboratories, tracing and bringing back drug offenders and fugitives, integrating systems and achieving measurable national outcomes.

The presentation also highlighted measures for supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction, besides targeting drug trafficking networks, financial channels and fugitives through a whole-of-government approach.

Strengthening the joint operational capabilities of agencies, from policy formulation to prosecution, has also been accorded priority under the Vision Document.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, along with educational institutions, is working towards making educational institutions drug-free. Through NCC, NSS and My Bharat initiatives, lakhs of 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Mitras' will also be prepared, the participants were informed.

The Vision Document has been prepared following consultations with concerned Central Government ministries and departments, drug law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders, providing a common roadmap covering demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction.

The roadmap envisages a network-centric enforcement approach to tackle emerging challenges such as synthetic drugs and darknet-enabled trafficking. It also outlines measures to prevent drug abuse among youth, expand access to treatment and rehabilitation centres and strengthen coordinated action over the next three years.

The 'Vartalap' also emphasised the role of the media in creating public awareness and encouraging wider participation of society in the campaign against drug abuse.(KNS)

Four days

He was immediately taken to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Mir's son, Naseer Ahmad Mir, 29, and grandson Hadi Ali, 3, were killed in a road accident in the Soibugh area of Budgam on September 12.

Naseer's wife, Dilshada Akhter, 26, was critically injured in the accident and was shifted to a hospital for treatment.

The successive deaths have left the family and residents of the area in deep shock, with relatives and neighbours mourning the loss of three members of the family within four days.(KNS)

J&K FDA conducts

and restaurants were inspected, during which 124 food samples of various commodities, including milk and milk products, spices, edible oils and prepared food, were lifted and forwarded to NABL-accredited laboratories for analysis.

During the inspections, violations of the prescribed sanitary and hygienic requirements were observed in certain food establishments. Accordingly, 38 Improvement Notices were issued to the concerned Food Business Operators (FBOs), directing them to undertake necessary corrective measures and ensure compliance with the prescribed food safety requirements.

Further, 05 cases were filed under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which provides for a penalty of up to ₹1 lakh. In addition, 29 cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Act, with a total fine of ₹50,000 imposed.

The Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers have been directed to continue inspections and sampling of hotels, restaurants and other food establishments in their respective jurisdictions and to take appropriate action against violations in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made thereunder.

Food Business Operators have been advised to ensure compliance with the prescribed requirements relating to food safety, sanitation and hygiene, storage, handling and preparation of food. Any violation shall be dealt with in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Consumers are requested to report any suspected unsafe or adulterated food product through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at fsij&jk.fda@jk.gov.in (mailto:jk.fda@jk.gov.in).(KNS)

Two Earthquakes

Kalai in Mugu district.

India's National Centre for Seismology (NCS) also recorded the tremors, though it measured the second earthquake at 4.0 magnitude.

According to the NCS, the first quake occurred at 1:36 am IST at a depth of 81 kilometres, around 159 kilometres east of Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. The second was recorded at 4:13 am IST at a depth of 98 kilometres, approximately 166 kilometres east of Pithoragarh.

The latest tremors come days after two earthquakes struck Nepal's Mustang district. A 5.3-magnitude earthquake hit the area on September 8, followed by a 4.0-magnitude tremor on September 9.

Nepal is also continuing recovery and relief operations following the August 26 Bhote Koshi flash floods, which affected the Rasuwa-Trishuli river system and several downstream districts.

According to the latest Nepal Police update cited in the report, 1,403 bodies have been recovered, while 4,089 people remain officially listed as missing. Search, identification and relief operations are continuing in the affected areas.(KNS)

Factual Accuracy

commitment in writing and with a signature before placing their trust in it.

Omar made the remarks while speaking to reporters after reviewing development works in Pulwama, referring to the Centre's assurance on restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"As a friend and elder brother, I would advise the leaders of Ladakh that they should not trust any promise made by the Central Government until it is given to them in writing and signed," he said.

Drawing a parallel with Jammu and Kashmir, Omar said the people of J&K had also been given a verbal assurance that statehood would be restored after elections.

"We were also victims of a verbal promise. We were told that statehood would be restored immediately after the elections. Nearly two years have passed, and that promise is nowhere to be seen," he said.

Omar advised leaders from Ladakh and Kargil to seek a written assurance from the

Centre, preferably in the form of an affidavit, before relying on its commitments.

He also said the issues concerning Ladakh were different from those faced by Jammu and Kashmir, but maintained that any assurances given to the region should be formally recorded.

The remarks came as the Centre faces demands from different groups in Ladakh over constitutional safeguards, statehood and other issues concerning the region.

Meanwhile, reviewing development works in Pulwama, Omar said the administration needed to accelerate spending during the remaining two to three months of the working season.

"I just want to say that in the remaining two-three months of the work season, we need to push a little more and use as much money as we can. After that, if we do reallocation, if we use all our budget, then I can arrange for more money," he said.

Omar said the four MLAs from the district had placed various demands before the government, with some decisions having been taken locally and others requiring decisions at a higher level.

He said development work was underway in almost every constituency of the district.

According to the Chief Minister, projects worth around "Rs 100 crore" had either been inaugurated or had their foundation stones laid in Pulwama on Wednesday.

The works, he said, covered several sectors, including roads, schools, hospitals, bridges and agriculture-related infrastructure.

"Around 100 crore projects in Pulwama have either been inaugurated or their foundations have been laid. There is road work, school work, hospital work, some pools are being built, a dairy processing village is being prepared," Omar said.

He said the government was now seeing the progress of these works at the ground level across the district.

"The work is being seen on the land level," he said.(KNS)

Factual Accuracy

public interest and accountability.

Rather stressed the need for accurate, objective and responsible reporting of Assembly proceedings, stating that factual accuracy and the larger public interest should remain the guiding principles of legislative coverage. He urged the media representatives to give due prominence to substantive debates, constructive deliberations and issues of public importance discussed in the House.

The Speaker also emphasized the importance of avoiding any form of misleading or factually incorrect reporting. He urged the media to maintain the sanctity of legislative proceedings while reporting the functioning of the House.

He emphasised that isolated instances of disruption or disorder should not overshadow the substantive legislative business, as excessive focus on such incidents may convey an incomplete picture of the functioning of the House, particularly to the general public and newly elected members. He called for greater emphasis on the quality of debates, discussions and legislative business conducted during the session. He said that the legislature who performs well in debates and discussions shall be given more prominence instead of those who create disturbance and trouble.

Responding to the observations regarding the duration of the forthcoming session, the Speaker placed comparative data regarding the number of sittings held during Monsoon and Budget sessions in various States and Union Territories, providing a factual perspective on the matter.

He informed that several States/UTs have held fewer sittings during their respective Monsoon sessions, including Uttar Pradesh with four sittings, Delhi with three, Rajasthan with two, Haryana with three, Madhya Pradesh with five, Punjab with six, Gujarat with three, Goa with three, Tamil Nadu with three, Bihar with five, Jharkhand with five and Chhattisgarh with five sittings, whereas the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is scheduled to conduct seven sittings during the forthcoming Autumn Session, that too being a Union Territory.

The Speaker further informed that the Legislative Assembly of Assam had conducted a one-day session in June 2025 while pointing out that the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly had held 22 sittings during the Budget Session. He stated that it was comparatively higher than the number of sittings conducted by several other legislative assemblies during their corresponding sessions.

During the interaction, representatives of the media fraternity put forth a number of suggestions aimed at facilitating smooth, professional and hassle-free coverage of the Assembly proceedings.

The journalists raised issues relating to regulation and timely issuance of media passes, particularly for accredited journalists, proper accommodation and working facilities for regional, national and international media, improvement of the sound system within the Legislative Assembly, hassle-free entry of authorised media personnel, adequate Wi-Fi connectivity and arrangements for parking of media vehicles. The representatives also stressed the need for ensuring appropriate logistical and technical facilities so that journalists can discharge their professional responsibilities effectively during the session.

The opposition

healthcare, Anganwadi services and basic amenities, besides local issues concerning roads,

bridges, tourism and water supply.

Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Wednesday said the opposition will raise the voices of the poor and common people in the upcoming Assembly session, alleging that corruption and unemployment have reached alarming levels in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma, who is on a visit to Baramulla as part of his party's pre-session outreach programme, told news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) that the legislative group had decided to visit every district headquarters to listen to people's problems ahead of the session.

"A lot of people have come from North Kashmir with their issues. Our legislative group has decided that before this Assembly session, we will go to every district headquarters and listen to the problems of the people. Today we have come to Baramulla. People have come from different sections here," Sharma said.

"This is purely apolitical. We will not call this a political meeting. We have come here to listen to the problems of the people and raise them in the concerned quarters," he added.

On the BJP's stance in the Assembly session, Sunil Sharma said, "The opposition has to raise the voices of the poor. Especially now, corruption has crossed many levels. Unemployed youth are in distress because they are being deprived of jobs in the name of outsourcing."

"And by not having a municipal election, thousands of crores of rupees are not being invested in the ground. Electricity rent has been increased and the burden has been placed on the poor. There are all such issues. There are issues of deliveries. There are issues of NHRM. There are issues of Anganwadi. There are many common issues," he said.

The visit reflects

Nikolayevich Mordvichev, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Forces, on issues of mutual interest, including military cooperation and training.

The Army Chief will also visit the National Defence Control Centre in Moscow and meet senior officials of the Russian Ministry of Defence, including Deputy Defence Minister Vasily Sergeyevich Osmakov, who oversees matters related to the defence industry and procurement.

Officials said the meetings will provide an opportunity to exchange views on current military developments and explore avenues for enhancing defence cooperation.

As part of the visit, Gen Seth will travel to Saint Petersburg, where he will visit the Mikhailovskaya Military Artillery Academy and interact with its leadership and faculty.

The Army described the visit as reflective of the importance both countries attach to sustained military diplomacy and mutual military engagement, expressing hope that the talks would deepen military cooperation and strengthen long-term defence ties between India and Russia.(KNS).

Assessments should

Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu/Kashmir; Director Handloom & Handicrafts,

Kashmir/Jammu; Representatives from IIM-Jammu, J&K Bank besides other senior officers of the Industries & Commerce Department.

The meeting reviewed the expansion of the programme's diagnostic coverage, the status of field-level assessments, institutional arrangements for rehabilitation, financial interventions and the use of digital tools for monitoring and follow-up of stressed industrial units.

Taking stock of the progress achieved, the Chief Secretary directed the Industries and Commerce (I&C) Department to accelerate field visits and strengthen the operational capacity of Small Business Development Units (SBDUs). He called for ensuring the mandatory expansion of SBDUs so as to adequately equip them to undertake assessment, handholding and follow-up of MSMEs in a coordinated and result-oriented manner.

The Chief Secretary further stressed for completing diagnostic profiling and preparing actionable revival plans for all 6,576 identified recoverable units. He stressed that the assessment exercise should now translate into structured interventions, with periodical follow-up and monitoring of the recommendations emerging from the Health Clinic.

Earlier, the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh apprised the meeting that the MSME Health Clinic is presently monitoring a portfolio of 3,42,261 registered MSME units, out of which 2,94,014 units have undergone diagnostic assessment. The analysis revealed that 2,87,332 units, constituting 97.7 per cent of the assessed portfolio, have been found completely stable.

He further revealed that the assessment has identified 6,682 units requiring active intervention, including 6,576 units classified as recoverable and 106 units identified as prone to chronic sickness. Additionally, he made out that 48,247 units have been referred back to J&K Bank for data correction, enabling further refinement of the database and more accurate assessment of the concerned enterprises.

Security arrangements

timely reinforcement and close coordination among field formations to maintain peace and public safety.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Shri Sujit Kumar-IPS, chaired a security review meeting at PCR Kashmir to assess the prevailing security situation and review the preparedness of police functionaries across the Central Kashmir Range.

The meeting was attended by DIG CKR Srinagar, SSP of Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal, SSP PCR Kashmir, SO to IGP Kashmir, SP of Srinagar and Budgam, all SDPOs and other senior police officers.

At the outset, the participating officers briefed IGP Kashmir on the prevailing security situation in their respective areas of responsibility and apprised him of the security grid put in place to maintain peace, public order and a secure environment.

During the meeting, Sujit Kumar reviewed the security grid and preparedness across the Central Kashmir Range, with particular focus on the deployment and operational readiness of personnel.

CIED-IUST Foundation and JKEDI Organise Startup Idea Challenge 2.0



Showkat Dar

AWANTIPORA.15-SEPT: CIED-IUST Foundation, in association with the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, organised the Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 at the IUST Innovation Campus, providing an encouraging platform for aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators and students to showcase their ideas and explore opportunities for developing them into viable startups.

The programme was inaugurated by Sh. Chand Kishor (JKAS), Joint Director, JKEDI, in the presence of Prof. Parvez A. Mir, CEO CIED-IUST Foundation, Mr. Rayees, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Dr. Tariq Ahmad Ganaie, Associate Professor, Department of Food Technology, IUST, Dr. Sajjad Ahmed Lone, Coordinator of the Programme, representatives of J&K Bank, officials from JKEDI, members of CIED-IUST Foundation and a large gathering of students, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Parvez A. Mir emphasised the importance of nurturing an innovation-driven and entrepreneurial ecosystem among the youth. He highlighted the role of initiatives such as the Startup Idea Challenge in encouraging young minds to identify real-world challenges,

develop innovative solutions and transform their ideas into sustainable and impactful ventures.

As part of the programme, participants presented their innovative startup ideas before the evaluators. The ideas were evaluated during the programme on various parameters, including innovation, feasibility, scalability, potential impact and entrepreneurial potential. The evaluation also provided participants with valuable feedback and insights to help them further refine and strengthen their proposed ventures.

The organisers from JKEDI stated that Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 is part of the continued efforts of CIED-IUST Foundation and JKEDI to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and startup culture in Jammu & Kashmir. Such initiatives seek to empower aspiring entrepreneurs by providing them with platforms for ideation, mentorship, evaluation and institutional support, while encouraging them to develop solutions with social and economic impact.

The programme concluded with an acknowledgment of the participants, evaluators, partner organisations and all stakeholders for their valuable contribution towards the successful organisation of Startup Idea Challenge 2.0.

Sunil Sharma holds outreach camp in Baramulla, assures to raise people s issues in Assembly

■ HT News Network

Baramulla, 16 September 2026: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma interacted with residents and representatives of different sections of society from three districts namely Baramullah, Kupwara, and Bandipora in Dak Bungalow, Baramulla as part of the BJP legislative group's pre-session public outreach programme. J&K BJP General Secretary Anwar Khan, All Cells Co-Incharge & Prabhari Baramulla Bilal Parre and other senior leaders of the party also accompanied the Leader of Opposition on the occasion.

Sharma said that the BJP legislative group has decided to visit district headquarters across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the upcoming Assembly session to directly listen to the concerns and grievances of the people.

"A large number of people have come from different parts of North Kashmir with their issues. Our legislative group has decided that



before the Assembly session, we will visit every district headquarters, listen to the problems of the people and ensure that their genuine concerns are raised in the appropriate forum," Sharma said.

He said the outreach programme in Baramulla provided an opportunity to hear people from different sections of society and understand issues affecting their day-to-day lives. "We have come here to listen to

the problems of the people and raise them in the concerned quarters. Our responsibility as the opposition is to ensure that the voice of the common man reaches the government and the Assembly," he said.

Sharma said several important issues were brought to his notice during the interaction, including roads, bridges, water supply, tourism, electricity charges, employment, outsourced workers, NHM employees, Anganwadi workers and municipal elections.

Expressing concern over unemployment and employment-related grievances, Sharma said that the problems faced by unemployed youth and workers require serious attention and appropriate government intervention.

He also said that issues related to local governance and civic infrastructure need to be addressed effectively so that development reaches people at the grassroots level.

"The people have brought very basic issues before us. Some have concerns regarding roads and bridges, some regarding water supply, while

others have raised tourism and other civic issues. These are basic governance issues and they cannot be ignored," Sharma said.

On the absence of municipal elections, Sharma said that strengthening grassroots democratic institutions was important for effective local governance and development.

"The BJP is the principal opposition party and we will raise the concerns of the people in the Assembly. The issues brought before us in Baramulla will be taken up at the appropriate level," Sharma said.

Sharma reiterated that the pre-session outreach programme was aimed at strengthening direct engagement between elected representatives and the people and ensuring that public grievances are reflected in the legislative process.

Sharma reiterated that the BJP will continue to remain a strong voice of the people of J&K, raising their concerns in the Assembly and standing firmly with them against the anti-people policies and misgovernance of the NC Government.

Anganwadi Workers, Helpers Stage Strong Protest in Anantnag Over Pending Dues, Honorarium and Other Liabilities

■ Farooq Rather



ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 16: Anganwadi Workers and Helpers of District Anantnag on Wednesday held a strong protest, demanding immediate clearance of their pending honorarium and other legitimate dues.

Hundreds of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers participated in the protest and urged the Department and administration to take immediate steps to address their long-pending issues.

The protesters said their honorarium has remained pending for several months, causing serious financial difficulties. They also raised the issue of pending mobile charges, uniform payments and incentives, besides demanding clearance of any remaining dues from funds released in August. The protesting workers demanded that all pending liabilities of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers be released in full without further delay. They said they have been serving children and society for years and that their contribution and hard work should not be ignored.

The protesters maintained that they were seeking their legitimate rights and called upon the concerned authorities to resolve the issues without further delay.

State President of Anganwadis Mir Haneefa, State Cashier Zamrooda Akhter, District President Anantnag Nazia, District Secretary Gulzara, Vice President Shahzada, and senior-most CITU member Latifa Ganie were present during the protest.

The protesting workers reiterated their demand for timely payment of all pending dues and urged the administration to intervene and ensure an early resolution of their grievances.

Free public transport travel approved for differently-abled persons in J&K

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Sep 16 (KNO): The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday sanctioned free travel for differently-abled persons on public transport, fulfilling a key Budget announcement made in March this year.

The Office of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a post on X, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the facility will cover Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) services, as well as e-buses operated by Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited. "Fulfilling a key Budget announcement made in March this year, the Government has sanctioned free ridership for differently-abled persons in public transport," the Office of the Chief Minister said in the post. It added that the facility will cover JKRTC services as well as e-buses operated by Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited.

SMVDU Organizes Five-Day Workshop on Structural, Thermal and Fluid Simulations using ANSYS

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 16: The School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) commenced a five-day workshop on "Structural, Thermal and Fluid Simulations using ANSYS". The workshop is being organized in hybrid mode from September 14 to 18, 2026, with the objective of enhancing the practical and computational skills of students, researchers, faculty members and professionals in advanced engineering simulation. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, who highlighted the growing importance of computational tools and simulation techniques in modern engineering education, research and

industrial applications. He appreciated the initiative of the School of Mechanical Engineering and encouraged the participants to develop practical skills and utilize advanced simulation tools for addressing real-world engineering challenges. The workshop focuses on structural, thermal and fluid simulations using ANSYS, covering fundamental concepts, numerical modelling, simulation methodologies and their engineering applications. A key feature of the programme is the combination of expert lectures with hands-on sessions, providing participants an opportunity to connect theoretical knowledge with practical simulation workflows. The technical sessions are being delivered by distinguished experts from academia, research

and industry, including Dr. Mohit Kumar, Academic Enhancement Department, King Mongkut's University of Technology, North Bangkok; Mr. Abhishek Kumar, CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur, Ministry of Science and Technology; Mr. Pradeep Verma, IOTA Design & Innovations Lab Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Omprakash Bharti and Dr. Ravi Kumar, Parul University, Vadodara, Gujarat. The programme is being conducted in two sessions each day, with online expert lectures and technical discussions in the morning and hands-on training and practical demonstrations in the afternoon. Interactive question-and-answer sessions further provide participants with opportunities to engage with the experts and clarify their technical queries. The workshop is being coordinated by Dr. Pradeep Singh.

Stop testing youth patience, empower them to excel in every field: Altaf Bukhari

■ HT News Network

Jammu: Calling upon the youth to take an active role in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today said meaningful political change could come only when the younger generation takes charge of the region's political and social affairs. Bukhari was addressing a joining programme at the party headquarters in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, where former NSUI Joint Secretary Tableen Bobarai, along with nearly 200 youths and around 100 prominent citizens from Arnia, joined the Apni Party under his leadership. Prominent among those who joined included Rajwant Singh Raji, Sagar Singh Charak, Buta Singh, Alyas, Irfan, Jaskaran. The programme was organised by J&K Apni Party Jammu



Provincial President S. Manjit Singh. Welcoming the new entrants, Bukhari congratulated Tavleen Singh and the other members of the joining groups and expressed confidence that their induction would further strengthen the party at the grassroots level. Tavleen said the decision to join the Apni Party was influenced by what he described as its emphasis on speaking openly about issues confronting the people.

Speaking in the context of the new entrants, Bukhari said the youth represented the most

important segment of society and should not remain mere spectators in political affairs. "You have to bring the change. Until you bring the change, the politics of Jammu and Kashmir will also not improve," he said, urging the young entrants to actively participate in public life. Bukhari said the younger generation had to take responsibility for the future of Jammu and Kashmir and focus political attention on issues that directly affected their lives.

Govt fixes deadlines for 6,000 PM Package flats; Rs 82.45 Cr Migrant Camp renovation to start shortly

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16: A meeting to review the ongoing and new projects of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) was held under the joint chairmanship of Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, PW(R&B) Department and Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, DMRR&R. The meeting was attended by the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Chief Engineers PW(R&B) North/Central/South Kashmir, Chief Engineer KPDCL, Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Jammu and senior officers from the Public Works Department, DMRR&R, Jal Shakti Department and Divisional Administration Kashmir.

It was informed that out of 6,000 flats approved for accommodation of PM Package employees at 20 locations across Kashmir Valley, 5,176 flats have been completed. Besides, allied works including installation of lifts, internal roads, drainage and community halls are also nearing completion at most sites. Specific deadlines for completion of balance works and handover/takeover were fixed, with

directions to hand over the possession of completed flats to the eligible employees in a phased manner as per allotments already made under the government norms.

Regarding major repair and renovation of various blocks at migrant camps in Jammu, for which the government has approved Rs 82.45 crore, it was informed that tender formalities have been completed and work is likely to start shortly. Meanwhile, directions were also issued for finalization of a detailed project for upgradation of infrastructure in the migrant schools, health dispensaries, internal roads and parks in the migrant camps. Likewise, an extensive review of construction of PoJK Bhawan at Suketar was also held with emphasis on completing the project in all respects within the current financial year. The Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Jammu apprised the meeting that the DPR for construction of additional flats for Kashmiri migrants at Purkhoo, Jammu is being finalized and the Multipurpose Community Hall at Jagti with an estimated cost of Rs 6.50 crore has been completed. It was further informed that for new projects with an approximate financial implication of Rs 20.00 crore at migrant camps Purkhoo,

Chatroo (Kishtwar) September 16th: National Conference-led Government headed by Omar Abdullah Hon'ble Chief Minister J&K has accelerated inclusive development across all sectors of Jammu and Kashmir, with special emphasis on rural, remote and far-flung areas, said Surinder Choudhary, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of J&K, while addressing a public meeting at Chatroo in Inderwal Assembly Constituency chaired by Tanveer Ahmad Kichloo District President Kishtwar.

Choudhary said that since the Omar Abdullah-led Government assumed office, development schemes and projects have gained momentum across Jammu and Kashmir. According to him, people in rural and far-flung areas are increasingly receiving public facilities and development works closer to their doorsteps.

Choudhary further said the Government is committed to taking development to every region and section of society and bringing a new momentum in sectors including tourism, roads, Jal Shakti, health, education and other essential services, with the objective of creating better opportunities and a stronger future for the coming generations.

Earlier, Sh. Pyare Lal Sharma, Hon'ble MLA Inderwal, presented his two-year report card before the people of Inderwal. He highlighted about two dozen development works relating to roads, Jal Shakti, health and education, besides about a dozen works in the pipeline and a major tunnel project. He said these projects are generating employment and livelihood opportunities for thousands of local youth and expressed his gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for giving impetus



to development in the area.

Sharma appreciated the Omar Abdullah-led Government for pursuing inclusive development and for focusing attention on rural and far-flung areas. He said that development reached every section of society and every region of J&K without discrimination.

Addressing the public meeting, Rattan Lal Gupta, Adv., Provincial President, J&K National Conference,

Jammu, said that the BJP had, according to him, failed to retain the trust of the people of Jammu and Kashmir because several commitments made to the people remain unfulfilled. He particularly referred to the commitment regarding restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had made commitments

regarding Restoration of Statehood in Parliament and on other public platforms. He said that the continued delay has disappointed sections of the people who expected the commitment to be fulfilled.

Gupta further said that the elected Government has faced institutional challenges arising from the existing arrangement involving the elected Council of Ministers and the Lieutenant Governor's administration. In his view, such a situation has affected the pace of decision-making and development, and he called for greater institutional coordination in the larger public interest. He reiterated that the National Conference would continue to raise issues concerning development, employment, infrastructure, public services, Statehood and the socio-economic welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.



DC Kishtwar reviews implementation of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

■ **HT News Network**

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting in the Meeting Hall, DC Office Complex to review the progress of registration of establishments and engagement of apprentices under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) in the district.

The meeting was convened to assess the current status of implementation of NAPS in establishments including educational institutions, Hydro Electric Power Projects, CPSE, CPSUs, State PSUs, MSMEs and other establishments in the private sector with regard to creating apprenticeship opportunities for the unemployed youth of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of registration and engagement of apprentices by establishments and project authorities, including NHPC, Kiru HEP, Kwar HEP, L&T, Afcons, JPL and others, besides contractors of concerned departments and other associated establishments.

The DC directed all eligible establishments to strictly follow the statutory obligations under the apprenticeship framework and ensure compliance with the prescribed norms, including the applicable upper limit of 15 percent apprenticeship engagement provision under Apprentices Act 1961



Emphasizing the role of apprenticeships in providing practical skills and employment opportunities to local youth, the DC directed establishments to identify eligible trades and create maximum apprenticeship opportunities. He stressed that establishments should utilize the available provisions effectively; even establishments having 4 eligible personnel can create apprenticeship opportunities as per the applicable norms.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed that all government, private schools and other eligible institutions be registered under NAPS and ensure engagement of apprentices under their respective categories, wherever applicable. He also directed the registration of eligible establishments, hotels, health clinics and private nursing

colleges. He stressed that eligible occupations, including bar salesman and other suitable categories of staff, should also be brought under the apprenticeship framework as per the applicable provisions.

The DC directed the concerned departments to submit updated lists indicating the total progress made in registration of establishments and engagement of apprentices. He further instructed the concerned officers and establishments to complete the pending registration process by tomorrow positively and generate apprenticeship contracts wherever eligible.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that concerted efforts by all stakeholders are essential to ensure that the benefits of NAPS reach a larger number of unemployed youth in Kishtwar district and provide them with opportunities for skill development, practical training and improved employability.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal, GM DIC Mohsin Raza, ACD Manoj Kumar, CPO/DSEO Suresh Kumar Sharma, ALC Amit Kumar, HoP of HEPs and private educational institutions besides other officers and officials from various departments. The DC directed all eligible establishments to strictly follow the statutory obligations under the apprenticeship framework and ensure compliance with the

prescribed norms, including the applicable upper limit of 15 percent apprenticeship engagement provision under Apprentices Act 1961

Emphasizing the role of apprenticeships in providing practical skills and employment opportunities to local youth, the DC directed establishments to identify eligible trades and create maximum apprenticeship opportunities. He stressed that establishments should utilize the available provisions effectively; even establishments having 4 eligible personnel can create apprenticeship opportunities as per the applicable norms.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed that all government, private schools and other eligible institutions be registered under NAPS and ensure engagement of apprentices under their respective categories, wherever applicable. He also directed the registration of eligible establishments, hotels, health clinics and private nursing colleges. He stressed that eligible occupations, including bar salesman and other suitable categories of staff, should also be brought under the apprenticeship framework as per the applicable provisions.

The DC directed the concerned departments to submit updated lists indicating the total progress made in registration of establishments and engagement of apprentices.

DCHB training programme held at Kulgam

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 16: A training programme for the preparation of the District Census Handbook (DCHB) was held today at Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Kulgam as part of the ongoing preparations for Census 2027.

The training programme was organised to acquaint the concerned officials with the procedures, formats and other technical aspects involved in the preparation of the District Census Handbook.

The training was imparted by officers from the Directorate of Census Operations (DCO), J&K, who provided detailed guidance on the collection, compilation, verification and presentation of the requisite information.

During the training, participants were briefed about the structure and salient features of the DCHB, the information to be collected through revenue and other official records, preparation of village and town directories, identification of relevant fields, scrutiny of data and adherence to the prescribed schedules and timelines.

Speaking on the occasion, District Census Officer, Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Gili, emphasised the importance of the DCHB in providing a



comprehensive statistical and administrative profile of the district and highlighted that the Handbook shall serve as an important reference document containing valuable information relating to villages, towns, administrative units, demographic characteristics, civic amenities, infrastructure and other relevant indicators.

He further stressed upon the officials to undertake the assigned work with accuracy, diligence and a coordinated approach, ensuring that the information collected from the field and available through official records is properly verified before compilation.

The officers of DCO also interacted with the participants and addressed their queries regarding the various components of DCHB preparation.

District Admin Bandipora organises "Maa Se Guftagu" Programme at Bonakoot under NMBA

■ **HT News Network**

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 16: As part of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, a "Maa Se Guftagu" programme was organised at Bonakoot, Bandipora, to strengthen community participation in the fight against drug abuse and sensitise mothers and families about their crucial role in preventing substance abuse among children and youth.

The programme was attended by Superintendent Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Bandipora, Amreen Anjum, along with the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Bandipora, Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers.

The programme highlighted the importance of mothers in shaping the character, behaviour and future of children, and emphasised the need to maintain open communication and trust within families to protect children from drug abuse and other social evils.

Superintendent Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Bandipora emphasised the importance of identifying early warning signs of substance abuse, including changes in behaviour and peer groups. She encouraged the participants to spend quality time with their children,



maintain regular interaction with them, and engage them in constructive activities such as sports and other positive pursuits.

Emphasising a compassionate and rehabilitative approach, the programme highlighted the need to extend care, counselling and rehabilitation support to individuals affected by addiction, while discouraging social stigma and promoting their reintegration into society.

The programme concluded with a collective appeal for sustained community participation and cooperation in strengthening the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and building a drug-free Bandipora.

Fulfilling Budget promise, CM Omar-led Govt sanctions free public transport for differently-abled persons

■ **HT News Network**

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16: Fulfilling a key Budget announcement made in March this year, the Government led by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has sanctioned free ridership for differently-abled persons in public transport across Jammu and Kashmir. The facility will cover services operated by the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC), as well as e-Buses operated by Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited. Ongratulating Transport Minister Satish Sharma on the initiative, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the decision reflects the Government's commitment to social justice and marks an important step towards ensuring greater accessibility, ease of travel and inclusive mobility across Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister said the initiative will help make public transport more accessible and facilitate greater mobility for differently-abled persons. Ongratulating Transport Minister Satish Sharma on the initiative, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the decision reflects the Government's commitment to social justice and marks an important step towards ensuring greater accessibility, ease of travel and inclusive mobility across Jammu and Kashmir.

Director Horticulture Jammu inaugurates Mega Farmers Awareness Camp at Mendhar

■ **HT News Network**



JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 16: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed inaugurated a Mega Farmers Awareness Camp at Dak Bunglow, Mendhar. He was the Chief Guest. The awareness camp, forming part of the Director's two-day tour program to the Districts of Poonch and Rajouri, aimed at disseminating information about the government-sponsored horticulture schemes and best practices in horticultural farming.

The event brought together progressive farmers and Agricultural stakeholders to comprehensively discuss and disseminate information on all government-sponsored horticulture schemes, their benefits, eligibility criteria and application processes, alongside best practices in modern horticultural farming.

The representatives from the Department of Horticulture provided comprehensive awareness about the Government horticulture schemes, including JKIP (Jammu & Kashmir Crop Insurance Scheme), MIDH (Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture) and CAPEX budgetary provisions.

Discussions also encompassed various aspects of fruit and vegetable cultivation, including best practices in pest management, soil conservation, crop diversification and the application of modern horticultural techniques to enhance farm productivity and farmer incomes.

The event was attended by senior officials from the Department of Horticulture including Sunil Gupta, Assistant Director, Ajay Gupta, District Horticulture Officer (DHO); Niaz Ahmed, Marketing & Cooperative Coordinator (MCC); Mudassir Shah, Senior Most Specialist (SMS); Mohammad Rafiq, Horticulture Development Officer (HDO), Farooq Choudhary; Horticulture Development Officer (HDO), J P Singh; Horticulture Development Officer (HDO) and Rakesh Sharma, Horticulture Development Officer (HDO).

MLA flags off ATMA exposure visit of women SHGs, progressive farmers to KVK Bhaderwah

■ **HT News Network**

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 16: Member Legislative Assembly Ramban Arjun Singh Raju today flagged off two women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) along with 40 progressive farmers from district Ramban for a two-day in-state exposure visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bhaderwah, under the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme.

Chief Agriculture Officer Dr. Vinay Kumar Jandial, District Agriculture Officer Kuldeep Raj Bassan; District SMS Jyoti Parkash; ASCO Jamshed Hussain Dev; SDAO Ramban Ayaz Ahmed Reshi and other officers of the Agriculture Department were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA said that the Agriculture Department is extending all possible support and benefits to the farming community. He said the exposure visit would provide the participating farmers an opportunity to learn about modern agricultural



practices, innovative technologies and improved farming techniques, thereby contributing towards enhanced productivity and sustainable development of the agriculture sector in the district.

The MLA advised the farmers to make the best use of the exposure visit by actively participating in the training sessions, interacting with agricultural experts and gaining practical knowledge about modern farming techniques. He encouraged them to adopt suitable technologies and practices in their respective areas and share the knowledge gained during the visit with fellow farmers.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Chief Agriculture Officer informed that 40 farmers under the ATMA scheme have been sent on the exposure visit to KVK Bhaderwah. He said the objective of the programme is to provide farmers with hands-on training and exposure to new technical know-how and modern agricultural practices.

Headed that such exposure programmes would help farmers gain practical knowledge, adopt improved techniques and enhance farm productivity in their respective areas. The initiative is aimed at bridging the knowledge gap among farmers and facilitating the adoption of innovative and scientific approaches in agriculture.

World Ozone Day 2026 observed by J&K PCC Divisional Office Udhampur

■ **HT News Network**

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 16: The J&K Pollution Control Committee, Divisional Office Udhampur, observed World Ozone Day 2026 at Indira Memorial Higher Secondary

School, with the aim of generating awareness among students about the importance of the ozone layer and the need for its protection. The programme was organized on the theme "Global Action for a

Surinder Tripathi sensitized the students on the significance of the ozone layer, its role in protecting life on Earth from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation and the need to adopt environmentally responsible practices for its conservation.



Pura and adjoining areas. The initiative is aimed at facilitating medical check-ups and access to

medicines without requiring residents to travel to distant hospitals. He also issued directions on

DC Ramban holds public grievances redressal camp at Seri Pura Directs time-bound action on public issues

■ **HT News Network**

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 16: Taking administration to the doorstep of the people and facilitating direct interaction between residents and officers, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, today convened a public grievances redressal camp at Seri Pura Panchayat in Block Sangaldan.

The Deputy Commissioner listened to the grievances and demands of local residents and resolved most of the issues on the spot, while issuing directions for time-bound action on matters requiring further intervention by the concerned departments.

The DC was accompanied by PO ICDS Abdul Qayoom, SDM Gool Imtiaz Ahmed, CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, ACD Imran Naik and other senior officers of the District Administration.

Responding to the demands of residents from various Panchayats like Seri Pura, Thatharka, Bolni, Chachawah, Suranda, Famnote and Mahakund regarding poor road conditions, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineers of PMGSY and R&B to initiate immediate repairs of potholes and damaged road surfaces. On the demand for construction of borewells and completion of the ongoing borewell project at Gamiri, the DC directed

Jal Shakti Department engineers to expedite the ongoing work, examine suitable locations for additional borewells and prepare the necessary Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for further consideration.

Regarding power supply issues, the Deputy Commissioner directed JPDCL engineers to provide an electric pole and transformer for Magre Mohalla, as per the identified requirements, and start the work immediately to strengthen the power infrastructure in the area.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Health Department to ensure weekly visits of an ambulance along with Doctor, Paramedical Staff and essential medicines, to Seri

issues pertaining to Education, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Social Welfare, FCS&CA and Youth Services and Sports departments. The DC stated that urgent developmental works would be explored for inclusion under the additional plan of VB-GRAMG Ramban, subject to approval.

The Deputy Commissioner directed Airtel and Jio teams to visit the highlighted locations, conduct surveys and take necessary measures for improving mobile connectivity within the stipulated time frame.

He also directed the AD FCS&CA to organise a special camp for resolving eligible ration card

grievances and ensuring timely redressal of ration-related issues.

Addressing concerns regarding the Sawalkote Project, the DC assured residents that employment opportunities for locals would be facilitated as per applicable provisions.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the CAO and CHO to ensure the availability of seeds at a suitable local sale or distribution point in Thatharka during the seed season.

He further directed the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry departments to organise a joint awareness camp during September to educate residents about government schemes, livelihood opportunities and welfare benefits.



HT EDITORIAL

Beyond Free Rides: Building a Truly Inclusive Jammu and Kashmir

The decision of the Jammu and Kashmir Government to provide free public transport to differently-abled persons is more than a welfare measure; it is a reminder that the strength of a society is reflected in the way it treats those who face greater barriers in their everyday lives. By extending the facility to Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation services as well as e-Buses operated by Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited, the Government has taken a meaningful step towards making mobility more accessible and inclusive.

For a differently-abled person, however, the challenge often begins long before boarding a bus. Reaching a bus stop, crossing a busy road, entering a public building, accessing education or healthcare, finding suitable employment and becoming financially independent can involve obstacles that most people never have to consider. Free transportation can reduce one of these barriers, but genuine inclusion requires a much broader approach.

The Government should therefore view this initiative as part of a comprehensive rehabilitation and empowerment policy for differently-abled citizens. Future planning must address accessibility, education, healthcare, skill development, employment, housing and social security in an integrated manner. Public buildings, roads, footpaths, government offices, educational institutions and health-care facilities should progressively be made accessible through proper ramps, lifts, tactile pathways, accessible toilets, designated parking and other necessary facilities.

Mobility itself also needs to be understood beyond the question of fares. Public transport should be physically accessible, with suitable boarding arrangements, priority seating, clear announcements and trained staff capable of assisting passengers with different needs. Urban transport planning should incorporate accessibility at the design stage rather than attempting to add facilities later.

Rehabilitation must also focus on independence rather than merely assistance. Skill-development programmes specifically designed for differently-abled persons can help them acquire marketable skills, while government departments and private establishments can be encouraged to create meaningful employment opportunities. Access to assistive devices, rehabilitation services, counselling and specialised healthcare should be strengthened, particularly in rural and remote areas where such facilities are often harder to reach.

Equally important is the need for effective implementation. Welfare policies have little value if eligible beneficiaries have to navigate complicated procedures to receive their entitlements. A simple identification and verification mechanism, coordinated across relevant departments, can ensure that benefits reach those for whom they are intended without unnecessary administrative hurdles.

Jammu and Kashmir also needs reliable data on the number, location and specific requirements of differently-abled citizens. Policy cannot be genuinely inclusive when planning is based on incomplete information. District-level assessments and regular consultations with persons with disabilities and organisations working in the field can help the administration design programmes around actual needs rather than assumptions.

The free public transport decision is therefore best seen as a beginning rather than an endpoint. It can become the foundation of a larger social policy in which differently-abled citizens are not viewed merely as beneficiaries of government assistance, but as equal participants in the social and economic life of Jammu and Kashmir.

A society becomes truly inclusive when accessibility is built into its roads, institutions, workplaces and public services—and when every citizen, regardless of physical or other disability, has the opportunity to travel, learn, work, contribute and live with dignity. The Government's latest initiative can set that larger process in motion.



Sahil Manzoor

Nomination starts for the years 2026–2027. A great chance to visit Sakura, Japan. Science has utterly changed the lifestyle of humans. "Science begins where our thinking stops". The science field is so developed that anyone can think beyond their imaginations. Sometimes we could be bizarre and think for a while, "I wish I could be real that I saw a dream I was flying over the sky". Sometimes we see in our dreams such impossible and strange things. We witness events and occurrences that seem unfathomable and peculiar to the average individual. Science has the potential to make impossible things possible. Science is not based on theories. Science is all about practicals. It means you have to show the world about your inventions, modifications, and world acceptance when your inventions are proven beneficial to humanity.

HT - EDIT

Inspire awards MANAK

Most of us are so curious to know how day and night cause How seasons are caused and how rain falls in such a way that it comes on the earth's surface without causing destruction. How the stars twinkle, how the moon lights the earth during the night, and many more natural phenomena. Scientists took decades to learn about a single natural phenomenon. It also happens when they discover equipment for their research work. Before heading to any goal, we need a number of things to prove that, like research, equipment, and hypothetical theories of great minds who have worked on them.

This universe is so vast and is expanding without limits. We have discovered very few things in the universe. We have different disciplines, like science, which is curious to know more facts about this universe, facts about the stars, suns, and moon (the moon is the natural satellite of the earth and reflects the light of the sun), science, which is curious to know more facts about the layers of the earth, and facts about aquatic life. We know very little about aquatic life. There is still a gallery of facts that we have not yet known. One thing that is very great about science is that it never stops working on any particular thing, like discoveries or natural phenomena. Every day we are getting more interesting facts about related astronomy fields, getting

updated by modifying their functions, and every day we get modifications about all the fields of science. For me, the definition of science is "science is the field where our things stop and science begins from there. Sometimes it looks like science is utterly out of the human mind, but it is true that all the inventions are man-made and every advancement in science is only because of human minds.

Why is everyone among us a scientist? One who solves his own problems and solves the problems of society by doing strange makeshifts is a scientist. We discover new things, and we modify machines, keeping in mind that this should give respite to all of humanity.

Today we are surrounded by machines, like mobile phones, laptops, photostat machines, and machines at home like rice cookers, washing machines, mixer grinders, televisions, radios, and a number of other things we are using and troubleshooting our problems with.

Today in this article, I am going to share my opinion about one of the great and dignified flagship programs that inspire awards, MANAK. This flagship program is a well-known program of the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi. Any country first strengthens its science sector, then

begins dreaming about development. Our country is one of them. India has a great record in the world when we talk about science and technology. Our nation has produced well-known scientists like the great scientist of India, such as

C.V. Raman (discovery of the Raman effect), Homi Jahangir Bhabha (quantum theory and nuclear physics), A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (space launches and defense missiles), Vikram Sarabhai (space satellites and rockets), Jagdish Chandra Bose (Crescograph), Raj Reddy (AI and technology), Shrinivas Ramanujan, (discovery of various methods and series in mathematics), Salim Ali (systematic bird surveys), Satyendra Nath Bose (contribution to quantum mechanics), and SS Abhyankar (contribution to algebraic geometry).

Let us start by learning about the Inspire Awards MANAK and how educational institutes can apply and submit the ideas of their students. Nominations for the session 2024–2025 have started with the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi.

In case you have any problems while forwarding the ideas of your students, you can mail me at sahilmanzor0401@gmail.com, or sahilmanzorbhati786@gmail.com

The Science Behind Bulletproof Vests

When a bullet encounters a protective vest, the primary scientific challenge is to absorb, distribute and reduce the energy of the impact before it reaches the human body. The vest does not simply act as a hard wall.



SURINDERPAL SINGH

In the modern materialistic world, personal safety has become an important concern for law enforcement agencies, military personnel, security professionals and civilians working in high-risk environments. Among the most remarkable achievements of modern protective technology is the development of bulletproof vests. Although commonly called bulletproof, these garments are more accurately described as bullet-resistant vests because no protective material can guarantee complete immunity against every type of firearm or ammunition.

The science behind bulletproof vests combines physics, chemistry, material engineering and biomechanics. These specially designed garments demonstrate how scientific innovation can transform fragile human life into something significantly more resistant to ballistic impact. To understand how a bulletproof vest works, it is first necessary to understand the energy carried by a bullet. A moving bullet possesses kinetic energy, which depends on its mass and velocity. This energy is transferred to any object it strikes.



Instead, it uses carefully engineered materials that work together to slow down the projectile and spread its force over a larger area.

The greater the velocity and mass of a projectile, the more energy it carries. Therefore, different types of bullet-resistant clothing are designed according to the specific threats they are expected to withstand. The effectiveness of modern bullet-resistant vests largely depends on the extraordinary properties of advanced fibres and composite materials.

One of the most widely used materials in

protective vests is aramid fibre, commonly known by brand names such as Kevlar. Aramid fibres possess exceptional tensile strength, meaning they can resist being pulled apart under enormous force. When woven into

multiple layers, these fibres create a dense network capable of catching and slowing a bullet. Upon impact, the fibres stretch and absorb energy. The force is then distributed across numerous threads and layers rather than remaining concentrated at one point. This principle is similar to the difference between stepping on a sharp object with a single thin sheet and placing a thick, flexible fabric over it. The fabric spreads the force over a wider area, reducing the likelihood of penetration.

Another important material used in modern body armour is Ultra-High-Molecular-Weight Polyethylene (UHMWPE). This advanced plastic fibre is extremely strong despite its low density. UHMWPE fibres are used in lightweight armour systems because they can absorb substantial amounts of energy relative to their weight. Their molecular structure allows them to resist stretching and tearing under sudden impact. The development of such materials has helped engineers create protective equipment that is lighter and more comfortable while maintaining high levels of ballistic resistance. A bullet-resistant vest is not made from a single sheet of protective material. Instead, it consists of multiple layers, each contributing to the overall protective function. When a projectile strikes the outer surface, several processes occur almost simultaneously:

The impact creates a shock wave through the material. Fibres begin to stretch and deform and this results in the bullet losing kinetic energy. The impact of the force spreads across a wider area. The projectile may become deformed or stopped before penetrating the vest. This multi-layered structure is a brilliant example of engineering based on energy management. The objective is not merely to stop the bullet but to reduce the amount of energy transferred to the wearer.

SURINDERPAL SINGH
FACULTY IN SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB ,PUNJAB.

The Moral Test of Power

world. The Industrial Revolution brought steam engines, factories, railways and large scale production. Human beings were no longer dependent only on their muscles. Machines multiplied physical strength. A machine could do the work of many people. A train could carry hundreds of people and huge quantities of goods. Factories could produce products on a scale that earlier generations could never imagine. But technological progress also created new forms of inequality, exploitation and competition. Industrial power became closely connected with economic and political power.

Then humanity entered the nuclear age. The discovery of



nuclear energy was one of the greatest achievements of science. But the creation of nuclear weapons also gave humanity the ability to destroy cities and kill enormous numbers of people within a very short period of time. For the first time, human beings possessed a level of destructive power that could threaten their own civilization. The nuclear age taught us an important lesson: having power is not the same as knowing how to use power. Sometimes the greatest sign of strength is restraint.

The arrival of computers created another revolution. Machines were no longer being used only to increase physical strength. They began to increase human intellectual ability. Computers could calculate, store and process huge amounts of information. The internet then connected people across the world. Information became one of the most valuable forms of power.

Today, we are standing at the beginning of another major transformation: artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence can analyse enormous amounts of information, recognize patterns, generate text and images, translate languages and assist people in solving difficult problems. It has the potential to bring transformative changes in medicine, education, science, business and many other fields. There is much to celebrate. AI may help doctors identify diseases earlier. It may help students learn more effectively. It may assist scientists in discovering new medicines. It may help people with disabilities communicate and perform everyday tasks. But every powerful technology

brings new risks. Artificial intelligence can also be used to spread false information. Fake photographs, videos and voices can be created with remarkable ease. People may be deceived by material that appears genuine but is completely false. Privacy is another major concern. Modern technologies can collect and analyse enormous amounts of personal information. If such power is placed in the wrong hands, it can be used for manipulation or surveillance.

There is also the question of who controls powerful technology. If advanced AI systems, huge databases and enormous computing resources are controlled by only a small number of companies or governments, their influence could become extraordinarily large. The gap between those who control technology and those who simply use it could increase. Therefore, the debate about artificial intelligence should not be limited to technology. It must also be a debate about morality. The real question is not only "What can AI do?" We must also ask, "What should AI be allowed to do?" These two questions are very different. Human beings have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to create powerful technologies. We learned to control fire, metals, steam, electricity and the atom. We developed computers and connected the world through the internet. Now we are creating machines capable of performing tasks associated with human intelligence.

But technological progress alone can not guarantee a better future. A powerful machine in the hands of an irresponsible person can become dangerous. A powerful technology guided by wisdom and compassion can become a blessing. This means that the greatest challenge of the modern age may not be building more intelligent machines. It may be building more responsible human beings. The future of artificial intelligence will ultimately depend on human choices. Will we use technology to improve education, cure diseases, reduce poverty and make life easier? Or will we use it for deception, surveillance, exploitation and war? The machine will not decide the answer. But we will have to decide it. Humanity has travelled a remarkable distance—from stone tools to artificial intelligence. Our power has grown beyond anything our ancestors could have imagined. But perhaps our next great step should not be another technological invention. Rather it should be moral progress. Because the real measure of civilization is not how much power humanity possesses. But it is how wisely, fairly and responsibly that power is used. The greatest question of the future, therefore, is not whether machines will become more intelligent. It is whether human beings will become wise enough to use their growing power for the goodness of humanity.

(The author teaches Geography at GDC Anantnag and can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com)

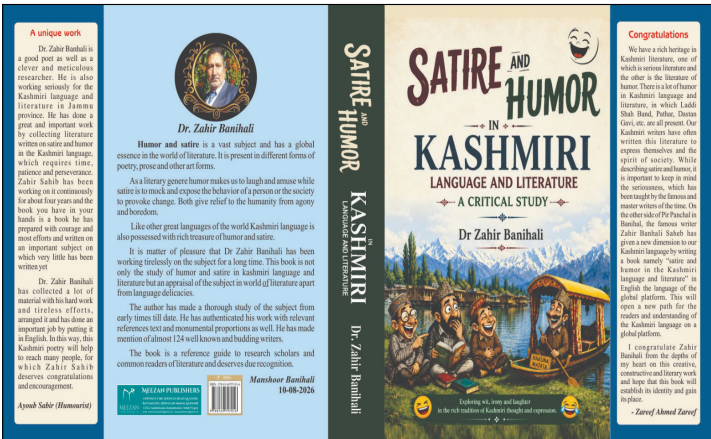
The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect the editorial policy of Headlines Today at all and in any manner. We assume no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, completeness, or consequences of the views expressed therein....

Satire and Humor in Kashmiri language and literature - a critical study



Royees Ahmad Kumar

Banihal the gateway to Kashmir holds a notable and prominent place in the literary and cultural landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, acting as a linguistic and literary bridge between the Kashmir valley and Chenab or Jammu region. This literally fertile region has produced some legendary poets, scholars, critics and litterateurs. Dr Marghoob Banihali, born in Bankoot was an eminent researcher and academician, who has authored over 50 books in Kashmir, Urdu and English. Manshoor Banihali, a prominent writer, poet and scholar has also earned a series of awards and recognitions for his commendable role in writing extensively about history, culture and geographical heritage of the gateway town. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Mir, known as Zahir Banihali, is a prominent writer, poet, and retired veterinary officer from Banihal, Jammu and Kashmir, who serves as the president of the Pir Panchal Adbi Forum Banihal. He has authored 21 books in Kashmiri, Urdu, and English. His literary contributions to Kashmiri language and culture have earned him local and regional recognition, including the 'Khilat-e-Shaheen' award. Dr. Banihali has now come up with a new and significant book, Satire and Humour in Kashmiri Language and Literature: A Critical Study. Spanning over 725 pages, the voluminous work offers an extensive critical study of satire and humour in Kashmiri language and literature. The book has been published by the renowned Meezan Publishers, Srinagar. The book comprises 26 chapters. In its introduction, noted writer and eminent litterateur Ayaz Rasool Nazki observes that only a person with Zahir Banihali's exceptional commitment and dedication could have been expected to do justice to such a vast



subject, which was highly appreciated by Dr Hajini. Impressed by the research and insights presented in the paper, he suggested that I should undertake a comprehensive, research-based study and write a substantial book on the subject. In its preface, distinguished writer Bashir Bhaderwah says that " By choosing a subject that has received very little scholarly attention, Zahir Banihali has rendered a valuable service to Kashmiri literary studies. Satire and Humour an introduction - this is the opening chapter of the book. Describing satire and humor an important branch of literature, Zahir Banihali is of the view that through wit, irony, ridicule and laughter government or society is critically examined while humor is for to amuse and delight. In this chapter, author meticulously differentiated between satire and humor. Sources of Satire and Humor

this is another chapter of the book, in which author traces the sources of words Satire and humor. He has done an extensive study and research by mentioning different theories and also the philosophical quotes. In Chapters III, IV and V, the author eloquently discusses the purpose and utility of satire and humour, their significance, and their impact on society as a whole. According to him, the primary purpose of humour is to bring joy, relieve tension and strengthen human relationships, whereas satire seeks to expose and examine injustice, hypocrisy, corruption, prejudice and human

the globe. In Chapters VII, VIII and IX, the author traces the origin and development of satire and humour in the Indian subcontinent, its presence in Kashmiri prose, and the various forms and kinds of satire and humour. According to him, the roots of satire and humour can be traced back to the earliest Vedic and Sanskrit literature, dating from 1500 to 500 BC. Although these texts are predominantly religious and philosophical in nature, they contain several elements of satire and humour. Moreover before the advent of modern literary forms, Kashmiri prose literature had always contained elements of satire and humour. He explores their various sources and traces their evolution through different periods of Kashmiri literary history. The author does not merely define satire and humour but also discusses their various types and forms in considerable detail. Among the major forms of satire he examines are Horatian satire, Juvenalian satire and Menippean satire. In chapters 10, 11 & 12, the book draws a sketch of the concept of the Humor, Parody and humor & elegance in Kashmiri literature. According to author, origins of satire and elegance in Kashmiri tongue & literature are said to be about 6000 year old. He further separately describes the types of sarcasm eg Hijawa, Hazal, Parody, Tasne, Zirk, Thatta, Joke, Lying, Distortion, mourning, Hint etc. Chapters 13 and 14 feature the life histories, literary contributions and enduring relevance of poets, scholars, critics and litterateurs from both the Kashmir and Jammu divisions. Among the many literary luminaries whose works and contributions have been meticulously examined by the author are Lal Ded, Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani, Rasool Mir, Mahmood Gami, Dr Aziz Hajini, Master Zinda Koul, Maqbool Shah Kralwari, Mehjoor and Arjun Dev Majboor. The author discusses their literary brilliance, poetic prowess and distinctive contributions to the rich literary heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, while also highlighting their continued relevance in the contemporary literary and cultural landscape. Chapters 15, 16 & 17 discuss about Drama, Ladi Shah & Bhand Pather in Kashmiri literature and culture.

weaknesses. The author argues that satire and humour are not merely significant branches of literature; they also perform important psychological, social, cultural and literary functions. Chapter VI, one of the lengthiest chapters of the book, deals with satire and humour in different languages of the globe. The author has undertaken extensive and scholarly research to trace the presence and evolution of satire and humour across different linguistic and cultural traditions. Through coherent examples drawn from almost every major language and civilization, including Ancient Greek, Chinese, Roman, Egyptian, Arabic, Persian, Pashto, English, Kashmiri, Turkish, Ladakhi and Urdu, among others, he cites numerous quotations, references and examples to establish that satire and humour have existed throughout history and across

Money laundering: The game of laundering the proceeds of crime



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Money laundering is no longer just an economic crime; it has become a significant financial backbone for organized crime, corruption, drug trafficking, terrorism, and illegal trade. Simply put, money laundering is the process by which criminal proceeds are presented as legitimate or legally obtained, concealing their true source. Criminals understand that simply earning money illegally is not enough; it is also necessary to incorporate that money into a system that makes it difficult to trace its true origin. This is why the challenge of money laundering in the modern financial system is becoming increasingly complex.

The process of money laundering is generally understood to have three major stages—placement, layering, and integration. In the first stage, criminal proceeds are introduced into the financial system. This is called placement. For example, large amounts of illicit cash may be deposited in separate bank accounts, divided into smaller amounts for transactions, or integrated into the financial system through cash-based businesses. Criminals exercise particular caution during this stage because it is the first contact between illicit funds and the financial system.

The second stage is called layering. Its purpose is to conceal the true source of funds and complicate their path for investigating agencies. Multiple bank accounts, companies, intermediaries, and financial transactions can be used to achieve this. Money can be transferred from one account to another, from one company to another, or from one country to another. Sometimes, through paper companies or complex business transactions, layers of money are created that make it difficult to trace its original source. While digital financial systems have made transactions easier, the rapid movement of money internationally has created both new challenges and opportunities for criminals. The third stage is integration. In this stage, funds are reintroduced into the economy in a manner that makes them appear like legitimate income or investments. Criminal proceeds may be used to purchase property, invest in businesses,

capitalize on companies, or engage in other legitimate economic activities. Once funds become part of legitimate economic activities, it can become more difficult to identify their criminal origins. Thus, criminal proceeds gradually become absorbed into the legitimate economy.

The biggest concern about money laundering is that it serves as a dangerous bridge between crime and the economy. If criminal proceeds can be easily legalized, criminals are encouraged to continue their activities. Corruption proceeds, drug trafficking, illegal mining, fraud, smuggling, and organized crime can be concealed through money laundering. This strengthens the economic foundation of crime and weakens the rule of law.

Money laundering also impacts the credibility of financial institutions. If banks and other financial institutions fail to detect and stop the flow of illicit funds, the transparency of the entire financial system is questioned. Furthermore, large-scale illicit money flows can distort market competition. Individuals and institutions conducting business honestly may lose out to those with access to capital acquired through crime. Thus, money laundering is not only a law and order problem, but also a question of economic justice and financial stability.

India has developed a comprehensive legal and institutional framework to combat money laundering. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, is its primary legal foundation. This law aims to enable the identification, investigation, attachment, and confiscation of proceeds of crime, as appropriate. It provides the basis for action against activities that attempt to conceal, retain, utilize, or otherwise legitimize criminal proceeds.

The Enforcement Directorate plays a key role in implementing this law. The Enforcement Directorate investigates money laundering cases and pursues the process of tracing and prosecuting criminal assets. Meanwhile, the Financial Intelligence Unit – India analyzes information related to suspicious financial transactions. Identifying suspicious activities through the analysis of information received from financial institutions is a crucial part of the anti-money laundering system. Know Your Customer (KYC) systems are also a crucial tool for financial institutions in this fight. Monitoring customer identification and financial activity helps identify suspicious accounts and unusual transactions. Suspicious transaction reporting obligations also enhance transparency in the financial system.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

The aim is fixed of Assam Rifles



By M S Nazki

The aim is fixed of Assam Rifles! Other than guarding the borders of North East which is the primary role! The secondary one is to help the people of North East? This story is tilted towards the secondary role! -I will begin this story on a different note: -The green trucks of the Assam Rifles were as familiar to the hills of my childhood as the tall bamboo groves and the sudden, heavy monsoon rains. Growing up in a quiet town nestled in the folds of the Northeast, the men and women in olive and camouflage weren't just symbols of security; they were part of the rhythm of our lives. I remember watching them march down the winding red-dirt roads, their boots keeping a steady beat that echoed against the blue hills. My grandmother always called them the Sentinels of the North East, guardians who knew the temperament of these misty mountains better than anyone else. When the women soldiers—the riflewomen—first arrived in our district, everything shifted for me. I watched a young riflewoman with a warm smile and steady, watchful eyes help an elderly neighbor carry her heavy basket of firewood across a swollen stream. She wore her uniform with fierce grace, her hair tied back neatly beneath her beret. In her, I didn't just see a soldier; I saw a sister, a protector who belonged to these very hills. They walked the dense jungle paths and stood guard at remote outposts, yet they always had a kind word for the village children playing by the roadside. Years later, when a little boy from our wider valley went missing and was found alone on a distant train, it was an alert Assam Rifles rifleman who spotted him and brought him safely to an outpost, turning a family's darkest nightmare into a tearful reunion. Sitting by my window with a cup of steaming red tea, watching the evening fog roll over the emerald peaks, I realized why these hills feel safe. It is because of the quiet, patient footsteps of those who watch over us, day and night, keeping the heart of the Northeast beating in peace.. Handing over ceremony of critical care ambulance BY Y INDUSIND BANK to IndusInd Bank handed over a state-of-the-art Critical Care Ambulance to Assam Rifles, at HQ DGAR, Laitkor, Shillong in the presence of Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera, AVSM, SM, Director General Assam Rifles

and Mr Manish Verma, Regional Head, Government Banking Group, IndusInd Bank. The Critical Care Ambulance will significantly strengthen the emergency medical response and critical care evacuation capabilities of Assam Rifles. It will also be utilised to provide timely and life-saving medical assistance to the civil population, particularly in remote and under developed areas. This initiative reflects the shared commitment of Assam Rifles and IndusInd Bank towards enhancing healthcare support, saving lives and serving the community.

Inbox

-Assam Rifles provides essential healthcare, free medical camps, and emergency humanitarian assistance to remote and underserved communities across Northeast India.

-Recent Healthcare Initiatives (August 2026)!

-Mega Multi-Specialty Camp at Pallel: Organized a



large camp in Kakching District, Manipur, with EPIC Multi specialty Hospital, providing cardiology, gynecology, and paediatric consultations to 775 civilians. -Medical Outreach in Nagaland & Assam: Conducted multiple free check-up camps in Tening, Jalukie, and Sribhumi, distributing free medicines and hygiene guidance. -Emergency Response & Vector Control: Provided emergency care for snake-bite victims in Noney, Manipur, and executed anti-dengue fogging drives in Chandel. -Community Welfare: Facilitated voluntary blood donation drives and assisted elderly patients in accessing specialized treatment. -Assam Rifles provides free primary healthcare, specialist consultations, and emergency referrals to local communities across remote and underserved areas of the Northeast through regular and multi-specialty medical camps. -Key Medical Services Provided Primary Health Check-ups:

- General medical examinations and diagnosis of common seasonal, respiratory, and skin ailments. -Specialist Consultations: Expert medical advice from visiting doctors in fields like cardiology, paediatrics, dermatology, gynecology, orthopaedics, and ophthalmology. -Free Medicine Distribution: Dispensing essential prescription drugs, vitamins, and basic medical supplies at no cost. -Health Awareness Sessions: Educational programs focused on personal hygiene, sanitation, proper nutrition, and first-aid. -Patient Referrals: Coordinating advanced diagnostics or specialized surgical care by transferring critical patients to nearby civil or partner. -Assam Rifles organizes regular free medical and multi-specialty camps across remote and border regions of Northeast India and Jammu & Kashmir under its civic

action programs and Operation Sadbhavana.

-Key Theatres and Recent Activities Assam: Conducted targeted medical outreach, such as a camp in Narayanpur (Sribhumi district) benefiting over 450 patients, and prior initiatives in Dima Hasao.

-Manipur: Organized mega multi-specialty health camps (such as at Pallel in Kakching district with specialized consultants) alongside localized relief camps in remote hill sectors like Tamenglong and Chandel.

-Nagaland: Routinely holds rural and border health drives, including elderly-focused check-ups in Meluri, and specialized programs across Kiphire, Peren, and Phek.

-Arunachal Pradesh & Jammu-Kashmir: Reaches isolated frontier settlements in Changlang and Longding, as well as high-altitude remote terrain in Doda district (J&K).

-Services Provided General & Specialized Care: Free physical examinations, physician consultations, and

referrals for advanced interventions.

-Diagnostics: Blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar screening, and lifestyle-related illness checks (hypertension and diabetes).

-Preventive Health: Free distribution of essential pharmaceuticals, sanitary utilities, and educational sessions regarding nutrition and personal hygiene.

-The Assam Rifles regularly organises free medical and veterinary camps in remote and underserved areas of Jammu & Kashmir under civic action programs and Operation Sadbhavana.

-Recent Medical Camps in J&K Mantrigram, Kupwara District: Conducted at Boys Higher Secondary School, benefiting 754 local civilians with basic diagnostics, medical consultations, and free medicines.

-Thalela, Doda District: Organized multiple times by units like the 25th Battalion, focusing on free consultations and treatments for over 300 children and elderly residents.

-Bhella, Purnea & Thalela, Doda District: Held a large mobile medical camp, in collaboration with the civil Primary Health Centre (PHC), providing care to 525 patients in terrain with limited road connectivity.

-Hanch, Doda District: Conducted a comprehensive medical and veterinary camps especially for 6 Gujjars and Bakkarwal communities.

-Dehra & Khankot, Doda District: Set up targeted medical and animal healthcare camps to assist villagers in remote, far-flung pockets of Doda.

- Found alone on a train, Assam Rifles helps reunite missing Dimapur boy with family:

-Assam Rifles personnel located a 10-year-old boy from Dimapur, Nagaland, who was found travelling alone on a train in Tripura, and helped reunite him with his family. The child, identified as Joseph Mao, was reported missing from Neisatuo Colony in Dimapur on Aug 22. According to Assam Rifles, Rifleman Lawrance Hrangkhaw spotted him on a moving train in Tripura the following day. The boy was carrying a school bag and had no adult accompanying him. When questioned, he was unable to provide his exact address or explain why he had boarded the train. Hrangkhaw alerted his superiors, the force said. The boy was taken to an Assam Rifles facility in Radhanagar, Tripura, where personnel worked to confirm his identity and trace his family. During the verification process, they found a social media post about a missing person identified as Joseph Mao, according to Assam Rifles. The personnel contacted the boy's parents and informed them that he was safe. The matter was also reported to the local police for coordination, the force said. Assam Rifles said the intervention helped prevent potential harm to the child and brought relief to his family.

The Assam Rifles saved a two-year-old girl in Kamjong, Manipur, by organizing a fast helicopter rescue and expert medical care in April 2025. The Emergency Severe Accident: The toddler suffered a dangerous injury in a remote,

hard-to-reach area of Manipur. Frightened Parents: Local medical help was too far away, and the family feared the worst for their child. The Rescue Operation Immediate Help: Troops from the Assam Rifles rushed to the scene to give the child crucial first aid. Air Evacuation: Soldiers quickly called in a military helicopter to transport the little girl over the difficult terrain. Specialized Care: The helicopter flew her directly to the Assam Rifles Military Hospital in Imphal for urgent paediatric treatment, saving her life.

-IndusInd Bank is a major commercial bank in India that provides financial services to individuals, corporations, and government entities.

-Key Facts About IndusInd Bank Founded: 1994 by S.P. Hinduja, starting operations after being inaugurated by then Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh.

-Name Origin: Inspired by the ancient Indus Valley Civilization.

-Network: Operates thousands of branches, banking outlets, and ATMs across India, alongside international representative offices.

-Services: Offers retail banking, corporate banking, credit cards, vehicle loans, microfinance, and digital savings accounts. Established in 1994 by a platform conceived and promoted by Sri Chand P. Hinduja along with members of Indian diaspora, the name 'IndusInd Bank' was inspired by the Indus Valley Civilization - one of the greatest cultural examples of a combination of innovation with sound business and trade practices. Over the years, we have grown ceaselessly and dynamically driven by a zeal to offer our customers banking services at par with the highest quality standards in the industry.

-The Assam Rifles, often called the "Sentinels of the Northeast," frequently act as first responders during natural disasters, medical emergencies, and community development tasks in remote areas.

-Flood and Disaster Rescues Operation Jal Rahat in Manipur: When heavy monsoon rains caused severe floods and trapped hundreds of residents in the Imphal Valley, Assam Rifles personnel deployed motorboats and rescue columns to evacuate over 1,200 stranded people to safe relief camps.

-Diyun Flood Evacuation: In Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district, troops navigated dangerous floodwaters using specialized boats to rescue stranded students, teachers, and villagers from inundated areas.

-Medical and Humanitarian Outreach Emergency Burn Treatment: At a remote unit hospital in Kamjong District, Manipur, medical staff provided urgent stabilization and life-saving care to a six-month-old infant suffering from severe facial burns.

-Border Area Support in Vijaynagar: In remote regions of Arunachal Pradesh lacking standard public infrastructure or functioning distribution systems, the force utilizes air maintenance sorties to fly sick residents to hospitals and helps supply essential goods.



DC presides over weekly Block Diwas at Kud- Udhampur Public raises demands related to education, drinking water, sports, connectivity and infrastructure

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa today presided over the weekly Block Diwas programme at Kud, providing a platform to the people of adjoining panchayats to project their concerns and demands before the district administration.

The public outreach programme was attended by PO Poshan Subash Dogra, Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash, SDM Chenani Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal, CEO PDA and other senior officers. Former PRI members and a large number of people from adjoining panchayats also participated.

The former PRI members and

the general public projected several demands, seeking adequate of teaching staff at GHSS Kud and other educational institutions, augmentation of drinking water supply, establishment of a mini stadium to promote sports in the area, development of an eco-friendly garden, early completion of pending JJM works, improvement of mobile network connectivity, establishment of a Health Centre at Bupp, release of land compensation, construction of a footbridge and construction of a shed and boundary wall at GHSS Kud etc.

Responding to the issues and demands raised by the public, the Deputy Commissioner assured them that their genuine grievances would



be addressed in a time-bound manner.

The DC emphasized the importance of working with dedication and commitment to ensure that the people of the area are not

deprived of their legitimate demands. He urged the officers to create awareness among the public about the income-generating and beneficiary-oriented schemes

launched by the Government of India and the UT Government.

The DC emphasized that the primary objective of such public outreach programmes is to address the day-to-day grievances faced by people on the ground and ensure effective delivery of public services.

During the Block Diwas programme, students of GHSS Kud presented a cultural programme, which was highly appreciated by everyone.

En route to Kud, the Deputy Commissioner visited Anganwadi Centre, Degolt-Ist, Project Chenani, to take stock of various activities being undertaken under the Poshan Maah campaign and review the functioning of the centre.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress of Road Projects

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the progress of PWD (R&B) and PMGSY road projects and issues related to permanent restoration of damaged roads. The meeting also took stock of the status of forest clearance cases uploaded on the PARIVESH Portal, including the stage at which each case is pending.

The concerned officers apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the current status of the road projects, particularly those awaiting forest clearance and cases already under process at different stages on the PARIVESH Portal. The road projects reviewed included Shirshi-Kiyar, Yourdu Qaderna-Hamdandoo, Mhow-Pallai, Batwari-Ulligarh, Afani-Jar, Nowapachi-Hanzal to Deharna, Dhanrashi to Tender, besides other roads requiring forest-related clearances.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to expedite the uploading and processing of pending forest clearance cases on the PARIVESH Portal and ensure timely follow-up for obtaining the requisite approvals.

He stressed upon the concerned officers to maintain close coordination with the Forest Department and other stakeholders to resolve procedural issues promptly to avoid delays in the implementation of road projects.

DC Udhampur reviews implementation plan for Clean Himalayan and Hill Cities initiative in Patnitop

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting to deliberate on the implementation modal for the Clean Himalayan and Hill cities initiative in Patnitop area to ensure sustainable solid waste management at the Hill Station.

The meeting was attended by CEO Patnitop Development Authority, Rakesh Dubey, SDM Chenani, Dr Ranjeet Singh Kotwal and other senior officers.

A threadbare discussion was held on various aspects of the implementation of the initiative on the ground. The DC directed the concerned officers and departments to take necessary action for the timely implementation of the components under the CHHCI Action Plan.

The concerned officers were advised to ensure proper planning, coordination and effective execution of their respective responsibilities in accordance with the applicable rules and guidelines.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary preparations and requisite measures are completed in a time-bound manner.

He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the initiative and promote the sustainable, clean and environmentally responsible development of Patnitop as a premier hill destination.

ACD Kishtwar reviews progress of development schemes in 4 Blocks

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 16: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Development (Additional District Programme Coordinator-VB-G RAM-G), Manoj Kumar today chaired a meeting to assess the progress of developmental schemes in Blocks Inderwal, Mughalmaidan, Thakrie and Paddar.

The meeting reviewed the implementation and progress of VB-G RAM-G, PMAY-G, District/UT Capex, CDF, APDP and other developmental schemes.

Review of VB-G RAM-G focused on assessing generation of Person-Days (PDs) against the normative allocation and the 1st Quarter release. The performance of individual Gram Panchayats was examined in detail. Taking serious note of low PD generation in certain Panchayats, the ACD directed the concerned functionaries to



improve their performance.

The ACD further stressed on 100% e-KYC of skilled and semi-skilled mates, proper geo-tagging of assets and timely processing and payment of wages to GRGC holders.

While reviewing PMAY-G progress, the ACD directed immediate completion of Category-A houses. He directed the concerned officers to examine the delays and initiate recovery proceedings in cases under Category-B, where beneficiaries

have failed to utilise assistance as prescribed.

Reviewing the progress under District/UT Capex, CDF, APDP and other heads, the ACD stressed immediate physical and financial completion of ongoing works, with close monitoring at the field level.

Taking serious note of instances of poor performance and failure to discharge assigned duties, show-cause notices were issued to three officials – one from Block Mughalmaidan and two from Block Thakrie. A termination notice was also served upon one official of Block Paddar for unsatisfactory performance and failure to discharge assigned responsibilities.

The meeting was attended by Bhushan Sen, BDO Mughalmaidan; Zahid Rashid, BDO Inderwal; Ishiyaz Ahmed, BDO Thakrie; Rajesh Sharma, BDO Paddar; Kewal Kumar, Executive Engineer, REW Kishtwar; AEEs, AEs and other concerned field staff.

SMVDU Celebrates Valedictory Ceremony of Student Induction Programme-2026

■ HT News Network

JAMMU :- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, organized the Valedictory Ceremony of the two-week Student Induction Programme-2026 (SIP) at the Matrika Auditorium, marking the successful culmination of an enriching induction journey for the newly admitted undergraduate students. The two-week programme was designed to help students transition smoothly into university life and familiarize them with the academic environment, campus culture, values and diverse opportunities at SMVDU. The programme was meticulously planned and conducted by a dedicated team of faculty members under the chairmanship of Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs and Convener, SIP-2026, with a focus on academic orientation, teamwork, creativity, confidence, interpersonal development and holistic growth.

The valedictory ceremony brought together newly admitted students, Deans, Heads of Schools, faculty members, organizing committee members and distinguished guests. The programme commenced with the National Song, followed by the National Anthem, and a ceremonial welcome to the dignitaries. Potted plants were presented to the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour as a symbol of growth, sustainability and new

beginnings. Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs (Non-Engineering) and Coordinator, SIP-2026, delivered the Welcome Address and extended greetings to the students and distinguished guests. Presenting an overview of the two-week programme, Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs and Convener, SIP-2026, highlighted the range of activities and learning experiences organized for the students.

Students from different disciplines shared their experiences and reflections, expressing appreciation for the diverse activities, interactions and learning opportunities provided throughout the induction programme. The Guest of Honour, Mr. Taranvir Singh, Managing Director, TVS Filters, delivered an inspirational address on "How to Become a Successful Entrepreneur." He encouraged the students to develop an innovative and entrepreneurial mindset, embrace challenges, learn continuously and strive to create meaningful solutions through knowledge, creativity and perseverance. Certificates were presented to the Student Volunteers, Organising Committee Members and Invited Speakers in recognition of their valuable contributions to the successful conduct of SIP-2026. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and Chief Guest, delivered the Valedictory Address, emphasizing the importance of holistic education, discipline.

Sat Sharma reviews 'Seva Ke Rang, Rashtra Ke Sang' programme under Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan

Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan to begin on Sept 17 with 'Aashirwad Ka Diya', blood donation programmes: Sat Sharma

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, 16 September 2026: J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA), accompanied by State General Secretary and Incharge Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan Gopal Mahajan, chaired a meeting of senior party leaders to review preparations for the 'Seva Ke Rang, Rashtra Ke Sang' (Colours of Service, With the Nation) programme at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The programme is being organized under the month-long Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan to

mark the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and commemorate 25 years of his relentless public service, first as Chief Minister of Gujarat and thereafter as Prime Minister of India. The initiative aims to take the message of public service, national commitment and people-centric development to the grassroots level.

J&K BJP Vice President and Convenor of the programme Rekha Mahajan, State Secretary Arun Sharma, Spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary, Co-Incharges Purna Nanda and Santosh Sharma, along with other senior party leaders,



participated in the meeting.

Sat Sharma said that 'Seva Ke Rang, Rashtra Ke Sang' will give a creative and meaningful expression to the spirit of service towards the nation. He said that the programme will showcase, through Rangoli, the public welfare initiatives of the Modi

government, national symbols, the vision of Viksit Bharat, and the spirit of national unity and service.

Sharma further said that the Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan will be formally launched on September 17, on the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the 'Aashirwad Ka Diya' and blood donation programmes. He called upon the party cadre as well as the general public to actively participate in the month-long Abhiyan and make it a collective expression of service, social responsibility and commitment towards the nation.

Vikram Randhawa holds public grievances camp at BJP headquarters

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, 09 September 2026: J&K BJP senior leader and MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa held a public grievance camp at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, and listened to the issues and demands raised by people from different areas.

J&K BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Convenor Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal and Co-convenor Er. T.K. Sharma accompanied the MLA and assisted in coordinating the proceedings. Deputations from Nanak Nagar Sector-6, Extension Trikuta Nagar, Vijay Nagar Talab Tillo and Bawe sought construction and improvement



of lanes and drains in their respective areas. A deputation from Sanjay Nagar demanded replacement of worn-out electric wires in Sector 4. Residents from Trikuta Nagar Sector-9, Sunjawan and Extension Sainik Colony near

Heritage School raised issues related to repair and replacement of non-functional streetlights.

A deputation from Janipur Colony sought repair of an electric transformer, while residents from Nanak Nagar requested installation of iron

gratings over open drains. Deputations from Gandhi Nagar, Sanjay Nagar and Preet Nagar apprised the MLA about drinking water scarcity in their areas. Residents of Rajiv Nagar raised the issue of encroachment on a nallah, while a deputation from Sunjawan sought installation of additional electric poles. Ch. Vikram Randhawa said that public representatives must remain accessible to citizens and ensure that genuine local concerns are taken up with the concerned departments. He said that issues related to roads, drainage, electricity, drinking water, streetlights and sanitation directly affect the daily lives of people.

DC Rajouri chairs public outreach camp at Thanamandi

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 16: As part of the Weekly Block Diwas initiative, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a public outreach camp at Thanamandi to listen and ensure on-the-spot redressal of public grievances.

The local residents and public representatives projected a number of issues and demands pertaining to roads, mobile connectivity, infrastructure and other

essential services. The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing and took detailed feedback from the concerned officers regarding the issues raised.

The Deputy Commissioner assured that all issues pertaining to different departments have been duly noted and genuine concerns shall be redressed in a phased manner. He stressed the need for adopting a solution-oriented approach and urged the public to work hand in hand with the district administration for

timely resolution of their grievances. Officers from various departments also responded to the issues raised by the public and apprised the gathering about the action being taken and the measures proposed for addressing the concerns.

Highlighting the immense tourism potential of Thanamandi, the Deputy Commissioner said that the area, known for its scenic beauty and natural attractions, has significant potential for further development as a tourist



destination. He emphasized the need to make concerted efforts towards strengthening

connectivity and improving infrastructure to facilitate the movement of tourists and boost

local economic activity.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to expedite the ongoing work on the Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road. He also informed that a committee has been constituted for assessment of losses caused by the recent floods. He directed the committee to complete the assessment and submit its report at the earliest so that further necessary action could be initiated on the basis of the findings. The Deputy

Commissioner reiterated that the Weekly Block Diwas initiative provides an effective platform for direct interaction between the administration and the people. He called upon all departments to ensure effective follow-up on the issues raised during such outreach programmes. Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected High School Manyal. He took stock of the condition of the school infrastructure and observed that some of the rooms were old and in a dilapidated condition. He

directed the PWD and Education Department to take necessary corrective measures and ensure that the safety of students and staff remains the foremost priority. Among the others who were present at the event included PO ICDS, Harpal Singh; SDM Thanamandi Abid Hussain Shah; ACD, Sheraz Chowhan; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; ACP, Mohd Rafeeq; DDE, Mohd Nawaz Choudhary; DSHO, PP Sagotra; CEO Education Mohd Hafiz and other district and sectoral officers.





Government of Jammu & Kashmir

HOME DEPARTMENT Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar

NOTIFICATION

Srinagar, the 09th September, 2026

S.O.-239 In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India, the Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

- Short title, Commencement and application-
- These rules shall be called Jammu and Kashmir Prisons (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 2026.
- These rules shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
- Definitions-
- In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:-
- "Administrative Department" means the Home Department of the Government in the Civil Secretariat holding the Administrative charge of the service;
- "Cadre" means the cadre of the Service;
- "Commission" means the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission.
- "Competitive Examination" means such examination, including intermediate stages, as may be specified by the Government from time to time;
- "Government" means the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir;
- "Member of the Service" means a person appointed to a post in the Service under the provisions of these rules or the rules superseded by these rules;
- "Post" means a permanent post carrying a definite time scale sanctioned by the competent authority;
- "Rules" means the Jammu and Kashmir Prisons (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 2021;
- "Schedule" means the schedule(s) annexed to these rules;
- "Service" means the Jammu and Kashmir Prisons (Gazetted) Service; and
- Words and expressions used in these rules but not defined shall have the same meaning as are assigned to them in the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 and the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956.
- Constitution of Service-
- From the date of commencement of these rules, there shall be constituted the "Jammu and Kashmir Prisons (Gazetted) Service".
- The Government may, at the commencement of these rules, appoint to the service any person who at the commencement of these rules, is holding in substantive capacity any post included in the cadre of this Service:
- Provided that for the purpose of the initial constitution of the Service, a person holding any post included in the cadre of the Service in its sanctioned scale of pay, in substantive capacity to which he was appointed by the competent authority under rules, either by direct recruitment or by promotion shall be deemed to have been appointed to the Service under these rules if he is fully qualified to hold the post under these rules.
- Explanation:-The word 'holding' means a person holding a post included in the cadre of the Jammu and Kashmir Prisons (Gazetted) Service in its sanctioned scale of pay on regular basis under orders of the competent authority and will not include the persons holding a post on ex-cadre/deputation basis or on adhoc basis or in a stop-gap arrangement.
- Strength and Composition of the Service-
- The authorised permanent and temporary strength of the cadre and the nature of the post included therein shall be determined by the Government from time to time and shall, at the initial constitution of the Service under these rules, be such as specified in the Schedule-I annexed to these rules:
- Provided that the Government may create temporary posts in the cadre of the service for specified period or purpose as may be considered necessary from time to time.
- The Government shall, after the interval of every five years or at such other intervals, as may be necessary, re-examine the strength and composition of cadre of the Service and make such alterations therein as it deems fit.
- Qualification and method of recruitment-
- No person shall be eligible for appointment or promotion to any post in any class, category or grade in the Service unless he/she possesses the qualification as laid down in Schedule-II and fulfils other requirements of recruitment as provided in the rules and orders for the time being in force.
- Appointment to the Service shall be made-
- By direct recruitment; or
- By promotion; or
- By deputation; or
- Partly by (a), and partly by (b), in the ratio, and in the manner, as mentioned against each post in Schedule-II;
- Provided that all the posts under direct recruitment shall be filled through the Commission as per the rules/orders of the Government issued for the purpose. Provided further, that all posts to be filled by promotion shall be filled up through Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC)/Commission, unless any post/category of posts is exempted from the purview of the Commission/DPC in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (Limitation of Functions) Regulations, 1957 by the Government by a specific order. Provided also that in case of High Security Prison(s), the posts shall be filled by deputation from CISF.
- The department shall refer vacancies in the direct/promotion quota to the Commission and Departmental Promotion Committee, as the case may be, in terms of SRO 166 dated 14.06.2005.
- Selection Grade-
- The Service shall have the Time Scale of Level-8 (47600-151100).
- Twenty Five Percent of the posts in the Time Scale of Pay Class- V, Category-A indicated in Schedule-II of these rules, shall be in the Selection Grade i.e., Pay Level-10-A (\$6600-179800).
- The members of the service shall be eligible for placement in the Selection Grade on Completion of 05 years' Service in the Time Scale of pay on the basis of seniority and other eligibility criteria on the recommendations of the Departmental Selection Committee to be constituted by the Government.
- Reservation in appointments-While making appointments either by direct recruitment or by promotion, reservation shall be provided to the eligible categories in accordance with the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 and the rules and orders, as in force.
- Probation-
- Persons appointed to the service through direct recruitment shall be regulated in terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 and other rules in force.
- The pay of person appointed to the Service through direct recruitment shall be regulated under the Provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Regulations or General Rules as notified from time to time.
- Training and Departmental Examination-Persons appointed to the Service by Competitive Examination conducted by Commission shall be required to undergo such training from time to time during the course of probation and to pass during the period of probation or trial such departmental examination(s) as the Government may prescribe:
- Provided that the Government may exempt, either wholly or partly, from such training or departmental examination(s), persons who have passed departmental examination or undergone training declared by Government to be equivalent to a Departmental examination or training prescribed under these rules.
- Eligibility of Government servants for direct recruitment-A person already in the Government Service may apply through proper channel for direct recruitment to a vacant post in any particular class or category in the Service, if he/she possesses the educational and other qualifications prescribed for recruitment to such class or category of posts. The upper age limit of such Government servants shall be as provided in the general rules:
- Provided that in case of a post which requires a higher degree of specialization and/ or experience, the Government may prescribe higher upper age limit.
- Maintenance of seniority lists
- Seniority of the members of the Service shall be regulated under the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956. The Administrative Department shall maintain an up-to-date and final seniority list of the Service.
- Residuary matters in regard to matters not specifically covered by these rules, the members of the Service shall be governed by the rules, regulations and orders applicable to the Civil Service of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in general.
- Interpretation-if any question arises relating to the interpretation of these rules, the decision of the Administrative Department shall be final and binding.
- Repeal and Savings
- All rules corresponding to these rules namely, the Jammu and Kashmir Prisons (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules notified vide SO 90 dated 10th March, 2021 and in force immediately before the commencement of these rules are hereby repealed.
- Notwithstanding such repeal, any appointment or order made or action taken under the rules so repealed shall be deemed to have been made or taken under these rules. By order of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.

DIPK-5759/26

Send Date: Sep 16, 2026

J&K Prisons (Gazetted) Services Recruitment Rules

SCHEDULE-I

S.No	Designation of the Post	Pay-Level	Posts of other Jails	Posts of HSP Mahanagar, Kathua	Total Sanctioned Strength
01.	Inspector General of Prisons & Correctional Service	L13 (123100-215900)	01	-	01
02.	Deputy Inspector General of Prisons & Correctional Service	L12 (78800-209200)	01	-	01
03.	Senior Superintendent Jail	L11 (67700-208700)	02	01	03
04.	Physician B-Grade Specialist	L11 (67700-208700)	03	01	04
05.	Chief Accounts Officer	L11 (67700-208700)	01	-	01
06.	Assistant Surgeon	L9 (52700-166700)	15	01	16
07.	Dental Surgeon	L9 (52700-166700)	02	01	03
08.	Superintendent Jail	L8 (47600-151100)	14	01	15
09.	Accounts Officer	L8 (47600-151100)	04	-	04
	Total		43	05	48

J&K Prisons (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules

SCHEDULE-II

Class	category	Pay Level	Designation	Minimum Qualification of Direct Recruitment	Method of recruitment
I	A	L13 (123100-215900)	Inspector General of Prisons & Correctional Service	---	By Promotion from Class-II Category-A at least 03 years Substantive Service as such Or By Deputation from IPS
II	A	L12 (78800-209200)	Deputy Inspector General of Prisons & Correctional Service	---	By promotion from Class-III, Category-A having at least five (5) years substantive service in that category, which should include two (02) years field experience as Senior Superintendent/Superintendent of any Jail.
III	A	L11 (67700-208700)	Senior Superintendent Jails	---	100% by promotion from (Selection Grade Superintendent Jails) having at least 03 years Substantive Service as such.
III	B	L11 (67700-208700)	Physician B-Grade Specialist	---	By deputation from J&K (Health) Gazetted Services.
III	C	L11 (67700-208700)	Chief Accounts Officer	---	By deputation from J&K (Accounts) Gazetted Services.
IV	A	L9 (52700-166700)	Assistant Surgeon	---	By deputation from J&K (Health) Gazetted Services.
	B	L9 (52700-166700)	Dental Surgeon	---	By deputation from J&K (Health) Gazetted Services.
V	A	L8 (47600-151100)	Superintendent Jails	i) Post Graduation in Psychology/Criminalogy/Sociology/Masters in Social Work from any recognized university. ii) Physical Standards: Male Minimum Height: 5'6" Minimum chest:32"-33 1/2" Female Minimum Height:5'-2" Physically fit.	(i) 50% by Direct Recruitment. (ii) 50% by promotion from Class-I Category-A of J&K Jail (Subordinate) Service Rules. I.e., Deputy Superintendent Jails having 3 years substantive service in that category. Provided in case of non-availability of eligible candidates, either under direct recruitment quota or promotion quota, the posts shall be filled by deputation from amongst the officers of an equivalent rank from J&K Police (Gazetted) Service.
B		L8 (47600-151100)	Accounts Officer	---	By deputation from J&K Accounts (Gazetted) Services.

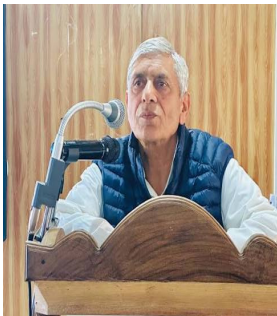
MLA Bandipora visits protesting vet interns at SKUAST-K, says demands 'justified in many ways' 'Existing stipend of Rs 6,000 very low'; strike enters 10th day

■ HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 16 (KNO): The peaceful strike by veterinary interns at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-Kashmir, entered its 10th consecutive day on Wednesday, with students continuing to demand a revision of their internship stipend.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bandipora Nizam Uddin Bhat visited the protest site at SKUAST-K, Shuhama, Ganderbal, and interacted with the protesting students.

Bhat, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), acknowledged the concerns raised by the interns and said that the existing stipend of Rs 6,000 per month was very low. He assured the students that he would personally take up the matter with Agriculture Minister Javid Ahmad Dar and said that his



party would also raise the issue in the upcoming Assembly session.

Speaking at the protest site, the MLA said veterinary doctors were an important segment of society and played a significant role in animal health, production and allied sectors.

"We have not come here to create any drama. These are our children and an important segment of our society who provide services in the productive sector after undergoing a lot of struggle," he said.

Bhat said Jammu and

Kashmir, being a Union Territory, may have limitations, but that should not prevent the professionals from seeking support from the Union Government for their sector. "I feel, after sitting with these young people, that the government is showing some indifference towards them. Their demands are justified in many ways," he said.

The MLA highlighted the role of veterinary doctors in animal health, pasture development, forest conservation, environmental protection and the production of meat and milk.

"Society depends on their hard work and services. Ignoring them in this manner is unfair," he said, but added that he was not seeking to burden the government but was making a suggestion in support of the protesting interns. "I am not trying to be critical. I am trying to be suggestive. They deserve support," the MLA said.

Speaking to KNO, Jammu & Kashmir Veterinary Students Association (JKVSA) president Saqlain Rashid said a student delegation had recently met Agriculture Minister Javid Ahmad Dar, who informed them that the university had earlier submitted a stipend proposal directly to the Finance Department instead of the Agriculture Production Department (APD).

"Following the meeting, the minister directed the university to prepare and submit a fresh proposal to the APD for further consideration," Rashid said.

Meanwhile, the protest continued peacefully for the 10th day. The interns reiterated that they would continue their agitation until they received a written, time-bound assurance regarding revision of the veterinary internship stipend, similar to the assurance provided during the MBBS interns' protest—(KNO)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Husband name has been wrongly Written in my Bank Passbook bearing Account number 0256040100024969 Branch Parimpora Qammarwari Srinagar. While his Actual name is Umer Majeed Khanday s/o: Abdul Majeed Khanday R/o: Qammarwari Near Petrol pump Srinagar According to his Adhaar card bearing Adhaar no. is 2202 2203 9575. Now I want to Correct it. Now if anybody have any Objection he/she can contact Jkbank Manager branch b/u Parimpora within a Period of 7days. After that No Objection will be entertained .

Name: Umer Majeed Khanday
s/o: Abdul Majeed Khanday
R/o: Qammarwari Near ist Petrol pump Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of ABDUL AHAD WANI S/O ABDUL AZIZ WANI R/O CHANDKOTE Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of income Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant family consists of (04) members and having annual income 95000 / the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...AB AHAD WANI Father 52 years Labour Married
- 2.SHAMEEMA BEGUM Mother 45 years H/W
- 3... SHOWKAT AHMAD WANI Brother 28 years Un , Employed
- 4....IQRA AHAD Applicant 22 years student

It is further submitted that AB AHAD WANI S/O AB AZIZ WANI is Labour by profession and is sole earnings in the said family. The applicant needs income dependent certificate in favour daughter IQRQ AHAD for Labour scholarship

The applicant has applied for the issuance of income dependent certificate as such the instant matter is published through newspaper .

if anyone is having any kind of objection He/She may approach this office within (07)seven days of the publication of this notice .After passing of Stipulated time of 07 days No objection will be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, G.H. Mohd. Magray, S/o Mohd. Sultan Magray, resident of Sallar, Anantnag, Kashmir, have lost/misplaced my School Leaving Certificate (SLC) issued by Govt. High School, Sallar (Anantnag), Kashmir. I had passed Class 9th from the said school.

The original certificate has been lost and is not traceable despite best efforts. I intend to apply to the concerned school/department for issuance of a Duplicate School Leaving Certificate.

If anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of the duplicate certificate, the same may be communicated to the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

Name: G.H. Mohd. Magray
S/o: Mohd. Sultan Magray
School: Govt. High School, Sallar (Anantnag), Kashmir.

Kulgam Police Arrest Three Alleged Drug Peddlers, Recover Heroin-Like Substance

■ Farooq Rather



KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 16: Kulgam Police arrested three alleged drug peddlers, including a woman, in two separate operations and recovered a total of 190.5 grams of heroin-like substance, police said on Wednesday.

In the first operation, a police party conducting dynamic naka checking at Upper Market Qazigund, near Town Hall, intercepted a woman who was allegedly moving under suspicious circumstances. During a search of her bag, 20.5 grams of heroin-like substance, packed in a black polythene envelope, was recovered.

The accused was identified as Aqsa Bashir, daughter of Bashir Ahmad Dar, resident of Hardpora Akinpora, Anantnag. Police said FIR No. 221/2026 under Sections 8/21 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Qazigund and investigation has been initiated.

In another operation, a dynamic naka was established near the North Portal of the Navyug Tunnel. The naka party of Police Post Navyug Tunnel intercepted a silver-coloured Swift Dzire bearing registration number JK09E-9019.

During checking, police recovered 170 grams of heroin-like substance from the possession of two occupants of the vehicle, identified as Imran Mir, son of Mohd Akram Mir, and Muhtab Dar, son of Magsood Ahmed Dar, both residents of Karnah, Kupwara.

Both accused were arrested, and FIR No. 222/2026 under Sections 8/21/29 of the NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Qazigund. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the contraband and identify other persons allegedly involved in the drug network.

SSP Kulgam said that police would continue its sustained campaign against drug trafficking and take stringent legal action against those involved in the illegal trade.

He also appealed to the public to remain vigilant and share information regarding drug trafficking with the police. He assured that the identity of informants would be kept confidential.

EJAC Condolences Demise of Former Commissioner Secretary Khalid Habib

■ Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16: The Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC) Jammu and Kashmir has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of former Commissioner Secretary, Mr. Khalid Habib, and conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. In a condolence message, EJAC President and senior trade union leader Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam expressed profound sorrow over the passing of Khalid Habib, describing his demise as a great loss. Shabnam remembered him as a noble, courteous and kind-hearted person known for his simplicity, humility and dignified conduct. He said Khalid Habib was a disciplined administrator who served in several key positions, including Director Handicrafts and Director Food and Supplies. He said the late officer maintained cordial relations with people across different sections of society and was widely respected for his humane approach and exemplary character. Fayaz Ahmad Shabnam also recalled Khalid Habib's valuable contribution during his public service career, saying that his professional commitment and dignified personality.





DC inspects progress of dev Works at Thatharka, civic amenities for visitors at Tattapani

HT News Network

AMBAN, SEPTEMBER 16: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today inspected the progress of work on the multi-storey building of Government Higher Secondary School, Thatharka and civic amenities for visitors at Tattapani in Sangaldan area. The natural Hot Spring, having healing medicinal properties, is emerging as a major health tourism destination in District Ramban.

The DC was accompanied by SDM Imtiaz Ahmed, ACD Imran Naik, CEO Oneel Bhat, AD Planning Farooq Rahi and other concerned officers.

During the inspection of the School Building being executed at an allocated cost of 5.89 crore lakh by the PWD Department, the Deputy Commissioner directed the



executing agency to expedite the pace of construction and ensure timely completion of the project. He stressed the need for close monitoring of the work and adherence to prescribed quality standards and

timelines. Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Tattapani at Sangaldan and reviewed the facilities available for visitors coming to the place for health tourism. He took detailed feedback

regarding essential services and infrastructure. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildar and JPDCL Engineer to take necessary measures for installation of street lights in the area. He also instructed ACD to ensure installation of solar street lights at prominent locations to improve illumination and facilitate visitors during evening and night hours. The Executive Engineer PMGSY was directed to undertake necessary surface improvement of the Tattapani road to ensure smooth and convenient access for visitors.

Emphasising the need for regulated and visitor-friendly accommodation facilities, the Deputy Commissioner directed the local Tehsildar to ensure reasonable and affordable rent for tents and other private accommodation facilities. He further directed the concerned

officers to inspect the available accommodation facilities for compliance with prescribed safety standards.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Jal Shakti Department engineers to maintain adequate water supply at the site. The Block Development Officer was instructed to maintain sanitation and cleanliness in and around the Hot Spring. The Executive Engineer PMGSY was directed to undertake necessary surface improvement of the Tattapani road to ensure smooth and convenient access for visitors.

Emphasising the need for regulated and visitor-friendly accommodation facilities, the Deputy Commissioner directed the local Tehsildar to ensure reasonable and affordable rent for tents and other private accommodation facilities.

Director Agriculture Kashmir reviews activities at Seed Multiplication Farm Allowpora

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today visited the Seed Multiplication Farm at Allowpora and reviewed the ongoing activities and overall functioning of the farm. During the visit, the Director inspected various ongoing farm operations and took detailed stock of the seed multiplication programme. He interacted with the concerned officers and field staff and sought a comprehensive assessment of the progress achieved, crop management practices, field operations and developmental works being undertaken at the farm. Sartaj Ahmad Shah stressed the importance of strengthening departmental seed production infrastructure for ensuring the availability of quality seed to farmers at the appropriate time. He directed the concerned officers to maintain strict adherence to prescribed technical standards and ensure timely execution of all farm operations for achieving optimum seed production.

FDA conducts 229 Food Safety Inspections of Hotels, Restaurants

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 16: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, conducted food safety inspections of hotels and restaurants across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to assess compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made thereunder. A total of 229 hotels and restaurants were inspected, during which 124 food samples of various commodities, including milk and milk products, spices, edible oils and prepared food, were lifted and forwarded to NABL-accredited laboratories for analysis. During the inspections, violations of the prescribed sanitary and hygienic requirements were observed in certain food establishments. Accordingly, 38 Improvement Notices were issued to the concerned Food Business Operators (FBOs), directing them to undertake necessary corrective measures and ensure compliance with the prescribed food safety requirements. Further, five cases were filed under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which provides for a penalty of up to 1 lakh. In addition, 29 cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Act, with a total fine of 50,000 imposed. The Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers have been directed to continue inspections and sampling of hotels, restaurants and other food establishments in their respective jurisdictions and to take appropriate action against violations in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

JKEDI organizes District-Level Startup Idea Challenge at CIED IUST Awantipora

HT News Network

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), in collaboration with the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, successfully organised a District-Level Startup Idea Challenge and Boot Camp at CIED IUST Awantipora under the J&K Startup Idea Challenge 2.0. The programme, themed "Ignite Ideas. Build Startups. Create Impact.", aims to nurture creativity among students and aspiring entrepreneurs and equip them with the confidence and support needed to transform innovative ideas into viable business ventures. It forms part of JKEDI's broader initiative under the J&K



Startup Policy 2024-27 to foster a robust startup ecosystem across the Union Territory through a series of district-level boot camps.

Distinguished guests present on the occasion included Chand Kishore Sharma, Joint Director, JKEDI; Prof. Parvaiz Ahmad Mir, Director, CIED, IUST; Dr. Tariq Hossain Ganie, Associate Professor, Food Technology, IUST; Dr. Sajad A. Lone, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering and Coordinator, AICTE IDEALab; Dr. Basit, CEO, CIED IUST

Foundation, along with other dignitaries, faculty members, and guests.

Joint Director, JKEDI, guided the participants to embrace entrepreneurship and become job creators rather than job seekers.

Addressing the gathering, the organisers encouraged the students to present their ideas with confidence. They emphasised that the Boot Camp serves as a vital platform and starting point for young innovators to begin their entrepreneurial journey. Drawing inspiration from the poetry of Allama Iqbal and other motivational verses, speakers highlighted that with the right support, even a simple idea can grow into a remarkable enterprise.

Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, also interacted with the participants and encouraged them to work diligently on their innovative ideas and transform them into viable business solutions.

ADDC Jammu reviews progress under HADP

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 16: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Jammu Sher Singh today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) in the district.

At the outset, a detailed presentation was given, highlighting the credit linkage across the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries and allied sectors; status of applications received and approved; establishment of units, fund utilisation, output tracking on the Kisan Sathi portal, skilling under Daksh Kisan and functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs).

The meeting was apprised that the district has registered encouraging progress under the twin programmes, with a large number of units established and a substantial share of the released funds utilised on the ground.

Notable headway was reported under flagship interventions such as Farm Mechanization and Automation, High-Density Plantation, Promotion of Vegetables and Exotic Vegetables, Round-the-Year Mushroom Cultivation, Commercial Floriculture, Bee-Keeping and Dragon Fruit Mother Blocks,



besides Dairy, Poultry and Fodder Development under the allied sectors.

Conducting a department-wise review, the ADC directed officers to expedite the establishment of units against the allotted targets for 2026-27 and to ensure timely utilisation of released funds. He stressed upon clearing pendency in applications, weeding out inactive cases and registering genuine beneficiaries, besides maintaining GPS-tagged photo documentation for real-time monitoring.

Describing HADP and JKCIIP as transformative initiatives aimed at doubling agricultural output, boosting rural livelihoods and making the sector commercially viable and sustainable, he called for close inter-departmental convergence so that the benefits reach farmers and rural youth at the grassroots within stipulated timelines.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, Lead District Manager and other concerned officers.

Doda: 2 Driving Licences of NDPS accused disqualified

HT News Network

DODA, SEPTEMBER 16- In a significant action aimed at promoting road safety and preventing the misuse of driving privileges, Assistant Regional Transport Officer Tasleem Wani has disqualified two Driving Licences belonging to persons accused in a case registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The action was taken under the directions and supervision of Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal and in close coordination with District Police.

The proceedings were initiated on the basis of recommendations and details of FIR No. 239/2026, registered under Sections 8/21/22/29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Doda. Accordingly, the Driving Licence JK0620100002783 of Mohammad Arif, S/o Mohammad Aayub, R/o Bershalla, Tehsil & District Doda—DL JK0620200001139 of Shohrab Hussain, S/o Mohammad Sharief, R/o Mohalla Akramabad, Tehsil & District Doda were disqualified.

DLSA Udhampur reviews implementation of H&R compensation scheme

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 16: The District legal Services Authority today reviewed the implementation of the directions of Supreme Court of India in: "S. Rajasekaran vs Union of India & Ors", including Hit and Run Motor Accident Compensation Scheme, 2022 here at a meeting of Scheme Committee members.

The meeting was chaired by Secretary DLSA Sumati Sharma in her Office Chamber and attended by Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Dr. Umesh Shan; Incharge Dy. SP Headquarters Jitendar Singh Sambyal and Litigation Officer Rimpay Sharma—all members. The meeting discussed



modalities for spreading public awareness about the Compensation to be provided to Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accidents as recommended by the SC. The meeting observed that generating mass public awareness about the scheme i.e. Victim Compensation of Hit and Run Motor Accidents Scheme, 2022 form key of the Committee guidelines. The

meeting noted that it is mandatory for every officer in charge of Police Station to forward FAR (First Accident Report) to the CEO (Claim Enquiry Officer) within one month from the date of accident. The Committee also recommended that I/Os should spread awareness amongst the victims and the victim's family about compensation.

Amit Sharma visits Snow-Bound Sawjian, Reviews Phase-II Population Enumeration

HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 16: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director, Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, today visited Sawjian, a remote and snow-bound area of District Poonch, to review the ongoing Phase-II Population Enumeration and assess the arrangements for effective Census coverage in the difficult terrain.

Amit Sharma was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma besides Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO), Javid



Ahmed, Tehsildar Mandi, Ashfaq Hussain, and other concerned officers were present during the visit.

During the visit, Amit Sharma interacted with the Enumerators and Supervisors engaged in the Population Enumeration exercise and took

detailed feedback regarding field-level arrangements, operational challenges and requirements being faced during the ongoing exercise.

The CPCO stressed the importance of ensuring accurate, complete and timely enumeration and directed the concerned teams to maintain close coordination and strictly follow the prescribed Census guidelines and procedures.

The visit provided an opportunity to assess the ground-level implementation of the Census exercise in the remote and snow-bound area and review the measures required for its smooth and timely completion.

Floriculture Deptt organises District-Level event on Commercial Floriculture at Gajoth- Doda Farmers sensitised to modern practices, govt schemes, livelihood opportunities

HT News Network

DODA, SEPTEMBER 16: The Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens on Wednesday organised a one-day District-Level event on Commercial Floriculture here at Gajoth, Bhalla.

Held under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from hundreds of farmers from Gajoth, Bhalla and adjoining areas.

District Development Commissioner Krishan Lal and Director Floriculture Jammu, Nagendra Singh Jamwal attended the programme and interacted with the farming community.

The event highlighted the growing interest of farmers in commercial floriculture in the Bhaderwah region, particularly in Panchayat Gajoth, which has emerged as a prominent hub for the cultivation of marigold and lavender. Gajoth is popularly known as the "Marigold Village of Doda", with approximately

50-60 quintals of marigold flowers being marketed daily at Jammu during the peak flowering season.

Addressing the gathering, Director Floriculture Jammu Nagendra Singh Jamwal appreciated the enthusiasm of the farmers and encouraged them to adopt modern techniques and diversify into new and high-value flower crops. He assured the farming community that the Department would extend all possible assistance through various



Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the promotion and expansion of commercial floriculture.

District Development Commissioner Krishan Lal expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the farmers of the region. He encouraged them to explore the cultivation of additional flower crops and modernise their farming practices so that the Bhaderwah area could emerge as a recognised floriculture hub not only in Jammu & Kashmir but across

the country. Chief Scientist Dr. Neeraj Kotwal delivered an informative lecture on commercial floriculture, highlighting the immense potential of flower cultivation as a profitable agricultural activity. He emphasised the benefits of protected cultivation of cut flowers and urged farmers to adopt modern cultivation techniques to meet the growing demand for flowers in the region. He further highlighted the scope for local production of cut flowers, as a substantial quantity

of cut flowers is presently sourced from outside the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The commercial floriculture initiative in the area was started by the Department of Floriculture during 2010-11. Since then, the activity has expanded significantly, with thousands of farmers now associated with flower cultivation and earning a sustainable livelihood through commercial floriculture. Earlier, Assistant Floriculture Officer Arjun Singh Parihar gave a detailed presentation.



30-second habits to improve your mood

If you're feeling overwhelmed, consider taking part in short simple "micropractices" to improve your wellbeing.

I'm on a video call with a researcher and I'm laughing uncontrollably. My face is screwed up and my belly hurts, but I don't seem to be able to stop.

I'm speaking to Natalie Van der Wal, a researcher at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, and we are taking part in a short session of laughter yoga. Much like traditional yoga, it starts with a breathing exercise, after which you are guided into emitting a fake laugh. "After a while it often becomes a real laugh," says Van der Wal.

From 05:00 meditation sessions to icy winter swims, modern self-care trends can be time consuming. But numerous studies now show that this doesn't have to be the case. There's growing evidence that short, simple activities can improve our mood, wellbeing and energy.

Eli Susman, author of Micropractice, argues that some can take as little as 30 seconds. These are "micropractices". Here is a selection you can start right now.

Laughter yoga

Laughter yoga is all about initiating non-humorous laughter, which involves the laughing but not the joke.

Initially my fake giggles felt awkward, but that didn't last long. Then after the laughter session, I felt much more jovial and happier. Our conversation flowed seamlessly. When I told Van der Wal this,

she laughed some more. She explained that following a laughter yoga session, she often finds that it's easier to form friendships with participants.

I felt surprisingly calm too. That's backed up by evidence. In a large meta-analysis (a study of studies) Van der Wal found that non-humorous laughter is about twice as effective as humour-related laughter at reducing depression and anxiety.

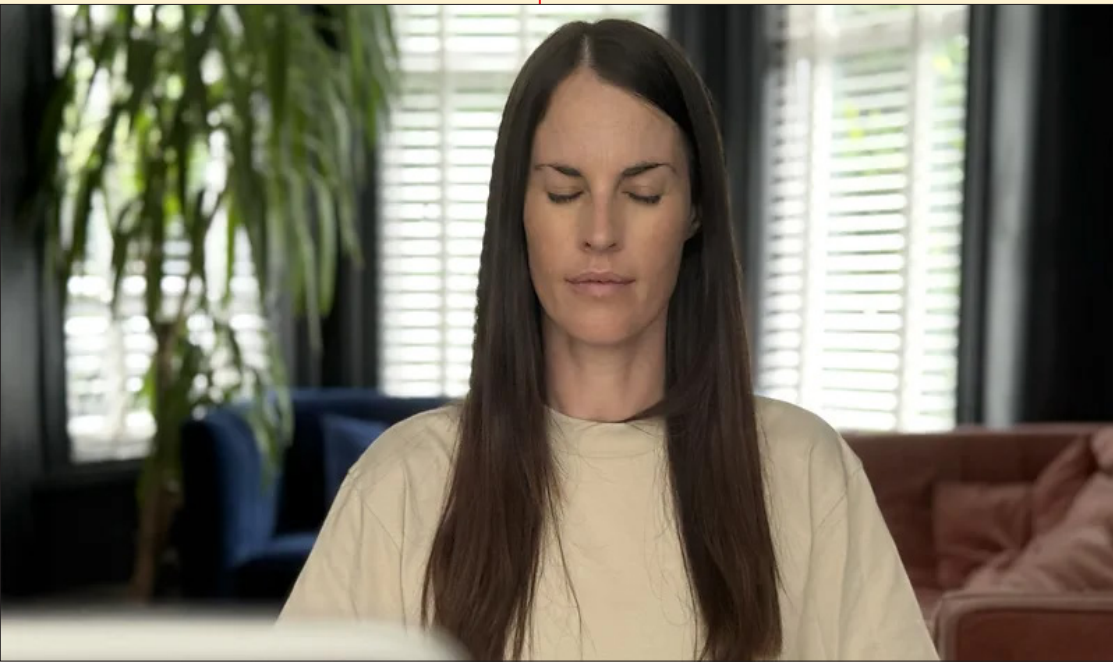
The technique: Start with three deep breaths and place your hands on your belly. Then simply start fake laughing. If that feels challenging start by saying: "hi hi hi, hahaha" and gradually increase the volume. If often becomes a real laugh. End with another deep breath and think about what you are grateful for. If you have a partner – even better. Try imitating each and see what happens.

Micro yoga

If laughing alone (or to a mirror) doesn't tickle you, how about trying a mindful stretch, which Susman refers to as "micro yoga".

This exercise is particularly useful for anyone who tends to spend time sitting behind a screen for hours on end. This simple yoga exercise can help to from being in the same position for prolong periods of time, Susman tells me. This is the hunched position we sometimes adopt when sitting in front of a screen for a long period. As we speak, he guides me into a gentle stretch that eases the tension in my neck and makes me think more about my posture.

One study found that taking just 15 to 30 seconds to stretch every 15 minutes improved productivity by about 15%. While this isn't yoga per se, other research suggests that when stretching



is paired with deep breaths and mindfulness, it can be more effective at improving psychological distress. Mindful stretching breaks have also been shown to reduce burnout and medical errors.

If in doubt, seek a medical opinion before starting a new exercise regime. All stretching comes with inherent risks.

The technique: Interlace your fingers behind your back. As you inhale, extend your arms downwards and gently lift your chest. As you exhale, soften into the stretch. Hold for two to three slow breaths.

Slow breaths

If you are stressed or experiencing some anxiety, there's abundant evidence that mindful breathing practices can help calm the nervous system.

Physiologically, taking slow deep breaths can reduce the fight or flight response as doing so activates the parasympathetic nervous system of the body, which is our "rest and digest" state. Breathing exercises have therefore also been found to reduce stress, depression and anxiety.

In one recent study, a team found that taking three slow deep breaths boosted the alpha waves in the brain, which are associated with calm and focussed attention, as well as theta waves, which are associated with deep relaxation.

Amit Kumar, a researcher at the University of Naples Federico II, Italy, led the research. He advises that we can use this technique as often as we feel necessary, in the office before a big meeting or at any point when our mind is racing too much. If we do this regularly throughout the day, it can help to prevent stress from accumulating and building up, he says.

However, Kumar suggests that those experiencing greater stress may want to do more than 30 seconds of breathwork.

The technique: Sit in a comfortable position and close your eyes. Take three slow deep breaths lasting about 10 seconds each with a longer exhale than inhale. Focus on the sensation of air entering and leaving your lungs. You can repeat this as many times as you like throughout the day.

Self-compassionate touch

It's long been understood that we benefit from touch. And while human touch is hard to replace, a study by Susman and colleagues has found that we can experience lasting benefits from a simple exercise of "self-soothing touch" in as little as 20 seconds.

In the study, participants placed their hands over their heart and belly while directing kind thoughts to themselves. Those who practiced it for only 20 seconds had significantly less of the stress hormone cortisol compared to the control group.

Susman emphasises the importance of being compassionate to ourselves – something he thinks is underrated.

In a follow-up study published this week, Susman found that increasing the frequency of the practice was linked to even greater improvements in feelings of self-compassion six months later.

The technique: Place one or both hands gently over your chest or upper arms. Take a breath and focus on the warmth and gentle pressure of your hands while thinking kind thoughts about yourself.

Mindful living

Remember there's no need to try every intervention but to find one that works as part of your lifestyle. "Try them out and see what fits," advises Van der Wal. "The dose you need might be different for every person. Do what feels good."

(BBC News)

Do you feel guilty when calling in sick at work? This might be why...

You wake up feeling unwell but there's a big day at work ahead.

What do you do? If the answer is to go in (or log on), you're not alone.

Research suggests anywhere between a third to a half of people in the UK work even when sick - something experts call presenteeism.

And your approach to sickness says a lot about you as an individual and where you work.

Young workers less likely to be sick

"The younger generation get the snowflake tag thrown at them, but it's not true," says University of Manchester psychologist Prof Sir Cary Cooper, who is one of the world's leading experts on workplace wellbeing.

Data from the Office for National Statistics supports this view.

Workers aged 16 to 24 took an average of 2.4 days off sick last year, compared to 6.2 days for those aged 50 to 64.

UK sickness absence rates are higher in older age groups

Average days lost per worker in 2025, by age group
Sir Cary, who has advised the UK government on employment policies in this area, says there are several reasons for this.

They are also less likely to suffer from long-term health conditions and joint problems that are major contributors to sickness absence.

But Sir Cary adds: "I think younger generations do have higher expectations about how employers should treat them and consider their wellbeing.

"Older generations have perhaps been more willing to put up with things, but that doesn't necessarily make that approach healthy.

"When it comes to taking time off, younger workers seem more willing to view mental wellbeing as part of their overall health rather than something that should simply be pushed through."

What it says about you

There are a variety of factors that influence someone's approach to sickness absence.

For some, work is closely tied to identity. Occupational psychologists call this work centrality - and research links this to greater engagement, commitment and willingness to go the extra mile.

If work is central to who you are, being absent can feel like temporarily losing part of yourself.

"These people feel a strong desire to keep showing up," says Dr Audrey Tang, a psychologist who writes about workplace wellbeing.

She says those working in caring professions such as medicine, nursing and teaching have a particular



take the day off."

Others fear being seen as weak or lazy. Younger workers are particularly susceptible to this, says Tang.

"They're more likely to be early in their profession and they don't want to leave a negative impression." What it says about where you work

Workplace culture and behaviour can have a significant influence on people's willingness to take time off sick, says psychologist Dr Tara Quinn-Cirillo.

When teams are stretched and there is little or no cover, employees know their absence will increase the workload for colleagues.

"The role of guilt and shame is significant in a toxic organisation that prioritises productivity over health and wellbeing," says Quinn-Cirillo.

"There is a 'carry-on' culture in some workplaces that encourages people to keep going when they should be resting."

Such cultures reward presenteeism. Employees feel valued for turning up regardless of how they are feeling and staff quickly absorb the message if managers praise people for working through illness.

"In a healthy work environment, people should be able to have open and honest conversations about wellbeing and sick days," says Quinn-Cirillo.

Trust also matters. If absence is routinely questioned or viewed negatively, workers can become reluctant to take legitimate time off for fear of being judged.

That, says Quinn-Cirillo, is a "huge red flag".

How to know when you're too sick to work
Deciding whether you are too sick to work is not always straightforward.

For physical illness, Tang says there are some well-established rules of thumb.

"If you're vomiting and have diarrhoea or have a fever, you should stay at home for 48 hours and 24 hours respectively after the symptoms have passed. In those situations, you're unlikely to be able to work effectively anyway."

Beyond that, the decision becomes more nuanced, according to Tang.

"Where there is more of a grey area is with coughs and colds. Since Covid, workplace etiquette has changed - generally it's considered polite to work from home."

But she says an absolute must is that mental health should be treated no differently than physical health.

"If you're sick and unable to work, you're sick and unable to work."

Quinn-Cirillo adds: "Ultimately it's about capacity to do a job, whether it be physical or mental health."

A further warning sign is when work starts affecting basic self-care, she says.

"Is your ability to look after yourself changing? Are you able to decompress from work? Is your sleep OK?"

If the answer is no, it may be a sign that rest is exactly what is needed.

(BBC News)



Younger workers are more likely to work in roles where there is little security, such as zero-hours contracts.

tendency towards this.

"They often report they would rather have a physical accident to have a reason not to show up than just

You have to fight for it: Chief Coach message to Indian Women's Hockey team chasing Asian Games gold

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 16: With just four days left before the Indian women's team begins its Asian Games 2026 campaign in Japan, the excitement is building around a team arriving with renewed belief.

A historic fifth-place finish at the FIH World Cup 2026 has given Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne's side confidence and momentum, but the focus has quickly shifted to the challenge ahead.

As the team settles into the conditions in Japan, history is within reach - an Asian Games gold would be only the second in the history of Indian women's hockey after 1982.

Amid a busy schedule of training, preparations and acclimatisation, Chief Coach Marijne took time out to share his thoughts on the team's mindset and ambitions.

"We were in Bangalore for active rest (after returning from the FIH World Cup), and after landing in Japan, it is about adjustments to the difference in time and creating more intensity in the training sessions as we get near to the tournament. We're in a really beautiful environment...Everybody



is now focused on the Asian Games," Marijne said.

He said, "Dr Wayne Lombard is responsible for building the programme on the physical side. People think always it's about training more and more but a really important factor in this is the rest and what way you're doing the rest, but also the strength sessions. So, he's building the programme. He monitors the players: how they feel? How well they sleep? Do they feel fresh? These things are very important for us a staff to know; how high can the training intensity be? Wayne tells me

more or less what I can do in my sessions, not which exercise but how high the energy can be, the intensity can be."

"The last day we were at the SAI Centre in Bengaluru (before flying to Japan), I asked the chef from SAI if he could make a special dinner for the players featuring Japanese cuisine and dishes they like. We were in the athletes' area, and there I said to the girls, 'Listen, we did something remarkable and historical, but we have to move on to the next tournament. Later in your life, you will recall this World Cup, like it

was amazing what we achieved...and this is also a moment to stand still and move on from what just happened instead of going on and on (about it). You have to close a chapter before you move to the next one. I asked the players what their most beautiful memory about the World Cup was. That way, they lived it one more time," Marijne said.

"Our video analyst made a really beautiful movie with all the goals, with all the beautiful moments. The last slide said 'Road to Asian Games' and now it has started. So that way, it is behind us. We took a moment to relive what we can be proud of, and I also told the players

success is not guaranteed. You have to fight for it again and give even more," he said. "The squad for the Asian Games is same as the World Cup. They have experienced all different kind of playing cultures, playing styles and that's what we can use and build for the future. The focus is on the team itself and how we want to improve after the World Cup...I want more and more because if we stand still and think like we are there, that's the first stage when you stop improving," Marijne said.

Jasprit Bumrah, Shreyas Iyer & India's cricketing stars set for their first Asian Games

United News Of India

MUMBAI, SEP 16: Some of Indian cricket's biggest names will take the Asian Games stage for the first time as the country's men's and women's teams prepare to defend the historic gold medals they won at the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022.

The men's team will be led by Shreyas Iyer and features a formidable combination of established international stars and exciting young talent. Jasprit Bumrah, Abhishek Sharma and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi are among the prominent players set to make their first appearance at the Asian Games as India aims to retain the title.

The women's team, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, features some of the most accomplished names in world cricket, including Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma,

Deepthi Sharma and Richa Ghosh. Having won the inaugural women's cricket gold at the

previous Asian Games, India will enter the competition looking to extend its dominance on the continental stage. Cricket action begins ahead of the Asian Games opening ceremony,



with the women's competition commencing on September 17.

Followed by the men's tournament from September 24.

The presence of several of India's leading international players makes this one of the country's strongest cricket contingents at the Asian Games.

Australia batter Renshaw makes strong World Cup audition with impressive ton



United News Of India

HARARE, SEP 16: Australia batter Matthew Renshaw scored his first international century in almost 10 years to help his side cruise to a 59-run victory over a gallant Zimbabwe here.

Renshaw smashed his maiden ODI century as the Aussies amassed 294/8 in the series opener and a five-wicket haul from Nathan Ellis ensured Zimbabwe were bowled out for just 235 in reply at the Harare Sports Club on Tuesday.

It was Renshaw's first international century since his only previous hundred that came against Pakistan in a Test match in Sydney at the start of 2017, breaking a drought of almost 10 years as the left-hander continues his recent renaissance

at international level.

Earlier this year Renshaw received a call up to Australia's squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup just two days before the tournament commenced and performed admirably with scores of 37 and 65 and looks set to win a place in the Aussies' XI for next month's ICC World Test Championship series in South Africa after he was added to the 16-player squad.

What that means for Renshaw as he tries to win a spot in Australia's plans for next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup remains to be seen,

but the 30-year-old is just happy to be back scoring runs at the highest level and helping the side win games of cricket, according to ICC.

WPL 2027 to begin on January 14, auction set for October 28

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 16: The fifth edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) will be held from January 14 to February 7, 2027, the BCCI announced on Wednesday.

The five franchises have until September 28 to finalise their player retentions, with the auction scheduled for October 28 in Kochi.

The upcoming auction will be a mini-auction, following last year's mega-auction in Delhi, where 73 slots were filled. Each franchise can have a maximum of 18 players and will operate with a salary purse of Rs 15 crore. There is no restriction on the number of players a team can retain.

Deepthi Sharma was the biggest buy at last year's mega-auction, with UP Warriorz securing the India allrounder for Rs 3.2 crore. Mumbai Indians signed Melie Kerr for Rs 3 crore, while Shikha Pandey fetched Rs 2.4 crore from UP Warriorz.

Kashvee Gautam remains the most expensive player bought at a WPL mini-auction. Gujarat Giants paid Rs 2 crore for the fast bowler at the 2024 auction, while Simran Shaikh was the second-highest buy at a mini-auction after UP Warriorz acquired her for Rs 1.9 crore in 2025.

From 98.6 pc in Class 12 to Asian Games: How Aashima Ahlawat struck a deal with her mother to pursue shooting

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 16: At 18, Aashima Ahlawat picked up a pistol before finding her calling in shotgun, a switch that came only after she held up her end of a deal with her mother, score well enough to get into her dream college.

She delivered, with a 98.6 per cent in her Class 12 board exams, proof that the range never came at the cost of the books. Four years on, the 22-year-old from Rohtak, Haryana, is set to make her maiden Asian Games appearance in Aichi Nagoya. Her path to the sport wasn't a straight line. Coming from a business family rooted in construction, it was watching the 2018 Commonwealth Games that truly pulled her toward shooting.

"Seeing Manu Bhaker and Heena Sidhu on that stage, I remember thinking, I want to feel that someday," Ahlawat said, reflecting on the moment that set her on the road to shooting. That road has asked for sacrifice from more than just her.

"My mother didn't just give me permission, she gave up a lot for it," she said. "She moved from Rohtak to Delhi, shifted our family business,



just so I could train properly. That's not something I take lightly."

Her early years weren't easy. It took nearly eight months just to get her first shotgun and ammunition sorted. "A medal is not the only thing that tells you how far you've come," she said.

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ
LABBAIK ALLAHUMMA LABBAIK

AL MURAD

HAJJ AND UMRAH

— SAFAR-E-IBAADAT, SUKoon KE SAATH —

Haji aur Umrah ka Mukammal aur Behtareen Intizam

HAMARI KHIDMAAT

- AIR TICKETS: Behtareen Airlines ke saath
- COMFORTABLE STAY: Makkah aur Madinah mein behtareen hotels
- TRANSPORTATION: Aaramdeh aur time par safar
- QUALITY FOOD: Saaf, behtareen aur mazaydar khana
- EXPERIENCED GUIDES: Mukammal rehnumai aur sahilat

Humara Maqsad: Aapki Ibaadat ko Aasaan Banana

Aapka Bharosa: Hamari Zimmedari

AL MURAD
HAJJ AND UMRAH

Har Qadam par Aapke Saath

APNI ZINDAGI KA SABSE BEHTAREEN SAFAR
AL MURAD HAJJ AND UMRAH KE SAATH

CONTACT: **7889959854**

ADDRESS: Opp. Court complex, Pattan 193121

EMAIL: almuradtourandtravel769@gmail.com

تَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ مِنَّا وَمِنْكُمْ
TAQABBALALLAHU MINNA WA MINKUM

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO

FLEX | MAGAZINES | VISITING CARDS

BROCHURES | 3D 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES

WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS

CALL NOW

9999038812
9419008414

Radio Colony, Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

HEADLINES TODAY

INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS

YOUR WORDS. OUR PLATFORM. A BETTER TOMORROW.

Are you a writer, poet, storyteller, columnist, or feature writer with a passion for literature or health writings? Headlines Today offers a platform to share your knowledge, creativity, and experiences.

LITERATURE SECTION
Well-crafted essays, literary articles, reflections, and creative writings.

HEALTH SECTION
Well-researched articles, expert columns, and in-depth feature reports from professionals and specialists.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
chogalwriter76@gmail.com

Dr Basharat Khan
Honorary Editor:
Literature & Health Sections (HT)

“YOUR WORDS CAN INSPIRE, INFORM, AND IGNITE; LET THEM BE HEARD.”

HEADLINES TODAY
NEWS | VIEWS | INSIGHTS

WRITE | SHARE | INSPIRE | MAKE AN IMPACT

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The views and Opinions Expressed in Articles, Opinion Pieces, Columns, Interviews, or Other Content Published in Headlines Today are those of the Respective Authors or Contributors and do not Necessarily Reflect the Views or Editorial Policy of Headlines Today, its Publisher, or Management. Headlines Today is not Responsible for the Accuracy, Completeness, or Reliability of Content Sourced or Reproduced from News Agencies, Press Releases, Advertisers, or Other Third-Party Sources. Publication of Such Material Does not imply Endorsement. Advertisements, Sponsored Content, Paid Features, or Promotional Materials Displayed on this Website or Disseminated Through Affiliated Digital Platforms are Commercial Communications and Shall Not be Construed as Editorial Content or Endorsement by Headlines Today. All Content is Published in Good Faith for Informational Purposes Only. Readers are Advised to Exercise Discretion and Independently Verify Information. Headlines Today. All Rights Reserved. Content is Protected Under the Copyright Act, 1957. Unauthorized Use is Prohibited. All disputes shall be subject to the Exclusive Jurisdiction of the Competent Courts in J&K.