



Pandemonium in J&K Assembly as NC, BJP clash over holiday row

BJP legislators stage walkout

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 22: Pandemonium broke out in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday after National Conference (NC) legislator Abdul Majid Larmi demanded that the government should either restore the holiday on the birth anniversary of NC founder Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah or cancel the holiday marking the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh.

As soon as proceedings began, Larmi said that if Sheikh Abdullah's holiday is not restored, the government must cancel the holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh.

"The holiday which should have been observed on the birth or death anniversaries of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah has been cancelled by them. The holiday should be restored; otherwise, they should cancel the holiday relating to Maharaja Hari Singh," Larmi demanded, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The NC legislator's remarks



triggered protests by BJP lawmakers, who raised slogans in favour of Maharaja Hari Singh. "Maharaja Hari Singh Amar Rahe, Maharaja Hari Singh Amar Rahe (Long live Maharaja Hari Singh)," BJP legislators shouted.

Amid pro-Maharaja slogans, NC legislators Nazir Gurezi and Shamima Firdous countered by highlighting the contributions of Sheikh Abdullah. As BJP legislators continued their protests, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather urged them to return to their seats.

"Please, take your seats. I will listen to you. I want to tell you something: I do not have to restore or cancel holidays. That is not within

my powers," the Speaker told them.

NC MLA from Eidgah, Mubarak Gul, said it is NC's stand that the holiday on the birth anniversary of Sheikh Abdullah should be restored. Intervening in the discussion, PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra supported the demand for restoration of the holiday and also pressed for the revival of the July 13 Martyrs' Day holiday.

"The issue raised by Larmi Sahab is legitimate. Emotions of people are attached to this issue, and they want Sheikh Sahib's holiday to be restored. Everyone in the House wants its restoration," he said.

Amid commotion in the House, | [More on P6](#)

Sardar Patel architect of modern India: LG Sinha

'Article 370 era now part of history, J&K stands at threshold of new future'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 22: Calling Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel the "architect of modern India", Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday highlighted his decisive role in integrating 562 princely states and said his vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" continues to inspire the country.

Addressing the launch of the book "Sardar Patel and Kashmir: The Untold History" in Srinagar, the Lieutenant Governor, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), paid homage to Patel and highlighted his role in the integration of princely states and his position on Jammu Kashmir.

LG Sinha described Patel's indomitable will, practical wisdom and organisational strength as instrumental in integrating the princely states into a united India.

"Through his indomitable willpower, clear vision, selfless diligence and skilful organisational strength, he ensured that the dream of an undivided India became



a reality. I also believe that had Sardar Patel been given the responsibility for Jammu Kashmir, perhaps the problems that the people here endured for more than six decades would not have arisen," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled Patel's firm stance on Jammu Kashmir, noting his declaration that "we will not give even an inch of Jammu Kashmir's territory to anyone."

He said Patel had a deep understanding of the nation's pulse and was able to connect with common people, workers and communities across India.

The Lieutenant Governor said Patel's vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat"

continues to define the essence of India's democracy and unity in diversity.

"ARTICLE 370 ERA NOW PART OF HISTORY"

LG Sinha described the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in August 2019 as the fulfilment of Patel's unfinished dream and said the constitutional change had opened new possibilities for education, employment, entrepreneurship and development for the youth.

"In August 2019, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the nation witnessed a historic constitutional change. New possibilities of education, employment, entrepreneurship and development opened up | [More on P6](#)

Dedicate your lives to serve society, nation: LG tells youth

Yogesh

Jammu, Sep 22: Asking youth to dream big and dedicate their lives to serve the society and the nation, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Tuesday reminded them that they are the first generation growing up with AI as a companion, and bear the responsibility of shaping a future where humanity flourishes.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a series of new facilities at the University of Jammu, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Powerful tools in honest hands can achieve great work, but in the wrong hands, the same tools can cause serious harm. In the age of AI, the modern tools and machines have become more powerful than ever, and so the hands that wield it must possess greater steadiness, values, Sanskar, and wisdom."

The Lieutenant Governor raised a critical question that in the age of AI, what does it mean to be educated? He highlighted global concerns about | [More on P6](#)

Govt examining issue of extension in amnesty scheme: CM Omar

'Repeated amnesty could adversely impact the culture of timely bill payment'

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the Jammu and Kashmir Government is examining re-introducing or extending the amnesty scheme for power consumers.

Replying to a question of MLA Vikram Randhawa during Question Hour, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Power portfolio, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the matter regarding reintroduction and extension of the Amnesty Scheme for power consumers is being examined by the department on merits.

The CM said | [More on P6](#)

Can't make every destination Gulmarg, build Gondolas everywhere: CM Omar

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday told the Legislative Assembly that not every tourist destination in Jammu and Kashmir can be developed on the lines of Gulmarg or equipped with a gondola, stressing the need for a destination-specific approach to tourism development.

Replying to questions by MLA Saif-ud-Din Bhat, CM Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said tourism infrastructure must be planned according to the unique character and potential of each destination.

"We can't make every tourist destination Gulmarg, and build gondolas at every destination. Every tourist destination has its unique and separate attraction," he said.



The Chief Minister said the Gulmarg Gondola registers significantly higher ridership than the Patnitop ropeway, and such factors have to be considered before taking up similar projects elsewhere.

On the proposed gondola/cable car project at Doodhpathri, CM Omar said the proposal is under consideration and will be taken up subject to approval, completion of formalities and availability of funds.

He said winter adventure tourism at Doodhpathri has been strengthened since the introduction of snow skiing by the Tourism Department in 2023.

"A drag lift has also been constructed and made operational from 2026, providing additional facilities for skiers and enabling regular skiing training and other winter adventure activities," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government is also pursuing infrastructure development around Doodhpathri to improve visitor management and reduce pressure on the destination.

State land at five locations along the Arigam-Reyar Ich stretch has been identified for development of wayside facilities for visitors and local vendors. Administrative approval for the project, estimated at Rs 50 lakh, | [More on P6](#)

J&K Bank set to resume recruitment after 5 years

Notification likely soon; MD says hiring will cover J&K, Ladakh

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 22: Jammu and Kashmir Bank is set to restart recruitment of banking assistants and officers after a gap of five years, with a recruitment notification likely to be issued within days, Managing Director and CEO Amitava Chatterjee said on Tuesday.

Chatterjee, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), made the announcement while responding to a query during the Bank's 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of shareholders held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here.

He said the agreement with the agency that will conduct

the recruitment examinations has been finalised and the notification will be issued shortly.

The recruitment process will cover Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, he said.

On recruitment outside Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Chatterjee said the Bank may undertake limited hiring based on local language requirements in areas where it operates.

"The bank has a presence in 22 states outside J&K and we require employees who are proficient in local languages to serve our customers," he added.

Earlier, J&K Bank held its 88th AGM at SKICC, with Part-time Non-Executive Chairman | [More on P6](#)

PDP, NC raise issue of highway stoppages

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 22: PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra and NC MLA Abdul Majeed Larmi on Tuesday raised the issue of repeated halt of vehicles on highway in south Kashmir.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, Parra, per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, security was important but could not become a blanket justification for repeatedly stopping ordinary citizens travelling on their own roads.

"It has become a sense of discrimination, be it tourists, yatra or convoy, people are subjected to a sense of huge humiliation as they are stopped time and again," Parra said.

He said locals should be treated as partners in maintaining security and not as suspects or obstacles.

"If Kashmiris | [More on P6](#)

'J&K has one health institution for every 3,500 people, better than national average'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 22: Jammu and Kashmir has one health institution for approximately every 3,500 people, compared to the national average of one institution for every 6,000 people, placing it among the leading States/UTs in terms of health infrastructure density, the Health and Medical Education Department said on Tuesday.

In a reply to a question in the Assembly, the Health Ministry, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said J&K has one health institution for approximately every 3,500 people, compared to the national average of one institution for every 6,000 people.

The Ministry also said there is no proposal under consideration to open or upgrade health facilities, including the proposed upgradation of Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) Batamaloo to Urban Government Health Centre (UGHC) level and Sub Health Centre (SHC) Lawaypora to



UPHC level.

It attributed the decision to austerity measures imposed by the Finance Department through Government Order No. 198-F of 2026 dated May 22, 2026, which stipulates that no new posts shall be created.

The department said Jammu and Kashmir is focusing on consolidating and strengthening existing healthcare infrastructure, noting that nearly 4,000 health institutions at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels are functioning across the Union Territory.

Regarding the proposal to upgrade SHC Lawaypora, the department said no such proposal is under consideration. It noted that major tertiary-care institutions, including JVC SKIMS, SKIMS Bemina and Government Medical College Srinagar, are located nearby and provide comprehensive healthcare services.

The department also said several private hospitals empanelled under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) are operational in the area and offer | [More on P6](#)

Power tariff hike puts Rs 251 cr burden on consumers, govt admits

'Rs 4,385 cr dues outstanding against govt depts'

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 22: Consumers in Jammu and Kashmir will have to pay an additional Rs 251 crore due to recent tariff hike, the government admitted in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Sajad Gani Lone, the Power Development Department, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the 6.83% tariff hike, recently notified by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC), is expected to generate Rs 251 crore in additional revenue for DISCOMs during 2026-27.

The government said the tariff revision was long overdue and was required to bridge



the gap between the cost of electricity supply and revenue realised and to meet the Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) of the DISCOMs.

The government said it would still have to bear more than Rs 4,500 crore as subsidy to meet the power purchase cost of the DISCOMs.

The department also revealed that power tariff dues amounting to Rs 4385.30 crore are outstanding against Jammu and Kashmir and Central Government departments.

On revenue collection, the government informed that domestic consumers in Kashmir Valley generated Rs 1,455.90 crore in 2025-26, | [More on P6](#)

'J&K records 5,1000 cancer cases; 2 State Cancer Institutes established'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that around 51,000 cancer cases are currently registered in the Union Territory.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, while replying to a question raised by MLA Mir Saifullah in the Assembly said gastrointestinal, lung and breast cancers account for a significant proportion of the malignancies reported in the region.

The Minister said the rise in cancer incidence in J&K is consistent with the broader global trend and that the government has taken steps to strengthen prevention, early detection and treatment services.

She informed the House that an Apex Committee has been

constituted to guide the government and formulate measures for cancer prevention, screening and treatment in the Union Territory.

The Director of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has been designated as the Nodal Officer for coordinating the initiative.

On the demand for establishing full-fledged cancer hospitals at different locations, Itoo said that two State Cancer Institutes have already been established in J&K.

One of these institutes is functioning at SKIMS, Soura, while the other has been established at Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu.

The institutes have been established with financial and technical support from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD). | [More on P6](#)

Yash Paul Bourney sworn in as Judge of High Court of J&K and Ladakh

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22: Senior Judicial Officer, Yash Paul Bourney was sworn in as the Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at a solemn ceremony held in the Chief Justice's Court at the Srinagar Wing of the High Court on Tuesday.

Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, administered the oath of office to Justice Yash Paul Bourney.

The Warrant of Appointment was read out by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who also conducted the proceedings of the ceremony.

The ceremony, as per an official statement, was graced by Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani and Justice Sanjay Parihar. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi and Justice Shahzad Azeem joined the ceremony through virtual mode from Jammu wing of the High Court.

The family members, close relatives and friends of Justice Yash Paul Bourney were also present on the occasion, lending special significance to the ceremony.

Among other dignitaries present were Mir Syed Latif, Judicial Member (HOD) of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar

Bench, Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, M.K. Sinha, ADGP CID, Achal Sethi, Commissioner Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs ; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, IGP Kashmir, IGP Security, Senior Advocates; Executive Members of the Kashmir Advocates' Association and the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu; Law Officers; Judicial Officers; and officers of the High Court Registry.

The Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, issued the notification appointing Justice Yash Paul Bourney as the Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on September 19, 2026.

Born on August 25, 1967, Justice Yash Paul Bourney hails from village Dadwara, Bhaddu, Billawar, District Kathua. During his distinguished judicial career, he has held several important judicial and administrative assignments. He served as Principal District & Sessions Judge at Leh, Baramulla, Udhampur and Jammu, besides serving as Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar and Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu.

Justice Bourney also served in key institutional positions as Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; and Director, J&K Judicial Academy.

After serving as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu, Justice Bourney was appointed on deputation as Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu.

Twin trainings sanctioned to revive Kashmir pottery, copperware

CDI, Dept's specialised institution, to implement both programmes at a cost of Rs 14.90 lakh for Baramulla, Srinagar



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22: In a bid to revive the crafts of Glazed Pottery and Copperware in Kashmir, the Union Ministry of Textiles has sanctioned two training programmes under the Guru Shishya Hastshilp component of the flagship National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP).

An amount of ₹14.90 lakh has been sanctioned in favour of Craft Development Institute (CDI) Srinagar for conducting the twin trainings.

In a press release issued here on Tuesday, a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, as per an official statement, stated that the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) acceded to the

department's proposal for customised training to revive the fading crafts. "Each programme will be of a duration of two months wherein skill of 30 artisans each would be upgraded under the guidance of master craftsmen," he added.

Glazed pottery was once used for household vessels, decorative tiles, kangris and ceremonial items. Over recent decades, it has been overshadowed by cheaper plastic, aluminium and machine-made ware, leaving only a small number of remaining artisans.

On the other hand, Copperware, or Kandkaari, which is amongst Kashmir's oldest metal crafts and closely associated with Shehr-e-Khaas, has come under intense pressure from cheap imitations and shrinking artisan base.

The spokesman stated that ₹7.45 lakh each have been sanctioned by

the Textiles Ministry for training in Glazed Pottery in clusters of Baramulla district and Copperware in district Srinagar. "The trainings have been designed in such a way that it takes care of wage compensation of artisans, honorarium of master craftsmen, space rent and training related equipment as well as compensation of raw material," he added.

The programmes follow the traditional Guru-Shishya model of skill transfer, under which experienced master artisans mentor a new cohort of practitioners in techniques that have been passed down over generations but are now at the risk of being lost. "These courses are intended not only to upgrade existing skills but also to rebuild a working pipeline of trained hands in the two crafts," the spokesman added.

AHD Jammu conducts 4-day long mega awareness campaign

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22: Extension and Publicity Wing of the Animal Husbandry Department Jammu concluded the four-day long extensive awareness campaign launched in the districts of Udhampur, Kathua and Jammu. The campaign, as per an official statement, was organized under the instructions of Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Sanjay Gupta and in coordination with Animal Husbandry officials of the respective districts.

A series of awareness camps were organized in remote villages of Bhugterian in Udhampur, Saida and Dhalli in Kathua and Kotli Charkaan in Jammu district. Ex-PRI members, officers and officials of the department besides a large number of farmers including women farmers attended the awareness camps.

Extension officer Dr. Suresh

Kumar and his team explained the benefits available under numerous schemes/programs of the Animal Husbandry department. The farmers were urged to avail incentives available under HADP, IDDS and IPDP in the form of impressive subsidies on establishment of Dairy units, Milk Collection, Processing and Transportation/Marketing infrastructure including Refrigerated Milk Vans, Silage bailing and packaging unit, starting new Poultry farms and Hatcheries.

Meanwhile, the subject experts and Veterinary Doctors responded to queries from the farmers' regarding health related issues of livestock, particularly the recent incidences of Lumpy Skin Disease.

They suggested appropriate treatment, wherever necessary and gave useful tips on proper nutrition, housing and overall care and management of the livestock for improving their productivity.

Clean Himalayan & Hill Cities Initiative

District Committee approves implementation plan for Patnitop

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa Tuesday chaired a meeting of District Committee under the Clean Himalayan and Hill Cities Initiative (CHHCI) to review the implementation modal - with focus on the sustainable development of Patnitop.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Chief Executive Officer PDA Rakesh Dubey and other concerned officers and Committee members.

A threadbare discussion was held on different aspects of the initiative and its implementation on the ground. The Committee discussed the various components proposed under the CHHCI Action Plan and approved the implementation plan.

The DC directed the concerned officers and departments to ensure timely implementation of the approved plan with proper planning, coordination and in accordance with the applicable rules and guidelines.

DDC Poonch reviews progress of EMRS Behra- Mendhar

KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 22: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Tuesday chaired a review meeting at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the physical and financial progress of the Ekla-vya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Behra-Mendhar. He also reviewed the status of land acquisition for establishment of EMRSs at Man-kote and Danna Shah Sattar.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Mendhar, Principal EMRS Behra Mendhar, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Poonch and Mendhar, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mendhar and JPD-CL Poonch. Officers stationed outside the district headquarters participated through video conferencing (VC).

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR SHEEP HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHEEP BREEDING FARM GOABAL KANGAN

Email Id: sbfgoabal-shdk@jk.gov.in

Sub: - Auction of Culled Animals-publication of Notice thereof.

Ref:- DSHK Sanction Letter No. DSHK/Tech/2026/1815-16 dated 20.05.2026.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Government Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal Kangan is conducting auction of culled animals at sheep breeding farm Goabal Kangan w.e.f 01.10.2026 (Thursday) till clearance of the stock. As such all the interested persons/stake holders are hereby informed through the medium of this notice to participate in the process of auction of culled animal at above mentioned place on scheduled date on following Terms & Conditions which shall be binding on the bidders.

- The animal shall be disposed off strictly as per WHO/VPH protocol where ever required.
- The payment shall be accepted only through cash to be deposited on spot.
- The committee shall have the final authority to accept or reject a bid.
- Any other terms and condition as may be deemed necessary by the auction committee shall be announced on spot.

Sd/-
Assistant Director

No: SBFG/Tech/2026-27/799-806
Dated:-22.09.2026

DIPK-6016/26
DATED: 22-09-2026

Govt. Sheep
Breeding Farm
Goabal Kangan

0194-2310283

rmb-rajbagh@jk.gov.in

UNION TERRITORY GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR. H.Q'S: LAL MANDI, NEAR L.D HOSPITAL SRINAGAR-190008.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 86/R&B/RAJ of 2026-27 issued under Endorsement No. 7722-32 Dated: 21.09.2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

	Name of Work	Base Cost Excl. GST (₹ in Lacs)	TOTAL / Adv. Cost (Base Cost + GST) (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor / Agency
1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
1	Refabrication / Upgradation of Chowkidar Hut at Directorate of Command Area Development Lal Mandi Srinagar.	7.40	8.73	₹600/-	₹17460/-	25 Days	Capex Budget 2026-27	CEE/DEE
2	Upgradation of Court Room at JnK Sales Tax (Appellate) Tribunal Srinagar.	2.22	2.62	₹200/-	₹5240/-	10 Days	023- Manitenance Repair	"DEE"

Accorded vide Order No:
1. 184-CADK of 2026 Dated: 22.08.2026
2. 214/Adm of 2026 Dated: 19.09.2026.

Position of TS:
1. Accorded.
2. Accorded

Position of Funds: Budgeted / Committed.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21.09.2026.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22.09.2026.from 10:00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	22.09.2026.from 10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	28.09.2026 Up to 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	29.09.2026 at 11:30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

1. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender inviting Authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan & EMD should be between the Date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload Earnest Money/Bid security as mentioned above in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar. The Earnest Money/Bid security will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of Performance and Additional Performance Security (if applicable) and Drawl of Agreement as per FORM-25 (Double Cover).

*Abnormally Low Bid Price :

As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide NO.FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025, which is reproduced as :-

- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Project Cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee/ Security Percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

- Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security & shall be released after the DLP is over successfully.

1. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

3. All other terms conditions shall remain as per the J&K Engineering Manual 2020 and other standing Guidelines of the Govt. of India / Govt. of J&K UT and as per PWD FORM (25) Double Cover.

No. 7722-32
Dated : 21.09.2026

DIPK-6008/26
DATED: 22-09-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Rajbagh Division Srinagar
(NM)



NOTICE

I have changed my name from
(Old name) Mohammad Shaffi Mattoo to (New name) Mohammed Shafi Mattoo. In future I will be known as (New name) Mohammed Shafi Mattoo. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact the Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for a fertilizer licence under the name and style of **Mir Agros at Lorow Jagir, Tral, Pulwama.**

In this regard, if anybody has any kind of objection, they may file the same with the **Chief Agriculture Officer, Pulwama**, within seven (7) days. After that, no objection will be entertained.

Waseem Rasool
S/o Gh. Rasool Ganie
R/o Tral, Pulwama

CS launches ‘e-Nyaya Sarathi’ web portal, mobile app

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 22: In a major push to make legal services more accessible, transparent and citizen-friendly, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday launched the ‘e-Nyaya Sarathi’ web portal and mobile application, providing citizens a unified digital gateway to legal information, judicial resources and government legal services.

The event was attended by senior officers including ACS PWD; Principal Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Sr. AAG Mohsin Qadri; Member Secretary, J&K State Legal Services Authority; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, Legislative Assembly and other officers of the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs and members of the technical development team also attended the launch event.

Developed by the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary



Affairs, the platform brings multiple legal services under one roof, enabling citizens to access essential legal information and services anytime and from anywhere.

The initiative seeks to simplify the public's interaction with the legal system and replace conventional bureaucratic hurdles with a more transparent and digitally

accessible service delivery mechanism. Speaking at the launch, the Chief Secretary described the initiative as a significant step towards citizen-centric digital governance, emphasising that legal services should be accessible, reliable and easy to navigate. He said that e-Nyaya Sarathi would help bridge the gap between citizens and legal

institutions by bringing critical legal resources directly to their fingertips.

Giving details about the platform the Commissioner Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi revealed that the portal offers a range of services, including legal aid and pro-bono assistance, a central repository of Acts, Rules, Judgments and Government Notifications, in addition to facilities like ‘Search Your Case’ and ‘Find My Court’ and dedicated modules for Women & Child Development and Advocate Related Matters.

Adding a technology-driven dimension to the initiative, the platform also features an AI-powered chatbot to guide users through legal queries and assist them in navigating various services available on the portal. The integrated framework is aimed at making access to legal information simpler and more responsive, particularly for citizens seeking quick and reliable information.

Moreover it was also apprised that the e-Nyaya Sarathi portal is now available at www.enyayas-arathi.jk.gov.in, while its mobile application can be downloaded from the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

Autumn Session: MLAs raise connectivity, rehabilitation, edu, agri issues during Zero Hour

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 22: Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday raised a wide range of public issues during Zero Hour, drawing the Government's attention to concerns relating to water supply, road connectivity, agriculture, education, healthcare, disaster relief, civic amenities and infrastructure across the Union Territory.

MLA Langate Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh raised the urgent issue of bringing back the mortal remains of a student from his constituency who died in Chandigarh, urging the authorities to expedite the process. MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone supported the demand and sought Government facilitation.

Responding to the issue, Minister Javid Ahmad Dar said that immediately after receiving information about the matter, he had contacted senior officers there and provided them with all necessary details. He said the authorities were in touch and expressed hope that the mortal remains would be brought back at the earliest without any further delay.

Raising the issue of pending Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works, MLA Trehgam Mir Saifullah and Sajad Gani Lone sought early resumption of the stalled works, pointing out that the matter had been referred to a House Committee and its report had remained pending for nearly two years. They urged that an early decision be taken in the larger public interest so that people awaiting water supply facilities, as well as contractors associated with the works, are provided relief.

MLA Udhampur West, Pawan Kumar Gupta also highlighted pending payments under JJM and urged that the matter be taken up with the Government of India. He further sought rationalisation of staff of the Jal Shakti Department in Reasi and Udhampur districts for efficient functioning of water supply schemes.

MLA Lolab Qaysar Jamshaid Lone flagged the deteriorating condition of water sources, including drying up of wells, and sought early commissioning of water supply schemes nearing completion.

Road connectivity and infrastructure also figured prominently during Zero Hour. MLA Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia drew attention to the dilapidated condition of PMGSY roads across J&K and the alleged lack of proper maintenance despite availability of funds from the Government of India.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam -Ud-din Bhat raised issues concerning PMGSY road connectivity in tribal areas besides highlighting the issue of Sumbal-Bandipora Road.

MLA Poonch Haveli, Aijaz Jan sought protection works against recurring floods to safeguard vulnerable houses and demanded restoration of damaged public infrastructure.

MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju also raised concerns regarding infrastructure and emerging requirements linked to education and employment. He also stressed the need to improve the employability of students and align traditional courses offered by educational institutions with emerging employment opportunities.

Members also highlighted disaster-related losses and the need for adequate compensation. MLA Rajouri, Iftkar Ahmed sought enhancement of compensation for families in Poonch and Rajouri whose houses were damaged during floods. Similarly, MLA Beerwah Shafi Ahmad Wani demanded



adequate compensation for farmers affected by hailstorms in the Beerwah constituency.

MLA Kulgam Mohammad Yousuf Rather(Tarigami) raised the issue of weather-based crop insurance scheme.He also called for a comprehensive scheme for promotion and protection of saffron cultivation across J&K and urged the Government to ensure stringent quality checks on pesticides, in view of concerns raised regarding their possible harmful effects. Additionally, MLA Rajpora Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir sought a comprehensive survey to assess crop losses suffered by farmers due to recent rains.

On education and youth-related concerns, MLA Inderwal, Pyare Lal demanded upgradation of High Schools to Higher Secondary Schools in his constituency, stating that students are required to travel long distances for higher secondary education.

MLA Pahalgam, Altaf Ahmad Wani sought upgradation of Middle Schools and High Schools in far-flung areas of the constituency into High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools respectively.

MLA Tral, Rafiq Ahmad Naik demanded establishment of a Sub-District Hospital in his constituency besides seeking age relaxation in recruitment rules to expand employment opportunities for eligible youth.

MLA Bishnah Rajeev Bhagat highlighted shortage of space at Government Degree College in his constituency and sought adequate accommodation for students and faculty, besides raising the issue of development of border areas.

Moreover, the issues of Public safety, civic amenities and urban issues also came under discussion. MLAs Waheed Parra and Abdul Majeed Bhat Larimi raised the issue of civilian traffic movement along National Highway from Qazigund to Srinagar.

MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar raised concerns over the increasing number of dog-bite cases in Srinagar and called for a dedicated mechanism to address the issue. He also highlighted sanitation-related concerns and stressed the need for concerted measures to improve cleanliness and a comprehensive plan for decongestion of Srinagar city. MLA Bhaderwah Daleep Singh Parihar sought provision of adequate public amenities at tourist destinations in Bhaderwah besides demanding establishment of a Development Authority for Doda and Bhalasa areas.

MLA Ramnagar Sunil Bhardwaj sought a CBI inquiry into the alleged duping of women Self-Help Group members in his area in connection with what he described as the ‘Haldi Scheme’ scam. He urged that the matter be thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to account.

MLA Doda Mehraj Malik and MLA Rajpora Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir also raised issues concerning water supply in their respective constituencies.

Daily-wagers to gherao Assembly on Sept 28 over regularisation, wages

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 22: Casual and daily-wage workers on Tuesday announced that they will gherao the Assembly on September 28 to press for their long pending demands including regularisation, wage enhancement and pension benefits.

Daily wagers staged a protest at Polo View Park here today.

The protest was held under the banner of the Jammu and Kashmir Casual/Daily Wagers Forum (JKCDF) and was led by its president Sajad Ahmed Parray.

The proposed Assembly gherao comes amid the ongoing session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, where the government informed the House that 1,00,501 casual and other daily-rated workers have been registered through Aadhaar-based biometric identification and skill profiling.

The government has also said that a committee constituted in March 2025 is examining the legal, financial and humanitarian aspects of regularisation of such workers.

Addressing the protesters, Parray questioned the delay in addressing their demands and sought equal treatment on wages and pension benefits. “If your committee's report can come, then why can't our committee's report come? If you are entitled to old pensions, then why are we not entitled to old pensions?” Parray said.

“If your salary can increase from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 3 lakh, then why is there no increase in the salary of a casual daily wage who is suffering in this time of inflation?” he asked.

Parray also questioned the silence of MLAs, civil society and various organisations over

*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

Koh-e-Noor peak sees three Kashmiri ascents after 5 decades

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 22: A 5,146-metre peak in remote Marwah Valley in Jammu and Kashmir has returned to the region's mountaineering map nearly five decades after its last recorded summit, with three local teams, including a five-member team led by professional mountaineer Nahida Manzoor, successfully reaching there this month.

According to the details available, Mount Koh-e-Noor (South-West), which as per the available climbing history was last recorded as summited in 1976 by a Japanese expedition. It witnessed three successful ascents by Kashmiri climbers on September 6, 9 and 14 this year.

The first local team, comprising Yasir Khan, Leo Saqib, Muzakir and Faik, reached the summit on September 6. Kashmir's second team, consisting of Waseem Hassan, Chandan and Zaid, completed the ascent on September 9.

Manzoor's five-member team made the third successful ascent of the recent period on September 14. The team



also included Showkat Lone, Mudassir Lone, Sheikh Farzan and Irfan Lone.

For Manzoor, the expedition carried significance

beyond the technical challenge of climbing the peak.

“To the best of our
*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

Pvt hospitals decry ‘forced’ NAPS implementation in J&K

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Private Hospitals and Dialysis Centres Association (JKPHDA) has expressed serious concern over the manner in which the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) under Skill India is being pushed in the health sector in J&K, even as it flagged the non-payment of Ayushman Bharat/SEHAT dues for the last 8-10 months.

The NAPS, launched by Prime Minister under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in 2015, is a 6 to 12-month training programme where 75 per cent of the stipend is borne by the establishment and 25 per cent by the Government of India.

The JKPHDA clarified that the majority of private hospitals are already registered under NAPS and, as and when vacancies arise, the same are uploaded on the portal as per norms.

However, it said, what has been happening for the last few weeks is a matter of concern.

The JKPHDA said, “Chief Medical Officers are summoning owners of hospitals, nursing homes and clinical establishments to their offices and directing them to create vacancies on a war footing and take apprentices under NAPS. The members feel this coercive approach is not in the spirit of a voluntary skill programme.”

It further said, “All private hospitals empanelled under the Ayushman Bharat/SEHAT scheme have not received payments for the last 8-10 months from the State Health Agency. Liabilities have crossed crores. To sustain, hospitals have curtailed services and even terminated some employees. In this situation, how can we bear the 75 per cent stipend burden of new apprentices?”

The association added, “Hospitals have their own HR policy—face-to-face interview, skill test and

verification. Under the present mechanism being forced, there is no interaction with candidates before posting, which is a serious risk in the patient care sector.”

The JKPHDA said it is optional for establishments having a workforce between 4 and 29, and establishments having a workforce of three or less are not permitted to engage apprentices, “but unfortunately we are being forced for the same.”

“As per our information, about 40,000 regular posts are lying vacant with the government. Instead of advertising those regular posts, this ad-hoc arrangement is being pushed to show inflated employment figures,” the association said.

The JKPHDA also expressed surprise over the sudden haste and coercive manner in which targets are being pushed at the ground level in the last few weeks, which, it said, is contrary to the voluntary spirit of the scheme since 2015.

“The private health

sector is not against Skill India. We have always supported skilling and employment. But you cannot force employment generation on a sector which itself is struggling for survival due to non-payment of its legitimate SEHAT dues for 8-10 months,” the association added. The JKPHDA appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and the Chief Minister to release pending SEHAT payments of private hospitals immediately, make NAPS implementation voluntary and need-based in the health sector as originally envisaged in 2015, and advertise the 40,000 vacant regular posts so that youth get permanent employment rather than a 6-month stipend.

“We hope the government will look into the genuine difficulties of the health sector, which is providing 70 per cent of SEHAT care in J&K,” the association said—(KNO)

FDA intensifies Food Safety Enforcement in Srinagar



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 22: FDA, J&K, conducted focused inspection drive targeting street food vendors across Srinagar city.

During the drive, the enforcement teams inspected food businesses to assess compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with particular emphasis on the sanitary and hygienic requirements prescribed under Schedule 4.

As part of the enforcement exercise, a special RUCO (Repurpose Used

Cooking Oil) drive was conducted among street food vendors at Nishat, Maki Point, Nehru Park, LD Hospital and Khayam. A total of 20 street food establishments were inspected, out of which eight Food Business Operators (FBOs) were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, for violations of prescribed sanitary and hygienic requirements with a fine of Rs 8000.

During the drive, approximately 45 litres of used/re-used edible cooking oil was identified as unsuitable for further use and was lifted through

the concerned authorized RUCO aggregator for appropriate disposal.

The FBOs were directed to strictly adhere to the prescribed limits for the reuse of cooking oil and ensure that used cooking oil is disposed of only through authorized aggregator.

The enforcement teams also conducted on-site awareness and sensitization of street food vendors and other FBOs regarding safe food handling, personal hygiene, maintenance of sanitary conditions, proper storage of food and responsible management of used cooking oil.

The FDA reiterated that regular enforcement, inspection and awareness activities will continue across Srinagar and other parts of the Union Territory, with special emphasis on street food establishments, high-footfall areas and RUCO compliance. The department has further stressed that food businesses are required to maintain the prescribed standards of hygiene and safety to ensure that food served to the public is safe, hygienic and fit for consumption.

The Department has requested Consumers to report any suspected unsafe or adulterated food product through Toll-Free Helpline No. 10

none of this will happen automatically. Farmers need support, scientists must develop better varieties, doctors must spread awareness, and citizens must change habits. The time for discussion is over. Millets are not merely a heritage of the past—they are a strategy for the future. Let us sow the seeds today for a healthier, more sustainable tomorrow.

A network of trained grassroots workers forms the backbone of decentralized service delivery. These workers support the implementation of government programmes, mobilize communities, and provide timely assistance at the village level. Across the country, more than 9 lakh Community Resource Persons (CRPs), along with ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, Swachhagrahis, Awaas Mitras, and other frontline workers, are bridging the gap between institutions and rural households. Out of the 9 lakh CRPs, nearly 4.08 lakh are livelihood CRPs supporting agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forest produce, and enterprise development. Other CRPs extend their services across areas such as gender awareness, financial literacy, and community development. Furthermore, in health and nutrition, over 10.40 lakh ASHAs and 10.58 lakh trained Anganwadi Workers are strengthening community healthcare and early childhood services. Across sectors, these grassroots cadres are enabling convergence and strengthening local institutions.

trusted partners in translating government initiatives into meaningful outcomes at the household level. They build awareness, strengthen capacities, facilitate access to services, and promote convergence across sectors. Their efforts ensure that development reaches those who need it most. As rural India continues to evolve, sustained investment in these community-based institutions and frontline workers will remain essential to strengthen service delivery, improve livelihoods, and promote social inclusion, thereby building resilient, empowered, and self-reliant rural communities.

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

J&K Assembly holds ‘Swachhata Hi Seva 2026’ campaign

CM, Ministers, Legislators take cleanliness pledge



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22: As part of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 campaign, a special Swachhata Signature and Pledge campaign was organised at the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar, on Tuesday, with the elected representatives and members of the House joining together to reaffirm the message of cleanliness, collective responsibility and sustained public participation.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, along with Ministers, legislators and other dignitaries, as per an official statement, participated in the campaign and joined the signature initiative, reaffirming the importance of making Swachhata a shared responsibility and an integral part of everyday life.

The initiative is part of the nationwide SHS 2026 campaign, being observed from 17 September to 02 October 2026 under the theme “Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat.” The campaign places emphasis on Jan Bhagidari, transformation of Cleanliness Target Units and public places, youth engagement, sanitation-worker welfare, source segregation and Waste-to-Wealth initiatives.

The participation of the elected representatives at the Legislative Assembly provided a strong platform for reinforcing the message that cleanliness transcends the institutional boundaries and requires sustained involvement of citizens,

communities and public representatives. The campaign also encourages the Members of the Legislative Assembly to carry the message of Swachhata to their respective constituencies and promote community participation in cleanliness drives, responsible waste management, source segregation and other sanitation-related initiatives.

The Directorate of Rural Sanitation has been coordinating the UT-wide SHS 2026 campaign, which was formally launched at Block Khonmoh, Srinagar, on September 17.

At the launch, Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra called for transforming cleanliness from a time-bound campaign into a sustained habit and emphasised that Swachhata should have no defined beginning or end.

The Legislative Assembly campaign further strengthened this message by bringing the principles of Jan Bhagidari, collective action and behavioural change into the highest democratic forum of the Union Territory.

The SHS 2026 campaign will continue with a range of activities across Jammu & Kashmir, focusing on visible cleanliness outcomes, citizen participation, youth engagement, sanitation-worker welfare, waste management and sustained behavioural change.

“Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat” continues to guide the campaign, with the collective participation of institutions, elected representatives and citizens at the heart of the movement.

AUTUMN SESSION 2026 QUESTION HOUR

221 panchayats have playfields under One Panchayat-One Playfield initiative: Satish Sharma

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Tuesday said that 221 out of 355 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Jammu and Kashmir have either existing or constructed playfields under the One Panchayat-One Playfield initiative.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA G A Mir regarding implementation of the ‘One Panchayat-One Playfield’ initiative, particularly with reference to Dooru Constituency and the status of sports infrastructure and proposed playfields there.

Quoting information received from the Rural Development Department, Satish Sharma said that 221 out of 355 Gram Panchayats covered under the initiative have playfields, either already existing or newly constructed.

Giving details of Dooru Constituency, the Minister, as per an official statement, informed the House that 37 out of 66 Gram Panchayats have playfields. He said the Youth Services & Sports Department has taken up two playfield projects in Dooru Constituency during the past three years. The Playfield at Larkipora near ADV Road Bathuno, taken up during 2024-25 at a cost of Rs 48.55 lakh, has achieved 90 per cent completion, added. He apprised that another Playfield at Shangren has been taken up as a new work during 2026-27 at an estimated cost of Rs 80 lakh.

Satish Sharma further informed that 26 playfield sites have been approved under AAP 2026-27 as part of VB-G RAM-G by the Rural Development Department, Anantnag, where suitable government land has been made available by the Revenue Department. He said that development of playfields by the Youth Services & Sports Department is undertaken



after following all requisite formalities, including availability of encumbrance-free land, transfer of land and availability of funds.

He said that sports infrastructure in Dooru Constituency is being progressively improved and upgraded through the J&K Sports Council and Directorate of Youth Services & Sports.

The Minister informed that four major sports facilities are being developed or maintained in the constituency including Sports Stadium, Dooru, equipped with a change-room-cum-pavilion, cricket competition pitch, net practice pitch, chain-link fencing, main gate and dugouts. Besides, playfield at Verinag is presently under development with a change-room-cum-pavilion, cricket competition pitch, net practice pitch, chain-link fencing, main gate, dugouts and mechanical roller. The playfield at Qammar Shahbaad, Block Verinag, is being maintained by the J&K Sports Council while the playfield at Bhahi Bachoo Hiller, is being developed with cricket competition pitch, net practice pitch and chain-link fencing, he told the House.

The Minister informed that a DPR amounting Rs 1,035.98 lakh has been prepared for upgradation of Sports Stadium Dooru and is presently under consideration by the

Department. The proposed works included pavilion building with change rooms, seating tiers with canopy, cricket competition pitches, net practice pitches, dugouts, synthetic volleyball court, mechanical roller and floodlights, he added.

Regarding proposals for development of playfields at Sayen/Sagam, Sadiwara, Chowgund, Qammar, Dudwangan, Akingam, Hiller Kokernag and other identified locations, Satish Sharma said the sites are under consideration for land transfer and development. He informed that the process for transfer of land to the Youth Services & Sports Department is underway with the Revenue Department while in the case of Sadiwara and Hiller Kokernag, the land-transfer process is yet to be initiated.

The Minister said that once the land preparation and transfer processes are finalised, the department would consider the required development works, subject to availability of funds, land and feasibility. He also informed that a DPR amounting Rs 150 lakh has been prepared for development of the Sayen Sagam playfield, envisaging ground expansion through cutting and filling, protection works, seating tiers, cricket competition pitches, net practice pitches and a synthetic volleyball court.

Wide network of Fair Price Shops established across J&K: Satish Sharma

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, and ARI and Trainings Satish Sharma informed the House that the Department of FCS&CA has established a wide network of Fair Price Shops across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister, as per an official statement, was replying to a question raised by Legislator Hasnian Masoodi in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that the criteria for establishment of Fair Price Shops (FPS) are laid down in S.O. 41 dated 19.01.2023. He said that in Pampore Assembly Constituency, presently, there are no uncovered areas.

Giving the category-wise position of ration cards and beneficiaries in Pampore Constituency, he said there are 2,679 ration cards covering 10,163 souls under AAY, 15,470 ration cards covering 67,157 souls under PHH and 9,776 ration cards covering 40,457 souls under NPHH.

The Minister said that the department is examining the requirement for opening of new Fair Price Shops in the Union Territory along with rationalization of existing entities with reference to viability, number of ration cards tagged, geographical accessibility and adequate coverage in remote and tribal areas.

In the meantime, the Government of India has launched the umbrella scheme SARTHAK-PDS, subsuming assistance for intra-state movement, handling and FPS dealers’ margin and technology reforms under SMART-PDS, the Minister informed.

The Minister said the scheme provides revised norms of Central assistance towards transportation, handling and assured FPS dealer income, which substantially improves the economic viability of Fair Price Shops. Accordingly, proposals for new FPS shall be assessed on the basis of viability under the assured income model, de-congestion of over-tagged shops and compliance with technology parameters viz. ePoS, electronic weighing scale integration and Aadhaar authentication.

The Minister, while replying to a supplementary raised by the Legislator, said that a committee to relax the criteria for areas with scattered population has already been formulated.

Green India Mission

DC Udhampur chairs District Steering Committee meeting



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District Steering Committee to review the planning, implementation and monitoring of the National Mission for a Green India in the District.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by PO Poshan Subash Dogra; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and other senior officers.

At the outset, the DFOs made detailed PowerPoint presentations on the objectives of the Green India Mission and the

landscapes allotted to their respective Forest Divisions.

Detailed deliberations were held on various components of the Green India Mission, including restoration of degraded open forest ecosystems, plantation along National and State Highways and railway tracks, Agro forestry and social forestry.

The Committee also discussed the approval/recommendation of the Green India Mission Micro Plans for 2026-27 and 2027-28 for Udhampur.

The DC emphasized the need for coordinated implementation of the Mission across Udhampur, Ramnagar and Jammu Forest Division falling within District Udhampur.

DAJ reviews district-wise progress of Agriculture Development Programmes

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22: Director Agriculture Jammu (DAJ) Anil Gupta Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation status of various departmental schemes including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKICP, NABARD, CSS and CAPEX in Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Reasi and Doda districts.

The meeting, as per an official statement, focused on reviewing the physical and financial achievements against the targets allocated, besides assessing the progress of approved programmes, expenditure position and implementation of ongoing developmental activities across the six districts.

The meeting was attended by SMS RL Jammu Krishant Kant, Chief Agriculture Officer Doda Harbans Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer Udhampur Vikas Padha, Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar Kushal Chandel, Chief Agriculture Officer Samba Rakesh

Khajuria, Chief Agriculture Officer Reasi Dolly John, District Agriculture Officer Jammu Vinod Kumar Khajuria, Subject Matter Specialists, officers from Planning and CSS sections and other senior officers of the Department.

During the meeting, the Director undertook a detailed scheme-wise review of the physical and financial progress, implementation of approved programmes and status of ongoing developmental works in the concerned districts. He also assessed the field-level implementation of various farmer-oriented initiatives and sought feedback from the concerned officers regarding issues and challenges being faced in execution.

Anil Gupta stressed the need for timely and effective implementation of all departmental programmes, with particular emphasis on achieving the prescribed physical and financial targets within the stipulated timelines. He directed the officers to maintain close coordination at the field level, accelerate the pace of implementation and ensure optimum utilisation

of available resources.

The Director further emphasised that the benefits of various government schemes and farmer-oriented initiatives must reach the farming community in a transparent, efficient and time-bound manner. He called upon the officers to remain proactive in resolving field-level issues, strengthen outreach to farmers and ensure effective dissemination of information regarding available schemes and interventions.

Anil Gupta laid special emphasis on the implementation of the Aatmanirbharta in Pulses initiative and directed the concerned officers to ensure achievement of all targets earmarked for the current financial year. He stressed the importance of focused field-level interventions and close monitoring to ensure tangible outcomes under the initiative.

The Director also called for regular monitoring of the progress of ongoing activities and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely compliance with the decisions taken during the review meeting.

DM Jammu imposes ban on transportation of bovines

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22: District Magistrate Jammu Rakesh Minhas, in exercise of powers vested under section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, has imposed ban on transportation of bovine animals such as Cow, Buffalo, Oxen, Bulls, Calves etc from district Jammu to other district without seeking permission from the District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate.

The order, as per an official statement, shall remain



in force for a period of two months from date of its issue or till the order is rescinded, whichever is earlier. Any violation of this order shall invite punitive action under section 223 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Progress of AgriStack farmers’ registration, Digital Crop Survey reviewed in Udhampur



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa Tuesday convened a meeting to review the progress of farmers’ registration and data updation under AgriStack, besides the implementation of the digital crop survey in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan all Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars.

While reviewing the progress, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an

official statement, directed the concerned officers to ensure maximum coverage of eligible farmers under the AgriStack registration process. He instructed the Tehsildars to organise farmer registration camps in identified villages to accelerate the process and facilitate maximum registrations.

The DC stressed the importance of proper verification of records and accuracy of data being entered on the AgriStack platform. He further emphasised the need for close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the smooth, effective and timely implementation of the Digital Crop Survey across the district.

JKTPO organises Export Awareness Workshop, E-Commerce On-boarding drive in Samba

KT News Desk

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday organised an Export Awareness Workshop and E-Commerce Onboarding Drive at Samba, providing local entrepreneurs, MSMEs, artisans and aspiring exporters with insights into export procedures, export finance, international market opportunities and digital commerce platforms.

The workshop, as per an official statement, was organised in collaboration with the District Administration Samba,

witnessing the participation of around 120+ entrepreneurs, artisans, farmers, MSMEs, SHGs, producer groups and aspiring exporters from across the district.

The programme commenced with welcome remarks by Faculty JKTPO Vishal Ray, who welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of export readiness, digital commerce adoption and market diversification for local enterprises. He also apprised the participants about various initiatives being undertaken by JKTPO for capacity building, market access, export promotion and handholding of businesses from Jammu and Kashmir.

Ullas Kumar from Export

Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (ECGC) sensitised participants to export credit insurance, risk mitigation mechanisms and financial safeguards available to exporters. He explained the importance of managing payment and commercial risks while undertaking international trade.

Varinder Mongia from EXIM Bank, joining the programme virtually, delivered a session on export finance, apprising participants about various financial instruments and support mechanisms available to businesses seeking to enter or expand their presence in international markets.

A dedicated session on Exports and the India-EU Free

Trade Agreement (FTA) was delivered virtually by Gaurav Gupta from Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). The session covered export opportunities, international market access, export procedures and the preparedness required by businesses to leverage emerging trade opportunities with the European Union.

As part of the E-Commerce On-boarding Drive, SBDU Marketing Expert, ONDC Pankaj Kumar briefed participants about the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), its onboarding process and the opportunities available to MSMEs, artisans, producer groups and other local enterprises for accessing wider markets through

digital commerce.

A session, delivered virtually by Sarthak Khoda from Government e-Marketplace (GeM), provided participants with an overview of GeM registration, seller onboarding and government procurement opportunities, enabling local businesses to understand how they can participate in the government e-marketplace.

The programme also featured a virtual session by Adil Javid Khan from Flipkart. He apprised participants about e-commerce on-boarding and the opportunities available to local MSMEs, artisans and entrepreneurs to expand their customer base and improve market visibility through online platforms.

Gulmarg’ upper reaches witness fresh snowfall

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 22: Upper reaches of Gulmarg, including Affarwat and surrounding peaks received fresh snowfall on Tuesday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the fresh snowfall covered the upper slopes of the popular ski resort as weather conditions changed in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley. According to the India Meteorological Department’s daily weather bulletin, Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 21.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum

of 7.5 degrees Celsius during the past 24 hours.

The maximum temperature at Gulmarg was 2.7 degrees Celsius above normal, while the minimum was 0.4 degrees below normal.

In Srinagar, the maximum temperature settled at 30.3 degrees Celsius, which was 2.9 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature was 11.5 degrees Celsius, 0.5 degrees below normal.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 24 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 7 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara recorded 30.2 degrees Celsius and 9 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 29 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 9.2 degrees Celsius, while Kukernag recorded 27.4 degrees Celsius and 11.2 degrees Celsius.

Jammu recorded the highest maximum temperature among the stations listed, at 33.9 degrees Celsius, while its minimum temperature was 24.1 degrees Celsius.

The IMD bulletin also recorded 3.4 mm rainfall at Gulmarg between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm, while no rainfall was recorded at Srinagar, Pahalgam, Qazigund, Kupwara, Kukernag or Jammu during the period. (KNO)

Chattergam Chinar around 650 years old, among oldest in Asia: Govt

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 22: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that the Chinar tree at Chattergam in Budgam is around 650 years old and is among the oldest Chinar trees in Asia, while outlining various measures being taken for its protection and preservation.

In a written reply to an unstarred question raised by MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi in the Legislative Assembly, the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department said that some of the older or dried branches of the Chattergam Chinar have naturally fallen off, while the remaining

portion of the tree is green.

The department, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said protection measures for the heritage tree include installation of iron fencing around its critical root zone to prevent soil compaction and root suffocation and help avoid traffic in the area.

Regarding the decline in Chinar trees in Kashmir, the government said the reasons include natural senescence or ageing, pest and disease attacks, cutting of Chinars for developmental activities across the Union Territory, shrinking land and a burgeoning population.

It said several measures have

been put in place for the protection and preservation of Chinar trees, including a prohibition on cutting even a branch without prior permission from the local administration as per the standing rules.

The government further said that carving nails, hammering signboards, or damaging the bark or roots of Chinar trees is prohibited, and action is taken against violators. The Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks has been planting new Chinar saplings every year to compensate for damaged or pruned trees. During the last three years, 709 Chinar saplings have been planted in gardens and parks maintained by the department,

while 7,134 saplings have been distributed free of cost to the general public, educational institutions and security installations in the Kashmir Division.

The government said that whenever permission is granted for pruning a Chinar branch, the use of lime or “Chabatia” pruning paste on the pruned portion is recommended.

The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Research Institute (JKFRI) has also undertaken a survey-based census of Chinar trees in Kashmir, under which around 30,000 Chinar trees have been surveyed, excluding those located inside security campuses and installations.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Pandemonium in J&K

BJP MLA Surjit Singh Slathia demanded that the government respond to the issue raised by them in the House on Monday.

As BJP legislators continued disruptions, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather warned them of action.

“The House has to function as per procedure. You cannot behave like this,” he told them.

The Speaker told them that MLAs can raise issues as per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Assembly.

“It is not like you can talk about anything and seek answers from the government. The government must get notice,” he told them.

Later, BJP legislators staged a walk-out from the House. (KNO)

Sardar Patel architect

for the youth.

“The Prime Minister’s decision proved that when national interest becomes the supreme priority, no obstacle remains permanent. This is the same firm willpower whose glimpse we saw in Sardar Patel’s nation-building efforts in 1947. I believe that by consigning the era of Article 370 to history, Jammu Kashmir now stands at the threshold of a new future,” he said.

FOUR PRIORITIES FOR JAMMU KASHMIR

The Lieutenant Governor outlined four priorities for Jammu Kashmir’s future: peace through zero tolerance towards terrorism, rapid development through infrastructure and connectivity, empowerment of youth by linking them to India’s digital economy and startup culture and revival of cultural heritage to strengthen tourism and human values.

He envisioned Srinagar, Jammu and other cities of the Union Territory as vibrant centres of education, trade and innovation. “The most valuable asset of Jammu Kashmir is its talented youth and their energy must continue to be transformed into nation-building,” he said.

‘HISTORY SHOULD BE A MIRROR OF TRUTH’

LG Sinha further described the book as a serious attempt to re-evaluate history with honesty and impartiality. He cautioned that for too long, historical narratives had been shaped by ideological biases that overlooked the decisive contributions of leaders such as Patel.

He urged the new generation of writers to treat history as a “mirror of truth”, not as a tool for glorification, and to learn from past decisions to guide the future.

He described the book as a “light-house” illuminating Patel’s dream of a united and confident India and called upon citizens to dedicate themselves to the ideals of unity, integrity and patriotism, and to build an India that leads the world not only economically but also through moral leadership, cultural richness and democratic values.

The Lieutenant Governor also expressed gratitude to Bhagwan Swaminarayan Ji and commended the Maninagar Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan for its contributions to spiritual upliftment, education and humanitarian service. He also congratulated Dr Rizwan Kadri for editing and publishing the book.

Acharya Jitendriyapriyadasji Swamiji Maharaj, Kishor Makwana, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Dr Rizwan Kadri, Swami Bhagwat Priya Das Ji, Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department, senior officials, prominent literary personalities and office bearers of Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan attended the book launch ceremony. (KNO)

Dedicate your lives

AI’s accelerating power, citing experts. He warned that AI, as a “quadruple-use” technology, could operate independently, producing both beneficial and harmful outcomes. Stressing that technology must remain humanity’s servant, he declared that decisions affecting human dignity, livelihood, health, and freedom must always be made by accountable humans, not machines.

“The day technology becomes the master of humanity, our very existence will be at risk. Machines can calculate, but they cannot feel. Machines can predict, but they cannot bear responsibility for decisions. Machines can mimic the language of compassion, but they do not stand at a patient’s bedside at midnight, nor do they carry the moral weight of a judge’s verdict.

My clear view is that every decision that deeply affects a person’s freedom, livelihood, health, education, or dignity must have a human behind it, who understands the decision, accepts responsibility for it, and can be held accountable,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor outlined five pressing challenges for higher education. He said focus should be on relevance and curricula must adapt rapidly to match the pace of change. He observed that rote learning should be avoided and classrooms must focus on application and purpose, not memorization. He highlighted that students must provide original answers, prioritizing curiosity and reasoning and technology must not widen the gap between rural and urban learners.

“It is true that no technology can replace a teacher. But it is equally true that technology will certainly change the teacher’s role. The teacher of the future will not merely be an information-giver; they will be a mentor, a guru, a questioner, and an inspiring personality who ignites curiosity and builds character in students,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

For students and teachers, the Lieutenant Governor shared six guiding messages- embrace lifelong learning, cultivate uniquely human capacities like creativity and empathy, build bridges across disciplines, contribute to national development, balance academics with sports, and remain rooted in traditions and values. He urged students to become embodiments of both science and Sanskar.

INAUGURATES SERIES OF NEW FACILITIES AT UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

Earlier the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a series of new facilities at the University of Jammu. The inauguration included a modern sports complex, a shooting range, high-mast lights for the cricket stadium and the Tawi Guest House complex, developed at a cost of nearly Rs. 10 Crore. These facilities, the Lieutenant Governor noted, will empower the University’s athletes, scholars, and visitors, strengthening its role as a hub of excellence in the Union Territory.

Congratulating the Vice-Chancellor and stakeholders, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that while infrastructure is important, the true transformation of an institution lies in the values, ideas, and innovations nurtured within its walls. He reminded the audience that every generation experiences change, but the intensity of transformation in the present era, which is driven by artificial intelligence, is unparalleled.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Tejinder Singh, IGP, Jammu; Shridhar Patil, DIG, JSK Range; Dr. Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs; Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies; Prof. Sangita Gupta, Dean Planning and Development; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar; Heads of Departments, faculty members and students attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

Milletts are climate-smart

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri Umendra Dutt, Executive Director, Kheti Virasat Mission; Shri A Rambabu, Millet and Traditional Food Crusader; Judges of the High Court; Ministers; Members of Legislative Assembly; Padma Shri Awardees, Heads of various Educational institutions, social activists, civil society members, senior officials and prominent citizens in large number were present.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated all the participating institutions for creating a platform that highlighted the nutritional, ecological and economic significance

of millets. He emphasised that millets such as jowar, bajra, ragi, kodo, kangni and kutki have nourished human civilisation for centuries, and their introduction into daily diets is both a health imperative and a civilisational responsibility.

The Lieutenant Governor noted increasing soil degradation, water stress and loss of biodiversity in recent years. Millets, he said, offer an opportunity to correct this imbalance.

“Several research studies show that millets require minimal water, thrive on rain-fed lands, need little or no chemical inputs and they are highly nutritious, rich in fibre, iron, calcium and protein, with a low glycaemic index that helps combat lifestyle diseases such as diabetes,” he said.

Highlighting the potential impact of millets in Jammu Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor outlined three key benefits- addressing malnutrition, providing solutions to lifestyle-related diseases, and ensuring prosperity for marginal farmers. He called for the creation of a complete ecosystem- from seed diversity and farmer training to processing, value addition, chef training and millet-based cuisine campaigns, so that millets become a people’s movement.

“All stakeholders should focus on seeds and crop diversification so that we can revive the diversity of our rich agricultural heritage. Now, we must move beyond seminars to the field and the market. Initiatives such as processing, value addition, chef training, ‘from grain to plate’ programmes, and women’s home-based millet-cuisine campaigns must be transformed into a people’s movement, only then will we achieve success,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that millets are climate-smart crops, offering resilience against increasing weather uncertainties and changing monsoon patterns. He underlined that a sustainable food system is essential for public health, workforce productivity and environmental conservation.

He also urged all stakeholders including officials, experts, and media to continuously promote millets as part of everyday life and language. He reiterated that farmers’ prosperity and nature’s conservation can go hand in hand, and that millets represent a pathway towards sustainable, inclusive and future-ready agriculture in Jammu Kashmir.

Following the event, a millet-based dinner was served, showcasing the diversity, taste and health benefits of these traditional grains.

J&K Bank set to

S. Krishnan chairing the meeting in the presence of MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee and members of the Board of Directors.

Addressing shareholders, Krishnan said the Bank’s past, present and future were reflected in the AGM’s theme.

“Our past gives us identity. Our present gives us strength. Our future gives us responsibility. Trust is our inheritance. Tradition is our anchor. Transformation is our obligation,” he said.

He said the Bank’s progress should ultimately be measured by its contribution to the economic and social transformation of the region and beyond.

Record Profit, Business Milestone Speaking on the occasion, Chatterjee said the Bank had maintained its growth trajectory despite challenging circumstances and recorded its fourth consecutive year of record profitability.

“Net profit reached an all-time high of Rs 2,363 crore, registering year-on-year growth of 13.5 per cent. The growth momentum has continued into the current financial year. By June 2026, the Bank crossed the historic milestone of Rs 3 trillion in total business,” he said.

He said the Bank’s progress had been broad-based, with profitability, asset quality, efficiency and capital strength advancing together.

Digital Transactions Up 94% Chatterjee said investments in digital platforms, data analytics, cybersecurity and process automation had improved customer experience and

operational efficiency.

“The rapid growth of up to 94 per cent in digital transactions during FY 2025-26 demonstrates the increasing trust customers place in our digital ecosystem,” he said.

‘Bank Of Choice’ Remains Aspiration

Outlining the Bank’s future plans, Chatterjee said it would continue investing in people and technology while strengthening cybersecurity, customer experience and innovation.

“Our aspiration is clear: to become the ‘Bank of Choice’. Towards this goal, we will continue to invest in our people and technology, reinforce cybersecurity, improve customer experience and institutionalise a culture of innovation and excellence,” he said.

The AGM concluded with a question-and-answer session during which shareholders raised queries that were addressed by the MD & CEO. Shareholders also appreciated the Bank’s improving performance during FY 2025-26. (KNO)

PDP, NC raise

after 70 years can’t walk with people across the country on the highway, it is a question mark,” he said.

Parra said restrictions could not be justified indefinitely on the basis of a single security incident and urged the government to take up the issue with the Government of India, security establishments and the Unified Command.

NC MLA Abdul Majeed Larmi called for an Assembly resolution on repeat highway restrictions.

“I know it is not in our control and it falls in the domain of Home Department, but a recommendation should be sent as to why it is being done,” Larmi said.

He said the Pulwama incident could not justify continued stoppages in south Kashmir, claiming that such restrictions had persisted since then and even ambulances had faced difficulties.

Larmi urged the House to pass a resolution on the issue and send a recommendation to the concerned authorities.

Parra said there was a need for a clear framework that protects security while safeguarding the dignity and right of citizens to travel.

“Security and civil rights must go hand in hand. No suspicion should mean no harassment,” he said. (KNO)

Can’t make every

has been accorded and the work is at the tendering stage.

He added that around 25 kanals of state land near the Sheep Farm at Kralpathri has been identified for a Tourist Transit Hub and a 400-car parking facility.

A Detailed Project Report estimated at Rs 75 crore under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0 has been prepared and submitted to the Union Ministry of Tourism for approval.

“The proposed transit hub and parking facility is aimed at regulating vehicular movement and improving visitor management at Doodhpathri, thereby reducing vehicular pressure at the destination,” he said.

Replying to a separate question by MLA Yudhvir Sethi, the Chief Minister said the government has adopted a comprehensive strategy to promote and diversify tourism in Jammu Division, with a focus on emerging destinations and year-round tourism.

He said the Tourism Department is focusing on pilgrimage, heritage, adventure, eco, nature, rural, cultural, wellness and leisure tourism, alongside strengthening infrastructure and tourist amenities.

Major destinations where developmental works have been taken up include Suchetgarh, Shiv Khori, Sudhmahadev, Patnitop, Basholi, Bhaderwah/Gatha, Mansar, Baradari, Kesari Hills and Behra/Qasab.

The Chief Minister said the government is also focusing on developing new destinations to reduce pressure on established tourist centres and distribute tourism-related economic activity more widely across Jammu Division.

On tourism promotion, Omar said the department has undertaken

publicity and promotional campaigns at local, national and international levels.

Between April 2025 and March 2026, the department facilitated or participated in 110 events and festivals, while 43 events and festivals were covered between April and August 2026.

He said district-wise and category-wise publicity material has been disseminated through travel marts, expos, festivals, melas and yatras, while digital platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and X have also been utilised.

The department also participated in major tourism events, including GITB Jaipur, TTF Ahmedabad, IATO Convention Puri, ITM Jaipur, IITE Madurai, SATTE-2026 New Delhi and ITM Dehradun, besides international events in Paris, London and Singapore.

The Chief Minister said five pilgrimage circuits sanctioned under the Capex Plan 2020-21 are currently under development. These include the Mansar, Shiv Khori, Utterbehni, Purmandal and Sukrala circuits.

He said 29 works are presently under progress under these circuits.

On funding, he informed the House that the approved tourism development budget for Jammu Division increased from Rs 56.50 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 61.15 crore in 2024-25 and further to Rs 62.85 crore in 2025-26.

The Chief Minister also said the Tourism Department has initiated the process of identifying and assessing areas with tourism potential in Khansahib for future development.

Site visits have been conducted to Pushker, Shoplian, Nowgam, Drung, Habber, Banglathri and Palmasidan in consultation with local stakeholders and officials of the Revenue and Forest departments.

He said suitable sites would be considered for future tourism plans subject to feasibility, land availability and fulfilment of statutory and administrative requirements.

The process for identification, demarcation and transfer of state land at Banglathri and along the Zoogu-Sitaharan stretch has already been initiated with the Revenue authorities, he added. (KNO)

Govt examining

that while repeated amnesty schemes could adversely impact the culture of timely bill payment, the Government could consider extending relief to people living below the poverty line and other underprivileged consumers on a case-to-case basis.

“Giving amnesty repeatedly is injustice to those who pay bills on time, and it also encourages consumers not to pay bills and wait for amnesty,” Omar said.

He, however, added that the Government can consider amnesty for poorer sections of society.

The amnesty scheme for domestic consumers concluded on March 31, 2026. In August 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Government had extended the scheme. Under this scheme, domestic consumers were given an opportunity to clear their electricity bills by paying only the principal amount, while the interest accrued up to March 31, 2025 was completely waived. Consumers who paid their principal amount were given a full waiver on interest.

The scheme was applicable to all domestic electricity consumers with pending bills as of March 31, 2025. (KNO)

‘J&K records 5,1000

According to the Minister, the institutes are aimed at providing comprehensive and specialised cancer care, including diagnosis, treatment and allied oncology services.

She said the existing cancer-care facilities are being strengthened periodically through augmentation of infrastructure, equipment, manpower and specialised treatment services, subject to approved norms and availability of resources.

The government, she said, is also committed to ensuring that cancer treatment remains accessible and affordable, particularly for economically weaker and vulnerable sections of

society.

Itoo said eligible cancer patients are being provided cashless or free treatment, wherever applicable, under the Ayushman Bharat scheme at empanelled government and private health-care institutions.

The coverage includes diagnostic, therapeutic and hospitalisation-related services falling under the approved treatment packages, subject to eligibility conditions and applicable scheme guidelines.

She further informed the Assembly that poor and needy cancer patients requiring additional financial assistance can receive support under the Cancer Treatment and Management Fund for Poor (CTMFP), subject to prescribed eligibility criteria, guidelines and availability of funds.

“These measures are aimed at facilitating timely access to appropriate cancer treatment and reducing the financial burden on eligible patients and their families,” the Minister said. (KNO)

Power tariff hike

compared to Rs 1,238.07 crore in 2024-25.

During 2026-27 up to August, the revenue stood at Rs 547.79 crore, including Rs 383.08 crore from metered consumers and Rs 164.71 crore from flat-rate consumers.

The government further said the scheme providing 200 units of free electricity to eligible AAY households is being implemented through a RESCO-based rooftop solar scheme under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. The tendering process is under evaluation, and eligible households will start receiving the benefit after commissioning of the rooftop solar systems. (KNO)

‘J&K has one health

cashless treatment to eligible beneficiaries.

On manpower shortages in Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres in the constituency, the department said recruitment is underway to address vacancies and strengthen healthcare delivery, particularly in underserved areas.

It said it has received the selection list of 416 Medical Officers, of whom 335 have already been issued appointment orders. The officers are expected to be posted shortly, with priority to peripheral, far-flung and underserved health institutions facing acute staff shortages, subject to availability of sanctioned posts and administrative requirements.

The department further said 1,567 non-gazetted posts have been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for recruitment.

“On completion of the selection process, the selected staff shall be deployed, inter alia, to underserved areas and institutions with manpower deficiencies,” it said.

Posts in the gazetted category have also been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC), and vacancies will be filled once recommendations are received from the commission.

The department said existing facilities will continue to be strengthened in accordance with Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS)-2022 norms. It added that resources would be rationalised for equitable distribution and optimal utilisation, while e-Sanjeevani and telemedicine services would be expanded through a hub-and-spoke model.

On deputation of Medical Officers, the department said no Medical Officer is currently on deputation or attachment to any other hospital or the Divisional Commissioner’s Office.

It said Medical Officer Sajad Rouf had been deputed to the Divisional Commissioner’s Office in November 2025 for winter-related operations and the establishment of a 24x7 divisional-level control room at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), but has since rejoined his original place of posting.

“In view of there being no deputation/attachment of Medical Officers at present, the question of repatriation does not arise,” the department added. (KNO)

Prez Murmu urges actors against endorsing harmful health products 'True star spreads light, not darkness'

PTI

Ekta Nagar (Gujarat), Sep 22: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday urged popular film artists not to endorse products harmful to people's health, saying a "true star" spreads light, not darkness, highlighting the impact of words and actions of celebrities on young minds.

Murmu distributed the 72nd National Film Awards for 2024 in various categories of cinema at Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), near the Statue of Unity, in a glittering ceremony attended by top talents of the film industry.

"When successful artists speak about the benefits of a disciplined lifestyle, millions of children and young people emulate them. I urge popular artists not to endorse products that are harmful to people's health. A true star is the one who spreads light, not darkness," Murmu said.

The President also called for greater participation of women on juries selecting films for the National Film Awards.

"I would like to see women's participation ensured in every regional jury," she said, noting that many women had received awards at the ceremony.

She said women should also be represented on the juries, noting that "incorporating the female perspective in any field makes it possible to form a holistic human outlook".

She appealed to the film industry



to ensure respect and social security for workers, small-scale artists, assistants and others who contribute to the creative economy while struggling to make their mark.

"Please ensure that the workers, small-scale artists, assistants, and those struggling to make their mark, who contribute to this economy, receive both respect and social security," President Murmu added.

Murmu recalled that at the previous National Film Awards ceremony, she had urged the industry to make respect and sensitivity towards every member of the film crew an integral part of its work culture.

"I hope you are paying heed to these requests," she said.

Describing film artists as key representatives of the creative economy, the President said highly popular artists possessed immense potential to influence

citizens, especially the youth.

She also praised the quality of films being produced in the country, saying it strengthened her conviction that Indian films would set world-class benchmarks for quality.

"Learning about the quality films being produced in the country strengthens my conviction that our films will set world-class benchmarks for quality. I wish you all and the film industry a golden future," Murmu said.

Veteran Kannada actor Anant Nag received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award, the highest honour in cinema. Yami Gautam, Mammootty and Kartik Aaryan were conferred with awards for best actors in male and female categories.

Hindi feature film 'Article 370', directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale, received the Best Feature Film award.

Review of govt work, future plans, identifying next set of reforms key focus at 'Chintan Shivir'

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 22: A two-day 'Chintan Shivir' of Union ministers will begin on Wednesday, where key focus will be on stocktaking as well as future planning and reviewing the work underway across the government and identifying the next set of ideas and reforms.

Official sources said the brainstorming session on September 23 and 24 will be held at 'Seva Teerth', which houses the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and will be attended by the entire Council of Ministers.

The conclave, to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will focus on stocktaking as well as future planning and reviewing the work underway across the government and identifying the next set of ideas, reforms and priorities towards a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) @2047.

The 'Viksit Bharat' exercise has been underway since 2021. Ten sectoral groups of secretaries were constituted to prepare the 'Vision@2047' and its short-term and long-term roadmap.

Vast stakeholder consultation was also done for this exercise, sources said.

Since then, there have been eight presentations and discussions before the Council of Ministers on different aspects of 'Viksit Bharat@2047'.

The present 'Chintan Shivir' takes this process forward, they said. It brings together the work being done by groups of secretaries, ministries and departments, Cabinet secretariat and NITI Aayog, including reforms, ease of living, reduction of compliances and other governance priorities.

Sources said this is not an isolated 'Chintan Shivir' as after the two rounds of discussions on September 23 and 24, further rounds will also be lined up in the coming days.

The conclave is expected to discuss the



progress of government schemes, policy implementation, time management, inter-ministerial coordination and public service delivery among others.

About half-a-dozen groups comprising eight ministers each were constituted to brainstorm on issues like time-bound implementation of programmes and other governance issues.

These groups have already held a number of meetings where they discussed the presentations to be made at the conclave.

Some ministers are likely to make presentations on policies and measures undertaken by their respective ministries to advance reforms in various sectors, the sources said.

The prime minister has been emphasising reforms in different aspects of government and had told his Cabinet colleagues in the past that addressing people's problems and ensuring ease of living should be the prime objectives of the government.

These issues are expected to figure

in discussions during the meeting, the sources said.

The presentations of the ministers may focus on ways to make the policy-making process more effective and impactful.

A similar exercise was conducted on October 21, 2021. At that time, deliberations focused on governance and policymaking and this exercise is aimed at helping ministers better understand the issues being faced by the government.

This is being seen as taking stock of governance, improving coordination among ministries and preparing the government's future agenda.

In the recent past, several directions were issued to ministers and ministries, including to have live dashboards of ministries' activities, review progress and hold interactions with all staff to get feedback and ideas.

Earlier this month, the prime minister had asked all ministers to work on making official websites of ministries and departments more user-friendly.

Water security will lead to Jan Suraksha, Rashtra Suraksha: VP



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 22: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Tuesday stressed the need for judicious use and conservation of water, saying an integrated approach involving river-basin management, groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting and efficient irrigation is crucial amid growing challenges posed by climate change, urbanisation and population growth.

"Jal Suraksha will lead to Jan Suraksha and Rashttra Suraksha (water security will lead to people's security and national security)," Radhakrishnan said, calling for water resources to be conserved, stored, managed and used wisely not only for present needs but also for future generations.

Radhakrishnan was addressing the inaugural session of the ninth India International Water Week (IIWW) at Bharat Mandapam here.

The event, being organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with key central ministries, state governments, international organisations, research and academic institutions, industry bodies, development partners, civil society and private sector partners, is being held from September 22 to 26.

The Vice President said India has 2.4 per cent of the world's land area, while 18 per cent of the global population lives in the country, which has only about four per cent of the world's freshwater resources.

"The problems surrounding water have become more complex because of issues such as climate change, rapid urbanisation and population growth," he said.

Radhakrishnan said disputes among states over water sharing remain a major issue even as some parts of the country face drought-like conditions while others experience floods.

He said 10 inter-state memoranda of understanding have been

signed for water sharing under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing the Ken-Betwa and Kishau projects as examples of such cooperation.

"Six states, that is Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, and UP. All of them signed a memorandum of understanding to share the waters," he said.

Describing it as a major achievement of the Jal Shakti Ministry, he said, "Even two states are not coming into an understanding; you are bringing six states into an understanding. That is a great achievement."

Radhakrishnan said water scarcity could become a major source of conflict as population and urbanisation increase.

"Every intellectual in the whole world now they are telling, if the Third World War comes, that may be coming for water only," he said.

Radhakrishnan said efficient and sustainable water management will be critical as India moves towards becoming a developed economy by 2047.

He expressed confidence that the deliberations at IIWW 2026 will generate innovative technological, political, socio-economic and environmental approaches for climate-resilient integrated water management.

The five-day event, themed "Climate Resilient Water Management", brings together policymakers, global water leaders, experts, researchers, practitioners, industry, civil society and young professionals.

The Netherlands and Germany are participating as partner countries, while 14 states are participating as partner states. The programme features ministerial, global water leaders', country, practitioners' and thematic forums, besides startup, youth and industrial forums.

The second International WASH Conference is also being held alongside IIWW from September 22 to 24.

Eagerly awaiting induction of LCA Mk-1A fighter jet: IAF Vice Chief

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 22: In the backdrop of slippage in the delivery schedule for the LCA Mk-1A variant of fighter jet, Vice Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, on Tuesday said that engines have been installed on the aircraft and proper and thorough testing is being done before the aircraft gets inducted.

In response to a query at a briefing on the upcoming multilateral air exercise Tarang Shakti, he said the Indian Air Force (IAF) too is "eagerly awaiting the induction of LCA Mk-1A".

The vice chief was asked the status of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A. "The HAL has clarified that in the beginning, the delay was from the engine side... We could not get enough engines. Now we have got the engines, and installed them on the aircraft. We are doing proper and thorough testing before the aircraft is inducted," the air marshal said.

"Two or three parts are left to be proven and I think in a month or two, we should be able to overcome that technical issue. Thereafter, the road is clear for the aircraft to be inducted," he said. However, he did not specify the number of aircraft on which engines have been installed, or the expected timeline of delivery. The slippage in the delivery schedule of the LCA Mk-1A variant had become a major issue with



Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, earlier raising the matter publicly. At an event hosted recently by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) in Bengaluru, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged delays in defence technology projects, saying they need to be taken seriously as they can create gaps in crucial defence requirements and lead to cost escalation.

"There are some issues on which we need to work. One very important issue is that of delays. For various reasons, including technological, many of our technical projects that are underway also face delays. We will have to take these delays seriously," Singh had said.

The Cabinet Committee on Security under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved the

procurement of 73 LCA Tejas Mk-1A fighter aircraft and 10 LCA Tejas Mk-1 trainer aircraft at a cost of Rs 45,696 crore along with design and development and infrastructure sanctions worth Rs 1,202 crore on January 13, 2021. The contract is valued at close to Rs 48,000 crore. The LCA Mk-1A variant is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state-of-the-art modern 4+ generation fighter aircraft.

It is equipped with critical operational capabilities, including active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar, beyond visual range (BVR) missile, electronic warfare (EW) suite and air-to-air refuelling (AAR), making it a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the IAF, the defence ministry said earlier.

Bombay HC warns Vijay Mallya against sharing court documents on social media

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 22: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday issued a warning to businessman Vijay Mallya, accused of money laundering, against posting court documents on social media while his case was pending.

Justice Milind Jadhav was informed by Enforcement Directorate (ED) lawyer Ashish Mehta that Mallya shared the agency's affidavit in response to his petition before the HC on his social media accounts even before it was submitted to the court.

The ED filed the affidavit on September 8 and served it to Mallya's legal team the same day. The case was to be heard on September 9, advocate Mehta told the court.

But the former liquor baron uploaded the affidavit on his social media accounts the same evening, the ED lawyer said. Justice Jadhav asked senior advocate Amit Desai, appearing for Mallya, to warn his client not to do so in future.



"This is not good conduct. This is serious. Please warn him (Mallya) against doing so in future. Whatever he wants to submit he can do so in court," the court said. Mallya filed the petition in 2020 seeking a closure of the criminal cases registered against him, claiming that the dispute with the banks was settled after they recovered their dues.

In its reply, the ED said the businessman continued to evade the process of law in India, and mere recovery of assets did not absolve him from money laundering charges. The HC on Tuesday adjourned the hearing to October 13 while directing the State Bank of India

(SBI) to file its affidavit-in-reply.

According to the ED affidavit, movable and immovable properties worth Rs 14,131.6 crore (as of August 2021) were handed over to the SBI-led consortium of lender banks.

But this recovery by itself does not cancel or lead to the dropping of the money laundering charges against Mallya who left India in March 2016, the central agency told the HC.

In November 2016, the businessman was declared a proclaimed offender.

Mallya is accused of money laundering and siphoning off at least Rs 3,500 crore out of the total Rs 9,000 crore of bank loans granted to his defunct Kingfisher Airlines. The ED attached his properties in 2016. In 2019, a special court permitted SBI and other lenders to use these movable properties for debt recovery. The assets included United Breweries Holdings Ltd (UBHL) shares.

Mallya challenged this before the High Court in 2020.

Walnut Advertisers marks nine years of creative excellence in Kashmir



ADVERTISING PRINTING EVENTS

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 22: Walnut Advertisers, one of Kashmir's leading advertising and branding agencies, has completed nine successful years in the advertising, branding, and printing industry — a milestone that reflects nearly a decade of creative work, client trust, and consistent quality.

The management expressed heartfelt gratitude to its corporate clients, local businesses, institutions, individual customers, associates, and well-wishers whose continued confidence has been the driving force behind the company's growth.

"This anniversary is not only a celebration of our journey but also a recognition of the trust reposed in us by our clients and business partners. Every project we have undertaken has been a testament to our commitment to quality, creativity, and customer satisfaction," the management said.

Over the past nine years, Walnut Advertisers has grown from a focused advertising outfit into a full-spectrum creative and printing solutions provider. Its services today span advertising campaigns, brand identity development, digital and offset printing, signage, promotional campaigns, wedding stationery, and customised business solutions — all delivered with a sharp eye for detail and a deep understanding of local market needs.

The company proudly serves clients across Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh, offering end-to-end creative and printing services tailored to diverse industries and individual requirements.

As it steps into its tenth year, Walnut Advertisers reaffirms its commitment to innovation, modern technology, and exceptional client service. The management said the company will continue to invest in upgrading its capabilities, expanding its offerings, and building lasting relationships with clients across the region.

"We are grateful to every client, partner, and well-wisher who has been part of this journey. As we enter our tenth year, we look forward to raising the bar further and continuing to deliver solutions that make our clients' brands stand out," the management added.

Walnut Advertisers invites businesses and individuals across the region to experience its services and be a part of its next chapter of growth.

AP

Zelenskyy also wants help to ensure the flow of Ukrainian grain and other farm products to world markets through the Black Sea. Russian attacks on cargo vessels have severely disrupted Kyiv's exports, hurting its economy and threatening



French President Emmanuel

Zelenskyy said on social media that he briefed senators on his

One person was killed and four others were wounded in the Samara attack, regional Governor Vyacheslav Fedorishchev said. He said that "the enemy targeted industrial facilities," but didn't specify which ones.

KT News Desk

The District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffer Haider Sheikh, apprised the Chair of the proposals formulated by the department. Under the infrastructure component, the Department has proposed Multipurpose Indoor Stadium for Paddar, Chatroo, Kishtwar, Bunjwah, Trigam, Marwah, Warwan, Dachan and Thakraire; installation of LED lights for night sports activities at Gulabgarh Paddar and Chowgan Ground; Open Stadium for Cricket, Volleyball, Football, Kabaddi and Athletics; Swimming Pool at Chatroo; Synthetic Volleyball Courts, Dungal Grounds and Gymnasium Halls in all 13 Blocks and Construction of Youth Hostel at Trigam (Gali Ghar).

KT News Desk

While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner called upon the Department of Youth Services and Sports to ensure opportunities for girls in sports are at par with those available to boys. He emphasized the importance of encouraging greater participation of girls in various sporting disciplines and creating a supportive environment for their overall development. The DC also advised the girls

The tournament shall witness participation from 16 teams of 8 districts of Kashmir Division providing young girl athletes a much needed platform to showcase their talent and sporting skills.

PTI

In the end, the sizeable expat turnout gave a standing ovation to the Japanese team whose players came up to click selfies

For Japan skipper Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming, the very idea that they nearly pulled off a 'Mission Impossible' was worth savouring but one that will

However, with eight runs required off the final over, Axar's (2-0-7-0) experience of playing 150-plus IPL games came in handy as he didn't give any room to Shirai Patmore and Benjamin Ito-Davis to chance their arms.

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SRINAGAR

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BRIGHTER
DAYS

MOVIES

SCHEDULE

23

SEPTEMBER
2026

WEDNESDAY

GREAT
FILMS
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS

SAME
SCREEN
MORE
EMOTIONS

VIBE (A)

HINDI

11:00 AM
04:50 PM

DAAYRA (A)

HINDI

01:55 PM

**MIRZAPUR:
THE MOVIE (A)**

HINDI ATMOS

11:05 AM

02:55 PM

06:45 PM

HINDI

01:25 PM

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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