



J&K ASSEMBLY AUTUMN SESSION

Ruckus, slogans, adjournment mark day 1

BJP MLAs protest over power tariff hike, daily wagers' issues, storm into Well; NC, Cong counter with statehood slogans

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 21: The autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly began on Monday with noisy scenes as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators staged protests over power tariff hike and the regularization of daily-wagers.

As soon as the Speaker read the obituary references, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), BJP lawmakers led by Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Kumar Sharma stood up and raised slogans demanding justice for daily-wagers and National Health Mission (NHM) employees. They also protested against the recent hike in power tariff.

Shouting slogans such as "Jo Sarkar Na De Sakhe Bijli Pani, Woh Sarkar Nakami" (A government that fails to provide power and water is incompetent),



"Insaf Karo, Daily-wagers Ke Sath" (Do justice with daily-wagers), and "Insaf Karo, NHM Employees Ke Sath" (Do justice with NHM employees), the BJP legislators disrupted proceedings.

Despite the protests, ministers continued replying to

questions raised by other lawmakers. Amid the din, BJP legislators shouted "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram" slogans. Congress legislators Irfan Hafiz Lone and Iftikhar Ahmad attempted to counter them, though their exchanges could not be clearly | [More on P6](#)

'Mere drama': Dy CM slams BJP over House disruption

Says opp should raise public concerns, not create ruckus

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 21: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday termed the disruption of Legislative Assembly proceedings by BJP members as "mere drama", saying the opposition should question the government and raise people's issues instead of creating a ruckus.

Reacting to the disruption on the opening day of the Assembly session, Choudhary told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the limited time available should have been utilised to address public concerns.

"The House should have been used for people's expectations. No doubt the time was less; however, it should have been utilised for the people," he said.

Choudhary said it was the opposition's responsibility to hold | [More on P6](#)

BJP protest aimed at disrupting Question Hour: Karra

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 21: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president

Tariq Hameed Karra on Monday accused the BJP of disrupting Question Hour in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative | [More on P6](#)

Rs 3.22 cr relief disbursed to Rajouri flood, landslide-hit families: CM Omar

'403 roads, bridges proposed for restoration at Rs 185 cr; 29 Kupwara habitations, 1,936 households under RDSS works'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has disbursed around Rs 3.22 crore in relief among families affected by recent flash floods and landslides in Rajouri, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

He said a proposal had also been prepared for the permanent restoration of 403 damaged roads and bridges in the district at an estimated cost of Rs 185 crore.

Replying to a question by Rajouri MLA Iftikhar Ahmed during Question Hour of the Autumn Session, Omar Abdullah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said 149 family-wise cases related to damage caused by the recent flash floods and landslides had been received by the Deputy Commissioner's office in Rajouri constituency.

"Rs 40.61 lakh has been disbursed to affected families in Rajouri constituency



under the prescribed SDRF norms. In addition, Rs 2.81 crore has been released to District Rajouri from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and disbursed among affected families in accordance with the approved norms," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister said a preliminary assessment of damage to roads and bridges in Rajouri district had been carried out and a proposal for the permanent restoration of 403 roads and bridges had been prepared at an estimated cost of Rs 185 crore.

On power infrastructure, he said damage worth Rs 27.99 crore | [More on P6](#)

Govt failed to fulfil promises, provide basic amenities: LoP Sharma

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 21: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma on Monday accused the Omar Abdullah-led government of failing to fulfil its promises and provide basic amenities to the people during its nearly two years in office. Addressing reporters on the first day of the Autumn Session of the J&K Assembly, Sharma as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said people had high expectations | [More on P6](#)

Over 40,000 posts vacant across depts: Govt

Outlines measures for time-bound recruitment

Health sector highest with 12,797 vacancies

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 21: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that 40,672 posts are vacant under the direct recruitment quota across various departments in the Union Territory.

While responding to MLA Sajad Gani Lone and Irfan Hafiz Lone's queries, the government as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) stated that the vacancies include 3,318 Gazetted, 24,427 Non-Gazetted and 12,927 Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) posts.

The Health and Medical Education Department has the highest number of vacancies at 12,797, comprising 2,125 Gazetted, 8,064 Non-Gazetted and 2,608 MTS posts.

The Agriculture Production, Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Horticulture Department has 4,939 vacancies, including 84 Gazetted, 1,925 Non-Gazetted and 2,930 MTS posts.

Similarly, Public Works (R&B) has 2,190 vacant posts, Housing and Urban



Development 2,741, Finance 1,829, Industries and Commerce 1,787, Forest, Ecology and Environment 1,619, and School Education 1,364 vacancies.

The data further shows Power Development has 1,264 vacant posts, Youth Services and Sports 1,369, Jal Shakti 1,019, Revenue 1,208 and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj 836 vacancies.

The government said details of vacancies and posts referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

Embrace millet cultivation to fight climate change: LG Sinha to farmers

Says 'Millets Mission' greatest hope for smallest farmer in villages; 'millets as old as Indian civilisation'

Yogesh

Jammu, Sep 21: Asking farmers to embrace Millet cultivation as a pathway to self-reliance and resilience against climate change, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that it (Millet cultivation) would boost the confidence of marginal farmers in Jammu Kashmir and will also help in reducing risks associated with farming.

After inaugurating the "National Dialogue on Millets for Health: Building Healthy Ecosystems, Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems" at SKUAST, Jammu, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), while highlighting the relevance of millets for Jammu Kashmir, said, "Millets were part of our agricultural memory for centuries and the time has now come to restore them to the consciousness of society."

He said, "Over 80% of the region's farmers are small and



marginal, dependent on uncertain weather. Millets, require less water and fewer inputs. It offers them confidence and sustainability. Farmers should embrace millet cultivation as a pathway to self-reliance and resilience against climate change."

"I see the Millets Mission as the greatest hope for the smallest farmer in our villages. Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan, we prepared a strategy | [More on P6](#)

LG felicitates langar orgs on successful Amarnath Yatra

Calls selfless service true soul of pilgrimage



KT News Desk

Jammu, Sep 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday felicitated the organisers and volunteers of the Langar Organisations at Katra, Reasi, following the successful culmination of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Langar volunteers

are living embodiments of selfless service and compassion. He stated that every stakeholder associated with the sacred pilgrimage is a carrier of India's eternal cultural consciousness, and that history will remember the contribution of each one.

The 57-day yatra, which began on 3 July and concluded on | [More on P6](#)

KT News Desk

Jammu, Sep 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over the appointment letter, on compassionate grounds, to Dr.

Vaishali Misra, Wife of J&K Police Sub-Inspector Sachin Verma on Monday. The Lieutenant Governor assured all possible assistance and support from the Administration to the family. PSI Sachin | [More on P6](#)



Only 899 new posts created in J&K since Oct 2024: Govt

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 21: Only 899 new posts have been created across various departments in Jammu and Kashmir since October 16, 2024, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

In response to a question by Handwara MLA Sajad Gani Lone, government data, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), showed that the Health and Medical Education Department accounted for the highest number of new posts created at 485, followed by the Housing and Urban Development Department with 266 posts and the Law, Justice



and Parliamentary Affairs Department with 82 posts.

The Jal Shakti Department created 43 posts, while the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) created 16 posts.

The remaining posts included three in the Cooperatives Department, two in the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, and one each in the ARI & Trainings and Transport departments.

The House was also informed that a total of | [More on P6](#)

Govt 'examining framework' for regularisation of temporary workers

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday informed the House that it is examining a uniform framework for the regularisation of temporary workers, including daily-rated workers, casual and seasonal labourers, and other contractual and need-based employees engaged across departments.

In a written response to a question raised by MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone, the government, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the matter is being examined by a committee constituted through Government Order No. 384-JK(GAD) of 2025 dated



March 19, 2025.

The committee has been tasked with examining the humanitarian, legal and financial aspects of the regularisation of such workers, the government

said, adding that it is also reviewing the varying terms and conditions under which different categories of workers were engaged over time.

The government said any

proposed policy would have to conform to applicable statutory provisions, the prevailing legal position and the prescribed recruitment framework, while also taking into account the financial implications.

It said the committee is undertaking a comprehensive exercise to formulate a framework that is legally enforceable and administratively implementable across departments.

The government added that consultations with the concerned departments and an examination of the issue from administrative, legal and financial perspectives are required before a final policy decision can be taken. | [More on P6](#)

NABARD-Funded Development Projects

68 of 90 projects completed, 8 new Road, Bridge Projects sanctioned



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Monday chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of development projects being executed in the district under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD. During the meeting, as per an official statement, a comprehensive review of 90 projects sanctioned under RIDF-XXV to RIDF-XXXI was undertaken. It was informed that 68 projects have been completed, while 15 connectivity projects are presently under execution. The meeting reviewed the progress of major road and bridge projects being implemented through the R&B

Divisions of Budgam, Chadoora, Beerwah and Charar-i-Sharief. The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the status of ongoing works and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the projects. The meeting was also informed about the progress of the Kutbal-Yousmarg Road, Kanidajan-Pehlipora-Seklu Road and Hanjigund-Chadoora diversion road-cum-bridge. The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure timely completion of all requisite formalities and expedite execution of the works. The meeting further reviewed eight new high-priority road and bridge projects sanctioned under NABARD RIDF-XXXII for 2026-27, covering

important connectivity works in Nasrullahpora, Farshangipora, Beerwah, Charar-i-Sharief, Chadoora and Khansahib areas. Administrative Approval has been accorded for seven projects, while the remaining project is under process. Emphasizing the importance of improved rural connectivity for socio-economic development and tourism, particularly in areas such as Tosamaidan, Doodhpathri and Yousmarg, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Executive Engineers to augment manpower and machinery and ensure time-bound execution of ongoing works. He stressed adherence to approved specifications and quality standards, regular field monitoring, effective coordination among concerned departments and timely resolution of implementation issues. The DC further directed the executing agencies to ensure optimum utilization of available resources and complete the projects within the stipulated timelines for early delivery of intended benefits to the public. The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam Vivek Agarwal, SE R&B Division Budgam, Joint Director Planning Budgam, DFO Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam, Executive Engineers of R&B Divisions Budgam, Beerwah, Chadoora and Charar-i-Sharief, besides other concerned officers.

DDC Kulgam reviews implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2026

KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 21: A review meeting on the implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 was held Monday at Kulgam and was presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Shahzad Alam. The meeting, as per an official statement, was convened to assess the progress made by various departments and Urban Local Bodies towards effective solid waste management and to identify areas requiring further improvement. The officers of the concerned RDD and Executive Officers of all Municipal Council/Committees apprised the meeting of the latest status, achievements, ongoing activities and issues requiring intervention. Important aspects of solid waste management, including registration and management of Bulk Waste Generators, inspection and functioning of Waste Processing Plants, four-way segregation of waste at source and the status of retrofitting of door-to-door collection vehicles, implementation of the Single-Use Plastic Portal and enforcement of penalties against violations and seized plastic, capacity-building programmes and preparedness for implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026 were reviewed in the meeting. The DDC stressed the need for strict enforcement of rules, source segregation, efficient door-to-door collection, scientific processing and disposal of waste, besides strengthening coordination between Urban Local Bodies and Rural development. The meeting was attended by ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; CPO, Malik Suhail; CEO MC Kulgam, Mohammad Irfan, BDO's and other officers and representatives of MCs.

District-Level NCORD meeting held in Budgam



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 21: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK Monday chaired the 51st District-Level Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting at the Conference Hall, Budgam. The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, took detailed review of measures for prevention and control of drug abuse in the district. At the outset, the DC reviewed enforcement, awareness, treatment and rehabilitation measures and called for stronger coordination among all concerned departments. He directed intensified IEC activities, particularly among youth, students and vulnerable groups, besides strict vigil around educational institutions and other vulnerable areas. The

DC called for firm action against drug peddling and directed timely identification, counselling, treatment, rehabilitation and follow-up of persons affected by drug abuse. He also directed intensified action against illegal cultivation of cannabis, poppy and other prohibited crops through coordinated field efforts. Reviewing chemist shops, the DC stressed strict monitoring, 100 per cent CCTV coverage and computerised billing, with action against violations as per law. SSP Budgam stressed sustained enforcement and close inter-departmental coordination to strengthen the anti-drug campaign. The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam Mehranj-ud-Din Shah, SDMs, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, DFO, ARTO, CMO, District Social Welfare Officer, officers from the Health Department and other concerned departments.

DDC Kulgam inspects Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel, Modern Slaughter House, reviews their functioning

KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 21: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Monday visited Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel and Modern Slaughter House at Kulgam, in order to take a first-hand assessment of the facilities, infrastructure and overall functioning of the two important public facilities. During the visit to the Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel, the DDC inspected various facilities being provided to the inmates and interacted with the concerned staff to assess the day-to-day functioning of the hostel. He took stock of accommodation, sanitation, hygiene, drinking water, electricity, and other essential amenities. The DDC, as per an official statement, emphasized the need to maintain a clean, safe and conducive environment for the inmates and directed the concerned authorities to ensure that all basic facilities are provided efficiently and stressed regular upkeep and maintenance of the hostel infrastructure. The DDC also visited Modern Slaughter House at Kulgam, where he inspected the available infrastructure, operational arrangements, cleanliness and sanitation facilities. He reviewed the overall functioning of the facility and emphasized strict adherence to prescribed hygiene, sanitation and food-safety standards.

NRLM's 4-day Regional Workshop on NSSF begins in Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21: A four-day Regional Workshop on the National Supportive Supervision Framework (NSSF), Zone-3, commenced in Srinagar Monday, focusing on strengthening women-led community institutions and enhancing their sustainability. Hosted by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) under DAY-NRLM, the workshop brings together NRLM officers and representatives from State Rural Livelihoods Missions of participating States. Amit Shukla, Joint Secretary (Rural Livelihoods-I), Ministry of Rural Development, inaugurated the event virtually. He emphasized shifting from institutional scale to maturity, setting a milestone-based goal to develop 5,000 self-reliant Swawalambi Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) across blocks by 2031. Dr. Monika B, Deputy Secretary, Rural Livelihoods, highlighted that CLFs must

evolve into self-sustaining units. She stressed that these groups should independently build leadership and mobilize resources rather than rely on continuous external support. Raman Wadhwa, Deputy Director of DAY-NRLM, discussed the potential of CLFs to implement the SHE LIFE programme. He noted that their grassroots networks can translate national policies into coordinated community action. Welcoming the participants, Mission Director JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, said the workshop provides an important platform for collective learning, sharing of experiences and effective implementation of the NSSF. The framework aims to strengthen Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) through supportive supervision, with focus on governance, human resources, financial self-reliance, member outcomes and social agency, enabling them to evolve into autonomous and self-reliant institutions.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SINDH FOREST DIVISION GANDERBAL

email: - dfosindh.for-jk@nic.in

e- NIT No: - 09 of 2026-27

DATED 19 -09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:-

Name of Work	Location	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) INR	Class Of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion
Upgradation of Narannag Hut at Ganderbal in Sindh Division under the Scheme UT Capex for the Year 2026-27	Narannag	Rs. 6.722 Lakhs	Rs. 13445/-	C & D Class PWD Contractor or B Class Forest Contractor	Rs. 300/-	30 days

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA	Accorded
Position of TS	Accorded

The e-NIT, consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details, can be seen

/downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in.

Publishing Date:	21 -09 -2026 from 10:00AM
Download Start Date:	21 -09 -2026 from 10:00AM
Bid submission Start Date:	21 -09 -2026 from 10:00AM
Bid submission End Date:	28 -09-2026 Upto 04.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	29 -09-2026 at 10:00 AM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Kashmir Srinagar Circle Srinagar
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after the technical evaluation is completed. Date will be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department). (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- III of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and 2% of EMD in the Shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer Sindh Forest Division, Ganderbal. The issuance date of the treasury challan and EMD must be in between that date of downloading to bid submission end date. The name of the work or NIT No, S.No. should clearly be mentioned on the treasury challan. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR 2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by the successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded, which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90-days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. EMD, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2026-27, PAN, Valid GST Registration along with latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the preceding quarter with respect to the issuance of e-NIT, Affidavit cum Undertaking (Notarized along with e-stamp) (Annexure-I), Cost of Tender Document.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labor Registration Certificate issued by Labor Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually otherwise the bid of the bidder shall be rejected.
- Bidder should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded / submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake / not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the contractor / bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division /Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
- General Conditions of Contract:-
 - The date of start of the work shall be reckoned within one week from the date of issuance of LOI/Contract allotment as the case may be.
 - Penalty for delay in completion:
 - Incase of delay in completion of work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty upto maximum of 10% of the contract shall be imposed.
 - Time extension:-Suitable time extension shall be granted in case of increase in scope of work and in the event of delay beyond control of contractor to be determined by the department.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

EMAIL: RB-AWANTIPORA@JK.GOV.IN

NO: T-1/EEA/7026-30

Dated:21/09/2026

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject: - 1. Construction of School Building at HSS Samboora.

Reference: - 1. This office e-NIT No. 101/EEA/RNB of 2026-27/5135-45 dated 22-08-2026 The critical dates for the above noted Work is hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	24-09-2026 up to 4:00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	25-09-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Shopian-Pulwama H.Q Pulwama.

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/- Technical officer

DIPK-5976/26
DATED: 21-09-2026

sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

No. DFO/Sindh/Plg/2026-27/630-36 Dated: 19 - 09 -2026.

DIPK-5935/26
DATED: 21-09-2026

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Sindh Forest Division
Ganderbal

Govt to move resolution today seeking TET exemption



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 21: The Jammu & Kashmir Government will tomorrow move a resolution in the Legislative Assembly seeking amendments to the Right to Education Act to exempt teachers from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).

As per the list of business circulated by the Assembly Secretariat, the resolution unanimously urges the Union Government to make the necessary statutory amendment to Section 23

of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, to exempt all teachers appointed before 01.01.2019 from appearing in the TET.

"This House further urges the Union Government to take all legal steps and issue the requisite notification through the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for exemption from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET)," reads the proposed resolution.

The resolution would be moved by Minister for

School Education, Sakina Masood Ittoo.

As per list of business, Minister for Rural Development Department, Javaid Ahmad Dar will move a Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 19 to repeal the Jammu and Kashmir Self Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999 to provide transitional arrangement of self-reliant cooperatives under Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 and for matters connected or incidental thereto—(KNO)

LG Sinha pays obeisance at Sankat Mochan Mandir

Cavale calls on LG



KT News Desk

Jammu, Sep 21: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday paid obeisance at the Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Shree Hanuman ji Mandir, at BC Road Jammu. He prayed for the happiness, well-being and prosperity of all.

In the meantime, Vijay Rao Cavale, President, Rotary Club of Addiction Prevention 3141 (Mumbai) called on the LG and briefed him on the upcoming initiatives of the Rotary Club against drug abuse.

DIG Parray inaugurates CAP on youth empowerment, skill dev

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Sep 21: Deputy Inspector General (Special Operations), of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Imtiaz Ismail Parray on Monday inaugurated a Civic Action Programme (CAP) sponsored by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) at Nagam in Central Kashmir.

According to the details available with the news *Continued on*
www.kashmirthunder.in

IGP Kashmir reviews Srinagar security grid

Calls for realignment of naka points to ease traffic



KNO

Srinagar, Sep 21: Inspector General of Police Kashmir Sujit Kumar, IPS, on Monday chaired a security review-cum-traffic management meeting with stakeholders at Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir.

According to a statement, the meeting was attended by senior police and CRPF officers, including DIG Traffic Jammu, DIG Central Kashmir Range Srinagar, DIG Traffic Kashmir, CRPF officers, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic City Srinagar, zonal

SPs and other officials.

During the meeting, officers briefed the IGP on the prevailing security situation in their respective areas and shared suggestions to address gaps in security arrangements and improve traffic management.

The existing security grid and deployment of personnel across Srinagar City were reviewed, with particular focus on realigning naka points wherever required to strengthen security coverage and reduce congestion

at traffic bottlenecks.

Kumar directed officers to ensure effective security arrangements across intra-zone, inter-zone, inter-district and peripheral areas.

He also called for strengthening check posts at Srinagar's entry and exit points and ensuring seamless coordination and real-time information sharing among Traffic Police, District Police and naka points for effective monitoring and swift response.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Lt Gen Mohit Seth to assume GOC 16 Corps charge on Oct 1



YOGESH

Jammu, Sep 21: Lieutenant General Mohit Seth will take over as the General-Officer-Commanding (GOC) of the strategically important White Knight Corps, also known as XVI Corps, at Nagrota in Jammu on October 1.

According to the details available, Lieutenant General Seth will succeed Lieutenant General P K Mishra, who will move to a new assignment. The formal change of command will take place during a baton handing ceremony.

Lt Gen Seth is presently serving as the Commandant of the Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT), the Indian Army's training establishment in Bhutan. He will assume command of the formation after serving in a number of important operational and staff appointments.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA) and National Defence College (NDC), Lt Gen Seth was commissioned into the 3 Madras Regiment in 1991. He has also served as the Indian Army Liaison Officer at the High Commission of India in the United Kingdom and commanded the Counter-Insurgency Force Kilo in Kashmir.

The appointment will mark Lt Gen Seth's return to a key operational role in Jammu and Kashmir, where the White Knight Corps is responsible for a large area covering the region south of the Pir Panjal range, stretching towards the plains of Jammu and Akhnoor.

The corps is tasked with guarding the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC), besides conducting counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations in Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and the erstwhile Doda district, officials said. Lt Gen Mishra had assumed command of the XVI Corps on April 1, 2025, succeeding Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva. Before taking over the corps, he had served as the Commandant of IMTRAT in Bhutan. During his tenure, Lt Gen Mishra was recently awarded the prestigious Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM) by President Droupadi Murmu at the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 (Phase-II). He is also a recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), Yudh Seva Medal (YSM) and Seva Medal (SM). Lt Gen Seth had taken over as the IMTRAT Commandant from Lt Gen Mishra, who was earlier serving in the same appointment before moving to command the White Knight Corps—(KNO)

From Legislative Assembly

73 paramedical posts vacant in Budgam



Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 21: As many as 73 posts of paramedical staff and seven posts of doctors are lying vacant in health institutions across the Budgam constituency, the government has informed the Legislative Assembly.

The information was provided in response to a starred question raised by MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi regarding the infrastructure and human resource requirements of health institutions in the Budgam constituency.

According to the government, an assessment of infrastructure and human resource requirements of health institutions falling within the constituency is conducted from time to time. It said that 33 health institutions are presently functional in the constituency, providing healthcare services to the general public.

As per the manpower details furnished by the government, 101 doctors and 88 paramedical staff are currently deployed in the constituency. Against a sanctioned strength of 108 doctors, seven posts are vacant, while 161 paramedical posts have been sanctioned, of which 88 are presently filled, leaving 73 vacancies.

The government said that 466 vacancies in the non-gazetted and paramedical categories under the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, have been processed, including 58 district-cadre posts of Budgam that have been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for selection.

On the doctors' front, the department has received the selection list of 416 candidates for the post of Medical Officer. The Administrative Department has subsequently issued appointment orders for 335 Medical Officers whose verification reports had been received, vide Government Order No. 663-JK(HME) of 2026 dated 2 September 2026.

The government said the selected Medical Officers are submitting their joining reports as they join their respective places of posting. After completion of the prescribed joining period, the newly appointed doctors will be posted in peripheral, far-flung, and underserved areas facing an acute shortage of doctors.

Regarding shortages of medicines, diagnostics, ambulances, and essential infrastructure, the government stated that adequate availability of essential medicines and diagnostics is presently being maintained and no such shortage is being faced. It said regular monitoring is being carried out to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential medicines and diagnostics, while shortfalls relating to medicines, ambulance availability, and infrastructure are being continuously monitored and addressed.

The government also listed several infrastructure projects being executed in the Budgam constituency under the UT CAPEX budget. The 125-bedded hospital at Reshi Pora Budgam is reported to be 70 per cent complete, while the NTPHCs at Puhroo and Nasrullah Pora are reported to have reached completion and 85 per cent completion, respectively.

Continued on
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Efforts underway to address doctor, paramedical staff shortages in Karnah: Govt

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 21: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has said that efforts are underway to address shortages of doctors and paramedical staff in healthcare institutions in the remote Karnah area of Kupwara district, while acknowledging that some health institutions may still be functioning without adequate medical manpower.

The government made the statement in response to a starred question raised by MLA Javaid Ahmad Mirchal regarding the shortage of medical and paramedical staff at various health institutions in Karnah, including PHCs at Teetwal, Chiterkote, and Panzgam and NTPHCs at Gundishart, Kandi, and Nachiyen.

In its reply, the Health and Medical Education Department said that while there may be a few institutions



without doctors, necessary arrangements are being made through internal deployments to ensure continuity of healthcare services. The government further stated that doctors from the AYUSH side have been posted at PHC Chiterkote and PHC Panzgam, while paramedical staff is available at PHC Chiterkote, PHC Teetwal, PHC Panzgam,

and PHC Nachiyen.

Regarding recruitment, the department said that 480 posts of Medical Officers (Allopathic) had been referred to the J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC) for selection. Against these posts, 416 candidates were recommended, of whom 335 Medical Officers have so far been appointed. The

government said the newly appointed doctors would be deployed appropriately, keeping in view the requirements of peripheral, underserved, remote, and difficult-area health institutions, including areas as falling under the Actual Line of Control (ALC).

It also said that 466 *Continued on*
www.kashmirthunder.in

70% Budhal PHCs functioning without doctors: Govt

Jahangeer Ganaie

Jammu, Sep 21: Seven out of ten Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and New Type Primary Health Centres (NTPHCs) in Budhal Assembly constituency are functioning without doctors and requisite paramedical staff, the government acknowledged, while stating that measures are underway to address the shortage.

The issue was raised by MLA Javaid Iqbal through a question in the Legislative Assembly, seeking details about the shortage of doctors and paramedical staff in health institutions across the remote and tribal areas of the constituency.

In its reply, the Health and Medical Education Department said the government was aware of the shortage of human resources in peripheral and underserved health institutions and had been taking steps to address the issue.

The government said it had received the selection list of 416 candidates for the post of Medical Officer, of whom 335 have already been appointed.



The newly appointed doctors, it said, would be posted on priority to peripheral, remote, far-flung and underserved health institutions facing an acute shortage of doctors, subject to the availability of sanctioned posts and other administrative requirements.

The department said the postings would focus on areas where people continue to face difficulties in accessing regular healthcare services due to staff shortages.

Regarding paramedical and other staff, the government said 292 vacant posts under Family Welfare, Maternity

and Child Health (MCH) and Immunisation in J&K, along with 290 gazetted and paramedical vacancies under the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, have already been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for recruitment.

Besides, 839 non-gazetted vacancies and 261 MTS (Class-IV) posts in Jammu Division are under examination in the Administrative Department and will be referred to the JKSSB for advertisement and recruitment after completion of the required formalities and obtaining necessary concurrence from the Finance Department, wherever required.

The government also acknowledged the difficulties faced by residents of remote and tribal areas due to the shortage of medical and paramedical personnel, saying alternative arrangements had been put in place to ensure continuity of essential healthcare services.

It said medical mobile teams comprising doctors and paramedical *Continued on*
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EDITORIAL

Assembly Belongs To People, Not To Disruptions

The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has begun, as it often does, with uproar. Placards were raised, slogans were shouted, and the well of the House was stormed. And once again, the people of Jammu and Kashmir were left waiting for the debates that actually matter to their lives. This is

not a partisan observation. Disruption, regardless of who resorts to it, is a disservice to democracy. The Assembly is not a stage for political theatre. It is a workplace where the people's representatives are expected to deliberate, question, and legislate. Every minute lost to sloganeering is a minute stolen from the discussion of unemployment,

electricity tariffs, daily-wager regularisation, healthcare, education, and the countless other issues that affect ordinary citizens. This session comes with nearly 650 questions and around 50 Private Members' Resolutions submitted by legislators. Each question represents a constituency's concern. Each resolution reflects a public demand.

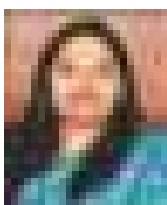
The daily-wage worker seeking regularisation, the patient waiting for NHM services to resume, the household burdened by tariff hikes—these people are not interested in which party shouted louder. They are interested in solutions. The Speaker has rightly appealed for decorum. But decorum cannot be imposed from the Chair alone; it must

come from within. The treasury and the opposition both have legitimate roles. The government must answer for its record. The opposition must hold it accountable. But accountability is achieved through debate, not disruption. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have placed their trust in this House. They expect their representatives to

speak for them, not over each other. They expect substantive debate, not spectacle. The challenges before the region are too serious for political games. Let this session be remembered for the issues it addressed, not for the noise it generated. The Assembly belongs to the people. It is time their representatives remembered that.

From Sand To Silicon To Systems: India's Semiconductor Moment

Since the India Semiconductor Mission was launched in 2021, the country has moved from policy intent to building factories, developing supply chains, training talent and commencing commercial production



Neha Kumari

For decades, India's position in semiconductors was defined by a contrast. Indian engineers helped design sophisticated chips, but the country depended heavily on overseas facilities to manufacture, package and test them. That gap is now beginning to close. Since the India Semiconductor Mission was launched in 2021, India has moved from policy intent to building factories, developing supply chains, training talent and commencing commercial production.

The next task is larger than establishing individual plants. A semiconductor fab cannot succeed as an isolated island. It depends continuously on packaging and testing facilities, equipment maintenance, ultra-pure

chemicals and gases, precision engineering, logistics, research institutions and skilled people. Bringing these capabilities closer together reduces transport and inventory costs, shortens lead times, improves coordination and lowers execution risks. India must therefore build integrated semiconductor clusters—not merely standalone fabs.

The Government of India has created the foundation through the 76,000 crore Semicon India Programme and support for fabrication, assembly, testing, packaging and chip design. Twelve semiconductor projects have been approved across six States, with investment commitments exceeding 1.64 lakh crore. They cover wafer fabrication, advanced packaging, memory assembly and testing, compound semiconductors and specialised technologies. Projects in Assam, Gujarat, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh are establishing complementary capabilities, while support for design companies, advanced tools, foundry access and academic collaboration is strengthening the innovation pipeline.

The principle of 'Sand to Silicon to Systems' should now guide this national effort. India's advantage will emerge when raw materials and equipment support connect seamlessly with chip design, fabrication, packaging, testing and electronics products. Co-location can accelerate supplier qualification, enable shared infrastructure and allow manufacturers, startups and researchers to solve production problems together. It can also help domestic MSMEs enter the semiconductor supply chain by locating near anchor customers and gradually meeting global standards of quality and reliability.

Gujarat illustrates how this cluster approach can take shape within the wider national mission. The State introduced India's first dedicated semiconductor policy and established the Gujarat State Electronics Mission as a single-point facilitator. It now accounts for six approved projects and more than 1.24 lakh crore of investment. The more important achievement, however, is the emerging link between fabrication, packaging, infrastructure, suppliers and talent across Dholera, Sanand and Surat.

Sanand is developing as a major packaging cluster around facilities established by Micron Technology, Kaynes Semicon and CG Semi. Three major facilities in Gujarat have commenced commercial production in 2026. Their operations create sustained demand for equipment, specialty chemicals, industrial gases, cleanrooms, testing, logistics and precision engineering. This demand can attract suppliers, reduce dependence on distant service networks and create opportunities for Indian technology companies and MSMEs.

Dholera provides the fabrication anchor. Tata Electronics, in partnership with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation, is establishing India's first commercial semiconductor fab there. Its dual-grid power, assured water, treatment facilities, expressway connectivity, international airport and dedicated industrial zones demonstrate the infrastructure intensity of semiconductor manufacturing. Crystal Matrix's compound-semiconductor and advanced-packaging project and Suchi Semicon's facility in Surat further widen Gujarat's technology base and potential supplier network.

Clusters must also connect factories with knowledge. The packaging training centre at Pandit Deendayal Energy University, the ChipIN Extension Centre and the SAMARTH nanofabrication facility at IIT Gandhinagar

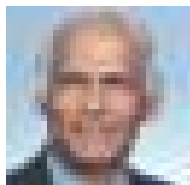
can support industry-ready talent, research and process development. Nationally, similar links between anchor plants, universities, design centres and shared testing facilities will be essential for building capability that survives beyond initial investment incentives.

No country builds a complete semiconductor ecosystem alone. Global technology partnerships, capital and markets will remain indispensable. India's opportunity lies in combining them with a large domestic market, deep engineering talent and trusted institutions. SEMICON India 2026, under the theme 'Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem', can advance this shift from projects to clusters. Gujarat is an important demonstration, but the ambition is national: interconnected semiconductor clusters that reduce risk, deepen domestic value addition and make India a trusted global source of chips, technologies and systems. Success should ultimately be measured by lower lead times, faster qualification and the growing share of value created within India.

The author is Mission Director, Gujarat State Electronics Mission

A Vision For Advanced Packaging: Delivering Maximum Value With Minimum Investment

India stands at a pivotal moment in its semiconductor journey. While the nation has achieved global recognition in chip design and software, it now has a unique opportunity to become a leader in advanced packaging and eventually evolve into a world-class Systems Foundry.



Prof. Rao R. Tummala

India stands at a pivotal moment in its semiconductor journey. While the nation has achieved global recognition in chip design and software, it now has a unique opportunity to become a leader in advanced packaging and eventually evolve into a world-class Systems Foundry. By focusing on advanced packaging and workforce development, India can create semiconductor-driven economy of the twenty-first century. In my opinion, advanced packaging has emerged as one of the most strategic technologies in the semiconductor industry. It enables the integration of chips, chiplets, memory, photonics, sensors, RF components, and power devices into highly functional systems that power artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, communications, transportation, healthcare, defense, and consumer electronics.

As the demand for AI increases, advanced packaging is becoming the key technology that connects semiconductor innovation to real-world applications. This opportunity is further strengthened by a fundamental industry shift from the traditional System-on-Chip (SoC) paradigm to the System-on-Package (SoP) paradigm, a concept pioneered by me at Georgia Tech. For decades, semiconductor progress



depended on transistor scaling to improve performance and reduce costs. Today, scaling faces physical, electrical, and economic constraints, while the cost of advanced semiconductor fabrication continues to rise dramatically. As a result, innovation is increasingly moving from the transistor level to the package and system levels. For India, advanced packaging represents a practical and highly attractive pathway into semiconductor manufacturing.

Unlike advanced wafer fabrication facilities that require investments of tens of billions of dollars, advanced packaging offers significantly lower capital requirements while creating high-value manufacturing and innovation opportunities. By integrating multiple specialized chips into optimized architectures, advanced packaging delivers greater functionality, higher performance, lower power consumption,

faster development cycles, and improved design flexibility. In my opinion, India's ambition should be more than participation in this transformation.

The country should aspire to become a global leader in selective strategic areas of advanced packaging. This vision requires the development of a comprehensive Semiconductor-to-Systems ecosystem that spans system design and architectures, advanced substrates and interconnect technologies, embedded power integration, assembly and testing, reliability engineering, workforce development, commercialization, and startup creation. At the center of this vision is a national innovation ecosystem built through strong partnerships among academia, industry, startups, and government. I propose the establishment of nine Industry Co-Development Technology Centers across leading institutions,

including IITs, IISc, and BITS, together with a National System Integration Center and a pilot line at IIT Gandhinagar. These centers would focus on strategic technologies such as chiplet architectures, glass-core substrates, power-efficient packaging, photonic packaging, thermal management, reliability engineering, and advanced testing. The pilot line would serve as a critical bridge between research and manufacturing, accelerating the translation of laboratory innovations into commercially viable products. It would provide researchers, students, startups, and industry partners with an environment to develop, validate, and scale next-generation technologies before commercialization.

A defining feature of this strategy is its distributed innovation model. Rather than concentrating resources and expertise in one location, specialized centers across the country would focus on complementary

strengths. This hub-and-spoke approach would leverage India's diverse capabilities, develop regional talent, improve resilience, encourage industry participation, and accelerate innovation nationwide. Close industry engagement would ensure that research remains aligned with market needs and rapidly advances toward commercialization.

Workforce development is equally important. The semiconductor industry will require thousands of engineers, scientists, technicians, operators, and manufacturing specialists. India can build this talent pipeline through interdisciplinary academic programs, industry internships, professional certifications, pilot-line training, and collaborative research initiatives. By aligning education with industry needs, the nation can develop one of the world's largest and most capable semiconductor workforces.

Advanced packaging also supports India's broader goals of technological self-reliance, economic growth, and national security. As global supply chains seek trusted manufacturing and innovation partners, India can emerge as a preferred destination for advanced packaging, assembly, testing. This strategy can reduce import dependence, create high-value jobs, attract investments, accelerate startup creation, and strengthen national competitiveness. Achieving this vision will require, however, a sustained commitment, strategic investments, coordinated policies, and deep partnerships among government, industry, and academia. The rewards, however, will be transformative.

The author is Father of Advanced Packaging, Emeritus Professor, Georgia Tech, Advisor, ISM

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Owner & Editor-In-Chief of Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a leading news agency in Jammu & Kashmir. Website: www.kashmirnewsobserver.com, Mail: info@kashmirnewsobserver.com

CS Atal Dulloo approves Rs 12.95 crore worth proposals for mobility, youth outreach Initiatives

Reviews functioning of Rehabilitation Council in its Executive Council Meeting

KT News Desk

Srinagar, September 21: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Monday chaired the 12th Executive Council Meeting of the J&K Rehabilitation Council for Orphans, Women and Disabled Persons to review its functioning, achievements and action plan for 2026-27.

The Meeting, as per an official statement, besides the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department was attended by Secretary in Social Welfare Department; DG, Budget; and Executive Director, Rehabilitation Council here.

The meeting reviewed major welfare interventions undertaken during the previous financial year and approved an expanded roadmap focused on improving mobility and self-reliance among specially-abled persons besides providing greater national exposure and opportunities to children from vulnerable and economically weaker sections.

A major focus of the meeting was the free distribution of retrofitted motorized tricycles to eligible orthopedically disabled persons of J&K. The initiative prioritizes students, girl students, artisans and small vendors who possess a Priority Household (PHH) ration card and have at least 40 per cent locomotor disability.

It was given out by the



Commissioner Secretary, SWD, Sarmad Hafeez that during 2025-26, against an approved proposal of 13 crore, the Social Welfare Department released 11.05 crore under the CAPEX Budget to the State Motor Garages Department for procurement of around 1,284 motorized tricycles at an approximate cost of 86,000 per unit through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

Similarly for 2026-27, the Council has proposed 12.95 crore for procurement of around 1,500 units, with an initial 4 crore already released after completion of mandatory codal formalities by the Department.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the 'Watan Ko Jano' Youth Exchange Programme, being fully funded and supported by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA),

Government of India, since 2012.

The programme provides children and youth from vulnerable sections, including children of militancy-hit victims, specially-abled children and those belonging to economically weaker sections, an opportunity to experience the cultural diversity and developmental progress of different parts of the country.

Under the programme, the Executive Director of the Council divulged that around 250 children from EWS families, studying in government schools and residing in Palash and Parisha Homes managed by the Social Welfare Department, undertook a visit to Lucknow and New Delhi in April 2026, accompanied by 23 coordinators. During the visit, the children also had the opportunity to meet and interact with the President of India and Vice

President of India.

Moreover, building on the initiative, the Council is going to take more 400 children on national exposure visits in two phases during 2026-27, covering the Mumbai-New Delhi and Jaipur-New Delhi circuits, with funding already secured from the MHA.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to fast-track procurement and implementation processes while maintaining complete transparency and adherence to prescribed procedures.

He also stressed maximizing outreach and ensuring that welfare schemes translate into tangible benefits for eligible beneficiaries at the grassroots level, with particular attention to empowerment and social inclusion of vulnerable sections across the cross section of the society here.

Jammu Expo 2026 concludes with overwhelming public response

Expo celebrated entrepreneurial spirit, cultural identity, culinary heritage of Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21: The first edition of Jammu Expo 2026 – A Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine successfully concluded here at Gole Market Gandhi Nagar, receiving an overwhelming and encouraging response from the people of Jammu.

Organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) under the aegis of the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Jammu & Kashmir under the tagline "Discover Local- Experience Dogri Cuisine-Connect with Markets," the three-day Expo, held from September 18 to 20, 2026, brought together local entrepreneurs, artisans, MSMEs, women-led enterprises, startups, ODOP enterprises and emerging businesses on a common platform to showcase their products and connect directly with consumers and markets.

Jammu Expo, as per an official statement, celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit, cultural identity and culinary heritage of Jammu and witnessed heavy footfall throughout all three days, with visitors showing keen interest in local products, handicrafts, handloom,



agriculture, horticulture, food products, innovative offerings and products showcased by women-led SHGs/enterprises and local entrepreneurs. The enthusiastic participation of the public translated into impressive and strong consumer engagement, providing exhibitors with valuable market exposure and direct customer interaction.

A major attraction of the Expo was the dedicated "Taste of Jammu" Food Corner, which offered visitors an opportunity to savour traditional Dogri cuisine, local snacks, beverages and value-added food products. The Expo also featured cultural performances celebrating the rich Dogra heritage, adding to the overall visitor experience.

The participation of rural women Self-Help Groups,

startups, ODOP enterprises, artisans, MSMEs and local businesses further strengthened the Expo's objective of promoting local enterprise and creating opportunities for market linkages.

The successful culmination of Jammu Expo 2026 reflected the growing interest of consumers in local products, local brands and local entrepreneurship, while providing participating enterprises with a platform to engage with customers, understand market preferences and expand their reach.

The JKTPO has extended its sincere gratitude to the people of Jammu, exhibitors, artisans, entrepreneurs, women-led enterprises, startups, partners and all stakeholders for their enthusiastic participation and support in making the first edition of Jammu Expo a success.

DC Udhampur flags off inter-state exposure visit of farmers

Releases book on natural farming

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 21: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening farmers' capacity and promoting modern, sustainable agricultural practices, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa Monday flagged off a group of 30 farmers for an inter-state exposure visit to Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur.

The exposure visit, as per an official statement, is being organised jointly by the offices of the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Office Ramnagar and SDAO Udhampur, under the HADP project Promotion of Commercial Floriculture, funded under the CAPEX Budget 2026-27.

The primary objective of the exposure visit is to acquaint local farmers with modern agricultural techniques, commercial floriculture practices and sustainable farming technologies being demonstrated at the premier agricultural university in Palampur.

The initiative is expected to provide participating farmers with practical knowledge and exposure that can be adapted to local conditions to enhance agricultural productivity and farm incomes.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Vikas Padha; District Agriculture Officer Sudhir Manhas; Agriculture Chemist

Sunil Gupta; SDAO Ramnagar Ashwani Abrol and SDAO Udhampur Darshan Sharma, besides other senior officers and officials of the Agriculture Department.

While interacting with the farmers, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged them to make the most of the exposure visit by actively engaging with agricultural experts and gaining practical insights into advanced floriculture and sustainable farming practices. He urged them to adopt suitable modern and eco-friendly techniques in their fields to improve productivity, diversify farm activities and enhance their income.

The participating farmers expressed enthusiasm and keen interest in learning about commercial floriculture, modern farming techniques and sustainable agricultural practices. They also expressed gratitude to the District Administration and the Agriculture Department for facilitating the valuable learning opportunity.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also inaugurated and released an informative book on Natural Farming, compiled by the Office of SDAO, Ramnagar. Based on the theme Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy Life, the booklet seeks to promote chemical-free, low-cost and sustainable farming practices by encouraging the use of traditional resources and natural inputs.

Workshop on Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan held in Doda

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 21: A workshop on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) under VB-G RAM G, themed "From Planning to Action," was Monday organised here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex to strengthen participatory, inclusive and outcome-oriented planning at the grassroots level.

Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal, as per an official statement, was the Chief Guest. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anil Kumar Thakur; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Din Mohammad Afaqi, BDOs, VLWs and other concerned officials attended the workshop.

The workshop provided detailed orientation on the VGPP planning cycle, covering identification of requirements, assessment of existing status, gap assessment, preparation of annual action plans, execution and monitoring and achieving saturation and measurable impact.

The participants were also apprised of key planning areas including natural resource management, rural infrastructure and connectivity, social development and human capital, livelihood promotion, environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for comprehensive and realistic



Panchayat-level planning based on the actual requirements of local communities. "Development plans should reflect ground realities, address identified gaps and ensure optimal utilisation and convergence of available resources," he emphasised.

The DC called upon the field functionaries to ensure active participation of local communities in the planning process. He underscored the importance of prioritising works that have a direct and visible

impact on the lives of rural people, while ensuring transparency, accountability and timely implementation.

The ADC highlighted the importance of converting Panchayat plans into concrete and time-bound actions. He stressed coordinated efforts by BDOs, VLWs and other field-level functionaries for identifying local needs, assessing existing infrastructure, conducting gap analysis and preparing realistic annual action plans.

Doda Girls win overall championship in Division-Level Taekwondo Competition

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 21: The Inter-District Division-Level Girls' All Age Groups Taekwondo Competition 2026, organised by Youth Services & Sports District Doda, concluded Monday at the Indoor Stadium here, with District Doda securing the Overall Championship Trophy.

The Doda contingent put up an impressive performance during the three-day championship, securing 26 medals, including 9 Gold, 6 Silver and 11 Bronze, across different age groups.

The championship, as per an official statement, brought together young Taekwondo athletes from different districts of the Jammu Division, providing them an opportunity to compete at the divisional level and showcase their skills, discipline and sporting talent.

The participation of young female athletes reflected the



growing interest of girls in sports.

The championship was conducted under the overall guidance of Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and Joint Director Youth Services & Sports Jammu Inderjeet Singh Parihar with the supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Ashok Kumar.

The successful conduct of the event was facilitated by the

coordinated efforts of coaches, managers, selectors, technical officials, Activity Incharges and organising staff, who worked throughout the championship to ensure its smooth execution.

The DYSSO expressed gratitude to all participating athletes, coaches, managers, selectors, technical officials and organising personnel for their cooperation and dedicated efforts in making the championship a success.

Virtual Mock Assessment conducted for AAM SC Hanch ahead of NQAS National Assessment



KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 21: A virtual mock assessment of the Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) Sub Centre Hanch-Medical Block Ghat, was Monday conducted by the District Quality Assurance Unit (DQAU) Doda.

The move, as per an official statement, aimed to assess the preparedness of the Health Facility ahead of the forthcoming National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS)

National Assessment.

The mock assessment was conducted under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma.

The virtual assessment session was conducted by Umar Anayat, Mashhood Latif, Faizan A Trambo, Dr. Tarif Younas and Saba Shaftet, who acted as assessors and carried out a comprehensive review of various NQAS-related parameters, documentation, service delivery practices, quality protocols and facility preparedness.

DC Ramban reviews progress of Population Enumeration in snow-bound areas



KT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 21: Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan Monday reviewed the progress of Phase-II Population Enumeration of Census-2027 in the snow-bound areas of the district, here at a meeting.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Census Officer (District Statistics and Evaluation Officer) Ashfaq Ur Rehman and District Coordinator Anish Sharma, while Sub-Divisional Census Officers (SDCOs), Charge Officers (Tehsildars) and other concerned officers participated in the meeting virtually.

The District Statistics and Evaluation Officer briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the overall progress of Phase-II Population Enumeration, including charge-wise achievements and the status of the remaining work.

Reviewing the progress in Banihal, Khari, Pogal-Paristan,

Ramsoo, Ramban, Batote, Rajgarh and Gool, the Deputy Commissioner directed the respective Charge Officers to maintain close field-level supervision and ensure completion of the assigned work within the prescribed timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the preparations for collection of data for the District Census Handbook (DCHB). He directed the officers to complete all preparatory activities for collection of DCHB data starting from Oct 1, 2026, which continue till Oct 31, 2026.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised effective field-level coordination, continuous monitoring and timely removal of bottlenecks for the smooth and successful completion of Census-2027 in the district.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner directed concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the Digital Crop Survey (DCS), with regular monitoring and follow-up at the field level.

Secretary DLSA Jammu reviews activities of Legal Literacy Club at Ranbir GHSS

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 21: A team of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu, under the guidance of Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairman, DLSA Tahir Khurshid Raina, Monday visited Ranbir Higher Secondary School to review activities of the Legal Literacy Club of the institution.

The visit was led by Civil Judge (Senior Division) / Secretary, DLSA Maleeka Sharma.

During the visit, the DLSA Secretary, as per an official statement, checked the record maintained by the PLV deputed at the school. The PLV was directed and motivated to actively engage with the students,



sensitize them about their legal rights and duties and generate awareness regarding various NALSA and JKLSA welfare schemes, child rights and other legal aid services. The PLV was further instructed to ensure regular functioning of the Legal Literacy Club.

ACB books J&K Grameen Bank official, others over PMEGP irregularities

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 21: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) J&K on Monday said it has registered an FIR against the then Branch Head of J&K Grameen Bank, Reban branch, Sopore, and a Business Correspondent over alleged financial irregularities and premature release of capital subsidy under PMEGP during 2021-2023.

In a statement issued to the

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said the ACB J&K had registered an FIR against Arvind Saini, the then Branch Head of J&K Grameen Bank, Reban branch, Sopore, and Firdous Ahmad Sheikh, a Business Correspondent, among others, for allegedly committing financial irregularities and misusing their official positions.

The spokesperson said the accused allegedly committed

serious financial irregularities by prematurely releasing capital subsidy under sponsored schemes related to the implementation of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) during 2021-2023, in violation of the PMEGP Operational Guidelines issued by the sponsoring agency and adopted by the bank vide Circular No. 86 dated June 8, 2022.

“During verification, it was revealed that Arvind Saini, the then Branch Head of J&K Grameen Bank, Reban branch, Sopore, under a criminal conspiracy with beneficiary Firdous Ahmad Sheikh, prematurely released/reversed capital subsidy amounting to Rs 41,17,500 in 25 PMEGP loan accounts before expiry of the mandatory lock-in period, without receipt of the requisite authorisation/adjustment

letter from the implementing agency,” the spokesperson said.

He said this allegedly facilitated the unlawful closure/adjustment of the concerned loan accounts in violation of PMEGP guidelines. Among these, six loan accounts sanctioned in favour of Business Correspondent Firdous Ahmad Sheikh and his family members were allegedly closed prematurely through adjustment of the subsidy.

The spokesperson further said that during verification, it was established that no business units were found existing during physical verification in 46 PMEGP units financed by the branch, involving a sanctioned/disbursed amount of Rs 1,66,72,000.

“This frustrated the objective of the PMEGP scheme and indicated diversion of loan funds and subsidy in conspiracy with the beneficiaries,” he said.

Accordingly, FIR No. 05/2026 under Section 13(1)(a) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018, and Sections 409 and 120-B of the IPC has been registered against Arvind Saini, the then Branch Head of J&K Grameen Bank, Reban branch, Sopore, Firdous Ahmad Sheikh, Business Correspondent, and others. Further investigation in the case is underway. (KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Ruckus, slogans,

heard, CPI(M) leader Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami also intervened, urging BJP members to raise slogans about the non-restoration of statehood. “Another slogan should be raised here that despite two years of an elected government having taken over, statehood has not been restored,” Tarigami told the BJP lawmakers.

Soon, BJP legislators stormed into the Well of the House, resorting to massive anti-government sloganeering. Congress MLAs Irfan Hafiz Lone and Iftikhar Ahmad, along with MLA Shopian Shabir Kulley and MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshed, attempted to enter the Well but were prevented by marshals.

National Conference (NC) MLAs also stood up, raising slogans demanding the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather repeatedly appealed to the protesting lawmakers to return to their seats and warned them of action. “Go to your seats,” he urged, but BJP legislators remained in the Well and continued their sloganeering.

Amid the uproar, NC's Nazir Gurezi accused BJP leaders of wasting the House's time to hide their incompetence. “They should protest in Delhi rather than here,” he told the Speaker. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary alleged that the BJP did not want the government to resolve issues confronting the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

As commotion continued, the Speaker adjourned the House for the day. (KNO)

‘Mere drama’: Dy CM slams

the government accountable and highlight issues concerning the people, but maintained that this should be done through debate and discussion.

“They don't want to run the House but only to be in headlines and reels. This drama won't be allowed to continue,” the Deputy Chief Minister said. The House proceedings were disrupted amid BJP protests over power tariff hikes and demands for the regularisation of daily wagers. National Conference and Congress members also raised slogans seeking the restoration of statehood.

Choudhary further alleged that the BJP deliberately disrupted proceedings over the report related to the Jal Jeevan Mission.

“BJP knew the Jal Jeevan Mission report was to be submitted. The irregularities pertain to their tenure and were committed by them,” he said.

He alleged that the BJP was attempting to divert attention from its record during its tenure in Jammu and Kashmir.

“If they want a CBI inquiry, they should raise the matter before the government and the Assembly instead of creating a hue and cry,” Choudhary said.

He reiterated that the Assembly should be used to debate public issues and seek answers from the government rather than disrupt proceedings. (KNO)

BJP protest aimed

Assembly to divert attention from issues concerning the people.

Speaking to reporters, Karra said the BJP should have answered questions on issues including restoration of statehood, “Chanda Chori” and paper leaks instead of disrupting the proceedings.

“Across the country, you can see how people are standing behind Rahul Gandhi. The uproar or drama that you witnessed here today was an unsuccessful attempt to subvert those issues,” he said as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Karra said questions on these issues were also raised from the Treasury Benches during the Assembly proceedings. “The BJP should have answered questions on issues such as restoration of statehood, the alleged donation scam and paper leaks. Questions were also raised from the Treasury Benches on these matters,” he said.

He said the BJP's intention was to disrupt Question Hour and divert attention from what he described as alleged wrongdoings of the Central Government and its local unit.

“Their intention was to disturb Question Hour and divert

attention from their alleged wrongdoings, whether those of the Central Government or the local unit,” Karra said. (KNO)

Govt failed to

from the government, particularly those who had been waiting for years for their grievances to be addressed. “Even after two years, the only statement coming from this government and its head is that they do not have the powers and cannot do anything,” Sharma said.

He alleged that the government had failed to ensure adequate basic amenities, claiming that power tariffs had been increased despite inadequate electricity supply in several areas, while water supply issues also persisted. “Governance has failed on every front. Corruption is rampant,” he alleged, accusing ministers and officials of being involved in corrupt practices.

Sharma said the BJP would raise issues concerning daily wagers, NHM employees, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, besides the demand for age relaxation by J&K job aspirants, during the Assembly session.

He also raised the issue of around 70,000 depositors associated with SCOT Bank and Cooperative Citizen Bank, saying they were still awaiting payment despite an earlier commitment that their dues would be released within two months.

“The biggest betrayal, I believe, has been against the youth,” Sharma said, referring to unemployment and the one lakh jobs promised by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

He also alleged irregularities in the outsourcing process, claiming that National Conference workers and their relatives were being provided jobs in exchange for money. “The BJP has no objection to outsourcing, but the process should be conducted through a transparent recruitment mechanism based on fixed criteria,” he said.

Referring to around 25,000 jobs, Sharma alleged that the positions had already been filled and claimed that the government had misled the Assembly by stating that the appointments were made against vacancies.

On the issue of statehood, Sharma said that if every issue was being attributed to the absence of statehood, the existing administrative setup should be dissolved and the government should wait for the restoration of statehood. “The BJP will raise the voice of the people in the Assembly and will not allow their concerns to be ignored,” he said.

Asked about the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) report, Sharma said the BJP would study it before presenting its detailed position.

He alleged that several JJM schemes were becoming defunct and claimed that the report contained “major flaws”.

Sharma said the JJM report was scheduled to be presented in the House and should not have become the main issue for discussion on the first day of the session. (KNO)

Rs 3.22 cr relief

had been assessed in Rajouri district due to heavy rains and flash floods in July 2026, including Rs 9.39 crore in Rajouri constituency.

“Temporary restoration of power supply has been undertaken through the installation of an Emergency Restoration System (ERS) tower on the 132 KV Rajouri-Draba transmission line. The tendering process for its permanent restoration is underway,” he said.

He said Rs 1.25 crore had been received under SDRF through the District Development Commissioner, Rajouri, for temporary restoration of power supply in the district.

“Rs 57.60 lakh was allocated to Rajouri constituency, Rs 43.40 lakh to Thanamandi and Rs 10.50 lakh to Kalakote,” he said.

On agricultural losses, Omar said the Agriculture Production Department had assessed crop damage in Rajouri constituency during Kharif 2026 through field-level verification.

According to the assessment, maize cultivated over 416 hectares suffered 15 percent damage, while paddy grown over 101.50 hectares suffered 65 percent damage.

The government also informed the House that damages to municipal assets, Public Health Engineering (PHE), flood control infrastructure, roads and buildings had been assessed by the

concerned departments.

“All damaged roads, bridges, water supply and power supply schemes were temporarily restored within one month. Detailed Project Reports for permanent restoration have been prepared and are under consideration,” Omar said.

He added that flood-prone electrical infrastructure would be strengthened and realigned wherever required to enhance resilience against future eventualities.

“Adequate spares will also be kept available for immediate restoration of electrical infrastructure in case of future damage or disruption,” he said.

The Chief Minister also informed the House that electrification works covering 29 habitations and 1,936 households in Kupwara district were under implementation under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

Replying to a question by MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz, he said Letters of Award had been issued for 10 blocks of Kupwara for works amounting to Rs 14.74 crore.

The works cover identified un-electrified habitations in Moori, Manigah, Kumkadi, Tangdar, Reday Chokibal, Wavwoora, Machil, Keran, Hyhama, Karoos, Teetwal, Sogam and Qadirabad.

“The survey, drawings and final Bills of Quantities (BOQs) for all identified habitations have been completed, while procurement of the required material is underway,” he said.

He said works had already commenced in 10 habitations across five blocks, with expenditure of around Rs 86 lakh incurred so far.

“The action plan for electrifying all remaining un-electrified households has been prepared as per the DPR sanctioned under RDSS. The works have been prioritised and their implementation is being monitored,” he said.

The Chief Minister said the works are scheduled for completion by October 2027.

On funds, he said no sanctioned amount had lapsed and Rs 3.68 crore had been released for Kupwara district during the current financial year. (KNO)

Govt dismisses

Article 311 of the Constitution of India read with Rule 30 (viii) of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, considering that it was not reasonably practicable to hold an enquiry in the case and that his continued employment would be detrimental to the interests of the Government and erode public trust in Government institutions.

The order further stated that, in exercise of the powers under the provisions, the Government imposed the major penalty of dismissal from service, with disqualification from any future employment in Government service of the UT of J&K, upon Khalid Hussain, Teacher Grade-II, presently posted at Government Middle School, Bumalpora, Gurinalla, Zone Inderwal, District Kishtwar. The order identified him as the son of Ghulam Mohd and a resident of Gurinalla, Chatroo, District Kishtwar. (KNO)

LG felicitates langar

Raksha Bandhan, 28 August 2026. More than 480 lakh devotees had darshan of Baba Barfani. About 82 percent of darshans were completed within the first 20 days and 95 percent within 30 days. The yatra was affected by rainfall for over 10 days, and an unexpected rush of unregistered pilgrims arrived in the first four to five days. The Lieutenant Governor noted that the Shrine Board's coordination, swift decisions and stakeholder cooperation ensured that services and facilities were provided to all.

“We saw the spirit of selfless service manifest in the early days of the yatra and despite the unforeseen crowds, there was no shortage of any kind. I believe that the true soul of Lord Shiva's pilgrimage lies not only in reaching the holy cave, but also in the remarkable spirit of selfless service visible at the base camps and along those difficult routes,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said 120 Langar Organisations set up service camps at base camps and along the arduous routes. Thousands of volunteers worked day and night, despite the biting cold, and none sought recognition or reward. The Lieutenant Governor observed that selfless seva of Langar

Organisations gave strength to lakhs of pilgrims.

Highlighting the management of the yatra, the Lieutenant Governor noted that about 1.87 lakh devotees used palanquin and pony services through the digital pre-paid system, ensuring adherence to prescribed rates, swift redressal of complaints and an end to overcharging. 93 medical facilities were set up, including over 595 beds and 26 oxygen booths. DRDO and the Department of Health & Medical Education established 100-bed hospitals at Baltal and Chandanwari. A total of 1,430 doctors and health workers were deployed round the clock, along with 48 ambulances, including 4x4 vehicles for inaccessible routes. Around 7,900 toilet and bathing units were installed and 7,900 sanitation workers were deployed, realising the resolve of a zero-waste yatra. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, had mentioned the “Swachh Amarnath Yatra” in Mann Ki Baat.

The Lieutenant Governor said the yatra had again shown that when the administration, civil society, local residents of Jammu Kashmir and the Langar Organisations work with shared resolve, no challenge is insurmountable. Calling them custodians of India's shared civilizational heritage, the Lieutenant Governor urged all stakeholders to begin preparations for next year based on this year's experience, and to work with the Shrine Board so that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is regarded nationwide as a model spiritual pilgrimage.

“My prayer is that Lord Shiva may continue to shower His divine grace upon you all, and that every year you may continue to serve Baba's devotees in the same manner,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the Shrine Board and Langar organizations to explore the inclusion of millets in community kitchens and bhojanalayas, and promote healthier dietary habits.

Embrace millet

3-4 years ago to ensure the health of future generations, the prosperity of our farmers and the protection of our earth,” LG Sinha said, adding, “I believe that millet cultivation can give marginal farmers in Jammu Kashmir a new sense of confidence while also helping reduce the risks associated with farming. On this occasion, I would like to tell all our marginal farmers that although the size of your landholding may be small, your contribution to building a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir can never be small.”

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized the health benefits of millets, noting their dietary fibre, low glycaemic index, and rich nutrients such as iron, calcium, magnesium, and zinc. He called upon citizens to bring millet-based foods like bajra rotis, ragi dishes, and barnyard millet rice back to their plates to combat lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and hypertension.

ENCOURAGE WOMEN'S SELF-HELP GROUPS, YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN J&K

On the economic front, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of creating a millet economy from farm to market. “With India producing 18 million tonnes of millets in 2024–25 and accounting for 38% of global production, the importance of value-added millet products is immense. We must encourage women's self-help groups and young entrepreneurs in Jammu Kashmir to innovate with millet-based enterprises, packaging, and branding under initiatives like One District, One Product,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all stakeholders including farmers, researchers, doctors, entrepreneurs, and citizens, to make food systems diverse, nutritious, sustainable, and resilient.

“I call upon every household to give millet products a place on their plate and strengthen farmers, empower women, and ensure a healthier future for generations. I also want all of you to carry this message to the villages that millets are not merely a heritage of the past but they are a strategy for the future of Jammu Kashmir. Let us work together to ensure that every village has opportunities and future generations inherit a healthy planet,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Expressing gratitude to Padma Shri Dr. Khadar Vali, popularly known as the “Millet Man of India” and Umendra

Dutt of Kheti Virasat Mission, the Lieutenant Governor lauded their efforts in creating a new awakening through the Millets Mission in UT of Jammu Kashmir. He emphasized that the occasion was not merely a seminar but a celebration of a revolution rooted in India's villages.

HISTORY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER PIONEERING ROLE OF PM MODI

The Lieutenant Governor said that the pioneering role of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, who declared millets as “nutri-cereals” in 2018 and gave them the name Shree Anna, will be remembered by history. “The Prime Minister's initiatives led to the United Nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, bringing global recognition to India's traditional wisdom,” he said.

Tracing the heritage of millets, the Lieutenant Governor noted that sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, kodo millet, little millet, foxtail millet, and barnyard millet have nourished generations of farmers and families. Once sidelined as “food of the poor,” millets are now reclaiming their place at the intersection of tradition and modern science. He reiterated the ancient wisdom—“Annam Brahma”—food is divine, and healthy food builds healthy citizens, strong societies, and resilient nations.

“The experts are aware that millets nourished the families of small and marginal farmers in different parts of the country for many decades. At that time, modern irrigation facilities were not available. Marginal farmers had neither access to fertilisers nor accurate weather forecasts. However, millet crops did not require these to the same extent, because they could grow even in the most difficult weather conditions and provide support to families.

Today, science is understanding this traditional wisdom through new research and evidence. Countries across the world that are facing the challenge of climate change are also realising that the food of the future will not merely be food that can be produced in large quantities. It will have to be nutritious, profitable for farmers and sustainable for the planet,” he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released several publications including ‘A Laboratory Manual on Soil Microbiology’, ‘Fundamentals of Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing’, and ‘Package of Practices for Minor Millets’.

Padam Shri Dr. Khadar Vali; Prof BN Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu; Umendra Dutt, Executive Director, Kheti Virasat Mission; Dr. Anjani Kumar, IFPRI; Prof. SK Gupta Director Research, SKUAST Jammu; experts, policy makers, researchers; senior officials, progressive farmers, agripreneurs, members of Self-Help Groups, faculty and students attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the ‘Millets for Health’ seminar at Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, and called upon the medical fraternity, scientists, farmers and citizens to make millets part of everyday life. Earlier in the day, the Lieutenant Governor addressed a national dialogue on the Millets Mission organised by SKUAST, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor said the GMC's seminar was more than an academic exercise. “It is a reminder of shared responsibility towards the Earth, its water, farming families, villages and the health of every citizen. Nature's message is clear that limits cannot be crossed, and millets offer a credible alternative,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor underlined that millets are as old as Indian civilisation. Bajra, jowar, ragi, kodo, kutki, kangni and sanwa have sustained generations, grow with little water in harsh climates and need minimal chemical support.

The Lieutenant Governor cited the 2018 ICMR report, which found that non-communicable diseases accounted for 61.8 percent of all deaths in 2016, up from 37.09 percent in 1990. The National Family Health Survey, the Lieutenant Governor noted, records high blood pressure in 11 per cent of women and 15 percent of men aged 15–49.

“I believe these are not merely medical problems but they directly affect family economic conditions, social life, and national productivity. I firmly believe that, in such times, greater

inclusion of our traditional food, millets, can show us an important path towards disease prevention and a healthy lifestyle,” he said.

Highlighting their nutritional value, the Lieutenant Governor said millets are rich in fibre, iron, calcium and other micronutrients. He said several research papers suggest that millets have a relatively low glycaemic index and support heart health, cholesterol control and weight management.

“Looking at the research studies, I can say that millets impact the entire chain, from protecting individual health to conserving nature and with the cooperation of the medical fraternity, awareness about their benefits must reach every section of society,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Stressing that the time has come to move from discussion to action, the Lieutenant Governor appealed to farmers to diversify their crops and to scientists to develop high-yielding, climate-suited varieties.

“I urge all doctors and nutrition experts to create evidence-based awareness about the role of millets in a balanced diet. I appeal to all citizens of Jammu Kashmir to prioritise the nutritious and balanced food of millets over processed food.

I am fully confident that, if we all move forward together, we can build a Jammu Kashmir that ensures food security, safeguards citizens' health, and also protects water, soil, and the environment. Together, we should sow the seeds of health, sustainability, and prosperity,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Padma Shri Dr. Khadar Vali; Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal, GMC Jammu; Shri Umendra Dutt, Executive Director, Kheti Virasat Mission; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; senior officials, experts, faculty and students were present.

LG hands over

Verma of 23 Bn IRP lost his life in an unfortunate road accident in the Nowgam area of Srinagar on August 11, 2025.

Over 40,000 posts

Services Selection Board (JKSSB) have been appended separately.

It said measures being taken to ensure time-bound filling of vacancies include timely identification and referral of posts to recruiting agencies, adherence to the prescribed statutory framework, advance planning of recruitment cycles and close monitoring of recruitment timelines.

The government further said efforts were being made to streamline procedures, strengthen coordination with recruiting agencies and leverage technology to expedite the recruitment process while ensuring transparency, fairness and merit.

It added that directions had already been issued to all departments for timely referral of vacancies falling under the direct quota to recruiting agencies in accordance with SRO-166 of 2005 dated June 14, 2005, and Circular No. 01-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated January 1, 2024. (KNO)

Govt ‘examining

On the committee's report, the government said the matter remains under examination and that a considered decision will be taken after the exercise is completed and requisite inputs are received from the concerned departments and authorities. (KNO)

Only 899 new posts

7,580 selections have been finalised by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) since October 2024.

The government said JKPSC finalised 1,768 selections, while JKSSB finalised 5,812 selections during the period.

According to the government, a total of 1,852 vacancies were referred to JKPSC. These included 855 Open Merit (OM), 198 Scheduled Caste (SC), 166 ST-1, 156 ST-2, 114 OBC, 65 AL/IB, 149 RBA, 139 EWS, four PSP and six ST backlog vacancies.

For JKSSB, 12,418 vacancies were referred, including 5,173 Open Merit, 1,104 SC, 1,248 ST-1, 1,212 ST-2, 933 OBC, 495 AL/IB, 1,174 RBA and 1,079 EWS vacancies.

Overall, 14,270 vacancies were referred to the two recruitment agencies for recruitment during the period, according to the government reply. (KNO)

Hospitals told to step up monitoring, reporting of 'adverse events' related to medical devices

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 21: Hospitals nationwide have been asked to establish structured systems for monitoring and promptly reporting suspected adverse events linked to medical devices, including malfunctions, near-miss incidents and performance failures, under the updated Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI) guidelines.

The guidance document for hospitals in India for safety monitoring and reporting of medical devices related incidents/adverse events, Version 1.3, has been developed by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) India and other national stakeholders.

It seeks to strengthen systematic identification, documentation, assessment and reporting of medical device-related adverse events.

According to the document, all suspected Medical Device Adverse Events (MDAEs) should be reported promptly, irrespective of whether a definitive causal relationship between the medical device and the reported event has been established.

"Early reporting of suspected events facilitates timely assessment, investigation, signal detection, and implementation of appropriate corrective or preventive measures to enhance patient and user safety," it stated.

Under the reporting framework, serious adverse events involving death or serious deterioration in health are to be reported to MvPI within 15



days, while non-serious adverse events that could potentially cause serious harm are to be reported within 30 days. Suspected unexpected serious adverse events are to be reported to the concerned licensing authority within 15 days.

The guidance document states that when there is uncertainty whether an incident should be reported, the preference should be to report it. It identifies device malfunction or deterioration, incorrect or out-of-specification test results, design flaws, labelling inaccuracies, serious public health threats and use errors among incidents that may warrant reporting.

Hospitals have also been asked to maintain complete records of device-related

incidents, preventive maintenance logs, calibration records and root-cause analyses. "All significant or recurrent adverse events must undergo structured root cause analysis (RCA)," the document says, adding that hospitals should implement corrective and preventive actions and monitor their effectiveness.

The guidance calls for hospitals to designate a nodal officer or establish a Medical Device Adverse Event Monitoring Centre (MDMC), where applicable, and ensure regular training of clinical, nursing and biomedical staff to identify device malfunctions, failures and performance issues. It also says healthcare professionals should remain vigilant for "any medical device malfunction, failure, abnormal

performance, or unexpected patient outcome" during device use and ensure prompt reporting of suspected device-related incidents.

The framework extends to primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities.

The document states that adverse events may first be identified at primary healthcare facilities and that equipping frontline personnel with mechanisms to recognise, document and report them can enable early detection.

For critical and life-saving devices used in high-risk settings such as intensive care, cardiology, neurosurgery, oncology and emergency care, the framework calls for active surveillance. Hospitals shall monitor identified critical devices on a weekly or monthly basis depending on their usage and risk profile.

The monitored list is to be prominently displayed in clinical departments such as intensive care units, operation theatres, catheterisation laboratories and specialty wards. A designated nodal person in each department will oversee monitoring, sensitise staff about potential risks and ensure timely reporting.

"Any adverse event, incident, near-miss, or malfunction related to the monitored devices shall be promptly reported to NCC-MvPI, IPC, in accordance with the prescribed timelines," the document says.

It also places emphasis on devices covered by safety alerts issued by the IPC, asking hospitals to include them in their active surveillance lists and maintain heightened vigilance

and documentation.

The MvPI, launched in 2015, has established a nationwide network of 775 Medical Device Adverse Event Monitoring Centres across India as of September 2026, according to the document.

The IPC functions as the National Coordination Centre (NCC) and uses reports to identify emerging safety signals and support evidence-based recommendations to regulatory authorities.

The guidance document provides for reporting through the IPC's Adverse Drug Reactions Monitoring System (ADRMS), reporting forms and other modalities. Consumers can also directly report suspected adverse events, while an IPC toll-free helpline, 1800-180-3024, has been established to facilitate reporting.

The document says the ADRMS provides a centralised digital platform for reporting, monitoring, evaluation and analysis of adverse events involving medical products, including medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic devices. It supports real-time electronic reporting, tracking and follow-up of cases and signal detection.

The guidance document has been issued against the backdrop of increasing use of sophisticated medical devices, including connected devices, implantable devices, in-vitro diagnostics, artificial intelligence-enabled technologies and software as a medical device. It notes that such developments bring "new and evolving categories of risk that require robust and continuous safety monitoring".

India's key infra sectors' growth slows to 3-month low of 4.8 pc in Aug



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 21: The output of nine key infrastructure sectors slowed down to a three-month low of 4.8 per cent in August due to a fall in the production of coal, natural gas, crude oil, and fertiliser, according to the government data released on Monday.

The output expanded by 6.2 per cent in the same month last year and by 5 per cent in July this year. The previous low level was recorded in May at 3.2 per cent.

The data showed that the production of coal, natural gas, crude oil, and fertiliser dipped in August by 3.8 per cent, 4.9 per cent, 3.6 per cent and 12.4 per cent, respectively.

The growth rate in the output of refinery products, steel and iron ore slowed down to 2.6 per cent, 3.4 per cent and 5.5 per cent, during the month under review as against 3.4 per cent, 15.3 per cent and 7.9 per cent, respectively, in August 2025.

However, cement and electricity production grew by 12.5 per cent and 11.6 per cent, respectively, in August this year.

During April-August, the pace of

growth was higher at 4.3 per cent compared to 2.4 per cent in the same period of 2025-26.

Commenting on the numbers, Rahul Agrawal, Principal Economist, ICRA Ltd, said the year-on-year growth in core output eased marginally in August partly on account of an unfavourable base.

The deceleration was broad based, with six of the nine sectors reporting a deterioration in their performance between these months, he said, adding that among the mining-related segments, coal and iron ore saw a material deterioration in their performance in August relative to July, largely owing to an adverse base.

Fertiliser output contracted for the sixth consecutive month in August, following the onset of the West Asia crisis, with the growth pace of the sector widening to double digits in the month, Agrawal said.

"Given these trends, we expect the IIP (Index of Industrial Production) growth to ease to approximately 5-6 per cent in August 2026 from 6.7 per cent in July 2026," he added.

Bihar panchayat polls only after delimitation: CM Choudhary



PTI

Patna, Sep 21: Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Monday said the next panchayat elections in the state will be held only after completion of the delimitation exercise and urged elected representatives of three-tier panchayats to suggest measures for village development.

Addressing the 'Gram Sansad-Bihar Chapter-V, Mukhiya Samvad' programme here, Choudhary said panchayats are the most important units of grassroots democracy and their elected representatives have a crucial role in addressing public grievances and accelerating development.

"The State Election Commission has started the delimitation process, and the next panchayat polls will be held only after its completion. Delimitation of urban local bodies will also be undertaken next year," the chief minister said.

"The prosperity of villages is the prosperity of the country. The country will develop only when villages develop," he said, urging panchayat

representatives to contribute towards the goal of making Bihar a prosperous and empowered state by 2037.

He said the government plans to work towards having one panchayat for a population of around 7,500 and an engineering cell would be created in the Panchayati Raj Department to provide technical support for development works.

Choudhary also said the government would ensure that at least 30 per cent of products purchased under government schemes are manufactured in Bihar, including steel rods and cement, with the provision being incorporated into the tendering processes.

He said Bihar was also working to expand higher education within the state and create employment opportunities for one crore people before 2030 so that people do not have to migrate in search of jobs.

The chief minister said farmers were being provided electricity at 55 paise per unit for agricultural use, while all agricultural feeders were being solarised.

Arya Samaj marriage certificate alone does not prove valid Hindu marriage: Allahabad HC



PTI

Lucknow, Sep 21: An Arya Samaj temple marriage certificate, by itself, cannot establish that a valid Hindu marriage was solemnised unless the essential ceremonies prescribed under the Hindu Marriage Act were performed, the Allahabad High Court on Monday said.

Justice Rajeev Singh made the observation while quashing the removal of Sashastha Seema Bal (SSB) officer Rohit Pandey, who had been dismissed from service for allegedly making a false declaration about his marital status.

The court was hearing Pandey's plea challenging the April 28, 2022, order by the SSB, which directed his removal from service, contending that his declaration that he was unmarried

when he entered service was false.

The action against him stemmed from a complaint by Sucheta Tiwari, who claimed that she had married Pandey at an Arya Samaj temple in 2007.

The SSB had treated the alleged marriage as valid and concluded that Pandey's declaration was false.

Pandey disputed the alleged marriage and contended that there was no evidence that essential Hindu marriage ceremonies had been performed.

He also relied on Tiwari's statement during the trial of a related criminal case in a court, where she had admitted that the marriage had not been solemnised as per Hindu rituals.

The SSB, however, relied on the departmental inquiry in which Tiwari stated that the marriage had taken place at an Arya

Samaj temple in August 2007.

The temple priest also stated that the marriage was solemnised in his presence. Notary certificates were produced before the authorities as well.

The high court referred to the Supreme Court's ruling in Priya Bala Ghosh vs Suresh Chandra Ghosh (1971), which lays down the requirement of essential ceremonies for establishing a Hindu marriage.

"Merely on the basis of placing any certificate of Arya Samaj mandir, it cannot be said that marriage was solemnised as per Hindu Marriage Act," the court observed.

The court held that, in view of the complainant's own statement regarding the absence of the requisite Hindu ceremonies, the alleged 2007 marriage could not be treated as a marriage "in the eyes of law".

Consequently, it could not form the basis for holding Pandey unsuitable for service or for his removal.

The court accordingly quashed the removal order and directed the authorities to permit Pandey to resume duty forthwith.

It directed that the period from April 28, 2022, till the date of judgment would be treated as "no work, no pay", but would not constitute a break in his service.

Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra (retd) takes charge as Ram temple Trust CEO



PTI

Ayodhya, Sep 21: Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra (retired) on Monday formally took charge as the first chief executive officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which manages the Ram temple here.

Mishra, who arrived in Ayodhya on Sunday, offered prayers at the Ram temple on Monday morning before reaching his newly constructed office on the temple premises to assume charge.

He had stayed overnight at the Trust's Teerth Kshetra Bhawan in the Ramkot area after arriving in the city.

Mishra, 62, was appointed the Trust's first CEO on September 2 as part of an administrative restructuring aimed at strengthening its functioning amid allegations of theft of donations. The Trust had

selected Mishra following a multi-stage process for which 5,585 applications were received. Sixteen candidates were shortlisted for face-to-face interactions in Ayodhya on August 11 and 12.

The Trust had also clarified last week that Mishra had personally appeared for the interview on August 11, following remarks by former IPS officer Rajesh Pandey that had raised questions over the selection process.

The Trust said Mishra participated in the first session of interviews on August 11 and was among the top three candidates recommended by the search committee.

Pandey later clarified that he had not claimed Mishra did not appear for the interview, saying he had only stated that he did not see him at the venue during the time slot allotted for his own interview.

BJP will dismantle entire drug network within 6 months if voted to power in Punjab: Chouhan

PTI

Bathinda, Sep 21: Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday hit out at the AAP government in Punjab, alleging that it has failed to curb the drug menace and promised that if the BJP was voted to power in the state, it would dismantle the entire drug network within six months.

Chouhan was in Talwandi Sabo where he flagged off the BJP's fourth statewide 'Nasha Mukta Punjab Yatra' on Monday. The

state is expected to go to polls early next year.

Earlier, he and other BJP leaders, including Punjab BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon, the party's Punjab in-charge Satish Poonia and Rajya Sabha MP Tarun Chugh, offered prayers at the Takht Sri Damdama Sahib here.

Union Agriculture Minister Chouhan also met families affected by the drug menace.

Addressing a gathering, the minister said the Bhagwant Mann government has failed to

meet deadlines on ending drugs in Punjab.

"Today I want to ask Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann: what promise did you make to (AAP chief) Arvind Kejriwal? Before coming to power in Punjab, you used to say you would finish it within three months, within six months. You gave deadlines, didn't you? But your deadline ended once, ended again, and ended yet again," said Chouhan.

"You are drowning Punjab in

the river of drugs. Who is protecting these drug dealers today? Whose protective shadow is over them? Who is giving them shelter? Under whose protection are they flourishing?" he asked.

Targeting Mann, he alleged that the chief minister was running a government of "crime, corruption and commission".

Chouhan said he came here today to share the messages of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and said that the BJP had resolved to

eliminate the drug menace from the state if it comes to power.

"After coming to power, the BJP will destroy and eliminate the entire drug network within six months. This is our resolve. We will strike at the roots of drugs."

"Where do drugs come from? Where does the trade happen? We will destroy that channel. The drug mafia will be identified. We will destroy and ruin the drug traders. This is our resolve. We will not spare them at any cost," said Chouhan.



Kamala Harris joins 2026 midterm campaign as 2028 plans loom



AP

Washington Sep 21: As Kamala Harris mulls whether to run for president again, she's throwing herself into the midterms by campaigning with fellow Democrats, starting with a Tuesday trip to Michigan on behalf of Senate nominee Abdul El-Sayed.

It's an especially notable destination for the former vice president. Michigan was one of seven battlegrounds she lost to Donald Trump two years ago, and it's now one of six states that will start Democrats' next presidential nominating process. Harris has additional rallies scheduled in Nevada and Georgia, two other key places on the political map.

Her campaigning could serve to solidify or undermine her status as a potential Democratic front-runner. Although she's one of the nation's best-known politicians and a barrier-breaking figure, there are others eager to turn the page after she failed to defeat Trump when she replaced President Joe Biden on the top of the ticket. "I think she's run her course," said Barry Goodman, a Democratic National Committee member from Michigan who raised money for Biden and then Harris. "I just don't think her running again would be the right thing for America moving forward."

Some Democratic candidates, especially in places Trump won handily, have curtly dismissed any possibility of campaigning with Harris. "No thanks," Iowa gubernatorial nominee Rob Sand told Politico. "Let's move on. We need some new leadership."

But plenty of Democrats, including some influential Black women who helped convince Biden to select Harris as his running mate in 2020, said she has more than earned the space to consider her options without being rushed or pilloried. Underscoring her unique position, California Gov Gavin Newsom recently told CNN that he would not seek the nomination if Harris does.

"Kamala isn't under any deadline to run for anything," said Donna Brazile, a former Democratic National Committee chair who managed Al Gore's presidential campaign in 2000. She called it a "waste of time" to relitigate Harris's truncated 2024 campaign and said any White House hopefuls "should follow Kamala's lead and get out there" by trying to help midterm candidates.

Harris has not announced any upcoming trips to South Carolina, where Democrats will hold their first primary. Antjuan Seawright, a political consultant in the state, said she could make a strong case for herself but another campaign would need to look and sound different.

"She's going to have to admit that she was wrong about some things," he said.

Michigan presents risk and opportunity Harris has painful political history in Michigan. During the 2024 campaign, the state's prominent Arab American communities were outraged over Biden's support for Israel's military operations in Gaza, and they were disappointed when Harris did not break with him after she became the party's nominee.

Projectile hits tanker near Strait of Hormuz amid Mideast tensions

AP

Dubai, Sep 21: The British military said an "unknown projectile" struck a tanker as it entered the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, injuring two crew members. The vessel continued toward port under its own power.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military remains on alert as much of the country shuts down for Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism.

Fighting across Yemen killed or injured 680 people last week, the World Health Organization said.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Monday. Projectile strikes tanker passing through Strait of Hormuz, British military says

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO) said a tanker was struck by an "unknown projectile" as it headed into the



Strait of Hormuz. Two crew members sustained minor injuries.

The UKMTO said Monday the vessel is reportedly continuing to its next port of call under its own power. No reports indicated any environmental impact at this time.

Tehran has asserted control over much of the Strait of Hormuz since the US and Israel launched the war on

February 28. In peacetime, about 20 million barrels -- roughly a fifth of the world's oil supply -- passed through Hormuz each day.

Some tankers are again traversing the strait, but traffic is well below what it once was.

WHO reports 680 new casualties in a week in Yemen

The World Health Organisation says 680 people were killed or injured across

Yemen over the course of a week as fighting between Iran-backed Houthi rebels and Saudi-backed government forces continues.

WHO said on Monday in a post on X that 164 people were killed and 516 injured between September 13 and September 18. This brings the total number of casualties since August 6 to 3,672, including 674 deaths and 2,998 injuries.

Lahj province in southwestern Yemen is currently an active front line where 58 deaths and 226 injuries were reported within six days, according to the UN agency.

Fighting in Yemen displaced nearly 130,000 people

Fighting between the Iran-backed Houthi rebels and government forces has so far displaced 129,438 people across seven provinces, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) says.

Netherlands braces for potential US sanctions against ICCAP

AP

Tha Hague, Sep 21 :The Netherlands is preparing for the United States to impose sanctions on the International Criminal Court in the latest escalation of the Trump administration's attacks on the global tribunal.

Dutch officials have been told by the United States that potentially devastating sanctions on the institution are forthcoming, diplomatic and government officials with knowledge of the briefings told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly.

The Netherlands is looking at ways to help the court maintain payments to staff and to protect witnesses, and to ensure that security at the detention facility is not disrupted.

Washington has already sanctioned more than a dozen current and former staff members, including half of the court's sitting judges in what Secretary of State Marco Rubio has described as a "sweeping campaign to dismantle the threat posed by the International Criminal Court."

The sanctions are retaliation for the court's investigations of officials from the US and Israel, which aren't among The Hague-based court's 125 member states. The court has issued arrest warrants for top Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, over the war in Gaza. Netanyahu and Israel strongly deny the allegations.

Typically reserved for autocrats, terrorists and cartels, sanctions can be devastating. They could prevent the court from accessing financial and IT services, and even paying its US employees.

When the court's former chief prosecutor was sanctioned in 2025, he lost access to his Microsoft email, his bank accounts were frozen and he was barred from entering the United States.

According to two sources familiar with the situation, US officials warned their Dutch counterparts that sanctions would be levied as early as Monday and encouraged the court's host state to withdraw from the institution.

Google fined USD 463 million by EU Over location data rules

AP

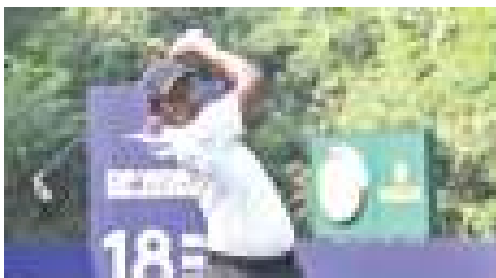
Dublin Sep 21: Google has been fined 403 million euros (USD 463 million) for breaching the European Union's strict privacy rules because it mishandled users' location data, the bloc's data privacy watchdog said Monday.

Ireland's Data Protection Commission said its investigation found Google did not lawfully or fairly process location data in users' Web & App Activity, a Google setting that tracks browsing and search history, and in their Location History, a service that maps places they've been with their mobile phones.

Regulators also found the company failed to be lawful, fair and transparent when it processed personal data in its Location Accuracy feature in the Android mobile operating system.

Ireland is the lead regulator for Google in the 27-nation EU because the US tech giant's European headquarters is based in Dublin.

Top Indian golfers confirmed for Bengaluru Open



PTI

Bengaluru, Sep 21: Top Indian golfers including PGTI Order of Merit leader Saptak Talwar, Honey Baisoya, and Veer Ahlawat will take part in the Bengaluru Open to be held here from September 22-25.

The fifth edition of the Bengaluru Open will have a prize money

of Rs 1 crore and will feature an overall 132 professionals and one amateur player. The tournament will be played at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) here. Talwar and Ahlawat, meanwhile, will represent India at the Asian Games in Japan along with last year's PGTI Order of Merit champion Yuvraj

Sandhu.

Besides Akshay Sharma, Rashid Khan, and Khalin Joshi, the leading Bengaluru-based professionals in the field are Chikkarangappa S, Akshay Neranjan, Manoj S, Mari Muthu R, and Varun Muthappa.

The local amateur in the field is Tanish R Gowda.

The prominent foreign names competing include Sri Lanka's N Thangaraja and Mithun Perera, Thailand's Tanapat Pichaikool, Czech Republic's Stepan Danek, Nepal's Subash Tamang, Bangladesh's Md Akbar Hossain, Uganda's Joshua Seale, and Japan's Koichiro Ishika and Taiga Tanaka.

J&K sports council promotes grassroots sports in Batote, Bandipora



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 21: The J&K Sports Council's "My Youth My Pride" initiative continued to promote grassroots sports across the Union Territory, with volleyball and netball competitions in Batote and Bandipora providing young athletes opportunities to compete, showcase their talent and develop their sporting potential.

In Batote, Ramban, a volleyball competition was organised at Government Higher Secondary School, witnessing enthusiastic participation from local youth. The event

provided budding volleyball players from the area with a competitive platform close to their homes.

In Bandipora, the District Netball Championship was held at the Indoor Sports Hall, Shadipora, Sumbal, with 160 players, 15 officials and around 50 spectators participating and witnessing the competition. The championship offered young netball players an opportunity to demonstrate their skills, competitive spirit and sportsmanship.

The activities underline the Government's continued focus on taking sports beyond major urban centres and into rural, remote

and far-flung areas, ensuring that young athletes across every district have access to sporting platforms and facilities.

Through initiatives such as My Youth My Pride, the J&K Sports Council is utilising existing sports infrastructure, including indoor halls, school grounds and district-level facilities, to create regular opportunities for youth participation and talent identification.

The initiative aims to strengthen the grassroots sports ecosystem and provide a pathway for budding athletes to progress from local competitions to higher-level sporting platforms.

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RESIDENT EVIL (A) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 11:20 AM 07:45 PM	4 RIVERS 6 RANGES CHUSHI GANGDRUK (U/A 13+) HINDI 05:15 PM	

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