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Voice To The Voiceless



HT BRIEFLY

Srinagar Police Attaches Properties
Worth ₹7.11 Crore in Drug, Terror Cases

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 25 : Srinagar Police has attached four immovable properties collectively valued at approximately ₹7.11 crore in connection with drug trafficking and terror-related cases, officials said on Saturday.

The action was taken under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) [UA(P)] Act, they said.

In the latest action, Police Station Zakura attached a residential house along with land at Bilal Colony, Zakura, valued at about ₹2.5 crore, belonging to Owais Ahmad Rather, son of Gh. Mohd Rather, in connection with a case registered under FIR No. 34/2026 under Sections 8/22 and 29 of the NDPS Act.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

No Timeline for Panchayat Polls in J&K: Govt

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPT 26 : The Jammu and Kashmir Government has said no specific timeline can be indicated at present for elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), stating that the process remains at the preparatory stage and that the statutory authority to conduct and schedule the polls rests with the State Election Commission (SEC). The position was conveyed by the Rural Development

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Locals seek heritage tag for Asia's oldest Chinar in Budgam

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BUDGAM, SEP 25 : The centuries old Chinar tree at Chattergam in BK Pora tehsil of Budgam, described in the J&K Legislative Assembly as Asia's oldest Chinara, has drawn renewed attention, with residents urging authorities to preserve the tree and develop the site as a heritage tourism destination.

Locals told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the centuries-old Chinara is a vital part of Kashmir's natural and cultural heritage but lacks the infrastructure and recognition befitting its historical significance. Asadullah Ganai, an elderly resident, said the tree's legacy has been passed down through

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Bear mauls man in Kulgam's Chimmer

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KULGAM, SEP 26 : A 45-year-old man was injured after being attacked by a bear in the Chimmer area of Kulgam district on Saturday afternoon.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man was attacked by a bear in Chimmer area of Kulgam.

He said the man was shifted to a hospital soon after the incident and was later identified as Mohammad Rasheed Khatana (45), son of Mohammad Ismail Khatana, a resident of Chimmer.

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Man dies of electric shock in Pulwama's Keegam

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

PULWAMA, SEP 26 : A 40-year-old man died after suffering an electric shock at his home in the Keegam area of Pulwama district on Saturday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man suffered an electric shock at his home in Keegam, Pulwama.

He said the man was shifted to District Hospital (DH) Pulwama in an unconscious state, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He was identified as Showkat Ahmad Rather (40)

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

“Restoring sight to 220 people in an underground operation theatre is a remarkable achievement”

LG Sinha lauds Armed Forces Medical Services for mega eye camp in shelling-prone Tangdhar

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday lauded the Armed Forces Medical Services for conducting a mega eye surgical camp under Operation Drishti at Tangdhar in the Karnah sector, where 220 people underwent sight-restoring surgeries in an underground operation theatre in the shelling-prone border area. Hailing the medical team led by Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, the LG said the initiative reflected the spirit of Operation Sadbhavna, with advanced procedures including phacoemulsification, retinal and glaucoma surgeries being made available to people in remote border hamlets.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday commended the Armed Forces Medical Services for conducting a mega eye surgical camp under 'Operation Drishti' at Tangdhar in the Karnah sector of north Kashmir, where 220 people

regained vision through surgeries performed in an underground operation theatre in a shelling-prone border area.

In a post on X, LG Sinha said, "Kudos to surgeons & personnel of Armed Forces Medical Services

for successfully conducting Mega Eye Surgical Camp under Operation Drishti at Tangdhar, Karnah."

"Restoring sight to 220 people in underground operation theatre in a challenging border area is a remarkable achievement," he said, describing the effort as a testament to the forces' commitment to public welfare.

The Lieutenant Governor said the dedication of the medical team, led by Brig. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, embodies the true spirit of Operation Sadbhavna, the Army's flagship civic outreach programme in Jammu and Kashmir. "Bringing advanced eye surgeries, including phacoemulsification, retinal and glaucoma procedures, to remote border hamlets ensures that no citizen is

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

“Beat policing must be accountable, technology-enabled and community-oriented”

IGP Kashmir stresses stronger field-level policing and greater public engagement



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Sujit Kumar on Saturday stressed the need to strengthen beat-level policing through greater accountability, technology and community engagement. Addressing a conference at Police Control Room

Kashmir attended by Range DIGs, district SSPs and other field officers, the IGP emphasised effective beat structuring, crime mapping, identification of vulnerable locations, preventive measures and improved coordination, while officers discussed digitisation of Beat Books, use of CCTV and police databases and other digital tools to strengthen intelligence-led and preventive policing.

Zonal Police Headquarters Kashmir on Saturday organised a one-day conference at Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir to sensitise and activate field officers regarding effective implementation of beat-level policing across the Kashmir Zone. The conference was chaired by Inspector

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

“Centre remains committed to peace, development and prosperity of J&K”

LoP Sunil Sharma meets Amit Shah, discusses security, development and Assembly session

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

met Union Home Minister Amit

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma on Friday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and discussed issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir, including security and law and order, development and matters related to the ongoing Assembly session. According to Sharma, the Union Home Minister reiterated the Centre's commitment to peace, development and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and assured continued support and cooperation in addressing the concerns of the people.

Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Friday



Shah at his residence in New Delhi and discussed key issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir. During the meeting, Sharma raised matters related to security and law and order, development, and the ongoing Assembly session.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

“We must maintain high vigilance along the LoC while serving people in border areas”

Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth reviews operational preparedness, visits eye camp at Tangdhar

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

TANGDHAR, SEPTEMBER 26: Chief of Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth on Saturday reviewed operational preparedness of forward formations along the Line of Control in north Kashmir and visited the Advanced Surgical Eye Camp at Tangdhar, where Armed Forces Medical Services surgeons performed 220 sight-restoring surgeries over two days in an

underground operation theatre. The camp, held under Operation Drishti, provided advanced cataract, retinal and glaucoma procedures to residents of remote border hamlets, while the Army Chief also interacted with patients and medical teams and reviewed the security situation and preparedness of formations under the Chinara Corps.



Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth reviewed the operational preparedness of forward formations along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir and visited a mega eye surgical camp where 220 sight-restoring surgeries were performed in two days in an underground operation theatre in a shelling-prone border area.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS)

visited forward areas and formations of the Chinara Corps under the Northern Command to assess the security situation along the LoC and in the hinterland, officials said.

Commanders briefed him on the prevailing security environment, operational readiness and capability development initiatives, besides measures taken to maintain a robust posture along the LoC and preparedness for counter-

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

HT BOTTOM NEWS

“Cleanliness must bring a visible and lasting change in urban life”

CS Dulloo reviews SBM-U, AMRUT 2.0 progress, directs timely completion of projects

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday called for effective implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission—Urban and AMRUT 2.0 to make Jammu and Kashmir's towns and cities cleaner, greener and more sustainable. Reviewing the progress of the two flagship urban development programmes, the Chief Secretary stressed that sanitation initiatives must translate into cleaner neighbourhoods, efficient waste management and sustained behavioural change, while directing departments and Urban Local Bodies to adhere to



timelines and ensure optimum utilisation of resources. Under SBM-U 2.0, 62 of the targeted 78 Material Recovery Facilities have been completed, while J&K has completed all 22 approved water-body rejuvenation works under AMRUT 2.0. With Jammu and Kashmir making significant headway in modernising waste management and strengthening civic infrastructure under SBM-U and AMRUT 2.0, the

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting to review the progress of these flagship Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) aimed at transforming the Union Territory's towns and cities into cleaner, greener and more sustainable urban centres. The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioner

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

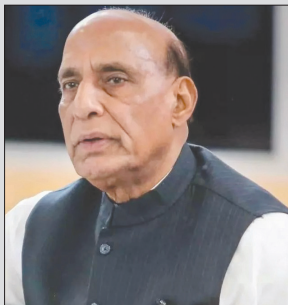
‘Operation Sindoor demonstrated India’s resolve to protect citizens: Rajnath

Says action led to elimination of terrorists, their handlers based in Pakistan

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said 'Operation Sindoor' demonstrated India's resolve to go to any extent to protect its citizens and led to the elimination of terrorists and their handlers based in Pakistan.

Addressing a blood donation camp at the Base Hospital in Delhi Cantonment, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the operation showcased the "unmatched valour" of the country's armed forces and sent a global message about India's



determination to safeguard its people.

"Operation Sindoor demonstrated the unmatched valour of our defence forces who sent a global message that India will go

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Continue from Front Page.....

Srinagar Police Attaches

The property, identified during investigation as having been acquired through illicit drug trafficking, was attached under Section 68-F(1) of the NDPS Act. The order prohibits its sale, lease, transfer, alteration or creation of any third-party interest till further orders of the competent authority.

Earlier, Police Station Nowgam attached property worth approximately ₹2.85 crore belonging to Sheeraz Ahmed Sheikh, son of Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Wagoora, BK Pora, in connection with FIR No. 121/2023 under Section 8/15 of the NDPS Act.

The property comprises a two-storeyed concrete building, two shops and a rice mill constructed over 18 marlas of land at Wagoora, Tehsil BK Pora. The attachment was carried out under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act after approval of the competent authority.

In another action, Police Station Ahmदनagar attached a residential property worth about 71.30 acre at Danihama, Hazratbal, belonging to Zahoor Ahmad Mir, son of Abdul Gani Mir, in connection with FIR No. 20/2026 under Sections 7/25 of the Arms Act and Sections 13, 18, 18-B, 19, 20, 23, 38 and 39 of the UA(P) Act.

The property, comprising a single-storeyed residential house with appurtenant land measuring six marlas, was attached under Section 25 of the UA(P) Act after obtaining prior approval of the competent authority and following due legal procedure in the presence of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class and independent witnesses.

Further, Police Station Shalteng froze a single-storeyed residential house along with seven marlas of land at Check Muigund, Srinagar, valued at approximately ₹46 lakh, belonging to Amir Ahmad Mir, son of Mohd. Ashraf Mir, in connection with FIR No. 43/2023 under Sections 8/21 and 29 of the NDPS Act.

Investigation established that the property had been acquired from proceeds of illicit drug trafficking, following which it was frozen under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act.

Through these actions, Srinagar Police has attached or frozen four immovable properties with a combined value of approximately ₹77.1 crore, targeting the financial proceeds and infrastructure linked to narcotics trafficking and terror-related activities.

Srinagar Police said it remains committed to identifying, tracing, freezing and attaching properties generated through proceeds of illicit activities and to dismantling the financial networks sustaining drug trafficking and terror activities.

It reiterated that firm, lawful and sustained action against drug traffickers, terror networks, their associates and financial support structures will continue. (KNS)

No Timeline

and Panchayati Raj Department in a reply to a question by MLA Dooru Ghulam Ahmad Mir on the status of Panchayat elections and administrative arrangements in the absence of elected PRIs.

The department as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) said the terms of all three tiers — Halqa Panchayats, Block Development Councils (BDCs) and District Development Councils (DDCs) — had expired, with the Panchayat and BDC terms ending on January 9, 2024.

Following the expiry of the terms, Block Development Officers were appointed as administrators for six months from January 10, 2024, under the relevant Government order.

The election process was subsequently linked to changes in the reservation framework. The Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Act, 2024, notified by the Government of India on February 12, 2024, extended reservation benefits to Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

A Dedicated Backward Classes Commission was constituted in June 2024 to conduct an empirical inquiry into the representation of backward classes. Its tenure was subsequently extended, and it submitted its final report on February 27, 2025.

The department as per KNS said the terms of the DDCs subsequently expired in February 2026.

Thereafter, the SEC, through an order dated March 25, 2026, revised the schedule for Panchayat electoral rolls and fixed April 1, 2026, as the qualifying date.

The SEC is currently undertaking preparatory exercises, including revision of Panchayat electoral rolls and processes related to delimitation and

reservation for local bodies.

Asked whether the Government proposed to complete the process within a time-bound framework to restore elected grassroots institutions, the department said it did not have the statutory authority to conduct, schedule or control Panchayat elections.

It cited Section 36(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, under which the preparation of electoral rolls and the superintendence, direction and control of elections are vested with the SEC.

The department said it would provide necessary administrative and logistical assistance to the SEC whenever required.

In a supplementary reply, the department as per KNS reiterated that the process of restoring elected PRIs remained at the preparatory stage.

It said the SEC had already initiated revision of Panchayat electoral rolls through its March 25, 2026, order, with April 1, 2026, as the qualifying date.

"The requisite preparatory exercises relating to electoral rolls and other election-related processes are being undertaken by the State Election Commission, J&K," the department said.

On the timeline for elections, however, the department said the matter fell within the statutory domain of the SEC and "no specific election timeline can be indicated at this stage."

The department said it would continue to take necessary administrative measures within its mandate to facilitate the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions and ensure continuity of developmental activities during the interim period.

The Government also provided details of the financial arrangements for PRIs during the period when elected institutions were in place and after their terms expired.

It said that when elected PRIs were functional in the Union Territory, financial ceilings were fixed for different tiers, including approximately ₹23 lakh per Halqa Panchayat annually, around ₹25 lakh per BDC and about ₹10 crore per DDC, translating into roughly ₹71.42 lakh per DDC constituency.

After the expiry of the elected terms, the direct ₹23-lakh allocation per Halqa Panchayat was reduced.

For the current financial year 2026-27, funds for DDC/BDC works have been capped at ₹271.25 crore, while PRI grants have been capped at ₹643.50 crore, in addition to ₹380 crore under the Capex Development Fund (CDF). (KNS)

Locals seek

generations and called for its protection and promotion.

"We have known about this Chinar since childhood. Such a priceless heritage must be preserved for future generations and showcased to visitors," he said.

Another resident, Mohammad Yousuf Wani, said domestic and foreign tourists occasionally visit the site but expressed disappointment over the lack of facilities and development.

"A tree of such significance should be conserved and promoted as a major attraction so people from across the country and abroad can learn about its history," he said.

Residents said the Chinar remains green and healthy, though some dry branches fall during winter. They sought scientific conservation, landscaping, signage and basic visitor amenities to protect the tree and enhance the visitor experience.

MLA Aga Muntazir Mehdi, who raised the issue in the Assembly, said efforts are underway to preserve Chinar trees while addressing concerns related to overhanging branches.

"The administration has ensured the preservation of these trees, which are symbols of our heritage, culture and tradition," he said.

Mehdi also called for greater environmental awareness, saying changing weather patterns, including rising temperatures and reduced snowfall, underscore the need to safeguard Kashmir's natural heritage.

Residents said the Chattergam Chinar could emerge as a major heritage and tourism attraction if authorities undertake proper conservation and site development while ensuring the long-term protection of the historic tree—(KNO)

Bear mauls

Meanwhile, details regarding the incident are being verified, while locals have urged the administration to look into the matter and take measures to prevent further attacks—(KNO)

Man dies

), son of Bashir Ahmad Rather, a resident of Keegam.

Cognizance of the incident has been taken and an investigation has been initiated—(KNO)

“Restoring sight

left behind," LG Sinha said.

Nothing, Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth on Friday reviewed the operational preparedness of forward formations along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir and visited the camp, where 220 sight-restoring surgeries were performed over two days.

The camp, organised under 'Operation Drishti', saw specialist military doctors conduct advanced procedures despite challenging security and terrain conditions in the border region. (KNS)

“Beat policing

General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Sujit Kumar, IPS, and attended by all Range Deputy Inspectors General of Police (DIGs), district Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), SSP PCR Kashmir and other field officers of the Kashmir Zone.

The conference commenced with the inaugural address by IGP Kashmir, who emphasised the importance of an effective, accountable and technology-enabled beat policing system as the foundation of preventive and community-oriented policing.

During the deliberations, Range DIGs discussed the current status of beat policing and challenges in its implementation, with particular focus on beat structuring, crime mapping, identification of vulnerable locations, preventive measures, surveillance and coordination.

The officers also stressed the need for standardisation of core beat duties, clearly defined roles and responsibilities of Beat Officers and strict adherence to prescribed protocols.

District SSPs and other participating officers deliberated on digitisation of Beat Books through structured data and innovative technologies.

They also discussed the utilisation of CCTV cameras, police databases and other digital tools to enhance monitoring and promote intelligence-led policing at the beat level.

The conference concluded with an emphasis on reviving and effectively implementing beat-level policing while strengthening community engagement.

The participating officers pledged to further strengthen beat-level policing through effective field-level implementation and greater engagement with the community. (KNS)

“Centre remains

According to Sharma, Shah reiterated the Union Government's commitment to peace, development and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. He also assured continued support and cooperation from the Centre in addressing key concerns of the people of the Union Territory.

The meeting comes as the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is in session, with issues concerning development and governance. (KNS)

“India is poised to

) here, the minister said AI is proving to be a major boon in several therapeutic and diagnostic procedures.

He referred to its ability to reduce the time required for cultures and facilitate gene sequencing, while stressing that technology should not become a substitute for clinical medicine.

Among those felicitated at the ceremony were former principal, GMC, Jammu Rajender Singh, former member governing body AIIMS Patna and former Professor and Head Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Indu Kaul Khoda and former Heads of Departments of GMC Jammu.

Cautioning against a situation where excessive dependence on technology could undermine the clinical sense of the doctor, the minister said while technology-enabled options should not be left unavailable, clinical judgement must remain an essential component of patient care.

Singh also cautioned against injudicious commercialisation in medical practice and the unnecessary prescription of investigations, saying prescribing an avoidable investigation could undermine the trust between a doctor and a patient.

Highlighting with the revolutionary changes taking place across medical science and the life sciences, he said, "India is moving towards a position where new practices in medical care can be led by indigenous research, innovation and technology... India is poised to globally lead next generation of medical practices."

He expressed the hope that Jammu and Kashmir would not lag behind in this transformation, given its potential and capabilities.

He called for a change in mindset and a reorientation and reinvention of approaches towards medicine so that J&K can participate more actively in the emerging areas of clinical medicine, biotechnology and technology-driven healthcare.

Referring to the wider transformation taking place in the life sciences, the minister said India is now active across a range of emerging fields, including biotechnology, genomics, precision medicine, vaccines, nuclear medicine, nanomedicine and biomanufacturing.

He referred to India's biotechnology policy, Bio E3, covering biotechnology for environment, economy and employment, and said biotechnology is expected to play a major role in the next industrial revolution.

He highlighted India's progress in vaccines and preventive healthcare.

On genomics and genetic medicine, Singh referred to the India Genome Sequence initiative and highlighted the successful trial in the treatment of haemophilia through a genetic option, with the research published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

He said India's capabilities have evolved to a stage where the country is undertaking trials, research and innovation not merely for its own requirements but also for the benefit of others. "India is now finding remedies not only for diseases originating in tropical regions but also for diseases historically reported in the West."

Singh also highlighted the expansion of India's bio-economy and the growing support for life-sciences research, ever since PM Narendra Modi took over.

He referred to the initiative of rolling out a ₹1 lakh crore research development innovation fund, with 50 per cent contribution from the private sector and 50 per cent from the government, as an effort to catalyse private-sector participation in research and innovation.

The Union Minister also highlighted developments in nuclear medicine, referring to a successful trial in acute lymphoblastic leukaemia at the Tata Institute in Mumbai.

On nanomedicine, Singh referred to research into nano-insulin for oral use and work on nanobots for targeted breast-cancer nanotherapy, highlighting the possibilities emerging from the application of nanotechnology in medical treatment.

He urged both government and non-government institutions in Jammu and Kashmir to become partners in these emerging areas of medical research and innovation.

He said financial, technical and infrastructure support is available and encouraged institutions in the region to submit proposals.

Singh said the support available includes financial assistance, technical support, hand-holding and infrastructure, including laboratories and facilities for institutions that approach the government.

He urged the medical and scientific community in Jammu and Kashmir to be more forthcoming in submitting proposals so that opportunities could be pursued on the basis of merit.

“We must maintain

terrorist operations in the hinterland.

Interacting with troops in operational areas, General Seth commended all ranks for maintaining a high state of vigilance and reiterated the thrust areas of "VIJAY", the Army's five-point guiding framework aimed at transforming it into a future-ready force capable of responding at short notice across the full spectrum of operations.

He also appreciated the close coordination among the Army, civil administration, Central Armed Police Forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

A key highlight of the COAS's visit was his interaction with patients and medical teams at the Advanced Surgical Eye Camp being conducted under Operation Drishti 2026 at Tangdhar.

As part of the two-day Mega Eye Surgical Camp held on September 24 and 25, surgeons of the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) performed 220 sight-restoring surgeries at an underground operation theatre in the shelling-prone border area along the LoC, officials said.

Most procedures were cataract surgeries, while selected patients also underwent retinal procedures and minimally invasive glaucoma surgery, they said, adding the camp demonstrated the ability of specialised medical teams to deliver advanced ophthalmic care in challenging terrain and remote border locations.

‘Operation Sindoor

to any extent to ensure the safety of its citizens," Singh said.

He said the operation demonstrated India's resolve to respond to terrorism and those behind attacks on the country.

Singh said the armed forces had eliminated terrorists and their handlers based in Pakistan, adding that those who attempted to target India had faced consequences.

Drawing a comparison between 'Operation Sindoor' and the blood donation campaign, Singh said while the military operation represented courage, the donation drive represented compassion and service.

He said the blood collected during the camp would help maintain reserves for soldiers and their families requiring medical treatment.

For the Armed Forces Medical Services, maintaining adequate blood reserves is particularly important as military hospitals cater not only to routine healthcare requirements but also to operational emergencies, trauma cases and other contingencies.

Singh also called upon young people to make voluntary blood donation a regular practice, saying blood remained a resource that could not be artificially manufactured despite advances in medical science.

“Cleanliness must

, Jammu/Srinagar Municipal Corporations; Managing Director, J&K Housing Board; Director ULBs, Kashmir/Jammu; Chief Engineer, UEED; Chief Town Planner, Jammu/Kashmir; and other senior officers of the Department.

While speaking the Chief Secretary emphasised that the Swachh Bharat Mission must go beyond creating sanitation infrastructure to bring about a visible and lasting improvement in urban cleanliness, public health and the overall quality of life of citizens here.

He underscored that cleanliness is a basic necessity, assuming even greater significance in Jammu and Kashmir being a tourist area and given its ecologically sensitive environment and the imperative of preserving its fragile ecosystems.

He underscored that the success of SBM would ultimately be measured by cleaner neighbourhoods, efficient waste management and sustained behavioural change. He urged ULBs to actively engage communities and ensure that the infrastructure created under the mission delivers tangible benefits to the public.

Baramulla Cyclist Ulfat Mushtaq Strikes Gold in Jammu

Aadil Nazir

SRINAGAR 26 SEPTEMBER: For Baramulla's Ulfat Mushtaq, cycling is not just about winning medals. It is also about making her district proud.

Ulfat on Saturday won the gold medal in the Senior Women's Individual Time Trial at the Asmita Khelo India Women Cycling League at Kangrail Chowk, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu.

More than 300 women cyclists from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir are participating in the two-day competition.

Speaking to The Web Story about her experience, Ulfat said she feels very good while cycling and always carries the thought that a medal could bring recognition to her district.

"I feel very good while cycling. I always have this thought in my mind that if I win a medal, it will bring recognition to my district, and everyone will be proud of me," she said.

Ulfat Mushtaq hailing from Rafiabad is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Administration. Alongside her studies, she has completed an NIS short course in cycling and a Level 1 cycling course.

She has also represented Jammu and Kashmir

at the National Games of India in Uttarakhand last year, becoming the first senior female cyclist from J&K to represent the Union Territory at the National Games, according to her.

Ulfat said the achievement has given her further motivation to continue in the sport and represent Jammu and Kashmir at bigger platforms.

In Saturday's Senior Women's Individual



Time Trial, Sunekha of Jammu District won silver, while Supriya of Jammu District secured the bronze medal.

The cycling league is being organised under the aegis of the Cycling Federation of India with the support of the Cycling Association of Jammu and Kashmir.

CIED-IUST Foundation Conducts One-Day 3D Printing Workshop for Children of IUST Employees.

Showkat Dar

AWANTIPORA: CIED-IUST Foundation in collaboration with DST iTBI, organised a one-day hands-on workshop on 3D Printing for the children of IUST employees at the IUST Innovation Campus. The initiative was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Parvez A. Mir, CEO, CIED-IUST Foundation, with the aim of introducing school students to emerging technologies through practical, experiential and activity-based learning.

The workshop was designed to familiarise participants with the fundamentals of 3D printing and highlight its expanding applications across diverse fields, including education, engineering, product design, manufacturing and innovation.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Parvez A. Mir stressed the significance



of introducing young learners to emerging technologies at an early age. He highlighted that exposure to such technologies can encourage curiosity, creativity and problem-solving skills while fostering an innovation-driven outlook among school students.

Mr. Tahir Showkat, Assistant Manager, CIED-IUST Foundation,

conducted interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities that provided participants with practical exposure to the 3D printing workflow. The sessions introduced participants to the fundamental concepts of additive manufacturing, including the process of transforming digital designs into tangible three-dimensional objects.

Participants also gained valuable insights into the diverse applications, potential, and emerging opportunities of 3D printing across various sectors.

The workshop was witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students actively engaging in the demonstrations and practical exercises. Certificates were presented to the participants at the conclusion of the programme in recognition of their participation.

The workshop was the second in a series of planned technology-oriented workshops aimed at engaging young learners with emerging areas of innovation. The initiative reflects the continued efforts of CIED-IUST Foundation and DST iTBI to promote technological awareness, creativity, innovation and an entrepreneurial mindset among the younger generation.

Div Com Kashmir conducts Extensive Tour of SRR Phase-I from Galandar to Narbal

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: In a bid to expedite the ongoing works on Srinagar Ring Road (SRR) Phase-I, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg today conducted an extensive inspection of the 46-kilometre stretch from Galandar to Narbal to assess the progress of the project and address issues hampering its timely completion.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Budgam in their respective jurisdictions, besides Project Director NHAI, SSP Traffic Rural, engineers from KPDC, KPTCL, PHE, R&B and I&FC, DFOs, contractors and NHAI advisor.

At the outset of the tour, the Project Director NHAI briefed the Divisional Commissioner on the status of various components of Phase-I. It was informed that 143 culverts, 23 minor bridges, 3 major bridges, 18 light vehicular underpasses, 2 flyover-cum-



interchanges, 6 overpasses, 12 syphons and 107 HPCs have been completed so far.

During the inspection, the

Divisional Commissioner visited several locations along the alignment and reviewed ongoing works, including the shifting and height

clearance of transmission towers, construction of underpasses and connectivity to artillery roads.

He directed KPTCL to undertake parallel works for the erection of new transmission tower to minimise power shutdowns during the shifting process and avoid inconvenience to the general public. He also called for augmentation of the workforce to ensure that the stipulated timelines are met.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the Project Director, NHAI, to take up the matter of bridge load testing with NIT on priority so that the process is completed without unnecessary delay.

He also stressed the need to establish road connectivity to NIFT and the airport in consultation with all concerned stakeholders, including the Airport Authority, Air Force and BSF. He called for resolving all associated issues in advance through coordinated efforts among the departments concerned.

At the conclusion of the tour at Narbal, Divisional Commissioner

Kashmir said that Phase-I of the Srinagar Ring Road extends for 46 kilometres from Galandar to Narbal.

He said that the primary objective of the visit was to assess the progress of the project, review the issues affecting its execution and identify measures to facilitate the contractors in completing the works within the stipulated timeline.

Regarding the completion schedule, he said that efforts are being expedited to make the Phase-I stretch motorable by the end of December. He added that local representatives and MLAs have also been raising the issue of early completion of the project to provide service to the people.

On the issue of transmission towers, the Divisional Commissioner said that NHAI had highlighted the constraints caused by the existing towers. He, however, clarified that there are currently no pending issues regarding land compensation or utility shifting, as these matters have been completed by the District Administration.

SWD Srinagar organizes Vocational Training Programme

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized a vocational training programme at Srinagar women's College Zakura today, aimed at creating awareness among students about various avenues of skill development, vocational education and employment opportunities.

Resource person from District Employment and Counselling Centre, Srinagar participated in the programme and interacted with the students. They briefed the participants about various skill-development initiatives, career opportunities, entrepreneurship prospects and avenues available for pursuing self-employment.

The resource person encouraged the students to acquire practical skills alongside formal education and make informed choices regarding their future careers.

The programme concluded with an interactive session in which students actively participated and sought clarification on various career and skill-development opportunities.

The Department reiterated its commitment towards creating awareness among students and youth about skill development and livelihood opportunities, thereby facilitating their socio-economic empowerment.

90 BN CRPF Concludes "Bharat Darshan Tour" under Civic Action Programme.

■ Farooq Rather



Anantnag, September 26: The 90th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) today organised the closing ceremony of the six-day "Bharat Darshan Tour" under its Civic Action Programme for 15 students and one teacher of Government Higher Secondary School, Arwani, Bijbehara, Jammu and Kashmir. The tour, conducted from September 21 to 26, provided the students an opportunity to visit and learn about the historical and cultural heritage of Jaipur, Ajmer and Delhi. The team returned to the headquarters of 90 BN CRPF at Uranhall, Bijbehara, Anantnag, from Srinagar Airport by bus. Commandant 90 BN CRPF Kamendra Pratap Singh, Second-in-Command (Administration/Operations) Sunder Singh, Deputy Commandants Biju Ram B. and R.K. Maurya, along with other CRPF personnel, warmly welcomed the students upon their arrival. During the closing ceremony, Commandant Kamendra Pratap Singh interacted with the students and enquired about their experiences during the tour. The students expressed excitement and shared their impressions of the places they had visited.

Addressing the gathering, Singh wished the students a bright and successful future. He said the tour had enabled them to gain a deeper understanding of India's diverse culture, traditions and landscapes.

Refreshments and dinner were also provided to the students during the programme.

DLSA Srinagar conducts Legal Awareness Programme at Khonmoh

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the guidance of Tasleem Arief, Chairman DLSA (Incharge), today conducted an awareness programme on NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016, NALSA (Legal Services to the workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme 2015 and NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme 2015, at Sangri, Khonmoh, Srinagar, with the objective of sensitizing the local community about legal rights, free legal aid and access to justice.

The programme was conducted by Panel Lawyers Advocate Sofiya Mudassir and Advocate Suhaila Ali, along with Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) Imtiyaza, Basira Jan, Shabir Kathwari, Hashim Qureshi and



Muzamil Zahoar.

During the programme, participants were informed about their basic legal rights, the availability of free legal services through Legal Services Authorities and the various avenues available for seeking legal assistance and accessing justice.

The speakers also encouraged the participants to approach the Legal Services

Authorities whenever they require legal assistance, particularly those who are unable to afford legal representation.

Pamphlets containing information regarding legal rights, free legal services and available legal assistance were also distributed among the participants and members of the local community to further enhance legal awareness.

DLSA Ganderbal conducts Training Programme for newly Proposed Community Mediators

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 26: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal conducted a training programme for the Community Mediators under the NALSA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on "Community Mediation Towards Litigation-Free Rural India" at the Meeting Hall of District Court Complex, Ganderbal.

Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, in his address, emphasized the significant role of Community Mediators in promoting a culture of dialogue, reconciliation and peaceful settlement of disputes, particularly in rural and local communities. He stressed that effective community mediation can help reduce unnecessary



litigation and strengthen access to justice for the common people.

Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, in his welcome address, highlighted the importance of community-based dispute resolution mechanisms in facilitating accessible, timely and amicable settlement of disputes at the grassroots level.

The training programme provided the participants with a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework governing mediation and legal services, including the relevant

provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the Mediation Act, 2023. The participants were also sensitized about the concept and objectives of Community Mediation, its basic principles, the nature of disputes amenable to community-level resolution, and the role and responsibilities of Community Mediators.

Special emphasis was laid on effective communication, active listening, negotiation, impartiality, confidentiality and other essential mediation techniques required for facilitating meaningful dialogue between disputing parties. The resource persons, who are trained mediators, shared their practical knowledge and experience with the participants and provided valuable insights into handling community disputes in a fair, neutral and constructive manner.

DC Anantnag chairs 35th NCORD meeting, directs sustained action against drug menace

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired the 35th meeting of the Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) at the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to review the measures being undertaken to combat drug abuse, strengthen enforcement, intensify awareness and ensure effective rehabilitation support across the district.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for sustained, coordinated and field-oriented action by all concerned departments and enforcement agencies to effectively tackle the drug menace. He called for stronger inter-departmental coordination, particularly in identified drug hotspots, and directed the concerned departments to ensure that vulnerable individuals are promptly identified and connected with counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services.

The DC emphasized that enforcement against drug peddling and illicit cultivation must go hand in hand with preventive



measures, awareness generation, counselling and rehabilitation. He directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination and ensure regular monitoring of vulnerable areas.

The DC also directed the Executive Officers of Municipal Committees to conduct regular drives against the growth of cannabis plants in public places, including riverbanks, parks, roadsides and other urban areas. The concerned officers were asked to undertake regular field visits and ensure that public spaces do not become vulnerable spots for drug-

related activities. The Tehsildars were directed to ensure immediate identification and destruction of illicit cannabis cultivation in their respective jurisdictions and to coordinate closely with the Police Department for identification and legal action against persons involved in illegal cultivation. Dr. Bilal stressed the importance of strengthening database management and field-level intelligence, besides ensuring effective handholding of Lambardars, Chowkidars and other field functionaries so that information regarding illicit cultivation, drug abuse and related activities reaches the concerned authorities promptly. The meeting also reviewed the progress achieved under the 100 Days Nasha Mukti J&K Campaign and the action taken on the directions issued during previous NCORD meetings. Representatives of various departments and institutions briefed the chair about the measures undertaken since the last meeting to curb drug abuse and generate awareness about its harmful effects.

The Principals of Government Degree Colleges informed the meeting that CCTV cameras have been installed in college

campuses, while frisking, regular monitoring and visits to college premises are being undertaken to ensure a safe and drug-free environment for students. Awareness programmes and other preventive measures are also being conducted in the institutions.

The Excise Department informed the meeting that 18 marlas of poppy cultivation had been destroyed, while 124 FIRs involving 139 NDPS cases had been registered against persons involved in drug-related offences. Regular field-monitoring teams have also been deployed to identify illicit cultivation and initiate action as per law. The Assistant Drug Controller apprised the meeting that eight medical licences had been cancelled for violations of prescribed regulations, reflecting strict regulatory action against violations under the drug-control framework. Representatives of the Education Department informed the meeting that awareness programmes and counselling activities are being conducted in schools, particularly among targeted classes. Schools are also actively participating in the Nasha Mukti Jammu

ADDC Shopian reviews preparations for Kisan Mela

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 26: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today convened a meeting of district officers at the Mini-Secretariat Shopian to review preparations for the upcoming Kisan Mela.

During the meeting, the ADDC took a detailed review of the arrangements and activities planned for the event and stressed upon all concerned departments to work in close coordination for its successful conduct.

He directed the officers to ensure effective participation of farmers, adequate arrangements at the venue and proper dissemination of information regarding various schemes, technologies and farmer-oriented initiatives.

The ADDC underscored the importance of the Kisan Mela in providing farmers with a platform to interact with experts, access information on modern agricultural practices and to learn about various government schemes and support programmes. He called for concerted efforts and meticulous planning by all stakeholders to make the Kisan Mela informative, beneficial and successful for the farming



community of the district.

The ADDC also directed all district officers to undertake extensive mass awareness among farmers to ensure greater participation in the event and encourage the farming community to adopt and derive benefits from the latest technologies in agriculture.

The meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer, Shah Nawaz Ahmad Shah, CHO, Muneer Ahmed, CAHO, Gh Mohiuddin, District Manager, NRLM and other concerned district officers and officials.



Census 2027: Quiz competition-cum-seminar held at GMHSS Ranibagh Anantnag

Students engage in Learning, Awareness and Digital Census Literacy for Nation Building

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 26: Emphasising the vital importance of accurate, inclusive and technology-driven census data in strengthening governance, public policy and sustainable development, the Principal Census Officer, Anantnag, in collaboration with the Chief Education Officer, Anantnag, organised a Quiz Competition-cum-Seminar on "Census 2027 in Digital Mode and the Role of Census Data in Nation Building and Policy Frameworks" at Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Ranibagh, Anantnag today.

The programme brought together enthusiastic student participants from various educational institutions, providing them with a meaningful platform to enhance their understanding of Census 2027, its digital transformation and the crucial role of reliable census data in evidence-based planning, governance, resource allocation and policy formulation.

The occasion was graced by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the significance of census



data in understanding demographic patterns, identifying developmental priorities and strengthening the effective delivery of public services.

He appreciated the active participation and enthusiasm of the students and encouraged them to remain aware, informed and responsible citizens.

District Education Planning Officer, Anantnag, Assadullah Mir, graced the occasion as the Nodal Officer and Guest of Honour. In his address, he emphasised the important role of educational institutions in disseminating awareness about Census 2027 and nurturing among students a deeper understanding of the

significance of authentic data in informed decision-making, effective planning and nation building.

The Quiz Competition constituted a key component of the programme, providing students with an engaging and intellectually stimulating opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of census o/concepts, digital census methodology, demographic data and the wider significance of census information in public policy and development planning.

The seminar further focused on the themes of digital literacy, data awareness, informed participation and responsible citizenship, enabling students to appreciate that a census extends far beyond the collection of population statistics. It serves as a foundational source of information for understanding society, planning public services, identifying emerging needs and supporting informed policy decisions.

The event also reflected the commitment of the Principal Census Officer, Anantnag, and the Chief Education Officer, Anantnag, towards engaging young learners in important national initiatives and creating a culture of awareness, participation and data-informed citizenship among the student community.

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stones for development projects in Kulgam; holds public outreach camp

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 26: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Kulgam and laid the foundation stones for various developmental projects in Banimullah and adjoining areas.

The projects, spanning road connectivity, education and healthcare sectors, were initiated in her presence.

During the visit, the Minister also held a public outreach camp in the remote and far-flung areas of the district to assess the public grievances and strengthen the healthcare, education and road infrastructure.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for a Health Sub-Centre at Zangalpura, to be constructed at a cost of Rs 29 lakh by the R&B Sub-Division, Devsar. She also laid the foundation for a double-storey, six-room school building at Banimullah, to be established with an earmarked cost of Rs 95.88 lakh.

In addition, she laid the foundation stone for the 1.53-km Banimullah road, estimated to cost Rs 382.80 lakh and for an AYUSH Centre at Chanderg, Banimullah, coming up at a cost of Rs 29.12 lakh, aimed at enhancing access to healthcare and traditional systems of medicine for the local population.

The projects are aimed at strengthening the developmental infrastructure in the area and improving access to essential public services, including healthcare, education and road



connectivity.

Sakeena Itoo interacted with the local people and enquired about development and welfare issues and the availability of government services being extended to them. She listened to the concerns raised by the people and stressed the importance of ensuring effective delivery of public services at the grassroots level.

The Minister directed the executing agencies to ensure that the projects are executed in line with the set regulations. She instructed the officers to regularly monitor the progress of the works and ensure their timely completion.

The Minister was accompanied by Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Nighat Yasmeen, Director AYUSH, Ajay Kumar Tikoo, Assistant Commissioner Development Kulgam, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Chief Medical Officer Kulgam, Executive Engineer R&B Kulgam and other concerned officers.

Dr. Itoo Invited to 2nd Vellore Endocrinology International Congress 2027

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 26: Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, Physician, Chartered Scientist and public health professional from Jammu & Kashmir, has been invited to participate in the prestigious 2nd Vellore Endocrinology International Congress 2027, scheduled to be held on January 8 and 9, 2027, at Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

The international academic congress, themed "Neuroendocrine Disorders," will bring together distinguished faculty members, specialists, researchers and healthcare professionals to discuss emerging developments in endocrinology and neuroendocrine medicine.

The invitation represents an important academic opportunity for Dr. Itoo to engage with the medical fraternity, exchange professional knowledge and participate in discussions concerning advances in endocrine sciences and clinical practice.

Dr. Itoo is a physician and medical educator with professional interests in diabetes care, endocrinology, public health awareness and medical education. His professional credentials include Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP), London, Fellowship of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH), Fellowship of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium), and Chartered Scientist (CSci), awarded by the Science Council, United Kingdom.

He has also been associated with medical writing and public health communication, contributing articles and educational content aimed at improving health awareness and promoting evidence-based healthcare.

The congress will feature academic interactions, expert-led discussions, workshops and case-oriented learning, providing opportunities for collaboration and professional development in the field of neuroendocrinology.

The invitation to the Vellore congress adds another international academic engagement to Dr. Itoo's continuing professional activities in clinical medicine, medical education and public health.



Speaker Inaugurates 2.4-Km Inner Link Roads at Tangnar Sheikhpora

Lays Foundation Stone for Bridge Connecting Dharamsala Khampora Saria with Wanpora

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 26: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today inaugurated the development works of inner link roads at Tangnar Sheikhpora, Chadoora, covering a total length of 2.4 kilometres and executed at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

The newly developed road links are aimed at improving connectivity within the area and providing better and more convenient transportation facilities to the local population. The development of the inner link roads is expected to facilitate the movement of residents, students, farmers and other commuters, besides strengthening connectivity with adjoining areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker emphasized the importance of strengthening basic infrastructure and improving road connectivity in rural areas. He said that well-developed road infrastructure is essential for ensuring better



access to education, healthcare, markets and other essential services, while also contributing to the overall socio-economic development of communities.

Hestressed on the executing agencies that development works should be executed in a timely manner and in accordance with the prescribed quality standards so that the benefits reach the people at the earliest. He also called upon the concerned agencies to ensure proper maintenance of the infrastructure after completion. Later, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather laid the foundation stone for a bridge connecting village Dharamsala Khampora Saria with village Wanpora. The proposed bridge is expected to provide an important connectivity link between the two villages and ease the movement of local residents. Once completed, it will improve accessibility and facilitate smoother transportation, particularly for people who presently face difficulties in crossing the existing route. The Speaker said that the bridge would address a long-standing connectivity requirement of the people of the area and contribute to improving communication.

Div Com Kashmir reviews new Alignments of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-III

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the proposed new alignments for various stretches of Srinagar Ring Road (SRR) Phase-III, including Lasjan-Dalgate, Dalgate-Pandach and the proposed Parimpora-Dalgate Flyover.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), SSP Traffic, Director Airport Authority of India, Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Project Director NHAI and senior officers from KPDC, KPTCL, PHE, I&FC, PWD, Air Force and BSF.

During the meeting, the technical team of the National



Highways Authority of India (NHAI) made a detailed presentation on the proposed new alignment for the Lasjan-Dalgate stretch. The revised alignment has been designed to bypass the Cantonment area as well as the Jhelum Bank.

After detailed deliberations, officers of the concerned departments observed that the proposed alignment was suitable and

feasible for construction of the first eight kilometres of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-III.

Regarding the Dalgate-Pandach stretch, the Divisional Commissioner directed NHAI to undertake a comprehensive comparative analysis of the three proposed alignments. He directed that the analysis be submitted to the concerned departments to facilitate selection of an appropriate alignment.

Mission YUVA Awareness Camp held at Gurez for Ex-Servicemen

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 26: Awareness camp was organized today at Dak Bungalow, Dawar, Gurez by the Mission YUVA Team, Gurez for ex-servicemen. During the programme, detailed information was provided to the ex-

servicemen regarding financial assistance, self-employment opportunities, and various Government-linked schemes, particularly the benefits and opportunities available under Mission YUVA. The programme was chaired by Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gurez and Arshid Ahmad Khan, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Baramulla. The Mission YUVA Financial Expert,

along with the BHD Team, Gurez, briefed the participants about the Mission YUVA scheme, including financial assistance, eligibility criteria, subsidy/interest subvention, required documentation, and the procedure for submission and approval of cases.

The participants were encouraged to avail themselves of various Government schemes

and explore opportunities for establishing sustainable income-generating activities and self-employment ventures.

The camp witnessed active participation from the ex-servicemen. Their queries regarding financial assistance, eligibility, and various Government schemes were addressed by the concerned officers and the Mission YUVA team.



relevance of Unani regimetal therapies in contemporary healthcare and stressed the need for standardization, measurable outcomes and robust scientific evidence to strengthen their scientific foundation.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. N. Zaheer Ahmed highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative research and noted that CCRUM has established partnerships with institutions including

CSIR, ICMR, IITs and other reputed scientific and academic organizations to advance research in traditional medicine. He emphasized the need for high-quality scientific data, standardization, well-defined SOPs and innovation to strengthen the evidence base of Unani medicine. He also announced that CCRUM would provide an ambulance to RRIUM Srinagar to support public outreach and healthcare service activities.

WhatsApp Image 2026-09-26 at 2.26.26 PM (3).jpeg WhatsApp Image 2026-09-26 at 2.26.26 PM (2).jpeg

Salman Sagar appreciated the initiative and emphasized the need to expand community healthcare and medical outreach programmes. He also announced the allocation of an ambulance to RRIUM Srinagar to support patient-care and outreach activities.

In his address, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath highlighted the relevance of traditional

systems of medicine in contemporary healthcare and stressed the importance of evidence-based research, innovation, scientific validation and appropriate integration with modern healthcare systems.

A significant highlight of the seminar was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CCRUM and the Central University of Kashmir by Dr. N. Zaheer Ahmed and Prof. A. Ravinder Nath. The MoU aims to promote academic collaboration, joint research and capacity-building initiatives in areas of mutual interest.

The seminar featured three technical sessions, including a poster presentation session, providing a platform for scientific deliberations and exchange of research findings. A hands-on training programme on selected Unani regimetal therapies was also conducted, offering participants practical exposure to the principles and procedures of Ila j bi'l-Tadbā r.

National Seminar on Unani Regimetal Therapy for Musculoskeletal Disorders Held at University of Kashmir

CCRUM Signs MoU with Central University of Kashmir to Promote Research and Academic Collaboration

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 26, 2026: Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Srinagar, under the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, today organized a National Seminar on "Ila j bi'l-Tadbā r for Musculoskeletal Disorders" under its Centre of Excellence (CoE) Project at Gandhi Bhawan, University of Kashmir, Srinagar. The seminar brought together academicians, researchers, clinicians, scholars and experts to deliberate on the scientific evaluation and clinical application of Unani regimetal therapies in the management of musculoskeletal disorders.

The inaugural session was attended by Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, as Chief Guest. Director General, CCRUM, Dr. N.

Zaheer Ahmed presided over the programme. Director, National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Prof. Saiyad Shah Alam, MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, and Principal, Government Unani Medical College, Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat H. Shah, attended as Guests of Honour.

Welcoming the participants, Deputy Director, RRIUM Srinagar, Dr. Irfat Ara highlighted the activities of the Centre of Excellence in Ila j bi'l-Tadbā r, established at the institute in 2022. She said the Centre is engaged in the systematic promotion, documentation and scientific evaluation of Unani regimetal therapies and has undertaken research projects aimed at generating evidence on their therapeutic potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Iffat H. Shah emphasized the importance of evidence-based healthcare and scientific validation of therapeutic procedures, while Prof. Saiyad Shah Alam underlined the

‘The Unseen Voice’ Poetry Collection Released

JKAACL releases noted writer Ali Emran’s collection of English poems in Srinagar

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 26: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Saturday released The Unseen Voice, a collection of English poems by noted writer, filmmaker and theatre personality Ali Emran, at an impressive function held at the Academy's Seminar Hall, Srinagar. The programme was attended by a distinguished gathering of artists, writers, poets, scholars, academicians and literary and cultural enthusiasts from across the Valley. Muneer-ul Islam (IAS), Secretary, Department of Information, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, was the Chief Guest, while Mohammad Amin Bhat, distinguished writer, broadcaster and theatre personality, was the Guest of Honour. Ali Emran, the poet,



Dr Abid Ahmad, Editor, JKAACL, and noted writer Iftekhar Imran were also part of the presidium. Speaking on the occasion, Muneer-ul Islam described The Unseen Voice as a significant contribution to contemporary literature. He observed

that the collection embodies a distinctive poetic voice shaped by the Kashmiri Sufi aesthetic and vision. Referring to the poet's engagement with the cultural memory and Sufi ethos of Kashmir, he said that the poems effectively

evoke the spiritual and cultural richness of the region. Mohammad Amin Bhat, in his address, described the book as an evocative collection that brings the essence of Kashmiri Sufi poetry into a modern poetic idiom, making it accessible to younger readers as well as those unfamiliar with Kashmir's Sufi cultural tradition. He observed that, through refined poetic expression, Ali Emran preserves the cultural and mystical spirit of Kashmir while connecting it with universal human experiences. The book was formally reviewed by noted academic and literary critic Iftekhar Imran, who described Unseen Voice as a valuable addition to the growing corpus of Indian English literature. He observed that the collection presents the spiritual ethos of Kashmir through the medium of English and appreciated the poet's

effort to introduce the region's Sufi cultural heritage to younger generations. Earlier, welcoming the guests and participants, Dr Abid Ahmad outlined the Academy's role in nurturing a vibrant literary and cultural ecosystem through sustained engagement with writers, artists, scholars, students and youth. He highlighted the Academy's continuing efforts to promote literature and the arts by creating meaningful opportunities for creative expression, literary discourse and cultural exchange. The programme witnessed the participation of several prominent literary and cultural personalities, including Shabir Mujahid, Shamshad Kralwari, Manoj Pandita, Hussain Khan, G. M. Bhat, Altaf Hussain, Shaikh Haneef, Yusuf Shaheen, Dilly Bhat, Gul Javed and Ashfaq Lone, among others.

Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi Inaugurates Reconstruction/ Upgradation Projects of Three Ziyarat Complexes at Rayil Gund, Kangan

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, September 26, 2026 (Saturday): Chairperson, Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board and Minister of



State, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, today inaugurated the Reconstruction/ Upgradation Projects of the Ziyarats of Hazrat Syed Jaffar Sahib (RA), Hazrat Syed Abdul Rehman Sahib (RA) and Syed Hajah Sahiba at Rayil Gund, Kangan, Ganderbal.

The projects are aimed at improving the infrastructure and facilities at these important spiritual and religious sites and providing better amenities to devotees and visitors. Waqf Board Members Syed Mohammad Hussain Haqqani and Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem, along with Waqf Board officers Dr Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Ishitiyaq Mohiuddin and Chief Engineer Qazi Mushtaq, Er. Rehmat Ullah Bhat, Incharge Officer, Shrines, Er. Gulam-e-Murtaza Shah, Assistant Engineer, Er. Mohammad Amir Assistant Engineer, Khurshheed Ahmad Wani Administrator of the Shrine besides other officials and representatives, were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi emphasised the Waqf Board's commitment to the preservation, reconstruction and systematic development of important religious and spiritual heritage sites across Jammu & Kashmir. She said

that the upgradation of Ziyarats is not merely an infrastructure initiative but also an important step towards preserving the region's rich spiritual heritage and facilitating devotees. She said that the Board is working

towards providing better facilities at religious places while ensuring that the sanctity, traditional character and spiritual significance of these sites are duly maintained. Dr Andrabi also stressed the importance of collective efforts for preserving the rich legacy of the Awliya-e-Kashmir and ensuring that their message of spirituality, peace, compassion and human fraternity continues to inspire present and future generations. The Waqf Board officials accompanying the Chairperson briefed her about the scope and various components of the reconstruction and upgradation projects. The Chairperson directed the concerned officials to ensure quality execution and timely completion of the works. The inauguration marks another step towards the systematic development and preservation of Waqf-managed religious and spiritual sites in Jammu & Kashmir. The Waqf Board officials accompanying the Chairperson briefed her about the scope and various components of the reconstruction and upgradation projects. The Chairperson directed the concerned officials to ensure quality execution and timely completion of the works.

CLUJ Conducted Student Cultural Council Elections 2026-27

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 26: The Department of Student Welfare (DSW), Cluster University of Jammu, successfully conducted the Student Cultural Council Elections for the session 2026-27 today, providing students an opportunity to participate in democratic processes and take an active role in the cultural and co-curricular activities of the University.

The election process was conducted in a systematic, transparent and participatory manner, wherein Mr.



Raghuvansh was unanimously elected as the Cultural Secretary, while Ridham, Madhav Sountra and Shailaja Singh on the basis of merit points as per the prescribed criteria retained three posts of Joint Secretaries.

The proceedings were chaired by Dr. Vishal Sharma, Dean, Department of Student Welfare, in the presence of the Associate Deans, Chairperson,

Campus Cultural Committee, Assistant Deans and other officials associated with the Department of Student Welfare. Dr. Rajinder Kour, Dean, School of Teacher Education (SOTE), Cluster University of Jammu, acted as the Observer for the election process. Congratulating the newly elected members, Dr. Vishal Sharma appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students and expressed confidence that the new Council would work actively to promote cultural, creative and co-curricular activities across the University. He emphasised that student-led bodies.

AIIMS Jammu Concludes Hindi Pakhwada with Enthusiasm and Active Participation

■ HT News Network

Jammu, SEPTEMBER 26: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu successfully concluded Hindi Pakhwada, organised with the objective of promoting the use of Hindi in official communication and encouraging greater appreciation for the language among faculty, staff and students.

The three-day programme witnessed enthusiastic participation through a range of engaging and creative activities, including poster-making, poetry writing, essay writing and other Hindi-based competitions and activities. The events provided participants with an opportunity to express their creativity, strengthen their confidence and celebrate the richness of the Hindi

language. The active participation of faculty, staff and students reflected the spirit of togetherness and enthusiasm within the institution.

On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Sinha, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, highlighted the importance of keeping the spirit of Hindi alive beyond formal observances. He said that language is not merely a means of communication but also an important medium of expression, connection and cultural identity. He encouraged everyone to use Hindi wherever they can express themselves comfortably in the language, while continuing to respect and value all other languages. He further emphasised that initiatives such as Hindi Pakhwada provide an opportunity to bring people together.

NIT Srinagar hosts ‘Alumni Back to Classroom’ programme Distinguished alumni share professional experiences, insights with students

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, | Sept: 26: The “Alumni Back to Classroom (ABC)” Programme was successfully conducted today at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, providing a meaningful platform for distinguished alumni to reconnect with their alma mater, interact with students and share their professional experiences, insights and memories. The programme was organised by the Office of the Dean, Alumni & International Affairs, NIT Srinagar, under the leadership of Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean (Alumni & International Affairs), and was coordinated by Er. Farhan Manzoor Shah, Additional Secretary, NIT Srinagar Alumni Association and ABC Coordinator. The programme featured eminent alumni and accomplished professionals who interacted with students and shared valuable perspectives from their academic and professional journeys: Er. Bharat Bhushan – Alumni of the 1977-82 Mechanical Engineering batch, who



shared his professional experiences and reflections from his association with the Institute via an audio message. Er. Sundeep Saxena – Alumni of the 1977-82 Mechanical Engineering batch, who interacted with students and spoke about the importance of learning, professional growth and maintaining a lifelong connection with one's alma mater. Dr. Ahmadullah Zahed – Associated with ICTP, Italy, who shared insights from his international academic and professional exposure and encouraged students to pursue excellence, innovation and wider opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean, Alumni &

International Affairs, said that the Alumni Back to Classroom initiative is an important endeavour to strengthen the relationship between the Institute and its alumni. He emphasised that alumni are an invaluable source of knowledge, experience and inspiration for the present generation of students.

He said that such interactions enable students to learn not only from textbooks and classrooms but also from the real-life journeys, challenges and achievements of those who have walked the same corridors before them. He expressed his gratitude to the distinguished alumni for returning to their alma mater and contributing.

PM National Apprenticeship Mela held at Government ITI Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, SEPTEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Krishan Lal today inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM) organised by Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Doda with the objective of generating awareness among youth about apprenticeship, on-the-job training and employment opportunities.

The event was attended by District Nodal Officer NAPS Ashfaq Khanji; Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar; Principal Government ITI Ajay Kumar; Functional Manager DIC; Employment Officer; representatives from the Labour Department and Government Polytechnic, besides ITI trainees, pass-out trainees and representatives of participating establishments.

The Mela witnessed enthusiastic participation from ITI trainees, pass-



out trainees and aspiring candidates, besides representatives from various establishments. More than 150 candidates were registered on the National Apprenticeship Portal, while 16 apprenticeship contracts were generated on the spot.

A dedicated Apprenticeship Help Desk was established at the venue, where candidates were assisted with registration, documentation and queries related to apprenticeship engagement. The representatives

from the participating establishments interacted with the candidates and provided information regarding the apprenticeship opportunities, workplace requirements and the process of engagement.

Addressing the gathering, the DC highlighted the importance of apprenticeship in bridging the gap between technical education and practical workplace requirements. He encouraged ITI trainees and pass-out trainees to actively avail

themselves of apprenticeship opportunities for enhancing their skills, gaining practical workplace exposure and improving their employability. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts being made in District Doda towards strengthening the apprenticeship ecosystem, particularly the registration of more than 4,000 candidates and 812 establishments on the National Apprenticeship Portal. Earlier, ITI head Ajay Kumar welcomed the Chief Guest and participants. He underlined the importance of apprenticeship as an effective pathway for skill enhancement, workplace exposure and transition from technical training to employment. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by ITI Training Incharge Raiees Ahmad. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, participating departments,

IIT Jammu’s 7th Convocation Marks a Milestone with 420 Degrees Conferred

■ HT News Network

Jammu, September 26, 2026: The Indian Institute of Technology Jammu celebrated its 7th Convocation Ceremony today, marking another significant milestone in the Institute's journey of academic excellence, innovation, and nation-building. The ceremony, held at the picturesque IIT Jammu campus, brought together distinguished guests, faculty members, graduating students, and their families in a celebration of academic achievement and new beginnings.

A total of 420 degrees were conferred during the ceremony, comprising 209 B.Tech, 124 M.Tech, 23 M.Sc., and 64 Ph.D. degrees, reflecting the Institute's growing contributions to higher education and research.

The ceremony was graced by

Dr. Shankar M. Venugopal, Vice President, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Mahindra Research Valley, as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Amitabh Ranjan, Vice Chairman, Pan IIT Alumni India, as the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the graduating students, Dr. Venugopal encouraged them to embrace the opportunities emerging in a world being reshaped by technology and innovation. He urged the graduates to remain connected with their alma mater and contribute to its growth as mentors, collaborators, and ambassadors of IIT Jammu. Reflecting on their student journey, he encouraged them to cherish the experiences and relationships they had built at the Institute and draw strength from them as they navigate the challenges ahead. He also highlighted the immense potential of India to transform its challenges into opportunities through

innovation, determination, and collective effort.

Dr. Amitabh Ranjan, Guest of Honour, congratulated the graduating students and emphasised the importance of staying connected with the IIT ecosystem and contributing to the larger community. He encouraged the graduates to carry forward the values, knowledge, and spirit of excellence cultivated at IIT Jammu as they embark on their professional journeys. In his address, Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, congratulated the graduating class and spoke about the importance of curiosity, resilience, and purpose in shaping meaningful careers and lives. He encouraged the graduates to remain committed to lifelong learning, create value through their work, and ensure that their knowledge and innovations contribute meaningfully to society.



He urged them to remain grounded in their roots, pursue new paths with courage, and nurture friendships and relationships that extend beyond professional networks.

A key highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of 'Antard', meaning "inner vision", a new sculpture dedicated to the graduating class of 2026. The sculpture symbolises the moment before departure, when clarity must

come from within before one steps into the wider world. It embodies a message of self-trust, courage, and aspiration for the graduates as they begin the next chapter of their lives. The sculpture serves as a reminder to look within when the path ahead appears uncertain, to dream beyond the limits set by others, and to move forward with confidence even when the journey ahead is challenging. The ceremony also recognised outstanding

academic achievements through the conferment of prestigious medals. Vivek Kumar Shandilya, Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, was awarded the President Gold Medal for securing the highest CGPA among all B.Tech graduates. The Director Gold Medal was conferred upon Ayush Raj, Department of Chemical Engineering, for the best overall performance. The Institute Gold Medal for the highest CGPA among graduating M.Tech students was awarded to Mohammad Shamsul Haq, M.Tech in Civil Engineering, while Sheikh Aabid Nisar, M.Sc. in Chemistry, received the Institute Gold Medal for securing the highest CGPA among graduating M.Sc. students. The Institute Silver Medals were awarded to students securing the highest CGPA in their respective disciplines. Among the B.Tech programmes, the recipients were

Ayush Raj (Chemical Engineering), Khushboo (Civil Engineering), Chaitanya Tandon (Computer Science and Engineering), Nageshwar Kumar (Electrical Engineering), and Harshit Beri (Mechanical Engineering).

In the postgraduate programmes, the Institute Silver Medals were conferred upon Shivangi Sharma (M.Tech in Chemical Engineering), Anshu Kumari (M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering), Sandeep Kumar (M.Tech in Electrical Engineering), Binod Kumar (M.Tech in Mechanical Engineering), and Akshita (M.Sc. in Physics). The 7th Convocation of IIT Jammu was a celebration of academic accomplishment, perseverance, and aspiration. As the graduating class of 2026 steps into a new phase of its journey, the Institute congratulates all the graduates and wishes them success.

HT EDITORIAL

A House Meant for Debate Must Not Become a Stage for Disruption

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is the highest democratic forum available to the people of the Union Territory to raise their concerns, question the Government and seek accountability. Its effectiveness, however, depends not merely on the issues brought before it but also on the manner in which those issues are debated. The disruptions witnessed during the opening of the Autumn Session over National Health Mission employees, outsourcing of jobs and electricity tariffs should therefore be viewed as a reminder that parliamentary institutions must be allowed to function.

The issues that triggered the protests are important and directly connected with the lives of ordinary people. Employment insecurity, the future of NHM employees, outsourcing policies and electricity tariffs cannot be treated as routine political subjects. They affect livelihoods, household finances and the sense of security of thousands of families. The Government has a responsibility to address such concerns with facts, clarity and credible explanations. Where decisions are under review or solutions require time, the House deserves to know the reasons and the likely course of action.

But accountability is meaningful only when there is space for debate. The Opposition has every right to question the Government, challenge its policies and highlight areas where it believes the administration has fallen short. That is not only its democratic right but an important parliamentary responsibility. Yet disruption cannot become a substitute for debate. A strong Opposition is one that uses questions, motions, evidence and sustained discussion to put the Government on record and demand answers.

The same responsibility rests with the Government. Political criticism, even when sharp, should not automatically be regarded as an attempt to obstruct legislative business. Ministers must be prepared to listen to uncomfortable questions and respond substantively. Avoiding difficult questions can deepen public frustration, while engaging with them openly can strengthen confidence in the democratic process.

The Assembly also has a responsibility towards the public resources that sustain it. Every sitting day carries an opportunity cost. When proceedings are repeatedly disrupted, valuable time that could have been used to discuss legislation, development, expenditure, education, healthcare, employment and other public concerns is lost. The people may understand political differences, but they have little reason to accept the prolonged loss of legislative time.

Democracy has never meant the absence of disagreement. On the contrary, disagreement is one of its defining features. What matters is whether disagreement produces debate or deadlock. The Government and Opposition need not share the same position, but they must share a commitment to keeping the House functional.

The present issues demand more discussion, not less. NHM employees need clarity about their future; questions surrounding outsourcing require transparency; and concerns over electricity tariffs deserve detailed examination. These matters should be taken up on the floor of the House, where the Government can explain its position and legislators can question, challenge and suggest alternatives.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir did not elect their representatives merely to witness political confrontation. They elected them to make the Assembly work. The Government must answer, the Opposition must scrutinise, and the House must debate. Public interest must remain bigger than political disruption.



Sahil Manzoor

All living creatures on this earth need food to survive. Different species need different types of food for their survival on this unique planet. We should understand that we are not here only to eat food. In simple words, food is a basic need of our body. It helps in body growth, development, good health, and many other processes. In other words, we are directly or indirectly in search of food.

Different organisms fulfil their needs in different ways. Some are omnivores, some are carnivores, and some are herbivores. Some living creatures eat dead and decaying things, some eat waste food, and some eat fresh and healthy food. So, the chain begins naturally here. Every individual is directly or indirectly dependent on others because the origin of every living creature comes from the earth.

We need each other's favour, help, support, love, protection, guidance, and many other things. We have been doing the same since the beginning of life, and we should make sure that this continues for future generations with positive changes and better development.

We should always work for the development of our morals, ethics, and behaviour. In fact, our good behaviour is our real recognition.

Love your profession

We should keep in mind that people should Muslims go to mosques for prayers, Hindus



recognise us by our behaviour and not by the fancy degrees written on fancy papers. We start our journey without holding degree papers in our hands. No one really needs to know about your highest degree. They need your good behaviour, humility, kindness, and attention. These are the things that give you real respect in society.

Today's article is about how we can become the best professionals in our particular fields. The dictionary defines a profession as an occupation, trade, craft, or activity in which a person has special knowledge or skill. It is a job that may require a high level of skill or training.

We start our day with different activities.

go to temples for puja, Sikhs go to Gurdwaras, and Christians go to churches for prayers. Our daily activities continue from morning until late evening.

We are living in a well-civilised society where we find people working in different occupations and professions. Some professions are considered higher, some lower, and some are considered to be in between. These differences are mainly based on the status given to them by society.

We see many different objects around us, such as utensils in the kitchen, flowers in the garden, vases on the window panes, bricks in boundary walls, cars, buses, and many other means of transport outside our homes.

Sometimes, we wonder how these things were made. But we know that these inventions are the result of human effort and intelligence.

I used to wonder why only a few professionals become famous, such as teachers, doctors, professors, engineers, and many others. Why are only a few people known throughout a country, city, or state? I think it is because they are loyal, honest, hardworking, and willing to do their best. These qualities may be the main reasons behind the success and recognition of great professionals in the world.

In our society, we sometimes consider some professions undesirable, such as the profession of a conductor or a cobbler. But we lack knowledge when we think in this way. Suppose these professions did not exist in our society. How would we fulfil our needs if these services were not provided by such professionals?

My views are clear: whoever takes his or her profession as worship and works with honesty and dedication can achieve respect and recognition in society.

Suppose someone wants to become a doctor. They should completely concentrate on their assigned work instead of running after false name and fame. We should take every profession as worship and perform our duties with honesty, dedication, and willingness.

Then, the time will not be far when you may be counted among the respected personalities of society. Sacrifice unnecessary desires, work honestly, and then expect good results.

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Women Farmers: The Unsung Pillars of Agriculture

Much of this work is physically demanding and economically valuable, even when it does not appear as a separate entry in household income records.

Women are not merely assistants in agriculture. They are workers, decision-makers, livestock managers, seed keepers, food producers and, increasingly, entrepreneurs.

The Invisible Contribution
One of the greatest challenges facing women farmers is the lack of recognition of their work.

When land is registered in a man's name, a woman working on that land may not officially be recognised as a farmer. Similarly, unpaid family labour may remain statistically invisible even though it contributes directly to agricultural production.

Recognition is important because legal and institutional identity can influence access to agricultural schemes, credit, insurance, training, technology, markets and other forms of support.

If the contribution of women remains invisible, the policies designed to support agriculture may also fail to reach an important part of the agricultural workforce.

Women and Livestock
Women have traditionally played a major role in livestock-related activities. Feeding animals, cleaning shelters, collecting fodder, milking cattle and caring for young animals are often part of their daily responsibilities.

Livestock can provide families with milk, eggs, meat and additional income. For many rural households, it also provides a degree of economic security during difficult agricultural

seasons.
Yet the knowledge and labour involved in livestock management are not always given the recognition they deserve.

Seeds, Food and Traditional Knowledge
Women have also contributed significantly to the preservation of agricultural knowledge.

In many communities, women have traditionally selected and stored seeds, preserved local crop varieties, prepared food products and passed knowledge about plants and farming practices from one generation to another.

This traditional knowledge can be valuable for biodiversity and climate resilience. Local varieties may contain characteristics that help them survive particular environmental conditions.

Recognising women as custodians of such knowledge means recognising agriculture not merely as production, but as a living system of knowledge and culture.

Technology and the Changing Role of Women
Agriculture is changing rapidly. Mechanisation, digital tools, improved irrigation, modern crop varieties, weather information and market platforms are transforming farming.

Women farmers need equal opportunities to benefit from these developments.

Access to technology, however, is not simply a matter of providing machines or smartphones. Training, affordability, digital literacy, access to finance and the ability to make independent decisions are equally important.

When women receive appropriate training and resources, they can adopt new techniques, improve productivity and participate more

effectively in agricultural markets.

From Workers to Entrepreneurs
The role of rural women is also expanding beyond traditional farm activities.

Women are increasingly involved in food processing, dairy enterprises, handicrafts, seed production, kitchen gardens, self-help groups and small agricultural businesses. These activities can create additional sources of income and strengthen local economies.

The transformation from agricultural worker to entrepreneur can also provide women with greater economic independence and a stronger voice in household and community decisions.

Education and Financial Access
Education is one of the most powerful tools for strengthening the position of women farmers. Knowledge about crop management, financial planning, digital platforms, government programmes, markets and sustainable farming practices can improve decision-making.

Financial inclusion is equally important. Access to affordable credit, insurance, savings mechanisms and secure payment systems can help women manage agricultural risks and invest in productive activities.

But access must be accompanied by awareness. A scheme cannot empower someone who does not know that it exists or cannot easily access it.

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Beyond Access: Bridging the Digital Learning Gap for Students with Disabilities

important. Inadequate classrooms, limited libraries, poorly equipped laboratories, insufficient sanitation facilities and shortages of learning resources can restrict children's educational opportunities. A school should

At the same time, smartphones have transformed childhood. Digital technology has undeniable educational value. Students can access digital books, lectures, educational applications, language resources and

important issue is whether smartphone use begins to control daily habits. Technology should remain a tool in a child's hands rather than becoming the centre of childhood. Completely removing digital devices is neither practical nor desirable in a modern educational environment. What children need is digital discipline: the ability to use technology productively while recognising when entertainment has become excessive.

Parents and teachers have a shared responsibility in developing this balance. Children need consistent routines that include study, adequate sleep, outdoor activity, reading and family interaction. Parents also need to model responsible digital behaviour because children often imitate what they observe. Schools can support families by promoting digital well-being, online safety, awareness of cyberbullying, misinformation and responsible use of social media. This changing environment makes the National Education Policy 2020 particularly relevant. NEP 2020 seeks to move Indian education away from excessive rote learning towards conceptual understanding, critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving and holistic development. Its emphasis on foundational literacy and numeracy, experiential learning, vocational education, multilingualism, arts, sports and multidisciplinary learning reflects the need to prepare children not only for examinations but also for life. The focus on foundational literacy and numeracy is especially important. A child who struggles to read with understanding, write effectively or perform basic mathematical operations in the early years can face difficulties throughout later schooling.

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not merely be a building where lessons are delivered. It should provide an environment in which children can read, experiment, communicate, participate in sports, explore their interests and develop confidence. The quality of infrastructure and the availability of supportive learning spaces directly influence how children experience education.

Academic pressure has added another layer to these difficulties. Increasing competition, examination expectations and comparison among students can make education excessively marks-oriented. When children begin to associate learning mainly with grades, curiosity and creativity may gradually decline. Fear of failure can become stronger than the desire to understand. The education system must therefore recognise children's emotional and developmental needs alongside academic achievement and create an environment where mistakes are treated as opportunities for learning.

information from around the world. Online platforms can extend learning beyond the classroom and provide valuable resources to students and teachers. However, the same device that opens a window to knowledge can also become a powerful source of distraction.

Children can move within seconds from educational content to online games, social media, entertainment and short-form videos. Digital platforms are designed to provide continuous stimulation, while serious study demands patience, concentration and sustained attention. When excessive screen use becomes part of everyday life, children may spend less time reading, playing outdoors, interacting with family members and engaging in creative activities. It can also disturb sleep, physical activity, concentration and face-to-face communication. The concern should not be reduced to the simple question of how many hours a child spends on a phone. The more

Efficient Water use & Management in the context of Kashmir agriculture



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

As the shadows of climate change become increasingly evident across the globe, water scarcity for both human consumption and agricultural practices has emerged as a pressing concern. In this context, it is of paramount importance to prioritise agricultural practices and crops that can withstand drought conditions while producing higher yields. Such climate-resilient practices can play a vital role in ensuring food security and sustainable agricultural development in the face of changing climatic conditions. A day before, on DD Kashir Srinagar's Jahanbeen programme, I had the opportunity to watch an informative and insightful podcast hosted by renowned television host Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, with Dr. Tawseef Mairaj Shah as the guest. The discussion featured a series of thought-provoking questions related to Kashmir's agricultural sector and the challenges it is facing amid the growing threat of climate change and increasing water scarcity. The conversation offered valuable insights into the changing agricultural landscape of Kashmir and highlighted the urgent need to adopt sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices to safeguard the livelihood of farmers and ensure food security in the region. Hailing from Lelhar Kakpora village of Pulwama district, Dr Tawseef Mairaj Shah is a food systems researcher and an impact entrepreneur. Tawseef is a trained environmental process engineer with a doctorate in agroecology from the Hamburg University of Technology (TU Hamburg). He is the COO and Co-Founder of the Berlin-based startup CinSOIL, which is developing a software tool to enable sustainable decarbonisation pathways in the agrifood sector through insetting. He did his bachelors in process engineering from the National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT Srinagar) and masters from TU Hamburg. Tawseef's research

interests include agrifood systems transformation, agroecology, food, soil and water security, biodiverse farming systems, and technology enhanced ecological systems. During the podcast, Dr Tawseef Mairaj Shah shared an interesting observation from his

based and technology-driven farming practices. Modern technology and scientific research have created considerable potential for producing crops while using significantly less water. He also recalled that in 2019, the Department of Irrigation and Flood

instead of a bunch of seedlings. Wider spaces are maintained between the plants, while water is supplied only once a week. He experimented with the I-Rice module with five to six farmers in Sagam village of Kokernag in Anantnag district. In some

per cent of the world's food being obtained from it. However, soil health is increasingly under threat due to salinization, a process in which excessive salts accumulate in the soil. He cautioned that this gradual accumulation of salts can severely degrade soil quality and eventually turn this living natural resource into an unproductive or "dead" resource. Regarding the growing trend of high-density apple orchards, Dr Tawseef said that the reduced spacing between plants tends to create conditions conducive to the frequent spread of microbes and pathogens, compelling orchardists to rely more heavily on pesticides and other agrochemicals. He observed that Kashmir's climatic conditions may not be ideally suited to such practices and stressed that the issue needs to be examined and discussed at the expert level before promoting high-density plantation systems on a wider scale. Healthy soils have a greater capacity to retain water and absorb essential nutrients, thereby supporting healthy crop growth. However, when water remains in the soil for prolonged periods without being adequately absorbed, contaminants can leach into the food chain. Studies and reports from regions such as Punjab and Bangladesh have highlighted the presence of arsenic in soil and groundwater which is highly toxic and is also classified as a carcinogenic substance, posing serious risks to human health. When asked about the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in water management, Dr. Tawseef remarked that AI may not be the ultimate solution, but it can certainly help in identifying and developing sustainable, long-term solutions. Speaking about the younger generation, he observed that students today have access to facilities and resources that were not available to previous generations. With the internet, YouTube and numerous other informative platforms at their fingertips, young people have unprecedented opportunities to acquire knowledge and explore new areas of research. Overall, the podcast proved to be a vibrant, insightful and informative programme, bringing several important aspects of agriculture, water management and sustainability to the fore. For this valuable initiative, both Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) Srinagar and the host, Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, deserve appreciation and commendation.

RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR
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Qazigund Kashmir



early understanding of agriculture. Although he had seen people engaged in farming, he himself had never actively participated in agricultural practices. This experience eventually helped him understand a basic yet important fact—that rice comes from the soil. The discussion further brought to light that, at the global level, nearly 80 per cent of available water is used for agriculture. Although Kashmir is blessed with considerable water resources, groundwater levels are continuously declining, while water from various sources is also becoming polluted. The excessive and indiscriminate use of agrochemicals is one of the major factors contributing to water pollution. According to Dr Tawseef, there is, therefore, an urgent need to shift towards research-

Control, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, had advised farmers not to cultivate rice because of water shortages. That warning should have been taken as a wake-up call. The situation now demands that we think rationally, adopt scientific approaches and take timely measures to ensure the sustainability of agriculture and our precious water resources. Speaking about the concept of I-Rice, Dr Tawseef said that the devastating floods of 2014 encouraged him to explore sustainable agricultural practices that could consume less water without compromising the quality and quantity of the crop. This led him to develop the I-Rice module. I-Rice is a non-traditional method of rice cultivation in which a single seedling is planted

fields, wider spaces were maintained between rice seedlings and beans were sown in the intervening spaces, while in other fields rice seedlings were planted without leaving such spaces. The experiments revealed that the fields with wider spacing produced better and more desirable results, while also enabling farmers to obtain a second crop. According to Dr. Tawseef, diseases such as rice blast have not been observed in fields where the method has been adopted. It helps conserve nearly 50 per cent of water, allows farmers to raise a second crop, reduces the use of agrochemicals, and, importantly, produces a very high yield. Responding to a question about soil health, Dr Tawseef said that soil is the second most important natural resource, with nearly 98

There's this famous Indian Army hospital in Kashmir

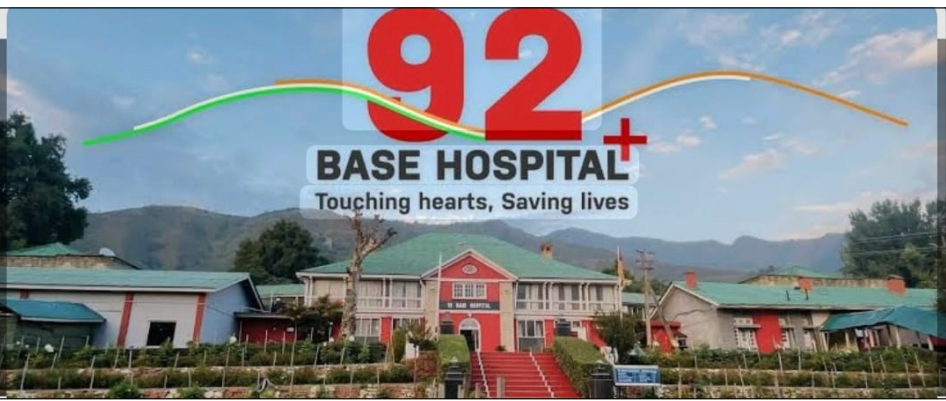


By M S Nazki

They treat people and send them back fit and fine! With a one liner, carry on boys!
-The story at hand was this:
-There's this famous Army hospital in Kashmir, popularly called as 92 Base Hospital. The legend has no matter in how much wounded or bad condition you come in, if you come with even the slightest nerve, you go back fit, fine & alive. The soldiers who get injured during encounters are rushed here!
-And it's hard to hate someone once you understand them. It was awful and so surreal to see it unfold before my eyes. I will never forget that sight. The only thing I could think of is that one day you are king of your domain, and the next day you are being escorted to your car by security to a hospital!
-Oh God just look at me now... one night opens words and utters pain... I cannot begin to explain to you... this... I am not here. This is not happening. Oh wait, it is, isn't it?..
-I am a ghost. I am not here, not really. You see skin and cuts and frailty... these are symptoms, you know, of a ghost. An unclear image with unclear thoughts whispering vague things...
-If I told you what was really in my head, you'd never let me leave this place. And I have no desire to spend time in hell while I'm still, in theory, alive."
-The nurses, I have already learned, are the ones who give us the answers we're desperate for. Unlike the doctors, who fidget like they need to be somewhere else, the nurses patiently answer us as if we are the first set of parents to ever have this kind of meeting with them, instead of the thousandth. Akshi Sambyal
-We'd been assured it wouldn't be painful, though she might experience 'discomfort', a term beloved of the medical profession that seems to be a synonym for agony that isn't yours..... Anonymous
-Oh! Cried the poor nurse. Yes. Absolutely. I'll be right back! "Thanks," I mumbled. "I'll just change here
-History of AMC
-The Army Medical Corps (India) traces its origins back to 1764 during the British colonial

era with the formation of the early Indian Medical Service.
-Key Historical Milestones 1764: The Indian Medical Service (IMS) is founded in India under British administration.
-19th Century: The Indian Medical Department (IMD) evolves, utilizing compounders, dressers, and later hospital assistants.
-April 3, 1943: The Indian Army Medical Corps (IAMC) is officially formed through the merger of the Indian Medical Service, Indian Medical Department, and Indian Hospital Corps. April 3 is celebrated annually as AMC Raising Day.
-1948: Following recommendations by a committee headed by Dr. B. C. Roy, the medical

Government General Hospital (originally founded in Madras/Chennai) started as a small British facility, with the main Madras General Hospital opening in 1679. Medical Education: The British introduced western medical schools, starting with the Calcutta Medical College in 1835 and Madras Medical College.
-Private Sector Growth (1983): The launch of Apollo Hospitals in Chennai introduced the corporate multi-specialty hospital model to India.
-The Portuguese and the East India Company were the first to introduce Western medicine to India, on the 16th and 17th... ResearchGate (PDF) Historical Development of Health Care in India - ResearchGate In India, hospitals have existed



services of the Navy, Army, and Air Force are integrated into the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) under a unified Director General.
-Core Identity Motto: "Sarve Santu Niramaya" (Sanskrit for "May all be free from disease and disability"). Role: Provides comprehensive medical care to service members, veterans, and their families during both peace and war.
-The history of hospitals in India spans from ancient charitable healing centers to modern multi-specialty medical hubs.
-Ancient and Medieval Roots Ancient Origins (6th Century BCE): Organized healing institutions appeared during the time of Buddha and the Mauryan Empire.
-Emperor Ashoka (3rd Century BCE): Credited with building some of the earliest public hospitals and herbal clinics for both humans and animals.
-Medieval Period: Rulers like Firuz Shah Tughlaq in the 14th century and Mughal emperors later established state-funded hospitals and dispensaries for the public. Traditional systems like Ayurveda and Unani guided early treatments.)
-Colonial Era and Modern Hospitals First Modern Hospital (1664): The Rajiv Gandhi

during ancient times. Even in the 6th century BC, during the time of Buddha, there were a number of them
-Hospitals are now seen as the backbone of modern healthcare, providing care, treatment, and hope to millions. Yet the concept of the hospital has a long and fascinating history that spans thousands of years. From ancient healing temples to today's high-tech medical centers, hospitals have constantly evolved to meet the changing needs of society.
-Ancient Civilizations: The Roots of Healing Spaces
The earliest forms of hospitals were not hospitals in the modern sense but rather places where people gathered for healing.
Mesopotamia (around 2000 BCE): The earliest records show that temples served as centers of healing. Priests, who also acted as healers, cared for the sick through rituals, herbs, and early medical practices.
India: Priests and practitioners in temples used in Ayurveda, rituals, mantras, yoga, and spiritual practices to heal both physical and mental ailments.

SC/ST Act 1989: A debate on social justice and abuse



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

The debate over social justice in India is as old as it is sensitive. Discrimination, social humiliation, and violence against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have long posed a serious challenge to independent India. Against this backdrop, the SC/ST Act of 1989 came into being. However, more than three decades later, the question remains: to what extent has this law fulfilled its original purpose and whether the rights of innocent individuals are adequately protected while protecting victims.
The then government clearly stated its reasons for enacting this law in 1989. The bill's objects and reasons stated that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes remained vulnerable to various forms of social humiliation, violence, land eviction, forced labor, and other atrocities. According to the government, the then-existing Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the general penal laws were insufficient to effectively curb these crimes. This necessitated a special law. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to conclude, based on available government records, that the SC/ST Act was enacted without any specific reason.
This Act was passed on September 11, 1989, and came into force on January 30, 1990. Its stated purpose was to prevent atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, establish special courts for such cases, and provide relief and rehabilitation to victims. In a democratic system, the state has a responsibility to provide legal protection to vulnerable groups, and this explains the need for this law. However, the need for a law and the debate over its potential misuse are two different issues. Any stringent law must ensure that genuine victims receive immediate protection, while ensuring that innocent individuals are not subjected to injustice merely because they are accused. This question has been raised by the judiciary

from time to time regarding certain provisions of the SC/ST Act, and the procedures for arrest and preliminary investigation have been considered. Parliament subsequently amended the law.
A common misconception about this law is that it provides for the government to provide money, housing, or employment to those who file a false complaint. In fact, the law and its regulations provide relief and rehabilitation for victims of atrocities. It would be factually inaccurate to present this as a reward for those who file a false complaint. Therefore, when debating this issue, it is essential to distinguish between the legal relief afforded to the victim and the potential misuse of a false complaint.
However, if a law is used for personal enmity, property disputes, local conflicts, or other malicious purposes, an impartial investigation into such incidents is necessary. Misuse of any law can undermine its spirit and breed distrust in society. On the other hand, it is also unfair to dismiss the problems of the genuine victims for whom the law was enacted simply because of the fear of misuse in a few cases. Therefore, the solution should not be to weaken the law, but to make its implementation more fair, transparent, and accountable. Political debate has been ongoing regarding the SC/ST Act. It is a historical fact that this law was enacted during the tenure of the Rajiv Gandhi-led central government. However, the available official legislative documents do not substantiate the conclusion that the law's purpose was to divide Hindu society or create caste conflict. To conclude about a political party's intentions, it is necessary to study its decisions, documents, and verified historical evidence. Political criticism is part of democracy, but it is equally important to maintain a distinction between criticism and proven fact. India's social structure is diverse and complex.
The history of caste-based discrimination is real, and denying it cannot solve the problem of social justice. However, it must also be ensured that the law does not become a source of fear for the innocent. Social justice cannot mean pitting one social group against another.

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

DC reviews progress of District plan, CSS Works in Poonch District Seeks timeline completion, adherence to quality standards

■ HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 26: District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting of the developmental departments and executing agencies to assess the physical and financial status of ongoing and new works taken up under the current District Capex Budget and Central schemes across different sectors.

The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of Dak Bungalow, and was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Amarjeet Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; PO ICDS Fareed Kohli; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed; Assistant Commissioner Development Shakeel Ahmed Malik,

besides other concerned district officers, Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers and representatives from various executing agencies.

The DDC undertook a comprehensive department-wise, block-wise and executing agency-wise review of the progress of developmental works. Detailed discussions were held on current status of works, including allotment, tendering, ongoing works, new works, completed works and financial expenditure.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of works under Aspirational Blocks, Swachh Bharat Mission and other centrally sponsored programmes.

The concerned officers and executing agencies apprised the DDC



of the current status of works under their respective jurisdictions,

including the number of works taken up, allotment and tendering status,

works in progress and works completed.

The DDC also reviewed the uploading of physically and financially completed District Plan works for FY 2025-26 on the respective District e-Compendium Portal, along with mandatory geo-tagged photographs.

The DDC directed all concerned officers, particularly the Executive Engineers and executing agencies, to expedite the allotment and tendering of works and ensure timely execution and completion of all ongoing works.

He further directed the officers to closely monitor works at the field level, remove bottlenecks and ensure that the available funds are utilized efficiently within the prescribed timelines.

Census 2027: Population enumeration on in high altitude areas of Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 26: The Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of Sub Divisional Census Officers and Charge Census Officers to review the progress of the Population Enumeration in high altitude areas of the district under the Census 2027 Phase-II.

The meeting focused on accelerating the remaining fieldwork of Population Enumeration in identified snow-bound areas of the district having high-altitude and difficult-to-access terrains. The Principal Census Officer directed the concerned Charge Census Officers to intensify field work and ensure 100% coverage of all households in their respective areas on a war-footing basis.

Emphasizing the national importance of the digital census exercise, Charge Census Officers were directed to closely monitor the field staff on a daily basis and ensure completion of the remaining enumeration work well before September 30, 2026. To ensure a meticulous and comprehensive data collection process, the chair explicitly directed that enumerators must guarantee the coverage of all residential as well as non-residential census houses including vacant or locked census houses across the identified snow-bound areas of the district.

TB Mukat Bharat Abhiyan implementation reviewed in Udhampur District

■ HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a review meeting with officers of the Health Department to assess the progress achieved under the TB Mukat Bharat Abhiyan in the district.

At the outset, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Anil Saloch delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the district's performance under the campaign, including the current status of TB detection, screening coverage, treatment outcomes and other key performance indicators.

The DC reviewed the progress of TB testing and treatment success rates. He directed the Health Department to further expand testing facilities, strengthen diagnostic services and ensure the timely identification and treatment of TB patients.

Emphasizing the importance of early detection and timely intervention, the DC called for strengthening counselling services and ensuring the active involvement of frontline health workers in identifying suspected cases, facilitating testing and ensuring uninterrupted treatment for diagnosed patients.

Relief Commissioner inspects development works in migrant camps

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 26: Relief and Rehabilitation (M), J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani, inspected the ongoing developmental works in Jagti and Nagrota migrant camps. The progress of extension of social sector schemes to the eligible migrant beneficiaries was also reviewed.

He was accompanied during the visit by senior officers of the Relief Organization and Nodal Officers from the allied Government Departments like Jal Shakti Department, Public Works Department (R&B), Jammu Power Development Corporation and Tehsildars/Camp Commandants.

The Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Nagrota apprised about the major/renovation works started in migrant camps which, inter-alia, includes repair/renovation of more than 200 building blocks and about 5000 flats and community halls etc in all migrant camps in Jammu. Pertinent to mention that the

Government has recently accorded administrative approval involving financial implications of Rs 82.45 Cr for these works.

This is the first time ever that repair and renovation work of such magnitude has been started in the migrant camps, fulfilling a long pending demand of the migrants. Besides, PWD (R&B) has formulated a comprehensive project for development of internal roads/lanes, development of parks and face lifting of all migrant schools, health dispensaries and Sub-District Hospital Jagti.

Dr Karwani emphasised upon conducting a structural audit of all buildings and instructed to ensure good quality of works in due consultation with the public and concerned camp commandants. While reviewing the status of basic amenities like safe drinking water, power supply and sanitation in the camps, the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner was apprised that the water supply infrastructure damaged due to losses in floods last year has been fully renovated

and all the bore wells have also been made fully functional.

He instructed the officers of the Jal Shakti Department to take all requisite measures to ensure uninterrupted water supply in the migrant camps and press adequate water tanker supply in the operation to supplement the water shortage as and when required. It was apprised that as a long term solution, the Jal Shakti Department has conceived a major project with tentative financial implication of about Rs 10 Cr for improvement/augmentation of the water supply in Jagti Township. Dr Karwani emphasised upon conducting of water quality tests at frequent intervals to ensure clean and hygienic drinking water supply.

The UEED apprised that Sewage Treatment Plants involving financial implications of about Rs 11.5 Cr have been finalised for Migrant Camps Nagrota, Muthi-Buta Nagar and Purkhoo, on the lines of similar STP functional at Jagti township and work will commence shortly,

ADDC Shopian presides over "Moon Gazing & Night Sky Observation Camp" at GHSS Sedow

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 26: To foster scientific temper, curiosity and a passion for astronomy among students, School Education Department, through Chief Education Officer (CEO) Shopian, organized a "Moon Gazing and Night Sky Observation Camp" at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Sedow, first of its kind in the district.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The programme was organized in collaboration with the Innovative Science Communicators Association and supported by the Cultural Education Wing of the CEO Office Shopian.

The camp provided a hands-on platform for participating students and teachers to engage in practical astronomical observations, explore celestial bodies and learn about space science.

The programme featured interactive sessions, sky observation through specialized telescopes, guided lectures and expert-led theoretical sessions aimed at inspiring young minds to explore STEM fields.

Addressing the gathering, ADDC emphasized the vital role of experiential learning and praised the Education



Department's initiative in bringing practical scientific exploration directly to the students.

In his speech, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone stated that students should fully involve themselves to prepare for every field so they can bring laurels to their teachers and parents. He urged students and educators to pursue their chosen professions religiously and emphasized that when dedication is maintained, the nation proceeds to produce better professionals, including doctors, engineers and scientists.

The ADDC further added that the government is actively working to facilitate students regarding scientific inventions and initiatives. He stressed the need to train students to compete, excel and go ahead in their respective fields at both national and global levels, noting that it requires dedicated effort.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana Visits Sunjwan Under "Jan Se Desh Seva" Programme Distributes Certificates Among Students;

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, September 26, 2026: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today visited Sunjwan as part of the "Jan Se Desh Seva" programme, interacting with children, students, teachers, Anganwadi workers and local women and taking stock of welfare and educational activities at the grassroots level.

During his visit to the Anganwadi Centre at Chatta Morh, near the Matador Stand, Sunjwan, Er. Khatana reviewed



the facilities available for children and interacted with Anganwadi workers and local women. He also tasted the nutritional food being served at the centre and appreciated

the efforts of Anganwadi workers and frontline personnel engaged in child nutrition, early childhood care and women's welfare. Interacting with mothers and women, Er.

Khatana discussed various welfare initiatives and heard their experiences. He appreciated the initiatives of the Narendra Modi Government aimed at strengthening child nutrition, supporting mothers, empowering women and improving access to welfare services. Referring to Mission Poshan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Ladli Beti and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), he stressed the importance of effective implementation so that benefits reach eligible families at the grassroots level.

"MLA Mankotia Kick-Starts Construction and Lays Foundation Stone for PMGSY Road Jaganoo to Ser Chompal Nallah

■ HT NEWS DESK

Udhampur, 26 Sept: MLA Chenani-Ghordi, Sh. Balwant Singh Mankotia, today kick-started the construction work and laid the foundation stone for the PMGSY-IV road from Jaganoo to Ser Chompal Nallah, Km 3rd to Neeli, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-IV), Batch-I (2026-2027).

The road project, with a total length of 2.317 kilometres and a sanctioned cost of 500.16 lakh, is expected to benefit approximately 508 residents of the area and significantly improve rural connectivity.

On the occasion, MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia



expressed his sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central Government for their continued focus on rural infrastructure and connectivity, particularly in the remote and hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir. He also

conveyed his special thanks to MoS PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Prime Minister's Office, for his support and efforts towards the development of the region. Mankotia stated that

improved road connectivity is essential for the socio-economic development of rural areas. The project will facilitate smoother transportation, improve access to essential services and provide greater convenience to the local population.

He reiterated his commitment to ensuring the timely execution of development works and strengthening infrastructure across the Chenani-Ghordi constituency.

The commencement of construction work and laying of the foundation stone mark another important step towards improving road connectivity and fulfilling the developmental aspirations of the people of Jaganoo and adjoining areas.

BJP Misleading People of J&K on Statehood Resolution: Rattan Lal Gupta Says MLAs of BJP deliberately creating confusion regarding resolution.

■ HT News Network

Jammu, September 26: Senior National Conference leader and Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, Adv., today accused the BJP of misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the issue of restoration of full Statehood and deliberately creating confusion around the resolution moved by Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Gupta said that the resolution moved by the Chief Minister is clear and

categorical in seeking the immediate and urgent restoration of full Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution also makes it clear that it is in addition to the resolutions passed by the Assembly on 26 June 2000 and 6 November 2024.

He said the 2000 resolution was the Autonomy Resolution passed by the then J&K Assembly, while the resolution of 6 November 2024 sought restoration of special status and constitutional guarantees. The present resolution does not replace or subsume those earlier resolutions; it specifically seeks restoration



of full Statehood. CM Omar Abdullah also clarified this position in the House.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that instead of

participating constructively in the legislative proceedings, placing its objections on record and taking part in the debate and voting, BJP members created disruptions, entered the Well of the House and raised slogans. Reports also indicate that copies of the resolution were torn during the protests and the Speaker had to adjourn the proceedings amid the uproar.

"If the BJP disagrees with the resolution, it should have participated in the democratic process, debated every clause and voted against it. Running away from discussion

and voting cannot serve the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Gupta said. He further stated that restoration of Statehood is an issue directly concerning the constitutional and democratic position of J&K and should not be converted into a political controversy by linking it selectively with earlier resolutions.

Mr. Gupta said that the BJP's demand for dissolution of the elected government should also be viewed in the proper constitutional context. An elected government cannot be sought to be removed merely because the opposition

disagrees with a policy, resolution or legislative position. The government derives its authority from the Assembly's democratic mandate and constitutional processes.

He urged the BJP to stop misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir and instead support a meaningful democratic debate on Statehood. The people of J&K expect their elected representatives to raise their issues inside the Assembly, participate in debate and respect parliamentary procedures rather than disrupt proceedings.



PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MOHAMMAD AMIN YATOO, Father of MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO, hereby issue this public notice regarding the correction of the name of my minor child in his Aadhaar Card. That I am the father and legal guardian of my minor child, MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO. That the Aadhaar Number of my minor child is 6072 4186 4048. That due to an inadvertent error, the name of my minor child has been incorrectly recorded in the Aadhaar Card as "MOHAMMAD AMAAN YATOO". That the correct name of my minor child is "MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO", which should be updated and recorded in the Aadhaar records. That "MOHAMMAD AMAAN YATOO" and "MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO" refer to one and the same person, i.e., my minor child.

Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period.

Sd/-
MOHAMMAD AMIN YATOO
Father of MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as SAZIYA ALTAF D/O ALTAF AHMAD GANAIE on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No...3078 0833 1631 while my correct name is SHAZIA ALTAF D/O ALTAF AHMAD GANAIE which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name... SHAZIA ALTAF
D/O...ALTAF AHMAD GANAIE
R/O...BURZAWACHAN BLOCK...WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abid Ashraf, son of Mohd Ashraf Khan, residing at Khonmoh, Srinagar, hereby inform the public that the original Registration Certificate (RC) of my scooter bearing Vehicle Registration Number JK01AQ6175 and Chassis Number MET0001LA1H007212 has been lost/misplaced while traveling from Khonmoh to Panthachowk. Any person having any objection or issue regarding the issuance of a duplicate RC for the aforementioned vehicle should contact the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Srinagar or contact me within 2 to 3 days of the publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of the said period. If found, please return it to the above address or contact me.
Abid Ashraf
Phone: 9682605943

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as SAMIA BANO D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD NAJAR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No...2103 8931 9395 while my correct name is SUMAYA AKHTAR D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD NAJAR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...SUMAYA AKHTAR
S/O...GHULAM MOHAMMAD NAJAR
R/O...KACHWA MUQAM

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH S/O MOHD AKBAR SHEIKH 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 income dependent certificate 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 90,000 / the details of family of the applicant are as follows
1...AB RASHID SHEIKH Father 46 years Labour Married
2...ZAHIDA BEGUM Mother (applicant) 43 years H/W married
3... MOMIN RASHID Son 16 years student Un , married
4...RONAQ RASHID daughter 13 years student un married
It is further submitted that ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH S/O MOHD AKBAR SHEIKH is Labour by profession and is sole earnings in the said family. Theapplicant needs income dependent certificate in favour of her wife ZAHIDA BEGUM for Medical Assistance
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, AISHA BEGUM, W/o MOHD SABIR WANI, R/o SHIRPORA BANGIL, TEHSIL PATTAN, DISTRICT BARAMULLA, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm as under:
That I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
That my correct name is AISHA BEGUM.
That in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9753 9251 1857, my name has been wrongly mentioned as "ASHA BEGUM".
That my correct name is "AISHA BEGUM" and the same should be read and recorded in all official and Aadhaar records as AISHA BEGUM instead of ASHA BEGUM.
.Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period.

Sd/-
AISHA BEGUM
W/o MOHD SABIR WANI
R/o Shirpora Bangil, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH S/O MOHD ASSAN SHEIKH 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 income dependent certificate 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 90,000 / the details of family of the applicant are as follows
1...AB RASHID SHEIKH Father 46 years Labour Married
2...ZAHIDA BEGUM Mother (applicant) 43 years H/W married
3... MOMIN RASHID Son 16 years student Un , married
4...RONAQ RASHID daughter 13 years student un married
It is further submitted that ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH S/O MOHD ASSAN SHEIKH is Labour by profession and is sole earnings in the said family .Theapplicant needs income dependent certificate in favour of her wife ZAHIDA BEGUM for Medical Assistance
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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of MOHAMMAD YOUSUF GOJAR PODE for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal)in favour of Wards namely REYAZ AHMAD GOJAR PODE , ASHIQ HUSSAIN GOJAR PODE MAYMOONA BANO

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and GOJAR PODE community, having annual income is the details of the family of the applicant are as follows
1..MOHAMMAD YOUSUF GOJAR PODE Self 55 years Labour
2....REYAZ AHMAD GOJAR PODE son 30 years Labour
3..ASHIQ HUSSAIN GOJAR PODE son 28 years Labour
4....MAYMOONA BEGUM daughter 25 years student
5..KHATOON BEGUM Mother 50 Years H/W
.The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the applicant namely Dr Reyaz Ahmad Dar F/o Hafsa Reyaz R/o Wadwan Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of his daughter Namely Hafsa Reyaz D/o Dr Reyaz Ahmad Dar
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of his daughter as records 20 /07/ 2010
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

24 /09/ 2026

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab

FRESH NIT No.37-Lolab/EEL/2398-2406of2026-27 e-tendering DATED: -22-09-2026

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract or	DLP Period	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
01	CONSTRUCTION OF AYUSH HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE AT AAFAN BLOCK WAWOORA, KUPWARA.	60.55	1600/-	1,21,500/-	200 days	29-09-2026	A	36 months	Capex Budget (Directorate of Ayush J&K)
02	CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR BORDER BLOCK LIBRARY SOGAM BY WAY OF RAISING FIRST FLOOR OF EXISTING LIBRARY BUILDING.	44.40	1100/-	89,000/-	90 days	29-09-2026	A&B	36 months	Capex Budget (Library 4202)

Position of funds : Demanded
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	22-09-2026
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22-09-2026to 28-09-2026
03.	Bid submission start date	22-09-2026 from (06.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	28-09-2026 up to (06.00 P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on-line)	29-09-2026 (11:00A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Lolab

Terms and Conditions :-

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

a. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written the Name of Work Or NIT No. with Sr. No of NIT, Name of Contractor) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab (CDR/FDR shall be valid from date between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) .

b. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) otherwise the tender will be rejected. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% plus the amount as per the Table given below in point "C" at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% plus the amount as per the Table given below in point "C"of the bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Lolab (tender receiving authority),as per circular issued by J&K Finance Department (Codes Division) under No.: - FD-Code/441-2021-02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025.

C. The bidders shall ensure that their bids shall be accepted only if their registrations cards are uploaded on https://jkpwdoms.jk.gov.in portal in active Tab. as per circular instructions issued by Development Commissioner works vide No.PW/DCW/DB/668-72 DT.10-06-2022.

S.No	Percentage of unbalancedbid Viz.advertised cost onaccount of low rates	Additional Performance Security
01.	Upto and including 10% below	Nil
02.	>10% upto and including 20% below project cost. Example: If the bid is 12% below project cost, that's 2% below the 10% limit -- Additional Security = [0.1% x (12-10)] = 0.2% of bid price.	Incremented by 0.1% for everypcentage of bid price below 10% of project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional guarantee percentage shallbe applied on the bid price.
03.	>20 % or more below project cost. Example: If the bid is 25% less than project cost, that's 5% below the 20% limit -- Additional Security = [1%+(0.2% x (25-20))] = 2% of bid price.	Example: If the bid is 25% less than projectcost, that's 5% below the 20% limit --Additional Security = [1%+(0.2% x (25-20))] = 2% of bid price.Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% ofthe project cost put to bid in additonto 1% of the bid price and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

DIPK-6120/26
DT: 26-09-2026

(Er. H. M. Jahangir)
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Lolab.

Government Of Jammu AND KASHMIR Jal shakti department Office of the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag Phone Fax: 01932464212, 225119 D.C Office Complex Anantnag192101 RENTENDERCorrigendum

Subject: This office e-NIT No. 18of 2026-27Dated: -09-09-2026

Reference: -01. Issued under this office No. FCD/Ang/2026/3735-57.09-09-2026

Due to "single response in the subjected e NIT for S.No01,02 & 03, the worksare hereby retendered as under.

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	26	09	2026	16:00.PM
2	Download start date	26	09	2026	16:00.PM
3	Bid submission start date	26	09	2026	16:00.PM
4	Bid submission end date	01	10	2026	06:00 PM
5	Bid opening date	03	10	2026	10:00 AM

The bidders whose bids were accepted and were found qualified in the subjected e NIT there Treasury Receipt Affidavit& CDR will be accepted in this retender Corrigendum. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

DIPK-6122/26
Send Date: Sep 26 2026

SD /=
Executive Engineer,
Flood Control Division Anantnag



GOVERNMENTOF(U.T.)JAMMU&KASHMIR
OfficeOfTheExecutiveEngineerJalShakti(PHE)Deptt.
GroundWaterDivisionSrinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan,NowsharaSrinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.inTel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice12th.

Subject: 1. Repair to the Departmental Vehicles and Compressors including POL by way of (M. Oil Change to Elgi-Compressor 575-20Q of PHE Ground Division Srinagar).

Reference: This office Fresh e-NIT No.12-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./1011-20, dated: 05-05-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_309664_1.

Due to "NOResponse" for the above mentioned works advertised videe-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till26-08-2026 Up-to 11:00 AMare extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	10-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	12-10-202611.00 AM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstf: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/12984-94.
Send Dated: 26-09-2026.

DIPK-6156/26

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water DivisionSrinagar.





RDD Kathua organises capacity building workshop on VB-G RAM G

DC stresses transparency, accountability and stronger Panchayat-level planning

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 26: The Rural Development Department, Kathua on Saturday organised a District-Level One-Day Capacity Building and Awareness Workshop on VB-G RAM G here at Government Degree College. Around 300 officers and field functionaries participated. Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma was the Chief Guest, while ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma attended as Guest of Honour. ACD Dr Gulshan Kumar welcomed the guests and participants.

The BDOs, Panchayat Accounts Assistants, Gram Rozgar Sahayaks, Junior Engineers, technical officers



and other field functionaries deliberated on planning, implementation and operational aspects of VB-G RAM G.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that the success of rural development programmes is reflected in their

effective delivery at the Panchayat level. He called for transparency, accountability and integrity in planning and execution and judicious utilisation of public resources.

ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma stressed the need for coordinated efforts, effective monitoring and

timely execution of works to achieve the objectives of the programme.

ACD Dr Gulshan Kumar emphasised proper identification and planning of works, technical scrutiny, quality execution, accurate measurement and documentation, timely payments and effective monitoring. He also stressed close coordination among district, block and Panchayat-level functionaries.

The technical sessions were conducted by BDO Nagrota Gujroo Madan Mohan and Master Trainer, who briefed the participants on the VB-G RAM G Act, its vision and key provisions, with focus on practical implementation. The sessions covered Gram Panchayat-level planning, permissible works, convergence and

digital processes through Yuktadhara, SECURE and e-MB 2.0. Participants were also briefed on MIS, NMMS, e-KYC, FTO and wage-payment workflows.

An interactive doubt-clearing session was held with participation of UT-level technical experts, during which field functionaries raised implementation-related issues and sought clarifications.

BDO (HQ) Shailu Kumari Loona coordinated the programme and facilitated the technical sessions.

The workshop concluded with directions to field functionaries to ensure transparent, accountable and quality implementation of VB-G RAM G in letter and spirit, with focus on effective grassroots delivery.

Field staff oriented for Smooth Rollout of VB-G RAM G in Rajouri District

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 26: To ensure smooth and effective implementation of the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G), the Rural Development Department today organised a day-long training session for field functionaries here in the Conference Hall of PWD Dak Bungalow.

The training was conducted on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, to sensitise field functionaries about the provisions, planning process and implementation modalities of the new programme.

Earlier, Master Trainers from Rajouri had attended a State-level training programme at Jammu. These trained Master Trainers subsequently imparted the necessary orientation to field functionaries at the district level.

The participants were briefed on key aspects of VB-G RAM G and the preparatory requirements for the upcoming planning exercise scheduled for October 2. The training aimed to ensure that the planning process is undertaken in a coordinated, systematic and hassle-free manner at the grassroots level.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) interacted with the participating field functionaries. He stressed upon the importance of proper understanding of the guidelines and coordinated efforts for effective implementation of the programme.

All the Block Development Officers, Block Master Trainers and technical staff participated in the day long workshop.

The session concluded with emphasis on timely preparedness, effective coordination and proper execution of the planning process for successful rollout of VB-G RAM G in the district.

JMC organizes Anti-Rabies Vaccination Drive at Roop Nagar

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 26: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today organized an Anti-Rabies Vaccination Drive at the Municipal Animal Care Centre, Roop Nagar, as part of its ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of rabies and promote responsible animal care in Jammu city. The programme was conducted in the presence of Animal Welfare Officer Dr. Gaurav Chaudhary and Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Dr. Divya Sharma. During the drive, more than 50 dogs were successfully vaccinated against rabies. The vaccination campaign will continue for the next two days. JMC has appealed to the city residents to cooperate with the staff in anti-rabies vaccination of stray dogs. The Corporation, in collaboration with the Health Department, is committed to strengthening measures for rabies prevention and working towards a rabies-free Jammu. JMC emphasized that active public participation is essential for effective control of rabies and urged citizens to come forward and support the initiative.

Through coordinated efforts of the civic body, Health Department and the public, JMC aims to ensure a safer, healthier and more compassionate environment for both citizens and animals.

Fertilizer Wholesalers Meet 2026 held at Jammu Director Agriculture inaugurates the event

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 26: The Fertilizer Wholesalers Meet 2026 was organised at Jammu today, witnessing the participation of fertilizer wholesalers, dealers, retailers, representatives of leading fertilizer companies and officers of the Agriculture Department.

The meeting provided a common platform to the Agriculture Department, fertilizer companies and trade representatives to deliberate on the measures for strengthening the fertilizer supply chain and ensuring timely availability of quality inputs to the farming community. The participants discussed the issues concerning availability of quality fertilizers, distribution, stocking, regulatory compliance and coordination among stakeholders.

Director Agriculture Jammu (Controller Fertilizer J&K) Anil Gupta inaugurated



the event as the Chief Guest in presence of Director Law Enforcement J&K Balbir Singh; Joint Director Agriculture Jammu (Extension) Idrees Bashir Ahmed; Assistant Director Law Enforcement Jammu, Kuldeep Singh; SSM, IFFCO J&K Dr. D. K. Singh; SMS (DL) Santosh Bhat other officers, besides heads and representatives of leading fertilizer companies participated in the meeting.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the guests, followed by a welcome address by Vivek Verma of IFFCO. Addressing the gathering, the Director Agriculture Jammu

underscored the critical importance of maintaining an efficient, transparent and farmer-centric fertilizers supply chain across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that ensuring timely availability of quality fertilizers to farmers remains a priority of the Agriculture Department.

The Director instructed the concerned officers and representatives of fertilizer companies to ensure adequate stocking and timely supply of fertilizers across all districts as per demand. He further stressed the importance of maintaining complete transparency in distribution channels.

Work on EMRS Hubbi Kotranka in full swing DC pushes for early completion of key facilities

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today inspected the progress of work on Eklavya Model Residential School coming up at Hubbi Kotranka.

The functionaries from Public Works Department-executing agency, gave a detailed account of progress on the Academic Block, Boys Hostel-cum-Kitchen & Dining Hall, Girls Hostel, Residential Quarters and Principal's Residence.

After reviewing the status of the works, the Deputy Commissioner directed the SEPWD (R&B) to expedite the pace of work and handover the Academic Block, Boys Hostel and Girls Hostel to the school management before March 2027. "The Girls Hostel must have a separate internal boundary wall to ensure the safety, security of students," he directed.

The issue of water supply and external power



supply to the campus was also discussed. The concerned Executive Engineers were directed to take measures to provide connections for the supply before March 2027 to facilitate smooth functioning of the campus.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed for adequate lighting along the boundary wall/peripheral areas of the campus. He expressed satisfaction over the improved pace of construction as observed at the site and directed that the

present momentum be maintained.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Koteranka Dil Mir; SE PWD (R&B) Manzoor Ahmed; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; Tehsildar Koteranka Sahil Shah; EXEN PWD (R&B) Koteranka, Mohammad Qasim and other concerned officers. The DC was accompanied by ADC Koteranka Dil Mir; SE PWD (R&B) Manzoor Ahmed; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; Tehsildar Koteranka Sahil Shah; EXEN PWD (R&B) Koteranka, Mohammad Qasim and other concerned officers.

Virtual mock assessment of AAM SC Bhaboore conducted

■ HT News Network

DODA, SEPTEMBER 26: The District Quality Assurance Unit (DQAU) on Saturday conducted a virtual mock assessment of Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) Sub Centre Bhaboore, Medical Block Ghat. The health facility is set to face the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) assessment shortly.

The mock assessment was conducted under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma to review the preparedness of the facility and identify areas requiring further strengthening ahead of the national-level assessment.

The virtual assessment session was conducted by Umar Anayat and Faizan A. Trambooo, who acted as assessors and carried out a comprehensive review of the NQAS-related parameters including documentation, service delivery practices, quality protocols and overall facility preparedness.

Mission YUVA: 853 cases approved at Udhampur to support aspiring entrepreneurs

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee to review and scrutinize cases received under Mission YUVA.

The meeting deliberated on applications received under various categories of Mission YUVA, including Nano Enterprises, MSMEs and other eligible sectors, with a focus on identifying deserving beneficiaries and facilitating timely financial assistance.

The meeting was attended by GMDICK Shire Singh Katoch; Assistant Director Employment



Priyanka Gupta; representatives from the banking sector and other concerned officers.

After detailed scrutiny and deliberations, the Committee approved 853 cases for financial assistance, paving the way for aspiring entrepreneurs to establish new enterprises and expand their existing business ventures.

The DC directed the concerned departments to expedite the registration and processing of applications, encourage more youth to avail themselves of the benefits of Mission YUVA and ensure minimum rejection of applications through proper guidance, facilitation and handholding support.

The DC called for stronger coordination among line departments, financial institutions and other stakeholder agencies to accelerate the pace of the initiative and promote sustainable entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities for the youth of the district.

DC reviews progress under PMAY-U 2.0 in Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of officers of the Urban Local Bodies and other concerned departments to review the implementation status of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 in the district. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan and other concerned officers. The Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed town-wise review of the implementation of PMAY-U



2.0 across one Municipal Council and two Municipal Committees in the district. The review covered the ULB-wise status of applications under PMAY-U 2.0, physical progress of sanctioned Beneficiary-Led Construction of houses and the status of other sanctioned projects.

The DC directed the concerned officers to complete

all pending works at the earliest and expedite the overall pace of implementation. He also instructed the initiation of recovery proceedings against beneficiaries who have availed financial assistance but failed to commence construction as per the applicable provisions. ACR was directed to closely follow up on the matter.

JKTPO organizes Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding Drive in Budgam

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 26: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) organized an Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce On-boarding Drive at Budgam as part of its scheduled activities for the year 2026-27.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the District Administration Budgam, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, District Industries Centre, Budgam, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Flipkart Samarth and SBDU Mission Yuva. The event was attended by officers from various concerned departments.

The workshop aimed at empowering local artisans, weavers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), startups and MSMEs of Budgam to leverage e-commerce platforms for wider market access. The workshop witnessed an overwhelming response with participation of over 130 sellers from the district, dealing in Kani shawls, Crewel Embroidery, Mushk Budji Rice, walnuts and other ODO products of Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, representative of JKTPO briefly explained about the role of JKTPO and its objectives for promotion of trade and exports from district level and the aim of this workshop is to

take district products to national and global markets. This workshop at Budgam is part of our mission to make every district export-ready.

Adil Javid Khan from Flipkart subsequently delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Flipkart Samarth platform, providing participants with detailed insights into the platform and the opportunities available for artisans and MSMEs.

The session familiarized participants with the various aspects of establishing their presence on Flipkart Samarth and leveraging the platform for reaching wider markets.

Sajid Bashir representative from ONDC-Mission Yuva highlighted the role of Open Networking platform,



registration process and documents required therein. The session also provided an opportunity to participating enterprises to understand the practical benefits of joining the ONDC Network and

explore avenues for taking their products to a wider customer base through digital channels.

Ullas Kumar, Branch Manager, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) explained the role of Credit Guarantee Bank, Credit Risk Insurance and related services for exports and gave a detailed insight on how exporters can safeguard their shipments and money for exports.

During the technical sessions, Maqbool Shah, Senior Consultant, GeM, provided a detailed overview of the Government e-Marketplace portal, explaining the registration process, documentation requirements, and the various benefits available to sellers upon onboarding. He also

encouraged entrepreneurs to leverage the platform for expanding their market reach and accessing government procurement opportunities.

On-spot help desks were established by all three platforms for instant onboarding and document verification. More than 50 sellers were onboarded on-spot on Flipkart, ONDC and GeM during the workshop itself, while 90+ enquiries were registered for further handholding.

The interactive virtual session provided participating enterprises an opportunity to understand the benefits of e-commerce, seek clarifications and gain practical insights into the process of leveraging

Flipkart Samarth for their business expansion.

The initiative forms part of JKTPO's continued efforts towards promoting digital adoption, strengthening market access and enabling MSMEs, artisans and other enterprises of Jammu & Kashmir to access wider markets through leading e-commerce platforms.

The programme concluded with an emphasis on encouraging more enterprises from the Union Territory to adopt digital commerce and leverage platforms such as Flipkart Samarth to strengthen their online presence, expand their customer base and explore new avenues for sustainable business growth.



The Necessity Of Science Education



Surinderpal Singh



We are living in an fast paced age that is shaped by science and technology. The sphere ranging from mobile phone in our hands to the satellites orbiting the Earth, from modern medicines to artificial intelligence, science has become an inseparable part of everyday life. Yet, in a rapidly changing world, studying science is not merely about learning facts, formulas and definitions. It is about understanding the world, questioning what we see and developing the ability to find logical solutions to problems.

Science education develops a scientific temper. It teaches students to ask Why?, How? and What is the evidence? Instead of accepting every claim blindly, a scientifically educated person learns to observe, investigate, experiment and reach conclusions based on evidence. This habit of thinking is extremely valuable in an era when misinformation and misleading information can spread rapidly through social media.

The importance of science becomes even clearer when we look at the challenges facing humanity. Climate change, environmental pollution, water scarcity, emerging diseases, food security and energy requirements are not problems that can be solved through assumptions or guesswork. They require scientific knowledge, research and technological innovation. The scientists of today and tomorrow will play an important role in developing cleaner energy, better medicines, sustainable agriculture and technologies that can improve human life.

Science education is also closely connected

with economic and technological development. Artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, space research, renewable energy and advanced computing are creating new opportunities as well as new challenges. Countries that invest in scientific research and develop scientifically skilled young people are better positioned to participate in this changing world. Therefore, science education is not only an academic requirement; it is an investment in the future of society.

For students, science also develops valuable life skills. Conducting an experiment teaches patience and accuracy. Analysing results develops reasoning. A failed experiment teaches that failure can be a part of discovery. Working on scientific projects encourages creativity, teamwork and problem-solving.



These abilities are useful not only for scientists but also for teachers, doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, administrators and citizens in every field.

However, science should not be reduced to examination marks. When students learn science only to memorise answers, they may remember information temporarily but miss the deeper purpose of scientific education. Classrooms and laboratories should encourage curiosity, experimentation, discussion and practical learning. Students should be given opportunities to connect scientific principles with real-life situations.

At the same time, science must be accompanied by responsibility. Scientific knowledge gives humanity enormous power,

but how that power is used depends on human values and decisions. Technologies such as artificial intelligence, genetic engineering and nuclear energy can bring enormous benefits, but they also raise important ethical and social questions. Scientific education should therefore encourage not only knowledge and innovation but also responsibility towards people, society and nature.

In modern times, being scientifically literate is becoming as important as being able to read and write. Every citizen makes decisions related to health, environment, technology, energy and everyday life. A basic understanding of science helps people make informed choices and distinguish evidence-based information from myths and misinformation. The future will belong to societies that combine knowledge

with curiosity, innovation with responsibility and technology with humanity. Science education can help create such a generation.

Therefore, science should not be viewed simply as another subject in the school timetable. It is a way of understanding the universe, improving human life and preparing young minds for an uncertain but exciting future. In an age driven by scientific discovery and technological change, studying science is not just important—it is essential for building a knowledgeable, capable and responsible society.

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Hope says West Indies closing gap, but consistency remains key to top-three ambition

United News Of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 26 :West Indies have narrowed the gap with the higher-ranked teams in recent years, but captain Shai Hope says greater consistency will be crucial if the Caribbean side is to break into the world's top three.

Hope said the West Indies had made tangible progress but were yet to sustain their best performances over successive matches, an area he believes must be addressed if the team is to compete regularly against the leading sides.

"We've shown a lot more consistency over the last few years. I think we bridged the gap by 19, 20 points or so from the eighth- or ninth-ranked team," Hope said replying to a UNI query on the eve of the first ODI against India here.

"But we are showing signs. If you want to be the best - number one, number two, number three - you've got to be doing it more consistently."

Hope's assessment comes as the West Indies begin their three-match ODI series against India at the Greenfield International Stadium on Sunday, with the visitors looking to build on the progress they have made in recent years.



The West Indies have produced several outstanding performances with both bat and ball, but Hope admitted that those displays have not always been followed by similar efforts in the next match. "We find ourselves in some very bright sparks and get some extraordinary performances, whether from a bowling standpoint or from a batting perspective, but we never stay as consistent as we want," he said.

"You have, let's say, an exceptional game in the first game of the series, then the next one you don't tend to follow it up."

Hope said the inconsistency was

difficult to attribute to a particular reason, especially since the players continued to put in the required effort.

"It is very hard to put a finger on it because you can't fault the guys for the effort that they're putting out there. We're always trying to do our best," he said.

The captain believes the next step is to turn those individual flashes into sustained team performances and victories.

"We just need to find a way to be more consistent so we can get a lot more victories, and that's how you're going to find yourself climbing up the

ladder and really competing against the best teams in the world," he said.

The India series also gives the West Indies an opportunity to assess emerging players and combinations as they prepare for the World Cup Qualifier and their longer-term bid to qualify for the 2027 World Cup.

The visitors have been exploring their options in the bowling department, including their spin resources, while also giving opportunities to players who could form part of the next phase of the ODI side.

Against India, those players will get a demanding examination against one of the leading teams in world cricket.

For Hope, however, the broader objective remains clear - the West Indies must move from producing occasional "bright sparks" to delivering consistently strong performances.

The first ODI will be played at the Greenfield International Stadium here on Sunday.

Timur Turlov elected President of FIDE

United News Of India

CHENNAI, SEP 26 :Timur Turlov, President of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation, was elected President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) on Saturday and was congratulated by Interim President India's Viswanathan Anand.

The elections were held today at the FIDE General Assembly, alongside the 46th Chess Olympiad, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Turlov won in the second round, with 110 votes.

Delegates representing 196 national chess federations took part in the election, with three candidates competing in the race. In the first round, Turlov received 96 votes, Vadim Rosenstein (

Germany) received 76 votes, and Jan Henric Buettner (Germany) received 20 votes. In total, 192 votes were cast.

In the second round, which followed two

hours later, Turlov won by a vote of 110 to 85 (196 votes in total), becoming the eighth President of FIDE. He succeeded Arkady Dvorkovich, who served two terms as President, from 2018



to 2026, before relinquishing his post following EU sanctions and Viswanathan Anand assumed the role of Interim President.

"We are all one family, and we will continue working as one. This is a great responsibility and a vote for a better future of our sport," Timur Turlov said after the victory.

Asian Games cricket: India to face Afghanistan in quarter-final as rain threatens knockouts



United News Of India

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 :Defending champions India will face Afghanistan in the quarter-finals of the men's cricket competition at the Asian Games on September 28, with rain threatening to disrupt the knockout stage in Aichi-Nagoya.

India, along with Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, had received direct entry into the quarter-finals as the four top-seeded teams. Afghanistan and Nepal progressed from Group A, while Malaysia and Hong Kong advanced from Group B.

Pakistan will face Hong Kong in the other quarter-final on September 28, while Sri Lanka will take on Nepal and Bangladesh will meet Malaysia on September 29.

The group stage was hit by rain on Saturday, with the Japan-Nepal match abandoned without a ball being bowled. The Malaysia-Oman contest was also

washed out, resulting in Oman's elimination.

The weather could again play a major role in the quarter-finals. Monday's forecast has a 91 per cent chance of rain during the daytime, when the first two matches are scheduled, along with a 22 per cent chance of thunderstorms. Tuesday's forecast is similarly wet, with an 89 per cent chance of rain and an 18 per cent possibility of thundershowers.

If a quarter-final is washed out without a result, the higher-seeded team will advance based on the ICC's official T20I rankings. The weather outlook is more favourable for the semifinals on Thursday and the medal playoffs on Saturday, with fewer chances of rain currently forecast. India won the gold medal at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, beating Afghanistan in the final. Bangladesh claimed bronze after defeating Pakistan in the third-place playoff.

SCR employees part of Indian women's kabaddi team that wins Asian Games gold

United News Of India

HYDERABAD, SEP 26 :The Indian women's kabaddi team won the gold medal at the 20th Asian Games 2026 held at Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with two players and the coach associated with South Central Railway (SCR) part of the victorious squad.

SCR players Ritu Negi and Pinky Roy were members of the 12-player Indian team, while Neetha Didwe served as the team's coach, the South Central Railway release said here on Saturday.

Ritu Negi is working as an Office Superintendent at the Electric Loco Shed in Lallaguda, while Pinky Roy is a Senior Technician at the Signal and Telecommunication Workshop in Mettuguda. Neetha Didwe is working as a Chief Office Superintendent in the office of the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer. SCR General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava congratulated the three on their achievement and appreciated their contribution to the Indian women's kabaddi team, which brought laurels to Indian Railways and South Central Railway.

Saishiva Sankaran, Bhuvan Bonu remain unbeaten, Viswas Vijayaraj records 4th win in a row

United News Of India

CHENNAI, SEP 26 :Teenagers Saishiva Sankaran from Pune and Visakhapatnam's Bhuvan Bonu displayed impressive pace to win the MRF Formula 2000 and Formula 1600 races respectively, while Sri Lankan school boy too continued his winning streak in the

Junior section, in the second round of the MRF 4W Indian National Racing Challenge which commenced at the Madras International Circuit, at Irungattukottai, about 40 km from here, on Saturday. For 18-year-old Saishiva, it was his fourth consecutive win of the season

while Bhuvan, just 16, notched his third straight victory, including the double in the first round last month. Earlier, Nellore Viswas Vijayaraj continued his unbeaten run this season by leading a podium sweep for DTS Racing in the Formula LGB 1300 Open class that boasted a grid of 24 cars. In the Junior section, Sri Lankan schoolboy Kaveen Diyyan Rajapaksa (Momentum Motorsports) also extended his winning streak

with a controlled drive.

The eight-lap race was red-flagged after two laps following an on-track incident and was subsequently restarted, but the distance



was reduced to two laps.

Starting from pole position, Saishiva, who last won the F1600 title, enjoyed a good start and was well clear of the field. Behind him, Bengaluru's Ishaan Madesh, the defending champion, who had qualified for P4, jumped two spots by Turn 2. With every lap, Saishiva extended his lead before easing off to conserve the tyres but won handily.

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