



BRICS condemns Pahalgam attack 'in strongest terms' in Delhi Declaration

Calls for zero tolerance towards terrorism, action against cross-border movement of terrorists, terror financing & safe havens

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Sep 12: BRICS leaders on Friday strongly condemned the April 22, 2025 terrorist attack in south Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 people and injured several others, while reaffirming their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

In the New Delhi Declaration adopted at the BRICS Summit, the grouping, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), described acts of terrorism as "criminal and unjustifiable" regardless of their motivation and asserted that such acts must be condemned wherever and by whomever they are committed.

The leaders specifically denounced the terror attack in



Pahalgam on April 22, 2025, in which 26 people lost their lives, and expressed solidarity with the victims and those affected.

Reaffirming their resolve to fight terrorism, BRICS countries stressed the need to combat the cross-border

movement of terrorists, terror financing networks and the provision of safe havens to extremist groups.

The declaration underlined that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group, and called for

all individuals and entities involved in terrorist activities or support networks to be held accountable and brought to justice in accordance with national and international law.

The bloc urged the international community to adopt a policy of "zero tolerance"

towards terrorism and reject double standards in counter-terrorism efforts.

BRICS leaders also emphasised that states bear the primary responsibility for preventing and combating terrorism, adding that global counter-terrorism measures must remain consistent with international law, including the UN Charter, international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

The grouping welcomed the work of the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group and its five subgroups operating under the BRICS Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Action Plan, and pledged to further deepen cooperation in the field.

The declaration also called for the early finalisation and adoption | [More on P6](#)

Intensify action against narco-terror modules in Jammu: DGP

Calls for enhancing intel-led ops to counter emerging security threats



Yogesh

Jammu, Sep 12: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Saturday called for intensifying action against narco-terror modules in Jammu region and directed the officers to enhance intelligence-led operations to counter emerging security threats.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting with officers of Jammu Police to assess the prevailing security scenario, DGP Prabhat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said,

"Dismantling the entire ecosystem of narco-terror networks—including financiers, handlers and logistical support—must remain a top priority."

He directed officers to maintain a high operational tempo through area domination, night patrolling, intelligence-based interventions and close coordination among all security agencies to ensure that terror outfits and their support structures find no operational space.

"Intensify action against narco-terror modules through enhanced intelligence-led operations and | [More on P6](#)

'Past is past, future is bright': AR Rahman praises Kashmir

'I wish IFFJK becomes India's best film festival'

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 12: Renowned music composer and singer AR Rahman on Saturday praised Kashmir's natural beauty and hospitality, while expressing hope that the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) grows into one of the country's leading film festivals.

Speaking about the festival, Rahman, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said holding an international film festival in Kashmir was "commendable" and would allow people to experience the beauty and vibrancy of the region.

He expressed hope that the festival becomes widely known and attracts visitors from across the world to experience the hospitality of Kashmir.

Rahman said artists draw inspiration from Kashmir's



peaceful and beautiful surroundings, adding that filmmakers should showcase the region's natural beauty and peace through their work.

"The past is past, and the future is bright," he said, while emphasising the need to present Kashmir positively through films and music.

The music composer said he had recently visited Kashmir for an advertisement shoot and expressed his desire to return to perform in the Valley.

"We have some plans, and we are talking. Hopefully, I want to come and perform here," he said.

Recalling his association with Kashmir through the film Rockstar, Rahman said he had recorded local women singing folk songs during his earlier visit and incorporated their voices into the film.

I came here for Rockstar. I recorded the ladies singing folk songs, and we used it in Rockstar, and we | [More on P6](#)

Ahead of autumn session Speaker constitutes Business Advisory Committee

Sharma, Sagar, Sajad named to panel

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 12: Ahead of the upcoming autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather has constituted the Business Advisory Committee (BAC).

According to a notification, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the committee comprises legislators from different political parties and has been constituted under Rule 317 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Legislative Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir.

The BAC includes Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sagar (BJP), Ali Muhammad Sagar (NC), Mubarak Gul (NC), Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami (CPI-M), Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Congress), Sajad Gani Lone (PC), and Choudhary Muhammad Akram (Independent).

The Business Advisory Committee is entrusted with recommending the allocation of time for discussion on



Government Bills and other business referred to it by the Speaker. As per the Rules, the BAC may also frame a timetable indicating the hours by which different stages of such business shall be completed, along with any other functions assigned by the Speaker.

Sources disclosed that the Speaker is likely to convene an all-party meeting next week to ensure the smooth functioning of the 10-daylong session, starting on September 21.

Representatives of different parties will be invited for the meeting, they added. (KNO)

J&K filmmakers shine at IFFJK, bag 3 of 9 awards

Local cinematic talent makes a strong mark at J&K's 1st International Film Festival

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 12: In a significant recognition of the creative talent emerging from Jammu and Kashmir, three filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir have secured three prestigious awards out of the nine presented at the First International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026.

The achievement marks a proud moment for the region's growing filmmaking community, with Kashmiri filmmakers making their presence felt on a platform that brought together acclaimed filmmakers, artists, technicians, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts from across India and around the world.

Baba Tasaduq Hussain won the Best Cinematography Award for the documentary Naqsh-e-Daur (The Story of



Ghulam Nabi Dhar), earning appreciation for its visual storytelling and cinematic treatment.

The Best Emerging Filmmaker Award was conferred on Askini: The Guiding Darkness, directed by Ajit Singh Bhasin, recognising the film's distinctive cinematic voice and promising creative approach.

Adding another major honour to the region's tally, filmmaker Kapil Matto's Tasrudfar – The Jinns of Kashmir won the Best Film from Jammu & Kashmir Select category, celebrating a work that draws upon the region's | [More on P6](#)

Father, son killed, wife critically injured in Budgam accident

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Sep 12: A man and his minor son were killed, while his wife was critically injured after the motorcycle they were travelling on collided with a car in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Saturday.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the family was travelling on a motorcycle when it collided with a car in the Soibugh area.

SIA raids 3 locations in Poonch, Udhampur

KNO Correspondent

Poonch, Sept 12: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Saturday conducted searches at three locations in Poonch and Udhampur districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that SIA teams carried out searches in Mandi and Surankote areas of Poonch district and Ramnagar in Udhampur district.

The official | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi champions long-term partnerships with key nations during BRICS summit engagements

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Sep 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a series of significant bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit held in New Delhi on Saturday. These engagements underscored India's diplomatic focus on strengthening regional and global partnerships, advancing economic cooperation, and promoting multilateral collaboration across diverse sectors.

The meetings covered key strategic partners including China, the United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Ethiopia, reflecting India's commitment to fostering a rules-based international order and enhancing its influence within the Global South.

India-China Bilateral Meeting with President Xi Jinping

The most anticipated of these engagements was Prime Minister Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with



the steady progress in their bilateral relations since their previous meeting in Tianjin in August 2025. Both emphasized the importance of maintaining a long-term, strategic perspective in their relationship, noting that differences should not escalate into disputes. The Prime Minister highlighted the guiding principles of mutual respect, mutual sensitivity, and mutual interest as foundational to their engagement.

A primary focus of the discussion was the need to ensure peace and tranquility along the border. Modi underscored that stability in border areas remains essential for the overall development of India-China relations. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to observing existing agreements and understandings related to border issues, recognizing that a peaceful border is critical for regional stability. They also

agreed to work towards a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable resolution of boundary questions, based on the broader context of their bilateral ties and the long-term interests of their peoples.

Beyond border issues, the leaders reviewed progress in people-to-people exchanges, cultural ties, trade, and economic cooperation. They acknowledged the importance of expanding mutual understanding through cultural

exchanges, business linkages, and greater mobility of citizens. On economic and trade fronts, they discussed addressing concerns such as structural trade imbalances and supply chain disruptions. Both sides emphasized the need to facilitate predictable market access, fostering an environment conducive to growth and cooperation.

The leaders also agreed to deepen cooperation on regional and global issues, recognizing their shared interests in addressing international challenges such as climate change, global security, and economic stability. The Prime Minister appreciated China's support for India's BRICS chairship and its contributions toward the success of the 2026 Summit, reinforcing the importance of multilateral engagement.

India-UAE Strategic Partnership

On the same day, Prime Minister Modi met with His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, reaffirming the significance of | [More on P6](#)

JeM terrorist's remains, M4 rifle recovered in Doda



KNO Correspondent

Doda, Sept 12: Security forces on Saturday recovered the decomposed remains of a suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist along with an M4 rifle in the Divshetar area of Seoj Dhar in Doda district, officials said.

A senior police officer told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that locals reported the sighting of a suspected decomposed body along with an M4 rifle in the general area of Divshetar on Saturday.

"Security forces have reached the area and are conducting further investigation to ascertain the identity of the deceased and establish other relevant details," the officer said.

Meanwhile, J&K Police, in a post on X, said that SOG Doda, Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and CRPF retrieved the remains of a Pakistani Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist who had been neutralised earlier in a joint operation.

"You Can Run But You Can't Hide!" the police said, adding that a | [More on P6](#)

Div Com Kashmir reviews implementation of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

‘Facilitate registration of apprentices from colleges, schools to monitor progress’

KT News Desk

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

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

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

registration of apprentices, training components, and the potential for engagement by Central and State PSUs, Corporations and Banks.

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

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

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

He further instructed

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

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

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

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



National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

DC Kulgam chairs awareness programme

KT News Desk

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

The awareness program, as per an official statement, was organised to sensitize local construction firms and contractors about the scheme's benefits and implementation framework.

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

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that registration on the NAPS portal is mandatory for all eligible establishments and urged contractors and construction firms to actively engage for nourishing industry-ready talent. He called upon local firms to register promptly, noting that industry participation in apprenticeship programs directly enhances the district's skilled manpower pool.

During the program, a detailed



presentation was delivered to guide participants through the step-by-step registration process on the NAPS portal for both establishments and aspiring students/trainees. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A where officials addressed queries from contractors regarding portal navigation, stipends, and engagement guidelines.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Superintending Engineer (SE) R&B, Executive Engineer (Exen) R&B, Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Kulgam, and Superintendent ITI Kulgam, alongside a large gathering of local contractors and representatives from construction firms.

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



KT News Desk

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

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

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

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

During inspection, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of the boundary wall, protective fencing and prefabricated structures, including the mini-office and Chowkidar room. He directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to work in coordination, maintain the required quality standards and complete the remaining works within the prescribed timelines.

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

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

PIB Srinagar organises media tour to Chennai for Srinagar Journalists



KT News Desk

Srinagar, September 12: The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Srinagar Region, is organising a media tour for journalists from Srinagar to Chennai from September 13 to 19, 2026 as part of its ongoing media outreach initiatives.

A 13 member delegation comprising journalists from Srinagar and PIB officials will participate in the tour. Prior to the departure, Director, PIB Srinagar, Qazi Salman, as per a PIB statement, briefed the delegation on the objectives of the visit and urged the participants to make meaningful use of the interactions during the tour.

The delegation is being led by Shahid Lone, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag, serving as the Conducting Officer, with Ifham Ul Islam, Information Assistant, PIB

Srinagar, accompanying the delegation.

The tour is aimed at providing journalists with firsthand exposure to key Central Government institutions, projects and initiatives in Chennai and enhancing their understanding of national level policies and their implementation on the ground.

During the visit, the delegation will visit various Central Government establishments and projects in Chennai and interact with senior officials to gain an understanding of their functioning and operations.

Addressing the delegation, Qazi Salman congratulated the participants and expressed confidence that the visit would provide an opportunity for professional engagement and a better understanding of the functioning of Central Government institutions.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan,Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 7TH.

Subject: Construction of Gravel Packed Production Tube Well at Water Supply Scheme Arakhashi Pora District Anantnag.
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 20/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/2294-07, dated: 09-06-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_311967_1.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 25-08-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	26-09-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	28-09-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM

NOTE:

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

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./9756-68
Dated: 11-09-2026.

DIPK-5653/26
DATED: 12-09-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION PULWAMA

www.rewpul.in xenrew-pulwama@jk.gov.in 01933-313247

M/s Mushtaq Ahmad Paswal S/o Gh Qadir Paswal

R/o Katho Khallan, Keller P/N 6006246253

FINAL NOTICE

Xen/REW/Pul/3952-55 Dated: 11 -09-2026

Subject: Final Notice for failure to commence the allotted work despite earlier notice. Ref: Notice No. 3548-53 dated 05/09/2026

It is hereby brought to your notice that the work "Establishment of Community Library with Basic Facilities at Sangerwani", allotted to you under TSP Scheme vide this office Allotment No. Xen/REW/Pul/2473 dated 13-08-2026, has not been commenced within the stipulated period prescribed in the Allotment and the terms and conditions of the tender.

You were already served a notice vide No. Xen/REW/Pul/3548-53 dated 05/09/2026, directing you to commence the allotted work without any further delay. However, despite the said notice, you have failed to commence the work and have not demonstrated any tangible progress towards execution of the same.

Your continued failure to commence the allotted work amounts to non-compliance with the conditions of allotment and directions issued by the department and is causing avoidable delay in execution of the sanctioned development work. Such inaction on your part cannot be allowed to continue.

You are, therefore, hereby served with this FINAL NOTICE and directed to commence the work, by mobilizing the required manpower, material and machinery at the work site, and ensure its execution strictly as per the sanctioned estimate, specifications, allotment conditions and stipulated completion period.

You are further directed to submit compliance to this office immediately upon commencement of the work. In case you fail to commence the work within 03 days from the date of receipt of this Final Notice, this office shall proceed to initiate appropriate action against you, without any further notice, under the SBD guidelines, terms and conditions of the tender/L01 and other applicable rules, including cancellation of the allotment/contract and any other action warranted under the rules. Any consequences arising out of your failure to execute the allotted work shall be entirely at your own risk and responsibility.

Executive Engineer
REW Pulwama

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL ACHABAL, ANANTNAG

UDISE: 01060103705 NO: BHSS/ACH/...../2026 DATE:...../09/2026

ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible, experienced professionals and academicians in the field of Tourism & Hospitality and IT & ITES to deliver guest lectures to students of Classes 9th to 12th under the Vocational Education component of Samagra Shiksha for the Year 2026-27 The initiative aims to enhance the holistic development and practical skills of students. Details regarding the trade and are as follows:

S No.	Trade Name	Eligibility/Qualification
1	Tourism & Hospitality	Masters in Tourism & Hospitality/Masters in any Discipline with One Year Diploma in Tourism
2	IT & ITES	MSC IT/ MCA/BTech Computer Science

Terms and Conditions:

- Remuneration: Rs 1000/- per guest lecture per class trade,
- Duration: 60 minutes per session.

How.to Apply:

- Interested and eligible candidates can submit a brief profile / CV via email to achabalhss@gmail.com by or before 20.09.2026.

DIPK-5632/26
DATED: 12-09-2026

Govt approves Rs 49.34 Cr parking projects in Jammu



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded administrative approval for two major parking infrastructure projects in Jammu, aimed at easing traffic congestion and strengthening planned urban infrastructure in the city.

The approved projects include a Parking-cum-Commercial Complex at Parade and a Multilevel Car Parking facility at SMGS Hospital, Jammu, with a combined estimated

cost of ₹49.34 crore.

The projects are envisaged to provide modern and organised parking facilities at key locations, helping decongest busy areas and improve traffic management. The facilities will also contribute to more efficient utilisation of available urban space and support the broader objective of planned and sustainable urban development.

The new parking infrastructure is expected to significantly improve convenience for commuters, visitors and residents, particularly in areas witnessing high vehicular movement and parking pressure.

CJ, Executive Chairman inaugurate 3rd NLA

23,213 cases settled across J&K

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 12: Continuing its endeavor to promote access to justice through swift, cost-effective and amicable resolution of disputes, the J&K Legal Services Authority, under the patronage of Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the dynamic leadership of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority and with the guidance of Justice Sanjay Dhar, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, organised the 3rd National Lok Adalat (NLA) of the year 2026 across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Lok Adalat covered a wide range of matters, including MACT claims, matrimonial disputes, cheque dishonour cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, money recovery matters, commercial disputes and compoundable criminal offences.

AT Srinagar, Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, along with Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, jointly inaugurated the 3rd National Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex, Srinagar.

The occasion assumed special significance as it marked the first National Lok Adalat after Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati assumed office as Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh. Upon their arrival, the dignitaries were received by Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairperson, DLSA Srinagar) and Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and other Judicial Officers of



the District Judiciary.

A ceremonial Guard of Honour was also accorded to the Chief Justice. Thereafter, the Chief Justice and Executive Chairman visited different Lok Adalat Benches and interacted with the Presiding Officers, members of the Benches, Advocates and litigants.

They appreciated the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the Lok Adalat and witnessed the settlement of cases at the Benches. MACT compensation cheques were also distributed among eligible claimants on the occasion, extending timely relief to the beneficiaries.

As per the information received from various Legal Services Institutions across the UT of J&K, a total of 32908 cases were taken up by 163 Benches during the day-long National Lok Adalat, out of which 23213 cases were amicably settled and disposed of, involving a total settlement/compensation amount of

Rs. 176,22,29,397.

The settled matters included Motor Accident Claims, civil and criminal matters, labour disputes, electricity and water bill disputes, land acquisition matters, family disputes, cheque dishonour cases and bank recovery matters, among others.

Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, while interacting with media persons, expressed his gratitude and appreciated the efforts of the Judicial Officers, Secretaries of DLSAs, Advocates, Para Legal Volunteers, staff of the District and Tehsil Courts and the litigants for their wholehearted participation in the 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar while welcoming the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh emphasized the significance of Lok Adalats and observed that they provide an effective mechanism for speedy, amicable and final resolution

of disputes without the burden of prolonged litigation.

He urged the public to make greater use of Lok Adalats and encouraged all stakeholders to continue their efforts towards strengthening consensual dispute resolution.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal, High Court of J&K and Ladakh inaugurated the National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex, Jammu. On the occasion, the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Tahir Khursheed Raina received the Justice along with other judicial officers of district Jammu.

Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, informed that the 4th and final National Lok Adalat of the current calendar year is scheduled to be held on December 12, 2026. She urged litigants whose cases could not be listed or settled in the present Lok Adalat to avail themselves of the opportunity in the forthcoming National Lok Adalat.

LG Saxena commends Police for introducing people friendly initiatives

Raja Syed Rather

Leh, Sep 12: Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, on Saturday said that commended the Ladakh Police for introducing people friendly initiatives that are tailored to the Union Territory's unique geography, climate, connectivity challenges, high-altitude terrain and growing tourist footfall.

After inaugurating four new initiatives, Jullay 2.0 – Ladakh Police Tourist Assistance App; introduction of 20 e-Challan devices by the Traffic Wing; expansion of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 112 network through five new Rescue Beats; and opening of Tourist Facilitation Centres-cum-Check Posts at North Pulu in Nubra and Serchu in Changthang, LG Saxena said, "These steps will strengthen public safety, emergency response, tourist assistance and technology-enabled policing in the Union Territory."

He said, "These initiatives demonstrate that Ladakh Police is not merely adopting technology for modernisation, but is using it to meet the specific needs of our people and visitors. By combining technology with infrastructure and trained manpower, these measures will



make policing more responsive, transparent and accessible, particularly in our remote and strategically important areas."

The Lieutenant Governor called for continued modernisation and regular evaluation of such measures based on practical experience and public feedback, with every technological intervention ultimately translating into quicker response, greater transparency and better public service.

Meanwhile, an official said, "The Jullay 2.0 brings tourist assistance, safety services, weather information and other essential facilities onto a single digital platform. Its live notification system will provide tourists with real-time alerts, advisories and updates,

particularly important in Ladakh where weather and road conditions can change rapidly. The app also enables tourists and local residents to lodge complaints and report incidents directly to the Police, including through anonymous reporting. The app has been rolled out for Android devices on the Play Store, with its availability on the App Store expected shortly."

"The introduction of 20 e-Challan devices marks a significant step towards digitising traffic enforcement. Integrated with VAHAN, Sarathi and the e-Challan system, the initiative will create a digital trail from identification of a violation and verification of vehicle and licence details to challan generation and receipt. Centralised digital records will also help monitor

violations, identify repeat offenders and traffic-violation hotspots, and enable more evidence-based traffic management. The larger objective is to improve road safety and protect human life," the official added.

He said, "The ERSS 112 network has been expanded with five new Rescue Beats at Nimoo, Nyoma, Sankoo, Panamik and Tangtse, increasing the number of Rescue Points from 11 to 16. The network is supported by 16 Emergency Response Vehicles of Ladakh Police, along with four additional ERVs of the Fire Department and UTDRF, equipped with GPS and Mobile Data Terminals. During July 2026, ERSS Ladakh received 3,375 calls and recorded 117 registered events, with an average response time of approximately 20 minutes."

The official said, "The new Tourist Facilitation Centre-cum-Check Post at North Pulu, Nubra, has been established to strengthen police presence and tourist services in the remote area. Similarly, the Tourist Facilitation Centre-cum-Check Post at Serchu, Changthang, has been completed under the SDP through CPWD. Taken together, the initiatives mark a significant advancement towards technology-driven, responsive and people-focused policing in Ladakh."—(KNO)

Sopore hosts maiden community fest

Waris Fayaz

Sopore, Sep 12: North Kashmir's Sopore town hosted its first-of-its-kind community festival, bringing together entrepreneurs, businesses and residents on a common platform to showcase products, talent and emerging ventures.

Details available said the two-day festival, initiated by Wajid Wani, featured more than 20 stalls set up by major outlets, entrepreneurs and businesses.

The event attracted a large number of visitors, creating a vibrant atmosphere and drawing attention to local talent and enterprises.

Wani said the initiative was aimed at community building by providing businesses and entrepreneurs a platform to come together and connect with people.

He said the festival also served as an awareness initiative, with stalls providing information about products, services and schemes offered by businesses and trades operating in and outside Sopore.

"It is a community-building festival
Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Omar-led-Govt Won't last 5 Years: LoP Sharma



Sajid Raina

Jammu, Sep 12: Jammu and Kashmir Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma on Saturday claimed that the Omar Abdullah-led government would not complete its five-year term, alleging there was growing dissatisfaction within the ruling National Conference (NC).

Sharma, who was speaking during a visit to Reasi, described the NC as a "broken party" and

said the government had failed to fill three vacant ministerial positions despite nearly two years in office.

"The National Conference is currently a broken party," Sharma said, alleging that only five ministers were running the government despite three vacancies.

He claimed that there was "something wrong" within the government and the party and said dissatisfaction among

ministers could eventually lead to the collapse of the ruling party.

"This government is not going to run for a long time," the BJP leader said when asked whether the National Conference would complete its five-year term.

The LoP also criticised the government over issues raised by people during his visit to Reasi, including water shortages, electricity curtailment and protests by various categories of employees.

He said people were facing problems on multiple fronts and accused the government of failing to provide timelines for resolving public grievances.

"We will fight this fight from the Assembly to the streets," the Leader of Opposition said.

On the issue of the University Grants Commission (UGC),

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Vet interns' stipend protest hits Day 6 at SKUAST-K



Raja Syed Rather

Ganderbal, Sep 12: The protest by veterinary interns of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Kashmir (SKUAST-K) Shuhama over their monthly stipend entered its sixth day on Saturday, with the students intensifying their agitation as their hunger strike entered the second day.

The protesting interns are demanding an increase in their monthly stipend from the existing Rs 6,000 to Rs 23,000, saying the present amount is inadequate to meet basic expenses and does not correspond with the responsibilities involved in their internship.

Jammu and Kashmir Veterinary

Students Association president Saqlain Rashid said the students had been protesting peacefully for the past six days but had received no concrete response from the authorities.

"Our stipend is only Rs 6,000, which comes to around Rs 200 per day. Students in several other states are receiving more than Rs 20,000. Our genuine demand is that the stipend should be brought at par with other states," he said.

Rashid said the students have to travel to different districts, states and remote areas during their internship, while also bearing the rising cost of living and other expenses. He said the file regarding

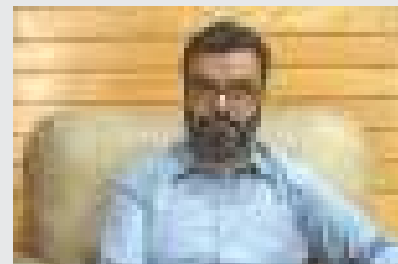
Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Ruhullah joins Veterinary interns' protest

Raja Syed Rather

Ganderbal, Sep 12: National Conference Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday joined the ongoing protest by veterinary intern doctors at the SKUAST-Kashmir Shuhama campus in Ganderbal and urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to immediately engage with the protesting students and address their long-pending demands.

According to the details available, the veterinary interns have been protesting for the past six days over their monthly stipend, which they said has remained at 6,000 since 2011. They are demanding an increase in the stipend to 23,000, saying the existing amount is inadequate to meet basic expenses and does not correspond with the responsibilities and professional requirements of veterinary interns. Talking to reporters during his visit to the protesting interns, Ruhullah appealed to the government



and Agriculture Minister Javed Ahmad Dar to intervene and initiate dialogue with the protesters. He said the interns have been raising their concerns for several months and that the issue could be resolved through meaningful engagement. Ruhullah said the ongoing protests by veterinarians, medical interns, NHM workers and students reflected the need for greater accountability and responsiveness from the administration.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Creativity: The Missing Dimension Of Education

Education should not be viewed merely as a means of producing students who can score well in examinations. Its greater purpose should be to help every child discover and develop the talents that God has given to him or her.

Mohd Abbas Abdul Razak

Ever since the human race came into existence, the world has undergone remarkable changes. Man, born as an intelligent creation of God Almighty, has been able to demonstrate a tremendous amount of innovation and creativity.

As a result of man's creative intelligence, humanity has been able to invent new tools, develop new skills and knowledge, and create technologies that have contributed to the advancement of human civilization.

With the invention of modern technology, human beings have been able to explore the vastness of the universe and the deepest parts of the oceans. They have even created a man-made universe that we call the Internet.

Despite our great achievements, in some parts of the world, the education system is still largely influenced by an old school of thought, which fails to recognize the role of education in bringing out the different forms of creativity within the learner. Such creativity is very much in demand in the modern world.

Experts in the field of creativity have acknowledged that human creativity is not only found within the human soul but is also influenced by the environment in which a person lives. Creativity is something that is inherent in an individual, but it can also be developed and learned.

To incorporate creativity into the education of today's children, not only teachers but also parents should create a conducive environment for students to think outside the box and question what has been taught and communicated to them, both in the classroom and at home. By not allowing children the freedom to question what they have been taught, we may hinder the development and flourishing of their creative ideas.

Regrettably, in many countries, the success of a student is measured mainly in terms of his or her examination results. In such a situation, students are often forced to memorize and reproduce information learned in class without being given the



opportunity to question what they have learned and develop their problem-solving skills. Moreover, this system of education produces students who are overly exam-oriented and, at the same time, fails to help them discover and develop their own creative potential.

Creativity, like human intelligence, is diverse. It manifests itself in many aspects of human life. An individual who has an aptitude for music can create a beautiful piece of music. A person who is talented in art can mould a beautiful statue from clay, paint a magnificent portrait, or weave a household item from rattan and other natural fibres. Those who are creative in the skilful use of language can deliver good speeches or write a book or poem.

In discovering the fact that creativity is diverse, one should not fall into the old mindset of thinking that one is either creative or not. I am a strong believer that everyone is creative in one way or another.

In modern times, technology, when used appropriately, can enhance human intelligence and creativity. Conversely, too much dependence on technology can prevent human beings from bringing out their God-given talents, skills, intelligence, and creativity that lie dormant within the soul. In such a situation, man becomes too dependent on technology and underestimates his own potential.

In accepting our new understanding of what creativity is all about, we need to change our approach to creativity and education. Our concept of education should not focus only on our children's scores in mathematics and science, but should give equal emphasis to the arts, literature, sports, leadership, spirituality, and other aspects that a child needs to develop through the process of education.

Every subject taught in school serves a purpose in preparing students for their adult lives. For instance, science and

mathematics are crucial for developing the mind and for our physical survival, while art and craft bring out our softer and artistic talents. Spiritual and moral education helps us to connect with God, nature, and the rest of humanity.

Music, as a subject, helps us to find harmony in the soul and, at the same time, provides an escape from the chaotic and demanding situations of modern life. Sports, on the other hand, teach us an important philosophy of life: our lives are full of events in which there are times when we win and times when we lose. Like in a competition or game, there are moments when we enjoy the glory of success and moments when we have to face the agony of defeat. Moreover, sports teach us valuable lessons about tolerance, cooperation, discipline, and team spirit.

Finally, sports help us develop a strong and healthy body and equip us with greater physical endurance. After all, one needs a

healthy body for the proper functioning of a healthy mind.

Teachers in the contemporary world who understand the demands of modern society should not only emphasize academic performance but should also identify the hidden talents of their students and motivate them to develop and enhance those talents.

Unlike the bygone eras of the past, today's job market is no longer focused only on our diplomas and degrees. International companies are prepared to offer jobs to those who possess additional skills and talents beyond their formal qualifications. Multinational companies are looking for candidates who have language skills, creative ideas, and well-rounded personalities who can work effectively with others.

In realizing the demands of the modern world, schools, particularly in developing countries, should be prepared to make a paradigm shift. Instead of giving greater importance to science and mathematics alone, education in these countries should place equal emphasis on every subject taught to students. In addition, education should move beyond mere rote learning and give greater attention to creative thinking, problem-solving, computer skills, and other soft skills.

In conclusion, education should not be viewed merely as a means of producing students who can score well in examinations. Its greater purpose should be to help every child discover and develop the talents that God has given to him or her. A good education should develop the mind, body, character, creativity, spirituality, and social abilities of the individual. Only through such a holistic approach can education prepare young people not merely to earn a living, but also to live meaningful and purposeful lives.

Courtesy: IslamiCity. Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of Dr. Mohd Abbas Abdul Razak from the Department of Fundamental and Interdisciplinary Studies, AHAS KIRKHS, IIUM, and do not necessarily reflect the views of IslamiCity

From Green Stems To Green Enterprises

How the traditional bamboo resource is creating new livelihoods, enterprises and opportunities

Press Information Bureau

A bamboo bag might seem like an ordinary find at a city market stall. But its journey tells a story that winds from a small village enterprise to a shift in national policy. At the SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2026 in Gurugram, one such story stood on display: bamboo bags crafted by Vishakha Didi from Assam. In 2014, she joined a Self-Help Group (SHG) and revitalised her father-in-law's bamboo craft enterprise with new designs. Government support and exhibitions helped her reach wider markets. She participated in the India International Trade Fair, 2025; her bamboo creations earned her 2 lakh in sales. Her journey captures a moment that turned a home-grown craft into a thriving enterprise.

For generations, bamboo was closely linked with traditional livelihoods across communities, but an outdated regulatory barrier once held back its true economic potential. Under a British-era law, bamboo was classified as a tree, which made harvesting and transporting it unnecessarily cumbersome for the people who depended on it. In 2017, the government took a landmark step by removing bamboo from this classification, freeing it from restrictive forestry regulations. This forward-thinking reform opened the doors to greater innovation, entrepreneurship, and value addition in the bamboo sector. The importance of this move is now visible across the country, especially in the Northeast, where bamboo is driving employment, business, and innovation.

One such example is fashion designer and sustainable innovator Chimi Ongmu Bhutia's Lagstal Design Studio near Gangtok, Sikkim. This women-led manufacturing enterprise makes bamboo handicrafts, incense sticks, furniture, interior décor items, etc. Bamboo here moves beyond traditional craft into contemporary design and enterprise. Chimi's story



is part of a wider movement. In Tripura, Bijoy Sutradhar adopted technology to improve bamboo product manufacturing. In Nagaland, SHGs around Dimapur are adding value to bamboo-based food products, alongside local enterprises like Khorolo Creative Crafts producing furniture and handicrafts. Meanwhile, in Mizoram's Mamit district, teams are advancing scientific cultivation through bamboo tissue culture and poly-house management. These examples point towards the bamboo sector becoming more diverse, innovative, and value-driven.

A transformation of this scale requires more than skilled hands. It needs technology, processing facilities, training, and stronger market connections. This is where government support becomes important. The National Bamboo Mission focuses on cultivation, processing, and market access for bamboo farmers, manufacturers, and sellers. It also supports nurseries for quality planting material. Consider an example to understand the impact of this

government scheme at the farm level. In Madhya Pradesh, Vijay Patidar turned to bamboo after repeated losses from conventional farming in 2019. He planted around 4,000 bamboo saplings with support from the bamboo mission. Within two years, he earned approximately 75,000 from selling bamboo poles. Bamboo also allowed him to intercrop chilli, capsicum, ginger and garlic. His experience shows how bamboo can become both a crop and a longer-term livelihood asset.

Further, the North East Centre for Technology Application & Reach (NECTAR) has supported bamboo technologies across several commercial applications. These include food and agro-processing, construction materials, manufacturing machinery, renewable energy, industrial products, etc. These interventions have generated employment of around 30 million man-days annually. They have also raised value addition for bamboo commodities from 10 percent to as high as 70 percent. For example, engineered bamboo

is opening new possibilities in the field of construction. Engineered bamboo is a composite material made by binding and compressing raw bamboo fibers, strips, or particles. Furniture made with new designs and engineered bamboo is gaining popularity and attracting the attention of architects, designers, and interior decorators. Consequently, more than 42 lakh square feet of engineered bamboo structures have been built for disaster relief and rehabilitation. In Chhattisgarh, 576 school rooms have been made from engineered bamboo, housing about 20,000 children. This shows how bamboo is moving into construction applications once associated only with conventional industrial materials.

The bamboo value chain is expanding in directions beyond product diversification. Women's groups are becoming important participants across this emerging value chain. Such a story of women's livelihoods becomes especially visible in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. A bamboo-based agarbatti

initiative, named the Gadchiroli Agarbatti Project (GAP), started production centres across the district in 2012. By 2020, they had 32 centres employing around 1,100 people, and nearly 90 percent of these workers were women. Monthly earnings reached around 5,000 for every woman. Employment also increased from roughly 45-60 days annually to more than 225 days. Work also moved closer to home and became less physically strenuous in nature. Women gained new skills, confidence, and opportunities for leadership. This initiative also reduced dependence on forests as a source of income.

Stories like these have been made possible due to continued efforts by the government towards capacity building and training. CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Nagpur, recently, in June 2026, conducted a five-day training programme on bamboo handicrafts for women SHGs. The theme of this training programme was "Empowering Women SHGs through Bamboo Handicrafts from Bamboo Grown on Fly Ash Dumps." The training provided hands-on skills in bamboo harvesting, treatment and processing, handicraft production, value-added product development, entrepreneurship, branding, marketing, and product design. The initiative demonstrated how reclaimed fly ash dump sites can be transformed into productive landscapes, generating both environmental and socio-economic benefits for local communities.

The bamboo story is becoming a story of people, possibilities, and transformation. Across India, bamboo is creating livelihoods, enterprises, and sustainable opportunities. The story of bamboo in India is therefore no longer simply about what bamboo can become. It is about what communities can become when a traditional resource is connected to technology, enterprise and opportunity.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

Srinagar Ring Road Phase-II, II-A

Div Com Kashmir reviews removal of bottlenecks

KT News Desk

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

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, SSP Traffic Rural, Project Director NHAI, and officers from R&B, PHE and KPDC.

On the occasion, officers of NHAI gave a detailed presentation on the project, highlighting the impediments faced by the executing agency, including land acquisition status, compensation disbursed, demolition of Government and private structures, shifting / alteration of establishment structures, utility shifting, court cases and tree felling.

During the meeting, the Div Com directed the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal to depute a joint team comprising ADC Ganderbal, Tehsildar, NHAI and the contractor to hand over possession of



acquired land to the executing agency by Tuesday. He further directed NHAI to take possession of the greenfield land parcels as there is no issues faced by the agency.

He also directed documentation of private structures and demolition of all such structures by Saturday to remove black spots and bottlenecks.

The Div Com further directed phased felling of Chinar and Walnut trees falling within the road alignment, as per due procedure.

He also impressed upon the NHAI officers to undertake immediate maintenance of existing roads in Ganderbal damaged due to movement of their project vehicles.

Director Sericulture unveils 'SILK KASH' Quarterly Journal 2026

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12: Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Saturday unveiled the second issue of 'SILK KASH', the Quarterly Journal 2026 of the Sericulture Development Department in presence of senior officers and departmental staff of the Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director, as per an official statement, emphasized the immense potential of sericulture as a viable and remunerative livelihood activity, particularly its cost-effectiveness and capacity to generate sustainable returns for rural households. He stressed the need for an intensive and result-oriented publicity and awareness campaign to disseminate information about the benefits and opportunities associated with silkworm rearing, making effective use of every available medium of communication and outreach.

The Director stated that the quarterly journal has been conceived as a dedicated knowledge and outreach platform aimed at showcasing best practices, documenting the achievements and success



stories of progressive silkworm rearers and creating greater awareness among stakeholders about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship initiatives being implemented by the Department.

He highlighted that programmes such as Silk Samagra-2 and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) are being proactively implemented to strengthen the sericulture sector and extend the benefits of government interventions to stakeholders at the grassroots level. He observed that an informed stakeholder community is fundamental to ensuring effective implementation of schemes and maximizing their intended impact.

Bhat further stated that through 'SILK KASH', the Department seeks to bridge the information gap and ensure that silkworm rearers, farmers, silk reeling and weaving unit holders, educated youth, women and tribal communities remain adequately informed about available schemes, subsidies, training programmes, departmental facilities and technical support. Such timely access to information, he said, would enable stakeholders to make informed decisions and fully capitalize on the opportunities emerging in the sericulture sector.

The Director also underscored the importance of capacity building and continuous skill enhancement as key

drivers for the sustainable growth and modernization of sericulture in Jammu & Kashmir. He informed that focused efforts are being made to strengthen the capabilities of stakeholders through skill-upgradation programmes for departmental field functionaries, exposure visits for silkworm rearers and farmers and targeted awareness camps for educated youth, women and tribal communities.

He expressed the hope that 'SILK KASH' would evolve into an effective communication, knowledge-sharing and knowledge-dissemination platform, providing stakeholders with practical information, technological insights and greater awareness of the opportunities available in the sector, while also giving wider visibility to the achievements and initiatives of the Sericulture Department.

The unveiling of the journal marks another step towards strengthening communication, knowledge dissemination and stakeholder engagement with the broader objective of making sericulture a more attractive, productive and sustainable livelihood avenue across Jammu & Kashmir.

Spawn Production Lab Jammu conducts Cordyceps Mushroom trial

KT News Desk

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

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

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

He said that Cordyceps mushroom has significant potential as a high-value crop and the successful trial at the Spawn Production Laboratory is an important step towards exploring its commercial potential in Jammu. The Director further stated that

farmers, mushroom growers and young agripreneurs interested in Cordyceps mushroom cultivation will be provided training and technical guidance through DCTC Jammu, enabling them to take up the activity in a scientific and economically viable manner.

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

Anil Gupta said that controlled cropping technology can enable farmers to cultivate mushrooms throughout the year by providing a suitable production environment, thereby reducing dependence on seasonal conditions. He emphasized that adoption of such technology can help farmers increase production cycles, improve productivity and create additional and more stable sources of income. "Besides Button mushroom, the Department is also focusing on strengthening the cultivation of Oyster (Dingri) and Milky mushroom and extend all possible technical support to farmers interested in adopting these varieties" he said.

Nasha Mukht Vidhyalaya

District-level seminar organised at GDC Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 12: In a major push toward creating a substance-free educational ecosystem, the Education Department conducted a District Level Seminar on the theme "Nasha Mukht Vidhyalaya" Saturday at the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

The event, as per an official statement, was graced by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone as the Chief Guest, while the Principal of GDC Shopian, Tariq Ahmed attended as the Guest of Honour.

The ADDC appreciated the students for their enthusiastic participation in the Nasha Mukht programme and lauded their efforts towards creating awareness against drug abuse. He urged the students to actively channelize their energy towards positive activities play the role of responsible ambassadors in society. He emphasized that the message of a drug-free life should reach every section of society and called upon the students to become role models in this regard and inspire others to stay away from drugs.

The ADDC praised the initiative, emphasizing that schools must serve as the primary defensive line against substance abuse by fostering positive guidance,



vigilant monitoring and healthy engagement. He highlighted the institution's role in guiding youth toward holistic development and academic excellence, urging students to direct their energy into constructive pursuits.

The ADDC stressed for regularly hosting educational seminars, counseling sessions and youth engagement drives across all schools in the district.

Later, a felicitation ceremony was held during which students and participants were felicitated and mementos and awards were presented in recognition of their participation and contribution to the programme.

The event also featured colourful cultural programmes presented by the students which conveyed meaningful messages

on the importance of a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and added vibrancy to the event.

The seminar aimed to raise awareness among students, teachers and the broader community regarding the perils of drug abuse, emphasizing the banner's core message: "Healthy Students, Brighter Tomorrow" and "Choose Dreams, Not Drugs."

The event concluded with a collective pledge from the administration, faculty, and students to actively work together toward building a Nasha Mukht (drug-free) society and safeguarding the future of the youth.

Chief Education Officer, Bashir Ahmed Shah, Professors and Staff of GDC and students of various educational institutions participated in the seminar.

Mission Shakti Budgam organises awareness programme on Cyber Safety, POCSO Act



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 12: SANKALP - Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Budgam, under the guidance of DSWO Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, Saturday organized an awareness programme on Cyber Safety and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, at Spring Buds Higher Secondary School, Ompora, Budgam.

The programme, as per an official statement, aimed to sensitize students and participants about online safety, responsible use of digital platforms, and the legal safeguards available for the protection of children.

During the programme, an awareness session on Cyber Safety was conducted by Raies Ahmad, Cyber Safety Commando, Cyber Police Station, Budgam. He sensitized the participants about various cyber threats, safe use of social media and digital platforms, protection of personal information, online fraud, cyberbullying, and the importance of reporting suspicious online activities to the appropriate authorities.

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

The speakers stressed the need for collective responsibility among educational institutions, parents, students, law-enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders to prevent cyber offences and protect children from exploitation and abuse.

The programme was organized as part of the ongoing awareness and sensitization initiatives of SANKALP - Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Budgam, aimed at promoting the safety, dignity, rights, and empowerment of women and children.

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

KT News Desk

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

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

The students, as per an official statement, were briefed about the source of raw water and the processes of treatment, filtration, disinfection, testing and distribution. The visit provided them an opportunity to understand how water travels from its natural source through treatment infrastructure before reaching a household tap.

The programme aimed to create awareness among the younger generation about the importance of safe drinking water, water conservation and the achievements



made under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Students thanked the Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara for organising the exposure tour. They said the visit helped them understand the process of water treatment and made them realise the importance of preserving and conserving water for future generations. The programme also provided them with an opportunity to learn about the efforts being made under the Jal Jeevan Mission to improve rural drinking-water infrastructure and provide functional household tap connections.

The students were also sensitised about the need to prevent water wastage, protect water sources

and use drinking water responsibly.

The programme highlighted that a water treatment plant is more than just infrastructure, as the journey involves source collection, treatment, filtration, disinfection, quality testing and distribution before water reaches the household tap.

The initiative also sought to familiarise students with the broader social impact of improved rural water supply. Under JJM, the shift from fetching water over long distances to accessing water through household taps has the potential to save time, improve convenience and contribute to better health, hygiene and quality of life.

3rd National Lok Adalat

DLSA Budgam facilitates amicable settlement of 260 cases

KT News Desk

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

The National Lok Adalat, as per an official statement, was inaugurated by O.P. Baghat, Principal District & Sessions Judge, 2Chairman, District Legal Services Authority), Budgam, in the presence of Judicial Officers posted at the District Headquarters, members of the Bar, panel advocates, staff of DLSA Budgam and other stakeholders.

The Lok Adalat was conducted under the overall supervision of the Chairman and under the guidance of Tabassum Qadir Parry, Secretary DLSA Budgam with the objective of providing litigants with an effective, expeditious and accessible mechanism for resolution of disputes through mutual settlement and compromise.



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

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

issues, municipal matters and cases concerning various government schemes, besides other matters amenable to settlement in accordance with law.

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

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

The successful conduct of the National Lok Adalat reflects the continued commitment of DLSA Budgam towards strengthening

access to justice and providing a people-centric platform for amicable resolution of disputes. Lok Adalats provide litigants with an opportunity to resolve disputes in a less formal, expeditious and cost-effective manner while also reducing the burden of prolonged litigation on the parties as well as the courts.

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

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

Speaker directs accelerated execution of new Legislative Assembly Complex

Stresses adherence to Oct 2027 deadline

KT News Desk

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

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

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

Taking note of the progress



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

The Speaker directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and gear up men and machinery to ensure timely completion of the remaining components. He called for close and continuous monitoring of the progress at every stage and

directed that any bottlenecks affecting the pace of execution be identified and resolved promptly.

Speaker Rather stressed that the stipulated timeline for completion of the project must be adhered to in letter and spirit. He directed the concerned agencies to put in place an effective execution and monitoring mechanism so that the remaining works are taken up simultaneously, wherever feasible, without compromising on the quality and prescribed standards.

Later, during the review meeting, the Speaker specifically directed that the entire project be completed within the stipulated deadline of October 2027, stating that timely completion

of the New Assembly Complex should remain a priority for all concerned.

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

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

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

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

During the meeting, the Speaker took stock of the overall condition of the premises and directed the concerned authorities to undertake necessary repairs, renovation and maintenance works wherever required

Skill education essential for youth empowerment: Javid Dar

Minister inaugurates Fashion Designing Centre at GDC Hadipora

KT News Desk

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

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

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

The initiative is expected to particularly benefit young women by equipping them with employable skills, fostering self-reliance and encouraging their participation in economic activities.

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



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

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

Highlighting the importance of traditional crafts, Javid Dar said that initiatives promoting Sozni embroidery can help preserve the region's rich cultural heritage while creating new avenues of livelihood for skilled artisans and aspiring entrepreneurs. He appreciated the college

administration for establishing the centre and encouraged the students and local youth to make the best use of the facilities being provided.

The Minister underscored the importance of continued efforts towards strengthening skill development infrastructure in educational institutions, with a focus on empowering youth, promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating sustainable income generation.

The Fashion Designing Centre is expected to serve as a platform for skill enhancement, creativity and vocational development, contributing towards the socio-economic empowerment of youth in the region.

Professor Tariq Ahmad Wani, Principal, GDC Hadipora, faculty members, students and senior citizens were present on the occasion.

Reckitt, Jagran Pehel Launch Dettol School Hygiene Programme In Ladakh

KT News Desk

Leh, Sep 12: Reckitt, the world's leading consumer health and hygiene company, under its flagship campaign, Dettol Banega Swasth India (BSI), today launched the Dettol School Hygiene Education Programme in Ladakh in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education, Ladakh. The initiative extends structured hygiene education to children in one of India's most remote regions, advancing Reckitt's commitment to deliver better health in more hands, every day while strengthening last-mile access to health and hygiene knowledge so no one is left behind. The programme was formally launched at Council Model School, Ayu Saboo, Leh, in the presence of Bhanu Prabha, IAS, Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, UT Ladakh.

Situated in one of India's most remote and high-altitude

regions, Ladakh presents a unique opportunity to strengthen health and hygiene awareness among children and communities that are often difficult to reach through conventional interventions. Through age-appropriate and interactive learning, the programme aims to build knowledge, behaviours and practices around five key hygiene pillars: personal hygiene, hygiene at school, hygiene at home, hygiene during illness, and hygiene in the neighbourhood. By equipping children with practical hygiene skills early in life, the initiative seeks to encourage lasting behaviour change that extends beyond classrooms into homes and communities.

Bhanu Prabha, IAS, Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, UT Ladakh, said, "Schools are not just places where children learn; they are where lifelong habits are shaped. Children are

our multiplier force, and when we help them build healthy habits early in life, they carry these practices back to their families and communities, creating a wider culture of health and hygiene. We are grateful to Reckitt and the Dettol Banega Swasth India team for strengthening hygiene education in schools across Leh. By combining classroom learning with practical demonstrations and engaging tools, this initiative will help children not only understand the importance of hygiene but also practise these behaviours in their everyday lives. Such efforts can create a more consistent and sustained approach to healthy practices while enabling children to become active ambassadors of hygiene within their families and communities."

Prof. Ravi Bhatnagar, Director, Corporate Communications and Corporate Affairs, South Asia, MENARP, and Africa, Reckitt said, "At Reckitt, we exist to



deliver better health in more hands, every day and are committed to leaving no one behind, especially when it comes to access to health and hygiene education. The expansion of Dettol Banega Swasth India to Ladakh reflects our belief that

geography should never be a barrier to healthier lives. We are grateful to the Directorate of School Education, Ladakh for their support as we work towards taking evidence-based hygiene education to children in one of India's most remote

regions, helping them become agents of behaviour change in their schools, homes and communities."

Under the programme, Jagran Pehel will lead on-ground implementation, helping provide students and teachers with access to a comprehensive hygiene education curriculum supported by student workbooks, teacher training manuals and curriculum-based classroom activities. Learning will be further reinforced through animated hygiene education content, child-friendly videos developed in partnership with Sesame Workshop, digital hygiene games and an interactive hygiene chatbot designed to make hygiene learning engaging, accessible and age appropriate.

The programme will also strengthen hygiene awareness within schools through hygiene-themed comic books, awareness posters, 3D DIY hygiene and sanitation kits, and interactive game-based learning tools.

To encourage the adoption

of healthy behaviours, schools will conduct live handwashing demonstrations highlighting the correct handwashing technique and the importance of hand hygiene in preventing the spread of infections.

For over a decade, Dettol Banega Swasth India, one of the largest and longest-running public health movements, has been reaching more than 30 million children through interventions across 900,000+ schools and enabling more than 43 billion handwashing occasions. The programme combines hygiene education with practical behaviour change interventions to help children adopt healthy habits and become ambassadors of hygiene within their families and communities. The launch in Ladakh reflects Reckitt's continued commitment to expanding access to health and hygiene education for communities that are often difficult to reach through conventional programmes.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

BRICS condemns Pahalgam

of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the United Nations framework and urged concerted action against all terrorists and terrorist entities designated by the UN.

BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia. This year's summit was chaired by India after it assumed presidency on January 01, 2026. The summit was hosted at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from September 12-13, with a galaxy of leaders and delegates from the member countries participating in it. (KNO)

J&K filmmakers

distinctive cultural and storytelling traditions.

The three awards, spanning cinematography, emerging filmmaking and the best film from J&K, underline the diversity and depth of cinematic talent present in the region.

During the festival, the selected films by local filmmakers like "Batt Koch (The Lost Lane)", directed by Siddarth Koul and Ankit Wali; "Tasruddaar (Djinns of Kashmir)", directed by Kapil Mattoo; and "Naqsh-e-Daur (The Story of Gulam Nabi Dhar)", directed by Baba Tassaduq Hussain received wider appreciation from the audiences. Batt Koch, was screened as closing film of the festival received much appreciation from renowned filmmaker Ramesh Sippy and audiences. "Love in veitnam" a movie by Rahat shah kazmi a jammu and kashmir based filmmaker was also screened during the festival and was widely appreciated.

The recognition is particularly significant as the inaugural IFFJK has provided filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir with an international platform to present their work alongside films from different parts of country and the world. The success of the three films demonstrates the festival's role in creating meaningful opportunities for local storytellers to connect with wider audiences, industry professionals and the global cinematic community.

The strong showing of J&K filmmakers also reflects the evolving creative landscape of the

Union Territory, where filmmakers are increasingly exploring local histories, folklore, landscapes, contemporary realities and cultural narratives through diverse cinematic forms.

The achievement is expected to further encourage young filmmakers and emerging artists from the region to pursue their creative ambitions and tell stories rooted in the unique experiences, heritage and cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir.

The First International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir, organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), has thus emerged as an important platform not only for celebrating global cinema but also for placing the creative voices of J&K before a wider national and international audience.

'Past is past, future

want to come and do more things here," he said.

Welcoming the IFFJK initiative, he described it as a "great opening" and said he hoped the festival would continue to grow into a major international event. "I wish Kashmir becomes the best festival of India," he said.

Rahman also sang a few lines about Kashmir before concluding his interaction with the media. (KNO)

Intensify action

stronger inter-agency coordination to counter emerging security threats in the Jammu region," the DGP added.

The review also covered anti-terror measures, border-related challenges and the growing threat posed by narco-terror networks that use drug trafficking to finance terror activities.

The meeting was attended by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone Tajinder Singh, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range Shridhar Patil, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu Joginder Singh, besides other senior district police officers. (KNO)

Father, son killed,

He said the motorcycle rider and his minor son sustained critical injuries in the accident. They were shifted to Primary Health Centre

(PHC) Soibugh, where doctors declared them dead.

The deceased were identified as Naseer Ahmad Mir, son of Ghulam Hassan Mir, resident of Goom Ahmadpora, Magam, and his minor son Hadi. His wife, Dilshada Akhter, also sustained injuries in the accident.

The official said Dilshada was initially treated at PHC Soibugh and later referred to Srinagar for further treatment. Her condition was stated to be critical.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation to ascertain the circumstances leading to the accident. (KNO)

SIA raids 3

said that in Mandi, the SIA team searched the residential premises at Cheela Dhangri.

Further details about the searches and the case in connection with which they were conducted are awaited. (KNO)

JeM terrorist's

night-enabled M4 rifle was also recovered. (KNO)

PM Modi champions

the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The leaders highlighted the broad scope of their relations, which encompass political, cultural, economic, energy, and people-to-people ties. They recalled the recent visits by UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India in January 2026 and Modi's visit to the UAE in May 2026, which strengthened bilateral bonds.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the positive outcomes within BRICS during India's chairship and agreed to continue collaborating through the multilateral platform to promote shared interests. They discussed the UAE's active participation in BRICS and welcomed ongoing cooperation in regional and international issues.

A key highlight was the announcement of a major investment project by the UAE's International Holding Company—an USD 11.5 billion greenfield aluminum project in Odisha. This project aims to position Odisha as a global

hub for aluminum manufacturing, boosting India's industrial capacity and economic growth. The leaders also discussed the strategic role of L'Imad, the UAE's newest sovereign investment fund, in deepening the India-UAE partnership, especially in emerging sectors such as technology, defense, space, and nuclear energy. They explored avenues for further co-operation, emphasizing the importance of sustained engagement in strategic and emerging fields.

India-Vietnam Ties Strengthened

Prime Minister Modi's meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung reflected the enduring friendship between the two nations, rooted in shared history, civilizational ties, and mutual trust. Modi welcomed Vietnam's participation as a Partner Country at the BRICS Summit, recognizing its strategic importance in India's Act East Policy and broader engagement with Southeast Asia.

During their discussions, both leaders reviewed the progress of their Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, established during the visit of Vietnam's General Secretary of the Communist Party, H.E. Mr. To Lam, in May 2026. They reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation across sectors such as trade, investment, defense, energy, and regional security. Both leaders emphasized the importance of collaboration in multilateral forums and shared views on regional stability and development.

India and Vietnam's partnership remains a cornerstone of India's regional strategy, with Vietnam serving as a vital pillar in promoting connectivity, economic growth, and security in Southeast Asia. The leaders discussed ways to enhance people-to-people exchanges, cultural ties, and strategic cooperation, reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening their partnership.

India-Malaysia Bilateral Engagements

In his meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Modi reviewed the progress of their bilateral relations since his visit to Malaysia in February 2026. The leaders discussed a wide array of issues, including trade, security, digital economy, infrastructure, energy, and tourism. They acknowledged the

importance of their strategic partnership and expressed a shared desire to deepen cooperation in emerging areas such as fintech, innovation, and smart cities.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim conveyed Malaysia's support for the establishment of an Indian Consulate in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, which would facilitate better diplomatic and economic engagement. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, with an emphasis on expanding trade and investment, enhancing defense cooperation, and fostering cultural exchanges.

India-Ethiopia Strategic Partnership

The final bilateral meeting of the day was with Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali. Modi and Abiy discussed ways to further deepen their bilateral strategic partnership, especially in economic cooperation, defense, security, and capacity building. The discussions built on Modi's historic visit to Addis Ababa in December 2025, which laid the groundwork for increased collaboration.

Both leaders exchanged perspectives on regional and international developments, emphasizing the importance of cooperation within multilateral forums. Modi expressed appreciation for Ethiopia's participation in the BRICS Summit, noting that its presence reinforced the collective voice of the Global South and highlighted Africa's role in global affairs. The dialogue reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening ties with Ethiopia, viewing it as a key partner in Africa's broader developmental trajectory.

These bilateral engagements at the BRICS Summit reflect India's strategic diplomatic approach under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. By engaging with key partners across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, India aims to deepen its influence within multilateral institutions, promote regional stability, and foster economic growth. The meetings underscored the importance of long-term strategic partnerships, mutual respect, and shared interests as India continues to position itself as a leading global player committed to an inclusive, multipolar world order.

BRICS countries reaffirm commitment to combat corruption, welcome cooperation on fugitive offenders

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 12: Reaffirming their commitment to prevent and combat corruption, BRICS countries on Saturday welcomed the 'Informal Cooperation for Tracing Fugitive Offenders Sought for Corruption and Supporting Extradition' and the establishment of the Expert Network on Asset Recovery.

The grouping emphasised stronger international cooperation on asset recovery, fugitive offenders and cross-border corruption in the 'New Delhi Declaration' adopted on Saturday.

In the 45-page declaration adopted during the BRICS Summit held under the chairship of India, the grouping welcomed the establishment of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery to enhance cooperation among focal points and experts and encourage competent authorities to make active and effective use of practical tools developed by the network.

"We reaffirm our commitment to promote BRICS cooperation in preventing



and combating corruption and to the continued implementation of relevant international agreements in this regard, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption," it said. The grouping said it recognises the progress achieved under the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group in strengthening international cooperation on asset recovery and combating cross-border corruption.

"We also welcome the BRICS Repository on

Informal Cooperation for Tracing Fugitive Offenders Sought for Corruption and Supporting Extradition. We acknowledge ongoing discussions on the proposal of developing a Network of Law Enforcement Practitioners for enhancing international cooperation on fugitive offenders, in accordance with our respective domestic legal frameworks," it said. The countries said they would continue implementing relevant international agreements, particularly the

United Nations Convention against Corruption, or UNCAC.

The declaration highlighted progress made by the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group in strengthening international cooperation on asset recovery and combating cross-border corruption.

"We also acknowledge the initiatives of BRICS countries aimed at promoting transparency, integrity and accountability in governance and the exchange

of good practices related to ethical governance and technology-driven systems. We encourage continued cooperation among BRICS countries to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks and institutional capacities," it said.

The members stressed the importance of effective criminal asset recovery in combating corruption and encouraged BRICS countries to strengthen cooperation, including through asset tracing networks and other practical mechanisms to facilitate the recovery and the return of assets in accordance with UNCAC and domestic laws.

BRICS countries said discussions were continuing on a proposal to establish a Network of Law Enforcement Practitioners to enhance international cooperation on fugitive offenders, in accordance with the respective domestic legal frameworks of member countries.

The countries encouraged continued cooperation to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks and institutional capacities.

BRICS declaration calls narcotics menace a serious threat to humankind

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 12: The BRICS declaration on Saturday voiced concern over drug abuse and trafficking across the globe, stating that the menace "seriously" threatens the well-being of humankind.

The declaration adopted during the 18th BRICS summit in New Delhi also welcomed the recent Guwahati Declaration issued by the BRICS Heads

of Anti-Drug Agencies "that would facilitate operational and technical cooperation among BRICS anti-drug agencies".

"We express concern over the situation with illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse worldwide, and recognise that it seriously threatens public security, health safety and well-being of humankind and undermines the sustainable development of States," the Delhi Declaration said.

The Guwahati Declaration of July had underscored the need for timely exchange of information, intelligence and best practices among member countries, in accordance with national laws and international obligations.

India has adopted a mission-mode approach against drug crimes with a national vision to dismantle the narcotic cartels by 2029 with a "whole of government" approach.

Prajwal Revanna prison phone had explicit videos, forensic probe finds

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 12: Forensic examination of a mobile phone seized from the prison cell of convicted former MP Prajwal Revanna has found several explicit videos on the device, while a pen drive recovered during the search contained movies and web series, police said on Saturday. The devices were seized during a surprise inspection of the Security Division barracks at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison on August 11 and were subsequently sent for forensic examination, officials said.

Revanna was found using an Android smartphone inside the prison last month. A video that later surfaced showed him in casual clothes speaking to someone on the phone. The device, along with other items, was seized from his barrack during a four-to-five-hour search by the Central Crime Branch (CCB).

Investigation by the CEN police station found several dozen pornographic videos on the seized



mobile phone, a police officer privy to the probe told PTI.

During questioning, Revanna denied that the phone belonged to him. He claimed other inmates also used the device and that it came to him on a rotational basis, the officer said. He also denied downloading any of the pornographic videos, the officer said. The notebook seized from Revanna contained contact numbers of his family members and acquaintances, he said.

However, call logs showed that Revanna made unauthorised

communications with family members through intermediaries and also placed direct calls to a female friend. He admitted to the latter during questioning, the officer said.

Revanna continued to deny ownership of the mobile phone and maintained that he had not downloaded any of the explicit videos, the officer added. Police said notices will soon be issued to all persons whose phone numbers were found in the device's call history. During the inspection, police recovered a prohibited mobile phone, SIM card, charger and notebook from a cell occupied by undertrial prisoner Prathap Rai and convicted former MP Prajwal Revanna, officials said.

A case was subsequently registered at Parappana Agrahara Police Station.

In a statement issued on Friday on the probe into the seizure of mobile phones from the Central Prison, police said five persons who had allegedly purchased the seized mobile phone and SIM card and facilitated their transportation into the prison had been arrested and interrogated.

Delhi govt plans new bus management system powered by AI, machine learning

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 12: The Delhi government, which has been seeking to expand its public bus fleet, is planning to upgrade its existing Bus Management System (BMS) by integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to provide better public transport services, officials said on Saturday.

Currently, the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has around 6,269 buses, of which more than 4500 are electric. These buses are operated from 52 bus depots across the city.

The proposal comes a month after Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the government is looking to increase its bus fleet to 14,000 by 2028-29, and that the number of bus depots could go up to 90.

"With the number of electric buses increasing in DTC, the government plans to hire a company to study the current operational structure of the system and then scale up to create an AI-enabled Bus Management Software for management and monitoring of operation of electric and CNG or other fuelled buses," an official said.

Modi wishes Israeli PM Netanyahu on Jewish new year



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday greeted their Israeli counterparts and the Jewish community on their new year.

Modi conveyed his wishes to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a post on X.

"Shana Tova! Wishing a very happy Rosh Hashanah to Prime Minister Netanyahu, the people of Israel and Jewish communities across the globe. May the new year

be filled with peace, hope, good health and continued progress for all," he said.

Murmu extended her greetings to Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

"May the new year usher in peace, prosperity, good health and renewed hope for all," she said in a post on X.

"Excellency @Isaac_Herzog, On behalf of the people of India, I convey heartfelt #RoshHashanah greetings to you and the Jewish community across Israel and the world," Murmu said in the post, tagging the Israeli president.

Bihar flood situation remains grim, over 48 lakh affected



PTI

Patna, Sep 12: The flood situation in Bihar deteriorated on Saturday, with the number of affected people increasing to nearly 48.22 lakh across 15 districts, while several rivers, including the Ganga, were flowing above the danger levels.

The Water Resources Department (WRD) cautioned against sudden and rapid riverbank erosion, and directed its officials to maintain close vigil at vulnerable locations.

Due to the rise in water levels of several rivers, approximately 48.22 lakh people in 574 gram panchayats across 87 blocks in 15 districts have been affected by the floods, the Disaster Management Department said in a statement issued on Saturday.

The flood-hit districts are Patna, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Buxar, Samastipur, Munger, Katihar, Lakhisarai, Khagaria, Purnia, Madhepura and Araria.

The count of flood-affected people was 47.33 lakh on Friday evening.

The government also instructed officials to ensure prompt reporting of any erosion incident and to keep adequate resources readily available at vulnerable locations.

Incessant rain in Bihar, coupled with downpours in catchment areas of Nepal, has caused several rivers and streams to swell, officials said.

The state has recorded 108.8 mm of rainfall in September so far, about 20 per cent above normal, they said.

The Disaster Management Department said the Ganga was flowing at 36.48 metres at Sultanganj in Bhagalpur at 6 am on Saturday, 1.98 metres above the danger level, though the water level was receding.

The water levels of the Gandak at Dumariaghat, the Kosi at Baltara and Kursela, the Burhi Gandak at Khagaria, the Ganga at Digha, Gandhi Ghat, Hathidah, Bhagalpur, Kahalgao and Munger, the Punpun at Sripalpur, the Bagmati at Benibad, and the Ghaghra at Darauli and Gangpur Siswan were flowing above the danger marks, the Water Resources Department said.

It stated that a sudden reduction in water levels could increase the risk of bank erosion, posing a threat to vulnerable stretches of riverbanks and embankments.

The department officials have been directed to immediately inspect any location showing signs of sudden erosion, bank collapse, or rapid movement of the river

BRICS leaders call obesity major global health challenge; seek stronger traditional medicine ties

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 12: BRICS leaders on Saturday recognised obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as major global public health challenges and endorsed a joint mission on healthy lifestyles, while calling for greater cooperation in traditional medicine and a stronger focus on mental well-being.

In the Delhi Declaration, adopted after their meeting, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening preventive and promotive healthcare through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

"We recognise that obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have emerged as major global public health challenges and reaffirm our commitment to strengthening preventive and

promotive healthcare through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches," the declaration said.

In this regard, the leaders endorsed the launch of the BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle and the BRICS Roadmap for the Joint Initiative on Healthy Lifestyle Promotion (2026-2029).

They also welcomed the "Compendium of Replicable Best Practices on Healthy Lifestyle", which seeks to provide a platform for sharing approaches that can be adopted across BRICS countries. The declaration also highlighted the growing importance of Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) in strengthening health systems and contributing towards universal health coverage.

"We acknowledge the growing relevance of Traditional, Complementary and Integrative

Medicine (TCIM) to strengthening health systems and contributing towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC)," the leaders said.

They welcomed the proposed establishment of the BRICS Expert Working Group on TCIM under the BRICS Health Track as a platform for dialogue, collaboration and exchange among member states.

The leaders also called for coordinated research on medicinal plants and herbal preparations, with the aim of developing safe, effective and affordable therapeutic products.

"We underscore the value of coordinated research on medicinal plants and herbal preparations of therapeutic and preventive use, so that the shared traditional pharmacopoeias of member countries may serve as a foundation for developing safe, effective, and affordable

therapeutic products," the declaration said.

At the same time, the BRICS leaders stressed that traditional medicine practices and products must meet appropriate standards of quality, safety and efficacy.

"We reaffirm the importance of ensuring quality, safety and efficacy of TCIM practices and products through evidence-informed approaches and appropriate regulatory frameworks in accordance with the national contexts," they said. Mental well-being was identified as another important component of health and sustainable development, with BRICS countries backing greater cooperation in mental health promotion, research and capacity building.

"We recognise the promotion of mental well-being as a vital pillar of health and sustainable development," the declaration said.

The leaders supported the establishment of a BRICS Training Hub Network and a BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence (CoE), with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) being the coordinating CoE.

The proposed network would facilitate collaborative research, policy dialogue, exchange of best practices and the co-development of evidence-based mental health promotion strategies across BRICS countries, according to the declaration.

"The network of CoEs could also serve as a platform to facilitate collaborative research, policy dialogue, exchange of best practices, and the co-development of evidence-based mental health promotion strategies across BRICS countries," it said.

Guangzhou-Delhi flights to resume after six-year break



PTI

Beijing, Sep 12: China Southern Airlines on Saturday announced that it will resume regular passenger services on the Guangzhou-New Delhi route from September 21, restarting the service after a six-year suspension.

With the resumption, the airline will operate more than 100 weekly flights across eight round-trip routes in South Asia, the carrier said.

China Southern Airlines, headquartered in Guangzhou in China's southern Guangdong province, is one of the country's major carriers.

The carrier's

announcement coincides with Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India on Saturday to attend the BRICS summit and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on further improving bilateral relations.

The flight services between India and China were suspended following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and were not restored amid the over four-year military standoff between the two countries in eastern Ladakh, which ended in October last year.

The resumption of flights is part of the gradual normalisation of India-China relations following two meetings

between Modi and Xi in 2024 and 2025.

Modi and Xi met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, in October 2024, followed by another meeting during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin in 2025.

Following the improvement in ties, several Chinese and Indian airlines resumed flight services between cities in the two countries, including the Beijing-New Delhi route.

In March this year, IndiGo launched a daily flight between Shanghai and Kolkata, further improving air connectivity between India and China.

Iraq faces fallout as Iran-backed militias linked to Saudi pipeline attack

AP

Baghdad, Sep 12: Iraq's government was racing Saturday to contain the fallout after local Iran-backed militias were accused of attacking and shuttering a key Saudi pipeline. Iraq's government confirmed the attacks had originated from its territory, pledged to investigate and dismissed a military commander.

The country is under mounting pressure to prevent local militias from aiding other Iran proxy groups across the region. It's especially acute as the Iran-backed Houthi rebels make an advance across Yemen's west coast in a major setback to the Saudi-backed coalition that risks escalating the war in



the region.

The Iraqi government has set a September 30 deadline for non-state groups to disarm, but several of the most powerful militias have said they will not comply.

The Houthis on Friday seized an island in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a key shipping lane through which around 12 per cent of global trade passes.

Their virtual control of the strait could send global oil prices -- already inflated by the six-month Iran-US war -- spiralling. The strait has become a vital commercial lane for Saudi oil ever since the Iran war disrupted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Iraq to investigate attack on Saudi pipeline

Iraqi authorities determined that attacks targeting the east-west

Saudi pipeline were launched from a site in the country's Maysan province on the borders with Iran, the government said in a statement early Saturday.

Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi ordered an investigation into the province's operations command and dismissed its commander, the Saturday statement said. Saudi Arabia shut down the major, cross-country oil pipeline on Friday, saying it was a "precautionary measure" after the pipeline came under drone attack.

In a statement, the Saudi Foreign Ministry blamed the attacks on several drones that came from Iraq, but said the kingdom would not retaliate, to give the Iraqi government "an opportunity to take the necessary measures."

Saudi Arabia under pressure as Iranian threats and regional risks grow

AP

Dubai, Sep 12: A lightning advance by Houthi rebels threatens a crucial Red Sea shipping route. Drone attacks blamed on Iraqi militias have forced the closure of a major pipeline, and Iran is still disrupting the Strait of Hormuz.

It's a nightmare scenario for Saudi Arabia, and it has sent jitters through global markets.

The Saudis' most essential ally, the United States, has been unpredictable and sometimes unreliable. US President Donald Trump seems reluctant to widen an already unpopular and stalemated Mideast war ahead of congressional elections. For Iran, the rebels' advance and closure of the pipeline ramp up global economic pressure as its grip over the Strait of Hormuz has been loosened.

Michael Ratney, a former US ambassador to Saudi Arabia, said the latest developments are "incredibly frustrating" for the kingdom.

"Despite their antipathy for the Iranians, this is a war they had never asked for, they had great trepidation about. And once it started, all of their ... worst-case scenarios started coming true."

The Saudi government did not respond to a request for comment. But a Saudi official, who was not authorised to brief media and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the kingdom would defend itself and work with partners, including the United States, to ensure freedom of navigation in the Red Sea. Saudi hopes for a new Mideast have gone up in smoke.

Saudi Arabia's crown prince and de facto ruler, Mohammed bin Salman, has spent years trying to build a very different Middle East, with wide-ranging social and economic changes aimed at transforming the ultra-conservative kingdom into a global business hub in a more prosperous and integrated region.

Those efforts suffered major setbacks after Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, which triggered one war after another. When the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, it responded with missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, and effectively shut down the Strait of Hormuz, bottling up their oil and gas exports and jolting the world economy.

Saudi Arabia escaped some of the worst effects by piping its oil across the Arabian Peninsula to the Red Sea, where it could be exported to Europe via Egypt's SUMED pipeline and the Suez Canal, or to Asia via a route running through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and toward the Indian Ocean.

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stone for Volleyball academy at Nehama



KT News Desk

Kulgam, Sep 12: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Nehama and laid the foundation stone for a Volleyball Academy being established at an estimated cost of Rs 1.00 crore.

The proposed Volleyball Academy is aimed at strengthening the sports infrastructure in the area and providing local youth with modern and better facilities to hone their sporting skills. The initiative is expected to encourage greater participation of

young people in sports and promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

During her visit, the Minister interacted with the local residents and listened to their grievances, developmental concerns and demands. People from Nehama and adjoining villages projected various issues related to development and sought timely intervention for their resolution. Sakeena Itoo assured the people that their genuine concerns would be examined and taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action.

Emphasizing the need for quality and timely execution of developmental works, the Minister directed the engineering and concerned departments to maintain strict focus on the quality of works and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines. Sakeena Itoo stressed that every rupee allocated by the government for public welfare is valuable and must be utilized judiciously, transparently and effectively.

Inter-District U-19 boys kabaddi tournament begins in Doda

KT News Desk

Doda, Sep 12: District Youth Services and Sports Department Saturday declared open the Inter-District Divisional Level Kabaddi Tournament for Under-19 Boys here at the Indoor Stadium. The three-day tournament is being held from September 12 to 14, 2026, with participation of Kabaddi players from across districts of the Jammu Division.

The tournament, as per an official statement, was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur. Addressing the participating players, the Chief Guest advised them to maintain discipline, sportsmanship and team spirit throughout the tournament and encouraged them to give their best while respecting the rules and true spirit of the game.

The inaugural ceremony featured a colourful march past, oath-taking ceremony and formal declaration of the tournament open, marking the beginning of an exciting sporting competition.

On the opening day, matches were played in different pools. In Pool-A, Ramban defeated Kathua by 24 points in an exciting contest. In Pool-B, Reasi registered a convincing 43-point victory over Kishtwar.

The event is being conducted smoothly with the cooperation and support of the District Administration Doda, along with the dedicated efforts of departmental officials, technical staff and field functionaries. The participating teams displayed great enthusiasm, discipline and sporting spirit throughout the day's proceedings.

1st T20I: Tough choice between Samson and Sooryavanshi as India face tricky Afghan 'test'



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 12 : India face a dilemma over whether to opt for 'Boy Wonder' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's no-holds-barred aggression or stick with the experience and unmatched flair of Sanju Samson as they take on Afghanistan in the opening game of the three-match T20I series starting Sunday. While Sooryavanshi was drafted in the playing eleven in England at the expense of Samson, it is only fair to mention that by the last match of the series, the 15-year-old had to make way for his senior partner's return. It is not a straightforward

choice although Samson-Abhishek Sharma is a more stable T20I pair which has done fairly well. One can only hope that Gambhir and skipper Shreyas Iyer will give equal chances to both Samson and Sooryavanshi if possible before finalising the XI for the Asian Games matches in Japan.

During Friday's evening net session, Samson did look slightly more in control compared to Sooryavanshi, who got a masterclass from Jasprit Bumrah on how to face quick bowling with movement off the surface. It could have been a case of the youngster taking time to adjust

after playing three back-to-back red-ball games.

Also Sooryavanshi could take the Afghan attack to the cleaners with none of the opposition bowlers remotely close to Bumrah's quality. The pace at which they bowl could also suit Sooryavanshi's minimal footwork and stand-and-deliver game. In Samson's case, dropping him in England after just three failures in a high-risk format seemed unfair. But the Sooryavanshi euphoria had reached such a stage that the team management had to listen to popular demand, despite its stated resolve to remain insulated from outside noise.

GREAT MOVIES
GREAT TIMES

INOX
SRINAGAR

BIGGER
BRIGHTER
BETTER

MOVIES LIST

13 SEPTEMBER 2026 (SUNDAY)

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE (A)

HINDI ATMOS
11:05 AM, 02:55 PM, 06:45 PM

HINDI
01:55 PM, 05:45 PM

HAIWAAN (HINDI)
(U/A 16+)

10:40 AM, 12:30 PM,
03:45 PM, 07:00 PM

BOOK YOUR TICKETS
+91 95416 13868