

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 killed, 3 injured in road accident

Jammu, Sep 11: Two persons were killed and three others injured in a road accident in the Sarthal area of Bani tehsil in Kathua district on Friday.

An official said that the accident occurred in Sarthal when a vehicle carrying five persons was involved in an accident. Two occupants were killed, while three others sustained injuries.

The injured were shifted to Bani Hospital for treatment. Their condition was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh said he spoke to Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh

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Pakistan intruder along IB in Kathua

Jammu, Sept 11: A Pakistani intruder was arrested by security forces in a forward area along the International Border in Kathua district on Friday, officials said.

They said the intruder was caught near the fencing in the Bobiya area of Hiranagar sector.

According to reliable sources, the arrested person is a Pakistani national aged around 60-65 years.

Sources said the intruder was taken into custody for questioning, while further details regarding his identity, circumstances of border crossing and the purpose of his presence in the area are awaited.

ACB arrests Patwari for accepting Rs 10,000 bribe

Srinagar, Sep 11: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said it trapped and arrested a Patwari after he was allegedly caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a Rs 10,000 bribe for issuing a revenue extract (Fard) in the Waterrehal area of Budgam district.

In a statement issued, a Spokesperson said the ACB received a written complaint alleging that a Patwari, namely Bashir

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Former MLC Asgar Ali returns to PDP

Srinagar, Sep 11: Former MLC and senior political leader from Kishtwar, Syed Asgar Ali, rejoined the People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday.

Ali, who is also a former IAS officer, joined the PDP in the presence of its president Mehbooba Mufti, a party spokesperson said.

Ali was associated with the PDP before joining the National Conference in 2019.

The PDP spokesperson said Ali's joining is a strong political statement and a major boost to the PDP's organisation in the Chenab Valley, further

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Bear mauls man in apple orchard

Srinagar, Sep 11: A 40-year-old man was injured after being attacked by a wild bear in an apple orchard in the Sedow area of Shopian district on Friday.

An official said that the man was attacked by the wild animal in the apple orchard at Sedow, Shopian. He said the man was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Shopian for treatment. He was identified as Sadiq Ahmad Thokar (40), son of Abdul Rahman, a resident of Sedow. Meanwhile, cognisance of the incident has been taken.

DGP reviews border protection grid

Jammu, Sep 11: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabbhat on Friday chaired a high-level security meeting here to review the border protection grid along the International Border and Line of Control in the Jammu region, officials said.

The meeting reviewed the security arrangements and coordination among the forces deployed along the border to prevent infiltration of terrorists from across the border, they said.

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BRICS 2026: India's big diplomatic test begins in New Delhi



SUARGAM NEWS DESK

New Delhi, Sep 11: New Delhi is poised to become the diplomatic centre of gravity of the Global South on September 12 and 13 as India hosts the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, bringing together the leaders of an expanded grouping at a

moment when geopolitical rivalries, trade wars, armed conflicts and uncertainty over the future of the global economic order are redrawing the map of international relations.

For Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian government, however, BRICS 2026 is about far more than the ceremonial culmi-

nation of a year-long presidency. It is a test of whether India's carefully calibrated foreign-policy propositions - strategic autonomy, a stronger voice for the Global South and practical multilateralism - can be converted into tangible diplomatic, economic and technological

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BRICS Summit: Iranian President Pezeshkian arrives in New Delhi

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

New Delhi, Sept 11: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in New Delhi on Friday to attend the 18th BRICS Summit and is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi later in the day.

Ahead of his departure from Tehran, Pezeshkian underlined the importance of the BRICS platform and said the grouping could play a role in countering unilateralism and reducing dependence on dominant global financial systems.

"The goal of BRICS is to confront unilateralism, and the slogan of the current summit is also within this framework, and we hope to get closer to this goal



day by day. Of course, we know that economic issues are complex and we need new approaches to reduce totalitarianism and unilateralism in the world," the

Iranian President said. According to Iran's state news agency ISNA, Pezeshkian said the summit would

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Shops demolished in Jammu's Satwari for highway expansion work; traders seek rehabilitation



SUARGAM NEWS DESK

Jammu, Sep 11: Over a dozen shops were demolished by the administration on Friday as part of

highway expansion work in Jammu city, triggering resentment among shopkeepers who sought immediate rehabilitation.

Men and machinery of

the administration carried out the demolition drive for the second day in the Satwari-Nai Basti area amid heavy security deployment, officials said.

The drive was undertaken after shopkeepers and other occupants vacated the premises following notices issued by the authorities, they said.

Nearly 20 shops were demolished in the Satwari area on Thursday, while 13 shops were demolished on Friday, according to locals.

Officials said the shopkeepers had been served notices several times and were informed two days ago to remove their belongings before the demolition. The power supply to the structures was also disconnected on Wednesday, they said.

However, Suresh Kumar, a shopkeeper, alleged that the administration

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BRICS Bharat Innovates Expo Opens in Delhi



SUARGAM NEWS DESK / KULBHUSHAN SINGH

New Delhi, Sept 11: The Union Ministry of Education, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, is organizing 'Bharat Innovates Exposition' on 11-12 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi to showcase India's Deep-Tech innova-

tions as a lead up to and alongside the 18th BRICS Summit 2026, to be held on 12th and 13th September 2026 under India's BRICS Chairmanship.

Bharat Innovates is a national programme of the Union Ministry of Education. It is designed as a global accelerator for innovations from the Indian Higher Education Ecosystem - building a long-term collaboration between India's innovation ecosystem (startups, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), labs and research parks) and global stakeholders (corporates, investors, incubators/accelerators, universities, research institutes, governments and

overseas alumni).

The BRICS Bharat Innovates (BBI) Exposition at the Bharat Mandapam marks the second major exposition of India's Deep-Tech startups in 2026 after the maiden edition of Bharat Innovates that was held in Nice, France from 14-16 June 2026.

BBI is showcasing 37 India's Deep-Tech startups/ventures (out of the original cohort of 120 startups/ventures that participated in BI2026, Nice), aligning with the theme of India's BRICS Chairmanship, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

The Exposition is being held alongside

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Artisan's IFFJK Show creates buzz, capture attention of tourists, locals

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: Riding high on the success of its acclaimed 'Know Your Artisan' series, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, successfully organised its September edition on the sidelines of J&K's 1st International Film Festival at SK Park, Srinagar.

Focused on showcasing Kashmir's high-value GI-tagged and languishing crafts, the Department presented a vibrant blend of art, craft and heritage, drawing an overwhelming



response from tourists, art aficionados, students and the general public.

In a press statement today, a spokesperson of the department stated

that as many as 26 stalls were installed showcasing unique handcrafted creations, visitors to interact directly with

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NC-led Govt unlikely to go for cabinet reshuffle

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

Jammu, Sep 11: The National Conference-led Government is unlikely to go for an expansion-cum-reshuffle in the council of ministers for the time being, sources said.

Sources said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah would not immediately effect the expansion in his cabinet. "There are no chances of cabinet expansion this month. The exercise will not be taken up given that the autumn session of the J&K Assembly is now just 10 days away," they said.

The autumn session will begin on September 21 and conclude on September 30. According to sources,

there is a possibility that the expansion in the council of ministers could take place around the second anniversary of the NC-led government.

The government will complete two years in office on October 16.

It was widely expected that Omar Abdullah would effect a reshuffle-cum-expansion immediately after August 15.

He is also understood to have approached the Congress high command to ascertain whether they would avail a ministry. The Congress high command subsequently discussed the offer of the NC-led government with its J&K-based leaders.

Currently, the

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NHM employees extend 72-hour strike



SUARGAM NEWS DESK

Jammu, Sep 11: The agitation by National Health Mission (NHM) employees continued across Jammu and Kashmir for the third consecutive day on Friday, with the employees deciding to extend their ongoing 72-hour strike by another 72

hours from September 12, citing failure of the government to take concrete and time-bound action on their long-pending demands.

The decision was taken by the Jammu & Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA) UT.

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CS Dulloo reviews framework for UT-level Project Monitoring Group

National PMG presents model for its early establishment

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: Jammu & Kashmir is set to establish a dedicated Project Monitoring Group (JK-PMG) on the lines of the National Project Monitoring Group (NPMG) to ensure high-level monitoring of mega developmental projects and facilitate smooth, coordinated resolution of bottlenecks affecting their execution.

The institutional framework for replicating the



national mechanism in the UT was presented before Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, by representatives of the National PMG. The

proposed system is aimed at strengthening project oversight, improving inter-departmental coordination and ensuring timely inter-

vention in matters involving land acquisition, statutory clearances, construction approvals

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BJP has become India's 'Biggest Liar Party': Dy CM Choudhary

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 11: Calling the BJP India's 'biggest liar party', Jammu and Kashmir deputy chief minister Surinder Choudhary on Friday accused the party of damaging the nation's reputation through falsehoods. J&K news updates

In response to the BJP's claims that development is lacking in Jammu and Kashmir under the elected government, Choudhary stated he would not engage with the "liars."

"What does BJP stand for? 'Bharat Ki Sabse Badi Jhoothi Party' (India's biggest liar party). They contin-



uously tarnish India's name through their lies, so there is no point in responding to their claims," the deputy chief minister told reporters in Srinagar.

Choudhary, who joined the

National Conference in 2023 after leaving the BJP, urged the media to ask BJP MLA and Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma about the number of IPS and IAS officers from Jammu and Kashmir who have been posted outside the region.

"Do we not have local IPS officers from Kashmir or Jammu capable of serving as Director General? They have been sent outside. Why does Sunil Sharma remain silent on this? How many IAS officers have they transferred out over the years? Recently, even more IAS officers were reassigned. These individuals are sons of the soil;

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From Page 01

BRICS 2026:

gains. India assumed the BRICS chairmanship on January 1 for the fourth time, following its presidencies in 2012, 2016 and 2021.

The timing is symbolically significant: the summit comes two decades after BRICS emerged as a platform for major emerging economies. But the organisation that arrives in New Delhi in 2026 bears little resemblance to the original Brazil-Russia-India-China grouping. South Africa joined in 2010, while Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia subsequently widened the bloc's geographical and economic reach. With 11 full members and a broader circle of partner countries, BRICS now spans Asia, Africa, the Gulf, Latin America and Eurasia. Its enlarged footprint has increased its economic and political weight - but has also made consensus considerably harder. India's response to that complexity has been to put "Humanity First" at the heart of its presidency, under the overarching theme of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

The formulation reflects New Delhi's attempt to prevent BRICS from being reduced to a geopolitical counterweight to the West and instead position it as a platform capable of delivering practical solutions to the developmental challenges confronting emerging economies. The distinction is central to India's BRICS diplomacy. Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar have repeatedly advocated a more representative and inclusive international order in which developing countries have a greater say in institutions that continue to reflect the power equations of an earlier era. For India, that means pushing for reform of the United Nations and international financial institutions, strengthening development finance, widening access to technology and healthcare, improving food and energy security and giving the Global South a greater role in shaping the rules of the global economy. India's approach is also deliberately different from the more confrontational interpretation of BRICS advanced by some of its members.

New Delhi has little interest in turning the grouping into an explicitly anti-Western alliance or a substitute for the existing international system. It maintains deepening strategic and economic partnerships with the United States and Europe while simultaneously strengthening relations with Russia, China, the Gulf and the wider developing world. For India, therefore, strategic autonomy is less about choosing one camp than preserving the freedom to engage multiple centres of power in pursuit of its national interests.

The arrival of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping in New Delhi will give that balancing act its most visible expression. Modi is scheduled to hold full-format bilateral talks with Putin on September 11, with trade, defence and energy expected to figure prominently. Modi and Xi are scheduled to meet on September 12 on the sidelines of the summit, making their interaction particularly significant against the backdrop of continuing strategic competition between India and China. India is also seeking to maintain engagement with Iran. Modi is scheduled to meet Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on September 11, adding another dimension to New Delhi's diplomacy in a region where India's interests encompass energy security, connectivity and strategic access.

The juxtaposition of these meetings captures the essence of India's BRICS diplomacy: engage partners, competitors and adversaries simultaneously, without allowing membership of one grouping to dictate the entirety of India's external relationships. But if the diplomatic theatre will be closely watched, the economic outcomes could ultimately determine how India's presidency is judged. BRICS economies account for around 26 per cent of global trade, according to estimates cited by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations. For India, the potential spans engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, automobiles and components, electronics, food and agriculture, renewable energy, healthcare and digital services.

FIEO President S C Ralhan has argued that BRICS must "move beyond strategic dialogue to measurable commercial outcomes", with greater emphasis on market access, investment, technology partnerships, resilient supply chains and efficient payment mechanisms. That demand fits neatly into India's larger ambition to emerge as a major manufacturing and sourcing hub as geopolitical tensions force global companies to diversify production and reduce excessive dependence on concentrated supply chains.

India has sought to reinforce that developmental character through a year-long programme involving more than 350 meetings and high-level engagements across more than 25 Indian cities, covering security, trade, finance, technology, energy and cultural cooperation. Yet the New Delhi summit will confront the fundamental contradiction at the heart of an expanded BRICS: the grouping has become more influential precisely as it has become more difficult to manage. Its members do not share a common foreign-policy outlook. Russia and Iran have deeply adversarial relationships with the West, while India maintains expanding strategic and economic partnerships with Washington and European capitals.

China and India remain strategic competitors even as both recognise the value of keeping BRICS relevant. The Gulf members have their own calculations, while Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and other members bring distinctive economic and diplomatic priorities. The divisions were starkly exposed at the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi in May, when disagreements linked to Iran and the UAE prevented the adoption of a joint communique. India instead issued a chair's statement acknowledging the differences. For New Delhi, that episode offered a useful lesson ahead of the leaders' summit: India cannot eliminate strategic rivalries from BRICS, but it can attempt to prevent those rivalries from paralysing the organisation. That will be particularly important because India's own interests require productive relationships with countries that may find themselves on opposite sides of regional disputes.

The success of the summit may therefore depend less on producing the strongest possible rhetoric than on identifying areas where consensus can survive geopolitical disagreement. Supply chains, critical minerals, food security, energy, digital payments, healthcare, disaster resilience, development finance and technology are precisely the areas where practical cooperation can advance even when members disagree on larger strategic questions. Business groups are pressing for such an outcome.

FIEO has called for stronger business-to-business engagement through buyer-seller meetings, investment matchmaking, technology partnerships, joint ventures and regular business delegations. "The real test of BRICS will be whether its benefits reach manufacturers, exporters, startups and MSMEs," Ralhan has said. "Political goodwill has to travel from summit tables to shop floors." That could prove the most revealing measure of India's presidency.

If the New Delhi summit produces mechanisms that make trade easier, investment more predictable, payments more efficient, supply chains more resilient and technology partnerships more accessible, India will have demonstrated that its version of strategic autonomy can generate tangible economic value. If it produces little beyond another declaration of solidarity, the enormous diplomatic spectacle could struggle to match the expectations generated by India's ambitious presidency.

The summit will also serve as a demonstration of India's growing capacity to host complex international gatherings. Bharat Mandapam, which hosted the 2023 G20 Leaders' Summit, will once again become the focal point of global diplomacy. The capital has been placed under an extensive security and traffic-management regime, with more than 15,000 police personnel and 200 paramilitary companies deployed at strategic locations, around 500 additional CCTV cameras installed in the New Delhi district, and extensive traffic restrictions and diversions introduced around key routes and diplomatic locations. Government offices and schools in Delhi have been closed on September 11 as part of the security preparations, while essential services, banks, transit hubs and the Delhi Metro continue to operate.

The logistical exercise is more than a backdrop to the summit. It is part of India's wider effort to present itself as a

capable host of major multilateral diplomacy and as a country increasingly prepared to shape, rather than merely participate in, international rule-making. Two years after the G20 summit placed New Delhi at the centre of global diplomacy, BRICS offers India another platform to articulate its vision of a multipolar world. But the stakes are different. The G20 brought together advanced and emerging economies within a broad framework. BRICS is a more politically charged grouping, with its members seeking greater representation for the developing world while disagreeing sharply over what the next international order should look like. India's challenge is to occupy the space between those competing visions.

New Delhi does not seek to preserve the Western-led order unchanged. Nor does it appear interested in transforming BRICS into a geopolitical bloc defined primarily by opposition to the West. Its proposition is more nuanced: reform global institutions, democratise international decision-making, strengthen the Global South, expand economic cooperation and preserve the strategic freedom of individual countries. It is a difficult balancing act, but it is also where India's particular diplomatic value lies. The presence of Putin and Xi in New Delhi, alongside leaders from Africa, the Gulf, Asia and Latin America, will give Modi an unusually broad diplomatic stage. The bilateral conversations surrounding the summit could prove as consequential for India's interests as the formal BRICS agenda itself, particularly on energy, defence, trade, connectivity and regional security.

The larger question, however, extends beyond the two days at Bharat Mandapam. Twenty years after BRICS first emerged and at a time when the grouping has expanded dramatically, India is attempting to demonstrate that a diverse coalition of emerging powers can remain useful without becoming ideologically uniform; that the Global South can demand a greater voice without turning multilateralism into confrontation; and that strategic autonomy can be converted into economic opportunity.

For India, therefore, BRICS 2026 is not simply a summit to be hosted. It is a test of statecraft. The measure of New Delhi's success will not ultimately be the grandeur of Bharat Mandapam, the number of leaders in the summit photograph or even the strength of the final declaration. It will be whether India's year at the helm leaves behind stronger trade and investment links, more resilient supply chains, deeper technology cooperation, greater development finance and a more credible voice for the Global South. In that sense, the real BRICS summit may begin only after the leaders leave New Delhi.

BRICS Summit:

focus on economic, financial, industrial and trade issues. "Independence, solidarity, sustainability, resistance, and innovation are the slogans of the summit, and economic, financial, industrial, and trade issues will be discussed at this summit," he said.

Pezeshkian also highlighted the financial mechanisms being discussed within the BRICS framework and said greater use of alternatives to the US dollar could facilitate economic interactions among member countries.

"A special bank has been formed within the BRICS framework, and we are going to see investment from countries so that interactions between countries and members can be carried out without dependence on the dollar, thus reducing America's totalitarianism with the dollar," he said.

Pezeshkian said Iran and India share longstanding ties and have scope to expand areas of common interest.

"Our presence at this summit is a good opportunity to meet and discuss with various officials, including those from China, Russia, Brazil, India, and other countries," he said.

During their earlier meeting in Bishkek, Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's support for efforts aimed at achieving long-term peace and stability in the region.

PM Modi had also reaffirmed India's readiness to cooperate closely with Iran in multilateral forums, including BRICS and the SCO, and underlined New Delhi's resolve to "expand and diversify" bilateral trade channels with Tehran.

The Iranian President's visit comes as India hosts the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12 and 13 under its 2026 BRICS Chairship.

India's chairship is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", with development, sustainability and innovation among the key areas of focus.

Shops demolished in

was acting arbitrarily and said the demolition had caused serious hardship to the affected people.

"By acting according to their whims, they are harming business community and sending a wrong message. Our livelihood has been completely destroyed. We want this to end completely," Kumar said.

Another shopkeeper, Arminder Singh, described the situation as "very sad" and said the demolition had severely affected the livelihood of several families.

"No one can compensate for this loss. This is our livelihood. There is no price that can be put on our livelihood," Singh said, appealing to the Lieutenant Governor and the government to ensure justice and rehabilitation for the affected shopkeepers.

"We must be immediately rehabilitated. Alternative shops should be allotted to us to carry out business", he said.

Singh claimed that his shop was 50-60 years old and that he had records pertaining to the establishment.

"We are not sitting here as owners of someone else's illegal land. We have not done anything wrong. We have documents relating to the municipality," he said.

He also questioned the proposed allotment of alternative sites, saying providing allotment letters after demolishing the existing shops would not address the immediate concerns of the affected families.

The shopkeepers appealed to the administration to accommodate and rehabilitate them, saying the demolition had disrupted their daily income and left them "displaced". The demolition is part of the administration's ongoing infrastructure and highway expansion works in Jammu city, officials said.

BRICS Bharat Innovates

BRICS Business Forum on 11 September 2026, providing participating innovators an opportunity to network with CEOs, investors, business leaders and industry representatives from BRICS member countries. This will facilitate opportunities for B2B engagements, technology partnerships, investment discussions, business linkages and international market access. The Exposition also advances the BRICS Education Track priority of "Enhancing Research, Innovation and Start-up Ecosystems", one of the five priority areas identified under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, Union Minister of Education Shri Pralhad Joshi and BRICS leaders are expected to visit the BBI Exposition. Senior Indian and international delegates associated with the BRICS Leaders' engagements as well as CEOs, investors and senior business leaders from BRICS Member Countries are also expected to visit the BBI Exposition on 11-12 September 2026.

For the participating startups/innovators, the BBI Exposition offers a high-profile platform to convert domestic innovation into international commercial and diplomatic outcomes, including, direct access to BRICS CEOs and investors, Head-of-State/Government visibility, B2B meetings and structured matchmaking facilitated in coordination with FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM, and brand and diplomatic credibility.

The maiden edition of Bharat Innovates 2026, was held under the India-France Year of Innovation 2026 and was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of the French Republic H.E. Emmanuel Macron. The three day Event showcased India's top 120 deep-tech startups/ventures in 13 thematic areas and 15 institutes (IITs, IISc, BIRAC & iDex). It saw over 2000 participants from 29 countries.

Over 30 collaboration MoUs and partnerships were forged and Indian startups/ventures, secured funding commitments of US \$ 254.5 million, consequent to 1,350 B2B meetings.

BRICS Bharat Innovates Exposition builds on the Ministry of Education's engagements under India's BRICS Chairship 2026. The Ministry hosted the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting on 7 August 2026, and the 3rd BRICS Senior Officials' Meeting on Education on 5 August 2026 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Education Ministers Meeting concluded with the adoption of the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Declaration, outlining cooperation across five priority areas, including Strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy; Skill Development and TVET; Research, Innovation and Start-up Ecosystems; Mutual Recognition of Qualifications; and Capacity Building for Academic Leadership and Institutional Development.

Artisan's IFFJK Show

master artisans, explore authentic crafts and providing artisans a platform for direct marketing.

The School of Designs, Kashmir, facilitated LIVE craft demonstrations, while a dedicated 'Try Corner' offered hands-on experience in pottery, papier-mâché and needlework. Live music, organised in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, further enhanced the heritage ambience.

Students from various schools and colleges participated enthusiastically, mesmerised by the quality and intricate craftsmanship. They interacted with artisans, witnessed demonstrations and tried their hand at craft-making, gaining first-hand exposure to the skill and precision involved.

A spokesperson said the initiative provided artisans a platform to showcase their skills and connect directly with tourists, buyers, students and the public. "‘Know Your Artisan’ is aimed at creating awareness about the heritage value, authenticity and craftsmanship of Kashmir's traditional crafts while strengthening the artisan-consumer connect," he said.

He said the encouraging response had strengthened the Department's resolve to carry the initiative to prominent tourist-centric and other high-footfall locations, ensuring greater visibility, recognition and market access for artisans.

The Department urged tourists, buyers and craft enthusiasts to support Kashmir's craft maestros by purchasing authentic products and joining the 'Vocal for Local' initiative to help preserve and revive the region's rich craft heritage.

NC-led Govt

strength of the council of ministers in J&K is six. It can have three more ministers, as the J&K Reorganisation Act restricts the strength of the council of ministers to one-tenth of the total strength of MLAs.

BJP has become

can they not be appointed right here in Jammu and Kashmir? Why doesn't Sunil Sharma address this?" he questioned.

Referring to Jammu University, Choudhary said there was a time when Amitabh Mattoo, a Kashmiri Pandit, was its vice-chancellor, but now the varsity's ranking has fallen below private universities.

"I am not saying the current vice-chancellor is not capable. But don't our local professors aspire to become vice-chancellors? In many universities, local academics could serve as VCs, yet they haven't been appointed. Sunil Sharma won't discuss this," the deputy chief minister remarked.

"I don't want to take names, otherwise people will politicise it, but how many senior officers from Kashmir and Jammu are DG/IPS rank? Why aren't they being posted here?" he asked.

Regarding development in the region, he stated that the public is aware of the progress, offering Sharma the opportunity to debate him directly.

"Their strategy is merely hit and run. The BJP in Jammu and Kashmir is a complete failure, a flop show, just like Jaspal Bhatti's 'Flop Show'; they are all talk and no action," Choudhary said.

He urged the public to compare the PMGSY road connectivity achieved under the current administration with that of the previous government.

"Our government was formed in 2024; file an RTI and check how many PMGSY roads were constructed under us compared to what they accomplished in 12 years. Compare the NABARD roads we sanctioned against theirs, and I am currently only discussing the PWD sector," he said.

When asked about Congress' criticism of the National Conference regarding the performance of the full national song at the inauguration of the International Film Festival, Choudhary said an unnecessary controversy has been provoked. (Agencies)

NHM employees extend

Level Coordination Committee, which said the extension was necessary as the issues raised by NHM employees had remained unresolved despite repeated representations, meetings and assurances from the authorities.

According to details, employees associated with different NHM programmes and health services continued their peaceful protest at district, block and field-level establishments across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The protesting workforce includes employees working under various NHM programmes, including the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), who have been seeking a comprehensive policy addressing their remuneration, employment security and social-security concerns.

The Association said thousands of NHM employees have served the public healthcare system under contractual arrangements for nearly 18 years, often performing responsibilities comparable to those of regular employees, but without a clear and sustainable framework governing their long-term service conditions.

Among the major demands are revision and enhancement of salaries and remuneration, a comprehensive policy for job security, retirement benefits and social-security measures, besides resolution of other long-pending service-related issues through a transparent and time-bound mechanism.

The employees are also seeking a dignified and workable retirement benefit or "Golden Handshake" policy for those who complete their service, along with welfare measures that can provide financial protection after retirement.

A protesting employee said the prolonged contractual nature of their employment had created uncertainty among thousands of workers despite their years of service.

"We have served the health sector for years and have performed our duties in hospitals, health centres and at the field level. Our demand is not only about salary enhancement; we want a clear policy that gives us job security, social protection and dignity after years of service," the employee said.

The employees have urged the government to convene a high-level meeting with their representatives and initiate a time-bound process for resolving their demands.

CS Dulloo reviews

and other implementation-related issues.

While speaking the Chief Secretary maintained that we should leverage technology to move from periodic status reporting to real-time, milestone-based project monitoring. He exuded hope that this comprehensive digital platform will enable us to track progress, identify critical gaps and take informed decisions based on reliable data.

He further observed that a clearly defined escalation framework will ensure that issues are addressed at the level where they can be resolved, while matters requiring higher-level

intervention are brought up without unnecessary delay. This will strengthen both administrative responsiveness and project accountability, he appreciated.

The Chief Secretary also impressed upon the National PMG team to undertake additional capacity-building sessions for local stakeholders, ensuring that they are fully conversant with the system, its workflow and the escalation mechanism along with adequately equipping them to take over its operations efficiently here.

Highlighting the significance of this monitoring group the Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R.Alice Vaz revealed that currently the National PMG monitors 61 projects in J&K, involving investments of ₹3.91 lakh crore with 130 active issues currently under review through National PMG portal.

She further added that the proposed JK-PMG would function under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary, with a dedicated team of project experts and a designated administrative department responsible for day-to-day operations and coordination.

The group would monitor identified mega and strategically important projects, track milestones and pending approvals besides facilitating coordination among executing agencies and district administrations, and escalate unresolved issues for appropriate intervention.

The framework envisages a structured review mechanism comprising fortnightly departmental-level reviews by Administrative Secretaries/Heads of Departments, monthly reviews chaired by the Chief Secretary, besides the reviews at the highest government level chaired by the Chief Minister himself for matters requiring such consideration. This graduated arrangement would ensure that project-related issues are examined at the appropriate level and escalated wherever necessary.

It was demonstrated by the team that the proposed JK-PMG would leverage a digitized, cost-free portal with automated reporting and analytical capabilities. Under the envisaged workflow, project proponents would register projects and bottlenecks, sponsoring departments would verify the issues, and the concerned district administration or departments would undertake action for their resolution. Critical unresolved matters would be escalated to higher forums involving the concerned stakeholders for instant resolution of the issues at hand.

Later, the National PMG team conducted a sensitization workshop for officers and officials of the Planning Department and other concerned stakeholders, apprising them of the working, institutional architecture, digital workflow and escalation mechanism of the proposed JK-PMG. The workshop focused on the roles of various stakeholders in identifying, tracking and resolving project-related bottlenecks, while facilitating a common understanding of the operational processes required for its smooth implementation in the UT.

2 killed, 3 injured

Sharma after receiving a phone call from Bani MLA Dalip Singh Parihar, who informed him about the accident.

In a post on X, Singh said, "Just now spoke to DC Kathua, Sh Rajesh Sharma after receiving a phone call from MLA Sh Dalip Singh Parihar informing about a road accident at Sarthal."

He said that of the five passengers travelling in the vehicle, three sustained injuries and were shifted to Bani Hospital, while two unfortunately lost their lives.

Singh said appropriate medical aid was being provided to the injured and expressed condolences to the bereaved families. He added that his office was in constant touch with their district administration.

The deceased and injured are likely residents of Bhaderwah in Doda district. Their identities and further details are awaited.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated necessary proceedings.

ACB arrests Patwari

Ahmad, posted as Patwari Halqa Gund Ali Nayak, Waterrehal, had demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for issuing a Fard (Revenue Extract). He said the complainant, a resident of Gund Ali Nayak, Waterrehal, Tehsil Khanshab, Budgam, had applied online for issuance of the Fard on July 21, 2026, on behalf of his grandfather, who is elderly and unable to pursue the matter himself.

The spokesperson said that after submitting the application, the complainant approached the concerned Patwari to enquire about its status. The Patwari initially informed him that the Revenue Department's online portal was not functioning and asked him to visit after some time.

"On subsequent visits to the Patwari Khana, the Patwari allegedly continued to delay the matter on one pretext or another and ultimately demanded Rs 12,000 as bribe for issuing the Fard. After negotiations, the bribe amount was settled at Rs 10,000. As the complainant was unwilling to pay the bribe, he approached the ACB and lodged a written complaint."

The spokesperson said that, on receipt of the complaint, the ACB conducted verification of the allegations, which prima facie established the demand for illegal gratification. Accordingly, Case FIR No. 14/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up.

"A trap team was constituted to lay a trap. During the trap proceedings, the accused public servant, namely Bashir Ahmad Dar, Patwari Halqa Gund Ali Nayak, Waterrehal, Tehsil Khanshab, Budgam, was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from the complainant." He said the bribe amount was recovered from the possession of the accused in the presence of independent witnesses, and he was taken into custody in accordance with law. Further investigation in the case is going on.

Former MLC Asgar

strengthening the party's footprint and its resolve to represent the aspirations of the people with courage, dignity and conviction.

Along with Ali, provincial secretary, Jammu, of Apni Party, Diljit Singh, and general secretary of the Women's Wing of Apni Party, Sheetal Sharma, also joined the PDP.

Mehbooba warmly welcomed Ali and the other entrants, and also recalled her long association with the former MLC. She expressed confidence that their joining would further strengthen the party's organisation and grassroots presence across Jammu and Kashmir, according to the spokesperson.

The PDP chief said that her party was the only credible political alternative for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, describing its emergence as one of the biggest achievements of the political vision of the late Mufti Mohammad Sayed.

She said the PDP was founded on the principles of peace, reconciliation, dignity and democratic empowerment and would continue to work for the political and socio-economic aspirations of the people.

She expressed hope that the experience and public outreach of the new entrants would further contribute to strengthening the party at the grassroots level and expanding its organisational base across the region.

DGP reviews border

The Border Protection Grid comprises the Army, BSF, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police, while the anti-infiltration obstacle system along the International Border and Line of Control forms a key component of the security arrangements.

"DGP reviewed the Border Protection Grid, with the concerned formations of BSF, CRPF and JKP," the Jammu and Kashmir Police Media Centre said in a post on X.

The meeting was attended by the inspector general of police (Jammu Zone), senior officers of the BSF and CRPF, DIGs of police ranges and SSPs of the border districts, it said.

India today is confident, capable and global force: Bali Bhagat on BRICS Summit

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat said that India's growing role in BRICS reflects the country's remarkable economic and diplomatic transformation and its emergence as a major force in global affairs.

The country that was once being questioned



about its growth potential is now playing a leading role in one of the world's most important groupings of emerging economies."

This is not merely a change in statistics; it is a transformation in India's global standing," Bhagat said.

He said that BRICS has itself evolved into a significant platform representing the aspirations and interests of emerging economies, while India's

growing influence within the grouping reflects its increasing economic strength, diplomatic outreach and strategic importance.

"India today is not merely a participant in global forums. India is increasingly shaping the global conversation and asserting its voice on issues that matter to the developing world," he asserted.

Bhagat said that India's leadership of BRICS and the hosting of the Summit in New Delhi provide another opportunity to showcase the country's growing capabilities and strengthen its engagement with major global economies.

"Those attempting to create a negative narrative around BRICS should first look at the larger picture. The India of 2012 and the India of today tell

two very different stories. From being questioned about its potential, India has moved towards becoming a country whose leadership and voice command global attention," Bhagat said.

He said that this transformation has strengthened India's confidence on the international stage and demonstrated the country's ability to pursue its national interests while contributing meaningfully to global cooperation.

"India's rise is not a matter of political rhetoric; it is visible in the country's growing global influence, expanding partnerships and leadership in multilateral forums. The BRICS journey is another reflection of New India's confidence and its rising stature in the world," Bhagat added.

Faulty Smart Meters, Inflated Bills: Shiv Sena Seeks Probe, Warns of Agitation

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11

Raising serious questions over the smart metering system in Jammu and Kashmir, Manish Sahni, Pradesh Pramukh of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), has alleged that thousands of smart meters have remained faulty for months, while instead of replacing them, consumers are being subjected to inflated and arbitrary electricity bills.

According to a press release issued by the party's Pradesh Madhyavarti Office, Sahni said that as per available information, more than 50,000 smart meters have reportedly remained non-functional for the past 2-3 years. He said the most serious concern was that consumers whose meters were faulty were allegedly being charged some of the highest electricity bills.

basis for such billing, ask-

level and impartial probe

alleged illegal recovery



ing, "When a meter is not recording actual consumption, on what basis are maximum or inflated bills being generated?"

He said the dispute between private companies and the Power Department over the maintenance of smart meters was ultimately being borne by ordinary consumers. Describing the matter as indicative of major financial irregularities and a possible scam, Sahni demanded a high-

into the entire issue.

He demanded a complete audit of excess amounts allegedly recovered from consumers on account of meters remaining faulty for more than three months and sought adjustment of the excess amount, along with interest, in subsequent electricity bills. He also demanded that a special drive be launched to replace all faulty smart meters within one month.

Sahni warned that if the

and economic harassment of consumers was not stopped immediately, Shiv Sena (UBT) would take to the streets and launch protests, gheraos and a shutdown of offices, from the Chief Engineer's office to concerned PDD/JPDCL offices.

Sahni said the objective of smart metering should be to ensure transparent, accountable and consumption-based billing, and not to burden consumers.

Former IAS Officer & Ex-MLC Syed Asgar Ali Joins PDP Along With Apni Party Leaders



SUARGAM NEWS DESK
IRFAN GANI BHAT

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11

FORMER IAS officer and former MLC from Kishtwar, Syed Asgar Ali, joined the People's Democratic Party (PDP) along with Diljit Singh, Provincial Secretary Jammu of Apni Party, and Sheetal Sharma, General Secretary of the Women's Wing of Apni Party, in the presence of PDP President and former Chief Minister Ms Mehbooba Mufti.

Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, Mehbooba Mufti was joined by PDP Parliamentary Board Chairman Abdul Rehman Veeri, General Secretaries Ab Haq Khan, Mohammad Khursheed Aalam and Rajinder Singh Manhas, former Minister Ms Asia Naqash, Women's Wing President Anjum Fazili, MLAs Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, and Rafiq Ahmed Naik, former MLC Peer Mansoor Suharwardy,,Dr Rohit Gupta and other senior party leaders and workers.

On the occasion, Mehbooba Mufti warmly

welcomed Syed Asgar Ali and the other new entrants, recalling her long association with Syed Asgar Ali. She expressed confidence that their joining would further strengthen the party's organisation and grassroots presence across Jammu and Kashmir.

Mehbooba Mufti said that the PDP was the only credible political alternative for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, describing its emergence as one of the biggest achievements of the political vision of the late Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

She said the PDP was founded on the principles of peace, reconciliation, dignity and democratic empowerment and would continue to work for the political and socio-economic aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mehbooba Mufti expressed hope that the experience and public outreach of the new entrants would further contribute to strengthening the party at the grassroots level and expanding its organisational base across the region.

PTTI Vijaypur organises Lecture on 'Art of Inner Happiness'

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11

THE Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI), Vijaypur, organized a comprehensive lecture on the "Art of Inner Happiness" for officers, instructors, staff and trainees of the Institute, with the objective of promoting mental well-being, positivity and a balanced approach to life. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Ranjit Singh Sambyal, IPS, Principal, PTTI Vijaypur. On the occasion, Shri. Raj Kumar Dogra, Spiritual and Motivational Speaker, Swarangan Meditation Charitable Trust, was invited as the resource person to deliver the lecture.

Addressing around 700 maintaining emotional



participants, comprising officers, instructors, staff and BRTC trainees, Shri. Dogra sensitized the participants about various practical approaches and techniques for maintaining inner peace, positivity and happiness in day-to-day life. He highlighted the importance of developing a positive outlook, managing stress effectively and

balance for leading a peaceful and fulfilling life. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ranjit Singh Sambyal, IPS, Principal, PTTI Vijaypur, appreciated the valuable contribution of Shri. Raj Kumar Dogra and emphasized that mental well-being and a positive state of mind are integral to maintaining the physical fitness.

All India Bank Strike Evokes Strong Response; Employees Press for Five-Day Week



SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11

BANKING operations were affected on Friday as bank employees and officers observed the nationwide strike called by the United Forum of Bank

Unions (UFBU) in support of their long-pending demands, prominently the implementation of a Five-Day Work Week in the banking industry.

The strike was described by union representatives as

a strong and successful nationwide action, with employees and officers staying away from work in support of the call. At Jammu, under the Leadership of Mr. Rajesh Mehta AIBOC Secretary Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, employees from different banks and constituent unions participated in the local programme.

Union leaders said bank employees had been forced to resort to strike because their justified demands had remained unresolved despite a formal agreement and repeated assurances. The principal demand

relates to Five-Day Banking, for which an agreement was signed between the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the bank unions in March 2024. More than two and a half years later, the agreed arrangement has still not been implemented, they said.

They pointed out that five-day working has been in force in Central Government offices since 1985 and is also followed in State Government offices, district offices, courts, Income Tax offices, the stock market, the Reserve Bank of India and LIC.

GGM Science College Jammu organises Special NSS camp

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11

The NSS Units of GGM Science College, Jammu commenced a week-long Special NSS Camp with great enthusiasm and active participation from NSS volunteers. The camp aims to inculcate the values of social responsibility, leadership, community service and nation-building among students through a series of educational, cultural and outreach activities.

The camp was inaugurated under the guidance of the worthy Principal, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, who encouraged the volunteers to actively participate in all activities and contribute meaningfully towards society. He emphasized the importance of NSS in shaping responsible citizens and fostering a spirit of selfless service among the youth.

The first day of the camp featured an Orientation and Interactive Session for First Semester Students, aimed at familiarizing the newly admitted students

with the objectives, activities and significance of the National Service Scheme. The students were introduced to the various community outreach programmes undertaken by the NSS Units and were encouraged to participate actively in social service initiatives.

A major highlight of the programme was an enlightening lecture on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) delivered by Mr. Bharat Makotra, Founder, Prithibhaya Vedantarsa Foundation. In his inspiring address, Mr. Makotra highlighted the richness and relevance of India's ancient knowledge traditions in the contemporary world.

He discussed the contributions of Indian philosophy, education, science, mathematics 'and ethical thought in shaping human civilization and urged students to reconnect with India's intellectual and cultural heritage. The session was highly interactive and generated considerable interest among the participants.



Empowering Youth in Life-Saving Skills: GGM Science College Hosts World First Aid Day

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11

Demonstrating an unwavering commitment to community service, humanitarian values and disaster preparedness, the 2 J&K Battalion NCC (Senior Division) in collaboration with the Red Ribbon Club successfully organized a comprehensive celebration and training workshop on World First Aid Day at the prestigious Govt. Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu.

The event was successfully conducted under the visionary guidance and patronage of Principal Prof. Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, whose continuous support for student welfare and institutional

excellence made the work-

for individuals from all



shop possible. The event brought together enthusiastic cadets, faculty member and student volunteers to promote awareness about the life-saving importance of immediate medical intervention during emergencies and disasters. Every year, World First Aid Day serves as a vital platform to advocate for accessible, prompt, and effective first aid training

walks of life. Emergencies—ranging from natural calamities and road accidents to medical crises—strike without warning. In critical moments before professional medical assistance arrives, immediate first aid administered by trained bystanders often serves as the decisive margin between life and death.

Full rendition of Vande Mataram utmost respect of national song: Raman Suri

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Raman Suri today said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's decision to respect the law of the land and support the full rendition of Vande Mataram has rightly set the controversy at rest and sent a clear message down the line that the National Song deserves complete respect as per the law of land. Raman Suri said that, contrary to the stand taken by some legislators in Karnataka, the Chief Minister's decision to uphold the full version of Vande Mataram in Jammu Kashmir is a step that should encourage everyone in government institu-

tions, private organisa-



tions and educational institutions to respect the National Song in its entirety and in accordance with the law.

He also appealed to people not to unnecessarily turn the issue into another political controversy. "When the Chief Minister and former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah showed utmost respect for

the National Song at the International Film Festival Jammu Kashmir (IFFJK), it sent a positive message across society. Rather than politicising the matter, everyone should take inspiration from it and follow the law of the land," Suri said. Taking a dig at the Karnataka government's reported decision to restrict the rendition to only two paragraphs, Suri said that any attempt to deliberately deny or dilute the full recitation of Vande Mataram, where the law requires otherwise, cannot be justified. Such conduct, he said, would amount to disrespecting the National Song and could invite both legal consequences and public ire.

Eleven Eleven Unisex Salon Opens

at Panjtirthi, Jammu
JAMMU: Eleven Eleven Unisex Salon was formally inaugurated at Panjtirthi, opposite Amar Singh Ahata, Jammu, marking the opening of a new grooming and beauty destination in the city.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several prominent personalities from the fields of media, arts, Culture, entertainment and social life. Sohail Kazmi, Editor-in-Chief of Daily Taskeen and Member of the Waqf Board, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Gurmeet Dutta, Working Chairman of the All Digital and Print Media Association, attended as the Guest of Honour.

The event also witnessed the presence of Shahdab Khan, renowned Bollywood actor; Jr Sharma Jackson, choreographer; Romesh Singh, Director of Bhartiya Kala Sangam; Akram Khan, Suksham Guleria, choreographer and ; Parveen Akhter, Mohit ji, Mehran Salaria, owner of Zav Studio, Er Shubham Kotwal, Tabraz Khan, Anam Khan and others.

Mohd Farooq Mughal and Farzana Begum, parents of Abdul Samad IPL star, were also present on the occasion. Large numbers of Friends, Relatives present on the inauguration ceremony.

The inauguration brought together personalities from diverse creative and professional backgrounds, adding significance to the launch of Eleven Eleven Unisex Salon.

Omar Govt, NHAI betrayed Satwari shopkeepers by failing to honour rehabilitation commitments: Manjit Singh

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
JAMMU AND Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) Provincial President and former Minister S. Manjit Singh today led a delegation of senior party leaders to meet the shopkeepers affected by the demolition drive at Satwari-Nai Basti and expressed strong resentment over what he described as the failure of both the J&K Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to honour commitments made to the affected traders before and after the demolition. The delegation interacted with the affected traders, listened to their grievances and assured them that the Apni Party would continue to pursue the matter at every appropriate forum and seek justice, rehabilitation and protection of



protected and that they would be rehabilitated, but once the demolition process was completed, the promised relief and alternative arrangements remained uncertain.

"Both the Omar Abdullah-led government and NHAI are equally responsible for the plight of these uprooted shopkeepers. Commitments were made before and after the demolition, but the affected families have been left to face uncertainty after losing their businesses. This amounts to betraying the trust of people who were assured that their livelihood would be protected," Manjit Singh said.

He said the Apni Party was not opposed to development, road widening or improved highway connectivity, but maintained that development cannot be pursued by destroying livelihoods without ensuring proper and timely rehabilitation. "These shops were not merely structures of brick and mortar. For many families, they were their only source of livelihood and had supported generations. If the government and NHAI had made commitments regarding rehabilitation and alternative accommodation, those commitments must be honoured in letter and spirit," he said.

Poonch Hosts Division-Level Table Tennis Championship

DC Poonch Inaugurates U-14, U-17 and U-19 Boys' and Girls' Competitions at Indoor Stadium

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
THE Inter-District Provincial-Level Table Tennis Competitions for U-14, U-17 and U-19 Boys and Girls commenced today at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Poonch, with enthusiastic participation from young table tennis players representing different districts of the Jammu Division.

The competitions were inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, who interacted with the participating players and extended his best wishes to all the teams. He encouraged the young athletes to compete with discipline, confidence, dedication and true sportsmanship. The championship has brought together promising young table tennis events and creating

meaningful opportunities for young athletes. He highlighted the significance of sports in nurturing discipline, teamwork, confidence, leadership and a positive competitive spirit among youth.

The participating players expressed their enthusiasm and determination to perform their best in the championship.



PIB Jammu Hosts Media Interaction Ahead of Journalists' Exposure Tour to Bhopal and Indore

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
THE PRESS Information Bureau (PIB), Jammu, organised an informative interaction with media representatives in Jammu as part of preparations for the forthcoming journalists' exposure tour to Bhopal and Indore.

The interaction was aimed at briefing participating journalists about the tour and familiarising them with various aspects of professional journalism, including effective interaction with government officials and other stakeholders, news gathering, verification of information, and developing news stories during field visits.

During the session, Director PIB Jammu Neha Jalali, IIS, and Sh. Zakir Malik, IIS, interacted with members of the media fraternity and shared valuable guidance on professional engagement with officials, understanding government initiatives and collecting information from reliable sources. The discussion also focused on the importance of asking relevant questions, maintaining journalistic objectivity,

verifying facts before publication and presenting information accurately and responsibly to the public. The participating journalists were encouraged to make effective use of the exposure tour to understand ground-level developments and broaden their professional perspective. The interaction was attended by Sarfaraz Ahmed Ganai, Editor-in-Chief of Daily Sada-e-Kohistan; Editor of Refugee Message; Correspondents of Daily Excelsior and INS; and other members of the media fraternity. The forthcoming visit to Bhopal and Indore is expected to provide participating journalists with an opportunity.

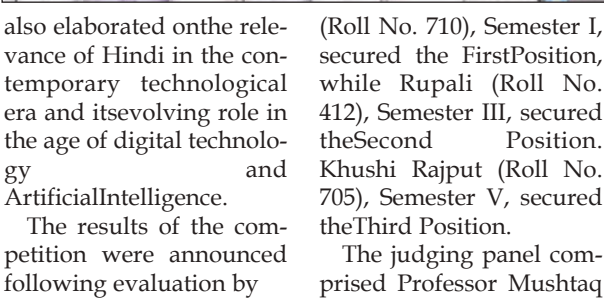
From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence held at GCW Udhampur

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
As part of the ongoing HindiPakhwada-2026, a Hindi Essay Writing Competition was organized at Government College for Women (GCW), Udhampur on Friday. The theme of the competition was "Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence." The students of the college participated in the competition with great enthusiasm and zeal. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Ashish Sharma, Department of Sanskrit, who warmly welcomed the participating students and highlighted the significance of the theme. He

the jury. Nikita Kohli Ahmad, Dr. Umar Bashir (Department of Hindi), and Dr. Ashish Sharma (Department of Sanskrit). The judges played an important role in ensuring a fair and impartial evaluation of the entries. Principal Dr. Nalini Pathania congratulated the winners and appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students. She encouraged them to continue taking an active part in such academic and literary activities.

She also emphasized the need to promote, preserve and expand the use of the Hindi language, particularly in the changing technological landscape.

(Roll No. 710), Semester I, secured the First Position, while Rupali (Roll No. 412), Semester III, secured the Second Position. Khushi Rajput (Roll No. 705), Semester V, secured the Third Position. The judging panel comprised Professor Mushtaq



We Want To Bring Global Educational Expertise to J&K Classrooms: PSA

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11
The Jammu and Kashmir Private Schools Association (PSA) has announced a landmark strategic collaboration with internationally acclaimed Finnish education expert and Director of Finland 2030 x Lifology, Ms. Meike Krautscheid, aimed at transforming the school education ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and creating a more learner-centric, innovative and future-ready environment for students.

The collaboration seeks to draw upon key principles associated with Finland's education system, including child-centred learning, reduced academic stress, creativity, practical education, socio-emotional development and greater emphasis on skills and real-world learning, while adapting these ideas to the local educational and social context of Jammu and Kashmir.

As part of the initiative, Ms. Meike Krautscheid, accompanied by Jammu & Kashmir Private Schools Association (PSA) representatives, undertook extensive visits to various private schools in Kashmir. The visits included interactions with school managements, teachers and students, observation of classroom practices and discussions on existing pedagogical approaches and the challenges confronting the education sector.

The collaboration was also discussed in the presence of Nafisa Barodawala, Apex Training Educator and Soft Skills Trainer; PSA State President Bilal Ahmad Bhat; PSA Director Media & Communications Dr. Owais Mattoo; PRO B.A. Shah and other stakeholders.

IDRS Sidhra Jammu Students Visit IIM Jammu for Academic Exposure & Campus Tour

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
THE STATE-of-the-art campus of the Indian Institute of Management Jammu welcomed 40 students from Classes VI to IX of IDRS Sidhra, Jammu, for an engaging academic exposure and campus visit on September 11, 2026. The visit provided the young learners with an opportunity to experience the vibrant academic ecosystem of IIM Jammu and gain insights into the journey and growth of one of India's premier management institutions.

The students explored the campus and were introduced to its academic and institutional facilities, students with meaningful



gaining a closer understanding of management education, campus life and the opportunities available at a premier institution. The visit aimed to inspire curiosity, encourage academic aspirations and provide the

Congress reacts strongly to US adm insult to Indians as "Mr Singh" get off our roads

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
JKPCC has strongly reacted and condemned the US department of Home Security insulting Indians especially Sikh community by an objectionable post threatening them to "get off our roads".

Reacting strongly to the insulting official post of Dinald Trump administration in US threatening Indian especially sikh community, during Modi regime in our country who boosted to be friend of Trump, JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma ques-

tioned BJP and Modi government for this kind of behavior by 'Trump Sarkaar'.

He said country has not forgotten the Modi government's campaign for Trump by slogans like, "Abki Baar, Trump Sarkaar", "Namaste Trump", the Congress questioned was it for this insulting treatment to Indians.

Nation also remembers the worst insult and treatment to Indians by Trump government when Indians were repatriated & returned in Chains and handcuffed in US army planes.

DC Poonch Reviews Telecom Connectivity, Tower Installation and Network Infrastructure

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
POONCH, SEPTEMBER 11
DEPUTY Commissioner Poonch, Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma, today chaired the monthly meeting of the District Telecom Committee (DTC) at the Conference Hall of the DC Office, Poonch, to review the status of telecommunication services and issues related to network connectivity and installation of mobile towers in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch Sh. Tahir Mustafa Malik, along with senior district officers including the Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B), PMGSY and JPDCL, Chief Medical



Officer Poonch, District and representatives of Committee discussed the identification of suitable locations for installation of new telecommunication towers, improvement of network connectivity in uncovered and poorly connected areas, and issues concerning telecom infrastructure and services across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers and telecom service providers to coordinate closely and expedite the identification of suitable sites and installation of telecom towers, particularly in areas facing poor or inadequate network connectivity.

During the meeting, the

Historic 'Keran Mela 2026' Begins Along LoC to Promote Border Tourism and Youth Empowerment

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
AADIL AKBAR
KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 11
THE much-awaited Keran Mela 2026 commenced in the picturesque border village of Keran in Kupwara district, with the Indian Army and District Administration Kupwara jointly organising the three-week-long mega festival from September 6 to 27. The landmark event aims to showcase the breathtaking natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and unique border identity of the Keran Valley while promoting socio-economic development through border tourism, local entrepreneurship and homestay initiatives.

The inauguration was



attended by civil and military officials, local residents, youth and visitors. Speaking on the occasion, officials highlighted the event as a reflection of the growing synergy between the armed forces, civil administration and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Situated along the Line of Control (LoC), Keran is renowned for its scenic landscapes, the Kishanganga River and its distinctive border setting. The presence of the national flags of India and Pakistan on opposite sides of the LoC adds to the uniqueness of the destination and offers visitors a memorable experience.

The Keran Mela 2026 features a wide range of sporting and cultural activities aimed at engaging local youth and promoting the region as an emerging tourism destination.

Sporting events include cricket and volleyball tournaments, athletics competitions, tug-of-war contests and a 'Run for Fun'.

The cultural segment of the festival includes live instrumental music, traditional dances and other artistic performances, providing a platform for local talent while highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

Congress will intensify fight over burning issues confronting people of J&K: Dr Manohar



SUARGAM NEWS DESK
BILLAWAR SEPTEMBER 11
SENIOR Congress leader and former Minister Dr Manohar Lal Sharma today said that the Congress would continue to raise the voice of the common people and intensify its struggle against the issues confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those living in rural, hilly and far-flung areas and Chanda Chori at the Ram Temple.

Addressing his monthly public meeting at Six Acres Farm, Mandli, in Billawar Constituency, Dr Sharma said that people across Jammu and Kashmir are facing a number of pressing issues relating to electricity, employment, roads, healthcare, education, agriculture, sanitation, inflation and inadequate basic infrastructure. He said the Congress would continue to highlight these concerns and seek concrete, time-bound solutions from the government.

The meeting was attended by District President Congress Kathua Pankaj Dogra, Th. Buddha Singh, senior District Vice President Romesh Verma, Sarpanch Karan Singh, senior Congress leader Romal Singh, former Sarpanch Satpaul and a large number of party leaders, workers and residents from different areas of the constituency.

A significant feature of the meeting was the joining of several prominent persons into the Congress fold under the leadership of Dr Manohar Lal Sharma. Welcoming the new entrants, Dr Sharma said their decision to associate with the Congress reflected growing public confidence in the party's policies and its commitment to democratic values, inclusive development and people's rights.

He said that the Congress has historically remained connected with the grassroots and would continue to provide a platform to people irrespective of their region, background or social status.

Dr Sharma also raised concern over the reported Chanda Chori (donation collection-related issue) at the Ram Temple, saying that matters concerning religious places and public donations must be handled with complete transparency and accountability.

SKUAST-Jammu's Krishi Branding Centre concludes Three-Days' Training Programme

JAMMU: The Krishi Branding Centre (KBC), SKUAST-J ABI Foundation, successfully concluded a three-days' training programme entitled "Building Agribusiness Value: Transforming Farms into Fortune through Branding & Packaging", organized from 9th to 11th September 2026 under HADP Project No. 04 - "Strengthening Agricultural Marketing in the Union Territory of J&K". The programme was organized under the able guidance of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, and the leadership of Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, Director, SKUAST-J ABI Foundation and Principal Investigator, Krishi Branding Centre.

The training programme brought together participants from various RBShs, Chairmen of various FPOs, FPO

members and progressive farmer-entrepreneurs with the objective of strengthening their understanding of branding, packaging, value addition and market-oriented agribusiness development.

The key objectives of the programme included enabling farmers, FPOs and agribusinesses to develop distinct, attractive and market-oriented brand identities; creating awareness regarding Intellectual Property Rights like trademark registration, AGMARK, FSSAI etc for safeguarding their respective brands, enhancing understanding of product documentation, demand assessment and supply management for expanding market access, particularly through tourist destinations, supermarkets.

Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Jammu Achieves Continued NABL Accreditation; Analytical Capacity Enhanced to 59 Formulations

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
THE PESTICIDE Testing Laboratory (PTL), Jammu, has achieved another significant milestone by securing continued accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) under ISO/IEC 17025:2017, valid up to 20th September, 2029.

pesticide formulations, achieved for the first time Shri Roshan Lal Bhagat,



The continued accreditation is a recognition of the Laboratory's sustained commitment to maintaining high standards of quality, technical competence, reliable analytical testing and continual improvement in its services. A major achievement accompanying the continued accreditation is the substantial expansion of the Laboratory's analytical capabilities. The Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Jammu, is now equipped to undertake testing of 59

covering a wider range of formulations used in the agricultural sector. Significantly, the Laboratory has also developed the capability to undertake analysis of double-molecule pesticide formulations, marking a notable advancement in its technical capacity. This capability has been

in the history of the Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Jammu, representing an important step towards strengthening pesticide quality assessment in the region. Recognizing this achievement, Director Agriculture, Jammu, Shri Anil Gupta, commended the dedicated efforts of

Agriculture Chemist, Jammu, Shri Ravinder Kumar Gupta, Assistant Agriculture Chemist, and the entire team of PTL-Jammu, comprising Shri Tarminder Singh, Research Assistant; Shri Vikas Gupta, Junior Agriculture Extension Officer; Shri Inderdeep Singh, JAE0; Shri Adarsh Anand

Thaploo, JAE0; and Ms. Ramanpreet Kour, JAE0, for their consistent commitment to maintaining high standards and for elevating the Laboratory to new levels of quality excellence. Anil Gupta assured that the Department will extend all possible support to the Laboratory in meeting the aspirations of its stakeholders, including farmers, regulatory authorities and accreditation bodies. He emphasized that strengthening laboratory infrastructure and analytical capabilities is essential for ensuring quality agricultural inputs and safeguarding the interests of the farming community.

Earlier, Shri Roshan Lal Bhagat, Agriculture Chemist, Jammu, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the importance of NABL accreditation in ensuring accuracy, reliability and credibility in pesticide testing.

Symposium on "Role of Mass Media in the Development of Hindi Language" Organized at GDC Reasi on Hindi Diwas

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
REASI, SEPTEMBER 11
ON THE occasion of Hindi Diwas, the Literary Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Reasi, in collaboration with the Jammu-Kashmir Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti, Jammu, organized an impressive seminar on the topic "Role of Mass Media in the Development of Hindi Language." The programme was presided over by the Principal of the College, Prof. Mamta Gupta. Dr. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Director of the Jammu-Kashmir Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti, along with Prof. Vijay Kumar Sharma,

Prof. Anil Gupta, and Dr. Arvind Singh Aman, graced the occasion with their presence.

The programme was conducted by Prof. Irfan Arif, HOD Urdu, while Prof. Pooja Dheman, HOD Hindi, formally welcomed all the distinguished guests. In her welcome address, Principal Prof. Mamta Gupta expressed her gratitude to the guests for visiting the college and making the occasion special for the students. She encouraged students not to develop any sense of inferiority while speaking Hindi and emphasized the importance of respecting and taking pride in the language.

CLUJ Felicitates Dr. Twinkle Suri On Her Elevation As Director Colleges J&K

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) organized a felicitation ceremony at Suryaputri Tawi Bhawan, Cluster University of Jammu. The ceremony was presided over by Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu who felicitated Dr. Twinkle Suri, Dean Academic Affairs on her elevation as Director Colleges, Higher Education Department HED, J&K (UT). Recognizing her commendable contribution to the University and celebrating her new responsibility. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor presented her with a memento and con-

veyed his best wishes for services and contribution

her continued success in her new assignment as Director Colleges.

On the occasion, Prof. D. S. Manhas, Dean Student Welfare was also felicitated on his elevation as In-charge Principal, Government Degree College (GDC), Ramnagar. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor presented him with a memento and appreciated his valuable

to the University, while extending his best wishes for his new assignment as I/C Principal.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor also felicitated Dr. Devinder Sharma, Coordinator, NCC, Cluster University of Jammu for receiving the prestigious Award of Excellence and ADG's Commendation Card and Medal.



Water Pipeline Near Mendhar Girls Higher Secondary School Leaking for Six Months

Shopkeepers Worried Over Wastage of Drinking Water; Trader Mohammad Shafiq and Others Appeal to Jal Shakti Department for Immediate Repairs
SUARGAM NEWS DESK
SUBASH BALLI

MENDHAR, SEPTEMBER 11



A WATER supply pipeline of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department near the Girls Higher Secondary School, Mendhar, has reportedly been leaking for the past nearly six months, result-

ing in continuous wastage of precious water. The leakage has been reported on the road leading from the Jamia Masjid towards Man Gali and Saria Market. Local shopkeepers said that a considerable quantity of water con-

tinues to flow onto the road due to the damaged pipeline, causing wastage of drinking water and inconvenience in the surrounding area. Trader Mohammad Shafiq and other shopkeepers have urged the Jal Shakti

Department and concerned PHE authorities to take immediate cognizance of the issue and repair the leaking pipeline at the earliest.

They said that timely repairs would help prevent further wastage of water and ensure a proper supply of clean drinking water to the population living further along the supply line. "The local residents and shopkeepers expressed hope that the concerned department would treat the matter as a priority and take necessary action in the larger public interest."

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party organises one day workers' meeting at Handwara

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
IRFAN GANI BHAT
HANDWARA, SEPTEMBER 11
THE Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party organised a one-day workers' meeting at Dak Bungalow, Handwara, under the leadership of Abdul Rashid Bhat, Provincial Secretary, J&K Apni Party and Constituency Head Handwara. Addressing the media on the occasion, Bhat said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had voted for the National Conference (NC) on the basis of several promises made during the elections.

He questioned the government over the imple-

mentation of commitment, but the people



ments, including free ration, 200 units of free electricity, restoration of Articles 370 and 35A, and restoration of statehood.

Bhat alleged that almost two years had passed since the formation of the Omar Abdullah-led gov-

were still waiting for the fulfilment of several major promises.

"People voted for the NC after seeing its manifesto and the promises made to them. But after nearly two years, people are asking what has actu-

ally been delivered. The promises regarding free ration, 200 units of free electricity, Articles 370 and 35A, and statehood remain major concerns," he said. He further alleged that the government had failed to live up to the expectations of the people and accused the Omar Abdullah-led administration of making promises that had not been fulfilled.

Bhat said that the Apni Party would continue to raise public issues and question the government on its commitments, while strengthening its organisational presence at the grassroots level.

Dogra Degree College organises Career Counselling Session



SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
Dogra Degree College (Autonomous), Jammu, in collaboration with Chanakya IAS Academy, Jammu, organised a Guest Lecture on "Career Counselling" for the students of the B.A. Programme. The session

was aimed at providing students with meaningful guidance on career opportunities, competitive examinations, Civil Services preparation and diverse career pathways after graduation.

The initiative was organised under the guidance and leadership of Dr.

Samar Dev Singh Charak Secretary, Dogra Educational Trust and Sh. R. S. Katal, Member Governing Body, DET and Advisory committee DGC, whose continued focus on student development and career-oriented education has encouraged the college to create meaningful platforms for students to interact with professionals and domain experts.

The resource persons shared practical perspectives on career planning, competitive examination preparation, study strategies, time management, consistency and making informed career choices. A

Ravinder Sharma Ex-MLC joins NRHM employees dharna at Sunderbani

Rehabilitate Kalidhar mandir road bread earners

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
SUNDERBANI, SEPTEMBER 11
FORMER MLC and Chief Spokesperson JKPCC Mr Ravinder Sharma today joined the NRHM employees dharna at Sunderbani to express support and solidarity to them for their genuine demands.

Accompanied by a team of party leaders, Mr Sharma extended full support to the demands of agitating NRHM employees regarding regularization, equal pay equal work and social security benefits etc and urged the government to resolve their

issues without delay in a time bound manner.

Sharma demanded that NRHM was launched by UPA government headed by Dr Manmohan Singh ji and this scheme has

become the backbone of entire health sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The NRHM employees are rendering equal services with dedication and they risked their lives during

so should be given all benefits including financial benefits. The centre government should extend full financial support to the UT government to fulfil the genuine issues and demands. Sharma asked the representatives to raise their voice forcefully in the interests of justice and uninterrupted health services. Ravinder Sharma has also voiced his support to the uprooted shopkeepers and other daily earners on Kalidhar Mandir road and demanded their rehabilitation policy on the Sungal Tunnel road.

ices should be recognized by giving them necessary benefits of services.

NRHM employees have been rendering the services for more than 15 years,



EDITORIAL

S.C.Goswami

Disaster resistant villages

THE DISASTER resistant villages is need of the hour in view of climate change and increasing natural disasters. Actually this type of planning should have been initiated decades back but the successive Governments have never thought it their priority with the result people are facing huge devastation and deaths in natural calamities.

The recent disaster in Nepal is an eye opener for all Governments world over and if immediate steps at global level are not taken the mankind will face huge devastation and destruction in coming years. One fully agrees with Union Home Minister, Amit Shah who has stressed in devastation resisted villages.

Even the Government should think about devastation resistant towns and cities also to ensure safety and security of people.

In Nepal it was seen that human population were residing near both the banks of river which led to huge devastation during recent floods there. Had the townships verb established about half a kilometre away from river banks from both sides the devastation to such a magnitude could have been averted. But unfortunately neither Governments have ever thought of it nor the people who become selfish while constructing houses and some times even in greed take advantage of grabbing Government land near rivers, streams etc not knowing it's future repercussions.

Back in India people have also constructed houses hardly 50 metres away from river and nallah banks. In some states houses, business establishments have come up just on the edge of mullahs and rivers and during the floods these shops and business establishments either get washed away or crumble down.

The Government should issue an advisory all over country barring construction of any building about half a I'm distance on either side of big river banks and 200 meters away from banks of seasonal nallah a SI that such devastations are averted in future. This should be mandatory to follow and people who have constructed their houses on BSNLs of rivers and Hanukkah's should be asked to shift to safer areas keeping disasters at bay in future.

India's Diplomatic Litmus Test at BRICS: Strategic Balancing in an Evolving World Order...

COL. (DR.) DEV ANANDHOMOR
THE 18TH BRICS Summit, taking place in New Delhi



on September 12-13, convenes at a critical juncture—against the backdrop of escalating Russia-West friction, US-Iran tensions, volatility across West Asia, disruptions along vital maritime choke points, and intensifying debate over alternatives to the US dollar-centric financial architecture. Today, the expanded BRICS+ represents approximately 49.5% of the world's population, roughly 40% of global GDP, and nearly 26% of global trade. Consequently, the Delhi summit is far more than routine multilateral pageantry; it serves as a consequential theater reflecting a tectonic shift in the international system.

Yet, the grouping's greatest dilemma lies not in its expanding geographic footprint, but in the divergent strategic interests of its members. Russia, China, India, and Iran will share the high table alongside Saudi Arabia and the UAE, even as India and China remain entrenched in strategic rivalry and deep-seated fractures persist between Iran and Gulf monarchies. India faces the delicate challenge of preventing BRICS from coalescing into a stridently anti-Western front, while simultaneously positioning it as a credible, constructive voice for the

Global South. New Delhi's foundational foreign policy doctrine remains clear: non-Western, not anti-Western.

Indo-Russian defense and strategic convergence will remain front and center. Under the \$5.43 billion contract signed in 2018 for five S-400 Triumf air defense regiments, four have been inducted, with the fifth and final unit slated for delivery by late 2026. Beyond the S-400, which anchors India's multi-layered air defense grid, bilateral discussions may explore potential technology transfers and domestic manufacturing under the fifth-generation Su-57 stealth fighter program, alongside modernization of BrahMos and the development of BrahMos-NG. While Russia has floated the S-500 air and missile defense system in informal discussions, its adoption hinges on Indian strategic evaluation regarding cost viability, operational utility, and seamless interoperability with indigenous architectures. The overarching imperative for Indo-Russian defense ties is transitioning from direct off-the-shelf procurement toward genuine co-development, joint production, and comprehensive technology transfer.

Space cooperation represents another expanding dimension of the partnership. Prospects are widening across human spaceflight initiatives, satellite networks, navigation frameworks, and Earth-observation data sharing. Building on engagements hosted during India's chairmanship—including the BRICS Space Agencies conclave in Bengaluru—practical collaboration on the Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation, climate modeling, disaster

mitigation, and space situational awareness is gathering momentum. Following the Chandrayaan-3 lunar south pole landing, pairing India's demonstrated frugal engineering with Russian deep-space heritage could lend substantial impetus to future lunar and interplanetary missions.

Diplomatically, Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India—marking his first in seven years following the 2019 Chennai Informal Summit—stands as a pivotal bilateral engagement on the sidelines. Disengagement protocols along the Line of Actual Control, mounting trade imbalances, market access barriers, and broader regional stability in West Asia will likely frame the bilateral dialogue. Despite sustained border friction, New Delhi recognizes Beijing as a formidable strategic competitor while keeping diplomatic channels open—an embodiment of strategic autonomy that decouples competitive deterrence from outright dialogue breakdown.

On the financial front, the debate over de-dollarization continues to gain

traction, though India's trajectory differs fundamentally from Beijing's and Moscow's revisionist agendas. Rather than advocating a volatile single BRICS currency, India prioritizes settlement mechanisms in national currencies, digital payment linkages, and central bank digital currency (CBDC) interoperability. The objective is not dismantling the dollar-led financial order, but mitigating cross-border transaction frictions and lowering currency conversion costs. In this domain, India acts as an essential moderating force—endorsing alternative resilience and alternative rails without signing up for an ideological campaign against Western currencies.

West Asia presents perhaps the most delicate diplomatic chessboard of the summit. Bringing Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE together under one institutional umbrella highlights profound geopolitical complexities. Maritime security in the southern Red Sea and the Bab-el-Mandeb strait remains critically vulnerable to attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels targeting commercial ship-

ping lanes, while Saudi Arabia and the UAE continue navigating divergent operational priorities across Yemen. For India, this goes well beyond regional diplomacy: supply chain disruptions and surging freight tariffs directly jeopardize energy security and trade flows with Europe. India must craft a nuanced West Asian consensus capable of accommodating Tehran, Riyadh, and Abu Dhabi without alienating any partner.

Washington's scrutiny of BRICS stems precisely from this collective weight. When a bloc representing nearly half the globe's populace and two-fifths of global output systematically explores local-currency settlements and alternative clearing mechanisms, the absolute dominance of the US dollar naturally faces gradual dilution. Yet framing this as the imminent demise of the dollar is an overstatement. BRICS draws its strength from its diversity, which simultaneously exposes internal fault lines: while Moscow and Beijing pursue accelerated systemic disruption, New Delhi champions equilibrium over confrontation.

The ultimate benchmark of the Delhi summit will not be sweeping communiqués, but the efficacy of India's strategic balancing. Can Modi and Putin institutionalize defense co-production and space exploration? Can Modi and Xi recalibrate frayed bilateral relations onto a more predictable track? Can New Delhi facilitate a cohesive dialogue among West Asian heavyweights? And can India safeguard BRICS as a pragmatic instrument for the Global South rather than an adversarial geopolitical bloc?

In New Delhi, contrasting poles of a multipolar world converge under one roof. India continues to deepen defense ties with Russia, preserve operational deterrence alongside diplomatic dialogue with China, maintain multifaceted partnerships across the Gulf and Iran, while simultaneously consolidating its comprehensive strategic partnership with the United States and the wider West. This ability to avoid alignment with any single bloc, while securing vital national interests across all major power centers, remains the definitive hallmark of Indian statecraft.



A Healthy Gut Means A Healthy Life

DR SHREYANSH KUMAR JAIN
UNDERSTANDING Gut Health, Common Digestive Disorders and



Ways to Protect Your Digestive SystemThe old saying "If the stomach is healthy, everything is healthy" carries an important message. Our digestive system is not merely responsible for digesting food; it plays a vital role in maintaining overall physical and mental well-being. The gut or gastrointestinal tract helps digest food, absorb nutrients and water, eliminate waste, and support the body's immune system. It also communicates continuously with the brain through the gut-brain connection. Therefore, poor gut health can affect digestion, energy levels, immunity, mood and overall quality of life. Why Is a Healthy Gut Important?A healthy digestive system performs several essential functions:- Helps digest food efficiently.- Absorbs essential nutrients, vitamins and

minerals.- Supports the body's immune defenses.- Maintains a healthy balance of beneficial microorganisms in the intestine.- Helps regulate bowel movements.- Supports the gut-brain connection and may influence mood and mental well-being.- Helps eliminate waste products from the body. The intestine contains trillions of microorganisms, collectively known as the gut microbiome. Maintaining a diverse and balanced microbiome is an important part of digestive health. When the digestive system is disturbed, a person may experience gas, bloating, abdominal discomfort, constipation, diarrhea, acidity, disturbed bowel habits and other symptoms. Common Digestive and Gut-Related ProblemsDigestive complaints are very common, but they can have many different causes. Some are temporary and relatively mild, while others require medical evaluation. Important conditions include:1. Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)2. Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)3. Constipation4. Diarrhea5. Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)6. Lactose Intolerance7. Celiac Disease8. Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO)These conditions are different from one another and should not be self-diagnosed simply because their symptoms

overlap.1. Irritable Bowel

gle laboratory test that



Syndrome (IBS)Irritable Bowel Syndrome is a common disorder affecting the interaction between the intestine and the nervous system. It may cause recurrent abdominal pain associated with changes in bowel habits. Common Symptoms of IBS- Abdominal pain or cramps- Bloating- Excessive gas- Diarrhea- Constipation- Alternating diarrhea and constipation- A feeling of incomplete bowel evacuation- Mucus in the stool in some peopleIBS can be influenced by certain foods, stress, changes in routine and other individual factors. How Can IBS Be Identified?There is no sin-

confirms IBS. Doctors generally consider the person's symptoms, their duration and pattern, medical history and examination. Tests may be recommended when necessary to exclude other diseases. A symptom diary can be extremely useful. Record:- What you eat and drink- Timing and nature of symptoms- Bowel movement frequency and stool consistency- Sleep pattern- Physical activity- Stress levels- Any medicines or supplements being takenSuch a record may help identify individual triggers and provide useful information to the doctor.2. Inflammatory Bowel

(IBD)Inflammatory Bowel

IBS. IBD involves measur-



Disease refers mainly to two chronic inflammatory disorders: Crohn's DiseaseCrohn's disease can affect any part of the digestive tract, from the mouth to the anus, although certain areas are more commonly involved. Ulcerative ColitisUlcerative colitis primarily affects the colon and rectum, causing inflammation and ulceration of the intestinal lining. Common Symptoms of IBD- Persistent diarrhea- Abdominal pain and cramping- Blood in the stool- Urgency to pass stool- Fatigue- Reduced appetite- Unintentional weight loss- Fever in some casesIBD is different from

able inflammation and tissue changes, whereas IBS is generally considered a disorder of gut-brain interaction without the intestinal inflammation characteristic of IBD.3. ConstipationConstipation may occur when bowel movements become infrequent or difficult, or stools become hard and difficult to pass. Common contributing factors include:- Inadequate dietary fibre- Insufficient fluid intake- Lack of physical activity- Ignoring the urge to pass stool- Changes in routine- Certain medicationsA diet containing adequate fibre from vegetables, fruits, whole grains, pulses, nuts

and seeds, along with adequate hydration and regular physical activity, can help many people.4. DiarrheaDiarrhea means loose or watery stools occurring more frequently than normal. It may result from infections, contaminated food or water, certain medicines, food intolerance or other intestinal disorders. Persistent diarrhea can lead to dehydration and loss of electrolytes, particularly in children, older adults and people who are medically vulnerable. Adequate fluids and timely medical attention are important when diarrhea is severe or prolonged.5. Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)GERD occurs when stomach contents repeatedly flow back into the esophagus, causing symptoms such as:- Heartburn- Acid or sour taste in the mouth- Regurgitation- Chest or upper abdominal discomfort- Symptoms that may worsen after meals or while lying downMaintaining a healthy weight, avoiding individual food triggers, eating moderate portions and avoiding lying down immediately after meals may help some people. Persistent or severe symptoms should be medically evaluated.6. Lactose IntoleranceSome people have difficulty digesting lactose, the natural sugar found in milk and many dairy products, because

their bodies produce insufficient amounts of the enzyme lactase. Symptoms may include:- Bloating- Gas- Abdominal cramps- Diarrhea- Discomfort after consuming lactose-containing foodsThe amount of lactose tolerated varies considerably from person to person.7. Celiac DiseaseCeliac disease is an immune-mediated disorder triggered by gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley and rye in susceptible individuals. It can damage the lining of the small intestine and interfere with nutrient absorption. Possible symptoms include:- Diarrhea- Bloating- Abdominal discomfort- Weight loss- Fatigue- Nutritional deficienciesA person should not begin a strict gluten-free diet before appropriate medical testing, if celiac disease is suspected, because eliminating gluten beforehand can affect test results.8. Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO)SIBO refers to an excessive number or abnormal type of bacteria in the small intestine. It can cause:- Bloating- Gas- Abdominal discomfort- Diarrhea or constipation- Changes in bowel habits- Nutritional problems in some cases Diagnosis and treatment should be guided by a qualified healthcare professional because similar symptoms occur in many other digestive conditions.

60-Day Intensified IEC Campaign on HIV/AIDS Launched in Tinsukia, Assam

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
PANKAJ NATH

ASSAM, SEPTEMBER 11 THE DISTRICT AIDS Control Office, Tinsukia, Assam in collaboration with the District Health Society, Tinsukia, and with the support of the Assam State AIDS Control Society, Government of Assam, launched the 60-Day Intensified IEC Campaign on HIV/AIDS on September 11, 2026, at the Tinsukia College Auditorium, Tinsukia. The campaign was formally launched by Dr. Mondira Baruah, Additional District Commissioner, Tinsukia. As part of the programme, the IEC awareness van was also flagged off to carry HIV/AIDS awareness messages to communities across the district. The campaign aims to intensify Information, Education and

Communication (IEC) ble practices. During the 60- The campaign will empha-



activities on HIV/AIDS, with a focus on HIV prevention, modes of transmission, testing, treatment, care and support services. It will also address misconceptions and stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and encourage individuals to adopt healthy and responsi-

day campaign, a series of awareness and community outreach activities will be undertaken across the district in coordination with health institutions, educational institutions, frontline health workers, community organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders.

se the importance of accurate information, early HIV testing, timely treatment and creating a supportive and stigma-free environment for people living with HIV. Representatives and participants from various NGOs and community-based organisations,

including Bhagyalaxmi, GUIDE-TI and Care India Foundation, actively participated in the programme and awareness rally organised as part of the campaign.

The District AIDS Control Office appealed to community leaders, educational institutions, youth groups, civil society organisations, NGOs and members of the public to actively participate in the campaign and extend their cooperation towards its successful implementation. The campaign carries the message: "A Healthier Community, A Stronger Tomorrow." Through collective efforts, the district administration and health authorities seek to build an informed, inclusive and empowered society free from HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

CARA organises Workshop on Legal Adoption

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

New Delhi, September 11 THE Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, and the Delhi State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), organised an Adoption Awareness Workshop at the Main Auditorium, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi, under the theme: "Legal Adoption. Safe Childhood. Secure Future. Say No to Illegal Adoption." The workshop was graced by the presence of Smt. Bhavna Saxena, CEO, CARA; Smt. Rashmi Singh, Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi; Smt. Neha Yadav, DCP, SPUWAC; Smt. Monica Bharadwaj, Additional CP, Crime, Delhi Police; Shri O.P. Vyas, Chairperson, DCPCR, Dr. Anil Yadav, CMO, Outer North District; and other senior officials and stakeholders from the child protection, adoption ecosystem,

Health & Police protection of the law. Departments.The work- There can be no shortcuts



shop brought together around 200 participants involved in child protection and adoption to strengthen awareness about the legal, transparent and child-centric adoption process and to create greater awareness about the risks and serious consequences of illegal adoption practices. Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Bhavna Saxena, CEO, CARA, emphasised that awareness and vigilance across the entire child protection ecosystem are essential to safeguarding children from illegal adoption practices. "Every child deserves a safe childhood, a secure future and the

when it comes to adoption. Through this year's campaign, CARA seeks to ensure that every stakeholder understands their role in preventing illegal adoption and that every prospective adoptive parent follows the legal adoption process. Together, we must ensure that the best interests, rights and dignity of every child remain at the heart of adoption." Speaking at the workshop, Smt. Rashmi Singh, Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, said that the participation of stakeholders across the child protection ecosystem.

Hamirpur's Anjali Puri Receives 'Top 10 Young Dynamic Women of the Year 2026' Award

HAMIRPUR: Anjali Puri, a well-known young influencer from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, has been honored with the 'Top 10 Young Dynamic Women of the Year 2026' award.

The award ceremony took place on September 6 at the Hyatt Centric Janakpuri in Delhi, bringing together talented individuals from various fields across the country. By achieving this prestigious honor at the age of just 20, Anjali Puri has brought laurels to Hamirpur and Himachal Pradesh. She has previously

received accolades from various celebrities as well. During the ceremony, Anjali Puri was honored on stage by popular actor Gaurav Khanna. Her father was also present with her on stage during this special occasion. Anjali Puri is a prominent influencer who has carved a unique niche for herself on social media. She has previously brought pride to Himachal Pradesh at the national level through her achievements. This accomplishment at such a young age stands as yet another testament to her persistent effort, talent, and success.

MIER College organises Workshops, Student Interaction and AI Innovation Challenge Award Ceremony

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11

THE Centre for Educational Technology (CET), MIER College of Education (Autonomous), Jammu, organised a series of academic activities featuring Dr Sanjaya Mishra, Former Education Specialist, eLearning, Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Canada, and an internationally recognised expert in open, distance and online learning, technology-enabled education and Open Educational Resources.

The programme included two faculty capacity-building workshops. The first, "Designing Micro-Credentials for Higher Education: From Concept to Implementation,"

focused on flexible, competency-based learning



opportunities and their possible integration into higher education. The second workshop, "Open Educational Resources in Practice: Find, Evaluate, Adapt, Create and Share," provided practical exposure to locating, evaluating, adapting and developing

quality OER for teaching and learning. Dr Mishra

has over three decades of experience in teaching, research, capacity building, policy development and educational innovation and has served institutions including IGNOU, CEMCA, UNESCO, Paris, and the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada.

Anantnag Rebels Seal Chinara Women's Premier League Crown with 30-Run Win Over Shopian Harvesters as Women's Cricket Shines in J&K

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
AADIL AKBAR

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 11

ANANTNAG Rebels clinched the Chinara Women's Premier League (CWPL) 2026 title after defeating Shopian Harvesters by 30 runs in the final held in Baramulla on September 10, bringing the eight-day tournament to a successful conclusion.

The tournament brought together 12 women's cricket teams, including 10 district teams from Kashmir and representative teams from Jammu and Ladakh. It provided an important platform for emerging

cricketers to showcase soned players.



their talent, gain valuable match experience and compete alongside sea-

Major General Manoj Joshi, GOC 19 Infantry Division (Dagger

Division), Baramulla, was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony. Senior officials and dignitaries were also present to encourage the participating players and witness the culmination of the tournament.

The competition featured an impressive pool of talent, including one player with international representation, six players with senior Ranji Trophy/state-level experience, four with Under-23 experience and two with Under-19 experience.

The participation of established cricketers

alongside district-level players gave young women athletes an opportunity to learn from experienced players, compete at a higher level and gain confidence on a major sporting platform.

Beyond the cricketing contest, the CWPL emerged as an important platform for women's empowerment through sport. Throughout the tournament, the players displayed determination, discipline, confidence and sporting excellence, inspiring students, families and aspiring young athletes across the region.

101-Day Maha Yagya Dedicated to Maa Baglamukhi and Mahadev Begins

GHAZIABAD: A 101-day Maha Yagya dedicated to Maa Baglamukhi and Lord Mahadev commenced on the occasion of Bhadau Amavasya at Shiv Shakti Dham, Dasna, Ghaziabad. The religious ceremony has been organized under the guidance of Shiv Shakti Dham Dasna Peethadheeshwar and Shri Panchdashnam Juna A k h a r a Mahamandaleshwar Yati Narsinghanand Giri Maharaj. The event is being conducted by his disciple, Mahamandaleshwar Yati Maa Pratyangira giri, with the support of the family of Jagdamba Mahakali Dasna Wali and Mahakali Vahini. The inaugural rituals were performed according to traditional Hindu customs by priest Acharya Krishna Bhardwaj and

other learned priests, who conducted prayers and worship dedicated to Maa Baglamukhi and Lord Mahadev. Addressing devotees at the yagya site, Mahamandaleshwar Yati Narsinghanand Giri Ji Maharaj said that, in his view, Sanatan Dharma, Hindu society and the Indian nation are facing a serious existential challenge.

He referred to what he described as "dark and satanic forces" and alleged that such forces have sought to eliminate Sanatan Dharma over centuries. He said India remains the last refuge of Sanatan Dharma and Hindu society and expressed concern that the tradition could face serious consequences if this refuge is lost.

Baba Siddh Goriya Nath Ji's Sacred Yatra Held in Khour with Religious Fervour

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
KHOUR, SEPTEMBER 11

A sacred religious yatra dedicated to Baba Siddh Goriya Nath Ji was organised in Khour under the leadership of Narinder Singh Bhau and the guidance of revered Baba Mangat Ram Ji, witnessing enthusiastic participation of devotees and creating an atmosphere filled with faith, devotion and spiritual fervour. On the pious occasion, Narinder Singh Bhau participated in the sacred yatra and offered prayers at the holy feet of Baba Siddh Goriya Nath Ji, seeking divine blessings for the happiness, peace, prosperity and well-being of all. The yatra witnessed the enthusiastic participa-

tion of devotees from the area, whose deep faith and



devotion created a spiritually uplifting atmosphere. The occasion reflected the strong religious sentiments of the local community and its reverence for Baba Siddh Goriya Nath Ji Maharaj. Speaking on the occasion, Narinder Singh

Bhau said that such religious yatras are an inte-

gral part of Sanatan traditions and play an important role in preserving spiritual and cultural values. He emphasised that such sacred occasions also strengthen the bonds of brotherhood, unity and harmony among people.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No. DGN/70 of 2026-27 Dated 09-09-2026

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (' in Lacs)	Cost of document (' in)	Earnest Money (' in)	Time Allowed for complete -on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	SITC of elevator lift and minor repair works at Transport Commissioner Office Jammu (Under Capex Budget 2026-27)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	2.64	600	5280 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	02 Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 21-09-2026	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class

Position of AAA :- **Accorded by Transport Commissioner J&K Jammu/Srinagar vide order No. 158 TC (JK) of 2026 dated 02-09-2026 amounting to ` 2.72 Lacs.**
Position of TS :- **Sanctioned by this office vide order No. 75/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2026-27 dated 03-09-2026 amounting to ` 2.64 Lacs**
Project Authority :- **Transport Commissioner J&K Jammu/Srinagar.**
Major Head of Account :- **Under Capex Budget 2026-27.**

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 <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-09-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09-09-2026 to 19-09-2026, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	14-09-2026 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	09-09-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	19-09-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-09-2026 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same Le treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu at the time of allotment.
- Theelectronicbiddingsystemwouldnotallowanylatesubmissionofbidsafter due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-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 **Financial-bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.**
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, If ->**
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.**
The department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reasons.

No :- EE/PWD/DGN/2026-27/
Dated :-
DIP/J-10239/26
Dated: 11-09-2026
(Er. Karanjeet Singh)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Gandhi Nagar

NHM Employees’ Strike in Jammu and Kashmir: The Backbone of Healthcare Demands Dignity and Justice

TARIQ RASHID MALIK
THE NATIONAL Health Mission (NHM) has long



served as the backbone of public healthcare delivery in India, and nowhere is this more evident than in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Through a vast network of contractual doctors, paramedics, nurses, managers, and field workers, NHM has extended essential

health services to the doorsteps of people in remote, far-flung, and underserved areas. From primary health centres and sub-centres to specialised programmes under schemes like the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, these workers have ensured continuity of care where permanent infrastructure and staff have often fallen short. They form a critical workforce—estimated at over 12,000 across the UT—that has kept the system functional through emergencies, pandemics, and everyday demands. Yet in 2026, these same employees have been compelled to resort to a 72-hour strike (begun on 9 September) across districts, blocks, and field levels in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. Their

demands are clear and long-standing: pay revision aligned with counterparts elsewhere, equal pay for equal work, leave benefits at par with permanent staff, post-retirement benefits including a golden handshake, social security measures such as EPF and ESI, and a comprehensive policy for regularisation and job security. Many have served 15–18 years or more, giving the prime of their youth to public service under conditions of contractual uncertainty, meagre remuneration, and no meaningful social safety net. Imagine the plight of a professional health worker—often a doctor or highly trained paramedic—paid a fraction of what permanent colleagues earn for comparable or heavier workloads, with no job stability and

explicit “no work, no pay” and virtually no leave provisions. A permanent Class IV employee or sweeper in government service can earn more than an NHM doctor. Even private-sector salespersons or security guards typically enjoy basic leave entitlements that are fundamental human rights. NHM staff, by contrast, face denial of these while being expected to work longer hours, cover higher patient loads (often 100-plus patients a day against a reasonable 25–30), and remain constantly on call in difficult terrains. This is not merely a pay anomaly; it is a structural injustice that reduces dedicated professionals to a form of modern-day begar—forced labour extracted without fair recompense, reminiscent of practices once

imposed by kings and landlords. The irony cuts deeper still. A large proportion of NHM employees are women—mothers and sisters who shoulder workplace hardships, family responsibilities, and societal expectations while ensuring that communities receive treatment and preventive care. Seeing the cream of society on the roads demanding basic justice is heart-wrenching. When citizens criticise shortcomings in hospital services, the underlying reality is often an overstretched, under-supported workforce operating without an even yardstick. Equal work must mean equal pay and comparable conditions. The demand is legitimate and overdue. Several states have already moved

toward absorption or regularisation of eligible NHM staff. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered regularisation of contractual NHM workers with more than ten years of continuous service, rejecting perpetual contractual limbo as exploitation. Maharashtra has issued a government resolution creating supernumerary posts and regularising thousands more of service. Arunachal Pradesh has absorbed hundreds of doctors and medical staff in phases. Other states have initiated processes or framed policies recognising the perennial nature of the work. Jammu and Kashmir has no such comprehensive framework; the Centre has clarified that regularisation, pay parity, and service con-

ditions fall squarely within the domain of the respective State or UT government. Amid the ongoing sit-in protests, patients—men, women, children, and the elderly—from distant places arrive at facilities only to find services disrupted. This is a humanitarian cost of unresolved grievances. The healthcare system in J&K frequently makes headlines for the wrong reasons; forcing its main functionaries onto the streets sends a damaging message about priorities and fairness. A healthcare worker or doctor who remains on their toes 24×7 deserves at least the basic benefits available to employees in other departments. The government must take the matter seriously. Framing a regularisation

policy to protect jobs is essential. Until that process is completed, the least that can be done is to immediately address pay revision, equal work–equal pay, leave entitlements, and post-retirement benefits. Citizens who rightly demand better healthcare facilities also carry a moral responsibility to stand in solidarity with these workers and press for their genuine demands—including passage of a regularisation policy in the coming assembly session. Since the matter lies with the UT administration, there is hope that the Omar Abdullah-led government will take concrete, time-bound steps to resolve the issue at the earliest. Justice delayed for those who deliver healthcare is justice denied to the people they serve.

Film Festival should become beginning of J&K’s creative revolution, not a one-time event: Balbir

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
BALBIR RAM RATTAN, former Vice Chairman and social activist said that the International Film Festival held in Kashmir should be seen as the beginning of a new creative movement in Jammu and Kashmir and not merely as a one-time cultural event. Balbir said that the successful hosting of such an international-level festival reflects the changing atmosphere of Jammu and Kashmir and its growing potential to emerge as an important destination for cinema, art, culture and creative activities. The momentum generated by the festival should now be carried forward through sustained efforts and greater opportunities for local talent. He said Jammu and Kashmir has no shortage of talented young people in acting, filmmaking, photography,

music, writing, theatre and other creative fields. What



they need is exposure, professional guidance, training and platforms where their talent can be recognised. Such festivals can play an important role in connecting local youth with experienced filmmakers, artists and professionals from the national and international film industry. Balbir said that special attention should now be given to encouraging greater participation of

local artists, particularly young filmmakers, women and students. Workshops, film appreciation programmes, training sessions, short-film competitions and interaction with established professionals should become regular features across Jammu and Kashmir. He said cinema is not merely a source of entertainment. It is also a major economic activity capable of generating employment in tourism, hospitality, transport, photography, designing, technical services, local crafts and several other sectors. More film productions in Jammu and Kashmir can therefore create opportunities far beyond the film industry itself. Balbir further said that Jammu and Kashmir possesses breathtaking natural beauty, rich cultural traditions, diverse landscapes and enormous storytelling potential.

BJP to organise Month-Long Seva Sankalp Abhiyan from Sept 17 to Oct 17



KISHTWAR: THE BHARATIYA Janata Party (BJP) will organise a month-long “Seva Sankalp Abhiyan” from September 17 to October 17, 2026, on the occasion of the birthday of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The campaign will also mark and highlight 25 years of Shri Narendra Modi Ji’s public life, his dedication to public service and his continued com-

mitment towards the development and welfare of the nation. During the month-long campaign, a series of programmes will be organised at various levels, including Booth, Shakti Kendra, Mandal and District levels. The programmes will focus on public service, welfare initiatives, social outreach and strengthening the party’s connection with the people.

District-Wide Awareness Campaign Organised at High School Kanuiyan

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
A district-wide awareness programme was organised today at High School Kanuiyan under the banner of the ongoing District-Wide Awareness Campaign, under the supervision and esteemed presence of District Social Welfare Officer, Poonch, Sh. Joginder Mangol, (JKAS). The awareness session focused on sensitising students about critical issues affecting children and adolescents, including drug abuse, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, child marriage, child labour and school dropouts. Students were also informed about the

importance of speaking up assistance and approaching the



against abuse, seeking timely appropriate authorities in situa-

tions of concern. Detailed information was shared regarding the Nasha Mukh Helpline, available support mechanisms and various child protection services. Special emphasis was laid on the Sponsorship Scheme for vulnerable children, including orphan children and children who have lost their father, so that eligible beneficiaries can avail themselves of the support available under the scheme. As part of the initiative to support and encourage vulnerable children, the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) also distributed school bags to orphan girls during the awareness camp.

NLP J&K Delegation Meets Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Submits Memorandum on Public Grievances

SRINAGAR: A delegation of the National Loktantrik Party (NLP), J&K, today met with Anshul Garg, IAS, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, and submitted a memorandum highlighting various grievances and pressing public issues being faced by the people of Kashmir. The delegation urged the Divisional Commissioner to take appropriate measures for the timely resolution of the issues raised in the memorandum and to ensure that the genuine concerns of the people are addressed by the concerned departments. The delegation comprised M. Yaqoob Vadoo, National Spokesperson; Davinder Grover, State Vice President; Firdous Ahmed Bhat, RTI Activist; Zahid Haji, State Media Secretary; and Mrs. Shahista Akhter, State President, Mahila Morcha, J&K. The delegation made it clear that the grievances raised in the memorandum are matters of genuine public concern and cannot be allowed to remain unresolved or be reduced to mere assurances. The National Loktantrik Party, J&K, will continue to stand firmly with the people of Kashmir and will pursue these issues at every appropriate level until tangible action is taken and genuine relief reaches the people. The party expects the administration to treat these concerns with the seriousness they deserve and initiate concrete, time-bound measures in the larger public interest.

Army Goodwill Schools: A legacy of Fostering Educational Excellence across J&K and Ladakh

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11

HEADQUARTERS Northern Command commemorated ten years of a significant educational partnership between the Army Goodwill Schools (AGS) and the Bharti Airtel Foundation, underscoring the Indian Army’s continued endeavor to provide quality education and create greater opportunities for the youth of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

The commemorative event was organised at Army Goodwill Public School, Pahalgam, and was attended by Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, SYSM, PVSM,

AVSM, SM, General

The decade-long associ-



Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Shri Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Airtel Foundation and Mrs Shinei Sharma, Regional President AWWA, besides senior officials of Indian Army and the Foundation.

ation has witnessed a substantial expansion in its scope and impact. From an initial engagement covering 14 schools, the partnership has contributed to educational initiatives across all 43 Army Goodwill Schools in the region.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE, KASHMIR
Rajbagh-Srinagar opposite Presentation Convent School -190008
TELE-FAX: 019-4211009/15 website: <http://hortikashmir.gov.in>
Email: dhk-kashmir@jk.gov.in
E-NIT No: 84 of 2026-27
Dated:- 07/09/2026

E-NIT No. 84 of 2026-27 Tender ID 2026_HPDP_323756_1 dated 07-09-2026
Note:- All the Bidding Process will be done on www.jktenders.gov.in
Subject:- National Tender for Import of different Fruit Plants under the Scheme "Importing of Planting Material" for Public Sector Nurseries under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Director Horticulture, Kashmir, invites bids/offers from reputed/registered fruit plant Nursery Growers/Suppliers/Importers for the supply of imported Fruit Plants of different fruit crops, as detailed in Table A.

Table-A					
S. No.	Kind of fruit crop	Varieties	No's to be imported	Location where to be supplied	Remarks
1	Apple	Gala: High-Colour Clones Red Delicious: High-Colour Clones Fuji: High-Colour Clones	Total=1000 Gala= 300 Red Delicious= 200 Fuji= 500	ACHD Zainpura	Preferably these varieties of apple are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. The apple fruit plants should be on MB-T337 series rootstock.
2	Pear	Regal Red® Comice, Abate Fatale, Conference (P), Carmen, Santa Maria, Red William.	Total=2000 Regal Red® Comice= 400 Abate Fatale= 300 Conference (P) =200 Carmen=400 Santa Maria= 300 Red William=400	ACHD Zainpura	Preferably these varieties of pear are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. The pear fruit plants imported should be on either of the rootstocks of QuinceC, QuinceAB 29C,
3	Cherry	Regina, Kordia, Lapins, Stella	Total=3000 Regina= 1000 Kordia= 500 Lapins= 1000 Stella= 500	ACHD Zainpura	Preferably these varieties of cherry are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. The Cherry fruit plants imported should be on either of the rootstocks of Gisela5, GiselaA3, GiselaM
4	Olive	Coratina, Frantoio, Leccino, Pendolino	Total=1500 Coratina=150 Frantoio= 150 Leccino=100 Pendolino=100	ACHD Zainpura	Preferably these varieties of olive are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
5	Kiwi	Sungold G3, M-33, M-91, Abbot, Hayward, Tomuri(P), Sunred, Allison(P), Chieftain (P)	Total=1500 Sungold G3=200 M-33= 200 M-91= 200 Abbot=150 Hayward= 150 Tomuri= 150 Sunred= 150 Allison(P)= 150 Chieftain (P)= 150	CoE Zawaora	Preferably these varieties of Kiwi are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
6	Almond	California Paper Shelled, Non-Parrot, Tuono, Independence, Merced, Drake, Primorskij	Total=500 California Paper Shelled= 500 Non-Parrot= 500 Tuono= 500	CoE Zawaora	Preferably these varieties of Almond are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. The Almond fruit plants imported should be on either of the rootstocks of

		Independence= 500 Merced= 300 Drake =400 Primorskij =300		Darmen, GP-277, Rootstock-20, Narmgard.	
7	Walnut	Chandler, Franquette(P), Farnor	Total=2000 Chandler =1000 Franquette= 500 Farnor= 500	ACHD Zainpura	Preferably these varieties of Walnut are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
8	Pistachio	Kerman, Sinit, Red Aleppo, S Fax	Total=1500 Kerman= 400 Sinit= 400 Red Aleppo=400 S Fax= 300	FPN Lahanvan Anantnag	Preferably these varieties of Pistachio are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. The fruit plants imported should be on the rootstock of UCLH-1, IP01, A10A00-1 Hybrid.
9	Raspberry	Heritage, Meeker, Tuluamun, Zewadi, Carolina, Autumn Bliss	Total=500 Heritage= 100 Meeker= 100 Tuluamun= 100 Zewadi= 100 Carolina= 50 Autumn Bliss= 50	Zawaora, Srinagar	Preferably these varieties of Raspberry are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
10	Hazelnut	Toda Di Giffoni, Jefferson, Barcelona, Enrie.	Total=3000 Toda Di Giffoni= 750 Jefferson= 750 Barcelona= 750 Enrie= 750	FPN Lahanvan Anantnag	Preferably these varieties of Hazelnut are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
11	Grapes	Thompson Seedless, Flame Seedless, Crimson Seedless, Red Globe, Santa	Total=1000 Thompson Seedless=250 Flame Seedless=250 Crimson Seedless= 200 Red Globe= 200 Santa= 100	Krathag Gandabaf	Preferably these varieties of Grapes are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
12	Chestnut	Colossal, Bouche de Bézès, Marcel, Vignole	Total=2000 Colossal=250 Bouche de Bézès=250 Marcel= 250 Vignole= 250	FPN Lahanvan Anantnag	Preferably these varieties of Chestnut are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. Chestnut fruit plants should be on the rootstock of Castanea ornata or Castanea pumila.
G. Total			20,000 No.		

The Bidding documents, consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details, can be seen/ downloaded from the Tender Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below in Table B:-

Table-B	
Date of issue of Tender Notice	07-09-2026
Date of downloading of bidding documents	08-09-2026
Date of pre-bid meeting for clarification of queries, if any.	12-09-2026
Bid Submission Start Date	12-09-2026
Bid submission End Date	29-09-2026
Deadline for receiving the Hard Copy of the documents uploaded on the website along with Demand Draft of Rs.1000/- only in original (No financial bid to be submitted)	29-09-2026
Date & time of opening of technical bids (online)	30-09-2026

Instructions for bidders regarding the e-tendering process.

- I. Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the “downloads” option and from the “Bidder Manual Kit” on the website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint themselves with the bid submission process.
- II. To participate in the bidding process, the bidder must obtain a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per the Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get a digital certificate from any approved vendor.
- III. The tendering process shall follow a two-bid system, comprising Technical Bids and Financial Bids. Initially, only the Technical Bids shall be opened on the stipulated date of bid opening. These bids shall be evaluated to determine compliance with the prescribed eligibility, qualification criteria, and technical requirements. The Financial Bids shall be opened and evaluated only in respect of those bidders whose Technical Bids are found to be responsive and qualified after the evaluation process. Bidder can bid for any of the Fruit Crop (lot) or all the Fruit Crops(lots) as shown in the table-A, and shall deposit the EMD accordingly. Where a bidder participates in multiple lots, the EMD shall be equal to the sum of EMD applicable to the concerned lots."
- IV. The bidder has to submit complete bids online in electronic format with a digital signature. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents with the technical bid. However, a copy of technical bid as uploaded and a copy of Demand Draft (DD) of Rs.1000/- (one thousand) as tender cost pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Horticulture Kashmir shall be submitted in physical form by registered post/ through courier before the date specified in Table-B above. The bidder has also to deposit the EMD as per the details given in Table-C below.
- V. No copy of financial bids shall be enclosed with Technical Bids.
- VI. Bids will be opened online as per the time schedule mentioned in Table B above.

Table-C		
Fruit Plants		
S.No.	Kind	EMD in INR
1	Apple	34000
2	Pear	20000
3	Almond	42000
4	Cherry	42000
5	Pistachio	31000
6	Kiwi	21000
7	Hazelnut	42000
8	Raspberry	3000
9	Grapes	10000
10	Olive	5000
11	Walnut	28000
12	Chestnut	20000
Total		277000

DIP/J-10243/26
Dated: 11-09-2026

Sd/-
(J. A. Bhat)
Dy. Director Central

Sunil Sharma leads extensive public outreach in Kathua, Samba, assures people of strong action on their concerns

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
SAMBHA, SEPTEMBER 11
LEADER OF Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, undertook an extensive public outreach programme across Kathua and Samba, engaging with people from different walks of life and listening to their concerns.

Sharma was accompanied by BJP MLAs Chander Prakash Ganga, Devinder Manyal, Surjeet Singh Slathia, Darshan Kumar, Satish Sharma, Vijay Sharma and Dr. Bharat Bushan.

A large number of delegations representing different sections of society met the BJP leaders and apprised them of a wide range of issues. The delegations included representatives of Village Defence Guards (VDGs), Mahila groups, industrialists, trib-

al communities, farmers, issues were also brought to



traders, youth, refugees and transporters, besides representatives from border areas. Concerns regarding non-release of land compensation, development needs in border areas, employment, infrastructure and other local

the notice of the Leader of Opposition. Sharma gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured them that their genuine concerns would be taken up at the appropriate forums. He also directed the concerned departments to ini-

measures wherever required and assured the people that their issues would be raised strongly during the upcoming Assembly Session. Sharma said the people of Jammu & Kashmir had voted with expectations of change,

development, employment and better governance. However, he alleged that the National Conference government had failed to address several pressing concerns of the people. He said issues affecting employees, women, industrialists, farmers, tribal communities, VDGs, youth, refugees, transporters and residents of border areas could not be ignored, adding that people needed concrete solutions rather than political rhetoric and excuses. "The BJP stands firmly with the people of Jammu & Kashmir and will remain their strongest voice inside and outside the Legislative Assembly," Sharma said. He asserted that the BJP would continue to raise the concerns of the people and would not allow their legitimate demands to be sidelined.

3-Day Kashmir Theatre Conference Srinagar organised

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11
THE DAY commenced with an academic paper-reading session at 11:00 a.m., setting an intellectual tone for the conference. This was followed by an interactive and brainstorming discussion on "75 Years of the History of Theatre in Kashmir." Four eminent experts presented their research-based papers, including Hasrat Gadda, Gouri Shankar Raina, Basheer Bhawani, Dr. Aiyash Arif, and Ravi Kemmu. Their presentations were highly informative, offering fresh insights into the evolution of Kashmiri theatre and putting forth important suggestions to enhance its quality and relevance in contemporary times. The attendees engaged actively in the interaction, making the session both stimulating and productive. The Inaugural Function of the

Conference was held with Jenab Mian Altaf Ahmad



great enthusiasm and cultural fervor at 4:00 p.m. The session began with a warm welcome extended by Seyad Humayun Qaisar and Mushtaque Ali Ahmad Khan, who greeted the distinguished guests and dignitaries. Among the Guests of Honour were Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah (Hon'ble MLA Tangmarg), Dr. Rafi, Roma Wani, Dr. Shafia Wani, Basheer Bhawani, and Shooqia Quraishi. The Chief Guest of the occasion was

Larvi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Anantnag-Rajouri), whose presence lent immense prestige to the event. The proceedings commenced with the traditional Kashmiri ritual of 'Isband Sozi', symbolizing purity and auspicious beginnings. Thereafter, all the Guests of Honour and the Chief Guest were felicitated with a traditional shawl and a memento, as a gesture of respect and gratitude.

Awareness Programme on Child Protection and Women Empowerment Held at HSS Kanuiyan, Poonch

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
SUBASH BALLI
MENDHAR, SEPTEMBER 11
AN awareness programme on child protection, welfare and women empowerment was organised at Government Higher Secondary School, Kanuiyan, Poonch, under Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.

The programme was conducted by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Poonch, in collaboration with DHEW, One Stop Centre (OSC) and Child Helpline (CHL), under the supervision of District Social Welfare

Officer-cum-District Child Guest.



Protection Officer, Poonch, Joginder Mangol, JKAS, who attended the programme as the Chief

Officials from different wings, including Noreen Akhter, Taranpreet Kour, Rabia Haq, Ajaz Siddiqui,

Gurpreet Singh, Mohd Mukhtar, Sudha Sharma, Jahangir Ahmed, Khalida Mir and Nazia Mir, were present during the programme.

The participants were sensitised about the objectives and various components of Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti, with emphasis on creating a safe, supportive and child-friendly environment. The session highlighted the importance of protecting children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking, child marriage, child labour, abandonment and family separation.

Nat Manch and Tarun Sharma Martial Arts Academy organise Special Women's Self-Defence Programme

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 11
AS PART of its ongoing commitment to women's safety, empowerment and self-confidence, Mission Yodha, an initiative of Nat Manch under the leadership of its President Tarun Sharma, organised a special self-defence training programme for women in Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir. The programme was conducted under the banner of Nat Manch and Tarun Sharma Martial Arts Academy, with actor, director, martial arts trainer and social, sports and cultural activist Tarun

Sharma leading the train-



ing initiative. During the programme, women participants were provided practical training in basic self-defence techniques, situational awareness, per-

sonal safety and methods

objective of building confidence, courage and self-reliance among women. Speaking on the occasion, Tarun Sharma, President of Nat Manch, said that empowering women with self-defence skills is an important step towards creating a safer and more confident society. "Mission Yodha is our effort to empower women with confidence, awareness and practical self-defence skills. Every woman should have the confidence and basic ability to protect herself when faced with an unexpected situation.

Poonch Forest Division Pays Tribute to Forest Martyrs on National Forest Martyrs' Day



and paid heartfelt tribute to the brave Forest Martyrs who laid down their lives in the line of duty while protecting forests, wildlife and the priceless natural heritage of the nation.

The employees saluted the Green Warriors whose courage, dedication and supreme sacrifice continue to serve as an enduring source of inspiration for every member of the Forest Department.

They said that the commitment of frontline forest personnel to safeguarding forests, often while working in difficult terrain and hazardous

conditions, reflects the highest ideals of public service and environmental conservation.

"They laid down their lives for the protection of our Green Gold; their sacrifice lives on in every tree, every forest and every breath we take," the employees said. The employees further stated that the sacrifices of Forest Martyrs must never be forgotten.

Police apprehends two suspected drug peddlers in Kanachak

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan, Jammu Rural Police apprehended two persons and recovered approximately 4.73 grams of heroin-like substance from their possession in the jurisdiction of Police Station Kanachak. A police party of Police Station Kanachak, during checking, apprehended two persons identified as: Vishal Sharma S/o Somnath Sharma R/o Jandial Thathi. Sushil Sharma S/o Ashok

Kumar Sharma R/o Jandial Thathi. During their search, approximately 4.73 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from their possession. Accordingly, FIR No. 162/2026 under Sections 8/21/22/25/29 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Kanachak.

The vehicle bearing Registration No. JK02BT-

0136, allegedly used in the commission of the offence, has also been seized. Further investigation is underway.

Jammu Rural Police reiterates its commitment to a zero-tolerance approach towards drug trafficking and its resolve to make society drug-free through sustained enforcement under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan.

Jal Shakti Deptt conducts two online presentations for its engineers

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11
In its fourth workshop series on "Knowledge Sharing and Ideation", J&K Jal Shakti Department conducted two more online presentations for its engineers across the UT of J&K. In the workshop, two presentations were made; one on Ground Water Exploration by Er Zaid Mushtaq, JE PHE Department Kashmir which was followed by another presentation by Er. Rahul Kumar, JE I&FC Department Jammu on the topic SCADA Based Smart Canal Automation. The presentations were followed by technical question-answer sessions wherein, the engineers of JSD participated enthusiastically.

NHM Employees in J&K Extend Strike by 72 Hours Over Pending Demands, Healthcare Services Likely to Face Disruptions

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
AMIR IQBAL KHAN
BHADARWAH, SEPTEMBER 11
THE ONGOING agitation by National Health Mission (NHM) employees in Jammu and Kashmir intensified on Friday as the UT-Level Coordination Committee of the Jammu & Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA) announced a 72-hour extension of their ongoing strike starting Saturday.

The decision comes in the wake of what the association termed as persistent apathy from the administration towards their long-pending demands which include regularisation policies, salary revisions and social security benefits. The strike extension is expected to further strain healthcare delivery across hospitals, health centres and field-level institutions in the Union Territory.

"The issues being raised by NHM employees are neither new nor unjusti-

fied. These demands have

prolonged uncertainty

has stood as a backbone of



already been acknowledged and admitted by the Government at different levels, yet no concrete, time-bound and satisfactory action has been taken towards their final resolution," the JKNHMEA UT-Level Coordination Committee said in a press statement issued here.

For nearly 18 years, thousands of NHM professionals have served the public health apparatus under contractual arrangements. Despite performing duties equivalent to their regular counterparts, these employees have continued to face

regarding career progression, fair remuneration and post-retirement security.

The core grievances center around the revision and enhancement of salaries commensurate with changing service conditions, alongside a robust social security framework. A primary demand is the formulation of a dignified and workable retirement benefit and Golden Handshake policy for employees who dedicate their productive years to the public health sector.

The association maintained that the workforce

the healthcare delivery network, particularly during public health emergencies and challenging circumstances keeping essential services afloat across the region.

"Despite repeated representations, meetings, assurances and continuous dialogue with the concerned authorities, the employees are still awaiting a concrete policy decision and an official roadmap," the committee noted adding that continuing the peaceful agitation remained the only viable recourse to press for a time bound resolution.

Examination Held at Madrasa Taleem-ul-Quran Kajai, Seven Students Secure Distinction

SUARGAM NEWS DESK
BUTI AZHAR
PADDAR, SEPTEMBER 11
AN examination was conducted at Madrasa Taleem-ul-Quran, Kajai, Paddar, on September 8, in which all 41 students currently enrolled at the madrasa participated. Madrasa Taleem-ul-Quran Kajai is playing an important role in promoting religious education and moral development in the area. The students are receiving religious education and training under the guidance of Maulvi Abdul Shakoor and Maulana Abdul Qayum. For conducting the examination, renowned and experienced teachers from Madrasa Akhyar-ul-Uloom, Hazrat Hafiz Safdar Sahib and Hazrat

Hafiz Fareed Ahmad the categories of Hifz and



Sahib, visited the madrasa and assessed the academic and religious knowledge of the students. The examination results saw seven students secure distinguished positions in

Nazira. The students who performed exceptionally well were felicitated with prizes in recognition of their outstanding performance. Hifz Category-

First Position: Abdul Majeed, son of Talib Hussain, Pallar- Second Position: Noor Hussain, son of Muhammad Ishaq, Chhachh- Third Position: Abdul Qayum, son of Bilal Ahmad, Chhachh- Nazira Category- First Position: Muhammad Maroof, son of Muhammad Naimatullah- Second Position: Muhammad Umar, son of Talib Hussain, Pallar- Second Position: Shabbir Ahmad, son of Gulzar Ahmad, Pallar- Third Position: Akhtar Hussain, son of Talib Hussain, Pallar- The madrasa administration expressed gratitude to the visiting teachers for conducting the examination and appreciated their valuable contribution in evaluating the students.

SCJS Members Attend Maha Abhishek at Tirupati Balaji Temple

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

Jammu, Sept 11: A team of the Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS), headed by its Chairman and State Yoga Commissioner, Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, visited Shri Tirupati Balaji Temple, Sridra, and participated in a spiritually enriching Maha Abhishek of Lord Balaji with great devotion and dedication. The Maha Abhishek was performed with water, milk, sandalwood water, coconut water and turmeric paste, accompanied by sacred mantras, rituals and traditional Anushtan. The atmosphere of the temple was filled with devotion, peace and spiritual fervour.

Lord Venkateswara, popularly known as Balaji, is revered as a manifestation of Lord Vishnu. The famous Tirumala temple at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh is one of the most sacred and widely visited Vaishnavite pilgrimage centres in India. Devotees believe that worshipping Lord Balaji with faith and devotion brings spiritual strength, prosperity and divine blessings.

A devoted Bhakt and staunch religious believer,



Mr. Rajkumar Jandial (Raju), who regularly extends his services to the temple, presented a beautifully printed sketch/photo of Lord Balaji to the devotees. The SCJS members expressed their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to him for his dedicated service and hospitality.

Those who participated in the Maha Abhishek included Ashok Gupta, President; Narinder Wadhwa, Financial Advisor; Rakesh Verma, MD Tours; Yesh Paul, Life Coach; B.D. Gupta, Chairman; Shri Raghunath Trust; Mohinder Raina, President, Rashtriya

Atal Sena Sangathan; Mrs. Monika Khajuria, Naturopathic Counsellor; Ruchi, former Sarpanch; and Monika Mukesh, along with other members of SCJS.

At the conclusion of the religious ceremony, special Prasadam was distributed to all devotees by the Head Pujari of Temple Shree Sainji. The members of Senior Citizens Joy Society conveyed their sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Rajkumar Jandial (Raju) for facilitating the spiritual visit and extending his whole-hearted services.

Akhand Path Sahib Begins at Nangali Sahib for Antim Ardas

RAJESH KHAJURIA

POONCH, SEPT 11: The Shri Akhand Path Sahib was commenced today at Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib in solemn observance of the Antim Ardas of Sevadar Bhai Balwant Singh Ji, fondly remembered as Chachu Ji.

The sacred Shri Akhand Path Sahib was commenced by Shrimaan Mahant Manjit Singh Ji in the presence of a large gathering of devotees. The devotees participated in the sacred ceremony with devotion and reverence and offered prayers for eternal peace to the departed soul.

The Shri Akhand Path Sahib will culminate on September 13, 2026 (Sunday) at 10:00 AM, followed by Kirtan Darbar and religious discourse (Parchar) from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Dera Santpura Nangali



Sahib. All devotees are cordially invited to participate in the concluding religious

programme and offer prayers for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

ADDC Budgam reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, RDSS



SUARGAM NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, SEPT 11: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Budgam, Vivek Agarwal, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the district.

The ADDC reviewed consumer enrolment, application processing, vendor selection, rooftop solar installations, inspections and subsidy disbursement under PM Surya Ghar. While significant progress

has been achieved, he expressed concern over the gap between vendor selection and actual installations.

He directed empanelled vendors to clear pending cases on priority and asked KPDCL officers to undertake weekly monitoring, ensure timely inspections and expedite net-metering to facilitate speedy subsidy disbursement.

Under RDSS, the meeting reviewed feeder segregation, conductor replacement, LT line reconductoring, installation of poles and distribution transformers, and smart metering. The ADDC directed

officers to accelerate ongoing works and complete the remaining projects within stipulated timelines.

He also stressed close coordination among KPDCL, JAKEDA, financial institutions and empanelled vendors to resolve pending issues, facilitate consumer financing and achieve 100 percent saturation under both schemes.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning Budgam, Javed Ahmad, Executive Engineer KPDCL Budgam, concerned officers and representatives of empanelled solar agencies.

DC Bandipora reviews Water Conservation Plan, stresses coordinated action



SUARGAM NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, SEPT 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting to review the Water Con-

servation Plan and progress of related measures in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the status of water conservation initia-

tives and sought feedback from the concerned departments on measures being undertaken to conserve and efficiently manage water resources.

The DC stressed the need for close coordination among Jal Shakti, Agriculture, NHPC, Municipal Committees and other stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Water Conservation Plan. She called for focused efforts at the field level and timely completion of planned interventions for sustainable water management.

Senior officers from Jal Shakti, Agriculture, NHPC, Municipal Committees, Planning department and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

Surinder Choudhary inaugurates Kashmir Expo 2026 at Zabarwan Park

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, SEPT 11: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) under the aegis of the Department of Industries & Commerce, organized three day Kashmir Expo, 2026 being held from 11th to 13th September 2026 under the theme "Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine - Showcasing Rich Kashmir's Heritage by Empowering Golden Hands & Talent."

The expo was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary today at Zabarwan Park, Boulevard Road here.

The Expo is being attended by the artisans, craftsmen, weavers, entrepreneurs, businesses and other stakeholders. The event will provide a platform to showcase the distinctive products, craftsmanship and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that Kashmir Expo 2026 is an important initiative to provide greater visibility and market access to the region's artisans, entrepreneurs and local enterprises. "Kashmir Expo 2026 celebrates the exceptional craftsmanship, cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit of Jammu and Kashmir. The Expo is aimed at connecting our local talent and products with wider markets while creating meaningful opportunities for artisans, entrepreneurs and businesses to grow and thrive," he added.

Surinder Choudhary said that the event features a diverse showcase of handicrafts, handloom products, traditional crafts, local produce, cuisine and contemporary products, highlighting the creativity and enterprise of the region. He said the Expo also provides an avenue for the participating businesses and artisans to gain wider market exposure, interact with visitors and explore new business and market opportunities.

Pertinently, JKTPO has been working towards promoting trade, commerce, investment and exports from Jammu & Kashmir by facilitating market linkages and providing platforms for local enterprises to connect with the buyers and business stakeholders. The Organization also serves as the nodal agency for ODOP promotion, trade fairs and exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, district export promotion initiatives and digital market linkages.

The Kashmir Expo 2026 is part of these continued efforts to strengthen the market access, promote local products, empower artisans and entrepreneurs and showcase the rich economic and cultural potential of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Expo will continue till 13th September 2026 at Zabarwan Park, Boulevard Road, Srinagar, and is open to visitors, offering an opportunity to experience the region's distinctive craft, culture and cuisine under one platform.

RDD team inspects progress of developmental works in Warwan Block

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, SEPT 11: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Manoj Kumar today visited Block Warwan and conducted a comprehensive review of the implementation of the developmental schemes and programmes in the block.

During the review meeting, the ACD took a detailed assessment of the implementation of VB-GRAM-G, with particular emphasis on Person-Days (PDs) generation as per the prescribed normative allocation, especially against the funds released for the first quarter (Q1). He directed the field functionaries to ensure maximum generation of PDs before commencement of the pause period from 15 October to 13 November, while simultaneously focusing on both wage employment and creation of durable community assets.

The ACD stressed upon 100% e-KYC of left-out Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Card (GRGC) holders and skilled/semi-skilled workers. He also reviewed the status of pending material payments and directed the concerned officials to ensure timely and uninterrupted payment of wages under VB-GRAM-G, besides timely settlement of admissible material liabilities. The progress under District Capex/UT Capex and ABDP/ADP was also reviewed.

Later, the ACD undertook an extensive field visit and inspected developmental works at Afti, Margi, Sukhnie,



Choidraman and Basmina. During the inspections, he instructed the field staff to install Citizen Information Boards (CIBs) at every worksite for greater transparency and public awareness.

The ACD also interacted with locals and sensitized them to the provisions and

benefits of the newly implemented VB-GRAM-G Scheme.

The visit also covered Sukhnaie, the last Gram Panchayat/village of the district, underscoring the administration's commitment to reaching the remotest areas and ensuring effective implementation of developmental

programmes and welfare schemes on the ground. The ACD was accompanied by BDO Warwan Irshad Ahmed Waza, along with Junior Engineers, Panchayat Secretaries, Panchayat Account Assistants, MIS Operator, Gram Rozgar Sahayaks and other field functionaries.

Power shutdown

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

JAMMU, SEPT 11: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Bhagwati Nagar, Talab Tillo, Nitco Lane, UNO Lane, Camp Road and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 12 from 7 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to ISS Sangaldan of Railway KRCL will remain affected on September 12 from 9 am to 6 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle JPDCL Kishtwar has

POWER SHUTDOWN

informed that the power supply to Sangram Bhatta, Wasser, Panditgam, Kuleed and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 15 from 5 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Munshigowari and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 12 and 14 from 5 am to 11 am.

Notice

I, Sufiyan Shahid Shah S/O Shahid Hussain Shah R/O Krawa Tehsil Banihal District Ramban UT J&K.
That my name is Sufiyan Shahid Shah has inadvertently recorded as Suffiyan Shahid in aadhaar card bearing number: 8835 5519 2122 which is incorrect and my correct and actual name as per School certificate is Sufiyan Shahid Shah .That I declare and affirm that my correct name is Sufiyan Shahid Shah .Hence this paper cutting is solicited for publication of Gazetted Notification regarding name correction/Updating in above mentioned aadhaar number in Govt. Ranbir Press Jammu.

Notice



I, Simran Kour D/o Niranj Singh R/o Mankote Tehsil Mankote Distt. Poonch . In my 10th, 11th and 12th Class Marksheet my name was wrongly written as Naranjan Singh under 10th class roll no. 174031061 session annual regular 2022 and 12th class roll no. 374012086 session annual 2024 instead of correct name is Niranj Singh. Now I am applying for correction. Objection if any may convey to concern authority within 07 seven days from the publication of this notice. (A)

Notice

I, Anjana Sharma D/o Harbans Lal R/o Nakki, Tehsil Majalta District Udhampur J&K. That I have Passed my 10th Class examination conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in session 2013 bearing roll no. 2262655. That I have also passed my 12th class examination conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in session 2015 bearing roll no. 2743788. That my mother's name is Radha Rani. That My original 10th and 12th class marksheets have been lost. Now I am applying for duplicate of the same. Objection if any may convey to concern authority within 07 seven days from the publication of this notice.
Affidavit No. IN- JK48460851529992Y Dated : 07-09-2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Amina Banoo W/o Mohd Younis, R/o Kunan, Tehsil Bhalessa, District Doda, hereby declare that my name as recorded in my Aadhaar Card before marriage was Amina Banoo D/o Zakir Hussain.

I hereby declare that Amina Banoo D/o Zakir Hussain and Amina Banoo W/o Mohd Younis are one and the same person.

Any objection, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Notice

Subash Chander s/o Tara Chand r/o Sehar (Bhawani B) Tehsil Nowshera District Rajouri J&K UT. I applied for DEE class Contractor card in concern departments office, if anybody has any objection may be convey to office of the Superintendent Engineer/ Concerned issue authority within seven days from the publication of this notice

Notice

Naveen Choudhary s/o Jagdish Chander r/o Chowki Handan Tehsil Nowshera District Rajouri J&K UT. I applied for DEE class Contractor card in Concern department office, if anybody has any objection may be convey to office of the Superintendent Engineer/ Concerned issue authority within seven days from the publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ashiq Hussain, S/o Mohd Sabir, R/o Zadan Mundhar, Tehsil Kastigarh, District Doda, hereby inform the general public that in the Date of Birth Certificates of my children Hakeem Ul Hanaan Jaan Batt (Registration No. 141/15-A/PPKG) and Hakeem Ul Manaana Jaan Batt (Registration No. B-2023-1-00085-000065), father's name has inadvertently been recorded as "Ashiq Hussain Batt" instead of my correct name "Ashiq Hussain." The word "Batt" has been wrongly added due to a inadvertent error. I have applied before the competent authority for correction of the said error. Any person having any objection regarding the proposed correction may submit the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period. (A)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Maneshwar Singh S/o Phool Singh, R/o Ziani Mundhar, Tehsil Kastigarh, District Doda, J&K, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my minor son has inadvertently been recorded as "Anivath Singh" in his Birth Certificate bearing Registration No. B-2023-1-0085-00295, dated 12/09/2023, whereas his correct name is "Anvith Singh". The mistake is purely inadvertent and there is no intention to conceal or misrepresent any fact. I have applied to the competent authority for necessary correction in the Birth Register/ Birth Certificate. Any person having any objection may submit the same before the competent authority within the prescribed period. (A)

Notice

I, Mushtaq Ahmed Sohail S/o Abdul Aziz Sohail R/o Zanchous Chacknarwah, Tehsil Banihal District Ramban J&K. That I am the father and natural guardian of my son namely Sohaib Mushtaq Sohail S/o Mushtaq Ahmed Sohail, who is presently studying in Class 4th at Iqra English Medium School, Banihal. That the Date of Birth of my son has been wrongly entered in the school records as 05-03-2016, whereas his correct date of birth is 05-08-2016. That the aforesaid mistake in the date of birth has occurred inadvertently and the same does not represent the actual and correct date of birth of my son. Now I am applying for correction. Objection if any may convey to concern authority within 07 seven days from the publication of this notice. (A)

ADDC Samba reviews District Capex 2026-27, JK Samadhan Registrations

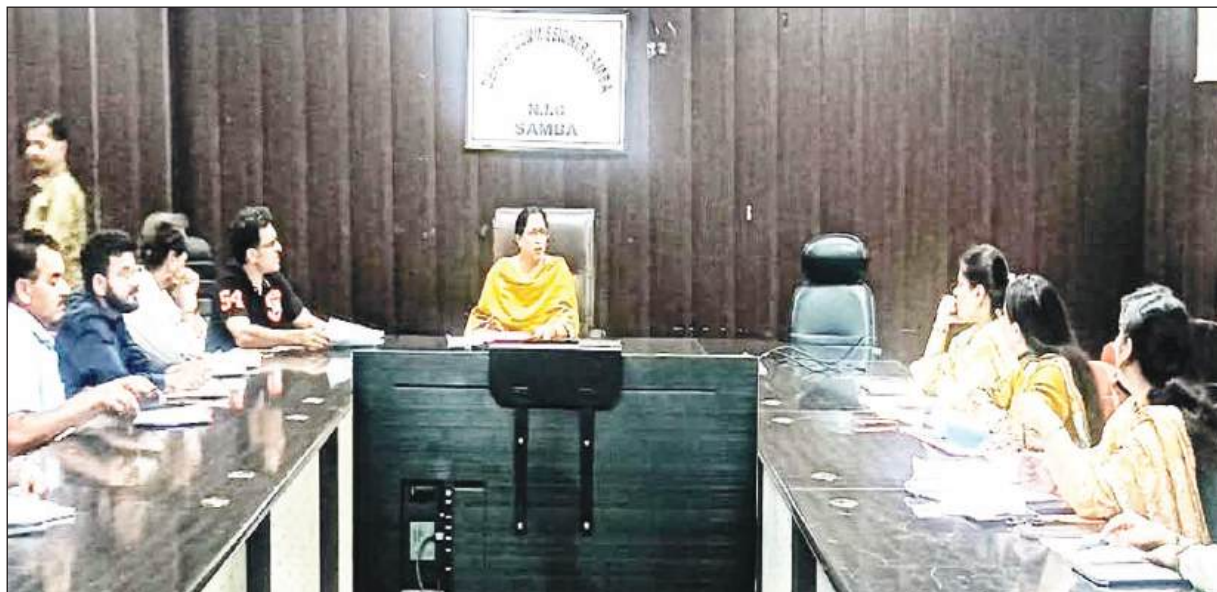
SUARGAM NEWS DESK

SAMBA, SEPT 11: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Samba Champa Devi today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 and the status of registrations and grievances redressal on the JK Samadhan Portal.

The ADDC exhorted the Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Rural Engineering Wing (REW) to pull out all the stops in expediting the tendering process and ensuring the early allotment of works, thereby laying the groundwork for their timely execution.

Giving a detailed account of the progress, the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Rafiq Ahmad Jaral informed the meeting that nearly 90 per cent progress has already been achieved in the allotment process and identification of L1 bidders. He assured that the process would be brought to fruition to the tune of 98 per cent by September 15, 2026.

The ADDC directed the executing agencies to nip bottlenecks in the bud, adopt a proactive approach and



ensure that all sanctioned works are completed within the stipulated timelines. She underscored that implementation must remain on an even keel and that there should be no let-up in the pace of execution, in accordance with the directions of Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan.

The meeting also undertook a detailed review of registrations and pending

grievances received through the JK Samadhan Portal. The ADDC directed the concerned officers to ensure that the targets assigned by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba during the meeting held on September 5, 2026 are achieved.

Emphasising the cardinal importance of responsive governance, the ADDC called upon the officers to

ensure the timely, cogent and logical disposal of grievances, so that public concerns do not remain in the administrative pipeline and citizens receive prompt and meaningful redressal. She stressed that the grievance-redressal mechanism must not merely be a procedural formality but should serve as a robust instrument of citizen-centric governance.

The ADDC further

impressed upon the officers to maintain close coordination, unwavering diligence and a result-oriented approach, stating that concerted efforts at every level are indispensable for translating sanctioned developmental works into tangible outcomes on the ground.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer REW Pankaj Sharma, BDOs and other concerned.

DDC Bandipora reviews progress under District Capex, Revenue Capex Budgets

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, SEPT 11: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat to review the physical and financial progress under the District Capex and Revenue Capex Budgets for 2026-27.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers of PHE Hydraulic Circle, R&B Circle and KPDCL, Divisional Forest Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineers and other concerned district sector officers.

During the meeting, the DDC reviewed progress on 2,056 developmental works under the District Capex Budget against an approved outlay of Rs 4,527.26 lakh. These include 120 ongoing and 1,935 new works. It was informed that Administrative Approval has been accorded to 1,807 works, 1,350 have been tendered, 889 allotted and 68 works have been completed.

The DDC directed the General Manager, NHPC, to expedite approval and disbursement of Rs 8.50 crore earmarked for the affected



areas of the Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project under the Water Conservation Plan. The Chief Agriculture Officer was also directed to expedite all pending works under the conservation framework.

The meeting also reviewed 24 departmental buildings being taken up under the Revenue Capex Budget. The executing agencies were directed to expedite the construction works and ensure timely submission of completed bills to the respective treasuries.

The DFO Bandipora was directed to complete the billing process for works worth Rs 75.50 lakh under SSY and submit the bills to the treasury within five days. The

Executive Engineer, Hydraulic Gurez, was asked to raise the pending bill of Rs 1.06 lakh under District Capex without delay. The Executive Engineer, R&B Gurez, was directed to complete the restoration work of Habba Khatoon Spring by October 20.

The DDC also directed the concerned BDOs to finalize procurement of items under DDC and BDC grants at the earliest and refer cases to the District Procurement Committee wherever required to avoid procedural delays. The DDC directed all executing agencies to ensure optimum utilization of funds, maintain quality standards and adhere strictly to the prescribed timelines.

DC inspects NH-44 Four-Laning works on Ramban-Banihal stretch

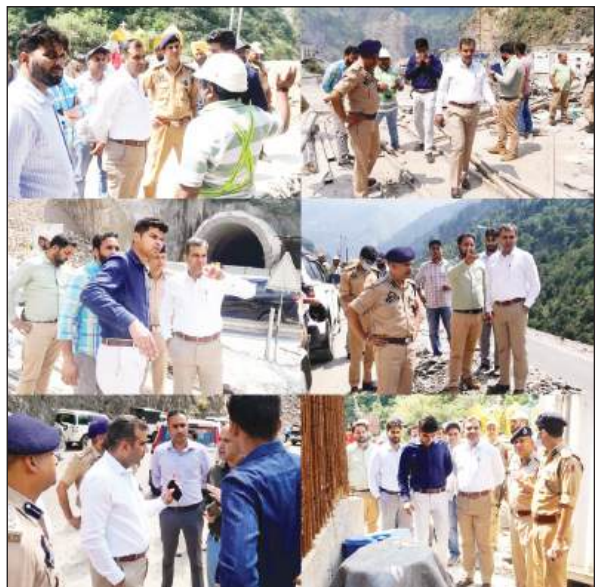
SUARGAM NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, SEPT 11: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing works under the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) Four-Laning Project between Ramban and Banihal, reviewing the progress of key viaducts, tunnels and other critical infrastructure components.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SSP Arun Gupta, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hamid, Project Director NHAI Shubham Yadav, SDM Ramsoo Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah, SDM Mohammad Naseeb Bajran and other concerned officers.

The team reviewed the ongoing construction works at Digdol, Panthyal, Magerkote, Ramsoo, Nachilana, Gangru and Kishtwari Pather, taking on-site feedback regarding the pace of execution, traffic management and other issues pertaining to smooth progress of the prestigious national project.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Project Director NHAI and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on all ongoing components and ensure coordinated efforts for timely completion of the vital NH-44 infrastruc-



ture. He stressed the need for close monitoring of works at critical locations and prompt resolution of bottlenecks to maintain momentum on the project.

Keeping in view the ongoing seasonal movement of nomadic livestock and the Fruit trucks, along with the expected increase in vehicular traffic, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to focus on road maintenance for the convenience of commuters, transporters and fruit-laden vehicles

and others.

At Gangru, the Deputy Commissioner specifically directed the construction agencies to clear and properly maintain the road shoulder to facilitate double-carriageway movement.

The Deputy Commissioner also called for effective inter-agency coordination among NHAI, traffic police and executing agencies to ensure seamless traffic regulation, road safety and uninterrupted movement of vehicles during the ongoing construction works.

DC reviews progress of JM 2.0 schemes, water conservation projects in Kishtwar district

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, SEPT 11: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today conducted a detailed scheme-wise review of Water Supply Schemes under JJM 2.0, 'Catch The Rain' under JSA: CTR and Water Security Interventions, here at a meeting of the stakeholder departments.

The Project Manager Jal Jeevan Mission presented a detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, JSA: CTR and Water Security Interventions (VB-G RAM G), while the ACP presented the achievements regarding implementation of SBM 2.0.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti to start Jal Aankalan of the remaining 09 villages out of the 16 reported villages within 07 days and submit the compliance report. He further directed him to pursue the matter with higher authorities and ensure procurement of 15mm dia pipes at the earliest to complete 13 Water Supply Schemes with minimal balance FHTCs. He also directed him to rectify the observations in the three DAJGUA DPRs and ensure their resubmission by 12th September, 2026, besides to

resolve the reconciliation issue with the Directorate of Jal Jeevan Mission and ensure payment to the contractors within three days.

The Jal Shakti Department was directed to carry out regular collection and testing of water samples, to complete geotagging of assets under Sujalam Bharat within 15 days and to ensure creation of the remaining 161 Sujal Gaon IDs within one week. Visits to the scheme construction sites and regular meetings with VWSCs and Pani Samitis, with geotagged photographs submitted to DPMU-JJM was also stressed.

The Forest Department was directed to pursue approval of the JSA: CTR plan with higher authorities and incorporate the plantation programme of the department under JSA: CTR.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to provide the data of completed JSA: CTR works in the devised format for uploading on the portal and ensure completion of ongoing works at the earliest.

The Municipal Council officials were directed to coordinate with the Revenue Department for identification of suitable State land for construction of FSTP outside the town and ensure construction of



rooftop rainwater harvesting structures during construction of individual houses. The concerned departments were directed to expedite construction of the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) at Marwah and commencement of work on the ETP at District Hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the CEO and Jal Shakti Department to formulate a programme for visits of students to water supply schemes and NABL-accredited water testing laboratories after 22nd September, 2026, ensuring that the number of

students visiting the laboratory remains within its capacity. He also directed for proper coordination among the field staff of RDD and Jal Shakti departments for effective coordination in planning, implementation and uploading of data on designated portals.

"There is a need to foster a close coordination among the field functionaries of stakeholder departments for effective implementation of JJM 2.0, JSA: CTR and Water Security Interventions (VB-G RAM G) and facilitate the benefits of all schemes to the

rural/urban habitations of the district," he noted.

The meeting was attended by ACD Manoj Kumar; ACP Neeraj Sharma; EOM Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; DFO Mahesh Thakur; DFO Vishal Chaudhary; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Rohit Wadera; BDO Ravi Kumar; PM DPMU Er. Fayaz Mehta; CAO Kushal Chandel; CHO Sajid Mustafa; BDO Roopesh Sharma; BDO Aijaz Ahmed; AEE Jal Shakti Zakir Mir besides other officers and staff from Jal Shakti Department and RDD Kishtwar.

DC Bandipora visits Kuloosa to oversee rescue operation of drowned boy Urges parents to keep children away from water bodies



SUARGAM NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, SEPT 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib visited Kuloosa on Friday morning to personally assess and monitor the intensive search and rescue operation underway following the unfortunate drowning of

a young boy in Nallah Madhumati yesterday evening. Expressing profound sorrow over the tragic incident, the DC extended heartfelt sympathies to the aggrieved parents and family members. Terming the incident heartbreaking, she stated that the child had reportedly stepped near the bank to retrieve a ball while playing and slipped

into the rapid stream. The DC reviewed the ongoing joint search operation, which was launched swiftly within an hour of the incident by teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Jammu & Kashmir Police, District Administration, and local volunteers. While speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner informed that the District Administration had coordinated with NHPC authorities last night to temporarily halt the downstream flow of water. To further expedite the operation and assist the divers and rescue personnel, NHPC has been directed to completely stop the discharge from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM today, ensuring that the water level recedes sufficiently for thorough scanning of the stream bed. The DC observed that while wire mesh barricades and fencing are in place along most sections of the embankment, designated openings remain for daily domestic chores like washing clothes. Issuing a stern advisory to the public, she appealed to parents and residents residing along riverbanks to maintain strict vigilance over their children and prevent them from venturing near hazardous water channels, emphasizing that heightened caution at home is vital to averting such painful tragedies.

DC Rajouri reviews implementation of Skill Development Programmes

Stresses on upskilling of youth in farm-based processing

SUARGAM NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, SEPT 11: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Skill Committee to review the implementation of the Skill Development Programmes and discuss measures for expanding skill-based livelihood and entrepreneurship opportunities in the district.

□□The meeting deliberated on strengthening convergence among departments and developing training programmes in accordance with local resources, market demand and emerging employment opportunities.

□□The Fisheries Department was asked to identify eligible beneficiaries under Mission Yuva, for pond-based fisheries activities, while the Rural Development Department will facilitate the con-



struction of ponds for the identified beneficiaries.

□□Meeting decided to organise training programmes on milk processing at the block level to promote value addition, entrepreneurship and sustainable income generation in rural areas.

□□The Deputy Commissioner asked the agriculture and allied departments to work on plans for enhancing the skills of beneficiaries of their departments to meet the market requirement. He also stressed on promoting inno-

vative ideas aligned with new technology.

□□Discussing skill development interventions in border areas, the meeting explored collaboration with the Red Cross for extending suitable training and capacity-building programmes to youth in these areas.

□□The DC also reviewed the scope and functioning of Skill Training Centres and emphasised on strengthening their outreach and aligning courses with emerging market requirements.

Highlighting the potential of emerging technologies, the DC stressed exploring AI-based video production and other digital skills as part of future-oriented training initiatives for youth.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure close coordination, identify innovative livelihood opportunities and make skill development programmes more outcome-oriented so that trained youth can access sustainable employment and self-employment opportunities.

□□The meeting was attended by ADDC, Malik Zada Sheraz Ul Haq; PO ICDS, Harpal Singh; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; ACD, Sheraz Chowhan; Dy DEO, Mohd Nawaz Choudhary; DSWO, Abdul Raheem; CEO Mohd Hafiz; CAO, Rajesh Verma and other concerned officers.