



Panchayat, ULB polls nowhere in sight

- Govt awaiting commission recommendations decision
- Delay hampers grassroots dev funding
- Appointment of SEC pending

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sept 13: The National Conference (NC)-led government is unlikely to conduct local body elections in the near future, as it has yet to take a call on the recommendations of a commission appointed by the LG-led administration regarding reservation for Other Backward Classes and the appointment of the State Election Commissioner.

Based on current indications, the government appears averse to conducting Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections in the remaining months of 2025. "There are no chances of holding Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies polls this year. As of



now, we have not received any such indication from the government," a legislator from the ruling National Conference told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Holding of Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) polls falls under the domain of the elected government.

The last local body elections were held during Governor's rule in 2018, and the term of those bodies has since expired.

The first indication that the government has no plan to hold local body elections comes from its 'inaction' over

the recommendations submitted by a three-member panel headed by former High Court Judge Justice Janak Raj Kotwal.

"The cabinet is yet to take a call on the report. It has to decide whether to adopt or reject it," sources within the government disclosed.

Secondly, the government has not taken any visible steps toward appointing the State Election Commissioner, the authority responsible for conducting the polls, after former IAS officer B.R. Sharma completed his term.

The SEC is | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar to Centre: Empower J&K's elected govt, honour statehood promise

Says Congress part of UT Govt; seeks release of MLA Doda

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sept 13: Asserting that the elected government in Jammu and Kashmir should be empowered in accordance with the aspirations of the people, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said that the dispensation led by him has not compromised on any issue. He urged the Centre to honour the promise of restoring J&K's statehood made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Parliament.

Addressing a news conference in Chennai, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, his regime has not compromised on anything. "Since the day my government has been elected, we have stood steadfast in our belief that statehood must be restored. We were the ones who passed a resolution in the assembly asking for the special status of Jammu and Kashmir to be restored. We are the last people



who will compromise on a mandate that has been given to us by the people," he said.

He further stated that "the law & order and policing, these are not part of the elected government's responsibilities and I think it is unfortunate. Jammu and Kashmir has been promised full statehood by the Prime Minister, by the Home Minister, by representatives of the Government of India when this matter was argued before the Supreme Court. So there is no reason why this promise shouldn't be kept. Again, this is

something that should have already happened. I fail to understand why it hasn't been done, but we continue to push and believe that this promise must be kept and the elected government must be empowered the way the people want it to be."

POST OPERATION SINDOOR, ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS BEING TAKEN

He said that all the necessary precautions are being taken post 'Operation Sindoor'. Replying to a query on

measures taken post Operation Sindoor for the safety of people, Chief Minister Omar said, "We did a comprehensive security audit of all our tourist destinations. Some of them are even at this moment not open for tourism activity but most of the places have reopened and we are taking all the precautions that are necessary."

SEEKS RELEASE OF MEHRAJ MALIK

About the detention of a legislator from Doda, Mehraj Malik under Public Safety Act (PSA), the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said, "Whatever the complaints might have been there about the conduct of the MLA, the law that has used to detain him is excessive use of force against an elected representative."

"He should never have been arrested under this law. The sooner he is released, by all means, if you have a complaint about | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi hails soldiers' key role in 'Op Sindoor'

Says anti-terror operation exhibited Indian armed forces' strength



KNO Monitoring Desk

Imphal, Sept 13: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on Saturday said that 'Operation Sindoor' demonstrated the capability and strength of the Indian armed forces and praised soldiers from Manipur playing a key role in executing the task successfully.

Addressing a gathering at Imphal, the Prime Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) paid rich tributes to martyr Deepak Chingkhram and other personnel from the Manipur who participated in the operation.

The Prime Minister inaugurated multiple development projects worth over Rs 1,200 crore in Manipur. These included the Civil Secretariat at Mantripukhri, the IT Special Economic Zone building, the new Manipur Police Headquarters, Manipur Bhawans in Delhi and Kolkata, and four

Ima Markets in different districts.

PM Modi said these projects would enhance infrastructure, create employment opportunities for youth, and support citizens in accessing services. He noted that the IT SEZ and other technology-based initiatives will promote start-ups and industries in the state.

On the road network, the Prime Minister highlighted the Manipur Urban Roads Project, with an investment of over Rs 3,600 crore, and said efforts are ongoing to extend connectivity to every village. He added that Imphal has been developed under the Smart City Mission and other projects are progressing.

PM Modi said the government is taking measures to mitigate flood-related challenges in the state and is working on housing for displaced families. He announced 7,000 | [More on P6](#)

Linguistic diversity drives India's growth: LG Sinha

Addresses 'Bhartiya Bhasha Samagam' in Varanasi

KT NEWS DESK

Varanasi (UP), Sept 13: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said a linguistically harmonious society lays the foundation for rapid socio-economic growth, strengthens the social bonds and promotes social equality.

"Linguistic diversity preserves cultural heritage and enables people to contribute to nation-building," the Lieutenant Governor said while addressing the 'Bhartiya Bhasha Samagam', organised by Hindusthan Samachar Group, at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi.

In his keynote address, the LG spoke on the linguistic



harmony and mutual respect and understanding of diverse languages and dialects to foster national unity and inclusive growth.

He observed that under

the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is not only rising as a major economic power but is also reclaiming its past glory. "Hon'ble | [More on P6](#)

'Understanding new criminal laws key to ensure justice'

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 13: The New Criminal Laws Exhibition, organized by the Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) at JK Police Public School, Bemina, concluded on Saturday on a high note, bringing to a close a successful three-day initiative aimed at raising public awareness on India's recently enacted criminal laws.

The exhibition, inaugurated on September 11, 2025 by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT, attracted an overwhelming response



from students, legal professionals, civil society members, and concerned citizens, reads a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The key focus of the exhibition was to educate the public about the three new legislations that constitute the backbone of India's reformed criminal justice | [More on P6](#)

Bemina Bypass road chokes traffic, 4-lanning plan 'still in limbo'

Despite flyover, key Sgr link to NH-44 remains clogged

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 13: The Bemina-Bypass road, one of Srinagar's most vital traffic links connecting the Children's Hospital, SKIMS Bemina and several government offices to the NH-44 corridor—continues to remain clogged with traffic throughout the day, causing daily chaos for commuters and patients.

Locals from the area said the stretch from Bemina Crossing (Tattoo Ground) to Bemina

Bypass, where it merges with NH-44, carries a major share of traffic towards north and south Kashmir but is too narrow to handle the growing volume of vehicles.

"Traffic snarls have become routine here. Ambulances get stuck for long and very few men from the traffic department manage the mess," said Irfan Ahmad, a daily commuter, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

shelters. "Portions of the ground sank overnight, and the walls of our homes started splitting apart," said Mohammad Yousuf, a farmer in Kalaban who was shifted with his family to a government school. "We left everything behind, not knowing if we could ever return."

District officials said relocation was carried out as a precautionary measure, with relief supplies and medical teams deployed to the shelters. "Our priority is safety. We are providing food, bedding, and essential support to all affected families," an officer from the Mendhar administration said.

Meanwhile, in Ramban district, grief | [More on P6](#)

Meet Dr Rubia Bukhari who revives silk farming with eco-friendly art

Bridges tradition with modern biotechnology; aims to expand India's silk industry base

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sept 13: Dr Rubia Bukhari (32), a distinguished Sericulturist from the border town of Poonch and Founder of the Dr Rubia Bukhari Cocoon Artistry Initiative in Sericulture has emerged as a trailblazer in blending tradition with innovation.

Residing in Surhotti, Ari, Bukhari has dedicated herself to a noble mission preserving local culture, preventing rural migration and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through her pioneering Cocoon Art and Craft Initiative.

Her brainchild transforms discarded cocoon shells into exquisite art pieces, offering farmers a sustainable source of income and providing women with a platform for empowerment.

Rooted in self-belief and perseverance, her initiative reflects a deep commitment to the Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India), while also promoting Nari Shakti (Women's Empowerment), Vocal for Local and Make in India movements.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Rubia's academic excellence culminated in a Ph.D.



in 2019 from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural

Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu). Her

doctoral research, titled "Genetic Diversity Analysis of Indigenous Silkworm Breeds (*Bombyx mori* L.) using Morphological and Molecular Markers", under the guidance of Prof. Dr R. K. Bali, showcased her expertise in silk-worm biotechnology, gene manipulation, gene expression and breeding.

With a research portfolio of over 55 publications in reputed journals and seven authored books, she has received numerous accolades, including the Young Scientist Award, Best Thesis Award, Women Researcher Award, Young Emerging Lecturer

Best Faculty Award (2023) and Entrepreneur of the Year Award (2025).

She formerly served as a Lecturer, In-charge of the PG Department of Sericulture and Campus Officer at Poonch Campus, University of Jammu where she played a pivotal role in academic development, promotional activities and community outreach. She also coordinated awareness initiatives on sericulture in the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Witnessing farmers abandon sericulture due to declining market prices and cocoon rejection, Dr Rubia devised a creative

and sustainable solution. As the Founder of the Cocoon Artistry Initiative in Sericulture she not only revived this age-old tradition but also addressed environmental concerns by promoting eco-friendly alternatives to plastic decorations such as cocoon-based bouquets and handicrafts.

Through various training camps, village programs, school workshops and campus seminars, she empowers women and inspires youth to view sericulture as a viable and creative livelihood option. Her vision is to expand this initiative from Poonch to Kanyakumari, weaving economic | [More on P6](#)

2,39,533 cases settled across J&K

Justice Kumar inaugurates 3rd National Lok Adalat

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 13: Continuing its endeavour to fulfil the constitutional commitment of providing swift, cost-effective, and efficient dispute resolution to the masses in general and the litigant public in particular, the J&K Legal Services Authority—under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority), the dynamic leadership of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, to promote amicable settlements in a wide range of cases, including MACT claims, matrimonial disputes, cheque bounce cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, money recovery, commercial disputes, and compoundable criminal offences.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority inaugurated the 3rd National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex Kupwara. Upon his arrival, the Executive Chairman was received by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Additional District & Sessions Judge NIA Court Kupwara, Iqbal Ahmad Masoodi along with the other Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary and other



civil administration. To mark the occasion, a ceremonial guard of honour was accorded to Justice Sanjeev Kumar.

During his visit, Justice Sanjeev Kumar inspected different benches and interacted with the Presiding officers, members of the benches, Advocates and litigants and appreciated the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the Lok Adalat. Several cases were resolved on the spot. As a gesture of timely

justice delivery, several MACT compensation cheques were also distributed among eligible claimants on the occasion, providing immediate relief to the beneficiaries.

At the ADR Centre of the Court Complex, Justice Sanjeev Kumar convened an interaction with LADCs and Penal Lawyers. He sought feedback regarding the progress of cases handled by them and urged them to work with greater dedication and enthusiasm to

ensure timely hearings and speedy settlement of cases, thereby minimizing pendency.

Later in the day, Justice Sanjeev Kumar visited District Jail Kupwara, where he inspected all barracks and interacted with inmates to assess the status of their cases. He also reviewed the facilities being provided in the jail, including food and healthcare arrangements, and obtained feedback directly from the inmates.

As per the information received from various Legal Services Institutions working in different districts across the UT of J&K, out of total 3,06,851 cases taken up by 167 Benches in the day long National Lok Adalat, 2,39,533 cases were amicably settled and disposed off involving an amount of Rs.50,50,78,932/- as compensation/settlement amount in cases like Motor Accident Claims, civil, criminal, labour disputes, Electricity and Water Bills, Land Acquisition, Family matters, cheque dishonor and Bank Recovery etc.

Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority informed that the 4th National Lok Adalat of the current calendar year shall be held on December 13, 2025 and those litigants who could not get their cases either listed in today's Lok Adalat or could not settle the same for any reason can avail the opportunity in the next Lok Adalat.

Adopt scientific methods for collection, disposal of waste: Div Com Stresses on collaborative efforts for Aerospace Safety

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 13: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, who is also the chairman of the Airfield Environment Management Committee, emphasized the need for collaborative efforts among stakeholders to ensure aerospace safety around the airfield.

Div Com made these remarks while chairing a high-level committee meeting today, here.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Budgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama, along with the Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Air Officer Commanding of Air Force Station Srinagar, Director Urban Local Bodies, ADC Srinagar, and officials from the Airport Authority, Pollution Control Board, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, and Rural Development Department.

During the meeting, Div Com issued a slew of directions aimed at enhancing airfield safety, particularly with regard to visibility, bird hazards, dog menace, and the regulation of carcass disposal in the proximity of the airport.

To improve air quality and visibility for aircraft, he directed the immediate closure of unlicensed brick kilns within an 8-kilometer radius of the airfield. Also, he called for the



implementation of the zigzag technique in the operational brick kilns to minimize emission of pollutants.

Addressing the issue of bird hazards, especially the presence of Black Kites attracted by open waste dumps, Div Com instructed Deputy Commissioners, SMC Commissioner, and the Director of Urban Local Bodies to adopt scientific methods for the collection and disposal of solid waste, with special attention to villages identified by airfield authorities.

He also emphasized the need for proper disposal of waste from slaughterhouses and butcher shops. To mitigate the dog menace in and around the airfield,

he directed the SMC to give priority to dog sterilization drives in the area. Besides, he stressed the importance of public sensitization campaigns to ensure proper disposal of dead animal carcasses by local residents.

Garg urged officials to utilize resources under centrally sponsored schemes through coordinated efforts across departments to effectively address the identified challenges.

Earlier in the meeting, the Committee Secretary presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining key safety concerns affecting the airfield environment.

Justice Koul inaugurates 3rd Nat'l Lok Adalat at Baramulla

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 13: Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, who is also administrative Judge of Baramulla, Saturday visited Baramulla and inaugurated 3rd National Lok Adalat of year 2025 at District Court Complex

here. The National Lok Adalat was organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Baramulla.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Chairman DLSA and Principal District and Sessions Judge, Jawad Ahmad; President Bar Association, Advocate Nelofer Masood and others were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Koul underscored Lok Adalat's significance in resolving disputes outside conventional court systems.

He urged the Legal Services fraternity to address substantial, long-pending cases within Lok Adalats that have been lingering in courts for long periods and encouraged

exploring settlements involving relevant departments to expedite resolutions and reduce legal procedures.

Meanwhile, Justice Koul personally handed over compensation cheques amounting to Rs.16.81 lakhs to two victims of road accidents, sanctioned under the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT).

CBC organises outreach programme in Leh

KT NEWS DESK

Leh, September 13: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt of India on Saturday organized an Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) in Leh. The day-long programme was organised in the Exhibition Hall of District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) by CBC's Field Office, Leh.

The programme was aimed at educating the youth about the themes of Mission LIFE and Swachhata Hi Seva, urging them to develop a sense of sustainable living by adopting pro-planet lifestyles.

Experts and resource persons from different departments deliberated on a wide range of environmental issues being faced world over particularly in the Himalayan regions. Discussions were conducted emphasizing the impact of campaigns like Mission LIFE and Swachhata Hi Seva and the role of youth in ensuring establishment of clean and sustainable communities.

Namgyal Tashi, Range Officer (Forests) and Miphim Jigmet from Zero Waste Ladakh delivered lectures on Mission LIFE and Swachhata Hi Seva. The speakers highlighted the work being done by the administration of Ladakh and other stakeholders to preserve the fragile environment of the region and promote sustainable businesses and eco-tourism.

A seminar on the New Criminal Laws was also organised to educate the participants about the



landmark changes introduced in the criminal jurisprudence of the country by enactment of the new laws. Stanzin Zangpo, Sub Inspector, Ladakh Police gave a detailed presentation on the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), explaining how the new laws are a reflection of New India, promoting justice over punishment. Detailing out the progressive vision behind the new laws, he said that these laws will bring in transparency and use of technology to leverage speedy justice delivery.

The proceedings of the programme were presided over by Ghulam Abbas, Director, CBC, Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh region. In a keynote address, Abbas said that CBC strives to bring in the behavioural changes among masses at the grassroots level, paving way for smooth implementation of various public welfare schemes and policies of the government.

He said that through an integrated communication strategy, CBC is committed to bridge the communication gap between the government and the beneficiaries of different welfare schemes.

Shahid Mohammad Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC in his address provided a detailed overview of the CBC's mandate and functioning. He said that these outreach programmes are intended to create an informed

citizenry, which is key for accountability and efficient service delivery.

While addressing the gathering, Khursheed Yousuf, Head of News, Akashvani and Doordarshan, Ladakh impressed upon the participants to amplify the message of Mission LIFE and become Swachhata warriors in their localities. He said youth participation is key to achieving a Viksit Bharat.

Other dignitaries who addressed the gathering were Mirza Mehdi, Principal, DIET, Padma Deachen, Zonal Education Officer and Devraj, Coordinator, SAMKALP.

A theme based open quiz competition was also organised for students wherein the winners were awarded prizes and commendation certificates.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: amitabhman.721013@jk.gov.in

Sub: - e-NIT No. 17 (P1) OF 2025-26, Dated: 19-08-2025 for below mentioned work: -

Installation of 10 cusec and 7 cusec pumping units allied mechanical works at intake channel of LIS Lethpora Stage 1st.

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No's.: - 2025_IFC_284481_1

CANCELLATION NOTICE

During the technical evaluation of the above-referred eNIT, it was found that two out of three bidders, had submitted a backdated EMD and tender fee, rendering their bids liable for rejection. This has resulted in the presence of only one valid bidder remaining in the tendering process. In light of this, it has been decided to cancel the current tender. A fresh tender will be floated shortly.

No. MIDS/Ts/2724-27

Dated: - 11-09-2025

DIPK-6219/25

DATED: 13-09-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

GOVT. OF UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PULWAMA GROUND FLOOR MINI SECRETARIAT DC OFFICE COMPLEX WASHBUGH PULWAMA 192301

Website: Pulwama.gov.in Email: dcpul-jk@nic.in Contact no: 01933-241243 Fax: 01933-241306

07 marla falling under Survey No. 155 Min situated at village Drusoo Tehsil & District Pulwama required for connectivity road from New Bus Stand Pulwama to District Police Lines Pulwama/Bypass.

Notice U/S-21

Whereas, the land specification given below is required in village Drusoo Tehsil Pulwama District Pulwama for acquisition of land measuring 07 marla falling under Survey No. 155 Min situated at village Drusoo Tehsil & District Pulwama required for connectivity road from New Bus Stand Pulwama to District Police Lines Pulwama/Bypass.

S.No	Khewat No.	Khata No.	Name of land owner as per Jamabandi extract.	Survey No.	Area			Name of occupant	Area taken up		
					K	M	S		K	M	S
01	13	76	Mst. Mali & Ali Ad/S/o Sultan etc	155 Min	03	13	0	Mohd Abdullah Reshi S/o Ali Reshi	0	07	0

Whereas, the preliminary Notification under Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 was issued vide this office Notification No. 07 of 2025 dated 18-04-2025 for the aforesaid quantum of land for calling objections, if any, within the stipulated time period. However no objection has been received by this Collector in the said period.

Whereas in accordance with S.O-17 dated 14-01-2022, the Declaration / Notification under Section 19 of the aforesaid Act stands issued by District Collector / Appropriate Government vide Notification No. 04 of -Rev/LA of 2025 dated, 11-07-2025.

Now therefore, in terms of Section 21 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, notice is hereby issued / given to all the interested persons / land owners to state the particulars of the land so needed, and to state the nature of their respective interests in the land and particulars of their claims to compensation for such interests, their claims to rehabilitation and resettlement along with their objections, if any, to the measurement made under Section 20, to appear personally or by agent or advocate before the Collector Land Acquisition (Assistant Commissioner Revenue) Pulwama's office during office hours within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

DIPK-6212/25
DATED: 13-09-2025

Shahbaz Ahmad Boda
Collector Land Acquisition
Assistant Commissioner (Rev)
Pulwama.

Negative power variation in J&K, Ladakh: NRPC

RIYAZ BHAT

Srinagar, Sep 13 : Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has witnessed a negative variation of 19 percent in power availability and 7.5 percent in power requirement in the previous month during peak hours.

According to the official documents showing the anticipated power supply position v/s actual power supply position (Provisional) of Northern Region during the month of August-2025 states that in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh it has anticipated power availability of 2050 MU's and requirement of 1740 MU's respectively.



The official figures further reveals that the actual power availability was 1490 MU's whereas the requirement was 1493 MU's. It also states that there was a variation of minus 27.3 percent in power availability and minus 14.2 percent in requirement respectively. It also states that during the peak, NRPC has anticipated that there will be a peak power availability of 3370 Megawatts (MW's) and power requirement of 3007 MWs.

The documents said that there was a peak variation of minus 19 percent in power availability and minus 7.5 percent in power requirement in the previous month.

NRPC said that there was a negative,

significant variation (≥5%) in Actual Power Supply Position(Provisional) vis-à-vis Anticipated figures is observed for the month of August-2025 in terms of Energy Requirement for Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, HP, UTs of J&K and Ladakh, Punjab, Rajasthan, UP, and Uttarakhand and in terms of Peak Demand similar variation is noted for Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, UTs of J&K and Ladakh, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.

The committee asked these states and UTs to submit reason for such variations so that the same can be deliberated in the meeting—(KNO)

Jashn-e-Dal like events strengthen police-public bond: ADGP Jain

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Sep 13: Asserting that events like Jashn-e-Dal create neutral spaces where communities can connect and trust can grow, Additional Director General of Police (Armed) Anand Jain on Saturday highlighted the role of sports in strengthening the police-public bond.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the 26th edition of the festival, ADGP Jain described Jashn-e-Dal as more than a sporting event and termed it as a platform that brings people together, encourages youth, promotes tourism and strengthens the police-public bond.

Pertinently, Jashn-e-Dal's first edition was held in 1999 and since then the festival is celebrated annually.

"This year, over 700 participants are competing across 20 disciplines, including Olympic and Asian Games sports. Dragon boats have also been introduced as a new attraction," the ADGP said.

He also said Srinagar will host the All



India Cluster Judo Championship in the first week of October, with nearly 3,000 athletes from across the country.

He said, such events not only showcase talent but also help build bridges of trust and cooperation between citizens and law enforcement.

He said that festivals like Jashn-e-Dal are a reminder that sports can unite communities and create positive engagement between the public and the police—(KNO)

NH restrictions threaten livelihood of growers



JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 13: Kashmir's fruit growers, already battling falling apple prices and crop damage have been now facing the challenge of transportation of their produce. With the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway witnessing repeated closures and the Mughal Road allowing only sixty-tyre vehicles on alternate days, the orchardists are struggling to move their harvest to markets across India.

To keep their apples from perishing, growers are resorting to a patchwork system of transportation. They load their produce onto nearly small vehicles in south Kashmir, ferry it across the Mughal Road to Rajouri and then reload it onto a single truck bound for Delhi, Mumbai or other mandis.

"This is proving to be a nightmare for us," said Abdul Rashid, an orchardist from Shopian. "Hiring small load carriers, then shifting the same fruit into a truck, means double expenditure and double handling. Not only does it raise costs, but the fruit also loses freshness by the time it reaches outside markets. Buyers immediately cut down the rate."

The financial strain is palpable. Mushtaq Ahmad, a grower from Pulwama, explained, "Apple prices are already low this season due to massive fruit fall. Whatever little margin we had is now wiped out by transport hurdles. We are paying more for logistics than what we are getting in return from mandis."

Many farmers fear that if such

challenges persist, Kashmir's horticulture — the backbone of its rural economy — will see a decline in future investment. "We depend on this crop for our survival," said Ghulam Nabi from Kulgam. "But every year it's the same story — weather, pests, or road closures. If the situation doesn't improve, people will abandon orcharding."

The horticulture sector in Kashmir contributes thousands of crores to the economy and sustains lakhs of families. Yet, transport has remained its most fragile link. With the current restrictions, traders warn of cascading losses.

"If alternate routes are not made viable, the entire chain will collapse," said a fruit trader in Sopore. "We urge the administration to either permit bigger trucks on the Mughal Road every day or ensure smooth traffic on the Jammu highway. Without that, this season will be disastrous for us."

As the harvest season peaks, the silence from officials has only deepened growers' anxiety. For the orchardists, the fear is not just about this year's sales, but about the future of a livelihood that has sustained generations.

Though the government has been making efforts by making train arrangements for the produce besides that vehicles have been allowed on national highway as well in past few days but it isn't normal as of now and growers have been demanding better arrangements from the government—(KNO)

PSA Against MLA Authorities relax restrictions for 6-hours in Doda

SAJID RAINA

Doda, Sep 13: Markets in Doda District and other major towns reopened for six hours on Saturday after authorities announced a relaxation in restrictions for 6 hours. The curbs were imposed earlier this week following the detention of MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh said the district administration is easing restrictions in

phases to ensure that law and order is maintained.

Talking to reporters, Singh said gatherings of more than five to six people remain prohibited. Residents have been asked to step out only for essential needs.

Singh said that officials from district administration visited market areas and held meetings with civil society representatives, transport unions, and market associations to address supply and transport issues.

"Many supply disruptions were linked to closures on the National Highway in Udhampur," he said, adding, "Efforts are on to restore supply lines and ensure vehicles can move under monitoring. Markets in Thatri and Bhadarwah subdivisions are already functioning, and restrictions in other areas will be reviewed before being lifted."

On schools, the DC said inspections are underway following heavy rains to assess damages. Safety

certificates are required for schools to reopen, and the process is expected to be completed by Monday so that the students can resume classes.

Singh also warned against misinformation circulating in the district. "Doda continues to remain calm and residents are cooperating with authorities," he added.

Senior Superintendent of Police Sandeep Mehta confirmed that restrictions on interior markets would be

relaxed, while the ban on gatherings would continue in other areas. He said no untoward incidents have been reported since Friday.

Curfew and mobile internet suspension were imposed earlier this week after protests erupted following Malik's detention under PSA and transfer to Kathua Jail.

Authorities said they will continue reviewing internet connectivity in the district and open services in phases depending on the situation—(KNO)

Dr Farooq urges compassion



JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 13: National Conference (NC) president, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Saturday criticised the detention of Doda MLA, Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA), while also expressing concern over the slump in Kashmir's tourism sector following the April 22 terror attack.

Speaking to reporters in Pahalgam, Dr Abdullah termed Malik's detention as unjustified.

"Mehraj Malik used unparliamentary words out of anger, but slapping PSA on him is wrong. This could have been resolved through dialogue and withdrawal of his words," he said.

Dr Farooq said he has appealed to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to revoke the PSA, adding that "mistakes happen in the heat of the moment, but the answer lies in compassion, not coercion".

The NC chief said that the Doda region remains disturbed, and only empathy and reconciliation can restore calm. "Our approach in such political matters

must be guided by understanding, not harsh measures," he said.

Dr Abdullah further said tourism has been hit hard since the April 22 terror attack, causing a major blow to livelihoods. "Tourism is the backbone of Kashmir's economy. The poor and the well-off alike depend on it. Winters shut us down, so the summer months are crucial," he said.

"To take the fear out of the minds of the people, Omar Abdullah went to Kolkata and met West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and tour operators. He also went to Ahmedabad, and today he is in Chennai to encourage people to visit Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The former Chief Minister welcomed initiatives to project normalcy, including promotional events and sports tournaments, urging people across the country to visit Kashmir. "It is important to send out the message that conditions are improving. Come and enjoy our hospitality," he said—(KNO)

Mehbooba urges CM to call urgent assembly session

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Sep 13: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and President Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Mehbooba Mufti has taken a jibe at Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over his offer of legal aid to PSA-detained MLA Mehraj Malik, suggesting that instead, he should bear the legal expenses of thousands of Kashmiris in jails whose families cannot afford to fight their cases and that urgent assembly session should be called and resolution against Mehraj Malik's arrest should be unanimously passed.

Speaking to reporters here, Mehbooba said that there is a dire need that an urgent Assembly Session should be convened and resolution passed against Mehraj Malik's arrest so that the message could be sent across and the "dangerous precedent" is foiled without delay.

"Look, for the past several days, nothing has been happening except condemnation. Mehraj Malik has been booked under the PSA and sent to jail, and our Chief Minister meets his father and says that he will help with legal proceedings. In my opinion, Mehraj Malik is an MLA and has enough resources to arrange legal aid himself. If his father needed legal aid, he would go to a lawyer, not to the Chief Minister. What happened instead was that the Speaker issued a notice against Waheed Para. The Speaker should have taken note of this incident as well. Omar Sahib should have taken notice, and the Speaker should have



urgently called an Assembly session so that this issue could be discussed."

She added further: "There should have been a discussion about how it is possible that a sitting MLA, against whom there are only allegations of using foul language, is slapped with the PSA and sent to jail. An Assembly session should have been called, a discussion held, and a resolution passed, which should have been sent to Delhi and the Home Minister, to show that this will not be tolerated. This would have increased the pressure to release Mehraj Malik, and in the future, the central government would think a hundred times before slapping PSA on any other sitting MLA. But nothing like this happened."

Mehbooba said that instead of offering legal aid to Mehraj Malik's father, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should have offered such help to those Kashmiri families whose loved ones are in jails and they cannot afford the legal costs. "Omar Sahib says he will provide legal aid; if he really wants to help legally, there are thousands of our prisoners whose families do not have the means, who are inside and outside Jammu and Kashmir, and whose families cannot afford to travel to Tihar, Rajasthan, or UP jails to meet their loved ones, let alone fight their cases. Omar Sahib has

had a year; if he really wants to help someone legally, it should be those people."

As per the PDP President, Mehraj Malik is an honorable MLA, he has the means to bear the expenses for his own legal defense. "His father has already expressed regret and apologized on his behalf. I think there is nothing more his father could have done. I don't think his father met Omar Sahib to get legal aid arranged, anyone can do that. They are not in such dire circumstances that they can't hire a lawyer. His father went to Omar Sahib with the hope that you have 50 MLAs and three Members of Parliament, so you should call a session and put pressure on the Government of India, to show that such injustice to the people and elected representatives of Jammu and Kashmir will not be tolerated by their Chief Minister."

"But instead, a notice is issued against Waheed Para, the very person who raised the issue. I think this is an injustice. There is still time; I request the Speaker that whatever issues you have with the PDP can be settled later, send notices if you must, but at the same time, call an Assembly session, hold a discussion, and pass a resolution so that in the future, such actions are not repeated against our MLAs."—(KNO)

J&K Police remember martyr DySP Humayun Bhat, pay tributes

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 13 : Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday paid rich tributes to Deputy Superintendent of Police Humayun Muzammil Bhat on his martyrdom anniversary.

The J&K Police recalled his supreme sacrifice during an encounter with terrorists at Kokernag in South Kashmir's Anantnag District on 13th September 2023.

In a post on X, Kashmir Zone



Police wrote, "All ranks of J&K Police solemnly commemorate the supreme sacrifice of DySP Humayun

Muzammil Bhat, who laid down his life in the line of duty." "DySP Bhat was a dedicated officer who demonstrated unwavering commitment and exceptional courage by leading from the front in the face of grave danger. For his bravery, he was posthumously awarded the Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry honour," it said.

"While his loss is deeply felt across the force, his legacy endures inspiring our service, guiding our duty, and upholding the values of honour and

sacrifice," the post added.

"Anantnag Police paid heartfelt tribute to Dy SP Shaheed Humayun Muzammil Bhat on his death anniversary by offering drinking water to commuters across the district — a gesture symbolizing service, sacrifice, and remembrance," the district police said in a post X.

Other J&K Police officers also paid tributes to the officer. They prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with his family—(KNO)

The North East: Where The Sun Of Development Rises

“There was a time when the North East was merely called a Frontier Region. Today, it is emerging as the ‘Front-Runner of Growth’” – Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Press Information Bureau

Northeast India: From Frontier to Front-Runner

For decades, Northeast India was viewed as a distant frontier, rich in culture but lacking the infrastructure needed to unlock its full potential. The people of this region, including the vibrant communities of Mizoram known for their deep-rooted traditions and social harmony, nurtured hopes of development while waiting for long overdue attention. With the Act East vision of the Central Government, the Northeast has moved from the margins to the mainstream. What was once seen as a remote corner is now recognized as a front runner in India's growth story. Unprecedented investments in railways, highways, air connectivity, and digital infrastructure have accelerated development across the eight states, from the bamboo covered hills of Mizoram to the peaks of Sikkim and the tea estates of Assam. Today, the region stands not just transformed but empowered, with better connectivity, stronger economies, and a renewed sense of purpose. The story of the Northeast is now one of peace, progress, and prosperity, a true reflection of a Viksit Bharat in the making. Chan

Empowering the Northeast: A Vision to Empower, Act, Strengthen, and Transform

To accelerate inclusive growth in the North Eastern Region the Central Government has implemented a series of transformative initiatives under its Act East vision. This strategic framework positions the Northeast as a vital gateway to India's engagement with Southeast Asia while also ensuring balanced development within. As articulated in the Prime Minister's words "For us EAST means Empower, Act, Strengthen and Transform" a guiding philosophy that underpins every policy initiative in the region. From infrastructure and digital connectivity to education, healthcare and livelihoods these efforts are focused on creating opportunities improving access and enhancing the quality of life across the eight states.

North East on Track: Railways and Development

The Ministry of Railways is spearheading a massive transformation in the North Eastern Region, with record investments aimed at bridging infrastructure gaps and boosting connectivity. Since 2014, the railway budget allocation for the region has increased five-fold, reaching a cumulative 62,477 crore, including 10,440 crore for the current fiscal year. Railway projects worth 77,000 crore are currently underway, marking the highest level of investment the region has ever seen. A significant highlight of this progress will be the inauguration of the Bairabi-Sairang railway line in Mizoram by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Built at a cost of over 8,000 crore, this 51-kilometre line will connect Aizawl to the national railway network for the first time since independence. With 143 bridges and 45 tunnels constructed across challenging terrain, the construction is an engineering marvel with one of the bridges taller than Qutub Minar. Beyond passenger convenience, the line will also improve freight movement, open new markets for local produce like bamboo and horticulture, and provide a strong boost to tourism and employment. Prime Minister will also flag off three new train services from Sairang to Delhi (Rajdhani Express), Kolkata (Mizoram express) and Guwahati (Aizawl Intercity). This firmly places Mizoram on the map of India's development story. The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for multiple road projects, including the Aizawl Bypass, Thenzawl-Sialsuk, and Khankawn-Rongura roads. The 45 km Aizawl Bypass, costing over 500 crore under the PM-DevINE scheme, will ease city traffic and improve connectivity. The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for the Chhimtuipui River Bridge on the Lawngtlai-Siaha Road, which will ensure all-weather connectivity, reduce travel time and facilitate cross-border trade under the Kaladan Multimodal Transit framework.

In Manipur, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 7,300 crore at Churachandpur. The projects include 5 National Highways, Manipur Urban Roads, and drainage and asset management improvement project. Along with this, Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of major infrastructure and industrial development projects worth over Rs 18,530 crore in Assam. Beyond individual projects, the Northeast has witnessed a systematic infrastructure expansion through



multiple sanctioned initiatives. Since FY 2022-23, 17 new railway surveys covering 1,790 km have been approved under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan to identify future expansion corridors. Key ongoing projects include the Jiribam-Imphal and Dimapur-Kohima lines, which aim to strengthen strategic and inter-state connectivity. Additionally, several gauge conversion and doubling works are progressing, addressing both passenger and freight needs. These efforts reflect the Centre's long-term vision to fully integrate the region into the national railway grid.

National Highways Development

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H), responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways, has constructed 16,207 km of National Highways in the Northeast Region (NER). The government's continued investments in roads, railways, and rural transport projects are reshaping the region, enhancing mobility, and opening up new opportunities for local communities. A notable example of this commitment is the approval of a 15 km road construction project between Mangaldoi and Mazikuchi in Assam, costing 45.31 crore. Approved in August 2025, the project will be implemented under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) – Roads.

Roadworks and Bridges under PMGSY

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 17,637 road works covering 89,436 km and 2,398 bridges have been sanctioned in the North Eastern Region. Of these, 16,469 road works spanning 80,933 km and 2,108 bridges have been completed, significantly improving last-mile connectivity in remote and rural areas.

Digital Connectivity and Mobile Services

Multiple government-funded projects, including BharatNet and others supported by Digital Bharat Nidhi, have enhanced digital connectivity in the Northeast by making Gram Panchayats service-ready and commissioning mobile towers across the region.

Regional Air Connectivity (UDAN) Scheme

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has introduced the Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN to improve air travel access from

airports that were previously unserved or underserved. This initiative has helped establish numerous routes, linking various airports and heliports across the North Eastern Region.

Financial Assistance for Development Projects

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) is providing financial assistance to the eight Northeast states to support developmental projects linked to infrastructure, connectivity, and communication. This is being done through five Central Sector Schemes: NESIDS (Roads), NESIDS (OTRI), PM-DevINE, Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC), and Special Development Packages (SDPs).

1. PM-DevINE Scheme

The Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) is a 100% centrally funded Central Sector Scheme announced in the Union Budget 2022-23. The scheme has a total outlay of 6,600 crore for the four-year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26. Its objectives are to fund infrastructure projects in a convergent manner in line with the PM GatiShakti framework, support social development initiatives based on the region's specific needs, enable livelihood opportunities for youth and women, and address development gaps across various sectors in the North Eastern Region.

NESIDS – Roads

The North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) – Roads is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2017-18 and extended until 31st March 2026. It provides targeted gap funding for the construction of roads and associated infrastructure that are not covered by other central ministries or agencies. The scheme focuses on projects that enhance access to remote areas, improve market connectivity, and serve strategic or security purposes. Only those proposals that result in the creation of physical assets such as roads, bridges, and auxiliary infrastructure are eligible for funding.

NESIDS – Other Than Roads Infrastructure (OTRI)

The NESIDS – Other Than Roads Infrastructure (OTRI) is a component of

the NESIDS Central Sector Scheme. It includes unfinished projects from earlier schemes like the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP). NESIDS-OTRI provides financial assistance to the eight North Eastern States for infrastructure development in areas such as primary and secondary healthcare, education, power, water supply, solid and liquid waste management, industrial development, civil aviation, sports, telecommunications, and conservation of iconic water bodies. As of July 2025, 29 projects under NESIDS-OTRI have been sanctioned and are at various stages of implementation, with an expenditure of 462.21 crore incurred so far.

Schemes of the North Eastern Council (NEC)

The schemes implemented under the North Eastern Council (NEC) were extended from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2026. These schemes aim to promote the holistic development of all eight North Eastern states by supporting projects in priority sectors identified by the states. The selection, sanctioning, and monitoring of projects are managed by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and NEC in coordination with the respective State Governments. Implementation is carried out by the designated state or central agencies. Key focus areas under NEC schemes include bamboo development, piggyery, regional tourism, higher education, tertiary healthcare, and livelihood generation.

Special Development Packages (SDPs) for Assam and Tripura

The Special Development Packages (SDPs) for Assam and Tripura are part of an ongoing Central Sector Scheme aimed at promoting inclusive development and peace in the North Eastern Region. In August 2025, the Union Cabinet approved four new components under the scheme with a total outlay of 4,250 crore. Of this, 4,000 crore is allocated for Assam over five years (2025-26 to 2029-30), and 250 crore for Tripura over four years (2025-26 to 2028-29). The packages aim to improve socio-economic conditions, generate employment through infrastructure and livelihood projects, and benefit youth and women through skill development and entrepreneurship. They are expected to bring long-term stability, mainstream marginalized communities, and

boost tourism and local economies in the region.

Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025: Catalyzing Economic Growth and Job Creation in the Northeast

Rising-Northeast-Logo_FINAL-768x549.png

The Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025, organized by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), aimed at catalyzing trade and investment in the region to strengthen its industrial ecosystem and generate employment. The summit attracted 4.48 lakh crore in investment interest, particularly in key sectors such as energy, agro-food processing, tourism, textiles, healthcare, education, IT, entertainment, infrastructure, and logistics. State governments are actively facilitating these investments through measures like single-window clearances, investment promotion agencies, and land banks, while prioritizing eco-friendly, low-carbon projects to ensure sustainable development. These efforts will drive infrastructure growth, create job opportunities, and foster sustainable economic progress, directly benefiting the common people by providing new livelihoods and improving access to essential services.

Driving Momentum: Strategic Investment, Governance, and Fiscal Impact

Streamlining North East Development Projects through PVS Portal

The Poorvottar Vikas Setu (PVS) Portal has made the process of project approval and monitoring faster, more efficient, and transparent. Previously, project proposals and documents were shared by physical copies or emails, causing delays in approvals. Now, State Governments can submit their proposals directly through the PVS Portal, and comments from relevant ministries are also collected there. This system creates a clear record of all communications between the Ministry, North Eastern Council, State Governments, and line ministries. The portal also allows States and Central agencies to request fund releases and upload important documents like Utilization and Completion Certificates for ongoing projects, making the entire process smoother and easier to track. Conclusion: The Road Ahead

The North Eastern Region is no longer on the periphery of India's development map; it is now firmly at the center of the nation's growth narrative. Backed by visionary policymaking, record investments, and coordinated execution across ministries, the Northeast is witnessing a remarkable transformation. From improved rail and road connectivity to digital access, economic investments, and inclusive development initiatives, every effort is bringing the region closer to opportunity and prosperity. As infrastructure strengthens and aspirations take root, the Northeast stands poised to become a key driver of a Viksit Bharat, where every hill, valley, and village is part of the country's shared future.

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Preps for Sewa Parv-2025 reviewed at Kupwara



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 11: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan, presided over a meeting today to assess the preparations for the forthcoming 'Sewa Parv-2025'.

The two-week event is set to be observed across the Union Territory from September 17 to October 2, 2025.

The sewa parv will be kick started on 17th September with conduct of a mega programme at District Headquarter Kupwara. District officers of the line departments shall exhibit their unique stalls focusing on on-spot service delivery in the event. The officers stand directed to act strictly according to the action plans ensuring maximum services are provided to the masses during the Sewa parv.

The celebrations will encompass a wide range of activities based on several key themes. These include

initiatives focused on cleanliness drives, environmental action, education, and engagement with the elderly and vulnerable segments of society, health and nutrition, awareness workshops, capacity building, cultural programs, and public outreach campaigns.

A significant part of the discussions was dedicated to the 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan' and 'Poshan Mah' campaigns, which will run concurrently from September 17 to October 2. These initiatives will place a special emphasis on women's health, empowerment, and nutrition.

ADC stressed the need for departments to ensure their actions are visible, impactful, and lead to a sustained improvement in key performance indicators throughout the campaign.

The meeting was attended by SDM Lolab, DFO Kamraj, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Ayush Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, and other concerned officers who joined the meeting virtually.

Expedite completion of ongoing projects: DC Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 13: To take stock of ongoing health projects in the hospital aimed to provide better healthcare facilities to the public, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Saturday visited District Hospital Kulgam.

During the visit, DC passed instructions of expediting work on developmental projects including extension of 50 bedded emergency critical care unit, additional block for maternity and child health, renovation and upgradation of main District Hospital building, new ticketing counter cum waiting area, DNB



hostel, developing additional car parking, and a dedicated space for autopsy room.

He took a detailed review of hospital functioning by visiting IPD wards, interacted with patients and enquired about the facilities being provided in the hospital.

DC enjoined upon executing

agency to expedite the left out work of old hospital building at the earliest so that it can be fully utilized for the patients.

DC was accompanied by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; Xen R&B, Tehsildar Kulgam, AEE, CEO MC Kulgam and administrative staff of DH Kulgam.

Excise Dept engages students through Art & Drama

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 13: Excise Range Central Kashmir conducted a powerful awareness campaign against the growing menace of drug abuse at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh.

The programme was filled with vibrant activities, a painting competition, nukkad natak, speech competition and a Rally on the theme 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan.'

Students poured their hearts into their performances, expressing their creativity, fears, and hopes through striking

artwork, stirring words, and thought-provoking acts. Their voices carried a strong message, 'Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life.'

Excise officials addressed the gathering with deep concern, sensitising the students about the devastating consequences of drug abuse, not just on individual health, but on families, communities, and the very future of our society. They reminded everyone that the fight against drugs is not the responsibility of law enforcement alone, but a collective mission where every young person has a role to play.

The officials also highlighted

the importance of vigilance and encouraged students to make use of the Manas Helpline (1933) to report any drug-related activity, stressing that silence only fuels the spread of this menace.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and passionate involvement from both students and staff, turning the school into a hub of awareness, creativity, fervour and determination. The campaign reinforced a powerful truth, 'our youth must invest their energy in education, productive hobbies, and positive activities' not in substances that steal their dreams.

514 Mission YUVA cases approved in Doda

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 13: In a significant stride towards youth empowerment and employment generation, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Saturday approved 514 loan cases under the Mission YUVA. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (Chairman DLIC Mission YUVA) Harvinder Singh.

With this latest approval, the cumulative number of sanctioned cases under Mission YUVA has reached 1396, which accounts for nearly 70% of the total applications received in the district — marking a milestone in fostering entrepreneurship, skill development, and sustainable livelihood

opportunities for the youth of Doda.

The meeting was attended by DLIC members including Additional District Development Commissioner (Nodal Officer, Mission YUVA) Roshan Lal ; Deputy Director Employment, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral; General Manager, DIC Doda and others.

The session commenced with a comprehensive briefing by the Deputy Director Employment. He presented the latest status report of Mission YUVA in the district. The report included the number of applications received and verified on the Mission YUVA portal as well as the DPRs prepared and verified by Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) members.

Addressing the Committee, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated that Mission YUVA is not just a loan scheme but a holistic platform aimed at cultivating entrepreneurship, innovation, and self-reliance among the youth. He emphasized continuous capacity-building, mentoring, and handholding support, along with structured monitoring to ensure the sustainability of the sanctioned ventures.

Concluding the session, Deputy Director Employment extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to the Chair and all participating members, lauding their commitment, cooperation and dedicated efforts towards the successful execution of Mission YUVA initiatives in Doda district.

SCLSC Campaign

DLSA Sgr organizes legal awareness prog

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 13: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, Saturday organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at Central Jail Srinagar as part of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) campaign in jails across India.

The initiative aimed to educate inmates about the process and availability of filing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) through legal aid, ensuring that justice remains accessible to all.

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

During the session, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, addressed the inmates and emphasized the importance of understanding the procedure for filing SLPs before the Supreme Court.

He encouraged inmates to make use of the legal aid

services available to them and highlighted how the SCLSC campaign is designed to support individuals in navigating the legal system effectively.

Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), DLSA Srinagar, also spoke at the event, focusing on the significance of legal literacy and the role of SLPs in ensuring access to justice.

She further raised awareness about caste-based discrimination, referencing the landmark judgment passed by the Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1404 of 2023 titled Sukanya Shantha vs. Union of India & Others. The judgment reinforces the constitutional mandate to eliminate caste-based discrimination and affirms the judiciary's commitment to protecting fundamental rights.

This initiative by DLSA Srinagar reflects a strong commitment to bridging the gap between legal institutions and incarcerated individuals, promoting awareness, equality, and empowerment within the prison system.

Nat'l Lok Adalat held at Kathua



KT News Desk

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 13: The National Lok Adalat was held Saturday at the ADR Centre of the Court Complex, Kathua under the guidance of the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jatinder Singh Jamwal, (Principal District & Sessions Judge).

To facilitate the smooth conduct of the Lok Adalat, 2 benches were constituted at the district court complex and one each at Bani, Billawar, Mahanpur and Hiranagar.

The 1st Bench comprised the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jatinder Singh Jamwal and Additional District & Sessions Judge, Pravin Pandoh, the 2nd Bench comprised Chief Judicial Magistrate Ajay

Sharma and District Mobile Magistrate (T) Neena Thakur.

Similarly, a bench comprising Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Poonam Gupta and Munsiff/JMIC Prashant Kumar was constituted at Billawar, while another bench comprising Munsiff/JMIC Meera Bangotra and Advocate Naresh Gupta was constituted at Hiranagar.

At Mahanpur the bench consisted of Munsiff/JMIC Kangana Gupta and Advocate Deep Kumar, while the Bani Bench consisted of Munsiff/JMIC Ashutosh Sharma.

A substantial number of cases were taken up for amicable settlement during the proceedings, resulting in successful resolutions and significant recovery of amounts tuning to Rs. 1,81,83,380.

DIPR organizes prog in remembrance of Sufi poet

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 13: Cultural Unit Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Information Centre Pulwama of DIPR J&K, organized a cultural programme at Jenab Gareeb Abdul Khaliq Memorial Committee, Tengarh Pulwama.

The event was held in remembrance of the revered Sufi poet, Jenab Gareeb Abdul Khaliq whose literary and spiritual contributions continue to inspire generations.

On the occasion, Cultural Officer Srinagar, Burhan Hussain in his address

highlighted the importance of preserving, promoting, and reviving the rich cultural heritage of the region. He emphasized that cultural activities like these serve as a strong medium to connect communities with their roots and to carry forward the legacy of Sufi thought, art, and tradition.

The programme was well attended by literary figures, artists, and members of the local community, who appreciated the efforts of DIPR J&K in fostering cultural awareness and strengthening the bond of harmony through such meaningful initiatives.

3rd National Lok Adalat held across Kashmir for timely, amicable justice

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 13: In order to reduce the burden on the formal judicial system, promote access to justice, and encourage the timely delivery of justice, 3rd National Lok Adalat was Saturday held under the aegis of NALSA and in pursuance to the direction of J&K Legal Services Authority across all district courts in Kashmir.

The National Lok Adalat was organized under the able guidance of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the high Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron in Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh/ Executive, Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority, and overall supervision of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

National Lok Adalat provides an effective and economical platform for dispute resolution, reduces the case backlog and delivers justice in a dignified, timely, and cost-effective manner, thereby strengthening public trust in the judicial system.

During the Lok Adalat, a wide range of cases was taken up for amicable settlement, including Civil and Compoundable Criminal Matters, Matrimonial Disputes, MACT Claims, NI Act Cases, Pre-Litigation Disputes, Bank Recovery Matters, Electricity Bill Cases, and matters pertaining to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

At Srinagar, District Judiciary Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar and Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Srinagar successfully organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat at the District Court

Complex Mominabad, Srinagar, and at the Court of the Additional Special Mobile Magistrate/JMIC Panthachowk.

The Lok Adalat was held under the overall supervision of Tasleem Arief, Principal District & Sessions Judge/ Chairman, DLSA Srinagar, along with Aadil Mushtaq, Chief Judicial Magistrate/Chairman TLSC Srinagar and Sajad Ur Rehman, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Tasleem Arief, Principal District & Sessions Judge/ Chairman, DLSA Srinagar, in presence of esteemed judicial officers, members of the bar, court staff and DLSA Staff.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, 11 benches were constituted, in which Overall 13671 cases were taken up for settlement out of which 12528 cases were amicably settled & Rs. 4,94,62,242 was awarded as settlement amount.

At Anantnag, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Anantnag organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat of 2025 across the district.

The event was inaugurated by Tahir Khurshid Raina, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA Anantnag) in the presence of Judicial Officers, Bar members, legal aid counsel, court staff and litigants.

The Lok Adalat was convened under the supervision of Fozia Paul, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Anantnag.

Multiple benches were constituted at the district headquarters as well as in peripheral courts including Bijbehara, Vailoo, Dooru, Shangus, Aishmuqam, Pahalgam and the District Consumer Court to amicably settle disputes.

In total, 4,186 cases were taken



up, out of which 2,055 were settled, involving a settlement amount of Rs.2.69 crore. Significantly, 09 MACT cases were resolved with compensation of Rs.1.91 crore awarded to claimants.

At Budgam, District Judiciary Budgam and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam successfully conducted & organized the 3rd National Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex Budgam as well as in the Taluka Courts across the district.

The 3rd National Lok Adalat was held under the overall supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman DLSA Budgam, along with Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

For smooth disposal, cases were pre-identified by the respective courts and placed before 09 dedicated benches constituted by DLSA Budgam for settlement.

In total 844 number of cases were taken up before the benches, out

of which 256 cases were amicably settled. A total settlement amount of Rs.1,00,31,995 was awarded/realized as compensation and recovery during the Lok Adalat.

At Ganderbal, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal successfully conducted 3rd National Lok-Adalat today in district Ganderbal.

The 3rd National Lok Adalat was inaugurated by Abdul Nasir (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Ganderbal in presence of Ld. Judicial Officers of District Court Complex Ganderbal and other notable attendees including LADCs, Panel Lawyers, Bar Members and litigants.

Three benches were constituted for amicable settlement of the cases, among which the first & second bench heard cases at the District Court Complex, Ganderbal, while as the third bench heard cases at the Munsiff Court Complex, Kangan.

During the proceedings of the Lok

Adalat, Chairman DLSA, Ganderbal, inspected the Lok-Adalat Bench proceedings to ensure smooth conduct and effective disposal of Cases.

A total number of 460 cases were taken up, out of which 355 cases were successfully settled and an amount of Rs 43,93,200 was awarded as settlement amount.

At Pulwama, 3rd National Lok-Adalat was organized today in District Court & other subordinate courts of district Pulwama under the chairmanship of Malik Shabir Ahmad, Chairman DLSA (Pr.District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Pulwama.

The LokAdalat at District headquarters Pulwama was inaugurated by PD&SJ Pulwama which was attended by Judicial officers of district Pulwama.

A total number of 715 cases were taken up by 05 benches in the district out of which 523 cases were settled in the said LokAdalat. An amount of Rs. 1,43,78,145 was awarded as settlement amount in all cases including award of Rs. 14,40,000 in 05 MACT cases.

At Kulgam, 3rd National LokAdalat was held today in district Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Principal District and Sessions Judge /Chairman District Legal Services Authority Kulgam.

Six benches were constituted, four at Headquarter & one each at D.H.Pora and Qazigund.

In the said Lok Adalat, a total number of 906 cases were taken up however, due to condolence on the demise of a Young Bar Member of District Bar Association Kulgam, the Bar Association Kulgam suspended

their Court Work due to which a minimum number of litigants attended the Lok Adalat and a total number of 260 cases were amicably settled. An amount of Rs. 47,50,550 was awarded as settlement amount.

At Bandipora, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora, conducted the 3rd National Lok Adalat in the district.

National Lok Adalat was held under the supervision of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman, DLSA Bandipora, and guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary DLSA Bandipora.

Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA Bandipora inaugurated the 3rd National Lok Adalat, which was attended by several judges, including Iqbal Ahmad Akhooon, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bandipora; Munsiff, Bandipora, and Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Bandipora, President Bar Association Bandipora, and other notable attendees including LADCs, Panel Lawyers, Bar Members, PLVs and litigants etc.

A total of 10 benches were constituted, that took up a total number of 2171 cases, out of which 1424 cases were disposed-off amicably, resulting in a settlement amount of Rs. 1,28,54,076.

At Shopian, District Legal Services Authority Shopian today organized 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 at District Court Shopian.

For the said National Lok Adalat 05 Benches were constituted by the DLSA. Advocates, litigants and other prominent citizens participated in the said National Lok Adalat.

A total of 361 cases were taken up, out of which 273 cases were settled amicably with a settlement amount Rs. 1,67,39,573.

DIGP-DKR Range, DC discuss public issues with Doda Civil Society

Beopar Mandal, Transport Association, others assure cooperation

KT News Desk

Doda, Sept 13: Deputy Inspector General of Police DKR Range Shridhar Patil along with Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and SSP Sandeep Kumar Mehta on Saturday convened a meeting with the representatives from Beopar Mandal, Transport Association and prominent citizens & civil society of Doda here at District Police lines. The discussions focused on strengthening mutual trust and maintaining harmony in the district, besides resolving issues of public importance.

Representatives of Beopar Mandal, Transport Association and others assured their active support and cooperation to the District administration in maintaining public order and requested for phase wise lifting of restrictions imposed under section 163 BNSS, so that government and private business may run smoothly and the general public feels relieved.

The representatives highlighted that the general public have suffered significant losses in the recent flood like situation in the district and people



have high hopes from the Government in this time of distress. They push for immediate restoration of services including Internet, transport, while stressing on the opening of schools and the market.

The civil society representatives assured to extend their active support and cooperation to the administration in bringing the situation back on track.

SSP Sandeep Mehta exhorted the participants to keep eye on the miscreants who are hell bent to disrupt the peaceful situation of the district for which we all have to take responsibility to maintain law and order.

W h i l e

addressing the participants, Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh assured them that the issues of the public related to supply of essential commodities to Doda and Kishtwar shall be addressed in 24 hours time.

The DIGP DKR Range Shridhar Patil commended the role and support of the general public of Doda and other stakeholders in maintaining peace and order in the district by foiling the attempts of disturbing public order. He highlighted that the people of Doda have set an example of maintaining peace and communal harmony.

The DIGP stressed upon the participants, particularly the

business community, to activate the CCTV cameras and ensure their functionality so that activities of trouble creators could be monitored. He sought cooperation and responsibility of transport association, shopkeepers to keep an eye on miscreants and trouble creators which includes sensitization of drivers, laborers, workers etc connected with the business activities.

The representatives were assured that restrictions would be progressively eased out starting immediately. The reopening of shops in the market, resumption of transport services, restoration of broadband and mobile internet services and the reopening of schools will be carried out in a phased manner after assessing the ground situation.

It was stressed upon the participants to remain in constant touch with the administration and help in bringing the situation towards normalcy which is the priority of the administration.

Among others, Addl. DC Doda, ACR Doda, Addl. SP Hqrs Doda, Dy. SP Hqrs. Doda , SO to DIGP DKR range and SHO PS Doda were also present in the meeting.

GST not applicable on post-sale discounts given by manufacturers to dealers: CBIC

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 13: Post-sale discounts given by manufacturers to dealers intended solely for competitive pricing and promoting sales will not be subject to GST, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said.

However, GST would be payable on such discounts if the manufacturer and the dealer have entered into an agreement under which the latter conducts promotional activities like co-branding, advertising campaigns or sale drives on behalf of the manufacturer.

Issuing a circular regarding treatment of secondary or post-sale discounts under Goods and Services Tax (GST), the CBIC said it has received representations seeking clarifications on the issue.

When dealers receive such post-sale discounts, they may engage in promotional activities to boost sales. However, these activities ultimately enhance the sale of goods that the dealers themselves own, thereby increasing their own revenue. In this context, the discount merely reduces the sale price of the goods and is not linked to any independent service rendered to the manufacturer.

"Therefore, it is clarified that

post-sale discounts offered by manufacturers to dealers in such cases shall not be treated as consideration for a separate transaction of supply of services," the CBIC said.

However, GST would be leviable in cases where a dealer undertakes specific sales promotional activities, such as advertising campaigns, co-branding, customisation services, special sales drives, exhibition arrangements, or customer support services, etc., only when such services are explicitly stated in the agreement with a clearly defined consideration payable for such a supply.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said dealers often receive discounts from manufacturers and may, in the process, carry out activities like small marketing drives or efforts to sell faster. However, such actions are undertaken primarily to increase the dealer's own sales and profits.

"The government has rightly clarified that these routine trade discounts cannot be treated as payment for any service provided by the dealer to the manufacturer, and therefore no additional GST liability arises in such cases," Mohan added.

EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the circular correctly distinguishes between

a genuine trade discount and a separate service. It affirms that where manufacturers and dealers operate on a principal-to-principal basis, discounts provided by the manufacturer to the dealer, intended solely for competitive pricing and sales promotion, are not a consideration for any independent service.

This crucial distinction resolves a key pain point and brings the tax treatment in line with commercial practice.

"In light of these clarifications, businesses must revisit their contractual arrangements and tax positions. The government's clear demarcation between trade discounts and promotional services will significantly reduce interpretational disputes and provide greater certainty in compliance for the industry, paving the way for a more streamlined GST regime," Agarwal said.

Grant Thornton Bharat Partner Manoj Mishra said the CBIC's latest circular on post-sale discounts provides long-awaited clarity on an area that has consistently triggered disputes. input tax credit will remain unaffected when financial or commercial credit notes are issued, it removes a major compliance uncertainty for dealers.

Situation on India-Nepal border returning to normal after new govt formation

PTI

Bahraich (UP), Sept 13: The situation on the India-Nepal border appears to be returning to normal with the formation of a new government in Nepal.

On Saturday, traffic for passenger vehicles, cars, motorcycles, pedestrians, and cargo

trucks resumed at the Rupaidiha border here. While a large number of commercial cargo vehicles crossed the border, the movement of general citizens remained relatively low.

Commandant of the 42nd Battalion of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Ganga Singh Udawat told PTI, "With the

formation of the new government in Nepal, conditions have started to become normal. Therefore, we did not stop anyone today, although we allowed people to enter the country only after ensuring their identity." He added that border outposts were actively monitoring citizens and vehicles.

J&K dental surgeons protest after 17 years of job freeze

Urge govt to advertise long-pending posts

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 13: Scores of unemployed dental surgeons from Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday staged a protest at Government Dental College and Hospital Srinagar, decrying the non-advertisement of dental surgeon

posts for the last 17 years.

The protesting dental surgeons, carrying placards, raised slogans and demanded immediate intervention from the government to address their long-pending issue.

"We have worked hard for years to earn these degrees, but the government has failed to advertise even a single post for more than a decade," said

one of the protesting dental surgeons while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Another protester said the government must recognise their plight. "Hundreds of qualified dental surgeons are sitting idle despite the shortage of dental healthcare services in many areas," he said.

He added the government

should either create new posts or advertise the existing vacant ones.

Meanwhile, the protesters appealed to the Lieutenant Governor-led administration to take immediate steps to resolve the issue and save the future of dental professionals in the Union Territory. "We have come here with hard work and the government must address the issue without further delay," they added. (KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Panchayat, ULB

appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of a committee comprising the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Thirdly, the process of revising electoral rolls could not be undertaken due to the absence of a State Election Commissioner, who holds the authority to order such revisions.

According to a former Block Development Council chairman, the delay in holding Panchayat elections is causing financial losses, as some components of funding by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj are contingent upon the existence of Panchayati Raj Institutions. "The government should hold elections so that we don't lose crores of rupees annually. The implementation of plans at Panchayat level have also been affected to some extent due to non-existence of PRIs," he said.

It is worth mentioning that the Union Government is keen on reviving grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir

A report tabled in Parliament recently revealed that the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj had issued an advisory to Jammu & Kashmir in December 2024, urging steps to hold Panchayat elections.

In its report tabled in both Houses of Parliament on July 28, 2025, the department-related Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj stated that the ministry had advised various states, including J&K and Ladakh, to initiate the process for conducting Panchayat elections. (KNO)

CM Omar to Centre

his conduct, take it up with the Speaker of the Assembly. There are other ways to do it. But detaining him under Public Safety Act, where he is not eligible for bail for at least six months is definitely an excessive use of force," he said.

CONGRESS PART OF ALLIANCE IN J&K

The Chief Minister rejected the claims of parting ways with the INDI Alliance, saying that there is no gap between the National Conference and the India bloc. "We continue to remain a part of the India bloc. The Congress Party is part of the alliance in Jammu and Kashmir government. Though for their own reasons they are not participating in the government at the moment and have said that they will join the government once statehood is restored to Jammu and Kashmir. But, otherwise we are very much a part of the India bloc."

PM MANIPUR VISIT A GOOD THING

About PM Modi's visit to Manipur, he said it is a good thing. "There has been a lot of commentary about the fact that Prime Minister Modi has avoided travelling to that part of the country and particularly after the violence that broke out in 2023. So, as we say, better late than never. We hope that peace and calm is restored and the differences between the two tribal communities are reduced to the point where people are able to live lives normally," he said.

CRICKET HAS BECOME VICTIM OF POLITICS

Reacting to a query on the India-Pakistan Cricket match tomorrow, Omar said, "I think our problem has always been with bilateral cricket. I don't think we have ever had a problem with multilateral parts of large tournaments. If I understand correctly, this game is part of a tournament. It's not part of a bilateral series between the two countries. If this is a start and things can move in a positive trajectory from there, nothing like it. Very often, sport becomes a victim to politics and nowhere is this more true than with cricket and the subcontinent. But you can't wish away what happens."

"J&K has been the direct victim of this. More than 30-35 years of trouble and this year we all saw what happened in Pahalgam. These are real concerns that we have and you can't wish them away," he said.

J&K TRYING TO IMPROVE CONNECTIONS WITH SOUTH INDIA

He said that his government has been trying to improve the connections between the South Indian states and Jammu & Kashmir. "We don't get enough visitors from Chennai and from the rest of Tamil Nadu to Jammu and Kashmir. In fact, one of the challenges that my government has taken upon itself is to try and improve the links and the connections between the South Indian states and Jammu & Kashmir. We hope that in the months and years ahead, we will see more film shootings from this part of the country and more people coming to Jammu and Kashmir for their holidays," he added.

Omar further stated that his relation with the Chief Minister MK Stalin is very good. "We have always been very grateful to the DMK for the support that they have extended to Jammu and Kashmir for the issues that matter to us. In fact, I was looking forward to meeting the Honourable Chief Minister, but I understand he's not going to be in town. So that meeting this time was not possible. Hopefully, we will meet at a future visit," he said.

ELECTION COMMISSION NEEDS TO STAND TALL

About Bihar row, he said that obviously there are concerns with regard to this special dispensation that was created for Bihar. "I don't have any direct connection with Bihar, but obviously one hears about the mood of the people and its left people in Bihar very dissatisfied with the conduct of the Election Commission. I am not sure the Election Commission wants to do something in the rest of the country that will add to the questions over its credibility. We have always taken pride in the independence and in the impartiality of our election commission. I think our Election Commission needs to hold true to those ideals," he added. (KNO)

Poonch landslides,

has engulfed Gadhgaram village in Rajgarh Tehsil, where a cloudburst earlier this week

claimed five lives.

Residents described the devastation as sudden and overwhelming. "It was pitch dark, and suddenly we heard water roaring down the slopes," recalled Nasreen Begum, a local. "By morning, homes had been swept away, and the village looked like a riverbed."

Authorities, including Ramban MLA Arjun Singh Raju and Deputy Commissioner Mussarat Islam, have been inspecting damaged houses and unstable land pockets.

Raju told reporters that around 20–25 houses have developed visible cracks, while land subsidence of nearly 1 to 1.5 feet has been reported. "We will ensure relocation to safer areas and compensation," he said. (KNO)

Linguistic diversity

Prime Minister's Panch Pran outlines a clear path for India's future. It is a call to action for every citizen to shed the vestiges of colonial past, take pride in our rich heritage, and work together in the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' to build a strong and Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the linguistic scholars, researchers and writers to develop a system that makes India's vast ancient knowledge accessible in all mother tongues in school curriculum and libraries enabling the youth to gain a deeper understanding of their glorious heritage.

"National Education Policy-2020 promotes multilingualism by emphasizing the use of mother tongue or regional languages as the medium of instruction, especially in early years of school education. The policy encourages cultural preservation. Our effort should be that all languages of India achieve their full potential. By weaving the country's diverse linguistic fabric together through coordination, these languages can help create a developed India.

We must move beyond merely praising our knowledge systems and instead make them a practical part of our education in mother tongue. In rapidly changing world where new technologies and innovations are shaping the lives, we must present our cultural treasures in a way that is engaging to youth. This effort also requires a visionary approach and a proactive campaign to raise public awareness about our rich civilization and heritage," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, also highlighted the significant role of a mother tongue in a child's development.

When children are taught in their native language while also learning other languages, they become more skilled, capable, and competent individuals. Mother tongue also promotes creativity and innovation. A nation can leverage its linguistic diversity and accelerate progress by incorporating unique perspectives in art, technology, and other fields. India stands as a living testament to this linguistic diversity and its unique power, the Lieutenant Governor further said.

On the occasion, Scholars were also felicitated for their valuable contribution to promotion of Indian Languages.

Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, Member of Legislative Assembly Varanasi South; Shri Atul Bhai Kothari, educationist and National Secretary, Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas; Shri Arvind Mardikar, Chairman, Hindusthan Samachar Group; Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi, Vice Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University; Prof. Anand Kumar Tyagi, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith; Dr Pradeep Baba Madhok, Director, Hindusthan Samachar Group; members of Hindusthan Samachar Group and prominent personalities from different walks of life were present.

PM Modi hails

new houses for affected families and a special package of around Rs 3,000 crore, including over Rs 500 crore for those displaced by violence.

The Prime Minister emphasized the role of women in Manipur's economy, referencing Ima Markets and their contribution to livelihoods. He stated that the government's policies aim to make essential items more affordable through GST reductions and support tourism through infrastructure development.

On peace and development, PM Modi said Manipur's history includes contributions to India's independence and national defense. He highlighted the need to maintain stability in the state and continue dialogue between the hills and valley regions.

Addressing Nepal, the Prime Minister congratulated Shushila Ji on assuming office as the interim Prime Minister and expressed confidence under her leadership peace would prevail in the country. He also highlighted positive civic efforts by Nepalese youth in recent days.

Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, and other dignitaries attended the event. (KNO)

‘Understanding new

system: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.

Over the span of three days, the exhibition welcomed approximately 9,000 visitors, with more than 5,500 attendees on the first two days and an additional 2,500 on the final day. This enthusiastic turnout highlights a growing public interest in understanding the scope and implications of the new legal framework.

Designed as an interactive and informative platform, the exhibition successfully fostered legal literacy, promoted civic responsibility, and encouraged public dialogue on these vital legal reforms that aim to redefine the criminal justice landscape in India.

The closing ceremony, held on Saturday, September 13, 2025, was graced by Sujit Kumar, IPS, Inspector General of Police, Crime Branch J&K, as the Chief Guest. In his address, he commended the initiative for its role in bridging the gap between law enforcement agencies and the public through active engagement and education.

The Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) extends its sincere gratitude to all stakeholders, participants, students, and

citizens for their enthusiastic support and meaningful participation in making this exhibition a resounding success. (KNO)

Bemina Bypass road

locals even more is the silence surrounding the proposed four-laning of the stretch, reportedly planned under NABARD. "No official sanction, DPR, or timeline has been made public so far, and the project appears to have made no headway," said a local resident, adding that although the matter "was discussed in the previous Assembly session," nothing has been implemented on the ground.

"Every day we are stuck here for 30 to 40 minutes. This is the only route to the highway and to the hospitals. We need wider roads and proper traffic management," said another commuter.

Officials from the Roads & Buildings department were not immediately available for comment on the status of the four-laning proposal.

Meanwhile, the residents have urged the administration to speed up road widening, improve traffic regulation and deploy more traffic police personnel at Bemina Crossing to prevent daily gridlock. (KNO)

Meet Dr Rubia Bukhari

independence with cultural heritage across India.

With Jammu and Kashmir recognized as a traditional hub of silk production - supporting nearly 60% of its rural population Dr Rubia envisions the region as a leading supplier of raw silk for domestic and international markets. She draws a parallel between her work and the success of the Purple Revolution in lavender farming, envisioning Cocoon Craft as a potential White Revolution poised to transform rural economies.

She also emphasizes the importance of farmer awareness and education, advocating the adoption of modern sericulture techniques and promoting access to financial support through NABARD loans and subsidies.

A Legacy of Inspiration coming from a family deeply rooted in sericulture, Dr Rubia is carrying forward a rich tradition with a modern and innovative approach. Her journey embodies resilience, creativity and a vision for social transformation.

"I chose sericulture as my career path because of its potential to create meaningful employment, reduce poverty and prevent migration from rural areas. With a rich history in J&K, sericulture is not just an economic activity it's a cultural heritage that deserves revival," she said.

Today, Dr Rubia Bukhari stands as a beacon of hope for aspiring entrepreneurs, researchers and artisans. As the Founder of the Dr Rubia Bukhari Cocoon Artistry Initiative in Sericulture her transformation work reflects her unwavering dedication to sustainability, women's empowerment and national self-reliance. From the borderlands of Poonch, her message resonates across the nation, proving that one's roots can indeed become the foundation for far-reaching impact. (KNO)

Need for strong bridge of trust between people of Manipur's Hills, Valley: PM Modi

PTI

Imphal, Sept 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said a strong bridge of "trust" must be built between the people of the Hills and the Valley in Manipur.

Addressing a public meeting in Imphal's Kangla Fort during his first visit to the state after ethnic violence broke out between Kukis and Meiteis in May 2023, Modi said his government was working relentlessly for reconciliation



and development in the state.

"Manipur is the 'ratna' adorning the crown of 'mother India'. Any form of violence here is condemnable. It is not only unfortunate but also a grave injustice to our ancestors and our future generations. Together, we must take Manipur forward on the path of peace and development," he said. "Our government is committed to healing the wounds and restoring confidence," he added. While people of the Meitei

community live in the Imphal Valley, the Kukis reside in the adjoining Hills.

Lauding the role of soldiers from the state in national security, Modi said the country will always remember their valour.

"In India's successful Operation Sindoor, the valiant sons of Manipur played a key role," he said.

Modi said women of Manipur are at the forefront of the state's economic growth.

"The 21st century belongs to the Northeast," he said.

PM to pass through 'neem corridor' during visit to Assam's Golaghat today

PTI

Guwahati, Sept 13: A special corridor lined with Neem saplings has been readied in Numaligarh in Assam's Golaghat district through which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel during his visit on Sunday.

Modi will pass through the

2.6-km 'PM Neem Corridor' on his trip to this upper Assam district, during which he will visit the Numaligarh Refinery and inaugurate an over Rs 5,000-crore bamboo-based ethanol plant.

He will also lay the foundation stone for the Petro Fluidised Catalytic Cracker Unit, which has a capacity to

produce 360 KTPA propylene.

The PM will also address a public rally at the Numaligarh Tanker Stand later on Sunday, the second day of his two-day visit to the state.

"A Green Tribute to India's biggest green warrior - Adarniya @narendramodiji," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in a post

on X. "On September 14, as the Hon'ble Prime Minister makes his way to the venue in Golaghat, he will be welcomed through the PM Neem Corridor - a 2.6km corridor planted with neem saplings," he added, sharing a video clip of the stretch.

The 'PM Neem Corridor' is an initiative led by Khumtai

(Golaghat district) MLA Mrinal Saikia, with the chief minister also planting a seed during his visit to Numaligarh last week to review preparations for Modi's visit.

Saikia said the initiative is a step to spread awareness on environment conservation and encourage youngsters towards it.

Diplomacy essential between judiciary & executive: Calcutta HC Chief Justice



PTI

Kolkata, Sept 13: Maintaining that diplomacy is essential between the judiciary and the executive, Calcutta High Court Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam on Saturday said he maintained a delicate balance between the two sides during his tenure.

Justice Sivagnanam, who is due to retire on September 15, said Kolkata had treated him dearly during his time here, first as a judge of the high court from October 2021 and later as Chief Justice from May 2023.

"Being the head of the judiciary, in the sense of being a chief justice of our high court, is a delicate balance between judiciary and state," he said while addressing a farewell programme organised by the West Bengal government at the Town Hall.

Stating that "diplomacy is important on either side," he stressed that there should not be a feeling that the judiciary is subordinate or subservient

to the executive.

Lauding West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Judicial Secretary Siddhartha Kanjilal and Law Minister Moloy Ghatak, he said because of their unflinching support, much development work could be taken up for the betterment of the state judiciary.

"In close to three years, both during my tenure as acting Chief Justice and Chief Justice, the CM has never returned me with an empty hand," Justice Sivagnanam said. A farewell by the state government for a Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court was previously given to Chief Justice Jai Narayan Patel in 2012.

Born on September 16, 1963, Sivagnanam enrolled in the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in 1986.

He was appointed as an additional judge at Madras High Court in March 2009, and as a permanent judge in March 2011, according to information on the Calcutta High Court website.

Bomb threat at Taj Palace, no explosives found

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 13: A bomb threat received through e-mail on Saturday sent the Taj Palace staff here into tizzy which was later declared a "hoax" following an extensive search by the Delhi Police, an official said.

Upon receiving information about the threat, multiple teams of the Delhi Police including a bomb disposal squad (BDS), dog squad, and a quick reaction team (QRT) immediately rushed to the spot, he said. "We reached the hotel and launched an

extensive search operation. All public areas, parking zones, lobbies, and rooms were thoroughly checked with the help of bomb detection equipment and sniffer dogs," the official further said. However, nothing suspicious was found and the threat was declared a hoax, a senior police officer said.

Police said the e-mail is being traced to determine its origin, and cyber teams have been roped in to identify the sender. This incident comes a day after the Delhi High Court received a similar bomb threat via e-mail.

Mann slams speculations on social media about his removal as Punjab CM

PTI

Chandigarh, Sept 13: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday slammed speculations on social media about his removal from the top post and asserted that he will remain at the helm.

Addressing the media here, Mann said that some "experts" have changed the chief minister four times when he was in the hospital, while referring to some claims on social media.

The CM was discharged from a hospital in Mohali on Thursday, where he was admitted due to exhaustion and low heart rate. Mann said when Kejriwal came to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, he had said Mann would remain the CM.

"Who are these? Former journalists, a former smuggler, a



former gangster, a former drug addict. They are acting (in social media space) as experts. They can say anything for views. But they do not speak against the BJP as they are scared of the Enforcement Directorate," Mann said, asking people to avoid these

"Facebook experts". He also asserted that there was no factionalism in the party.

Replying to a question on central ministers visiting flood-hit areas, he alleged that they were coming for a "photo-op" only.

Adani Power to invest \$3 bn to set up 2400 MW power project in Bihar

PTI

Mumbai, Sept 13: Adani Power on Saturday said it will set up a 2,400 MW ultra super-critical power plant in Bihar at an investment of USD 3 billion (around Rs 26,482 crore).

The Adani group company, in a statement, said that it has signed a 25-year Power Supply Agreement (PSA) with Bihar State Power Generation Company Ltd. (BSPGCL) to supply power from the project that will come up at Pirpainti in Bhagalpur district of the state.

The PPA is further to the Letter of Award issued by BSPGCL to Adani Power, on behalf of North Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd (NBPDDL) and South Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd (SBPDCL) in August.

Adani Power won the project by offering the lowest supply rate at Rs 6.075 per KWh. The company said it plans to invest approximately USD 3 billion to build the new plant (800 MW X 3) and its supporting infrastructure under the Design, Build, Finance, Own, and Operate (DBFOO) model. The company aims to commission the plant in 60 months.

The coal linkage for the power plant has been allocated under the SHAKTI Policy of Government of India. The project will generate direct and indirect employment for 10,000-12,000 people during the construction phase and 3,000 once in operation.

A part of the billionaire Gautam Adani-led group, Adani Power is the largest private thermal power producer in India. It has an installed thermal power capacity of 18,110 MW.

Kidney stones diet: 7 foods to avoid to prevent recurrence

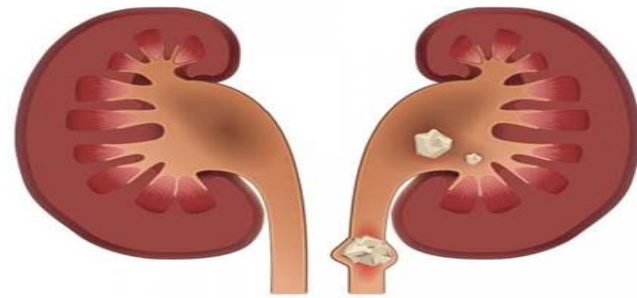
TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Sept 13: Still thinking kidney stones are just an occasional ache? Think again. They strike about 1 in 10 people, and if you've had one already, your chance of another is around 50% within 10 years. Kidney stones hurt, like seriously hurt really bad, but you know what's even worse? The constant alarm ringing in your head, saying: If you've had it once, there's a high chance you'll get another.

The good news? A smart, well-planned diet can be your best mate in preventing recurrence. Your diet plays a starring role in keeping those stones away. Whether it's calcium oxalate, uric acid, or another type, small tweaks in daily meals can make a big difference. So, you don't have to hop back on that flaming roller-coaster – you just have to mind what you're putting in your plate.

What's more? You don't need to wave goodbye to all your favorite foods. Instead, it's about knowing which ones to limit or swap, especially if you've had calcium-oxalate or uric acid stones.

In this guide, we'll tell you some of the most common foods that you should be avoiding in order to protect yourself from kidney stones. Additionally, we'll figure out smart, tasty, and healthy alternatives that help protect your kidneys instead of attacking them.



High-oxalate foods (spinach, beets, nuts, chocolate)

Why avoid: These contain oxalates, which can combine with calcium in your kidneys and form hard, painful stones, especially calcium oxalate stones, the most common type.

Swap with: Opt for low-oxalate fruits and veggies like watermelon, cucumber, bananas, cauliflower, grapes, or cauliflower and pair occasional oxalate foods with a calcium-rich food (like cheese) to reduce absorption.

High-sodium (salty) foods (processed, canned, fast food)

Why avoid: Too much salt is never good for your kidneys, whether you've had stones or not. Too much salt boosts calcium excretion into urine, a key trigger for calcium stone formation.

Swap with: Pick up fresh, home-cooked meals seasoned with herbs, lemon juice, or mild spices. Choose low or no-sodium labeled items, and check for sneaky sodium in sauces like

New Delhi Declaration adopted to preserve, disseminate 'vast treasure' of manuscripts



PTI

New Delhi, Sept 13: Asserting that manuscripts are "not merely relics of the past, but a guiding light for the future", a global conference on Saturday adopted the New Delhi Declaration to bolster efforts to preserve, digitise and disseminate knowledge embedded in them. The Declaration was adopted on the closing day of the three-day 'Gyan Bharatam' conference on India's manuscript heritage, hosted at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

The New Delhi Declaration resolved that manuscripts are "living memory of a nation, and foundation of its civilisational identity".

India has one of the richest collections of ancient manuscripts in the world, with nearly 10 million texts that hold the country's traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

The declaration adopted at

the conference also resolved to "acquire and repatriate original manuscripts or secure their digital copies".

"We resolve to preserve, digitise and disseminate this vast treasure. We firmly believe manuscripts are not merely relics of the past, but a guiding light for the future," it said.

The government has launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission as a major initiative under the Ministry of Culture. It aims to survey, document, conserve, digitise and make accessible more than one crore manuscripts located at academic institutions, museums, libraries and private collections across India.

Manuscripts of Bhagavad Gita, Natyashastra inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

The declaration also resolved to "awaken people and make the Gyan Bharatam mission a 'jan aandolan'."

Maneka Gandhi backs 'kabutarkhanas', says pigeons harmless, firecrackers cause pollution

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 13: Former Union minister and BJP leader Maneka Gandhi on Saturday expressed confidence that kabutarkhanas (pigeon feeding spots) in the city will be reopened, saying that pigeons have not caused any harm, while firecrackers have contributed more to pollution.

Speaking to reporters here after attending an event, Gandhi said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has constituted a committee to take a decision regarding kabutarkhanas and the report will be favourable.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation had banned feeding pigeons and closed some old kabutarkhanas in the city last month, considering them to be a public health hazard.

"India's foundation is about compassion; it is about living and letting others live. There is no example of anyone ever dying because of pigeons. Pigeons have caused no harm to anyone," Gandhi said.

She noted that there are 57

kabutarkhanas in Mumbai, some of which have been closed.

"The chief minister has formed a committee to make a decision over it. It will take one month. Once the report is out, the kabutarkhanas will be reopened. I am confident of it," she said. "If pigeons are killed for spreading disease, firecrackers cause multifold pollution. Firecrackers did not exist during the time of Lord Ram and Sita. People would light diyas and share food. The time for firecrackers is now over. People can no longer breathe," the BJP leader said.

Gandhi criticised India's approach towards tourism, saying unchecked deforestation and neglect of natural assets had diminished its appeal.

"India's tourism appetite is less than that of many small countries. The more trees you cut and the more local culture you make disappear, the fewer people will come. If we respect our jungles and animals, within five years, we can do miracles," she said, pointing out that trees on nearly 21 lakh hectares of land had been cut down in the past decade.

Why avoid: Colas have phosphoric acid linked to stones; caffeine may dehydrate, concentrating minerals in urine.

Swap with: Water is the best – hands down. Unsweetened herbal teas or coffee in moderation help, but steer clear of colas and energy drinks.

High-purine foods (sardines, anchovies, organ meats, beer)

Why avoid: These foods raise uric acid levels, causing uric acid stones.

Swap With: Plant-based proteins and moderate animal proteins, plus good hydration and citrus, like lemon (increase citrate), can help inhibit stone formation.

Excessive vitamin C supplements

Why avoid: High doses of vitamin C can convert into oxalate in your body, fueling stone formation.

Swap with: Instead of opting for supplements, have vitamin C from whole foods, like oranges, strawberries, and bell peppers. Consuming these foods in regular amounts is safer and highly beneficial.

Disclaimer: This article is meant for general informational purposes only and should not be considered medical advice. It is not a substitute for consultation with a qualified healthcare professional. Always speak with your doctor or a registered dietitian before making any changes to your diet or treatment, especially if you have a history of kidney stones or other medical conditions.

Spoilt-for-choice India look to dominate Pakistan in Sunday's Asia Cup tie

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 13: A spoilt-for-choice Indian squad will be the favourite by a country mile against arch-rivals Pakistan here on Sunday in their Asia Cup encounter which is strangely devoid of any hype despite border tensions that have only risen in the past few months.

There is no dearth of context in the contest with a T20 World Cup set to be played in India in four months' time. But for the first time in many years, a cricket match between India and Pakistan, that too scheduled on a Sunday, lacks the kind of high-pitched narrative that always comes with the territory.

There are batters like Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Abhishek Sharma, a pacer like Jasprit Bumrah, spinners of Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravathy's calibre in the Indian playing XI. The Indians look way more menacing on paper compared to Pakistan, who are trying to find their feet under new skipper Salman Ali Agha.

However, considering the fickle nature of the format, there is always the chance of an upset but against this Indian team, the probability remains low.

One of the most talented batters in Pakistan's line-up, opener Saim Ayub, middle-order willow-wielder Hasan Nawaz and the troika of spinners in Abrar Ahmed, Sufiyan Muqeen and



Mohammed Nawaz would love to prove a point in a new look team that dumped the philosophy of depending heavily on Babar Azam and Muhammad Rizwan.

The political pitfalls The terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgalam that killed 26 tourists, began the most recent worsening of relations between the two countries.

The ensuing military operation and the public anger have played a role in the very muted build-up to the most high-profile match of the continental cricketing showpiece.

With thousands of tickets still available and very few fans turning up at the India practice on Friday, the festive excitement surrounding the match is missing.

The social media calls for a boycott by India has found resonance to an extent and as a result, no one knows how many BCCI officials, who otherwise make a beeline during

marquee events, will turn up on Sunday.

The Government of India has allowed national team's matches against the bitter rivals at multi-nation tournaments but not at the bilateral level.

The travelling media is also aiming to spice up things but predictably representatives of both nations have dead batted any probing queries which even remotely touch on politics.

Battle of spinners Normally, an Indo-Pak match has been about Indian batters locking horns with Pakistani pacers but this time around, the spinners of both sides will have a significant role to play considering that Jasprit Bumrah and Shaheen Shah Afridi are the only specialist pacers who will be seen in action on Sunday.

Although the pitch isn't offering a significant turn, the presence of one right-arm wrist spinner and one left-arm wrist spinner each

in both sides makes for a fascinating sub-plot.

Sufiyan Muqeen is a good bowler but nowhere close to a much craftier Kuldeep Yadav, whose googly has been unplayable from the hand.

Abrar Ahmed's leg-breaks and quirky celebrations have gained him a lot of fans across Pakistan but Varun Chakravathy, with an element of mystery attached to his art form, can mess with minds of Pakistani batters.

He could especially be tough for young guns like Saim Ayub, Shahibzad Farhan, who aren't reading spinners from their hands.

Last but not the least, Mohammed Nawaz, the left-arm spinner, ranked 30th in actual ICC rankings but at the zenith according to his coach Mike Hesson isn't a patch on Axar Patel, who is the most valuable yet low profile player in the Indian line-up.

Brittle batting line-up More than bowling, it is the batting line-up of India that will make Pakistan anxious.

Gill, Abhishek, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, and Shivam Dube can butcher any bowling attack on their day.

When it comes to all-rounders -- Faheem Ashraf is not comparable to Hardik in terms of match-winning ability.

These are players, who can take pitch out of the equation at any given point of time.

If India are wary of any one particular bowler in the Pakistan line-up, then it has

to be Shaheen, who has fond memories at this ground in 2021. He had dismissed KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma and some overs later Virat Kohli to set up a nice T20 World Cup group league win for his country.

But post knee surgery, Shaheen hasn't been half the bowler he was and the late swing and off the pitch movement has gone missing.

The key for India will be to figure the ideal batting line-up. Sanju Samson's slot will be vital and so will be that of Dube, whose assigned task will be to take down the spinners in the middle overs.

The noise may be absent, but the stakes remain high. Because when India and Pakistan take the field, hype or no hype, the world stops to watch.

Teams (from): India: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravathy, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson, Rinku Singh

Pakistan: Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Khushdil Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Agha, Hussain Talat, Faheem Ashraf, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Harris, Shahibzad Farhan, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali Hasan Ali, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, Sufiyan Muqeen, Mohammad Wasim Jr.

Match starts at 8 PM.

Nepal returns to calm as first woman PM takes charge

AFP

Kathmandu, Sept 13: Nepal's capital on Saturday took a step back toward normality after deadly anti-corruption protests, as daily life returned with a curfew eased and an interim prime minister sworn into office.

Soldiers scaled back their presence on the streets, where they had been deployed in large numbers since Wednesday after violent demonstrations toppled the government and left parliament in flames.

At least 51 people were killed in the worst unrest since the end of a decade-long civil war and the abolition of the monarchy in 2008.

On Friday evening, 73-year-old former chief justice Sushila Karki was sworn in as interim leader, tasked with restoring order and addressing protesters' demands for a corruption-free future.

Parliament was later dissolved, elections set for March 5, 2026, and work to restore the government began. By Saturday morning, the mood on the streets was calmer, with markets opening, traffic returning and families visiting temples.

"Satisfied today" For many Nepalis, Karki's appointment carried both symbolic weight and the promise of change.

"Nepal has got its first woman prime minister," said Suraj Bhattarai, 51, a social worker.

"We think that the prime minister -- our former chief justice -- will address Nepal's fight against corruption and take good governance



forward." The appointment of Karki, known for her independence, came after intense negotiations by army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel and President Ram Chandra Paudel, including with "Gen Z" representatives, the loose umbrella title of the youth protest movement.

Thousands of young activists had used the app Discord to debate the next steps -- and name Karki as their choice of next leader.

The new prime minister appeared to be widely welcomed as people sought to put the unrest behind them.

"The interim government decision is good for now," said Durga Magar, 23, who works in a Katmandu shop.

"The main issue for the people, especially young people, at this time is corruption," she said. "It doesn't matter whether it is Gen Z, or anyone older in politics who tackles it -- it just needs to stop," she added.

Protests, which began Monday and escalated on Tuesday, fed into long-standing economic woes in Nepal. A fifth of people aged 15-24 are unemployed, according to the World Bank, with GDP per capita standing at just \$1,447.

"We don't know what will happen in the future now but we are satisfied today and hope it will not remain as tense ahead," Magar added.

"Musical chairs" Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday offered his "best wishes" to Karki, adding that New Delhi was "firmly committed to the peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Nepal."

Huge challenges remain. The protesters' hope of rooting out endemic corruption is no easy task, while in terms of security, more than 12,500 prisoners who escaped from jails during the chaos are on the run.

But for many, Karki's swearing-in marks a break from the revolving door of aging prime ministers who fueled public anger with endless political horse-trading.

KP Sharma Oli, the 73-year-old leader of the Communist Party, quit as prime minister on Tuesday, ending his fourth term in the post. His whereabouts are not known. "They were playing a game of musical chairs," said Katmandu businessman Shikhar Bajracharya, 32.

"There was no possibility for younger people to come into power."

Trump says tariffs on India caused 'rift'

Admits he could not solve Russia-Ukraine war



ANI

Washington DC, Sept 13: US President Donald Trump stated in a Fox News interview that US tariffs on Indian goods caused a "rift" with India and admitted that the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which he had expected to be the easiest to resolve, remains unresolved.

"India was their [Russia's] biggest customer, I put 50 per cent tariff on India buying oil from Russia. That is a big deal and causes rift with India. Remember this, this is Europe problem more than our problem," Trump said.

Before discussing the tariffs on Indian goods, the US president admitted he has not been able to solve the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which he thought would have been the easiest.

"I thought easiest would be Ukraine and Russia... It takes two to tango. When Putin wants to do it, Zelensky didn't. When Zelensky wants to do it, Putin didn't. Now Zelensky wants to do it and Putin is question mark. We'll have to come down very strong. Only one. This is -- I've always had a great relationship with Putin, this is the only war that I have not solved," he added in his Fox news interview.

Trump further explained how he plans to "come down very strong" in regards to mitigating the Ukraine-Russia conflict. "It will be hitting hard with sanctions to banks and having to do with oil and tariffs also. I've already done it, I've done a lot," he said. During the interview, he also reiterated his record in resolving other conflicts. "I solved seven wars, seven. I did so many including Pakistan and India.... Some were unsolvable. Congo and Rwanda, I solved it. Millions of people killed. I solved wars that were unsolvable," Trump said. A White House statement highlighted how Trump defended his America First trade agenda, saying, "We've been successful because of the tariffs."

U.S. asks G7 countries to impose tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia

PTI

New York/Washington, Sept 13: The U.S. has asked G7 countries to impose tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia, asserting that only "unified efforts" that cut off funding to Moscow's war machine at source can apply sufficient pressure to end "the senseless killing."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the United States Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer were on a call with G7 Finance Ministers on Friday (September 12, 2025) when they reiterated President



Donald Trump's call to the bloc's partners about imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia. François-Philippe Champagne,

Canada's Minister of Finance and National Revenue, chaired a meeting of G7 Finance Ministers to discuss further measures to increase

pressure on Russia to end its war against Ukraine. G7 is an intergovernmental bloc of rich, industrialised countries comprising the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the U.K. Canada is the head of the rolling G7 presidency this year. "During today's call with G7 Finance Ministers, Secretary Bessent reiterated President Trump's call to our G7 partners that, if they are truly committed to ending the war in Ukraine, they should join the United States in imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia," a U.S. Treasury Department statement said after the call.

BCCI to finalise Team India's new jersey sponsor within three weeks

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 13: BCCI vice president Rajiv Shukla on Saturday said the new jersey sponsor of the Indian cricket team will be finalised in the next two to three weeks, with bids scheduled to close on September 16.

Team India is without a shirt sponsor in the ongoing Asia Cup after the BCCI's deal with online gaming company Dream11, worth Rs 358 crore per year, was cut short following the enactment of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, which banned real-money gaming applications.

The BCCI has since floated a new tender that bars companies involved in real-money gaming, betting, cryptocurrency, or alcoholic products from bidding.

"The tender process has been released and there are a lot of bidders. We will tell you after it's finalised. I think it will be finalised in 15-20 days," said Shukla at an event organised by realtors' apex body CREDAI here.

Asked if any name had emerged as a frontrunner, Shukla added: "No, there is no name yet. There are a lot of bidders. We will tell you after it's finalised." Shukla also spoke about the recent GST hike on IPL tickets, which now places them in the 40 per cent slab, alongside casinos and race clubs.

As a result, a Rs 500 ticket



will now cost Rs 700 and a Rs 2,000 ticket will go up to Rs 2,800. Regular international and domestic matches will continue to attract 18 per cent GST.

"I am seeing that a lot of common people come to watch IPL. It will definitely have an impact. But I am hopeful that a lot of people will come to watch IPL," he said.

On criticism that the BCCI enjoys tax exemptions, Shukla responded: "BCCI pays income tax like a corporate company. It also pays GST. We don't have any exemptions." "We pay thousands of crores of taxes. State associations also pay taxes. And we never take a single rupee grant from the government."

On the growth of women's cricket, Shukla said: "A lot of efforts are being made... The only challenge is that the stadium should be full." "Women should also come to watch the game. From our side we are doing everything. The salary is also at par.

"We are promoting women, organising tournaments, all facilities are being provided. The only thing is that people should come and watch women's games."

<p>THE CONJURING: LAST RITES (A) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 10:40 AM, 04:40 PM</p>	<p>DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA INFINITY CASTLE (UA13+) JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 09:45 AM, 04:05 PM ENGLISH - 07:15 PM HINDI - 12:55 PM</p>	<p>LOVE YOU VIETNAM (UA16+) HINDI - 10:00 AM</p>	<h3>Movies SCHEDULE</h3> <p>Sunday, 14th Sept.</p> <h1>INOX</h1> <p>SRINAGAR</p> <p>CALL 95416 13868 FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS</p> <p>TICKETS AT: www.bookmyshow.com www.inoxmovies.com</p>
<p>BAAGHI 4 (A) HINDI - 01:30 PM</p>	<p>MIRAI: SUPER YODHA (UA16+) HINDI - 06:00 PM</p>	<p>HARMUKH (U) KASHMIRI AND PARTLY KANNADA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 12:45 PM</p>	
		<p>HEER EXPRESS (UA/13+) HINDI - 07:30 PM</p>	