

Speaker reviews preparations for JKLA Autumn session

Calls for meticulous planning, coordination



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Tuesday convened a meeting with the senior officers to review and finalise the arrangements for smooth conduct of the forthcoming Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly, scheduled to commence from September 21, 2026, in Srinagar.

Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit, Commissioner

Secretary IT Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary GAD M. Raju, Commissioner Secretary Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Achal Sethi, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg along with senior officers from Security, Traffic, Information, Hospitality & Protocol, Estates, Health, AYUSH, SMC, Fire & Emergency Services and other line departments were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Speaker, as per an official statement, emphasised that

successful conduct of the Legislative Session requires close coordination, advance planning and a high degree of administrative preparedness across all concerned departments.

Describing the forthcoming Autumn Session as a short session carrying a major responsibility, the Speaker stressed that every aspect of the arrangements must be accorded due importance. He cautioned the officers against taking any matter lightly, observing that “small issues

can create big problems” if not addressed in time.

The Speaker held detailed discussions on various arrangements and issued necessary directions to the concerned departments. Security arrangements figured prominently during the meeting.

He directed the concerned authorities to ensure comprehensive and foolproof security arrangements at the Assembly Secretariat and MLA Hostel, with emphasis on coordination among all security and

administrative agencies.

On the legislative business, the Speaker directed the General Administration Department (GAD) to ensure that all concerned departments furnish replies to Assembly questions within the prescribed timelines. He instructed the departments to designate Nodal Officers for effective coordination with the Legislative Assembly Secretariat so that matters relating to the session are dealt with promptly and efficiently.

The Speaker also reviewed arrangements relating to transportation and parking, directing the concerned authorities to make adequate arrangements to facilitate Members of the Legislative Assembly and minimise inconvenience to the public. He directed that government bills be submitted to the Assembly Secretariat well in advance to facilitate their timely processing and proper scheduling during the Session.

The meeting was also informed about the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) on a hybrid model.

DDC Budgam reviews progress under District Capex 2026-27



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 15: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of works approved under the District Capex 2026-27.

The DDC, as per an official statement, directed all concerned departments to expedite the completion of estimates, 100 percent tendering and ensuring that projects are taken up for execution at the earliest.

At the outset, the District Development Commissioner conducted a detailed department-wise review of the physical and financial progress of works including Rural

Development Department (RDD), Public Works Department (PWD), Minor Irrigation, Youth Services and Sports, Health, Jal Shak-ti, Ground Water, Power Development Department (PDD), JAKEDA and other departments.

The DDC directed the concerned officers to maintain close monitoring of ongoing works and ensure their timely and quality execution. He also stressed regular field inspections and effective supervision to identify and address any gaps or shortcomings promptly. “Effective supervision will ensure that there are no gaps in execution and that any shortcomings are promptly addressed, while maintaining the required quality standards,” he

asserted. Stressing on timely achievements of both physical and financial targets, the DDC further directed the officers to ensure proper coordination among departments, expedite pace work and adhere to pre-scribed timelines for completion of works.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Vivek Agarwal, Joint Director Planning, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD and other engineering wings, Block Development Officers, Assistant Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

District Level National Science Seminar-2026 held at DIET Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 15: The District Level National Science Seminar-2026 was successfully conducted Tuesday, at the Auditorium Hall, DIET Shopian, on the theme “Indian Energy Basket-2047: Prospects and Challenges.”

The seminar, as per an official statement, was held under the guidance of Principal DIET Shopian, Neetu Gandootra, who formally inaugurated the programme and delivered the inaugural address.

13 students from four zones, selected through zonal-level competitions, participated in the three-stage competition comprising Written Aptitude Test, Seminar Presentation and Question-Answer Session, as per NSS-2026 guidelines.

The Jury Panel comprising Dr. Mohd

Yousuf, Sr. Lecturer; Mohd. Amin Lecturer; Shabnum Afzal Lecturer, DIET Shopian conducted a comprehensive assessment.

Haseem Wani of NIPS Zainpora and Noor-ul-Hooda of GHSS Zainpora were selected to represent District Shopian at the forthcoming Division-Level Competition.

The programme witnessed the participation of DIET faculty, ZNOs and Escort Teachers.

Mementos and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the selected students, while Certificates of Participation were awarded to all participants and Certificates of Appreciation to DNOs and ZNOs.

The programme concluded successfully with a powerful message that scientific curiosity Tuesday shapes a stronger and more sustainable India tomorrow.



DC Kupwara reviews Road Safety Measures

Calls for strict enforcement, improved traffic management



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) at the Mini Meeting Hall of the DC Office to assess the implementation of road safety measures and review traffic management arrangements across the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, held detailed deliberations on strengthening road safety mechanisms, improving traffic regulation and ensuring strict compliance with traffic rules to minimize road accidents and safeguard the lives of commuters, pedestrians and other road users.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all enforcement agencies to

intensify field-level inspections and take firm action against traffic violations. Particular emphasis was laid on curbing underage and teenage driving, overloading, overspeeding and other unsafe driving practices. The Traffic Police were asked to conduct frequent surprise checks and strengthen enforcement at vulnerable locations, busy market areas and major traffic junctions.

The DC further directed the concerned agencies to ensure effective traffic regulation during peak hours and at locations witnessing frequent congestion.

Municipal Councils, in coordination with the Revenue Department and other concerned agencies, were instructed to undertake regular anti-encroachment drives to clear road corridors and public spaces obstructed by unauthorized structures

or activities, thereby facilitating smoother movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Emphasizing the importance of preventive measures, the Deputy Commissioner called for an extensive road-safety awareness campaign across schools and colleges. He directed the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Traffic Police and Chief Education Officer to jointly organize awareness programmes focusing on students and youth, besides sensitizing commercial drivers about responsible driving, traffic discipline and the consequences of violating road safety norms.

The meeting also reviewed the status of school bus safety audits and inspections of driving schools being conducted by the ARTO. The Committee discussed measures to ensure that school buses strictly adhere to prescribed safety standards and that driving schools maintain the required infrastructure, documentation and regulatory compliance.

Detailed attention was also given to road safety audits and the identification of vulnerable stretches, particularly along hilly roads and highways. The concerned executing agencies, including PWD, PMGSY and BEACON, were directed to conduct regular safety assessments and undertake necessary corrective measures on identified stretches.

Office of the Chief Education Officer District Budgam

Subject: Objections invited with regard to the absorption of the below-mentioned CPWs/LFWs (MTS) in the Department.							
Public Notice							
The department absorbs CPWs from time to time in accordance with the SRO 308 of 2008 Dated 16/10/2008 of J and K Education Department. The present committee established vide CEO Order No. 253 CEOB of 2026 dated 03/07/2026 has been working on the scrutiny and subsequent absorption of eligible CPWs. In this connection, the following consideration list of Eighteen (18) CPWs is notified for objections if any, to be submitted to this office within seven (07) working days from the date of issuance of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of due date (07 days from the date of Notification).							
The consideration list is purely provisional, subject to change on reception of valid objections supported by authentic documents, court interventions etc. The office reserves the right to withdraw the process of absorption at any time without any further notification.							
All concerned (CPWULFW) to note that if any incumbent has been left out from this tentative consideration list claiming for inclusion, may submit his/her grievances/objections at their respective DDOs. After proper scrutiny and verification, the same shall be submitted to the office of the undersigned. Objections routed directly shall not be entertained.							
S.No	Dist. Seniority	Name of the CPE/ LPE	School where working	Zone	Date of Engagement	D.O.B	Qual.(8th pass or above)
1	145	Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir	PS Hardu Lattina	H.Panzoo	01-06-2001	5-Apr-79	Matric
2	147	Mohd. Iqbal Najar	HS Bugroo	Khansahib	01.08.2001	24-Mar-73	10TH
3	150	Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh	BHSS Budgam	Budgam	29-04-2002	16-Nov-76	12th
4	151	Fayaz Ahamad Rangraz	GMS Kanihama	Narbal	01-06-2002	6-Nov-69	8th
5	152	Zahoor Ahmad Wani	GHSS Budgam	Budgam	04-07-2002	3-Sep-84	11th
6	153	Bilal Ahmad Ganaie	MS Hayatpora	Dreygam	1-Jan-2002	5-Jan-84	ie Pass
7	159	Javid Ahmad Mir	MS Handjan	Dreygam	4-Mar-2003	18-Apr-80	10 th Pass
8	160	Manzoor Ahmad Mir	Hs Yarikhah	Khansahib	15-Mar-03	15-Dec-84	10th
9	161	DiIshada Ali	HS Arizal	H.Panzoo	10-07-2001	15-Mar-85	MA
10	162	Mohd Yousuf Dar	BMS Zoohama	Chadoora	22-04-2003/ 02/06/7003	15-Feb-72	8th
11	163	Showkat Ahmad Rather	PS Dardpora	Budgam	01-05-2003	1-Nov-82	9th
12	164	Gh Ahmad Parrah	BMS Harduwamina	Narbal	1-May-03	21-Feb-85	BA
13	166	Mohd Ashraf Sheikh	PS Channa Moh. Yarikha	Khansahib	31-May-03	15-Feb-78	8TH
14	168	Mohad Ashraf Para	PS Sarie	Nagam	1-Jul-03	10-Mar-85	9th
S.No	Dist. Seniority	Name of the CPE/ LPE	School where working	Zone	Date of Engagement	D.O.B	Qual.(8th pass or above)
15	170	REYAZ AHMAD DAR	DIPKMS Spleora	Soibugh	23-Jan-04	25-Nov-83	9th pass
16	171	Parwaiz Ahmad Mir	MS Sundergund	Dreygam	1-Jul-1999	5-Feb-86	8th Pass
17	172	Nazir Ahmad Hajam	MS Thera	Nagam	1-Mar-04	10-Oct-81	9th
18	173	Abdul Majeed Rather	PS Rather Mohalla Kultreh	B K Pora	1-Mar-04	1-Mar-82	9th
No: CEO/Bud / INF/CPW / LFW / 25344-49							
Dated: 15-09-2026				DIPK-5711/26 Dated: 15-09-2026		Principal	

EDITORIAL

Building A Generation Of Cleanliness Champions

The launch of the Swachhata Internship Programme for schools across Kashmir is a commendable step that recognises a simple but powerful truth: cleanliness cannot be achieved by municipal agencies alone. It must become a shared civic responsibility, and schools are the most effective places to begin building that culture. By involving students directly in source segregation, recycling, composting, resource recovery, and sanitation,

the programme goes beyond routine awareness campaigns. It offers students practical exposure to scientific waste management, transforming them from passive observers into active participants. When a child learns to segregate waste at school, the lesson travels home. When a student understands the value of composting, the family kitchen changes. This is how behavioural change is achieved—not through lectures, but through lived experience. The

decision to designate students as Swachhata Ambassadors is particularly significant. It gives young people a sense of ownership and responsibility while developing their communication and leadership skills. These students will carry the message from their classrooms to their communities, creating ripples of awareness that can reach every household. Equally encouraging is the collaboration behind the initiative. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation, the

Directorate of School Education Kashmir, and Swaaha Resource Management Private Limited have come together to make this possible—a reminder that meaningful change happens when institutions pool their strengths. The Waste-to-Art Exhibition held on the occasion further demonstrated how discarded materials can be transformed into creative products, reinforcing the message of reuse and recycling. However, the real test of such programmes lies

in sustainability. The initial enthusiasm must be sustained through regular activities, monitoring, and recognition of student efforts. The programme must not become a one-time event but a continuous engagement that shapes habits for life. If implemented with sincerity, the Swachhata Internship Programme can create a generation that treats cleanliness not as a chore, but as a value. That is the true measure of its success.

Silicon Dreams
SEMICON India 2026 And The Making
Of A Chip Powerhouse

Press Information Bureau

On September 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will walk into Yashobhoomi in Dwarka and inaugurate SEMICON India 2026. Global chipmakers, policymakers and investors will fill the halls behind him, all watching an industry India has built from the ground up. For three days, the country's semi-con (semiconductor) manufacturing story will be on full display. For an industry that barely had a heartbeat in India a decade ago, this is not just a conference. It is the moment India's semiconductor ambitions step into the spotlight.

The theme this year is "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem." That phrase carries more weight than it first appears to. India is no longer asking whether it can make chips. It is now asking how fast it can build everything around them.

The Object That Runs the World
Hold up your phone. Somewhere inside it sits a piece of silicon smaller than a postage stamp, carrying billions of transistors switching on and off, billions of times a second. Apple's A19 Bionic chip, built at 3 nanometres, packs roughly 30 billion transistors onto that tiny surface. It is, without exaggeration, one of the most complex objects human beings have ever built.

Chips are not a niche product anymore. They sit inside cars, drones, aeroplanes, MRI machines and satellites. At the moment, the global electronics industry is valued at around \$4.3 trillion and growing fast. Semiconductors sit right at the base of this growing structure, forming its foundation. Every other industry, from automobiles to healthcare to defence, depends on what comes out of a chip fabrication plant. That is what makes semiconductors a foundational industry. Miss this layer, and every layer above it becomes fragile.

The world learned this the hard way. For example, during the COVID pandemic, car factories faced shutdowns. Not because of a lack of steel or labour, but because they could not get chips. Countries that had spent decades treating semiconductors as

someone else's problem suddenly scrambled to build their own capacity. The pandemic did not create the race for chips. It simply forced everyone to run faster.

A Long Road to This Moment
India's interest in semiconductors goes back further than most people realise, decades of quiet attempts, small starts, and lessons learned the hard way. For a long time, the ambition was there, but the ecosystem around it never quite came together. That changed with a different approach. Reforms in foreign investment, taxation and customs opened the door wide. Global electronics companies slowly began setting up manufacturing lines in India, and the results are hard to argue with.

In 2014-15, India produced about 1.9 lakh crore worth of electronics goods. By 2025-26, that number touched 13.11 lakh crore, a sevenfold jump. Electronics exports rose from around 38,000 crore to 4.24 lakh crore, an elevenfold increase.

Mobile phones tell an even sharper story. Production rose 33 times, from 18,000 crore to 6.27 lakh crore. Exports rose 165 times, from about 1,500 crore to 2.59 lakh crore. Smartphones did not even feature among India's top 100 exported goods in 2014. In FY 2025-26, smartphones became India's single largest exported commodity. Ahead of petroleum products and ahead of gems and jewellery. India now makes 99.2 percent of the phones it uses, and has flipped from a net importer of mobiles to a

net exporter. This entire manufacturing engine now supports 2.5 million jobs.

This is the moment where the picture shifts. A country once known for false starts in electronics is now the second largest mobile phone manufacturer in the world by volume. Electronics manufacturing was the proof of concept. Semiconductors were always the next step.

Building the Mission
That next step arrived in 2021 with the Semicon India programme. The strategy was deliberate. Build a real ecosystem, not a showpiece. Semicon 1.0 came with a 76,000 crore outlay. Covering the entire value chain from chip design and fabrication to packaging, testing, equipment, materials and skilled talent. In July 2026, the government approved Semicon 2.0, scaling that foundation with a 1,27,500 crore outlay. This is built around six pillars: chip design, semiconductor equipment and materials, fabrication facilities, advanced packaging, research and development, and talent development.

The numbers on the ground back the intent. 12 semiconductor projects have been approved across six states, with investment commitments exceeding 1.64 lakh crore. The projects span across silicon and compound semiconductor fabs, display fabrication and advanced packaging. Three facilities have already started commercial production. That single fact marks India's shift from semiconductor policy on paper

to semiconductor manufacturing on the ground.

Growing the Talent Behind the Chips
A fab is only as good as the engineers designing what goes inside it. The target set for this is clear. A pool of 85,000 skilled semiconductor engineers within this decade. Through the Chips to Startup programme, Electronic Design Automation tools have already been deployed across 320 academic institutions, with more than 68,000 students trained so far. Separately, 24 semiconductor design projects have been approved for financial support, along with 105 start-ups and MSMEs receiving EDA tool support under the DLI Scheme.

By April 2026, 211 chips had been taped out by 75 institutions, a clear sign that design capability is spreading well beyond a handful of elite labs. Seven of those chips have been fabricated at various nodes, including advanced nodes down to 12 nanometers.

To democratize chip design across the country, the ChipIN Centre has been set up at C-DAC under the Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme and the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme. It serves as a centralized national facility providing access to advanced chip-design tools, fabrication services and specialized training.

The ChipIN Centre has extended these facilities to more than 1 lakh engineers from over 500 organizations, including 400 academic institutions and 100 start-ups. These

organizations have collectively developed more than 300 chip designs for fabrication at SCL, Mohali, and advanced foundries abroad, while recording over 4 crore hours of chip-design tool usage. By enabling shared access to otherwise capital-intensive tools and services, this initiative has lowered entry barriers, reduced development costs and accelerated chip innovation, creating the world's largest user base for a centralized chip-design facility.

An Alliance for the Chip Age
India's semiconductor push is no longer just a domestic story. On the fifth day of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, India formally joined the Pax Silica coalition. The coalition brings together the United States and other partner nations, focused on securing the global silicon supply chain. Its goal is to secure the full "silicon stack", from critical minerals and fabrication to advanced AI systems and deployment infrastructure. The mission is simple. Keep supply chains out of too few hands. Resist economic coercion. Keep the technologies that will define this century in the hands of open, democratic nations. For India, this is proof its semiconductor ambitions now reach well beyond its own borders.

Where It All Meets
This is what makes SEMICON India 2026 more than an exhibition. Over three days at Yashobhoomi, more than 600 exhibitors, 300 international companies will fill 15,000 square metres of space and 150+ renowned speakers sharing knowledge and wisdom. Six country pavilions and 12 state pavilions will sit alongside a startup showcase, a student hackathon, a workforce development pavilion and Women forum, each one a small window into a piece of the ecosystem India has spent five years building.

A chip takes years to design and months to fabricate, but its footprint lasts far longer, inside every phone, every car, every hospital equipment it powers. Every one of those devices in your life today depends on someone, somewhere, having built that chip first. SEMICON India 2026 is India's declaration that it intends to be that someone. Not tomorrow. Starting now.

Care That Goes Beyond The Prescription
Affordable Healthcare Products For Every Stage Of Life

Press Information Bureau

It takes a village to raise a child, goes the old adage. But it doesn't say who bears the cost! A small family with a familiar routine and set expenditure welcomes a new life and suddenly finds itself in a new rhythm: late nights, baby diapers and wipes, doctor visits, medicines, and countless little decisions that come with loving and caring for the newborn. The joy is immense, but so are the responsibilities and the expenditure. From baby care to post-partum care, health care products have become indispensable when the nest grows.

While medicines form an important part of expenditure, they are far from the only expense for families with a new born or someone in post-surgery recovery mode or aged parents and dependents. It is in this larger context of affordable healthcare beyond medicines that the Government is steadily expanding

the reach of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). With a network of over 20,000+ Janaushadhi Kendras across the country, the initiative has an expansive range of affordable surgical and health care products available to families closer to home.

For a young family, the arrival of a child marks the beginning of a new set of everyday needs. Through Janaushadhi Bachpan, a range of baby-care products available at Janaushadhi Kendras, families can access essential infant-care products at affordable prices including baby diapers in different sizes and wipes. Baby Wipes (Pack of 20 wipes), for instance, are available at 45, providing an affordable option for one of the most frequently used baby-care essentials. The Janaushadhi product basket also includes products such as Baby Feeding Bottle (250 ml), Manual Breast Pump, Hot Water Bag, Infant Feeding Tube etc.

The journey of care also includes the

mother. Recovery after childbirth requires adequate rest, support and attention to physical well-being. Abdominal Belts are available through the Janaushadhi network to support post-delivery care. Similarly, the Cervical Pillows priced at 525, offers comfort and support and can be useful during pregnancy and beyond.

The needs of a growing child are very different from those of a newborn. Respiratory issues and other health conditions may sometimes require supportive equipment at home, making access to affordable healthcare devices particularly important for families. Janaushadhi Kendras offer Electrical Nebulizer Machine, priced at 937.50, and a Nebulizer Mask with Tubing (Child), priced at 200. Janaushadhi Kendras are increasingly offering products that support not just treatment, but also monitoring, recovery and day-to-day healthcare management.

Products such as Glucometer Test Strips (25 strips), priced at 500, are available through the Janaushadhi network for regular blood sugar monitoring. Pulse Oximeters, to measure blood oxygen saturation, are also part of the available range of medical devices.

As parents and other family members grow older, the responsibility of care often becomes an integral part of family life. For the aged, dependent or bedridden individuals, hygiene, comfort, dignity and everyday caregiving become equally important.

For a family managing the health of a loved one over an extended period, these may become recurring purchases. Even modest savings on frequently used healthcare products can therefore translate into meaningful financial relief over months and years. Recognising this need, the Government has introduced Jan Aushadhi Swabhiman, a dedicated range of adult diapers.

From the first days of parenthood to childhood, from regular health monitoring to the care of aging loved ones, a family's healthcare journey is continuous, and so are the expenses that accompany it. The Janaushadhi basket with surgicals and consumables aims to address this.

The basket is also set to expand further, with several healthcare and supportive-care products currently under process and in the pipeline for inclusion through the network. These include Range of Motion-Knee Brace, Walker (Sit Assist-to-Stand Support), Medical Steam Vaporizer, Foot Elevator Pillow, Pregnancy Back Support Belt, and Cervical Collar. The proposed expansion reflects the Government's continued efforts to broaden affordable healthcare beyond medicines and make a wider range of essential healthcare, mobility, rehabilitation, and supportive-care products accessible to all citizens.

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

Javid Dar vows to strengthen mandi infrastructure, improve facilities for growers, traders, labourers

Assures prompt redress of issues of Fruit Mandi Associations

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 15: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday interacted with the representatives of Fruit Mandi Associations from Kashmir Division at the Civil Secretariat here to discuss issues concerning the functioning of fruit mandis and strengthening of horticulture market infrastructure.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Director Horticulture Marketing and Planning, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar; Managing Director, JKHPMC, Mohammad Farooq Dar; Director Horticulture Kashmir, Vikas Anand; Presidents of Fruit Mandi Associations from Kashmir Division besides other senior officers.

During the interaction, the representatives apprised the Minister of various issues concerning the functioning of fruit



mandis. They highlighted the need for strengthening the basic infrastructure and improving essential facilities for traders, fruit growers and labourers associated with the horticulture sector.

Javid Ahmad Dar assured the representatives that their genuine concerns would be examined and resolved on priority basis. He directed the concerned officers to maintain close

coordination with the mandi associations and take necessary measures for addressing their issues in a time-bound manner.

The Minister emphasized that the government is committed to create a conducive and efficient working environment in fruit mandis, which play a vital role in facilitating horticulture trade and supporting the livelihoods of thousands of growers, traders and workers.

Javid Dar stressed the need for strengthening the basic infrastructure and improving essential facilities in fruit mandis to facilitate smooth trade operations and ensure better working conditions for all stakeholders. He called for coordinated efforts by the concerned departments to identify infrastructure gaps, address operational bottlenecks and ensure timely execution of necessary improvement works.

Highlighting the importance of the horticulture sector to Jammu and Kashmir's economy, the Minister underscored the need for sustained efforts to strengthen market infrastructure, improve trade facilitation and safeguard the interests of fruit growers and other stakeholders.

He also emphasized the importance of regular interaction with the Fruit Mandi Associations to ensure that their concerns are promptly brought to the notice of the concerned authorities and resolved effectively.

Rana lays foundation stone for Rs 3.35 cr Helipad, waiting lounge at Qasab, Mendhar

KT News Desk

MENDHAR, SEPTEMBER 15: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday laid the foundation stone for construction of a Helipad and Waiting Lounge at Qasab in Mendhar, Poonch district.

The project, approved by Omar Abdullah led government and taken up under the UT CAPEX, entails an estimated cost of Rs. 335.40 lakh and is aimed at strengthening connectivity and emergency response infrastructure in the remote border area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister, as per an official statement, described the project as a long-pending demand of the people of Mendhar and emphasized its importance for a geographically remote and strategically significant area. He said the initiative reflects the government's focus on development of backward, border and remote rural pockets. The proposed facility would provide a vital alternative mode of connectivity and prove particularly beneficial during medical emergencies, natural calamities and other situations requiring rapid movement of



people and essential services, he added.

The Minister emphasized that improved connectivity is essential not only for facilitating access to healthcare and emergency services but also for promoting economic activity, tourism and the overall socio-economic development of the region. He added that sustained investment in infrastructure would help bridge developmental gaps and create better opportunities for the people living in these regions.

Highlighting the immense

tourism potential of the area, the Minister announced the development of a State-of-the-Art Tribal Tourism Village at Bhera Qasab. He said the proposed tourism village, to be developed near the helipad site, would serve as an important platform for showcasing the rich tribal heritage, culture, traditions, handicrafts, cuisine and lifestyle of the region.

The project is also envisaged to promote tourism and create sustainable livelihood and employment opportunities for the local population.

J&K Non-Teaching Employees Association welcomes new Director Colleges



KT News Desk

Srinagar, September 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Non-Teaching Employees Association has welcomed the appointment of Prof. (Dr) Twinkle Suri as the newly appointed Director Colleges, Jammu and Kashmir, describing it as a positive step towards further strengthening the administration and functioning of colleges across the Union Territory.

The Association, as per a statement, also welcomed the appointment under the leadership and guidance of Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, Higher Education Minister Madam Sakeena Itoo, and Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education, Shri Ram Niwas Sharma (IAS).

A delegation of the Association visited the Directorate of Colleges and conveyed its greetings and best wishes to Dr. Twinkle Suri. The delegation was led by Association President Javed Ahmad Akhoun and accompanied by General Secretary Abdul Hameed Rather, Publicity Secretary Kamlesh Parimoo, District President Srinagar Khurshid Ahmad Maliyar, and other senior members of the Association.

The delegation congratulated Prof. (Dr) Twinkle Suri on assuming the important responsibility and expressed

hope that her experience, leadership and administrative acumen would bring greater efficiency, transparency and responsiveness to the Directorate of Colleges.

The Association stated that non-teaching employees constitute an important component of the higher education system and play a vital role in ensuring the smooth and effective day-to-day functioning of colleges. It expressed confidence that, under the new leadership, the genuine and long-pending issues of non-teaching employees would receive due attention and sympathetic consideration.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Prof. (Dr) Twinkle Suri on her appointment as Director Colleges, Jammu and Kashmir. We are hopeful that her leadership will usher in a new era of cooperation, efficiency and employee-friendly administration. The Association assures her of its full support and cooperation in the larger interest of higher education," the Association said.

The Association further hoped that issues relating to service matters, career progression, promotions, staff welfare, and other genuine demands of non-teaching employees would be considered on priority.

DM Kupwara chairs NCORD Committee Meeting

Reviews anti-drug measures

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 15: District Magistrate (DM) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee to review the measures being undertaken to curb the menace of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, focused on strengthening coordinated efforts among various departments and agencies involved in drug demand reduction, enforcement, prevention, public awareness and rehabilitation. Detailed discussions were held on the progress achieved so far and the measures required to further intensify the district's fight against drug abuse.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed enforcement-related action taken under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The meeting took stock of FIRs registered by the Police Departments of Kupwara and Handwara, action taken against drug peddlers, attachment of properties linked with narcotics-related activities, preventive detention of habitual offenders and other measures aimed at disrupting the drug supply network.

The District Magistrate directed all concerned departments to maintain close coordination and adopt a proactive approach in identifying vulnerable areas and taking timely action against persons involved in the cultivation, production, transportation and distribution of narcotic substances.

The meeting also reviewed



the ongoing drive against illicit cultivation of cannabis and poppy. The concerned agencies were asked to sustain field-level surveillance and ensure timely destruction of illegal crops to prevent their conversion into narcotic substances. Measures pertaining to the removal of encroachments and other activities associated with drug-related hotspots were also discussed.

Emphasizing the importance of preventing the availability of spurious and unauthorized medicines, the District Magistrate directed the Assistant Drug Controller to intensify market inspections and conduct special checking drives in coordination with the Police Department. The officers were asked to ensure strict action against the sale and distribution of fake, spurious or unauthorized drugs and strengthen monitoring of pharmaceutical outlets across the district.

The District Magistrate stressed that enforcement alone cannot address the drug problem and called for greater emphasis on preventive interventions, awareness generation and rehabilitation. He directed the concerned departments to enhance awareness programmes, particularly among students and youth, regarding

the harmful consequences of drug abuse and the importance of seeking timely assistance.

He further underscored the need to identify vulnerable individuals and ensure that persons affected by substance abuse are appropriately guided towards counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services. The concerned departments were instructed to work in close coordination to facilitate access to support mechanisms for affected persons and their families.

The District Magistrate called upon all stakeholders to adopt a sustained and coordinated approach towards making Kupwara a drug-free district, stressing that concerted efforts by government departments, law-enforcement agencies, educational institutions, civil society and the general public are essential to effectively combat the challenge of substance abuse.

SSP Kupwara, Syed Al Tahir Gilani; SSP Handwara, Tahir Saleem Khan; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; Principals of GDCs, ACR, ACD, CMO, DIO, ARTO; officers from the Prosecution Department, Agriculture Department, Drug Control Department and Social Welfare Department; Tehsildars, and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

11th Ayurveda Day RCFC NR-II organises Pre-Programme Activities



KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 15: The Regional-cum-Facilitation Centre, Northern Region-II (RCFC NR-II), National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, SKUAST-Kashmir, organised a series of pre-programme activities at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Boma, Sopore, ahead of the 11th Ayurveda Day celebrations scheduled for September 22 and 23 under the theme "Ayurveda for Healthier Tomorrow."

The programme, as per an official statement, focused on promoting medicinal plants, their conservation, sustainable utilisation and their significance in Ayurveda. An awareness session on "Sustainable Cultivation and Harvesting of Medicinal Plants" was conducted, wherein Project Manager, RCFC NR-II, Dr. Sofi Imtiyaz Ali, stressed the adoption of Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) to ensure quality, sustainability and long-term availability of medicinal plant resources.

He also highlighted the need

to integrate Ayurveda with modern scientific approaches, evidence-based practices, quality assurance and sustainable resource management for a healthier future.

As part of the activities, a Green Ayurveda Plantation Drive was conducted within the school premises to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable cultivation. An Herbal Garden Open Day was also organised, providing students and faculty an opportunity to learn about medicinal plant species and their potential for entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods.

Students and faculty members actively participated in the programme along with the technical team of RCFC NR-II. Participants were encouraged to adopt scientific cultivation practices, contribute to medicinal plant conservation and explore livelihood opportunities in the sector with technical guidance and institutional support from RCFC NR-II.

The programme concluded with a call to advance the vision of "Ayurveda for Healthier Tomorrow" through conservation and sustainable utilisation of medicinal plants.

GBHSS Dangerpora hosts food & art carnival

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 15: Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Dangerpora Tuesday hosted a vibrant Food & Art Carnival, organised by the Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management, providing students an engaging platform to showcase their culinary skills, artistic talent, creativity, cultural heritage and innovative ideas.

The event, as per an official statement, was graced by Joint Director, School Education (North), Kashmir, Hakeem Tanveer Ahmad; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; and Zonal Education Officer, Dangerpora, Abdul Salam Dar, besides other dignitaries and guests.

During the visit, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sopore, interacted with students and visited various classes, encouraging them to remain focused, confident and committed



towards their goals.

The Joint Director, School Education (North), appreciated the creativity, talent and efforts displayed by the students, and emphasised the importance of such activities in their overall development.

The successful conduct of the carnival reflected the dedicated efforts of Tourism teacher Nadeem Ahmad Dar, whose innovative approach and emphasis on practical learning provided students with meaningful opportunities to explore and

showcase their skills.

The initiative was also supported by the Principal Mushtaq Sopori, whose continuous encouragement has fostered an enriching environment for students to develop confidence, creativity and talent.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and the collective efforts of the teaching and non-teaching staff, making the carnival a memorable celebration of talent, culture and creativity.

SWD Budgam holds awareness Programme on POCSO Act, Mission Shakti Schemes at GHS Ompora

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 15: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Budgam, through the SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti Budgam, conducted an awareness programme at Government High School (GHS) Ompora on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Mission Shakti Schemes, and Cyber Security.

The programme, as per an official statement, was organised under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Budgam, Dr. Mukhtiyar Ahmad, with the objective of sensitising students about their rights, safety, legal protection and various welfare and empowerment schemes available for women and girls.



During the programme, Afroza Ahad, DMC, SANKALP-HEW, and Asifa Manzoor, Gender Specialist, sensitised the students about various Mission Shakti schemes and initiatives, highlighting the support mechanisms and services available for the safety, protection and empowerment of women and girls.

Raies Ahmad from Cyber Police apprised the students about cyber security and online safety, including responsible use of social media, protection of personal information, cyber frauds, online threats and precautions to be adopted while using digital platforms. He encouraged students to remain vigilant and report suspicious

online activities.

Shahista Gani from DLSA Budgam briefed the participants about the role of the District Legal Services Authority and the availability of legal aid and assistance, particularly for women and children in need of legal support.

Nelofar Nazir, Superintendent, Shakti Sadan Budgam, highlighted the important provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012, and sensitised the students about child protection, prevention of sexual offences against children, the importance of reporting incidents and the legal safeguards available to children.

The programme also featured an interactive session during which students actively participated and raised queries regarding child protection, cyber safety, legal rights and welfare schemes.

Saudi oil flow restricted as drone strike disables pipeline

AP

Cairo, Sep 15: A crucial Saudi oil pipeline that was struck in an attack will be mostly out of service for weeks as the damage is repaired, two regional officials said Monday, as Yemen's Houthi rebels seized more islands along Red Sea shipping routes in a new blow to Saudi Arabia's oil exports.

Oil prices gained more than 2 per cent amid growing worries about global petroleum supplies and the effect of the new developments on the ability of the world's biggest exporter to get its crude to market. The Iran war has forced the kingdom to shift its exports away from the Persian Gulf, since Iranian attacks have stifled shipping through the gulf's sole exit, the Strait of Hormuz.

So the kingdom has relied on the East-West Pipeline, which runs 1,200 kilometres across the breadth of the country, to move its crude production from Gulf ports to the port of Yanbu on the Red Sea. From there it can be put on tankers for export. But authorities were forced to shut down the pipeline after an attack Thursday that Saudi Arabia blamed on drones from Iranian-backed militias in Iraq.

Repairing the damage, including at a major pumping facility, could take three to five weeks, the officials, who have been briefed on the matter, told The Associated Press. The pipeline may work partially during the repairs, one of the officials said, but they could not say how much oil might get through.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief the media.

The pipeline has been moving an average of 2.6 million to 4 million barrels per day since late August -- a quantity that will be lost to the market if the pipeline's flow stops



completely, according to an analysis issued Monday by Rystad Energy, a Norway-based research firm. It said the jump in prices for Brent crude, which reached USD 109, "is a clear signal that the market is increasingly pricing in a significant loss of supply."

The Saudi oil company Aramco, which operates the pipeline, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The government-run Centre for International Communication, which oversees foreign media in the kingdom, said it was looking into an AP inquiry about how long it will take to repair the pipeline.

Houthi's capture of islands strengthens hold on key outlet from the Red Sea

Meanwhile, Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels continued to expand their threat to Saudi shipping routes out of the Red Sea by capturing the strategic islands of Greater and Lesser Hanish, government and Houthi officials said Monday.

The islands lie 160 kilometres north of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

The strait is a choke point that connects the Red Sea to the open ocean and Saudi Arabia's key Asian markets.

The Houthis' advance also puts them just 32 kilometres from the US military base in the tiny Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, on the other side of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

For more than a month, the Houthis have been striking Saudi oil infrastructure and shipping in the Red Sea, stepping up pressure on global oil prices and boosting Iran's leverage in its war with the United States.

The Houthi advances have seemed to come with little resistance from Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces. The rebels deployed on the Hanish islands after hundreds of government-allied forces withdrew from the archipelago, according to two government officials and a Houthi official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Last week, the rebels seized the port city of Mokha and the island of Mayun, inside the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Government forces are now

attempting to rally and fight back. On Sunday, the military said it launched airstrikes on Houthi positions in Mokha, the coastal town of Dhubbab and elsewhere in Taiz province.

A rebel spokesperson said the Houthis fired dozens of missiles and drones at the King Khalid Air Base in the southern Saudi city of Khamis Mushait, targeting hangars, radar installations and ammunition depots. The statement on Monday by Brig Gen Yahya Saree did not specify when the strikes took place, but the Houthis often take hours or days to claim responsibility for attacks.

Maj Gen Turki al-Malki, a Saudi military spokesperson, said the attacks struck civilian areas in Khamis Mushait and other nearby cities, injuring 13 civilians and damaging several houses and vehicles. He did not say whether the air base had been hit.

The attacks narrow Saudi export options

The Iran war gouged Saudi oil production, which was down to 6 million barrels per day in August from nearly 10 million in September the previous year, according to the International Energy Agency, a Paris-based inter-governmental group.

After the war began, the East-West Pipeline carried a large majority of Saudi Arabia's oil exports, according to Rystad Energy. When Houthi attacks in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait started in late July, most of the tankers from the port of Yanbu turned north in the Red Sea toward the Mediterranean, sending their cargo through the Suez Canal or an Egyptian pipeline.

That, however, dramatically increased the time and cost of delivering oil to Saudi Arabia's main clients in Asia. Also, the Houthis turned to targeting Saudi shipping in the northern Red Sea as well.

Trump rejects AI concerns, calling warnings a 'Hoax' and 'Sick conspiracy'

AP

Washington, Sep 15: President Donald Trump on Monday lashed out against concerns about rogue artificial intelligence, claiming that any efforts to limit the technology are part of a "SICK conspiracy."

"AI taking over the World, destroying Humanity, and all other things bad, is a HOAX," Trump posted on social media, later suggesting that those calling for guardrails on the technology had also warned about climate change, which he also called a hoax. The president was pushing back against calls by tech leaders such as Anthropic's Dario Amodei, OpenAI's Sam Altman and SpaceX-Al's Elon Musk to have greater government oversight of AI. The rapidly evolving technology has become a source of controversy after a series of hacks in recent months that showed AI agents can conspire to deceive humans. Many tech leaders generally say their goal is to develop the technology in ways that promote safety, address legal liability, feed economic growth, advance science and preserve national security. But they have



also expressed concerns that an AI unshackled from human control could be destructive -- a claim Trump rejected in a series of heated social media posts as he claimed to be the "Hoax Buster."

Trump maintained that his presence in the Oval Office should assuage any fears about AI. "The only control or guardrails that AI needs is a STRONG AND SMART (High IQ!) PRESIDENT, and the U.S.A. has that, in spades!" Trump posted.

Trump specifically said his administration has already stopped the AI company Anthropic "from doing bad, or potentially bad" things. Anthropic has endured an uncomfortable relationship with the Trump administration, with the Pentagon trying to label the company a security risk and the government issuing a temporary ban of one of

its more advanced models.

The president also criticised the business acumen of the tech CEOs seeking government oversight, posting on social media, "when, in the History of Business, did anyone see the Leaders of an Industry call for Regulation that, if strongly implemented, will drive them into oblivion and bankruptcy?"

Trump's refusal to regulate comes as AI execs warn of threats

Amodei, the Anthropic CEO, published a 3,800-word essay Saturday that called for slower development of AI. Microsoft on Monday published its own code of conduct to ensure that humans control AI. The actions come after a series of warnings by AI experts about the technologies' capabilities and the July 2026 cyberattack by OpenAI models on the AI company Hugging Face.

Marijne warns Indian women's hockey against complacency

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 15:The Asian Games will pose a different challenge for the Indian women's hockey team, with lower-ranked opponents likely to offer more scoring opportunities than the top sides they faced at the World Cup, coach Sjoerd Marijne said.

Apart from China, all other teams competing at the Asian Games are ranked below India. At the World Cup, World No. 8 India faced higher-ranked sides such as Australia and Netherlands.

J&K Fencers Shriya Gupta and Vishal Thapar Selected for 2026 Asian Games

First Sabre Fencers from J&K Selected for Asian Games Squad

KT News Desk

Srinagar Sep 15: In a landmark moment for sports in Jammu & Kashmir, fencers Shriya Gupta and Vishal Thapar have been selected to represent India at the 20th Asian Games, to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in 2026. The duo become the first Sabre fencers from J&K to earn selection to the Asian Games. Shriya will compete in the Women's Sabre Individual and Team events, while Vishal will represent India in the Men's Sabre Team event.

Ahead of their departure, Tazayun Mukhtar Kawos, JKAS, Secretary, J&K Sports Council,

met with the two athletes to wish them well and see them off. Speaking after the meeting, Tazayun said:

"Meeting Shriya and Vishal before they leave for Japan was a proud moment for all of us at the Sports Council. What they've achieved, becoming the first Sabre fencers from J&K to reach the Asian Games, is the result of years of discipline and hard work. The whole J&K is behind them, and we can't wait to see them compete on that stage and bring laurels to the country."



J&K sports council extends best wishes to athletes for upcoming games

- Satish Sharma, Nasir Aslam stress importance of sports platforms for youth at BIG Premier League
- Govt committed to helping youth pursue pro sports: Satish Sharma



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 15: Minister for FS&CA, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Science and Technology Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today highlighted the importance of providing sustained platforms to young sporting talent and strengthening the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir while attending the opening day of the Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026 at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

The Minister and the Advisor interacted with participating teams and players and appreciated the organisers for bringing together emerging cricketers from across Jammu and Kashmir through the league.

Satish Sharma said that sporting events such as the BIG Premier League provide young people with an important platform to demonstrate their talent, discipline, determination and competitive spirit.

He said that the Government is committed to promoting sports at the grassroots level and creating an enabling environment where talented youngsters can pursue their sporting aspirations and potentially make sports a career.

"Jammu and Kashmir has immense sporting talent, and our responsibility is to provide our youth with the right facilities, opportunities and platforms to realise their potential. Events like the BIG Premier League give young cricketers an opportunity to compete, gain experience and showcase their abilities before a wider audience," the Minister said.

Satish Sharma congratulated the organisers, participating teams, players and partners for the initiative and expressed hope that the league would inspire more youngsters to take up cricket and other sporting disciplines with dedication and professionalism.

He said that besides

promoting competitive sport, such tournaments also contribute towards building discipline, teamwork, leadership qualities and a positive outlook among young people.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani said that the Government attaches considerable importance to encouraging youth participation in sports and providing emerging talent with opportunities to compete at a higher level.

He appreciated the initiative for bringing together the sporting community and said that well-organised leagues provide young players with valuable exposure and experience while also creating greater public interest in sports.

"The talent among our youngsters is immense. What is required is a sustained ecosystem of competition, coaching, exposure and encouragement. Platforms like the BIG Premier League can play an important role in identifying and nurturing promising cricketers," the Advisor said.

Nasir Aslam congratulated Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, 92.7 BIG FM, participating teams and all partners for organising the tournament and wished the players and teams success for the competition.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Haseeb Ul Rehman, DIG Traffic Kashmir, representatives of participating teams, tournament partners and members of the organising team.

GOOD FILMS BRIGHTER DAYS.

INOX SRINAGAR

IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD TIME FOR

MOVIES SCHEDULE

16 SEPTEMBER 2026

WEDNESDAY

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE (A)

HINDI

12:20 PM 01:55 PM 05:45 PM

HINDI ATMOS

11:05 AM 02:55 PM 06:45 PM

HAIWAAN (U/A 16+)

HINDI

10:40 AM 07:30 PM

HANUMAN ANSH (U)

HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

04:20 PM

BIGGER SCREENS ON A BIGGER SCREEN

TICKETS AT:
www.bookingmyinox.com | www.inoxmovies.com

Paytm, inox app, or directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

CALL 95416 13858
For assistance with tickets.

BIGGER SCREENS BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

Movies Make Life Brighter