



SCAN TO VISIT
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Society disconnected from cultural heritage risks losing balance: LG Sinha

» Says J&K since ancient times has remained cradle of sages, saints, seekers of truth » Lays foundation stone of Mata Lalleshwari Cultural Cum Heritage Centre in Jammu

Yogesh

Jammu, Sep 19: Drawing a parallel with a tree that cannot withstand a storm without strong roots, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said a society that loses touch with its visionaries and cultural heritage risks losing its balance, sensitivity and sense of direction.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone of the Mata Lalleshwari Cultural Cum Heritage Centre at Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan, Thalwal here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “I have been constantly reminding the society that a tree without roots cannot withstand a storm and in the same way, a society disconnected from its foundational visionaries, cultural heritage and the philosophy of its sages



loses its balance, sensitivity and sense of direction.”

Pertinently, the Mata Lalleshwari Cultural Cum Heritage Centre sanctioned under the Capex budget with an allocation of Rs. 4.5 crore, is

envisioned as a landmark initiative to preserve and promote the timeless legacy of Yogini Lalleshwari.

He said, “In today’s fast-paced life, people are facing unprecedented mental stress,

crises of identity and the challenges of existential loneliness. It is equally true that external, material success alone cannot fill the emptiness within. I believe that the teachings of saints such as Mata Lalleshwari, and the cultural centre dedicated to her, will help fill that void and provide spiritual resources for self-discipline, mental peace and emotional resilience.”

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that Jammu Kashmir has, since ancient times, been a cradle of sages, saints and seekers of truth. The Centre, dedicated to Mata Lalleshwari, will embody India’s civilisational consciousness and serve as a beacon of cultural harmony, spiritual tourism, and academic research.

“This project reminds us of our timeless civilisational consciousness. Today, we stand at a significant juncture in our

history, where the blessings of our ancestors and their timeless wisdom are converging with the aspirations for a confident, developed and self-reliant Jammu Kashmir,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor underlined that Mata Lalleshwari’s teachings transcended social divisions and embodied the ideals of tolerance, equality and inner transformation. Her verse, resonating with the highest truths of the Upanishads, continue to inspire generations.

“The Centre will act as a living repository of her philosophy, enabling scholars, artists and seekers to engage with her wisdom and disseminate it globally through modern platforms,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also stated that the centre will not be merely a physical structure but an institutional foundation for cultural preservation. It will | [More on P6](#)

Sgr set to witness hectic political activity today

Joint meeting of alliance partners, separate meetings of NC, Cong scheduled; LoP Sharma to chair BJP strategy meet

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 19: The summer capital Srinagar is set to witness hectic political activity on Sunday, with the National Conference, Congress and the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party convening separate legislature party meetings to chalk out strategy for the upcoming autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), ahead of the session, the ruling National Conference has called a meeting of its legislators as well as the Independents supporting the Government at 4:30 PM at the banquet hall here.

The meeting will be chaired by NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah in the presence of

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Apart from its MLAs, the NC has invited five Independents — Satish Sharma (Khour), Choudhary Mohammad Akram (Surankote), Pyare Lal Sharma (Inderwal), Dr. Rameshwar Singh (Bani) and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Thanamandi).

At 5:00 PM, the NC, Congress, CPI(M) and the five Independents supporting the Government will participate in a joint meeting.

Meanwhile, Congress has convened a separate meeting of its legislators at 3:30 PM. Chief Whip of Congress Nizamuddin Bhat confirmed that the meeting will take place at the party headquarters.

On the other hand, the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has also called a meeting tomorrow | [More on P6](#)



Lieutenant General P K Mishra, General Officer Commanding (GOC) 16 Corps called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday

Viksit Bharat financing conference

Deliberations significant for J&K’s dev financing: CM Omar

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Sep 19: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday attended the concluding day of the two-day high-level conference on “Financing India’s Journey towards Viksit Bharat,” organised by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, in New Delhi.

The conference brought together State Finance Ministers and Finance Secretaries of States and Union Territories with Legislature to deliberate on strategies for financing



India’s long-term development and growth.

The Chief Minister noted the significance of the deliberations in shaping strategies for the long-term growth of

the country and Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in areas of developmental financing, agricultural marketing and renewable energy. The conference featured | [More on P6](#)

Man killed, 5 injured as Bolero overturns

KNO Correspondent

Doda, Sep 19: A man was killed and five others were injured after a Bolero vehicle they were travelling in lost control and overturned in the Marmat area of Doda district on Saturday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident occurred near Marmat when the Bolero vehicle bearing registration number JK06-6479 lost control and overturned, leaving one person dead and five others injured.

He said the injured were shifted to | [More on P6](#)

MeT predicts dry weather in J&K till Sep-end

Isolated rain on Sep 24, 27; Jammu hottest at 32.2°C; Gulmarg lowest max at 18.2°C

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 19: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience generally dry weather till the end of September, with brief spells of rain expected at isolated places in North and Central Kashmir on September 24 and 27, the Meteorological Centre said on Saturday.

A MeT official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that weak Western Disturbances are likely to affect the

region during the evenings of September 24 and 27.

A brief spell of rain is likely at isolated places in North and Central Kashmir towards the evening on both days, while no major weather activity has been forecast for the rest of the month, he added.

Meanwhile, the weatherman advised farmers that the prevailing weather conditions are ideal for harvesting of apples and paddy, besides carrying out other farm-related operations. Notably, temperatures remained | [More on P6](#)



Aerial view of Dal Lake in Srinagar. Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Traffic cop dies after hit by truck

Umair Gull Ganie

Qazigund, Sep 19: A Traffic Police Head Constable was killed after being hit by a truck in Qazigund area of Kulgam district on Saturday morning, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the traffic police officer was struck by a truck bearing registration number JK03Q-9011 near Shampora Bridge in Qazigund here in the morning.

He said the speeding truck lost control and left the officer seriously injured, who later died on the spot.

The traffic officer was later identified as Mushtaq Ahmad, son of Abdul Sabir Bhat, a resident of Kulpora. | [More on P6](#)

Artists, writers guardians of society’s collective memory: LG Manoj Sinha

‘Time to correct historical oversights, make youth aware about India’s intellectual depth, inheritance’

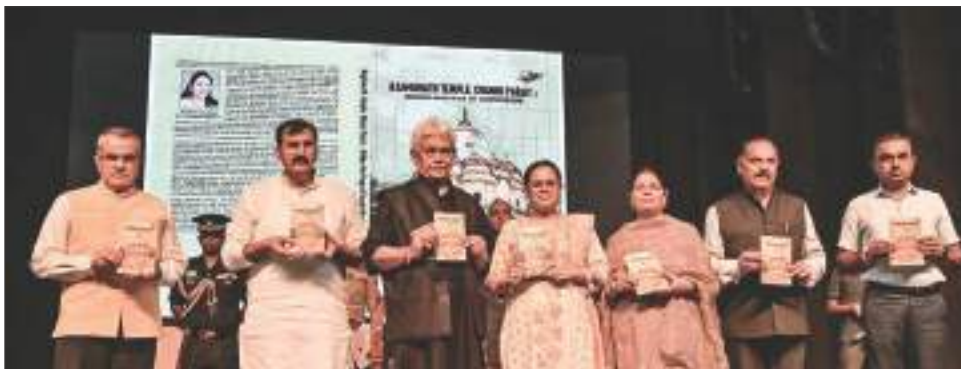
Yogesh

Jammu, Sep 19: Describing artists and writers as guardians of society’s collective memory, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that they have given words to Jammu Kashmir’s priceless culture, voice to the emotions of society, and have shouldered the duty of carrying region’s heritage to future generations.

Addressing a gathering here after unveiling the statue of Acharya Abhinavagupta, the launch of the new logo of the

J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, the release of two books, and the inauguration of a welfare scheme for artists and writers, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) described the occasion as the beginning of a cultural renaissance reawakening the soul of the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the welfare scheme for artists and writers, conceived in 2021–22 and formalised in August 2024, reflects the nation’s gratitude towards those who preserve



collective memory through stories, songs and our priceless traditions.

He said, “I believe that artists and writers are not only creators but also guardians

of society’s collective memory. They have given words to Jammu and Kashmir’s

priceless culture, voice to the emotions of society, and have shouldered the duty of carrying this Union Territory’s heritage to future generations. Therefore, honouring them is nothing less than honouring our own civilization, our own culture, and our own identity.”

The Lieutenant Governor paid tribute to Acharya Abhinavagupta as a philosopher, spiritual practitioner, poet, and master of aesthetics whose profound contributions to Kashmiri Shaivism and Pratyabhijna philosophy remained confined to limited

scholarly circles for centuries. He termed this neglect not merely academic but a “damage to civilizational memory,” and called for correcting historical oversights so India’s youth can access their intellectual heritage.

“The time has now come to correct these historical oversights. This task must be inspired by our commitment to truth, because our youth have the right to know how vast, how ancient, and how connected to the global community is the intellectual depth of the civilization | [More on P6](#)

Traffic Management System

Div Com Kashmir chairs high-level meeting

Reviews status of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) projects, identification of 10 additional junctions for installation of ITMS cameras



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 19: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Saturday chaired a high-level meeting of the Multidisciplinary Committee / Regional Transport Authority (RTA) to review the progress of various projects and interventions aimed at easing traffic congestion in Srinagar city. The meeting, as per an

Natipora crossing, Construction of flyover from Shalteng to Parimpora, Construction of footbridge at Pediatric Hospital, Bemina, Construction of underpass at Nowgam, Development of Shopping Complex at Noorbagh, Development of road along Doodhganga River Bank from Barzulla to Sanat Nagar.

On the occasion, the Div Com also reviewed the status of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) projects, including identification of 10 additional junctions for installation of ITMS cameras, painting of zebra crossings and stop lines, implementation of IT-based parking system, and status of e-bus charging stations at Zoonimar and Batamaloo. He also reviewed the Action Taken Report submitted by R&B, SSCL, RTO and Traffic Police on the decisions taken in previous meetings.

The Div Com fixed fresh timelines for the concerned departments to achieve tangible progress. He directed SSCL and SSP Traffic to implement stop-line interventions at identified junctions within 10 days. He further directed Commissioner SSCL to hand over control room to the Traffic Police for augmenting deployment of traffic personnel to monitor the Traffic System.

The Div Com directed that the e-bus charging station at Batamaloo shall be made operational within ten days. He also directed SSCL for completion of 72 bus stops under Module-A by 31st October 2026. He further directed SE R&B and SE I&FC to conduct a joint inspection for development of the Lasjan Bund Road.

official statement, was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, SSP Traffic, RTO Kashmir, Chief Engineer KPDCL and Executive Engineers of R&B, besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, a detailed review was undertaken regarding the progress of key road infrastructure projects including Development of Natipora to Chanapora road, Development of T-Junction at

JKBOSE holds consultative meeting on development of vocational courses

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 19: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) held a consultative meeting to deliberate on the development of vocational courses tailored to the local needs and emerging employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, held at the JKBOSE headquarters at Bemina here, was organised as part of the Board's process for submission to the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVT) for Dual Recognition and as a step towards developing a new vocational course in the sector of Agriculture.

The consultation, as per an official statement, brought together experts from the vocational education and agriculture sectors, including Dr T. N. Giri, Director, Vocational Education, NIOS, and Prof V. S. Mehrotra, Head, PSSCIVE, NCERT, Bhopal, besides experts from SKUAST-Kashmir, SKUAST-Jammu and the Department of Agriculture, J&K.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairman, JKBOSE, said the Board was among the few Boards in the country to have received a Letter of Intent (LoI) from NCVET, describing it as an important step towards strengthening vocational education and skill-based learning in school education. He said the Board was focusing on sectors having considerable potential in the Union Territory, particularly agriculture and tourism, with the aim of enabling students to acquire skills relevant to local employment and livelihood opportunities.

In his welcome address, Dr Parveen Singh, Director Academics, JKBOSE stressed the need to establish stronger linkages between school education, skills and the requirements of the job market, while ensuring that vocational courses remain relevant to the socio-economic context of Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative, he said, is aligned with the vision of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which seeks greater integration of vocational education, experiential learning and skill development into mainstream school education.

During the meeting, experts deliberated on various aspects of curriculum development, including competency-based learning, sectoral and industry relevance, practical skills, assessment and certification.

The participants also discussed the need for courses that respond to emerging employment opportunities and make vocational education more locally relevant, particularly in sectors with potential for employment and entrepreneurship.

The consultation is expected to contribute to JKBOSE's submission for Dual Recognition under NCVET and the development of a structured vocational education framework for schools across Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Karwani inspects construction work in Transit accommodations for PM Package Employees



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 19: Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Dr. Arvind Karwani, concluded a week long inspection tour of transit accommodation sites for PM Package Employees under construction across the Kashmir Valley.

Dr. Karwani, as per an official statement, was accompanied by concerned site engineers and senior officials of the district administration and Relief Organization.

While interacting with

the site engineers at the construction sites, he emphasized on achievement of targets in a time bound manner. He particularly underlined on the importance of early completion of allied works and basic amenities at the sites, so that the possession of allotted quarters can be handed over to the employees at the earliest possible, as per the criterion laid down by the Government. He enjoined upon the engineers to ensure quality of the work and execution strictly as per the approved DPR. Dr. Karwani also

interacted with PM package employees at various locations and gave a patient hearing to their demands, particularly related to the allotment of quarters.

Pertinent to mention that 6000 quarters at 20 different locations across the Kashmir valley under PMDP programme are being constructed for PM Package employees, out of which 5176 flats stand constructed. Allotment of flats has been made against the applications received from the employees for all the sites and possession of flats shall be handed over to the employees immediately after the completion of the important basic infrastructure and takeover of the sites from the PWD(R&B).

The construction work on allied works like boundary wall, internal roads, drainage, elevators and community hall etc. is also going on in full swing.

Dr. Karwani assured employees that all possible efforts are being made to ensure that employees are handed over possession of flats at the earliest possible.

WMDA conducts sanitation drive around Manasbal Lake

KT News Desk

MANASBAL(GANDERBAL), SEPTEMBER 19: The Wullar Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA), in collaboration with a local school, Delight Public School, Kulpora, Manasbal Saturday held a series of awareness camps and sanitation drive in the catchment areas of Manasbal lake to raise awareness among people and stakeholders about conserving the famous water body and ill effects of pollution.

During the rally, participants, comprising students, volunteers and officials of WMDA highlighted the need for maintaining ecological balance and maintaining sanitation around the lake.

Chief Executive Officer, Wullar

Manasbal Development Authority, Ahsanul Haq Chishti, as per an official statement, highlighting the importance of sanitation, said the Authority as part of its continuous social outreach would continue to conduct such drives with citizen involvement in coming days as well to further raise awareness among people regarding sanitation and preservation of Manasbal lake. He said the Authority has flagged cleanliness within and around the lake as top priority and sought public cooperation in maintaining the same.

He thanked the management, staff and students of Delight Public School for cooperating and participating in the sanitation drive.

DC Pulwama reviews implementation of PM-NAPS

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Saturday chaired a meeting at the Administration Complex Pulwama to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS) in the district and take stock of measures for increasing apprenticeship opportunities for eligible youth.

During the meeting, detailed presentations were given on the online process for registration and onboarding of establishments and candidates under NAPS.

The presentation, as per an official statement, covered the step-by-step process of establishment registration, completion of establishment profile, creation of apprenticeship opportunities, searching suitable candidates, processing applications and other procedural formalities.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments and field functionaries to identify eligible establishments in their respective sectors and facilitate their registration on the apprenticeship portal. He called for concerted efforts to ensure that eligible establishments complete their profiles and create suitable apprenticeship opportunities so that more local youth can be connected with practical training and work-based learning opportunities.

Government College of Physical Education Gadoora Ganderbal

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PUBLIC NOTICE

All the candidates who have applied for the post of-Assistant Professor and Teaching Assistant on Academic Arrangement vide this office No: GCOPE/Gb1/582, Dt:- 19-08-2026 are hereby informed that the revised provisional merit list have been prepared (Assistant Professor and Teaching Assistant). Anybody having any objection regarding the merit list are hereby informed through this public notice to submit their claim in the office of the undersigned within two (02) days after publication of this notice.

Revised General Merit list of the candidates for the posts of Assistant Professor (Lecturer) in Govt. College of Physical Education Gadoora Ganderbal purely on Academic Arrangement basis for the Academic Session 2026-27.

Assistant Professor (Lecturer)
No. of Posts: 04

S.No	Name of candidate	Parentage	Residence	DOB	Qualification	Marks obtained in B.P.Ed	%age	Marks obtained in M.P.Ed	%age	Marks obtained in M.Phil	%age	Points Awarded for B.P.Ed	Points Awarded for M.P.Ed	Points Awarded for M.Phil with PhD	Points Awarded for NET with JRF	Points Awarded for NET	Points Awarded for SET	Points Awarded for Teaching/ Post Doctoral experience	Total points
1	Mir Ahsan-ul-Haq	Manzoor Ahmad Mir	Nigenbagh Hazratbal Srinagar	04-06-94	BSC/Mpcd/ PhD	2501/3500	71.46	1269/1700	74.65	0	0.00	14.29	18.66	25	0	8	0	0	65.95
2	Zubair Ahmad Bhat	Mohd Yousuf Bhat	Parigam Check Kulgam	17-11-93	Bp.Ed/Mp.Ed/ PhD	909/1200	75.75	2627/3200	82.09	0	0.00	15.15	20.52	25	0	0	0	4.166	64.84
3	Ibrar-ul-Haq	Mohammad Maqbool	Parigam Check Kulgam	15-02-94	Bp.Ed/Mp.Ed/ PhD	921/1200	76.75	8.18/10	81.80	0	0.00	15.35	20.45	25	0	0	0	0.91	61.71
4	Zubair Amin Wani	Mohd Amin Wani	Nowgam Devsar Kulgam	08-12-88	Bp.Ed/Mp.Ed/ PhD	914/1200	76.17	1195/1700	70.29	0	0.00	15.23	17.57	25	0	0	0	3.901	61.71
5	Tanveer Ahmad Dar	Mohammad Subhan Dar	Chattasabug Budgam	01-12-92	Bp.Ed/Mp.Ed/ Mphil/PhD	952/1200	79.33	1536/2000	76.80	436/500	87.20	15.87	19.20	25	0	0	0	0	60.07
6	Adil Rashid Malik	Ab. Rashid	Sidiagab Shopian	20-04-90	Bp.Ed/ M.Ed/ Mphil/PhD	899/1200	74.92	2519/3200	78.72	7.90/10	79.00	14.98	19.68	25	0	0	0	0	59.66
7	Gowhar Ahmad Thoker	Gh. Hyder Thoker	Barbugh Imamsahib Shopian	06-03-93	Bp.Ed/ Mphil/PhD	891/1200	74.25	1958/2500	78.32	0	0.00	14.85	19.58	25	0	0	0	0	59.43
8	Nusrat Ali	Ali Mohammad Para	Batwina Ganderbal	07-10-93	Bp.Ed/ Mphil/PhD	898/1400	64.14	8.27/10	82.70	0	0.00	12.83	20.68	25	0	0	0	0.91	59.41
9	Younis Ahmad Zargar	Mohd Ashraf Zargar	Sanoora Kalipora Magam	02-02-93	Bp.Ed/ Mphil/PhD	2305/3100	74.35	2495/3200	77.97	546/800	68.25	14.87	19.49	25	0	0	0	0	59.36
10	Masood Ahmad Rather	Gh. Mohammad Rather	Khar Batora Ratnipora Pulkwama	05-03-88	BPE/Mp.Ed/ Mphil/PhD	2387/3200	74.59	2487/3200	77.72	538/800	67.25	14.92	19.43	25	0	0	0	0	59.35
11	Rohit Sharma	Madan Gopal	Chabapsi Kalan Hiranagar Kathua	28-03-94	Bp.Ed/Mp.Ed/ Mphil/PhD	647/1000	64.70	2567/3200	80.22	0	0.00	12.94	20.05	25	0	0	0	0	57.99
12	Muzammil Ahmad Bhat	Ab. Ahad Bhat	Chowgam Kulgam	21-03-87	Bp.Ed/ Mphil/ Mphil/PhD	938/1200	78.17	641/1000	64.10	7.29/10	72.90	15.63	16.03	25	0	0	0	0	56.66
13	Shahnawaz Ahmad Dar	Mohd Ibrahim Dar	Hanijpora Devsar Kulgam	13-10-89	Bp.Ed/ Mphil/ Mphil/PhD	874/1200	72.83	673/1000	67.30	279/400	69.75	14.57	16.83	25	0	0	0	0	56.39
14	Raj Kumar Mathotra	Dwarka Nath Mathotra	Roop Nagar Jammu	26-08-91	BPE/Mp.Ed/ Mphil/PhD	2122/3200	66.31	2320/3200	72.50	0	0.00	13.26	18.12	25	0	0	0	0	56.38
15	Mohd Waseem Jan Padder	Mohd Ismail Padder	Nowgam Devsar Kulgam	15-03-89	Bp.Ed/ Mphil/ Mphil/PhD	935/1400	66.78	6.41/10	64.10	608/800	76.00	13.36	16.03	25	0	0	0	1.583	55.96

Provisional Merit list of the candidates for the post of Specialist (Teaching Assistant) in Govt. College of Physical Education Gadoora Ganderbal purely on Academic Arrangement basis for the Academic Session 2026-27.

Specialist (Teaching Assistant)

No. of Posts: 01

S.No	Name of candidate	Parentage	Residence	DOB	Qualification	Marks obtained in B.P.Ed	%age	Marks obtained in M.P.Ed	%age	Marks obtained in M.Phil	%age	Points Awarded for B.P.Ed	Points Awarded for M.P.Ed	Points Awarded for M.Phil with PhD	Points Awarded for NET with JRF	Points Awarded for NET	Points Awarded for SET	Points Awarded for Teaching/ Post Doctoral experience	Total points
1	Nusrat Ali	Ali Mohammad Para	Batwina Ganderbal	07-10-93	Bped/Mped/ Mphil/PhD	898/1400	64.14	8.27/10	82.70	0	0.00	12.83	20.68	25	0	0	0	0.91	59.41
2	Shahnawaz Ahmad Dar	Mohd Ibrahim Dar	Hanijpora Devsar Kulgam	13-10-89	Bped/Mped/ Mphil/PhD	874/1200	72.83	673/1000	67.30	279/400	69.75	14.57	16.83	25	0	0	0	0	56.39
3	Mohd Waseem Jan Padder	Mohd Ismail Padder	Nowgam Devsar Kulgam	15-03-89	Bped/Mped/ Mphil/PhD	935/1400	66.78	6.41/10	64.10	608/800	76.00	13.36	16.03	25	0	0	0	1.583	55.96
4	Ishfaq Hussain Parry	Hafiz Ullah Parry	Ujjan Daigam Anantnag	18-12-88	Bped/Mped/ Mphil/PhD	878/1200	73.17	600/1000	60.00	0	0.00	14.63	15.00	25	0	0	0	0	54.63
5	Tanveer Ali	Ali Mohd Mir	Nanspora Shopian	01-02-93	Bped/Mped	887/1200	73.92	2034/2500	81.48	0	0.00	14.78	20.37	0	0	0	0	0	35.15

DIPK-5900/26

DIPK: 19-09-2026

Government College of Physical Education Gadoora Ganderbal

CM Omar attends Viksit
Bharat financing
conference concluding day



KT News Desk

New Delhi, Sep 19: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday attended the concluding day of the two-day high-level conference on "Financing India's Journey towards Viksit Bharat," organised by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, in New Delhi.

The conference brought together State Finance Ministers and Finance Secretaries of States and Union Territories

with Legislature to deliberate on strategies for financing India's long-term development and growth.

The Chief Minister noted the significance of the deliberations in shaping strategies for the long-term growth of the country and Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in areas of developmental financing, agricultural marketing and renewable energy.

The conference featured deliberations by eminent

experts and economists on various aspects of financing the shared vision of Viksit Bharat.

The sessions covered key themes including the macro-economic outlook, financing agricultural transformation and financing the energy transition.

The discussions provided insights into the challenges ahead while highlighting the opportunities before India in its journey towards becoming a Viksit Bharat.

Union Minister,
delegations call on LG Sinha

KT News Desk

Jammu, Sep 19: A delegation of FICCI FLO J&K and Ladakh, led by its Chairperson Varsha Bansal, and Senior Vice Chairperson, Rupika Sahai, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday.

The delegation briefed the Lieutenant Governor about FICCI FLO's upcoming activities and initiatives aimed at women empowerment and entrepreneurship.

In the meantime, Satish Chandra Dubey, Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Lok Bhavan.

Another delegation led by Swami Hridayanand Giri Ji Maharaj called on Lieutenant Governor and briefed him about the upcoming Amba Yagya, a major spiritual and cultural event scheduled to be held from 6th to 15th February, 2027 at Tawi River Front, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor assured his support and cooperation to



ensure the successful conduct of this significant spiritual gathering in Jammu.

The Amba Yagya will bring together devotees for a series of spiritual observances, including 51 Havan Kunds across 10 Mahavidya forms, participation of 11,000 women in the Kalash Yatra, 9 crore Navar-na Mantra Jaap, 9 lakh Deepak Prajwalan, Shrimad Devi Bhagwat Katha, Kanya Pujan, Suhagan Pujan, Batuk Pujan and daily cultural programmes.

Rajesh Gupta, President, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, J&K and Shakti Dutt Sharma, Vice President, VHP, J&K were

also present during the interaction.

Meanwhile, A delegation comprising of Pawan Kumar Shastri, President, Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust, Jammu/Haridwar; Raj Kumar Gupta, President, Jammu Kashmir Gau-Raksha Samiti; Anil Gupta, senior Vice President, Jammu Chamber of Commerce, and Raman Gupta, social worker, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

The members of the delegation put forth the demand for strengthening direct rail connectivity between Jammu and Uttarakhand, and other important matters pertaining to promotion of religious

tourism in the region.

Meanwhile, Raman Bhalla, former Minister and Working President J&K Pradesh Congress Committee called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Furthermore, Pt Omkar Nath Shastri, Chairman, Pandit Prem Nath Shastri Sanskritik Shodh Sansthan called on LG Manoj Sinha. He was accompanied by Prof B L Zutshi, President Hindu Education Society Kashmir and Pt Autar Shastri, Organiser, Vijeshwar Panchang.

Another delegation led by Lieutenant General P K Mishra, General Officer Commanding (GOC) 16 Corps called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

RBI holds financial
initiatives, cyber
security conference
in Srinagar

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 19: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Jammu on Saturday organised a one-day conference on financial sector initiatives and cyber security awareness at Hotel Taj Dal View, Srinagar, with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo as the chief guest and RBI Deputy Governor Rohit Jain as the special guest.

In a statement, a spokesperson said the RBI Jammu organised the conference on September 19, 2026, in the presence of RBI Jammu Regional Director Prabhakar Jha.

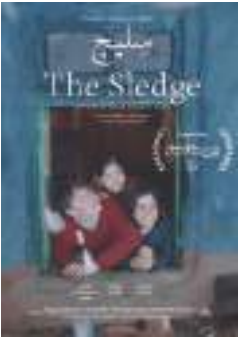
The conference was attended by Chandraker Bharti (IAS), Principal Secretary, Home Department; M.K. Sinha (IPS), ADGP, CID; Commissioners/Secretaries and Administrative Secretaries from various government departments, including Industries & Commerce, Housing & Urban Development, Planning, Development and Monitoring, Information, Revenue, and Labour & Employment; Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank; controlling and zonal heads of banks operating in the UT; and other senior officers from the UT administration, Jammu and Kashmir Police,

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Kashmiri Film 'The
Sledge' selected for
SCHLINGEL fest,
Germany

KT News Desk

Jammu, Sep 19: Kashmiri feature film The Sledge, written and directed by National Award Winning Filmmaker, Raja Shabir Khan, has been officially selected for the International Competition of the 31st SCHLINGEL International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences, to be held in Chemnitz, Germany, from 2 to 10 October 2026.



The film will have its World Premiere at the prestigious international festival, marking an important milestone for Kashmiri cinema and for the filmmakers and young actors involved in the project.

Set against the snow-covered landscape of Kashmir, The Sledge is a 75-minute Kashmiri-language feature film that follows three children who accidentally break their father's

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BSF Wular Ultra Run
3.0 to promote fitness,
youth participation:
IG Yadav

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Sep 19: Asserting that 'BSF Wular Ultra Run 3.0' is aimed at promoting fitness, positive energy and greater participation of youth in sports activities, Ashok Yadav Inspector General of the force for Kashmir Frontier on Saturday said the initiative is part of the BSF's efforts to work closely with local communities and contribute towards the development of the region.

Talking to reporters during the unveiling of the official T-shirt for the Wular Ultra Run 3.0 at BSF Headquarters Humhama, Budgam, Yadav said the event is being organised for the third consecutive year at Wular in Bandipora.

"Our effort is to ensure maximum participation of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, while also creating awareness about Wular and promoting fitness and positive energy among the younger generation," he said.

The IG said participants coming from outside Jammu and Kashmir would also get an opportunity to learn about the region, its natural beauty and Wular Lake.

"Whenever energy is channelled in a positive direction, there is less scope for it to move towards negative activities," Yadav said, urging youngsters to focus on fitness and sports.

He added that the BSF had previously organised cricket, badminton and football tournaments in the region and witnessed enthusiastic participation from local youth.

The BSF Wular Ultra Run 3.0 is scheduled to be held on October 4, 2026, at Wular Lake, and is expected to witness participation from athletes and fitness enthusiasts from Jammu and Kashmir as well as other parts of the country—(KNO)

Kashmir apple growers
advised against early harvest

Jahangeer Ganaiee

Srinagar, Sep 19: Fruit growers in Kashmir have been advised against premature harvesting of apples, with growers' representatives cautioning that picking fruit before attaining proper colour and maturity could adversely affect both quality and market demand.

The advisory comes amid the ongoing apple harvesting season, when some growers have started picking varieties earlier than the usual harvesting schedule after seeing reports and advertisements highlighting high market prices at certain mandis.

Growers' representatives said that the early arrival of under-coloured and lower-grade apples in large quantities has affected the market, with rates declining by around Rs 300 per box in some markets after the initial rise in demand.

Bashir Ahmad Basheer, President of the Fruit Growers Association Kashmir, said that growers need to avoid



premature harvesting and concentrate on quality rather than trying to take advantage of temporary price trends.

"Some growers started harvesting their apples before the scheduled time after seeing advertisements about high rates in some mandis. This resulted in a large quantity of low-colour and comparatively low-grade apples reaching the markets, which eventually affected demand and prices," he said.

Basheer said the issue was not limited to harvesting,

adding that improper grading and packing were also affecting the reputation and marketability of Kashmir's apples.

He said some growers were using cheaper or unsuitable packing material, due to which apples sometimes develop scratches and other marks during transportation and handling.

"Growers must also pay proper attention to grading. At times, second- or third-grade apples are packed in the second or third layers

while better-quality apples are placed only on the upper layer. Such practices are easily detected once the boxes are opened and can create a negative impression about the entire consignment," he said.

The association president said that while growers naturally try to benefit from better prices, harvesting fruit before it reaches the desired maturity and colour can prove counterproductive if large quantities of inferior-quality produce enter the market simultaneously.

Basheer urged growers to follow the recommended harvesting period for different varieties and ensure proper sorting, grading and packing before sending their produce to mandis. "Growers should not be influenced merely by advertisements showing unusually high rates. They should first assess the maturity and colour of the fruit and then harvest it. Proper grading and good-quality packing material are equally important," he said.

Continued on
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Locked Agri store leaves
Tullamulla farmers in distress

Raja Syed Rather

Ganderbal, Sep 19: Farmers in Tullamulla are facing difficulties in accessing seeds and other essential agricultural inputs, as the local Agriculture Department store has reportedly remained locked for nearly one-and-a-half to two years despite an existing government facility in the area.

The prolonged closure has caused concern among the farming community, particularly during sowing seasons when timely availability of quality seeds and other agricultural inputs is crucial. Farmers said they are currently required to approach the Sub-District Agriculture Office at Ganderbal for basic requirements.

The farmers said that whenever they receive information about the availability of seeds, they have to travel to Ganderbal to collect the required quantity. However, they alleged that by the time they reach the office, the available stock is often distributed among farmers from other areas.

They said the situation sometimes forces them to return without seeds after spending money and valuable working hours on transportation. The issue becomes more difficult during peak sowing periods, when delays in obtaining seeds can affect agricultural activities. The farmers have questioned



why the existing Agriculture Department facility at Tullamulla has remained non-functional for such a long period, saying the government building was established to facilitate agricultural services for the local farming community.

They have appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also represents the Ganderbal Assembly constituency, Agriculture Minister Javid Ahmad Dar and Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal to take cognisance of the issue and ensure early restoration of the facility.

The existing Agriculture Department building and store at Tullamulla be reopened and made fully functional so that seeds and

other essential agricultural inputs can be distributed locally, the farmers demanded.

The farming community has also sought the establishment of an Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) office at Tullamulla, stating that the area's large farming population and agricultural requirements warrant a dedicated mechanism for providing technical guidance and departmental services.

President Civil Society Tullamulla, Aijaz Ahmad, expressed concern over the issue and said farmers should not be required to repeatedly travel to the district headquarters for basic agricultural requirements when a government facility is already available in the area. "Tullamulla has a large farming community and is also a tehsil and one of the most populous villages in Ganderbal district. Farmers here require timely access to seeds, technical guidance and other agricultural services, particularly during sowing seasons. Keeping an Agriculture Department store locked for such a prolonged period defeats the purpose for which the facility was established. The administration should examine the matter on priority and make the centre functional without further delay," he said.

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL
IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG

E-MAIL ID: XNMIDANANTNAG@GMAIL.COM

GIST OF FRESH SHORT TERM E-NIT NO. 24 OF 2026-27, DATED: 19-09-2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Anantnag HQ Awantipora, invites e-tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode for the advertised work. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' consisting of Tender fee, Earnest Money Deposit, Prequalification criteria's, acceptance of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S No	Particulars of the work	Tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost	EMD Amount	50 % Exemption Allowed for SSI/MSE	Completion Period	Class/ Registration Type (Qualification criteria)
1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7
1	Replacement of One motor for Lift Irrigation scheme Verinag	500/=	10.0	20000/=	No	Days	120 Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of pumps or registered firms with relevant experience and valid dealership/authorization from the respective pump OEMs.

The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' consisting of Tender Document fee, EMD in the form of CDR/FDR, Pre-qualification. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Position of funds	Budgetary Provisions
Position of AAA	Accorded under order No. 196-DDCA OF 2026 Dt 29-04-2026
Position of Technical sanction	Sanctioned vide No. TS/01 Dated 04.05.2026.

The critical dates are as tabulated below:-

i	Publish Date	19-09-2026 at 1630 hrs
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	19-09-2026 from 1630 hrs
iii	Clarification start date	N.A
iv	Bid submission start date	19-09-2026 from 1630 hrs
v	Clarification end date	N.A
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	26-09-2026 upto 1400 hrs
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	26-09-2026 at 1230 hrs

No. MIDA/2809-16
Dated:19-09-2026

DIPK-5934/26

DIPK: 19-09-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division,
Anantnag

Swachhata Hi Seva

Making Cleanliness

A Collective Responsibility

Press Information Bureau

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), launched in 2014, has evolved from toilet construction into a broader sanitation movement covering waste management, behaviour change and citizen participation. Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS), launched in 2017, is a dedicated campaign that provides an annual platform for citizens and institutions to undertake collective cleanliness action. Over the years, SHS has evolved with changing cleanliness priorities, bringing greater focus to plastic waste management, visual cleanliness and garbage-free public spaces. The 2023 and 2024 editions further expanded the campaign through large-scale shramdaan, public-space transformation, youth participation, SafaiMitra welfare, and community engagement. SHS 2025 brought Swachhata into community celebrations through Swachhotsav, clean public spaces, SafaiMitra initiatives, and eco-friendly festivities. SHS 2026 carries this evolution forward with the theme “Swachhata Mein Sahbhag,” emphasising collective ownership, youth engagement, waste-management responsibilities, and sustained cleanliness practices.

Swachh Bharat Mission: Building a Clean India

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), launched on 2 October 2014, is one of the largest sanitation movements led by the government. The logo of SBM represents the spectacles of Mahatma Gandhi, who envisioned Swachhata as the principle that “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” The logo helped in creating the brand value and representing the emotion for cleanliness worldwide. It also helped people associate themselves easily and quickly with the SBM.

The Mission has two components: Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U). SBM-G focuses on rural sanitation, toilet access and usage, and solid and liquid waste management. SBM-U focuses on urban sanitation, waste management, public spaces, and cleanliness infrastructure.

The impact of this mission is now visible across India's villages and cities. Rural India was declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) in 2019. Further, as of 17 September 2026, India has attained over 5.69 lakh ODF Plus villages and more than 5.25 lakh have achieved ODF Plus Model status. More than 5.38 lakh villages have established solid waste management arrangements, and over 5.65 lakh villages have established liquid waste management systems. A total of 1,314 GOBARdhan biogas plants is currently operational in 585 districts. At the village household level, 12.22 crore individual toilets and 98,273 biogas plants have been constructed.

ODF Plus and ODF Plus Model Villages

An ODF Plus village not only sustains ODF status but also effectively manages solid and liquid waste, while maintaining visual cleanliness. Along with sustaining ODF Plus village status, these villages are classified into three progressive stages: Aspiring, Rising, and Model. Aspiring villages manage either solid or liquid waste. Rising villages manage both solid and liquid waste. Model villages, in addition to both waste streams, also demonstrate visual cleanliness and display ODF Plus messaging.

In urban areas, 95,478 wards have 100% door-to-door solid-waste collection, and 83,963 wards have 100% solid waste segregation at source. India has 3,254 solid waste-to-compost plants, processing 1.39 lakh tonnes and 60 solid waste-to-energy plants, processing 25,759.50 tonnes of waste every day. Further, 1,112 sewage treatment plants are processing 41,020.63 megalitres and 1,131 faecal sludge treatment plants are processing 95,371 kilolitres of liquid waste per day. Urban areas have 68,339 public sanitation facilities, comprising 37,766 public toilets and 25,512 community toilets, and 5,061 urinals.

Thus, the SBM has evolved from mere toilet construction towards holistic sustainable sanitation systems. Behaviour change, waste management and citizen participation now form important parts of this transformation. Behaviour change at such a mass scale has been made possible through several national-level campaigns, most prominent of them being the ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ campaign.

Swachhata Hi Seva: Making Cleanliness a People's Movement

Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) has been observed annually since 2017. The campaign precedes Swachh Bharat Diwas, which is organised every year on 2 October. It mobilises citizens towards voluntary action and collective ownership of Swachhata. The campaign emerged from the broader Jan Bhagidari approach of the SBM. It provides a dedicated period for citizens, institutions and governments to undertake collective cleanliness actions. Recently, SHS 2026 was launched on 17 September 2026.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026: Swachhata Mein Sahbhag

SHS 2026 is currently running from 17 September to 2 October. Its theme is “Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat.” The campaign follows a ‘Whole of Government’ and ‘Whole of Society’ approach. It gives greater emphasis to youth, stakeholder responsibilities, and

collective ownership. The campaign is also creating awareness about the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. It seeks to strengthen understanding of responsibilities across stakeholders. As part of SHS 2026, the following five core activity pillars are being undertaken by local bodies, governmental institutions, and people:

1. Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) and Clean Public Places

The campaign targets neglected garbage points and difficult-to-clean locations. These sites will undergo waste removal, beautification, and sustained maintenance. The Swachhata App can be used for reporting sanitation and garbage-related grievances. Identified locations can subsequently be mapped on the SHS 2026 portal. The campaign also covers markets, schools, hospitals, transport hubs, parks and water bodies. Public and community toilets will be assessed using FACES (Functional, Accessible, Clean, Eco-friendly and Safe) parameters.

2. Swachh Paathshala - Yuva for Swachhata

Students and youth have a dedicated role in SHS 2026. The focus is on sustained behaviour change. Students from Classes 6 to 12 will be participating in Swachhata Gyan Yatras. These visits will expose students to waste management and sanitation facilities. Schools are also encouraged to organise discussions on sanitation and water conservation. These discussions can cover hygiene, handwashing, menstrual hygiene, and safe drinking water.

3. SafaiMitra Suraksha Seva Evam Samman Shivirs

The campaign continues its focus on sanitation workers and their families. Camps will provide health services, safety equipment, and welfare linkages.

4. Jan Bhagidari for Swachhata

Jan Bhagidari is central to SHS 2026. Citizens and institutions are encouraged to take ownership of everyday cleanliness. Planned activities include awareness of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, demonstrations on four-way source segregation, home composting awareness, campaigns against littering and single-use plastics, swachhata rallies and human chains, public Swachhata pledges and collection drives for reusable household items.

The campaign also promotes Swachh Parv, Harit Parv. Festivals during the campaign period are encouraged to adopt eco-friendly and plastic-free practices. 5. Swachhata Se Samridhhi

The campaign links cleanliness with resource recovery and circularity. It promotes Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle practices. Kabaad Se Jugaad will promote useful products from discarded materials. Kabaad Se Kala will promote artistic creations from waste. These initiatives connect waste management with creativity and resource recovery.

Further, on 1 October, 2026, simultaneous cleanliness activities will be undertaken under Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath. Citizens, youth groups, NGOs and institutions are encouraged to participate in these programmes. On 2 October, Special Gram Sabhas will discuss SHS activities and the SWM Rules, 2026. Urban local bodies will also organise Special Council Meetings. Thus, SHS 2026 combines cleanliness, behavioural change, youth engagement and waste management. It also strengthens attention towards sanitation workers and public sanitation infrastructure. This approach reflects the broader transition from Swachhata as an activity to Swachhata as a collective habit and responsibility.

To place the 2026 campaign in perspective, it is important to trace the evolution of SHS over the years. Its focus areas and themes show a gradual movement towards sustained sanitation behaviour.

Since its inception in 2017, the campaign has evolved its focus areas, scale and areas of intervention, responding to emerging sanitation and cleanliness priorities.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2017: The Beginning of a People-Led Movement

The first SHS campaign was launched on 15 September 2017. The launch featured the Swachhata Hi Seva pledge and a call for nationwide participation. The campaign positioned cleanliness as a shared national responsibility. Citizens were encouraged to participate directly through shramdaan. Shramdaan (selfless service) refers to community service or voluntary contribution towards community welfare. Under SBM, shramdaan is focused on cleanliness activities. The first SHS campaign was linked closely with the wider sanitation transformation under SBM. By 2017, 4.82 crore toilets had been constructed since 2014. The number of ODF villages had reached 2.38 lakh. Individual toilet coverage had increased from 42% in 2014 to 64% in 2017. Hence, the SHS campaign emerged alongside the rapid expansion of sanitation infrastructure, complementing this progress with a strong emphasis on citizen mobilisation and community participation.

The SHS 2017 saw widespread public participation. A total of 2.46 crore children participated in the Swachh Sankalp Swachh Siddhi painting competition. The competition focused on building

awareness among children about cleanliness. The campaign also saw social media mobilisation. #SwachhataHiSeva became a leading trend on the day of its launch. Citizens subsequently used the hashtag to share their shramdaan and cleanliness activities online.

Other initiatives included cleanliness drives, sanitation activities and action around open-defecation vulnerable locations. Self-help groups (SHGs), NGOs and local communities participated in several such activities.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2018: Strengthening the Jan Andolan for Swachhata

SHS 2018 was organised from 15 September to 2 October. SHS 2018 strengthened the jan bhagidari approach and reinforced the concept that ‘sanitation is everyone's business’. It brought together students, Swachhagrahis (dedicated, trained and properly incentivized sanitation workers at the gram panchayat level), Nigrani Samitis (who work to persuade villagers not to defecate in the open), women leaders, youth groups, famous personalities and community organisations. The campaign expanded activities across Gram Sabhas, railways, iconic places and educational institutions.

The campaign gave special importance to children and young people. Students from Classes 3 to 5 participated in handwashing campaigns. Students from Classes 6 to 12 participated in outdoor Swachhata activities. On 16 September, Swachhata Sabhas were organised. Special Gram Sabhas were organised in villages to review local cleanliness. They also prepared action plans for future sanitation activities. 17 September was observed as Seva Divas. Union and State Ministries organised Swachhata activities across the country. Government employees participated in these activities under ministerial leadership. Antyodaya Divas on 25 September added another layer of community mobilisation. Each Swachhagrahi was encouraged to create a wider network of Swachhagrahis. This approach sought to expand sanitation participation beyond individual volunteers. It connected local leadership with sustained sanitation action.

One Mission, Many Voices: India Comes Together for Swachhata

Swachhata Hi Seva 2018 brought together people from across India for one collective effort towards cleanliness. School children from Dibrugarh, women Swachhagrahis from Dantewada and Salem, and volunteers cleaning the Ganga in Bijnor shared their grassroots efforts. Celebrity endorsements like Mr. Amitabh Bachchan spoke about cleaning a Mumbai beach, while Mr. Ratan Tata highlighted the honour of contributing to a movement for every citizen. Indo-Tibetan Border Police jawans participated from Pangong Lake, while media houses like Dainik Jagran, cooperatives, railway employees and citizens added their efforts. Together, these voices reflected the government's message that Swachh Bharat was not a government movement, but a movement of the entire nation.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2019: Turning the Focus Towards Plastic Waste

SHS 2019 was organised from 11 September to 2 October. The campaign focused specifically on plastic waste awareness and management. Citizens were encouraged to reduce single-use plastics. The campaign promoted alternatives such as cloth and jute bags. A nationwide shramdaan for plastic waste collection and segregation was organised on 2 October. Plastic collected through shramdaan was subsequently planned for recycling or appropriate disposal. The campaign therefore extended beyond collection to address the subsequent management of plastic waste. Moreover, during this campaign, all states were advised to discourage the use of single-use plastic products. Consequently, six states and 171 districts banned single-use plastic.

SHS was not organised in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2021: Building a Culture of Visual Cleanliness

SHS 2021 was organised from 15 September to 2 October. It sought to accelerate ODF Plus activities and sustain ODF achievements in villages. The campaign combined awareness with community mobilisation. During SHS 2021, more than 60 lakh people participated in over 1.5 lakh shramdaan activities. More than 43,000 Gram Sabhas passed resolutions against single-use plastics, till 1st October, 2021.

A major feature of SHS 2021 was the Satyagraha Se Swachhagraha Rath Yatras. More than 783 Swachhata Rathis travelled across districts, blocks and gram panchayats to spread sanitation awareness. The campaign combined awareness with direct community action through Swachhata Shramdaan and 37,507 Swachhata Jagriti Yatras. On Swachh Bharat Diwas alone, approximately 6.4 lakh people participated in over 2.4 lakh shramdaan activities.

SHS 2021 used communication tools to make sanitation messages visible across rural communities. 9,401 wall paintings, rallies, and several slogan writings carried ODF Plus messages into villages. The campaign also recognised and awarded Swachhata Champions and encouraged community participation.

SHS 2021 also addressed the less visible dimensions of sanitation. The Sthayitva Evam Sujalam Abhiyan focused on liquid waste management. 15,951 household-level and 7,216 community-level soak pits were constructed during this campaign. Therefore, SHS 2021 strengthened the jan bhagidari for comprehensive cleanliness, or Sampoorna Swachhata. This created an important foundation for the stronger visual cleanliness focus of SHS 2022.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2022: Focusing on Visual Cleanliness

SHS 2022 was organised from 15 September to 2 October. The campaign focused on the visual cleanliness of villages and targeted garbage and waste dumped around villages. SHS 2022 sought to strengthen the jan bhagidari for ODF Plus villages. It also promoted the idea of a “sampoorn swachh” village. The campaign reinforced the principle of ‘sanitation as everyone's business.’ The campaign connected visible cleanliness with broader sanitation practices, like waste segregation, plastic management and cleanliness around water bodies. The approach supported the transition towards sustainable rural sanitation under SBM-G Phase II.

The campaign also included United India for Swachhata activities across nine states. The campaign promoted the 4R principle for plastic waste management: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. SHS 2022 used multiple communication channels to promote sanitation awareness. Activities included wall paintings, nukkad natak, swachhata raths and social media content. Citizens were encouraged to take “No Littering” pledges. These activities connected village leadership with community-level sanitation action.

The campaign recorded substantial participation across rural India. More than 9.81 crore people participated in shramdaan for sanitation activities. The campaign also recorded over 1.59 lakh Gram Panchayats passing resolutions against single-use plastics. Around 1.68 lakh Sarpanches participated in Sarpanch Samvads on ODF Plus components. The campaign, thus, connected cleaner surroundings with community ownership and sustainable waste management.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2023: Towards a Garbage-Free India

SHS 2023, conducted between 15 September to 2 October, adopted the theme “Garbage-Free India.” The campaign focused on volunteerism, shramdaan, visible cleanliness, and Safai Mitra welfare. For this, SafaiMitra Suraksha Shivirs were organised from 17 September onwards. The objective of these shivirs was to improve the well-being and quality of life of all sanitation workers engaged in solid waste management and used water management.

During the 18-day campaign, over 109 crore participations were recorded. Around 53 crore people participated in Shramdaan for Swachhata. This averaged nearly three crore shramdaan participants each day. The campaign culminated in “Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath” on 1 October. Around 8.75 crore people participated in nearly 9.2 lakh events nationwide. Rural areas recorded 6.8 crore participants, while urban areas recorded 1.95 crore participants.

The campaign produced visible improvements across public spaces. Nearly 7,611 beaches were cleaned. 6,371 riverbanks and waterfronts were revitalised. Over 15,576 legacy waste sites were reclaimed. 3,620 tourist and iconic destinations were improved. Over 1.23 lakh public spaces were restored. More than 16,000 water bodies were cleaned. Nearly 66,779 garbage-vulnerable sites were cleaned.

The Indian Swachhata League 2.0 also brought youth into the campaign. More than 4,000 city teams were prepared for participation. These teams rallied to clean beaches, hills, and tourist places. The initiative sought to build sustained youth ownership of Swachhata.

SHS 2023 brought together the SBM's rural and urban components. 71 ministries and departments contributed to the campaign in their own unique ways. Their initiatives extended Swachhata efforts across different sectors and public spaces. For example, the Ministry of Tourism launched the Travel for LiFE for Cleanliness Campaign at 108 selected sites. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting played the SHS video across cinema screens. The Department of Telecommunications played the SHS ringtone across mobile networks.

This campaign demonstrated the scale possible through coordinated government and community action. Its outcomes also showed the expanding scope of Swachhata beyond toilets towards waste management and behavioural change.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2024: From Swachhata to Swabhav

SHS 2024, conducted from 17 September to 2 October, marked a major shift towards behaviour and social values. Its theme was “Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata.” The campaign focused on the following broad areas:

Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (neglected and dirty areas)

Swachhata Mein Jan Bhaagidari: Public participation in cleanliness

Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs: Welfare of sanitation workers

Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) were the identified severely neglected areas posing environmental and health risks. These areas, like garbage points or dumpsites, were often overlooked during routine cleanliness drives in various regions. The campaign sought to transform these locations through time-bound interventions. The campaign transformed 3.10 lakh residential areas. It also revitalised 2.11 lakh roadside areas and 56,526 market locations. Over 61 lakh trees were planted during the campaign.

Interestingly, SHS 2024 expanded participation beyond conventional cleanliness drives. Swachh Bharat Cultural Fests connected cleanliness with local art and culture. These events also highlighted community participation and SafaiMitras' contributions. The campaign recorded 76,837 Swachh Bharat Cultural Fests. Around 15,710 Swachh Food Streets were established. The initiative also promoted Waste-to-Art activities and eco-friendly products. Cultural participation therefore became another channel for communicating Swachhata.

Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs provided preventive healthcare and welfare linkages. This widened the meaning of Swachhata. The campaign addressed both cleaner surroundings and the wellbeing of workers supporting sanitation systems.

During this event, by 1 October, 2024, 29.21 lakh events were planned. Of these, 26.44 lakh events were completed. Public participation reached 26.25 crore individuals. Citizens also made 3.04 lakh Swachhata pledges. SHS 2024, therefore, connected cleanliness with habits, values, participation and dignity.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2025: Taking Swachhata to Community Celebrations

SHS 2025 built upon the behavioural focus of 2024. Its central focus was “Swachhotsav” and the spirit of clean festivities. The campaign ran from 17 September to 2 October. At the heart of Swachhotsav laid its five key pillars. These were the focused initiatives that turned the vision of a cleaner, greener India into on-ground action by uniting people, places, and purpose.

The Five Pillars of SHS 2025 were:

- Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units
- Clean Public Spaces
- SafaiMitra Suraksha Shivir
- Clean Green Festivities
- Advocacy for Swachhata

The campaign cleaned 15.75 lakh CTUs. These activities recorded 7.74 crore participants. The campaign also led to the cleaning of 5.89 lakh public spaces with the participation of 6.22 crore citizens. SHS 2025 also connected cleanliness with cultural celebrations. Communities were encouraged to adopt sustainable practices during festivals. Hence, the campaign recorded over 4.31 lakh eco-friendly pandals, over 3.18 lakh post-festival cleanliness activities, and more than 2.81 lakh Swachhata Rangolis. This approach brought Swachhata into community celebrations.

The campaign continued the SafaiMitra Suraksha Shivir initiative. More than 2.71 lakh shivirs were organised during the campaign, recognising 5.12 lakh sanitation workers. 1.63 lakh preventive health checkup camps were organised for the workers, and 4.55 lakh PPE kits were distributed. Overall, these shivirs benefitted 81.51 lakh beneficiaries.

Several advocacy activities expanded the campaign's community reach. A total of 29.02 lakh events were organised, with 3.27 crore participants. Following are some of the activities organised:

- 4.09 lakh Swachhata rallies
- 1.01 lakh Waste-to-Art installations
- 2.47 lakh Swachhata competitions
- 93,145 sports leagues
- 3.64 lakh drives against single-use plastic
- 15.94 lakh door-to-door awareness activities
- 92,971 Swachh Food Streets

In total, SHS 2025 saw the participation of 18.06 crore people across the country. SHS 2025, thus, extended Swachhata from cleanliness activities into community celebration and sustainable practices.

Beyond Cleanliness: Shaping Everyday Behaviour

The SHS journey shows a gradual expansion in the meaning of cleanliness. The early editions focused on cleanliness action and volunteerism. Later editions brought plastic waste, visual cleanliness, and garbage management into focus. The shift became clearer from 2023 onwards. “Garbage-Free India” expanded attention towards public spaces and waste management. The 2024 theme then connected cleanliness with Swabhav and Sanskaar. In 2025, Swachhotsav brought cleanliness into festivals and community celebrations.

In 2026, Swachhata Mein Sahbhag places collective action and cooperation at the centre. The campaign has evolved from cleaning physical spaces to fostering sustained behavioural change, embedding Swachhata in everyday practices and strengthening a sense of shared community responsibility.

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

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Issues Related to Narcotics

One day sensitisation programme held at J&K Judicial Academy Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 19: Under the patronage of Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairman and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy, a One Day Sensitization Programme on "Issues Related to Narcotics" was conducted Saturday at the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Mominabad, here in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau, Srinagar Zonal Unit.

The programme, as per an official statement, aimed to sensitize judicial officers, prosecutors, investigating officers and other stakeholders on the legal, investigative and evidentiary issues arising under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act).

The Keynote Address was delivered by Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairman, Governing Committee, J&K Judicial Academy. He emphasized that the stringent provisions of the NDPS Act require strict adherence to statutory safeguards and highlighted the importance of lawful search and seizure, reliable evidence, proper chain of custody and fair investigation.

Referring to Sections 42,



50, 52A, 67 and 37 of the Act, Justice Rajnesh Oswal stressed the need for proper documentation, corroborative and digital evidence, and truthful investigation.

He also underscored the importance of a human-centred approach towards persons suffering from substance dependence while maintaining firm enforcement against organized trafficking.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, in his Welcome and Introductory Address, emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among investigators, prosecutors and the judiciary in effectively addressing NDPS cases. He highlighted the need for lawful investigation, strict compliance with statutory safeguards and proper preservation of evidence to ensure effective

and timely adjudication.

Sambit Mishra, IRS, DDG, NCB-NWR, emphasized the importance of interaction among investigators, prosecutors and the judiciary so that each stakeholder understands the expectations and constraints of the others. He stressed that effective prosecution depends not only on the evidence collected but also on strict compliance with procedural requirements and proper presentation of the case before the court.

In his Special Address, Abdul Qayoom, DIG Crime Branch, highlighted the growing challenge of drug abuse and emphasized coordinated efforts by police, prosecution and judiciary. He stressed capacity building, procedural compliance, proper documentation and preservation of chain of custody, besides the need to investigate the

forward and backward linkages of drug trafficking networks rather than limiting investigations to persons found carrying contraband.

During Session-I, titled "Challenges Faced in Investigation of NDPS Cases (IO Perspective)", Kubra Nazir, DySP, ANTF Kashmir, highlighted challenges relating to Sections 42 and 50, searches, independent witnesses, videography, inventory, chain of custody, sampling, forensic delays and collection of digital and financial evidence.

She emphasized timely compliance and proper documentation, particularly in view of the geographical and cross-border trafficking challenges in Jammu & Kashmir.

Session-II, titled "Identification of Investigation Gaps Affecting Prosecution and Evidentiary Strength", was conducted by Aftab Jeelani Wani, Public Prosecutor, NCB, Srinagar Zonal Unit. He emphasized that the strength of an NDPS prosecution depends substantially upon the quality and legality of investigation, particularly compliance with statutory requirements, proper search and seizure, documentation, chain of evidence and establishment of foundational facts before reliance on statutory presumptions.

Session-III, titled "Appreciation of Evidence and Common Grounds Leading

to Acquittals; Coordination between Investigators, Prosecutors and Judiciary for Strengthening Cases", was conducted by Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Meghalaya, with focus on appreciation of evidence and coordination among the stakeholders for strengthening NDPS cases.

During Session-IV, Srinivasan Gopal, Former Assistant Director, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, highlighted the mandatory compliance framework governing search, seizure and arrest under the NDPS Act. He emphasized proper sampling, inventory, documentation and maintenance of an unbroken chain of custody from seizure through forensic examination and production before the court.

Session-V, conducted by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, focused on the judicial approach to bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act, including the twin conditions applicable in commercial-quantity cases. He emphasized that the bail stage should not become a mini-trial and highlighted measures for timely disposal of cases, including effective witness management, case tracking, prompt Section 52A compliance and FSL reports, reduction of unnecessary adjournments, time-bound charge framing and greater use of video conferencing.

J&K's first Street Food Vendor Training Programme held in Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 19: In a first for Jammu & Kashmir, street food vendors from Jammu and adjoining districts were Saturday trained and certified at a one-day Street Food Vendor Training Programme.

The programme, as per an official statement, was organised at PSPS Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar by the Northern Regional Office of FSSAI in coordination with the Food and Drug Administration, J&K under FoSTaC and Eat Right India campaign.

It was announced that eight such sessions will be held in every district of the Union Territory.

Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma- the Chief Guest- presented FoSTaC training certificates to the participants. He also administered an oath to them to uphold and implement safe food practices. He said vendors carrying the certificate will enjoy an edge over their peers in the marketplace, as it testifies to the quality and safety of their food. The initiative, he added, reflects the government's vision of dignified workplace practices, clean and healthy food and stronger public health outcomes. He announced

that more such programmes would follow across J&K.

Announcing the district-wise roll-out, Joint Commissioner Food Safety, Jammu & Kashmir Sanjeev Kumar reiterated the department's commitment to public health and the upskilling of street food vendors. He outlined plans for wider public awareness, including social media outreach.

Joint Director, FSSAI, Anakeshwar Mishra said street food is a vital part of any region's identity and for Jammu's street food to earn wider recognition, its vendors must be equipped with the best training and practices alongside certification. Held as per the directions of the Government of India, the session covered personal and stall hygiene, waste disposal, procurement and storage of raw material and safe handling and storage of cooked food. He also informed vendors that FSSAI provides a free-of-cost registration facility to them.

Participating vendors shared their experiences and assured compliance.

Manager FSSAI-Northern Regional Office Nimanshi and President, Chamber of Commerce and Industries Jammu Arun Gupta were among the dignitaries present.

DDC Poonch reviews progress of road projects in rural areas



KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 19: District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing road development works being executed in the district.

The DDC, as per an official statement, reviewed the physical progress of various road and related developmental works, particularly in remote and far-flung areas including Mandi, Mendhar, Surankote, Balakote and adjoining areas. The status of ongoing works, pending activities and issues affecting their timely completion were

discussed in detail.

The DDC directed the concerned Assistant Commissioners Development and Block Development Officers to closely monitor the works in their respective areas and ensure that all ongoing road development works are completed at the earliest.

Emphasising the importance of connectivity in remote and snow-bound areas, the DDC stressed that the works should be expedited and completed before the onset of snowfall and winter, so that people living in far-flung areas do not face difficulties due to adverse weather conditions.

DC Poonch flags off Census awareness Van to snow-bound, remote areas

KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 19: Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Saturday flagged off a dedicated Census Awareness Van from the District Headquarters to Snow Bound areas of Tehsil Mandi and Tehsil Surankote. The District Census Officer and Additional District Census Officer were also present.

The initiative, as per an official statement, has been undertaken to disseminate important information regarding the Census Population Enumeration

among the people, particularly those residing in remote, snow-bound villages of Tehsil Mandi and Tehsil Surankote.

The specially equipped van carries a display system containing Census-related information and awareness material to educate the public about the census process and importance of active public participation.

The district administration emphasized that the outreach initiative will help bridge the information gap and ensure that residents in far-flung areas remain properly informed about Census-related activities.

DLSA Committee reviews performance of Panel Lawyers in Udhampur



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 19: The Mentoring and Monitoring Committee of District Legal Services Authority Udhampur met Saturday in the Conference Hall District Court Complex under the direction of Chairman (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Kalpana Revo.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was chaired by Secretary DLSA Sumati Sharma. The Committee took stock of the Panel Lawyers' performance over the past year, with focus on their achievements, the challenges they face and the overall quality of legal services rendered.

The Secretary DLSA actively inquired about any difficulties being faced by the Panel

Lawyers related to court facilities, administrative support or other requirements. She listened carefully to the issues projected by Panel Lawyers and assured that their needs would be met. Some concerns were addressed on the spot.

In addition, the Secretary DLSA reminded the Panel Lawyers about their pending liabilities and urged them to promptly update their case details on the LACMS Portal to ensure transparency and better monitoring of legal aid cases.

The meeting concluded with encouraging directions for the Panel Lawyers to continue their good work, maintain high standards of legal aid services and swiftly address any issues that may arise in the future.

JMC lays foundation stone for 36 new shops at Bhagwati Nagar

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 19: In a significant step towards the rehabilitation of shopkeepers affected by major infrastructure development works, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Saturday laid the foundation stone for a new shopping complex at Bhagwati Nagar, which will provide alternative commercial space to shopkeepers displaced from Satwari Chowk and Nai Basti due to the construction of the flyover.

The foundation stone, as per an official statement, was laid by MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta, MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa and MLA Jammu South Dr. Narinder Singh, in the presence of Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav and Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Minhas.

The rehabilitation initiative has been undertaken to address the concerns of shopkeepers whose existing shops had to be removed to facilitate the development of the Satwari Flyover. The affected shopkeepers had been operating from JMC-allotted shops and were regularly paying rent to the Corporation. With the removal of these commercial establishments for the infrastructure project,

the shopkeepers were faced with the challenge of relocating their businesses and sustaining their livelihoods.

Recognising the need to provide a structured and permanent rehabilitation solution, the JMC has taken up the construction of new shops at Bhagwati Nagar. The project is intended to provide the displaced shopkeepers with organised commercial space where they can resume their business activities in a planned environment.

A total of 36 shops, each measuring 8 feet by 10 feet, will be constructed under the project. The proposed complex will also include parking space in front of the shops, ensuring better accessibility for customers and visitors. In addition, a toilet facility will be provided at the site for the convenience of shopkeepers and the general public.

The development of the shopping complex is also expected to create a more organised commercial environment, with proper provision for essential public amenities. The project reflects the Corporation's approach of combining urban infrastructure development with measures aimed at safeguarding the livelihood interests of people affected by such development works.

DC Poonch inaugurates JKRLM-run Food Service Enterprise at SDH Surankote

KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 19: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Saturday inaugurated a Food Service Enterprise (FSE) at Sub-District Hospital Surankote, being run by a women Self Help Group (SHG) associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Surankote Block.

The move aims to provide livelihood opportunities to rural SHG women by engaging them in the food service sector and developing a sustainable community-based enterprise.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, was accompanied by SDM Farooq Khan; ACD Shakeel Ahmed; DPM JKRLM Mohammad Nadeem, BPMs, BMO and other officers.

While appreciating



the initiative, the Deputy Commissioner commended JKRLM and the women SHG for taking up the innovative enterprise and creating a sustainable livelihood opportunity at the local level. He appreciated the efforts being made to empower rural women through community-based enterprises and observed that

such initiatives have the potential to generate employment while strengthening the economic participation of SHG members.

The Deputy Commissioner encouraged the enterprise members to expand services, increase income and make the venture sustainable in the long run.

The BPM Surankote Mudisar Ganai said the Food Service Enterprise was established in collaboration with NRO Kudumbashree to create better livelihood opportunities for women SHG in the food service sector.

The DPM JKRLM said that JKRLM is focusing on strengthening the skills of the women associated with the enterprise. He informed that the women will be sent to the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Srinagar, where they will receive specialised training in different culinary skills, food preparation and service.

He added that such initiatives are part of JKRLM's efforts to facilitate sustainable livelihood opportunities for SHG members and help rural women transition from individual livelihood activities to viable community-based enterprises.

Folk dance programme held on eve of Mela Pat in Bhaderwah

KT News Desk

BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 19: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), Sub-Office Doda, organised a vibrant Folk Dance Programme at Bhaderwah on the eve of Mela Pat, the other day showcasing the rich folk traditions and cultural heritage of the region.

The programme, as per an official statement, was organised on the directions of Secretary JKAACL Harvinder Kour and under the supervision of Special Secretary JKAACL Sonali Arun Gupta.

The event featured captivating performances by local artists, who presented the traditional Bhaderwahi Dekku Dance and Sarazi Kuda Dance, enthralling the audience and highlighting the diverse folk



culture of the Chenab Valley. Cultural Officer JKAACL Doda Sub-Office Slah-ud-Din was

the Programme In-charge and coordinated the proceedings of the event.

Agri Minister assures priority resolution of growers' concerns

Visits Handwara Fruit Mandi

KT News Desk

Kupwara, Sep 19: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar on Saturday visited Handwara Fruit Mandi and reviewed its overall functioning, infrastructure and facilities being provided to fruit growers, traders and other stakeholders associated with the horticulture trade.

Member Parliament Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan and MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshheed Ahmad accompanied the Minister during the visit.

The Minister held a detailed interaction with representatives of fruit growers, traders and the Mandi Association and listened to their concerns and suggestions regarding the smooth functioning of the mandi. The stakeholders apprised the Minister of various issues pertaining to basic infrastructure, facilities, marketing arrangements, transportation and other requirements aimed at facilitating hassle-free trade and ensuring better returns to growers.

While addressing the gathering, Javid Dar sought



constructive suggestions from the stakeholders for further improving the functioning of the mandi and strengthening the existing marketing mechanism. He stressed the importance of developing efficient, transparent and grower-friendly market infrastructure to ensure that farmers and fruit growers receive better facilities and an enabling environment for the marketing of their produce.

The Minister assured the representatives that all genuine demands and issues highlighted during the interaction would be examined and addressed on priority, in coordination with the concerned officers. He directed the officers to maintain close coordination with the mandi

associations and remain responsive to the genuine requirements of growers and traders.

Javid Dar emphasized that strengthening horticulture infrastructure and streamlining the marketing system is essential for safeguarding the interests of fruit growers, improving post-harvest management and giving further impetus to the horticulture economy of Jammu and Kashmir.

Director Horticulture Marketing & Planning Kashmir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Agriculture Kashmir and Managing Director JKHPMC, besides senior officers and representatives of fruit growers and traders' associations, were present on the occasion.

Rana inaugurates ₹6.53 cr water project in Channi Himmat, Bahu

Lays foundation for ₹5.90 cr scheme for Bathindi, Sunjwan

KT News Desk

Jammu, Sep 19: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Saturday inaugurated a water supply project for the areas of Channi Himmat and Bahu and laid the foundation stone of a water supply augmentation project for Bathindi and Sunjwan, with the two projects having a combined estimated cost of 12.43 crore.

MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa, along with senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department and other concerned departments, were present on the occasion.

The Minister inaugurated the water supply project for Channi Himmat and Bahu, executed at an estimated cost of 652.78 lakh. The project is aimed at ensuring regular and daily water supply to residents of the areas that have been facing shortages.

The project included the drilling of new tubewells and allied works to augment the availability of drinking water and strengthen the existing supply arrangements.



Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the completion of the project marks an important step towards resolving the water deficit in the affected areas and providing households with a more reliable supply of drinking water.

He said that ensuring access to safe, adequate and dependable drinking water remains a key priority of the government, adding that the newly commissioned infrastructure would provide much-needed relief to residents and improve the overall water supply position in the area.

Later, the Minister laid the foundation stone of the water

supply improvement and augmentation project for Bathindi and Sunjwan, under SASCI, at an estimated cost of 590.50 lakh.

The project is aimed at strengthening the existing water supply infrastructure and augmenting its capacity to meet the present and emerging requirements of the rapidly developing areas.

Once completed, the scheme is expected to improve water availability and enhance the reliability of supply for residents of Bathindi and Sunjwan.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure that the Bathindi and Sunjwan

augmentation project is completed within the stipulated timeline, while maintaining the prescribed standards of quality.

He also stressed the need for proper operation and maintenance of the newly commissioned tubewells to ensure that the benefits of the completed project reach residents without interruption.

The two projects form part of a broader series of inaugurations and foundation stone-laying ceremonies undertaken during the past week to strengthen and expand water supply infrastructure across Jammu.

MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa expressed gratitude to the Minister for taking up the projects and said the initiatives would provide significant relief to residents who had been facing difficulties due to inadequate water supply.

Later, the Minister chaired a meeting with senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department to take stock of the water supply situation in the area and review the progress of ongoing and proposed works.

LPG subsidy: Aadhaar biometric authentication mandatory for subsidised refills from Oct 1

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 19: Domestic LPG consumers will have to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication to book refills at the regulated retail selling price with applicable subsidy from October 1, the government said on Saturday, as it seeks to ensure subsidised cooking gas reaches only eligible households.

Consumers who have already completed the authentication will not need to take any further action. As of September 19, 27.43 crore active domestic LPG consumers, or 89.9 per cent of the total, had completed biometric Aadhaar authentication, according to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry.

For those yet to complete the process, subsidised refill

booking will be enabled once authentication is completed, the ministry said in a statement.

The government said the measure is aimed at preventing diversion of subsidised domestic cylinders for commercial and industrial use, as well as eliminating duplicate and ineligible connections.

Consumers can complete the authentication during LPG

delivery, at their distributor's showroom or through the mobile applications of the three state-owned oil marketing companies - IndianOil ONE for Indane, HelloBPCL for Bharatgas and HP PAY for HP Gas.

Those unwilling or unable to complete biometric authentication will still be able to receive LPG, but at the applicable market price without subsidy.

Such consumers will have to register their choice through the OMCs' digital channels, including websites, mobile apps, WhatsApp chatbots and IVRS. They can receive 5-kg or 10-kg cylinders, subject to local availability, it said.

The government had initially asked consumers to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication by June 30, but

subsequently extended the deadline several times to July 31, August 7, August 15, August 23, August 31, September 7 and finally September 14.

The nationwide authentication drive has been underway since October 2023, with oil marketing companies sending more than 12 crore SMS and WhatsApp messages and conducting outreach through

distributors, delivery personnel, special camps, IVRS prompts and other channels.

The latest move comes against the backdrop of the government's substantial fiscal support for keeping domestic LPG affordable. The implicit subsidy for a 14.2-kg cylinder was around Rs 210 in September 2026, compared to Rs 721 in June, according to the ministry.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Society disconnected

host exhibitions, translation initiatives, and archival facilities, while also fostering fellowships in Kashmir Shaivism.

"The Centre will empower youth through art and creative expression, promote social harmony, and strengthen national integration," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He emphasised that cultural and heritage centres are a national imperative. He said beyond economic growth, a nation requires civilisational memory and moral direction.

"The Mata Lalleshwari Centre will reconnect society with its roots, provide spiritual resources for mental peace, and contribute to grassroots economic vitality by attracting seekers, historians and tourists. The initiative aligns with the vision of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, who has consistently underscored the importance of integrating heritage with development. The Centre will stand as a monument to India's cultural soul and a source of national strength," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Mata Lalleshwari Cultural and Heritage Centre will contribute to spiritual tourism and economic revitalisation. In this sacred land, where holy pilgrimage sites, ancient temples and centres of spiritual practice are spread across the region, this centre will attract seekers, historians and travellers from all over the world," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Tejinder Singh, IGP, Jammu; Shridhar Patil, DIG, JSK Range; Dr. Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; K.K. Sidha, Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums; Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner; Dileep Pandita, President, Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Trust; Ashok Kaw, General Secretary, Mata Bhaderkali Asthapan Trust; Chand Ji Pandita, Organizing Secretary and other members of the Trust, senior officials, prominent citizens and devotees in large number attended the foundation stone laying ceremony. (KNO)

Sgr set to witness

evening to devise its strategy for the autumn session. Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma will chair the meeting of BJP MLAs to discuss the party's plan to corner the Government during the session.

"We are holding a meeting of MLAs tomorrow," Sharma told KNO. He added that the BJP, after holding meetings across Jammu & Kashmir to gather feedback on governance and other

issues, will raise matters affecting the common people.

"We will seek answers from the Government for every promise they made to the people of Jammu & Kashmir," he said. (KNO)

LoP questions

and government machinery is that we have no powers," he said.

The senior BJP leader said the elected government had completed two years and claimed that people were still facing frustration and uncertainty over several unresolved issues.

He questioned the use of statehood as a response to routine administrative matters, saying basic works should not be linked to the restoration of statehood.

"Where pipes had to be connected, where poles and wires were required, where schools needed staff, where hospitals needed doctors and paramedics, where potholes on roads had to be filled; for every issue the same answer was received: statehood is not there," he said.

"If at the end of two years we say that we need statehood even to install poles, wires and pipes and we need statehood even to provide staff, then why are we in government? Why are we in the Assembly?" he asked.

Sharma said the BJP's legislature party would take up issues raised by people during the upcoming Assembly session and pursue matters that require intervention from the Centre.

He said unemployment, particularly among young people, would remain a major concern for the Opposition.

The BJP leader also criticised the government's recruitment and outsourcing policy, claiming that 25,000 jobs had been occupied through outsourcing. "You have occupied 25,000 jobs. I say this with a guarantee that these 25,000 will not be advertised again," he said.

He also questioned the limited number of Assembly sittings, saying the region faced multiple issues that required detailed discussion on the floor of the House.

"Jammu and Kashmir's issues are different. There are so many issues here on a single platform. So, a response like this makes a person ask: where should we go, whom should we speak to?" he said.

Sharma said the BJP's public outreach programme was aimed at listening to people's grievances and taking them to the appropriate forums. (KNO)

Deliberations significant

deliberations by eminent experts and economists on various aspects of financing the shared vision of Viksit Bharat.

The sessions covered key themes including the macroeconomic outlook, financing agricultural transformation and financing the energy transition.

The discussions provided insights into the challenges ahead while highlighting the opportunities before India in its journey towards becoming a Viksit Bharat.

Man killed,

GMC Doda for medical aid, while the deceased was identified as Gulzar Ahmed, a resident of Kalhota.

The injured were later identified as Ashvin Singh, Pawan Kumar, Pinku Kumar, Kalyan Singh and Balbir Singh.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and further investigation is underway. (KNO)

MeT predicts dry

below normal at most places across Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 27.5 degrees Celsius against the normal of 27.4 degrees, while the minimum temperature settled at 10.5 degrees, which was 1.5 degrees below normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 26 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 8 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 22.5 degrees and 5.2 degrees, respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 28 degrees Celsius, while Katernag and Gulmarg recorded 25.2

degrees and 18.2 degrees, respectively.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 32.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 20.6 degrees. Katra recorded 31 degrees and 18.2 degrees, while Banihal recorded 27.8 degrees and 11 degrees, respectively.

Bhadarwah recorded a maximum temperature of 27.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 8.4 degrees.

No significant rainfall was recorded across most stations during the day, although 24-hour rainfall ending at 8:30 am was recorded at a few places, including 9.4 mm at Kukernag and 1.2 mm each at Qazigund and Batote.

The weather department has advised farmers to make use of the predominantly dry conditions for harvesting and other agricultural activities. (KNO)

Traffic cop dies

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and further details are awaited. (KNO)

Artists, writers guardians

they inherit," he said. Highlighting Abhinavagupt's seminal work Tantraloka and his theory of rasa, the Lieutenant Governor said that art serves as a doorway to inner awakening, reflecting the unique Indian vision where art, life, and the pursuit of

truth are inseparable.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Dr. Vaidehi Taman on her book Abhinavagupt: The Voice of Eternal Shiva and Ms. Akriti Sharma on Raghunath Temple, Channi Parat: Hidden Heritage of Sunderbani, describing both works as vital contributions connecting Jammu Kashmir's heritage to India's shared civilizational consciousness. He noted that the Raghunath Temple at Channi Parat, begun under Maharaja Gulab Singh and completed under Maharaja Ranbir Singh, exemplifies Jammu Kashmir's rich tangible heritage.

"I want the new generation to remember that our ancestors built this nation with their wisdom, with their questions, with their experiences, and with their continuous search for truth. It is our sacred responsibility to ensure that this knowledge does not fade from memory. Our duty is to understand that knowledge, honour it, pass it on to new generations, and preserve it for the times to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi new energy has been infused into Jammu Kashmir's Economic and cultural landscape. He called upon universities, schools, and cultural institutions to introduce young people to thinkers like Abhinavagupt as living voices relevant to contemporary questions of consciousness and creativity,

and urged greater private and institutional support for research and publishing in this field.

"We must encourage writers like Dr. Vaidehi Taman and Ms. Akriti Sharma, who, through the difficult and patient work of research, study, and interpretation, can build a bridge between ancient heritage, knowledge, and modern understanding. Such work should not only be a matter of appreciation; it must also receive our active encouragement and institutional support," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed hope that the two books would reach readers across the country and that the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages would continue driving the region's cultural renaissance forward.

"We must place the historical facts in the right perspective with confidence. We must adopt the same curiosity and the same honest scholarship that characterized our ancestors," he said.

Arvind Gupta, Member of Legislative Assembly from Jammu West; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Shakti Kumar Pathak, Director Anti-Corruption Bureau, J&K; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Tejinder Singh, IGP, Jammu; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director, IGNC; Ms. Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAAC; eminent literary personalities; prominent citizens from different walks of life and attended the unveiling ceremony. (KNO)



DUSU polls: ABVP sweeps 3 key posts in high-stakes contest, NSUI loses ground

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 19: The RSS-affiliated ABVP on Saturday retained the posts of president, secretary and joint secretary in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) polls, decimating the Congress-backed NSUI in a high-stakes contest that unfolded in the backdrop of a recent Gen Z-led protest and the Satya Niketan building collapse that claimed the lives of five DU students.

Independent candidate Deepanshu Shokeen, who had filed his nomination on an NSUI ticket, but was later denied a ticket by the outfit, sprang a surprise by winning the vice-president's post with a big margin of 13,705 votes.

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) drew a blank, though its candidates lost the posts of president and joint secretary by narrow margins.

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) registered an emphatic victory, with its candidate Yash Dabas bagging the president's post.

The AISA-SFI alliance's candidates finished with lesser votes than the NSUI tally in the race for at least two of the four central-panel positions.

Shokeen won the vice-president's post with 30,615 votes.

For the joint secretary's post, the ABVP candidate secured 16,615 votes against 15,778 votes polled by the Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha (SCS) candidate.

For the secretary's post, the ABVP candidate polled 21,650 votes, while the NSUI candidate secured 14,869 votes.

The ABVP managed to regain the posts of president, secretary and joint secretary, which it won in 2025 as well. The NSUI, which



won the vice president's post last year, could not bag a single post.

ABVP's Lakshya Raj Singh won the joint secretary's post by obtaining 16,615 votes, while NSUI's Gopal Chaudhary got 15,206 votes and was positioned third in the contest.

The AISA-SFI alliance's presidential candidate, Ananya Raturi, polled 5,377 votes, 1,067 more than the 4,310 votes recorded for NSUI.

For the secretary's post, the alliance's Stanzin Deskyong secured 8,734 votes, compared to 7,884 votes for NSUI, a difference of just 850 votes.

The pattern was reversed in the other two contests. For vice-president, AISA-SFI candidate Akshat Shikhar polled 2,383 votes, while NSUI received 4,359 votes -- 1,976 more than the Left

candidate.

Cheers and slogans filled the area outside the DU's Arts Faculty as ABVP supporters gathered to celebrate the outfit's victory.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who herself was the DUSU president in 1996-97, congratulated the newly-elected office-bearers of the ABVP, saying the support from youngsters was a stamp of their unwavering faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the resolve for a developed India.

Newly-elected DUSU president Dabas said his first task would be a safety audit of all college hostels and paying-guest accommodation, while vice-president Shokeen vowed to seek justice for those killed in the Satya Niketan building collapse.

"This victory belongs to social harmony, patriotism and unity," Dabas said.

Shokeen said he walked barefoot throughout the campaign following the Satya Niketan building collapse, in which seven people including five DU students died. He said he will not wear shoes until justice is delivered to the students affected by the tragedy. Ratna Singh, a leader of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) that led the Jantar Mantar protest in June, said the agitation was aimed at seeking redressal of the NEET paper "leak" three months ago.

"After the Jantar Mantar protest, we have been actively addressing other issues related to students and youngsters like the condition of schools. The DUSU polls were a different space that we did not directly engage with," she told PTI.

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vijay Goel, who served as the DUSU president in 1977-78 after the lifting of the Emergency, asserted that the Gen-Z protests at Jantar Mantar and some other parts of the country were not against the safety of party or its government at the Centre.

"The Jantar Mantar protest was basically against the NEET paper-leak issue, which the government finally addressed and resolved. You cannot say that the youngsters were against the BJP or the government," he told PTI.

Congress national secretary and co-in-charge of the party's affairs in Karnataka, Ajay Dutt, claimed that the NSUI candidate for the DUSU president's post was leading the contest by around 500 votes even in the last rounds, "but the BJP misused the administration to influence the results".

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 19: IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said he has cautioned the semiconductor industry and deeptech startups to be vigilant against potential cyberattacks and other disruptions coming from those who may seek to block India's emergence as a competitive player in the high-stakes global value chain. In an interview with PTI, Vaishnaw called for continued vigilance against potential geopolitical risks as India builds its capabilities to design and manufacture chips.

"We have to continuously be watchful of the potential geopolitical risks which will arise because India is now emerging as a country which can design and manufacture chips. Obviously, that will be seen as a threat by many other established players," Vaishnaw said.

The minister said he has had a candid discussion with the industry on the issue, and "they are cognizant, and they would certainly take the right measures".

While many countries now view India as a trusted partner and are looking to develop and manufacture products here, Vaishnaw said the country cannot afford to be complacent about its growing position in the global semiconductor value chain.

"We should not take it lightly... we should be cognizant of the risks and the challenges which will come from other players. So, I have very candidly told the entire industry that be prepared for cyber attacks, be prepared for any other kinds of threats and any other kinds of disruptions that might get created by



the countries who don't like India to come up in the semiconductor value chain," he said.

The minister said the industry has taken note of his words of advice and "would certainly take the right measures".

Vaishnaw's comments assume significance as India has stepped up efforts to build a full-stack semiconductor ecosystem, backed by government incentives for chip fabrication, packaging and testing, design, and talent development.

The push has attracted investments from global and Indian companies, with multiple semiconductor units now under development or production, as New Delhi seeks to strengthen domestic manufacturing and position India as a key player in electronics and semiconductor supply chains.

Under the Rs 1,27,500-crore Semicon 2.0 policy push, India is deploying heavy capital

incentives, flexing its engineering capabilities, and consumer market strength to create an end-to-end semiconductor value chain, from chip design to fabrication and testing to talent development.

According to the government, about USD 11-12 billion of semiconductor investment interest has emerged under Semicon 2.0, with projects expected to materialise over the next two to three years.

The interest was reflected at the SEMICON India event - a mega showcase of the nation's chip-making prowess - that saw a slew of big-ticket announcements, including Applied Materials' USD 5 billion India plan through 2035, Lam Research's proposed Rs 10,000-crore investment, Tata Electronics' 363-acre vendor park at Dholera and Fujifilm's Rs 800-crore semiconductor materials plant.

India's GDP will rise to USD 38 trillion in 20 years: Ajit Doval



PTI

Roorkee, Sep 19: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval said on Saturday that India's GDP would increase from the current USD 4.015 trillion to USD 38 trillion in the next 20 years.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee as the chief guest, Doval said that the students are fortunate to be living in a transformative era where their future holds great promise.

Citing the example of Lord Ram, the NSA urged students to be courageous in their lives. He said that sage Vishwamitra chose Lord Ram to annihilate demons because of his courageous nature.

"Massive changes are taking place in India, and the country is moving towards a magnificent future," the NSA said.

"As the prime minister has termed the period leading up to 2047 as 'Amrit Kaal', it is truly a wonderful Amrit Kaal. India's current GDP stands at USD 4.015 trillion, and it will reach USD 38 trillion in the next 20 years," Doval added.

"The Current generation is the luckiest with abundant opportunities, unlike past struggles. This is the age of technology, engineering, and innovation, which drives societal growth, with the youth having decades for progress," he said.

The NSA further said that decision-making and building one's own doctrine are critical to becoming a leader.

"You will never become a leader if you are not a decision maker. You have got to make a decision... you have got to build your own doctrine," he said.

Doval also shared an anecdote from his early career days while posted in Sikkim, recounting how he learned three mantras for success in life from a Sherpa.

Doval explained that the first mantra is knowing where one stands on the map; the second is knowing where one needs to go; and the third is knowing the path to get there and come back.

Northeast seeks PM special package for NEP 2020 implementation

PTI

Dimapur, Sep 19: The Northeastern states have proposed a dedicated Prime Minister's Special Financial Package to support implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in the region, saying targeted funding would help institutions overcome implementation constraints and translate the policy's objectives into meaningful educational opportunities.

The proposal was among a set of recommendations adopted at the two-day Northeast Education Conclave 2026, hosted by Nagaland on the theme "Implementation of NEP 2020: Vision, Challenges & Opportunities for the North Eastern States", which concluded at Naga United Village, Chumoukedima district, on Saturday, officials said.

The participating states also proposed establishing a North East Knowledge System based on the region's rich indigenous heritage to promote its traditional knowledge systems in keeping with the Indian Knowledge System component of NEP 2020.

The states called for institutionalising an annual Northeast Education Conclave as a platform for collaboration, experience-sharing and systematic follow-up on NEP 2020 implementation. Such a conclave could bring together representatives of state governments, universities, higher education institutions, policymakers, experts, industry and other stakeholders to review progress, identify emerging challenges and share successful practices, officials said.

On school education, the states resolved to strengthen monitoring systems to verify classroom implementation and student learning while reducing repetitive compliance-based



reporting. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) monitoring should also identify and support children who progress to higher grades without acquiring foundational competencies.

The states proposed developing context-specific multilingual strategies with planned language transitions and strengthening the use of the local environment, indigenous knowledge and community resources in curriculum, teaching-learning materials and experiential learning.

In higher education, the recommendations called for infrastructure upgrades, including the establishment of skill hubs in parent institutions, and greater opportunities for vertical mobility within higher education institutions in the Northeast in line with the flexible and multidisciplinary framework of NEP 2020.

The conclave also identified gaps in NEP 2020 relating to technical education and proposed measures to address them for successful implementation of the policy in letter and spirit.

On infrastructure and connectivity, the states resolved to revamp physical and digital connectivity across the Northeast through wider stakeholder partnerships involving state departments such as Power and PWD, along with network service providers.

The proposed coordination was aimed at addressing gaps in power supply, accessibility, transportation and digital connectivity that affect educational delivery in the region.

The states further proposed the formation of an Implementation Committee to cater to various initiatives related to NEP 2020 and the establishment of a Forum of Education Ministers of Northeastern states to take forward issues concerning the functioning of technical departments.

The conclave also resolved that similar education conclaves should be organised periodically across the northeastern states to sustain coordination and follow-up on the implementation of NEP 2020.

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 19: Non-fossil sources in India now account for 54.18 per cent of installed electricity capacity, surpassing the 2030 target of 50 per cent, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Saturday.

The minister also said India ranks third globally in renewable energy-installed capacity and is the world's second-largest solar-growth market, demonstrating that economic growth and climate action can advance together. Yadav made these comments during the inauguration of the National Green Tribunal's (NGT)

two-day international conference here on "The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics".

The minister pointed out that forums bringing together judges, policymakers, scientists, practitioners and experts from across the world are vital at a time when environmental

challenges transcend national boundaries. The NGT's conference has brought together jurists, academicians, policymakers, scientists, environmental experts and other stakeholders from 17 countries across the world, along with international organisations United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The event will focus on dialogue and knowledge exchange on judicial, scientific, policy and institutional best practices, while encouraging collaborative action on pressing environmental and climate challenges.

Amit Shah suffered 'food poisoning,' now 'perfect': Union min



PTI

Hubballi/Belagavi, Sep 19: Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was visiting Karnataka to attend two events on Saturday, suffered from "food poisoning", but was now "perfect", senior BJP leader and central minister Pralhad Joshi said.

Shah, who was scheduled to inaugurate the new academic building of KLE Jagadguru Gangadhar Mahaswamigalu Moorusavirmath Medical College and the 1,200-bed KLE Hospital and Medical Research Centre at Gabbur in Hubballi, skipped the event earlier in the day. However, local leaders said he visited the campus in the evening before heading to the airport for Delhi.

Shah's visit to Belagavi district, where he was scheduled to inaugurate the new headquarters building of Sri Beereshwara Cooperative Credit Society in Examba in Chikkodi taluk was cancelled.

"Amit Shah should have come here. He suffered ill health due to food poisoning. Annasaheb Jolle (former BJP MP) had invited me

and Shettar (Belagavi MP Jagadish Shettar) for the event, we were supposed to come along with him, but only we have come now," Joshi told reporters in Examba.

Speaking to reporters, he said Shah was "perfect" now.

"Naturally, due to vomiting from food poisoning, he had some weakness," Joshi, who holds the Education portfolio among others, added.

Earlier in the day, Joshi along with Karnataka Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, Jagadish Shettar and Sri Gurusiddha Rajayogindra Swami of Shri Jagadguru Moorusavirmath inaugurated the KLE's campuses in Hubballi in Shah's absence. KLE Society Chairman and former Rajya Sabha MP Prabhakar Kore, while addressing the gathering, said, "Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was the main attraction of this historic event, has remained in the hotel on the advice of doctors as he developed health issues. He asked me to convey this message to you."

Shah had arrived in Hubballi late on Friday.

‘Non-fossil sources account for 54.18 pc of India's installed electricity capacity’

PTI

Saudi issues nationwide aerial alerts amid fresh escalations

AP

Dubai, Sep 19: Saudi Arabia warned of a "hostile aerial threat" and issued a string of emergency alerts across the kingdom, including in its capital, late Friday and early Saturday.

Also Saturday, Iran's state TV reported that a man was executed after being convicted on charges of spying for Israel's intelligence agency Mossad.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Saturday.

Alerts sound across Saudi Arabia for aerial threat

Saudi Arabia warned of a "hostile aerial threat" after issuing emergency alerts, and at least one explosion was heard in Riyadh.

The alert in Riyadh was the first for the Saudi capital since the latest escalation with Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

No casualties or damage were reported after the alerts were lifted. Saudi authorities didn't say what prompted the alerts or the cause of the audible explosions, but they previously reported intercepting incoming Houthi missiles and drones.

UN Security Council condemns Houthi missile attacks

The UN's most powerful body said late Friday that the Houthi's military escalation, attacks and



threats "risk further expanding the conflict, threatening maritime security and international trade," while undermining regional and international efforts to secure peace in Yemen. It warned that continued escalation would exacerbate the already dire humanitarian situation in the country.

The council's 15 members called for "practical cooperation" to prevent the Iran-backed Houthis from acquiring arms, military training, financing and other military-related assistance needed to carry out their attacks. They stressed that all countries must enforce the UN arms

embargo against the rebel group.

Iran executes man accused of spying for Israel

Iran's state TV reported on Saturday that a man identified as Hossein Pedram was executed after being convicted on charges of spying for Israel's intelligence agency Mossad.

The report said Pedram passed on to Israel classified information on "sensitive military sites" in Iran's Isfahan province. It didn't say how he accessed the classified information.

Pedram was reportedly arrested after those sites, which included missile bases, were targeted in the

12-day air war by the US and Israel against Iran in June last year.

A recent surge of executions in Iran prompted an international outcry by human rights groups.

Israeli strikes kill 2 men in Gaza

Gaza's Health Ministry and Shifa Hospital officials said one man was killed in the Shijaiyah neighbourhood of Gaza City. Another man, identified as the son of the ministry's director general, was killed as he walked in the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza. The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the strikes.

Division-Level girls' taekwondo championship commences at indoor stadium

KT News Desk

Doda Sep 19: Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Din Mohammad Afagi today formally inaugurated the Inter-District Division-Level Girls' All Age Groups Taekwondo Championship 2026 here at the Indoor Stadium Doda.

The opening ceremony was held in the presence of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Ashok Kumar, besides participating athletes, coaches, managers and technical officials from various districts of Jammu Division.

The championship has brought together young



girl Taekwondo athletes from across the Jammu Division, providing them a platform to compete at the divisional level and showcase their skills, agility, discipline and sporting spirit.

Although the competition had commenced earlier, the formal opening

ceremony was held today following the arrival and participation of contingents from different districts. The presence of athletes and officials added to the vibrant sporting atmosphere at the Indoor Stadium. The ACD appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the young

athletes and commended the efforts of the Youth Services & Sports Department in promoting sports among girls. He encouraged the athletes to compete with confidence, maintain discipline and uphold the values of sportsmanship and fair play. He also wished all the participating contingents success in the championship.

The DYSSO welcomed the participating contingents and highlighted the department's commitment towards providing young sportspersons with quality competitive exposure and opportunities to develop their skills and excel at higher levels.

Asian Games kick off in Nagoya after chaotic build-up

PTI

Nagoya, Sep 19 : The 20th Asian Games officially got underway here on Saturday with a high-tech Opening Ceremony at the Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium, marking the start of the continental sporting extravaganza after a chaotic build-up. The two-hour ceremony began in the presence of Japan's Emperor Naruhito, Empress Masako, Prince Akishino, the president of the Games, and Princess Kiko, along with Olympic Council of Asia president Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani.

India's double Olympic medalist from Paris 2024 Manu Bhaker and kabaddi player Pawan Sehrawat will lead the 501-member contingent at the athletes' parade, with Sehrawat replacing shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor as flag-bearer after the latter did not receive his ceremonial kit in time.

PM Modi wishes Indian contingent success at Asian games

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 19 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday extended his best wishes to the Indian contingent competing at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, saying the athletes' hard work and dedication had made the country proud.

"As the Asian Games commence in Aichi-Nagoya, my best wishes to the Indian contingent. Each athlete has worked incredibly hard and shown remarkable dedication and determination. India is proud of them," PM Modi said in a post on X.

"May they give their best, play well and shine!" he added.

The 20th Asian Games



officially opened in Nagoya on Saturday, with India fielding athletes across multiple disciplines. The Games run till October 4.

The next 15 days will see around 11,000 athletes from

45 nations competing in 43 sports, 71 sub-events, and a total of 469 gold medals. Competitions for basketball, football, cricket and some other events have already started.

White House bars MS NOW Journalists as Trump enforces press ban



AP

New York, Sep 19 :MS NOW said its journalists were denied access to the White House Saturday morning, a day after President Donald Trump said he would ban the network and two other news outlets from the complex. There was no immediate word about access for the other two -- Politico and CNN.

The action escalated Trump's long-running efforts to restrict news coverage by journalists he finds objectionable, and is the latest test of First Amendment protections in the United States.

MS NOW said in a

statement that it stands behind its journalists.

"The White House belongs to the American people and the decisions made inside are funded by our tax dollars," the network said in a statement Saturday. "MS NOW intends to take any and all steps necessary to defend our First Amendment rights and the essential role of independent journalism in our democracy."

Trump said Friday that he was barring the news channel, along with CNN and Politico, from the White House due to what he called unfavourable coverage and "fake news."

Denmark reacts with cautious optimism to Trump's Greenland announcement

AP

Copenhagen, Sep 19: Denmark's government was cautiously optimistic on Saturday following Donald Trump's announcement of a deal on Greenland to bolster US military presence there but keep the island under Danish control after months of threats by the US president to seize the semiautonomous territory of a NATO ally.

The Arctic island's top leaders echoed that stance and said the deal, which has not yet been made public, was long in coming.

US, Greenlandic and Danish officials had quietly negotiated for months behind the scenes, searching for solutions to address some of Trump's security concerns about the territory of roughly 56,000 residents. With the announcement of the pact, Trump is able to tout a foreign policy achievement ahead of the midterm elections in the United States.

Trump said Friday that the agreement would give the US "permanent control over security, and all other needs, in Greenland, completely addressing ALL of our many US concerns."

Kathua Admin hosting District Marathon-2026 on October 4

Marathon under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan to feature 3 Km, 5 Km and 10 Km races; DC reviews arrangements



KT News Desk

Kathua, Sep19: The District Administration Kathua is going to host the District Marathon-2026 on October 4 under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, in collaboration with The Season Play (TSP), to promote a healthy and active lifestyle and spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

In this regard, the

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review and finalize arrangements for the event.

The marathon would feature 3 Km, 5 Km and 10 Km race categories, with participation from youth, students, sports enthusiasts and the general public.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed various arrangements

including route planning, traffic management, security, medical and first-aid facilities, sanitation, drinking water, registration, publicity and participant mobilization.

The concerned departments were directed to ensure close coordination and complete all arrangements well in advance for the smooth and successful conduct of the marathon.

The DC emphasized that the event should serve as a platform to strengthen the collective resolve against drug abuse, particularly among youth, while encouraging healthy lifestyles and positive engagement.

The district administration has invited citizens, youth, educational institutions, sports organizations and other stakeholders to participate enthusiastically in the marathon and contribute to the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

Among others, GM DIC, Mushtaq Chaudhary, ASP Sunil Kesar, CPO Ranjeet Thakur, representatives of colleges and officers/officials of concerned departments attended the meeting.

INOX

SRINAGAR

GREAT MOVIES BRIGHTER DAYS

MOVIES WATCHLIST

20 SEPTEMBER 2026 SUNDAY

DAAYRA (A)

HINDI

01:40 PM 05:35 PM

HANUMAN ANSH (U)

HINDI

02:35 PM

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE (A)

10:45 AM 12:50 PM 06:45 PM

RESIDENT EVIL (A)

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

10:45 AM 04:40 PM 08:30 PM

VIBE (A)

HINDI

10:45 AM 04:35 PM 07:30 PM

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