

# North in News

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## "Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan" is poised to turn a new chapter in women's empowerment: LG Sinha

**Terrorism and Naxalism are threats to national development: LG**

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the "Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan- Healthy Women, Empowered Families", a national health campaign launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The 16-day campaign will strengthen screening, maternal health services, lifestyle counselling, yoga and Ayush-based interventions for women, adolescent girls and children. The event also witnessed the commencement of 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah which will be celebrated from 17th September to 16th October 2025, across the country. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri

**LG expresses gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister for dedicating the national health campaign to promote women's health and well being**



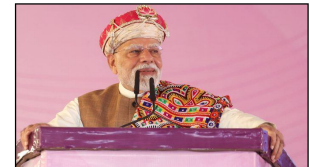
Narendra Modi for dedicating the national health campaign to promote women's health and well being. He called upon all the stakeholders to work with Whole of Government Approach and make this campaign a huge success. "A healthy woman is the foundation of a happy and prosperous family, which in turn builds a strong nation. Today, the supreme position of women in public life is seen as key to ensuring peace and progress in the society. The 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' is poised to turn a new chapter in women's empowerment. Hon'ble Prime Minister's holistic approach to improving the lives and prioritising health of women has

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Our Soldiers Brought Pakistan To Its Knees In A Blink: PM Modi

Dhar (Madhya Pradesh), Sep 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said Indian soldiers brought Pakistan to its knees "in the blink of an eye" during Operation Sindoor. He was addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for the Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.

Modi also launched the 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' and the '8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah' campaigns, aimed at enhancing women's health services and promoting nutrition.



The visit marked Modi's second trip to the state on his birthday. On this day in 2022, he released eight cheetahs from Namibia in the Kuno National Park. Making a strong pitch for swadeshi goods, Modi said, "This is the season of festivals, and we must remember the mantra of Swadeshi and incorporate it into our lives." "I have a humble request to my 140 crore fellow countrymen that whatever you buy, it should be made in our country and should bear the sweat of some Indian or the other. It

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Operation Against Terrorists Not Suspended Due To Intervention Of Anyone: Rajnath Singh

Hyderabad, Sep 17: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday virtually rejected US President Donald Trump's claims of intervening to stop the Indo-Pak conflict following Operation Sindoor, saying the action against terrorists was not suspended due to any third-party mediation.

Speaking at the 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' celebrations organised by the union government here, he said "Operation Sindoor" would resume if any terrorist attack took place in the future. "There are some people who ask whether the cease-



fire between India and Pakistan happened because of the intervention of someone. I would like to make it clear. The operation against terrorists was not suspended because of someone's intervention," he said.

"Some claim to have stopped the operation between India and Pakistan. Nobody stopped it. I would like to clarify that Mohammad Ishaq Dar, who is Pakistan's Deputy PM and

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Vaishno Devi Pilgrimage Restarts After 22-Days Pause, Halted Again Due To Bad Weather

Katra/Jammu, Sep 17: After a 22-day suspension due to a deadly landslide and continuous heavy rainfall, the pilgrimage to revered Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district resumed on Wednesday, bringing smiles on the faces of the devotees. However, the respite was short-lived, as the shrine board once again suspended the yatra amid inclement weather this evening after allowing 2,500 pilgrims during the day, the officials said. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) announced the reopening of the yatra subject to favourable weather conditions from this morning, much to the relief of hundreds of devotees who were camping in Katra town — the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the shrine. Chanting slogans like 'Jai Mats Di', the enthusiastic pilgrims gathered at Banganga Darshani gate, the starting point of the yatra, in the early hours of the

(Contd on Pg 2)

## CM Omar Abdullah visits Udhampur to oversee restoration of NH-44 at Thard

**CM directs officials to expedite work on the highway**

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited the affected stretch of NH-44 at Thard Udhampur to take stock of the ongoing restoration works.

He was accompanied by Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs; Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA Chenani; Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur; Amod Ashok Nagpure, SSP Udhampur; Adil Hamid, SSP Traffic; besides



senior officers and members of the local public. During the visit, R.S. Yadav, Regional Officer J&K NHAI, briefed the Chief

(Contd on Pg 2)

## BRIEF NEWS

### Farooq Abdullah Rules Out Any Deliberate Attempt To Sabotage J&K's Fruit Industry

SRINAGAR, Sep 17: Ruling National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah Wednesday ruled out any deliberate attempt to sabotage the fruit industry in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway was because of God's wrath and not peoples' doing. "There is no deliberate attempt. Did people break the mountains? Did it rain because of people? It was God's wrath because we have kept a distance from God," Abdullah told reporters in Anantnag district. He was responding to questions about many political leaders alleging that fruit-laden trucks were kept stranded on the highway in a "deliberate" attempt to harm J-K's economy. The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K said people do not pray and do not seek

(Contd on Pg 2)

### Rusted Mortar Shell Defused In J&K's Kathua

JAMMU, Sep 17: A rusted mortar shell was found and subsequently defused by experts in a forward village near the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said. The mortar shell was noticed by some villagers in an open field at Bobiya in Hiranagar sector this morning, the officials said. They said the bomb disposal squad was summoned and the explosive device was safely

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Doda District Tops Jammu Zone In Recovering Lost And Stolen Mobiles, Recovers Rs. 8.87 Lakh Worth of Devices



DODA, Sep 17: As per the statement issued by J&K Police District Doda it was told that, Cyber Police Station Doda of J&K Police District Doda under the supervision of SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta JKPS lead by Insp. Surinder Veer and PSI Ankush Nagra ( Nodal CEIR), quoting the

report of Gol. Ministry of Communication, Dept. of Telecommunication, J&K, District Doda has emerged as the best performing districts of Jammu Zone to affect THE RECOVERY OF LOST AND STOLEN MOBILE through CEIR Portal. Further team has exhibited

highest level of professionalism, technical acumen and commitment in combating cybercrime by successfully solving and recovering online defrauded money amounting Rs. 8,00,835/- and also recovered 57 lost Mobile Phones whose estimated value is around "RS 8,87,715 /- from different States/ UTs of the country.

In a press conference held at DPO Doda, SSP Sandeep Mehta said that during the course of investigation, Cyber Police Station team, exhibited hectic efforts and advanced technical skills with the help of ESU unit led by PSI Sahil Kumar which ultimately led to the successful recovery of defrauded amount of Rs. 8,00,835/- and recovered 57 lost Mobile Phones whose estimated

(Contd on Pg 2)

## State Investigation Agency Arrests Narcotic Smuggler Absconding For 3 Years

SRINAGAR, Sep 17: Jammu and Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) Wednesday said it has arrested a notorious drug smuggler who had been absconding for the last three years in a narco-terror case. Zafraan Khan, a resident of Mohra Dawran area of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, was arrested on Tuesday, a spokesperson of the SIA said. He said Khan, who was evading arrest for the last three years, was apprehended by a special SIA team from Kathua district. "His arrest marks a severe blow to narco-terror module backed by Pakistan-based terror handlers. This module was involved in smuggling of narcotic substances through LoC in Uri sector and subsequent transportation and sale in both the Kashmir valley and Jammu region. Sale proceeds of these narcotic substances were later channelised to sustain the waning terrorism in J-K," the spokesperson said. The arrest

(Contd on Pg 2)

## ICC Rejects Pak Demand For Pycroft Removal; Team Yet To Turn Up For Asia Cup Clash Against UAE

DUBAI, Sep 17: Pakistan's cricket team on Wednesday refused to leave its hotel for the must-win Asia Cup group match against the UAE after the country's demand to have Andy Pycroft removed as match referee was rejected for a second time by the ICC. Pakistan had held Pycroft responsible for the embarrassment it faced after Indian players refused to shake hands following their match on Sunday as a mark of solidarity with the victims of the Pahalagam terror attack. "Pycroft will remain match referee for Wednesday's game and if Pakistan don't turn up, UAE will be awarded full

(Contd on Pg 2)

## PM Modi's life a symbol of service and dedication, an inspiration for everyone: Om Birla

Kota Lok Sabha Speaker and Kota-Bundi MP Om Birla on Wednesday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life as a source of inspiration "as he dedicated every moment since childhood to serve the society and the nation". Birla, along with Rajasthan Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar and Education Minister Madan Dilawar, participated in several events in Kota as part of the Seva Pakhwada (service fortnight) being observed to mark the prime minister's 75th birthday. The Speaker inaugurated a Namo health check-up and nutrition camp, and kicked off the 'Healthy Women, Empowered Family' campaign at Thekha. He distributed nutrition kits to pregnant women there. Speaking on the occasion, Birla said through the mantra 'Service is Revolution', Prime Minister Modi has made politics a means of public welfare. His political aim is to dignify the lives of the poor, underprivileged, women and

## Dr Jitendra Tours Flood Affected Punjab Villages, Issues On The Spot Instructions

PATHANKOT, Sep 17: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today visited several villages of Pathankot district in Punjab to assess the damage caused to the public infrastructure during the recent floods.

Accompanied by administration team led by Deputy Commissioner Pathankot, Aditya Upgal and Superintendent of Police Dhillon, the Union Minister issued several on the spot instructions which were promptly followed up, to the great satisfaction and joy of local people.

The Union Minister visited villages, namely Polla, Kohlian and the river bed of Ravi. Besides, he also visited places along the rivers Ravi and Jhili in Bamial, Chal, Amir, Simbal Sakol, Dhinda and Bhupalpur. On the occa-



sion, the Union Minister was briefed on the level of damage suffered during the calamity.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is monitoring the rehabilitation of the victims and reconstruction work with respect to the damaged infrastructure. The Minister said he is also monitoring the work being undertaken in all 23 districts of Punjab, and today's visit to the affected villages is part of the same.

Dr Jitendra Singh directed the local administration to scale up repair of damaged infrastructure like bridges and instructed them to submit preliminary assessment reports on the damage caused at the earliest. The Minister said learning from the past experience, new structures built would be of better quality in terms of height and width of culverts and bridges. The Minister said, rehabilitation of the victims is being arranged immediately through temporary shelters till a permanent arrangement is made for reconstruction. Dr Jitendra Singh informed that alternate arrangement of land is being made by the administration wherever the land has been washed away by flood waters. The

(Contd on Pg 2)

## FROM PAGE ONE

**"Swasth...**

given new strength to Nari Shakti. Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision, which places Nari Shakti at the forefront of development, has made women powerful agents of change," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted India's rapid economic development, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

India has overcome previous slow growth to become one of the world's fastest-growing economies, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said peace is essential for development, and peace can only be achieved by completely dismantling terror ecosystem.

"The people from all sections of society must realise that those who provide ideological and financial support for terrorism, create false narratives are dangerous to peace and development.

"Viksit Bharat" requires a "Viksit Jammu Kashmir", which can only be achieved when economic benefits reach the poor and the common man, and not only to handful of persons. On this occasion, we must also introspect on these important issues," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called for a widespread awareness campaign using various platforms to encourage public participation and leveraging Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Anganwadi centres for dissemination of detailed information on health camp schedules and services.

The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a health camp to mark the occasion. He also distributed medical aids and handed over sanction letters under Mission YUVA among beneficiaries

"Swasth Nari Sashakti Parivar Abhiyaan" is a landmark initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), aimed at strengthening healthcare services for women and children across India, with a focus on improving access, quality care, and awareness.

The Abhiyaan is organising more than one lakh health camps, making this the largest ever health outreach for women and children in the country. These camps will be organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres, and other healthcare facilities and will actively promote nutrition, health awareness, and overall family well-being. Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department, Ms Manddeep Kaur; Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare, Shri Sarnad Hafeez; Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Shri Anshul Garg; Deputy Commissioner, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Shobhna Gupta; Mission Director NHM J&K, Shri Basem UI Haq Choudhary; Administrative Secretaries, senior officials, women and people from different walks of life were present at the UT level event in Srinagar.

**Our Soldiers...**

should carry the fragrance of the soil of my India," Modi said.

The PM also spoke of the bravery of Indian soldiers during Operation Sindoor.

"The security of Mother India is the nation's highest priority. Terrorists who came from Pakistan attempted to tarnish the dignity of our daughters and sisters. Responding through Operation Sindoor, we destroyed the terror launch pads," Modi said.

"Our brave soldiers brought Pakistan to its knees in the blink of an eye," Modi said.

Modi said that on September 17, 1948, the nation witnessed the iron will of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"Indian army liberated Hyderabad from oppression, safeguarded the rights of its people, and reinstated the pride of India," he said.

"We have now begun to observe this day as Hyderabad Liberation Day. Today, a grand celebration is being held in Hy-

derabad to commemorate the occasion," he said.

At the programme in Dhar district, Modi also accepted greetings from the crowd on his 75th birthday.

**Operation...**

foreign minister, also made it clear that India rejected third-party role in the conflict," he said.

PM Modi has also made it clear that it is a bilateral issue and a third party cannot interfere, he said.

**Vaishno...**

day, much before the start of the yatra. Shrine board officials said the yatra began at 6 am from both the routes leading to the hilltop shrine after a temporary suspension necessitated by inclement weather conditions and essential maintenance of the track leading to the shrine.

However, the shrine board used public address system to announce the immediate suspension of the yatra around 5.30 pm after dark clouds covered the Trikuta hills with weather-man forecasting heavy rains.

"Over 2,500 pilgrims joined the yatra during the day and many of them have already paid their obeisance at the shrine. The helicopter service remained suspended, but the battery car functioned normally," an official said.

He said the shrine board will review the situation later tonight and accordingly a decision will be taken about allowing the pilgrims on the track for the yatra on Thursday. Earlier, the shrine board advised the pilgrims to carry valid identification, follow designated pathways and cooperate with on-ground staff. Radio Frequency Identity Card (RFID)-based tracking remains mandatory for transparency and traceability.

The shrine board expressed its gratitude to all devotees for their patience and understanding during the temporary suspension.

"The resumption of the Yatra marks a reaffirmation of our collective faith and resilience and the board remains committed to upholding the sanctity, safety and dignity of this revered pilgrimage," an official said.

"We are extremely happy that the yatra has resumed. We reached the base camp from Pune two days ago and it was a difficult wait but we were sure that we are going to have a 'darshan' before returning to our home town," said a woman pilgrim, part of a group from Maharashtra.

The pilgrims termed the resumption of the yatra as a very special day and said "visiting the shrine is a blessing and we thank the officials for making this possible." The shrine board urged all pilgrims to strictly follow safety guidelines and remain updated through official communication channels.

With the path now declared safe, the pilgrimage is expected to see a large number of devotees in the coming days, especially during the upcoming Navratri scheduled to start from September 22 till October 1.

The pilgrimage was suspended on August 26, hours before a major landslide hit the route leading to the shrine that resulted in the death of 34 pilgrims and injuries to 20 others.

**CM Omar...**

Minister about the progress of works including widening, metalling, and restoration of the second tube of NH-44.

He also apprised him of the current single-lane traffic arrangements in place to manage vehicular movement.

The Chief Minister directed the NHAI authorities to expedite the restoration process to ease the movement of commuters and the general public. He instructed the executing agencies to mobilize additional men and machinery to ensure timely completion, underlining that safe and smooth road connectivity is the top priority of the Government.

Later, the Chief Minister interacted with local residents at Thard, patiently listening to their grievances.

He assured them that the Government is making every possible effort to fully restore NH-44 at the earliest and provide necessary relief to both commuters and the public.

**Doda...**

value is around RS 8,87,715/-.

Mr Mehta handed over the recovered mobile phones to their rightful owners at District Police Headquarters Doda. SSP Doda appealed the general public to take utmost care of their mobiles as they contain personal data and there is every possibility of misuse of Mobile Phones. Upon receiving their missing/lost mobile phones, the owners felt elated and expressed their gratitude towards the District Police Doda for their arduous effort in tracing their missing mobiles.

SSP Doda reiterated in his appeal to the general public to remain extra vigilant and report promptly to the National Helpline number 1930 or lodge cyber complaints online at [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) and in case of Lost/Stolen Mobile report on [www.ceir.gov.in](http://www.ceir.gov.in). Mentionable here that Cyber Police Station Doda has successfully recovered huge de-frauded money amount \*Rs. 56,77,173/- and also successfully recovered 276 Mobile Phones amounting Rs.47,29,688/- so far.

**State...**

was made in a case registered under sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act pertaining to the recovery of one kg heroin, seven kg poppy straw and four kg poppy seeds, he said. The chargesheet in this case has already been filed against five members of this narco-terror module. Khan's arrest would help the SIA track forward and backward linkages in this case with a view to dismantle the narco-terror modules operating in the valley, he added.

Over the months, SIA Kashmir has intensified its crackdown against narco-terror networks across the Kashmir valley. Last week, another notorious terror handler Abdul Rashid Bhat who was absconding for more than two years was arrested from Pulwama.

**Dr Jitendra...**

Minister said he chaired a review meeting with officials on Monday

The Union Minister said that Central teams are also visiting the flood-affected areas of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. He said these teams would submit reports to the Government of India on the level of damage to houses, roads, bridges, crop land and other infrastructure. He reaffirmed the Union government's commitment to the rehabilitation of the affected population and rebuilding of damaged infrastructure in both Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir

During today's visit to the flood-hit villages of Pathankot, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh was accompanied by the officers from PWD, R&B, PHE and agriculture led Deputy Commissioner Aditya Uppal and SSP, Daljinder Singh Dhillon.

According to a press note shared by the Deputy Commissioner on floods, the swollen Ravi swept away a large tract of embankments towards west of Kolian, affecting about 700 residents at Kolia Adla. About 600 metre of embankment was washed away. 35 houses of Gujar families were washed away. About 30 houses of local residents were severely damaged. Nearly 30 shops were also severely damaged at the Adla which is an upfront of Kolia village falling under sub tehsil Narot Jaimal Singh in the district.

**Farooq...**

God. "Do we share God's blessing with the poor? We have to learn to do these things.

"These troubles awaken us to remember our Lord, that we have to go to Him. Only then He will take us out of these troubles," he added.

Referring to the situation in Gaza, Abdullah said "Look what is happening there. Israel is trying to wipe them".

"Is any Muslim country raising its voice? Thousands are dying, why? It is because they are far away from God. They do not know that God exists and is testing them," he said.

Asked if the leaders were playing politics on the issue of fruits, the NC president said politics will never stop in Kashmir.

"Their homes run on it. They get money from Delhi and are alive on their blessings. The day money stops, they (leaders) will also fall," he added.

**Rusted...**

defused without causing any harm.

**ICC Rejects...**

points," well-placed sources in tournament told PTI. A PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) source said the players "have been told to stay in their rooms and wait for further instructions."

The UAE team has, however, arrived at the stadium and will go through to the Super Four stage if the match is not played. According to the PCB, the 69-year Pycroft, who is a former Zimbabwe cricketer, had told his national captain Salman Ali Agha to refrain from shaking hands with his Indian counterpart Suryakumar Yadav.

The Pakistani team management also alleged that Pycroft did not allow the customary exchange of team-sheets between the two captains.

"This misconduct violates Article 2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Match Officials, which specifically makes it an offence for the Match Referee to conduct himself in a manner, which is contrary to the spirit of game and violates the MCC Laws," the PCB alleged in its first letter of complaint to the ICC.

"Given the gravity, political nature/background, and far-reaching consequences and repercussions, the misconduct has also caused disrepute to the game," it had stated.

The ICC rejected these accusations and maintained the same position even when a second letter was sent by the PCB. According to sources in the ICC and the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), Pycroft had no role in the fiasco and "in fact saved Pakistan from being blind-sided by informing them about what the Indians were planning to do."

**PM Modi's...**

youth. The true purpose of public life is not power or position but to wipe the tears of the weakest person in the society, he said, adding that Modi's life is a symbol of service and dedication. Birla said under the 'Healthy Women, Empowered Family' campaign, women and children will be screened for timely detection of diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis and sickle cell anaemia. It will focus on improving nutrition, preventing obesity, and raising awareness about a healthy lifestyle.

He said this initiative will empower maternal and child health. Birla further said that his Kota-Bundi parliamentary constituency already has initiatives like the 'Well Nourished Mother campaign' (Suposhit Matritva Abhiyan) and 'Hospital on Wheels', benefiting thousands of pregnant women.

He said continuous efforts are being made to provide health services in every village and hamlet. In future, Kota will be developed as a medical tourism hub, and plans for a cancer unit, a satellite hospital in Ladpura, and Ramashray Bhawan in JK Lone Hospital are part of this commitment, he said. Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar, Kota South MLA Sandeep Sharma, Ladpura MLA Kalpana Devi, former minister Ramgopal Bairwa, senior party leader Pankaj Mehta, former deputy mayor Sumita Vyas, Pandit Govind Sharma, Anusuya Goswami, Mayor Rajeev Bharti and other public representatives were present on the occasion.

Earlier in the morning, Birla launched the 'Cleanliness is Service' campaign in Shaktinagar Ward Number 2. He also inaugurated a blood donation camp at GMA Plaza. Meanwhile, Education and Panchayati Raj Minister Madan Dilawar inaugurated a Swachhata Pakhawada (cleanliness fortnight) in his constituency Ramanjmandi to celebrate the prime minister's birthday.

**CS directs for giving priority passage to fruit-laden trucks on NH-44**

Srinagar, September 17, 2025: In view of the recent disruptions on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) caused by inclement weather, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review restoration works, assess supply chain management, and ensure the smooth movement of essential commodities along this highway.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Public Works Department (PWD); Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA); Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Kashmir; Secretary, Transport; IG Traffic; Deputy Commissioners; and senior representatives from the Army, Beacon, and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary sought a detailed appraisal of the current status of NH-44. The Divisional Commissioner informed him about partial restoration of traffic on a single-lane stretch that was



severely damaged by flash floods, as well as the ongoing restoration work and the efforts made by them to facilitate vehicular movement through the Mughal Road as an alternative route.

Emphasizing the need to streamline traffic management works, the Chief Secretary directed that on September 18, only Jammu-bound vehicles be allowed to ply on NH-44, ensuring clearance of all trucks stranded en-route. On the following day, traffic would be exclusively facilitated for Srinagar-

bound vehicles to enable smooth movement. He further instructed that stoppages along vulnerable stretches be strictly avoided to prevent traffic jams.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of expediting restoration works to restore double-lane traffic at the earliest. He directed divisional administrations to closely monitor the repair works and share real-time updates with his office.

He also called for augmenting men and machinery

along both NH-44 and Mughal Road, with adequate arrangements such as cranes and service providers to assist vehicles in case of emergencies.

Highlighting the critical nature of perishable goods during the harvest season, he instructed authorities to prioritize movement of fruit-laden trucks, along with petroleum and LPG tankers, to safeguard the interests of farmers and ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities in the Valley.

Reviewing the stock position, the Chief Secretary was informed by the Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat that food grain and petroleum supplies in Kashmir were comfortable, with additional consignments being regularly transported since the partial reopening of the highway. Deputy Commissioners also apprised him of the availability of essential commodities and services in their respective districts.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the economic interests of fruit growers and traders must be fully protected, and directed field officers to provide all necessary support for hassle-free transportation of produce. Reiterating the urgency of restoration, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the NHAI to mobilize all available resources and ensure early completion of repair works. He emphasized that restoring NH-44 to full capacity remains the topmost priority, given its pivotal role as the lifeline connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

**VC DDC Kupwara reviews pace of developmental works of Wavoor block**

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 17: Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir today chaired a meeting here to review the ongoing projects of Wavoor block. CEO DDC, Mufti Fareeduddin was also present in the meeting, which was also attended by Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab, Executive Engineer PHE Kupwara, Tehsildar Lalpora and officials from YS&SO and Forest department. VC highlighted various pro-

jects which need to be paced up for development in the Wavoor block. These projects include construction of Alama Anwar Shah Kashmir Stadium Kulgam, Surigam-Khodi road, Kulgam-Maidanpora road, Aafan Khurhama Road, Malsud Sever Bridge, Shahabad Bridge, Lone Mohallah Aafan Bridge and Batnadd road.

He enjoined upon the concerned officers to speed up the pace of work on these projects so that people in

large are benefited in these areas.

He also raised the issue regarding requirement of pipes at Check Wamow, execution of works under SAMAGRA Shiksha, PMGSY works, water supply schemes and construction of sports stadium at Khurhama Branwar and Kawari.

Tehsildar Lalpora was directed to visit the identified locations for construction of different projects.

**DC Bandipora joins nation in live broadcast of PM's address on Women-Centric Initiatives**

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today joined officers, CDOs, Supervisors and Anganwadi workers in keenly listening to the live broadcast of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from Dhar, Madhya Pradesh. On the occasion, Prime Minister launched a series of women-centric initiatives aimed at strengthening health and well-being at the grassroots level.

Speaking during the broadcast, Prime Minister emphasized the importance of empowering women through health, nutrition and welfare-based initiatives, which are expected to benefit communities across the country, particularly at the grassroots level. The message resonated widely with the participants in Bandipora, who pledged to align their efforts with the national vision of empowerment and service. Following the event, DC directed CDOs, Supervisors

and Anganwadi workers to work with greater dedication and sincerity for improving the health and well-being of their communities. She stressed the importance of convergence among departments and underlined the need to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the most vulnerable sections of society.

DC further called upon field-level workers to translate the Prime Minister's vision into action by strengthening outreach.



## Ashok Koul leads BJP's massive blood donation drive in Kashmir

Kashmir, 17 September 2025:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organized a series of blood donation camps across Kashmir to commemorate the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his lifelong spirit of selfless service to the nation. The campaign in Kashmir was led by Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, which witnessed an overwhelming response with over 600 units of blood donated across nine districts of Kashmir. Ashok Koul, along with General Secretary Anwar Khan, Prabhakar Barmulla Bilal Parry, District President Baramulla Ghulam Hassan Dar, Mir Mush-taq, and Dr Farida, inaugu-



rated one of the prominent blood donation camps at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla. He lauded the enthusiasm of party workers, youth, and volunteers for contributing to this noble cause.

In Central Kashmir, 80 units were collected in Srinagar, more than 30 units in Ganderbal, and 53 units in Budgam. South Kashmir

witnessed 20 units in Pulwama, 42 in Shopian, 20 in Kulgam, and 80 in Anantnag. In North Kashmir, 50 units were donated in Baramulla and 48 in Bandipora. Additionally, BJP Yuva Morcha contributed 38 units, while the Minority Morcha organized special drives collecting nearly 150 units of blood.

## Operation Sindoor Shattered JeM: Tarun Chugh

*Afridi's Praise Exposes Rahul Gandhi as Pakistan's Blue-Eyed Boy*

Jammu, 17 September 2025:

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh said that the belated admission by Jaish-e-Mohammad about the devastating impact of Operation Sindoor is the strongest proof of India's decisive counter-terror capability. "In May 2025, our brave armed forces demolished Jaish's Bawalpur headquarters, eliminated over a hundred dreaded terrorists including Kandahar hijackers, and struck at the very roots of Masood Azhar's empire. Today, even Jaish commanders are on record acknowledging their losses," Chugh said. He hit out sharply at the Congress alliance and its leader Rahul Gandhi, re-



minding how they questioned the success of Operation Sindoor just as they once cast aspersions on the Surgical Strikes and Balakot Airstrikes. "This is a consistent pattern—our forces write history with blood and courage, and Rahul Gandhi tries to erase it with doubt and dishonor. The nation will never forgive such betrayal," Chugh said.

From the surgical strikes of 2016 to the Balakot airstrikes in 2019, and now Operation Sindoor in 2025, India's armed forces have written a saga of unmatched bravery. Each time, while the world acknowledged India's right to defend itself, Congress leaders tried to plant seeds of doubt and spoke in the very language that Pakistan used to dis-

credit our victories. "This duplicity is not just politics—it is an insult to every soldier who risks his life for the tricolour," Chugh said, adding that history will remember these operations as milestones of India's rise, while it will remember Rahul Gandhi's comments as footnotes of shame.

Chugh also drew attention to Pakistan's former cricketer Shahid Afridi's recent praise of Rahul Gandhi. "It is shameful that the same Afridi who spits venom on Kashmir is now applauding Pakistan's politics. When Pakistan abuses India, they look the other way, and when Pakistan praises Rahul Gandhi, they beam with pride. This duplicity is unacceptable," Chugh said.

against terror," he added. Calling out former Pakistani cricketer Mohammad Yousuf's derogatory and condemnable remarks against India's cricket captain Suryakumar Yadav, Chugh questioned why Rahul Gandhi and his ally from Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, have not objected to such insults.

"Their silence is telling. It shows that Rahul Gandhi and his INDI alliance partners like Tejashwi are not just indifferent but virtually complicit with Pakistani voices. When Pakistan abuses India, they look the other way, and when Pakistan praises Rahul Gandhi, they beam with pride. This duplicity is unacceptable," Chugh said.

## BJP All Cells highlights GST relaxation, Seva Pakhwada Initiatives on PM Modi's birthday

Jammu, 17 September 2025:

BJP All Cells led by Ved Sharma organized a program at Satwari to celebrate the birthday of PM Narendra Modi and to spread awareness about GST relaxation beginning September 22, 2025, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship social welfare initiatives. Ration distribution was also done to the needy persons on the occasion. The program began with congratulatory to PM Narendra Modi followed by discussions on government reforms aimed at benefiting common citizens and the

business community. J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, while addressing the gathering, spoke on the benefits of the present GST reforms for the profit of the common people. He praised the efforts of various party cells for their proactive role in strengthening the organizational network and serving society during Seva Pakhwada. He emphasized that such initiatives reflect the party's commitment to Prime Minister Modi's vision of inclusive growth and nation-building. General Secretary Sanjita Dogra highlighted the significance of the Beti



Bachao, Beti Padhao program launched by the Prime Minister. She urged party workers to take this cam-

paign to every household, ensuring that education and empowerment of girls remain a top priority in social

development. Ved Sharma appreciated the government's recent decision on GST relaxation,

calling it a "progressive step to ease business and promote economic growth." He said the move reflects the government's commitment to reducing financial burdens on the business community and creating a more supportive environment for trade. Sharma emphasized that the relaxation will particularly benefit small traders, shopkeepers, and budding entrepreneurs who form the backbone of the local economy. He added that by simplifying tax compliance and providing relief to businesses, the reform will encourage investment, gener-

ate employment, and boost confidence among those engaged in trade and industry. Ex-Corporator Pawan Singh expressed gratitude to the people for their consistent support and participation in developmental activities. The stage was efficiently managed by Vice-President Cantomment Bhushan. Prominent attendees included Industry Cell Convenor Deepak Gupta and Co-Convenor Rachit Khosla, Teachers Cell Convenor Kulkant Bhati with Co-Convenors P.C. Sharma and Abhay Mahajan, Refugees Cell Convenor Balvinder Singh and Co-

Convenor Parmodh Chib, Ex-Corporator Ajay Gupta, Art & Culture Cell representatives Narinder and Vijay Phalwan, and Danesh Gupta. Satwari Bazar Association President Rajesh Gupta also joined the celebration. The event concluded with a collective pledge to further the Prime Minister's vision of Seva, Samarpan, and Atmanirbharta, with participants wishing PM Modi good health and long life. The program showcased the BJP's grassroots connect and its dedication to combining celebration with social awareness campaigns.

## BJP launches blood donation drive in Jammu to mark PM Modi's birthday, emphasizes seva and service to humanity

Jammu, 17 September 2025:

J&K BJP today launched a massive blood donation campaign in Jammu & Kashmir to mark the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, celebrating his lifelong commitment to service, humility, and dedication to the nation and society. The campaign also marks the beginning of the "Seva Pakhwada" (Service Fortnight) being observed from September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Modi, to October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. In Jammu region, the campaign was jointly led by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma (CA), Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly, and



Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), Senior leaders, MLAs, office bearers and activists enthusiastically participated across 11 organizational districts of Jammu region on the first day. About 50 units of blood were donated in Kathua, 30 in Jammu, around 20 in Jammu South, 30 in Akhnour, 26 in Rajouri, 50

in Poonch, 20 in Reasi, 40 in Udhampur, 10 in Ramban, 2 in Doda, and 20 in Kishtwar. The drive will continue in the coming days at the district and mandal levels to ensure maximum public participation. Sat Sharma, addressing on the occasion, said that the true celebration of the birthday of our beloved Prime Minister

Narendra Modi lies in serving humanity. He said that the Blood donation is the highest form of service because it gives life to the distressed, whether in cases of accidents, natural disasters like floods, or even war-like situations where blood is urgently needed. He said that the Prime Minister Modi has lived his entire life in humility and selfless service, and through Seva Pakhwada we want to instill the same spirit among our youth and society at large. Sunil Sharma said that every drop of blood donated today will save lives tomorrow. He said that the culture of service is what strengthens our nation. He said that the initiative of Seva Pakhwada is not just sym-

bolic, it is a reminder that each of us has a role to play in nation-building. He added that on the birthday of a leader who has dedicated himself tirelessly to the people, it is most befitting to engage in acts that directly benefit the needy and underprivileged. Jugal Kishore Sharma also emphasized the significance of the campaign, saying that during regular as well as mass tragedies, or conflict situations, where blood is the first and foremost requirement to save lives. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, BJP is determined to create a culture of compassion, seva, and responsibility in every corner of the society, he said.

## Puneet Arora appointed as National Vice President of NFJM Working Committee

New Delhi: The National Foundation for Journalism and Media (NFJM) has announced the appointment of Puneet Arora, Editor-in-Chief of Early Post Daily Newspaper, as the National Vice President of the NFJM Working Committee. The appointment has been made by Dr. Tahir Ruffayee, National Chairman of NFJM, in recognition of Arora's dedication to responsible journalism and his leadership in the media industry.

Arora's appointment as National Vice President will help NFJM expand its reach and effectiveness at the grassroots level. NFJM aims to advance media ethics, protect press freedom, and empower both digital and print journalism. Dr. Tahir Ruffayee emphasized that NFJM is built on the pillars of credibility, responsibility, and integrity in journalism. Arora is the Editor-in-Chief of Early Post Daily Newspaper, where he has been actively engaged in raising issues of public concern and promoting ethical news practices. His experience and vision are expected



to add strength to NFJM's national initiatives. NFJM is committed to nurturing leaders who can guide the next generation of media professionals and ensure that journalism remains a cornerstone of democracy in India. The appointment of Puneet Arora as National Vice President of the NFJM Working Committee is a significant step towards strengthening the media fraternity in India. With his leadership and experience, NFJM is poised to make a positive impact on the media industry.

## Yudhvir Sethi kickstarts development works worth Rs 40 Lakh in Ward 15



JAMMU, Sept 11: In a major step towards infrastructure development in Jammu East, senior BJP leader and JammuEast MLA Yudhvir Sethi today inaugurated development works worth Rs 40 lakh in Ward No. 15 near Shivalaya Mandir Road. The works include construction of lanes, drains, and macadamization of internal roads, aiming to improve civic amenities for the local residents. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Yudhvir Sethi said, "Development and public service remain our top priorities. The work being started today is a testament to the BJP's commitment to

upgrading basic infrastructure and improving the quality of life for every citizen." He added that continuous development across all wards of Jammu East has been a hallmark of the BJP's governance model. Sethi emphasized that the BJP is focused on ensuring that every lane and street, especially in urban areas, gets proper attention in terms of sanitation, drainage, and road connectivity. He assured residents that more such projects will be initiated in the coming months under various government schemes. The project is being executed under the supervision

of XEn Rakesh Kumar, along with departmental officials including Sonalika. The event also witnessed the presence of senior BJP leaders and local representatives including Sanjay Mahay (Ex-Corporator), Adarsh Jathar (Mandal President, East Mandal), Anita Gupta (Vice President, East Mandal), Harvinder Singh (General Secretary, East Mandal), Happy Chouhan (Booth President), Sanjay Abrol and others. Locals expressed gratitude towards Yudhvir Sethi for addressing long-pending civic issues and for his proactive role in development. They highlighted that the improvement in drainage and road conditions would bring great relief, especially during the rainy season. Sethi concluded by urging citizens to remain active participants in the development process and assured that every genuine demand of the public will be taken up with utmost priority.

## J&K Youth Congress Observes National Unemployment Day in Jammu to Mark PM Modi's Birth Anniversary

*"Government only favours Adanis, ignores unemployed youth": Sawhney*

Jammu, Sept 17:

The J&K Pradesh Youth Congress (JKPYC) on Wednesday observed National Unemployment Day in Jammu under its nationwide campaign "Naukri Chor, Gaddi Chhod", to mark the birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The protest was led by JKPYC General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney. Even national and international medalists from martial arts actively joined the protest, standing shoulder to shoulder with Youth Congress activists to fight against joblessness. In a symbolic demonstration highlighting the rising joblessness, Youth Congress activists carried a cart and sold pakoras on the roadside, mocking the government's repeated failure to provide adequate employment opportunities to the youth despite their qualifi-



cations. The protestors raised slogans against the Central government, alleging betrayal of young aspirants who continue to face an uncertain future. The demonstration saw the participation of State General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney along with State Vice President Adv. Ranjodh Singh, General Secre-

tary Swarn Singh Jaral, Secretary Anmol Kohli, Mehul Abrol (President Jammu East), and Youth Congress leaders Navjot Singh, Amir Hussain Malik, Adv. Haris Ali, Showkat Hussain Malik, Moulik Sharma, Mohammad Iqbal, Mohammad Salim, Vansh Gupta, Aryan Singh Charak, Aman Manhas, Toshak Sharma, Hanan

Younis, Jibran, Minhaj Bashir, and Haseeb Malik. Speaking on the occasion, State General Secretary PYC Anirudh Sawhney strongly criticized the Modi government, saying that over three lakh young people in J&K alone have registered themselves as unemployed this year, yet the government shows no con-

cern. Prime Minister Modi is unworried about the struggles of youth because he has secured his position through vote chori, and therefore feels no accountability for naukri chori. That is why Youth Congress launched the Naukri Chor, Gaddi Chhod campaign—to highlight the duvidha and suffering of our youth. Sawhney further added that this government is here only to enjoy power and favour their friends such as the Adanis, instead of working for the people. The power they hold has come through unfair means, and the consequences are being borne by ordinary citizens, especially the young generation who are left with no opportunities. Our protest is a call to remind the ruling dispensation that the patience of the youth is running out, and they will not remain silent against this injustice.

## NIT Srinagar launches 15-day Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 campaign

**Director, Registrar stresses youth's role in nation-building and civic responsibility**

Srinagar, Sept 17: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar officially launched the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 campaign on Wednesday as part of the nationwide cleanliness initiative inspired by Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB). The inauguration, held near the Main Building fountain, was attended by In-Charge Director, Prof. Roohi Naz, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman, Dean of Students Welfare Prof. Mohammad Abid Bazaz, Dean of Alumni and International Affairs Professor M.A. Shah, and Nodal Officer of SHS 2025 Dr. Ashok Kumar.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, staff, as well as NSS and NCC cadets, and EBSB volunteers. A key highlight of the event was the Swachhata Pledge, in which participants committed to dedicating 100 hours per year, or two hours per week, to voluntary cleanliness activities.



They also vowed to actively promote cleanliness in their personal spaces, encourage at least 100 others to join the initiative, and refrain from littering while discouraging others from doing so. Speaking at the event, In-Charge Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Roohi Naz, said cleanliness is not just a responsibility but a reflection of our commitment to nation-building.

"Our youth have the power to transform society through consistent action, and initiatives like SHS 2025 make

that possible," she said. Institute Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman highlighted the role of institutions in promoting civic responsibilities. "Educational institutions are key to instilling habits that extend beyond classrooms. By participating in SHS 2025, students and staff set examples for their families and communities," he said. DSW, Prof. Mohammad Abid Bazaz said that SHS 2025 is more than a campaign; it's a platform for students to engage, innovate,

and lead by example. "From organizing campus clean-ups to spreading awareness in local communities, students can see the impact of their efforts firsthand. Such experiences build civic-minded individuals who understand the importance of sustained social responsibility," he said. Dean AIA, Prof. M.A. Shah said cleanliness is not just about removing waste; it's about creating an environment where healthy habits and community values thrive. "Through SHS 2025,

we are encouraging students, faculty, and staff to embed cleanliness into daily life, ensuring that it becomes a core part of campus culture and community consciousness," he added. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Nodal Officer for SHS 2025, highlighted the practical objectives of the campaign. "The goal of this initiative is to translate awareness into tangible action. Every participant taking the pledge strengthens the culture of cleanliness and responsibility," he said. Dr. Ashok further added that the campaign aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, emphasizing active citizenship and community engagement. The campaign, led by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), focuses on transforming neglected public spaces, including garbage dumps, railway stations, bank lanes, and villages.

## Trailblazer of Global Leadership: BJP J&K UT Spokespersons Hail PM Modi on His 75th Birthday

Jammu, 17 September 2025: On the occasion of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's 75th birthday, BJP J&K UT spokesperson Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, along with other party spokespersons, lauded the unparalleled leadership, vision, and commitment demonstrated by the Prime Minister over the years. As per a press release, Dr. Chowdhary described PM Modi as "the world's most powerful and trusted leader whose governance has transformed India into a global force." Dr. Chowdhary highlighted that PM Modi's journey from being the Chief Minister of Gujarat for 13 years to serving as the Prime Minister of India for over a decade has been marked by consistent performance, clean governance, and decisive action. "From ensuring good governance without a single scandal to delivering promises without losing an election, his record speaks for itself," Dr. Chowdhary emphasized. He applauded landmark achievements such as the abrogation of Article 370, which ensured Jammu and Kashmir's full integration with the rest of the country, the construction of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, and the launch of flagship initiatives like Digital India, UPI revolution, and Make in India, which have empowered millions of citizens and transformed India's economy. The spokesperson further praised PM Modi's role in enhancing India's global stature, resisting geopolitical pressures, and addressing national security challenges through decisive measures like surgical



strikes and strategic defense postures.

"His unwavering stand against global hegemonies and protection of persecuted communities reflects his commitment to humanity and national pride," he added. Other BJP J&K UT spokespersons, also extended their greetings and admiration for the Prime Minister's relentless pursuit of development, social justice, and national unity. They termed PM Modi as a visionary whose policies are designed not only to uplift the economically weaker sections but also to ensure India's rise as a global power. Dr. Chowdhary further said, "PM Modi's leadership is a beacon of hope, progress, and national resurgence. As the nation celebrates his 75th birthday, we renew our commitment to support his vision of a strong, self-reliant, and prosperous India."

## Work efficiently on ground instead of shifting blame to centre; BJP to Omar Abdullah

**'Markaz Ki Chaal' narrative does not work anymore**

Jammu, 17 September 2025:

The National Conference and its leader Omar Abdullah are once again playing their oldest political trick-blaming New Delhi to cover their own failures. This "Centre Ki Chaal" narrative has been NC's shield since 1947, a tool to divert public resentment whenever their misrule is exposed. Today, the same tired drama is being staged again. This was stated by former MLC and spokesperson of BJP JK-UT Girdhari Lal Raina in Jammu today. Addressing a press conference along with Advocate Purnima Sharma - spokesperson BJP JK-UT, he said that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway crisis is a telling example. While fruit growers and trucks lost crores and ordinary citizens remained stranded in misery, Omar Abdullah's government stood paralyzed. Chief Minister or his colleagues did not bother to visit hot spots to understand ground reality. When questioned, the Chief Minister first claimed he had no authority yet he continues to cling to power without shame or accountability. And when anger mounted, he attempted to shift the blame to Delhi, hoping the people would once again

be misled, GL Raina added. Asserting that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are not blind and can't be misled again and again, GL Raina said that people appreciate efforts of NHAI making highway operational against all odds. They have seen with their own eyes how NHAI teams, under the direct guidance of Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, worked tirelessly round the clock in hostile weather and treacherous conditions. Over a dozen excavators and 50 earthmovers were pressed into service, a two-lane diversion was built, and traffic was restored. This is real action, not hollow rhetoric. In contrast, Omar Abdullah restricted himself to social media statements and hollow political posturing. He did not even have the courage to visit the affected areas, where people continue to suffer. His claim that "if the highway was under him, he would have opened it" has only exposed his hypocrisy. Citizens are rightly asking: if you cannot even clear the mud and debris on roads under your own UT government, how can you claim you would have restored a national highway, he asked?

## BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan launches Swachhata Abhiyaan at Manda

Jammu, 17 September 2025:

The Department of BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, JKUT, today launched a Swachhata Abhiyaan in different parts of the Union Territory as part of the Sewa Pakhwara, which commenced on the 75th birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji. As part of this initiative, a Shiv Vandana and Swachhata Abhiyaan was organized at the Prachin Hanuman Ji Temple, Manda. The programme was coordinated by UT In-Charge Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jammwal and UT Co-In-Charge Er. T. K. Sharma. The campaign was especially focused on cleaning temples in view of the upcoming festive season. Speaking on the occasion, Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jammwal said that BJP Jammu & Kashmir has launched a massive cleanliness drive as part of the Sewa Pakhwara beginning on the birthday of our beloved Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji. He highlighted that the initiative aims to spread awareness



about cleanliness and hygiene across the Union Territory and the nation. He further emphasized that the Swachhata Abhiyaan is a nationwide campaign to promote sanitation and sustainable cleanliness. Addressing the gathering, Er. T. K. Sharma, Co-In-Charge of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan JKUT, said that Swachhata is the dream project of

Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji. He extended heartfelt congratulations to PM Modi on his 75th birthday and stated that, on this special day, BJP leaders and karyakartas across the country are actively participating in cleanliness drives. He also appealed to the general public to join hands in making the Union Territory cleaner, greener, and

healthier, thereby fulfilling the vision of the Prime Minister. On the occasion, Anu Rajesh Gupta also spoke and lauded the initiative of Prime Minister Modi Ji, stating that cleanliness is not just a campaign but a responsibility of every citizen. She appreciated the efforts of BJP JKUT leaders Er. Dil Bahadur Singh and Er. TKS Sharma for taking this mission to every corner of the UT and encouraged the youth to come forward and actively participate in Swachhata drives. She said that by working together, people can create a sustainable and healthier environment for future generations. Prominent persons present on the occasion included Karan Singh, Manav Mahajan, Amit Anbil, Pankaj Khajuria, Sarfa Jammwal, Er. S. K. Zalpuri (Convener Jammu District), Er. Rajinder Bali (Senior Leader SBA), Er. Suresh Kumar Sharma (Senior Leader SBA), Er. Rajiv Padha, Sh. Ravinder Singh Jammwal and many others.

## Differently Abled Archer Pawan Kumar to Represent India at Para World Archery Championship in Korea

Katra, September 17: Under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, JK-UT, Shri Manoj Sinha, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) continues to make significant strides in fostering the growth and holistic development of youth across the region.

As part of this endeavor, the Shrine Board has taken a significant step to support budding sports talent, Pawan Kumar, a promising differently abled archer from the SMVD Sports Complex, Katra by extending financial assistance amounting to Rs.7 lakh to facilitate his participation in the prestigious Para World Archery Championship-2025 scheduled from Sep-



tember 20 to 29 in Gwangju, Republic of Korea. The selected athlete, trained under the Shrine Board's Sports Initiative, has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, discipline and determination in the field of archery. Despite visual impairment, the archer has overcome formidable challenges to rise through the

ranks and earn a coveted spot on the national para archery team. This selection marks a historic milestone for the Shrine Board and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, placing the region on the global map of para sports. Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB reaffirmed the

Board's commitment to nurturing young talent and fostering excellence in sports. He said that the Shrine Board's Sports Complex has already produced two outstanding Arjuna Awardees para archers Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi, who have earned national and international acclaim through their remarkable performances. Now, the selection of the Shrine Board's differently abled archer Pawan Kumar to represent India at the Para World Archery Championship in South Korea stands as a shining testament to the athlete's determination, coaching and the institutional support extended by the Board. Notably, the SMVD Sports

Complex is currently nurturing the talents of over 150 aspiring athletes across various sports disciplines, who have been consistently delivering promising results in national and international competitions. The SMVDSB Archery Academy, part of the Complex, has earned the prestigious accreditation under the Khelo India program by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, in recognition of its excellence in promoting sports development and nurturing young talent. Also present on the occasion were Shri Satish Kumar Sharma, Joint CEO; Shri Dhruv Gupta, Assistant CEO and family members of the archer.

## Sale of meat should be banned during Navratri: Shiv Sena

Jammu: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded a complete ban on the sale of meat shops and keeping them closed during the biggest religious festival of Hindus, the Holy Navratri, which starts on September 22. A team of party leaders led by state chief Manish Sahni met the Jammu District Magistrate and submitted a memorandum regarding their above demands.

Sahni said in a special conversation with media persons that the Holy Navratri is starting from 22 September 2025, it is the biggest religious festival of Hindus. During this, fasts are observed, pure vegetarian food is consumed. Sahni said that



religious sentiments will be hurt by the opening and sale of meat shops during these holy days. Therefore, we urge the administration and meat sellers not to open meat shops otherwise any untoward incident can hap-

pen and due to this a situation of communal tension can arise. Appeal to the administration to pass an order to keep all meat shops closed from 22nd September till Shri Ram Navami.

## Dr. Rajeev Bhagat MLA Inaugurated Community Sanitation Complex at Chakra

Bishnah, September 17, 2025: In a significant move to bolster public health and hygiene in the region, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, today inaugurated a new Community Sanitary Complex at village Chakra Panchayat Kheri-B. The inauguration ceremony was a well-attended event, bringing together local leaders and members of the community to celebrate the completion of this essential infrastructure project. The newly constructed complex is designed to provide clean and accessi-

ble sanitation facilities for the residents of village Chakra and the surrounding areas. The project is part of a broader initiative to improve civic amenities and promote a cleaner, healthier environment. Dr. Bhagat, in his address, emphasized the importance of such facilities in preventing the spread of diseases and ensuring the dignity and well-being of all citizens. "This Community Sanitary Complex is more than just a building; it is a symbol of our commitment to the health and prosperity of our people,"



he stated. "It reflects our collective effort to build a stronger, more resilient community where every-

one has access to basic necessities." He also urged the local residents to take owner-

ship of the complex and ensure its proper maintenance for the long-term benefit of the locals.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of several prominent figures who have been instrumental in community development. Among those present were Ex-Sarpanch Vijay Saini, Charanjit Saini, District President of OBC Morcha, their presence underscored the collaborative spirit behind the project. Other notable attendees included Ex-Panch Savita Saini, Ex-Panch Chaman Lal, Ex-Panch Ram Lobhaya, Ravi Kumar, Bhagwan Dass, Jagdish Raj, Kishore Kumar, Rinku Saini, Shammi Saini, and

Vicky Saini, along with many other community members. The inauguration marks a crucial milestone in the ongoing development efforts in the Bishnah constituency. The Community Sanitary Complex is expected to serve as a vital resource, particularly for women, children, and the elderly, who are often disproportionately affected by the lack of proper sanitation. The facility includes separate sections for men and women, ensuring privacy and security for all users. The construction and design adhere to modern

standards, incorporating features that make it easy to maintain and keep clean. The residents of Chakra Panchayat Kheri-B expressed their gratitude for the new facility, which they believe will significantly improve their quality of life. The inauguration was followed by a brief interaction session where Dr. Bhagat and other dignitaries listened to the concerns of the local people and discussed future development plans for the region.



## Seva Parv 2025 kicks off in Rajouri with Swachhata Drive led by DC

*Cleanliness & plantation drives, health camps held at 160 locations  
5 day self-defence Training for girls begins at PG College*

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today formally flagged off the Seva Parv campaign here from DC Colony. The campaign, part of the UT-wide initiative, commenced with a Swachhata pledge by participants, reaffirming collective commitment towards cleanliness and community service.

Later, a massive Swachhata Drive was carried out from the DC Office to the Children Park. The officers and staff actively participated in cleaning activities.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of community involvement for sustained cleanliness and building a culture of service to society.



All district and sectoral officers joined the campaign with great enthusiasm, setting the tone for a series of events planned under Seva Parv. In line with the spirit of the campaign, simultaneous activities including

cleanliness drives, plantation programs, health camps, financial inclusion camps, donation drives and awareness initiatives were organized at 160 different locations across the district, involving educational insti-

tutions, Panchayats, government offices and local communities. The Seva Parv celebrations will continue with multiple activities till October 2. Meanwhile, the District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with

the Social Welfare Department and the District Police launched a five-day Residential Self-Defence Training Programme for 75 girls of the District under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative. The programme was inaugurated at Government PG College Rajouri by Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar. The event also included a screening-cum-medical camp organized for all participating trainees.

The self-defence training programme aims to equip the girls with physical self-protection skills and imbibe in them a sense of self-worth, leadership, and empowerment.

## Restore constitutional rights of J&K People by granting Statehood: Rattan Lal Gupta.

Jammu September 17th: Rattan Lal Gupta Senior leader and Provincial President JKNC, Jammu said that the BJP Government at the Centre has once again exposed its double standards by denying Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, despite making repeated promises before the nation. On the floor of Parliament, both the Prime Minister of India and the Home Minister of India gave categorical assurances that Statehood would be restored. Yet, Six years have passed and the people of J&K are still being deprived of their democratic and constitutional rights.

It is evident that the delay in granting Statehood is not due to administrative or constitutional hurdles, but due to political considerations of the ruling dispensa-



tion at the centre. By keeping J&K under Union Territory status, the BJP Government wants to retain direct control over our resources, land, and institutions, thereby undermining the democratic aspirations of the people.

Mr Gupta emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are not beggars seeking concessions. Statehood is our right, our identity, and our dignity. Denying us this right while

making hollow promises is an insult to the people's mandate of J&K. Mr Gupta said that he National Conference, under the leadership of Omar Abdullah Hon'ble Chief Minister J&K, will continue to fight for the restoration of full Statehood. National Conference will raise this demand consistently in every forum inside the Assembly, in Parliament, and among the people. The denial of Statehood is an insult to the sacrifices and democratic spirit of the people of J&K.

Mr Gupta urged the Centre to stop playing with the sentiments of our people and immediately fulfill its own solemn promise. The time has come to restore dignity, democracy, and the constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir without any further delay.

## HDFC Bank To Organise 'Mega Two Wheeler Loan Mela' in North India

JAMMU, September 17 2025: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, will be organising a 'Mega Two Wheeler Loan Mela' across its branches in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and Jammu & Kashmir on 18th and 19th September 2025. Over 500 branches across these states will host this loan drive. Leading two-wheeler brands and regional dealerships will be present at the branches to showcase vehicles to customers. For eligible customers, the

bank will provide on-the-spot loan sanctions. HDFC Bank provides a host of loans to its customers at affordable interest rates. The 'Mega Two Wheeler Loan Mela' drive is envisioned to provide customers easy access to two-wheeler finance especially in the SURU (semi-urban and rural) locations. The Bank will provide an end-to-end solution for processing loan requests with a variety of repayment configurations and minimal paperwork. Speaking at the inauguration cere-

mony, Mr. Dinesh Luthra, Branch Banking Head - North said, "The Mega Two-Wheeler Loan Mela offers a great opportunity for customers to avail finance with ease for their favourite vehicles. We have invited leading two-wheeler manufacturers and auto dealers to display their latest models at our branches. We are confident that customers will benefit from this Mela." For the quarter ending June 30, 2025, HDFC Bank's two-wheeler loan book size was ₹ 120 billion.

## AJBRCEAK Delegation Calls on CM Omar Abdullah, Pushes for Comprehensive Transfer Policy and Reservation in Promotion\*

SRINAGAR - A high-level delegation of the All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK) held a crucial meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar today. The delegation, led by its Chairman Vipin Kumar, highlighted several key issues, with a strong focus on the immediate notification of a comprehensive transfer policy and the restoration of reservation in promotions. The meeting provided a platform for the association to articulate the long-pending grievances of thousands of Jammu-based reserved



category employees serving in the Kashmir division. The delegation stressed that these demands are not just administrative but are deeply associated with the sentiments of the affected employees, who have long awaited a transparent and compassionate framework

for transfers. In his opening remarks, Chairman Vipin Kumar reminded the Chief Minister of the government's prior commitment to these employees for the creation of a definitive transfer policy. He emphasized that the notification of this policy, for

which an empowered committee has already been constituted, would provide significant relief and bring an end to years of uncertainty and hardship. The association called for an expedited process to ensure the early redressal of this critical demand.

Beyond the transfer policy, the delegation also ardently pressed for the restoration of reservation in promotions for reserved category employees across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Vipin Kumar reiterated the fundamental principle behind reservation rules, stating that they are meant for the welfare and

empowerment of marginalized communities. He urged the government to honor the popular mandate and take prompt action to implement reservation in promotion, ensuring that the benefits of reservation extend to career advancement. After giving the delegation a patient hearing, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured them of appropriate action on the demands that were projected. The Chief Minister's assurance was received positively by the delegation, who expressed hope for swift and effective measures to resolve their long-standing issues.

## DIG Jammu Kathua Range Devotional Bhajan "Maa Ne Tare Bhagat Bade" released in Jammu

Jammu, Sept 17: Today 17/9/2025: Dy Inspector General of Police Jammu Samba Kathua Range Shiv Kumar Sharma IPS along with Sahil Mahajan M.D Maa Bawe Wali Records, Komal Singh Manhas Bureau Chief of News 18 India, Atul Gupta Unique Voice News & Vishal Sharma releases a new devotional song titled "Maa Ne Tare Bhagat Bade" adding a new melody to the rich tapestry of local spiritual music. The Devotional song, "Maa Ne Tare Bhagat Bade" features the heartfelt voices of singers Vishal Sufi and Ricky Sufi. The soulful lyrics have been penned by Munish Jammu wala, with music composed by Kumar Gourav. The song's visual narrative was directed by Krish Rakwal, with cinematography by Ravi Bhagat. Shiv Kumar Sharma while Speak-



ing said "It is a great pleasure to be a part of the release of 'Maa Ne Tare Bhagat Bade' especially devotional music which has a unique way of connecting people and bringing peace. I congratulate the entire team

for their dedication and creating such a beautiful piece of art. This song will surely resonate with many and strengthen their spiritual connection." Sahil Mahajan while speaking said

that he has always believed in promoting local talent and preserving our cultural heritage. "Maa Ne Tare Bhagat Bade" is a testament to the immense talent present in our region. The song's message of faith and devotion is something that we all need in our lives, and I am confident it will be very well received by the audience."

Speaking During the Programme Sahil Mahajan said that "We at Maa Bawe Wali Records are committed to promote the unique musical culture of Jammu and Kashmir. We hope this song touches the hearts of listeners and becomes a staple in their devotional playlists."

The song is now available on YouTube Channel Vishal Sufi Music Presents The Launch event was attended by Vivek Anchor, Manish, Amit Kumar, and Vansh Dogra, who were part of the creative team.

## Galaxy A06 5G to Start at INR 9899 as Samsung Announces Exciting Limited-Period Deal Ahead of Festive Season

JAMMU, September 17, 2024 - Samsung today announced a never-before-seen price on the Galaxy A06 5G smartphone ahead of the festive season. Starting today, Galaxy A06 5G will be available at just INR 9899 as part of a limited-period offer. This deal provides the perfect opportunity for consumers looking to upgrade from a feature phone or a 4G smartphone to Galaxy A06 5G, which provides a complete 5G experience at an affordable price. Additionally, consumers purchasing Galaxy A06 5G will get a Samsung 25W travel adapter worth INR 1399 at just INR 299, as a part of the festive deal. Consumers seeking enhanced affordability can own the smartphone for just INR 909 per month. The festive deal on Galaxy A06 5G reflects Samsung's commitment to bridging the digital divide and empowering millions of consumers with a complete 5G experience. As the most affordable Galaxy A series 5G smartphone, Galaxy A06 5G is designed to offer consumers maximum value with its reliable performance and longevity. Galaxy A06 5G supports all network compatibility, 12 5G bands and features carrier

aggregation for enhanced network connectivity and faster speeds across all telecom operators. Powered by the MediaTek D6300 processor, Galaxy A06 5G ensures powerful performance and makes multitasking, gaming, and streaming an effortless experience. The smartphone comes with the RAM Plus feature, enabling consumers to get up to 12GB of RAM. Galaxy A06 5G comes with a 50MP main rear camera for capturing sharp and detailed images and a 2MP depth camera for enhanced clarity, while the 8MP front camera ensures high-quality selfies and video calls. The smartphone also features a sleek and stylish design while ensuring a vivid visual experience with its expansive 6.7" HD+ display. Galaxy A06 5G features a 5000 mAh battery with best in segment 25W fast charging support. Samsung is re-defining reliability with Galaxy A06 5G offering an impressive 4 generations of OS upgrades and 4 years of security updates, a commitment that sets it apart in this segment. Built for durability, Galaxy A06 5G comes with an IP54 rating, providing protection against dust and splashes.

## Fortnight-long Sewa Parv Program Commences in Ganderbal with Mega Swachhata Drive

*DC administers Swachhata Pledge, urge citizens to embrace cleanliness as a way of life*

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 17: The District Administration Ganderbal today launched the fortnight-long Sewa Parv celebrations with a grand Swachhata Drive, inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, from the Mini Secretariat premises. The nationwide campaign, aimed at promoting environmental conservation, social service, community participation, and awareness about sustainable development, commenced with enthusiastic participation from officers, employees, and students.

The drive witnessed the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihagi, Assistant Commissioner Rev-

enue, Sheikh Salahuddin, ACD, EO Municipal Council Ganderbal, employees of the Municipal Council, and students, who collectively undertook a cleanliness exercise in and around the Mini Secretariat. The initiative was in line with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, reinforcing the importance of hygiene and sanitation. Earlier, the DC administered the Swachhata Pledge to all participants in the mini secretariat laws, reaffirming the district's commitment to cleanliness.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC appealed to the people of Ganderbal to adopt cleanliness as a part of their daily lives and behaviour. "Cleanliness is not just a habit but a safeguard for our health and the environment.

Let us all commit to making it a way of life," he said. Highlighting the upcoming activities under the Sewa Parv, the DC informed that Grievance Redressal Camp will be held in the coming fortnight. He emphasized that the fortnight-long program is focused on connecting with people, reaching out to their doorsteps, spreading awareness about government schemes, and engaging with the vulnerable sections of society.

Meanwhile, similar cleanliness drives were organized across the district in Panchayats, educational institutions, health centres, and government offices, reflecting district-wide participation in the campaign.

Katra, September 17: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) hosted Rangyug's much-celebrated Dogri play Chanchlo at its Matrika auditorium. The performance, sponsored by Board of Cultural Activities (BCA) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) and presented in collaboration with 92.7 BIG FM through their initiative Hands for Humanity, was witnessed by faculty members, students, theatre enthusiasts, members of the cultural fraternity, and dignitaries including Dr. Rakesh Thusoo, President of the BCA.

Chanchlo, originally written in Hindi by eminent playwright Nadira Zaheer Babbar (Sakubai) and adapted into Dogri by RJ Dr. Juhie Mohan, has been designed

*SMVDU Stages Rangyug's Acclaimed Dogri Play Chanchlo Theatre Enthusiasts Laud RJ Juhie's Commanding Stage Presence*

## Chanchlo to be staged as a charity show at Abhinav Theatre on 20th Sept: Deepak Kumar



and directed by veteran theatre personality Shri Deepak Kumar. The performance by RJ Dr. Juhie Mohan (BIG FM) deeply moved the audience, as her powerful and emotionally charged portrayal of the character held

them spellbound for over 90 minutes.

Dr. Rakesh Thusoo, President BCA, lauded the initiative, stating: "We are delighted to host Rangyug and their remarkable production Chanchlo. Theatre has the

power to not only entertain but also to sensitise society to deeper issues. Chanchlo has brought to light the unspoken struggles of many in our community while celebrating the strength of the Dogri language. We are proud to host such a meaningful performance at our University." We believe such initiatives greatly enrich the academic and cultural environment of our university, inspiring students to engage with the arts, broaden their horizons and carry forward the responsibility of preserving our linguistic and cultural heritage. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Deepak Kumar, Director Rangyug, said: "Chanchlo is not just a story of one woman, but of countless voices from the margins. Through this play,

Rangyug is attempting to hold a mirror to society, to encourage self-realisation, and to inspire collective responsibility. I am grateful to SMVDU for providing this platform and to the students and faculty whose overwhelming response strengthens our resolve to continue creating theatre that transforms."

The play was backed by a dedicated creative and backstage team: Ashish Sharma as Assistant Director, Shivan Gupta on music and sound, Pankaj Sharma and Gourav on lights, make-up by Shammii Dhamir, and props by Neharika. Soham Kashyap, Sumit, Poonam and Aamir Akram Khan also played an important role, ensuring the seamless execution and success of the performance.

## North in News

## EDITORIAL

PRIME MINISTER-  
NARENDER MODI-  
WORLD COUNTRIES ALSO  
EXPRESS FAITH IN HIS  
GUIDANCE.

It has been wisely said that some are born great, some achieve greatness and greatness is thrust upon someone-very rarely. Many a times we have heard the example of Abraham Lincoln- the late President of America. About him it has been said- 'From Log Cabin to White House' sums up the career of Abraham Lincoln. His greatest achievement has been to end the 'most cruel' slavery system. It seems to be unbelievable but it had been a hard reality of those periods when in America, the slaves were kept in chains like animals. As Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi turned 75 on 17th September' 2025, wishes poured in from several leaders, both from the Centre and the Opposition. Many of them heaped praise on the Prime Minister's 'extra-ordinary leadership.' Many others wished him good health. On the 75th birthday of our respected Prime Minister of India- Shri Narendra Modi- the whole country, is visibly greeting him enthusiastically for ending the slavery of 'old and dying' bent of mind and filling the same with new hopes, practices and means and methods to lead a progressive, reformative and peaceful life. Sh. Narendra Damodardas Modi is an Indian politician who has served as the Prime Minister of India since 2014. Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001-2014 and as the member of Parliament for Varanasi. He is the longest serving Prime Minister outside the Indian National Congress.

President of India- Murmu said that Prime Minister- Sh. Narendra Modi had 'instilled a culture of achieving great goals' in the country. Murmu said in a tweet, "By exemplifying the pinnacle of hard work through your extraordinary leadership you have instilled a culture of achieving great goals in the country. Today, the global community is also expressing its faith in your guidance. I pray to God that you remain forever healthy and joyful and with your unique leadership, lead the nation to new heights of progress," Union Home Minister of India- Sh. Amit Shah hailed Sh. Narendra Modi as a 'symbol of sacrifice and dedication.' Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi has also extended, birthday greetings, wishing the Prime Minister good health. He has been termed as the pioneer of world politics and diplomacy. Many others praise him as the architect of nation-building. It shall not be exaggerated to say that he is the creator of a new era. He is the leader of the masses - the one who envisioned the sacred Gram Sabha and the Tirtha Gram Sabha and made it a reality as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. He is a patriot to the backbone and many have described him as the ultimate patriot. His policies, programs and their implementation for the welfare of the society- the people of India make him the protector and flag-bearer of the country. Modi, in practice, thoughts, deeds and actions have proved that he has love and respect for every and all the religions. Like many other followers of their respective faiths- Mr. Modi is a firm believer and follower of his religion- Aryavrat Vedic Sanatan civilization and culture. He has been described as the most successful, the selfless, the ascetic, and a true karma yogi. Mr. Modi has been described as the one with a vibrant and possessing multi-dimensional talent.

RAHUL KAUSHIK

As Narendra Modi turns 75, the nation reflects on a journey from Vadnagar's railway platform to the Prime Minister's Office — a life defined by discipline, devotion, and a nation-first vision that continues to shape India's destiny with resolve, reform, and resilience.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi turns 75, it is not just a personal milestone, it is a moment for the nation to reflect on a life devoted entirely to India. From the dusty lanes of Vadnagar to the corridors of power in New Delhi, Modi's journey isn't just inspiring, it's a living example of what happens when discipline, dedication, and a relentless nation-first attitude come together.

Narendra Modi's life is proof that destiny bends to the will of those who are unafraid to walk alone, especially when that walk is in service of the nation. Born in 1950 into a humble family in Vadnagar, Gujarat, Modi didn't grow up with comfort or connections. He sold tea with his father at a railway station. But somewhere between those steam engines and station benches, a fire was lit. It was the fire of purpose. He wasn't chasing a career. He was chasing a calling. And early in life, he chose that calling with clarity. He gave up a conventional path, remained unmarried, and committed himself to Bharat Mata. No safety

nets. No backup plans. Just total surrender to a larger cause.

That cause took a definite shape when he joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, where he began his journey as a swayamsevak. In a world full of people seeking spotlight, Modi chose the discipline of anonymity. Doing RSS work, attending shakhas, cycling through villages, working for hours without rest, and sleeping little, he immersed himself in the quiet, rigorous training that would shape him for decades to come. There, under guidance of senior RSS leaders like Laxmanrao Inamdar and Madhukar Rao Bhagwat, his organisational potential increased exponentially and he became a pracharak. He travelled first across Gujarat and then across India not to build his name, but to build an organisation, an ideology, and a nation.

When he moved to the BJP as a full-time karyakarta, he brought with him the same tireless energy. He played key roles in building the party in Gujarat and beyond. He wasn't a man of speeches, but a man of structure. Strengthening booths, nurturing cadres, connecting with the last worker in the chain. His journey from the margins to the heart of power was not meteoric. It was methodical. Earned through decades of groundwork and never cutting corners.

In 2001, when fate thrust him into the Chief



Minister's chair in Gujarat, few in the state outside Sangh Parivar knew his name. But that changed quickly. He redefined governance by doing the one thing most politicians shy away from — setting clear benchmarks. Power reached villages. Roads connected interiors. Girls returned to school. Industries were welcomed, not harassed. And bureaucracy was expected to perform, not delay. Gujarat became a story not just of development, but of decisive leadership. People saw a CM who didn't just inaugurate buildings but monitored work pipelines as well. A leader who didn't just do politics, but delivered performance. By 2014, after a decade of scams, drift, and cynical politics under the UPA, India was gasping for direction. Modi didn't just win that election, he changed its tone. His campaign wasn't about caste equations or coalitions. It was about aspiration. About restoring dignity to a people who had been told

policy, but a nudge forward for the common Indian.

On the economic front, he didn't hesitate to take bold, long-pending decisions. GST ended decades of tax fragmentation and made India one market. With the new alterations in its structure, it has actually become Good and Sober Tax. Income tax limits have been repeatedly raised, giving relief to the middle class. Corporate tax was slashed to make India competitive globally. The IBC framework has started to clean up a broken lending system. Atmanirbhar Bharat is pushing local manufacturing while balancing global integration. Even in the face of the COVID-19 crisis, India emerged not as a victim but as a leader, manufacturing vaccines, distributing food to 80 crore people, and launching structural reforms without panic. But what truly sets Modi apart is his approach to national security and historical reckoning. Under his watch, India shed the hesitation of the past. After Uri and Pulwama, we did not wait for global sympathy or to send dossiers. We struck across borders, telling the world that India will defend its people and sovereignty without apology. Operation Sindoor proved that our intelligence and resolve now match our military might. Article 370, once considered politically untouchable, was buried, not as an act of revenge, but as an act of justice.

Ram Jannabhoomi Mandir, a centuries-old civilisational wound, is finally being healed under his leadership. His government brought the Uniform Civil Code into real conversation, started correcting the legal imbalances of the Waqf Board and Muslim personal law, and implemented the New Education Policy to align learning with future needs and Indian values.

Even after a decade in office, Narendra Modi shows no signs of fatigue. He still works tirelessly, taking reviews of projects himself. He travels across the country non-stop, listens intently, and keeps refining his vision. He doesn't rely on power brokers or old loyalties, he trusts performance. And while critics raise the usual alarms, what they fail to understand is this: Modi's connect with the people is not built on propaganda. It is built on delivery. On keeping promises. On speaking plainly and acting decisively.

At 75, Modi isn't just India's most popular leader. He's a symbol of what's possible when one man's commitment to his country becomes absolute. He didn't inherit power. He earned it. He didn't build walls around him. He built bridges to the masses. He hasn't played politics for its own sake. He's used it as a tool to awaken India's potential. And in doing so, he has become not just a Prime Minister, but a force that will shape India's story for generations.

## Most advanced chips used in AI servers, drones, mobile phones chips of 2 nm will be designed here: Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw on launch of new office of ARM in Bengaluru

### Current Indian Electronics Industry is worth of Rs. 11.5 Lakh Crore: Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw



Hon. Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the new office of ARM, a company that is involved in semiconductor design, in Bengaluru today. The minister said that the "most advanced chips used in AI servers, drones, mobile phones chips of 2 nm will be designed here". Speaking after the inauguration, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the new Bengaluru unit of ARM will design chips including 2 nm chips for various electronic products, including mobile phones. He called this a significant milestone in India's semiconductor journey. The minister

said, "Our objective is to design and manufacture semiconductors, along with the equipment and materials required for them." This is a very long visionary process and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has provided clear guidance on this. With a vision for the next 20 years in the semiconductor sector, our youth and talented engineers will get the best opportunities in the world." The minister added that the growth in electronics manufacturing is doubling the demand for semiconductor chips. Highlighting India's achievements in the semiconductor sector, the minister stated that electronics manufacturing has increased six-fold in the last 11 years. It is currently



an industry worth of ₹11.5 lakh crore. Exports have increased eight-fold. Electronics are becoming major export products for India. This journey, which began with the assembly of mobile phones and laptops, is now moving towards the production of their models, components, and finished products. He said that we are moving forward in this journey in a very systematic way. The semiconductor sector is growing into a trillion-dollar industry and the need for talent is equally important. This is an opportune time. For this, 278 institutions and universities are working and their students are engaged in the design and innovation of semiconductor chips. Currently,

28 chips designed by students from 25 institutions have been taped out. We have practically completed the first version of India's Semiconductor Mission and are now heading towards the second version. This will focus on the production of equipment and materials required for semiconductor chips. Earlier during the day, the minister held a discussion on the manufacturing of high precision components used in semiconductor manufacturing equipment. Carborundum Universal Ltd (CUMI) showcased some of the materials which go into the making of equipment for manufacturing the semiconductors.



## The Purpose of Education is Not Only Knowledge, but Also Character Building" – Dr. Kothari

**National Workshop on Character Building and Personality Development Concludes at Central University of Jammu**

Jammu, September 17, 2025: The Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with Shiksha Sanskriti Uthman Nyas, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Pradesh, organized a National Workshop on "Character Building and Holistic Personality Development in the Context of National Education Policy 2020."

The inaugural ceremony, presided over by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, was graced by Dr. Atul Kothari, National Secretary of Shiksha Sanskriti Uthman Nyas and renowned educationist, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, was the Guest of Honour. Also present on the dais were Prof. Ranvijay, President of Shiksha Sanskriti Uthman Nyas (J&K & Ladakh) and Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar of the University.

The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by dignitaries, followed by a Saraswati Vandana presented by students of the Department of Hindi. Dr. Akshay, Con-



venor of Shiksha Sanskriti Uthman Nyas (J&K & Ladakh), welcomed the guests and highlighted the objectives of the workshop. In his address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain emphasized that the theme of the workshop is highly relevant for students and teachers across the nation. He explained that the core aim of the National Education Policy 2020 is the holistic development of Indian education. Stressing the pivotal role of youth in nation-building, he said character development must be prioritized. He added that while universities can confer prestigious degrees, true character building requires trans-

formation at the level of consciousness. He called upon teachers to follow the Guru-Shishya tradition and focus on nurturing students' character. Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Atul Kothari highlighted that chanting of Omkar is the foundation of mental peace and concentration, and that meditation aims to still the mind and focus on a single subject. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, he underlined the importance of teaching character. Speaking on NEP 2020, he stressed its fundamental objective of integrating India's knowledge traditions into education and fostering value-based per-

sonalities. Citing a verse from the Mahabharata, he noted that one cannot be free from evils without embracing virtues. Referring to the Taittiriya Upanishad's Pancha Kosha (five sheaths)—Annamaya, Pranamaya, Manomaya, Vijnanamaya, and Anandamaya, he emphasized the need for personality development based on holistic growth. He urged the preservation and promotion of India's knowledge heritage and the need to connect youth with it. Guest of Honour Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, JMC Jammu spoke on the social responsibility of education and its role in nation-building. The inaug-

ural session was conducted by Dr. Vikas Singh, while the vote of thanks was presented by Registrar Prof. Yashwant Singh. In the second technical session, Dr. Vikas Singh (Central University of Jammu), Prof. Jasbir Singh (University of Jammu), and Dr. Neetu Kumari (Cluster University of Jammu) delivered lectures on personality development based on Indian traditions and the Panchakosha framework. The session was conducted by Preeti Gupta, with welcome remarks by Dr. Akshay Kumar and a vote of thanks by Dr. G.V. Snigdha Raj. Students and faculty actively participated in the interactive discussions. The workshop convenor concluded by stating that the true purpose of education is the manifestation of the divinity within. Education, when it creates individuals who are virtuous, duty-bound, and endowed with inner strength, will truly serve as the carrier of both nation-building and humanity.

## DC Bandipora Inaugurates SEWA PARV Campaign with Series of Activities Across the District

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 17: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today inaugurated the SEWA PARV campaign at District Hospital Bandipora with the launch of Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan. The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl, DPO ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan; ACD Bandipora, CMO Bandipora, MS DH Bandipora and other concerned officers.



Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan offers a comprehensive range of health-care services for women and adolescent girls, including screening for anaemia, counselling on nutrition and menstrual hygiene, and intensified services at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres, and the District Hospital, aimed at empowering women and building healthier families. Later, the Deputy Commissioner presided over the SEWA PARV event at the Conference Hall, where she addressed CDPOs, Supervisors, Anganwadi workers

and other participants. On the occasion, the DC emphasized that hard work is essential, particularly for women, and cautioned that while smartphone addiction can reduce efficiency if misused, digital tools can also generate revenue when used constructively. She further stressed that work should speak louder than appearance and appreciated the creativity of Anganwadi workers in poster making. The DC underlined that slowness in a child's learning does not bar them from pursuing a career, urging

Anganwadi workers to pay special attention to specially-abled children. The programme was attended by DPO ICDS Bandipora Yaar Ali Khan, CDPOs, Supervisors, Anganwadi workers, NRLM members, officials of line departments, and community representatives. Across the district, multiple departments and institutions organized diverse activities to mark the launch of SEWA PARV. A cleanliness drive was held at Wular Vinatge SK Payeen by WUCMA.

## J&K Judicial Academy organizes Technical Training programme for officials

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy Wednesday organized a one-day training programme on digitalization, for Court Managers, Administrative Head Staff, and Digitization Officials of Kashmir Province. The programme, titled "Digitalization (ECT\_5\_2025 & ECT\_6\_2025)", aimed to strengthen the digital skills of court personnel and advance the ongoing e-Courts implementation across the region.

The event opened with an address and introduction by Sonia Gupta, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, who underlined the Academy's commitment to improving access to justice through technology.

The first session was jointly conducted by Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computer (I.T.) and Uzair Nazir, Senior System Officer. They provided a comprehensive overview of the e-Courts Project, its phases,

objectives, and benefits.

Speakers explained the role of digital tools in daily court functions and reviewed core e-Courts initiatives such as the Case Information System (CIS), National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP), Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), and e-filing. Emphasis was placed on standardized, accurate data entry and on how these platforms interoperate to improve case management and public access.

The second session, led by Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi, CPC eCourts, focused on the practical aspects of preparing and digitizing court records. He emphasized that empowerment in the digital era comes from self-learning and adaptability, reminding participants that technology will only be beneficial if individuals equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and

skills.

Qureshi outlined step-by-step procedures for preparing case files for scanning, stressed the correct sequencing and arrangement of documents, and demonstrated best practices to ensure high-quality, searchable digital archives. He also highlighted the importance of time management and productivity in digitization, drawing attention to how consistent, accurate practices ensure transparency and efficiency.

The training concluded successfully, with participants reporting improved clarity on both policy and operational fronts of court digitization.

The programme reaffirms the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy's ongoing efforts to modernize court operations, enhance efficiency and transparency, and build the technical capacity required for a sustained transition to digital judicial services.

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 17: A mega function was held today at Circuit House Pulwama to mark the commencement of the fortnight-long celebrations of the SEWA Parv, a nationwide initiative promoting service, inclusivity, and community engagement.

The inaugural event was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom along with Senior Superintendent of Police Pulwama, P.D. Nitya.

The day began with the inauguration of a live fish vending van and the launch of a plantation drive by the DC. Further, in line with the spirit of SEWA Parv, motorized tricycles, prosthetic aid appliances, and other entitlements were distributed among various beneficiaries.

DC later inspected stalls set up by multiple departments, including Health, Cooperatives, Agriculture, Horticulture,



reach and delivery during the SEWA Parv campaign. Additionally, during the event officers of the various departments briefed the participants on various Govt. schemes, eligibility criteria, entitlement procedures, delivery mechanisms, and the department-wise action plan for SEWA Parv.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that SEWA Parv is aimed at inclusive govern-

*Sewa Parv at Pulwama; DC inaugurates launch event*

## Community participation, public service & inclusive governance are key pillars of celebration: Dr. Qayoom



ance and public service through multi-departmental interventions. He informed that a series of programmes including cleanliness drives, blood donation camps, plantation drives, awareness sessions, enrolment camps for social security schemes, skill development and entrepreneurship workshops, and cultural activities will be organised at the sub-district, block, Municipality, panchayat, and ward levels throughout the fortnight. He specifically emphasized the initiatives such as free health check-up camps, women focused health screening camps, awareness sessions on maternal health and child care, counselling sessions among others being undertaken during the campaign under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan by the Health Department in convergence with Poshan Mah initiative of ICDS Department.

He further informed the gathering that during the campaign the health department will undertake anemia screening of the 100% population ensuring timely treatment and follow-up measures. Emphasising the importance of community participation, Dr. Qayoom said that the objectives of SEWA Parv can only be realised with the active involvement of the people. He urged senior citizens, members of civil society, trade union members, NGOs, social activists, and local Anugah Gurdwara Committees to take the lead in supporting the campaign and promoting the values of service and inclusiveness. He further encouraged the youth to come forward, participate actively in self-employment and skill development programmes such as Mission Yuva, and motivate others to take advantage of similar opportunities.

## DC Bandipora conducts extensive tour of Gurez sub-division

**Reviews Development works, public issues, and winter preparedness**

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, undertook a three-day comprehensive tour of Gurez Sub-Division, covering Tulail, Izmag, Dawar, Chorwan, and Achoora, to review developmental works, assess winter preparedness, and interact with the local population to address their concerns.

During the visit, DC chaired a meeting of district and sectoral officers at Gurez, where she conducted a sector-wise review of ongoing developmental activities and stressed their timely execution to ensure that the benefits reach the grassroots level.

DC directed officers to work in close coordination for effective service delivery and to make advance arrangements for adequate stocks of ration, fuel, and medicines in view of the harsh winter months. She further emphasized the need for uninterrupted power supply and healthcare services throughout winter.

On the occasion, DC launched the "Transect Walk"



under the Aadi Karmayogi initiative, aimed at empowering tribal villages as agents of change and promoting sustainable development. DC visited Tulail Block and inspected various developmental works underway. She interacted with locals to receive first-hand feedback on issues related to health, education, electricity, PHE, and connectivity. She also visited fire-affected families in Kashpot, Tulail,

and assured them of all possible administrative support and extension activities being carried out by SKUAST-K to improve agricultural productivity and promote organic farming practices. At Dawar, DC visited the Sub-District Hospital and interacted with doctors, paramedical staff, and patients to review health facilities. She also inspected the Fire and Emergency Station Dawar and held discussions with the staff regarding pre-

paredness and response mechanisms.

During a market visit, DC interacted with shopkeepers and the Traders' Association, where issues of drainage, waste management, street lighting, and parking were raised. She emphasized strict enforcement of the ban on plastic use and directed imposing fines on violators.

Additionally, Indu visited the local sports stadium at Dawar, interacted with youth and players, and encouraged them to actively participate in sports while maintaining cleanliness of the playfield.

On the third day of the tour, DC visited Chorwan and Achoora villages of Gurez, interacted with the local people, listened to their concerns, and assured them of all possible support from the district administration.

Among others, DPO ICDS Bandipora, SDM Gurez, ACD Bandipora, CMO Bandipora, Tehsildar Gurez, other sectoral officers, and representatives of various line departments were present.

## Comm. State Taxes J&K chairs review meeting to strengthen tax administration in Kashmir region

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: To evaluate ongoing departmental activities, address key operational challenges, and strategize enhanced tax compliance and revenue augmentation, Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P.K. Bhat, chaired an extensive review meeting of the State Taxes department, Kashmir division.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner State Taxes Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina; State Taxes Officers from all circles across the division besides others.

The meeting discussed threadbare identification of fake ITC suppliers, realisation of revenue from fake ITC cases, monitoring of TDS payments, timely filing of returns, action on intelligence reports, addressing dormant dealers, audit and revenue realization, verification of e-Way bills, leveraging MIS & GST prime tools, sector-specific enforcement, and taxpayer engagement and education. Commissioner highlighted the critical need to identify taxpayers who issue Input Tax Credit (ITC) through

GSTR-1 but fail to file GSTR-3B returns, leading to significant revenue shortfalls. He also stressed the importance of expediting efforts to recover revenue from fake ITC cases that have already been identified.

Officers were instructed to ensure that taxpayers receiving Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) payments from deductors are filing their GSTR-3B returns on time. Emphasis was also laid on strict adherence to return filing deadlines to ensure consistency in revenue inflow.

The meeting discussed decisive action against taxpayers flagged through intelligence inputs. Officers were asked to thoroughly analyze these cases and initiate necessary corrective measures. Commissioner underscored the need to track and scrutinize dormant dealers who file Nil returns but continue receiving goods using PAN and Aadhaar details. Officers were asked to ensure such practices are identified and curbed. On the occasion, a review of

audits conducted under Section 65 of the J&K GST Act, 2017 was undertaken. Officers were directed to submit action-taken reports along with details of revenue realized post-audit.

Commissioner also advised officers to ensure timely responses to AG Audit queries to prevent delays in revenue recovery. He also called for proper scrutiny of e-Way Bills as a key measure to prevent revenue leakage. Officers were instructed to routinely verify the movement of inward and outward supplies to ensure proper tax realization. Bhat encouraged officers to utilize technological tools like MIS (Management Information System) and GST Prime, emphasizing their value in generating actionable insights, saving administrative time, and enhancing compliance monitoring. He called for special focus on high-risk sectors such as cement, iron, and mobile phones, where revenue leakage is often observed. Officers were directed to enforce GST laws strictly and close existing loopholes.





## Child-custody case: Judicial system in India, UK taken for ride by mother, says SC



NEW DELHI, SEPT 17

The judicial system in India and the UK was "taken for a ride" by a woman for reasons best known to her, the Supreme Court has observed, while directing that the custody of her minor son be handed over to his father.

Deprecating the woman's conduct, a bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi said the case reflected a deep-rooted conflict between the woman and her husband, arising from their divergent intentions regarding staying together and raising their children in India.

It said this discord had not only strained their marital relationship but also adversely impacted their two children, one of whom is staying with the mother in the United Kingdom. The top court said the prolonged discord of ties between the couple, who got married in November 2010, led to further dispute on visitation over their two children.

"This is not merely a clash of egos, but prima facie, reflects a concerning mindset that may ultimately come at the cost of the welfare of the minor children," it observed.

The bench said the circumstances compel it to focus on how best the welfare and interests of the children can be safeguarded.

Referring to the woman's con-

duct, the bench said while leaving her son in India, it was her primary duty to inform the father, which she did not discharge.

It said it was also her duty to disclose to the high court of the UK, where the man had moved an application, that the boy was not with her there.

"It is to be noted that, due to such conduct, the father was deprived of having virtual meetings with Master K (the boy) despite orders from the UK High Court and ultimately, he had to file the habeas corpus petition (before the Punjab and Haryana High Court) when the suspicion brewed," the bench pointed out.

It said it appeared that the woman never intended her son to meet his father and to say the least, to honour the court orders.

"The judicial system in India as well as the UK had been taken for a ride by the mother for reasons known best to her," it said.

The man told the apex court that his wife left India for the UK in May 2021 with both the children, without informing him or taking his consent.

Later, he found out that his minor son was in India with his parents-in-law.

He then approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court, raising the issue of alleged illegal custody of his children.

In its verdict delivered on

September 16, the apex court noted that the woman had obtained a divorce from a family court in London, while the man secured a divorce from a family court in Jind.

"In essence, while both parties seek divorce, they refuse to accept the decrees granted by courts in different jurisdictions and continue to challenge them, which they are legally entitled to do. Attempts at mediation have failed," it noted.

The bench said the high court was justified to grant the boy's interim custody to his father. It directed that the custody of the boy be handed over to the man by September 30.

"After handing over the custody of Master K, the father or the mother, as the case may be, shall file appropriate proceedings under the provisions of the Guardians and Wards Act 1890, before the competent court within a period of one month," it said.

The bench directed that the mother or sibling of the boy shall have the right to audio or video access to him from 5 pm to 7 pm every Saturday.

"On the mother's visit to India, she shall have further right of visitation on every Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm at a place of mutual choice decided by the parties," it said.

The bench further directed that the boy's maternal grandparents shall also have visitation rights from 1 pm to 5 pm every Sunday at a place of mutual choice decided by the parties.

Passing a slew of directions, the bench said the father shall not take his son outside the jurisdiction of India without the leave of the jurisdictional high court.

"The Juvenile Justice Board or the magistrate (juvenile justice) the place where Master K would stay with his father in the future shall oversee and monitor the physical and psychological well-being of Master K through the Child Welfare Committee or any social welfare officer available within the district," it said.



Sanitation workers, along with the district administration and police personnel, take part in a cleanliness drive at Kedarnath Dham as part of the 'Swachhata Pakhwada' campaign, organised by Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, in Rudrapur district, Uttarakhand.

## E-auction of gifts given to PM begins; Ram Temple Model, Goddess Bhavani statue among 1,300 items

NEW DELHI, SEP 17

More than 1,300 items gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including an exquisitely crafted statue of Goddess Bhavani, an Ayodhya Ram Temple model and sporting memorabilia from the 2024 Paralympic Games, have been put up for an e-auction that began here on Wednesday, officials said.

The start of the seventh edition of the online auction coincides with the birthday of Modi, who turned 75 on Wednesday. The e-auction will continue till October 2.

According to the PM Mementos website, the base price of the statue of Goddess Bhavani is Rs 1,03,95,000, while that of the model of the Ram temple is Rs 5.5 lakh.

Culture ministry officials on Tuesday said these items, along with three pairs of shoes of Paralympics medalists, each pair with a base price of Rs 7.7 lakh, are in the top-five bracket in terms of the base price.

Other items which are part of the e-auction include an intricately-embroidered Pashmina shawl from Jammu and Kashmir, a Tanjore painting of Lord Durbur, a metallic Nataraja statue, a Rogan Art from Gujarat depicting the Tree of Life and a handwoven Naga shawl.



A special highlight of this edition is the sports memorabilia gifted by India's para-athletes who participated in the Paris Paralympics 2024. These tokens symbolise the para-athletes' resilience, excellence and indomitable spirit, the culture ministry said in a statement earlier.

The first edition of the e-auction was held in January 2019.

"Since then, thousands of unique gifts presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been auctioned, raising more than Rs 50 crore in support of the Namami Ganga project," the Culture Ministry said on Tuesday. Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh on

Tuesday told reporters that more than 1,300 gifts received by the prime minister will be auctioned online. The collection reflects the cultural diversity of India, ranging from traditional art, paintings, sculptures, handicrafts and tribal artefacts to ceremonial gifts of honour and respect, the ministry said. These items are currently on display at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA).

As in previous years, all proceeds from the e-auction will go to the Namami Ganga project, the government of India's flagship initiative for the rejuvenation, conservation and protection of the Ganga river and its ecosystem.

## BMW accident: Court extends judicial custody of accused woman

NEW DELHI, SEPT 17

A Delhi court on Wednesday extended till September 27 the judicial custody of the woman who drove the BMW car involved in a crash that left a senior finance ministry official dead and his wife injured in Dhaulakuan here.

Judicial magistrate Ankit Garg extended her judicial custody. The court also issued notice on a plea by the accused seeking preservation of the accident's CCTV footage. The plea will be heard on Thursday.

Arguments on her bail plea were also heard by the court, which posted the matter for Saturday.

Gaganpreet Kaur, 38, was remanded to two days of judicial custody on September 15 after being arrested on charges of



culpable homicide not amounting to murder and other offences.

Deputy Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Navjot Singh (52), a resident of Hari Nagar, was killed

in the accident on the Ring Road near the Delhi Cantonment Metro station on Sunday afternoon.

They were returning home after visiting the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara.

## SC allows CBI's appeal, cancels bail granted to Chhota Rajan in 2001 murder case

NEW DELHI, SEPT 17

The Supreme Court on Wednesday cancelled the bail granted to gangster Chhota Rajan in the 2001 murder case of hotelier Jaya Shetty in Mumbai.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta allowed the CBI's appeal challenging an October 23 last year order of the Bombay High Court which suspended the life sentence of Rajan and granted him bail in the case.

The apex court observed that Rajan remained absconding for 27 years and was convicted in four cases.

"Why suspension of sentence to such a man," the bench said. Rajan's counsel argued it was a case of no evidence.

He said out of the 71 cases, the CBI did not find any material against Rajan in 47 cases and the probe agency closed them. Rajan's counsel said he was convicted in a separate murder case and was awarded life sentence.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the CBI, said the high court had suspended the life sentence awarded to Rajan in the case.

"We will cancel the bail in this," the bench said.

When Rajan's counsel argued



it was a case of "no evidence", the bench observed, "your name itself is big enough".

After his counsel said Rajan was acquitted in several cases, the bench said the acquittals were due to the reason that witnesses did not come forward. The bench allowed the CBI's appeal, challenging the high court order and cancelled his bail bond.

Noted Rajan was already in judicial custody and was serving sentence in another case.

In May 2024, a special court convicted Rajan in the hotelier's murder case and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Rajan filed an appeal in the high court against the conviction.

## Ramesh hits back at Env Ministry over its rebuttal of his charges on Dhirauli coal mine project

NEW DELHI, SEPT 17

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday reiterated his charges of "blatant irregularities" in the approval process for Adani Group's Dhirauli coal mining project and cited a 2023 reply in the Lok Sabha by the Coal Ministry to claim that the project falls in an area protected under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution.

Ramesh alleged that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's rebuttal of his statements earlier, stating that the mining land did not fall in the area protected under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, was "false".

There was no immediate reaction from the Environment Ministry or the Adani Group on his allegations. In a rebuttal to Ramesh's allegations last week, the Environment Ministry had said, "Both Stage-I and Stage-II approvals have been duly granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Allegations with regard to violations of constitutional protections are factually incorrect and misleading."

"I had raised the issue of the

blatant irregularities in the approval process for Modan's Dhirauli coal mining project on September 12th. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) responded almost immediately claiming that — the mining land did not fall in the area protected under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution; the required legal process under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 had been duly completed," Ramesh said on X on Wednesday.

The first claim is false. On August 9, 2023, the then Union Minister of Coal answered clearly and categorically in the Lok Sabha that the Dhirauli coal mining project actually fell in an area protected under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution," he said and shared the screenshot of the ministry's reply.

As far as the second claim is concerned, the Forest Rights Act, 2006 includes not just individual forest rights but also community forest resource rights (CFR) and habitat rights of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs), Ramesh said.

The Dhirauli coal mine involves the diversion of about 3,500 acres of forest land across five villages, with at least three

other villages adjacent to these forests likely to be dependent on them, he pointed out.

All the three types of tribal rights in these eight villages have to be settled first, Ramesh argued.

"On March 31, 2022, the District Collector had certified that the complete process for identification and settlement of rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, had been carried out and that the rights of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups had been safeguarded. But by the Madhya Pradesh's government's own information, no community rights or habitat rights in the entire district of Singrauli, in which these eight villages are located, have been recognised till now," the Congress leader said. Last Friday, Ramesh had alleged that the Adani Group has begun cutting trees on government and forest land for its coal mine project in Madhya Pradesh's Dhirauli in "blatant violation" of the Forest Rights Act. The state government, however, had rejected the allegation as baseless. The former environment minister had also claimed that the Modi government imposed this allotment.

## ED arrests ex-MUDA commissioner Dinesh Kumar

BENGALURU, SEP 17

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested ex-MUDA commissioner Dinesh Kumar under the provisions of the anti-money laundering law in a case related to allotment of alleged illegal sites, officials said on Wednesday.

He is expected to be produced before a designated special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Bengaluru

where the agency will seek for his custody, the officials said.

The arrest came after the federal probe agency on Tuesday searched two residential premises in Bengaluru, linked to Kumar in connection with the MUDA illegal sites allocation "scam".

Kumar, as per the ED, during his tenure as MUDA commissioner indulged in "large-scale illegal allotment" of MUDA sites in lieu of "gratification and

peculiarly benefits." Probe has found his "active" involvement in money laundering activities, ED sources said.

The ED is conducting a money laundering investigation into the MUDA allotment of land parcels case on the basis of a Karnataka Lokayukta Police FIR that had named Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife BM Parvathi, the CM's brother-in-law, Mallikarjuna Swamy, Devaraju.

## Exports to US falling due to high tariffs: GTRI



NEW DELHI, SEPT 17

India's exports to the US are falling as high tariffs imposed by the Trump administration have started eroding the price competitiveness of domestic goods in Washington, think tank GTRI said on Wednesday.

August shipments to the US plunged to USD 6.7 billion, down 16.3 per cent from July — the steepest monthly fall of 2025 — as US duties doubled to 50 per cent by month's end, it said.

In July, exports dipped 3.6 per cent to USD 8 billion over June. The month of June had also seen a decline of 5.7 per cent to USD 8.3 billion over May.

May 2025 was the last month of growth, as shipments to the US rose 4.8 per cent over April to USD 8.8 billion. In April, exports to the US stood at USD 8.4 billion.

The real blow came in August when the tariffs shot up to 25 per cent on August 7, and then doubled to 50 per cent on August 27, for most products, he said.

"This left little room for exporters to adjust, resulting in the sharpest month-on-month contraction yet. September is expected to show an even steeper fall, as it will be the first month fully exposed to the 50 per cent rate," he said.

He also said that roughly one-third of India's exports, including pharmaceuticals and smartphones to the US are tariff-exempt, which means the effective hit on tariff-exposed goods is far deeper than headline figures suggest.

Labour-intensive sectors like apparel, gems and jewellery, leather, shrimp, and carpets are under severe stress because the US accounts for 30-40 per cent or more of their global exports, he said.

According to GTRI estimates, if the 50 per cent tariffs remain in place through the end of FY 2026, India could lose USD 30-35 billion in US exports — a major blow considering the US accounts for nearly 20 per cent of India's goods exports.

He suggested that the government should extend support measures to exporters.

"Without quick relief, the prolonged tariff wall could lead to job losses and weaken its overall trade performance heading into 2026," he said.

"The slide in exports closely tracks the rapid escalation of tariffs," Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Until April 4, Indian goods entered the US at normal MFN (most favoured nation) rates. From April 5, Washington imposed a universal 10 per cent tariff, which initially failed to dent trade flows as importers rushed to front-load purchases — explaining May's export rise, he said.

By June, however, the sustained 10 per cent duty and growing talk of country-specific measures began "eroding India's price competitiveness", Srivastava said, adding orders shifted to alternative suppliers, pulling exports down by nearly 6 per cent.

"The decline deepened in July under the same tariff regime," he said.

## GST reforms to inject Rs 2 lakh crore into economy, says Nirmala Sitharaman



VISAKHAPATNAM, SEPT 17

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the next generation GST reforms will infuse Rs 2 lakh crore into the economy, leaving people with more cash in hand that otherwise would have gone as taxes.

Addressing the Outreach and Interaction Program on Next Gen GST Reforms, she also said, following the tax reforms, 99 per cent of goods under the 12 per cent GST slab have moved to five per cent. The rejig has resulted in 90 per cent items under 28 per cent tax slab slipping into the 18 per cent bracket.

She said several companies, including some FMCG giants, are voluntarily coming forward to give rate cuts and pass on the benefit to consumers even before September 22, the implementation date for the new GST regime.

"With this new gen tax regime, with only two slabs (5 per cent and 18 per cent), Rs 2 lakh crore is injected into the economy. People will have cash in hand," she said.

She said before undertaking the rate rejig, the NDA government kept five filters — reduction

of rate for poor and middle class, fulfilling aspirations of middle class, benefiting farmers community, pro-MSME and sectors that are useful for the country in creating jobs and export potential.

The minister highlighted that the GST revenues grew to Rs 22.08 lakh crore in 2025 from Rs 7.19 lakh crore in 2018 (FY 2017-18).

According to Sitharaman, the taxpayer's number grew to 1.51 crore from the earlier 65 lakh.

Sitharaman said the GST Council is a prime example of cooperative federalism, noting it is the only constitutional body created since Independence.

Flaying the previous UPA regime, she described the earlier tax structures as "tax terrorism" and said a lot of exercise went into the implementation of GST as part of one nation, one tax.

The UPA government went for 10 years. You could not come with GST. You could not convince the states about GST. I could have given a harsh political reply. But not today," she said.

The restricted GST rate slabs will come into effect from September 22. The GST council has reduced rate slabs from four (5, 12, 18 and 28) to just two (5 and 18 per cent).

## MakeMyTrip ties up with Zomato to roll out 'Food on Train' offering

NEW DELHI, SEPT 17

Travellers booking train tickets on the MakeMyTrip app can now order food from over 40,000 restaurant partners, which are listed on Zomato, at more than 130 stations, the NASDAQ-listed travel tech platform said on Wednesday.

MakeMyTrip has tied up with Zomato for the 'Food on Train' offering.

In FY 2024-25, more than 90,000 rail passengers used Indian Railways' e-catering services every day, marking a 66 per cent year-on-year growth.

In a statement, MakeMyTrip said it is well-positioned to leverage this demand through its 'Food on Train' offering, spanning breakfast, lunch, dinner, and quick snacks, by leveraging its proprietary 'Live Train Status' tool. "With the launch of our Food on Train Marketplace, we are taking another step in enhancing the travel experience by giving passengers greater choice and convenience."

"This collaboration with Zomato builds on that momentum and will contribute to



strategically unlocking one of the fastest-growing consumption opportunities in India's mobility ecosystem," Raj Rishi Singh, Chief Business Officer (Flights, GCC, Corporate Travel) & Chief Marketing Officer, MakeMyTrip, said.

The initial response to the soft launch with Zomato has been encouraging and indicates a preference for travel-friendly meals. Building on this momentum, MakeMyTrip said it will roll out targeted campaigns to drive greater awareness of its on-train food delivery.

"This collaboration with MakeMyTrip enables train passengers to conveniently order meals from their favourite restaurants through the (MakeMyTrip platform, with direct food delivery to their seats. We are truly excited about the value this partnership will bring to our customers," Rahul Gupta, VP - Product, Zomato, said.

As a Diwali special, travellers booking their rail journey on MakeMyTrip will receive a complimentary coupon, redeemable on food orders via Zomato.

## SBI divests 13.18 pc stake in Yes Bank to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp for Rs 8,889 cr

NEW DELHI, SEPT 17

The country's largest lender State Bank of India on Wednesday announced the completion of the divestment of about 13.18 per cent stake in Yes Bank to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation of Japan for Rs 8,888.97 crore.

State Bank of India (SBI) has received Rs 8,888.97 crore from the acquirer Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), a Japanese multinational financial services company belonging to the Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group (SMFG), the bank said in a regulatory filing.

SMFG is among the leading foreign banks in India. It is the second-largest Banking Group in Japan, with total assets of about USD 2 trillion.

SBI became the largest shareholder of Yes Bank in March 2020 under its Reconstruction Scheme 2020, as notified by the central government, the PSU bank said in a statement.

Subsequently, SBI had also acquired additional shares as part of a follow-on public offer by Yes Bank in July 2020.

Post the aforesaid divestment, SBI will continue to remain a shareholder in Yes Bank with a holding of 10.8 per cent, it said.

The partial stake sale by SBI and other shareholder banks in



Yes Bank to SMBC represents the largest cross-border investment in the Indian banking sector, it added. The transaction has received the necessary regulatory and statutory approvals, including from the Reserve Bank of India and the Competition Commission of India. SBI Chairman CS Setty said, "Yes Bank restructuring plan by the RBI in 2020 was an innovative, first-of-its-kind public sector-private sector partnership that was fully supported and facilitated by the Government of India. We are incredibly proud of the journey we have shared with Yes Bank in supporting their transformation since we came on board as the major shareholder in 2020."

This is perhaps the best example of protecting the customer interests of a large bank by collaborative efforts of SBI and other banks under the guidance of the government and RBI, he noted.

"We are excited to welcome SMBC, a marquee financial institution, as a strategic partner through the largest cross-border transaction in India's banking sector. Their global expertise will be a great complement to Yes Bank's ongoing progress and future ambitions," he said.

SBI and the other selling shareholder banks were advised by SBI Capital Markets Limited as their financial adviser.

## Rupee rises 25 paise to close at 87.84 against US dollar



MUMBAI, SEPT 17

The rupee appreciated 25 paise to close at 87.84 (provisional) against US dollar on Wednesday, tracking a positive trend in domestic equities and supported by optimism over US-India trade negotiations.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee strengthened for the fourth consecutive session on Wednesday and rose to the highest level in two and a half weeks on broad weakness of the American currency amid hopes of a US Fed rate cut.

They said investors are close-

ly following the Federal Reserve's policy decision as dollar softness globally is triggering rupee's strength.

The market is expecting a 25-bps rate cut, and investors will watch out for the Fed chair's speech for further guidance.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 87.84, then touched an intraday low of 87.71 and a high of 87.86 against the greenback. The domestic unit closed at 87.84 (provisional), registering a gain of 25 paise over its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee

appreciated 7 paise to close at 88.09 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to strengthen further amid sustained weakness in the US dollar ahead of the FOMC meeting decision. Markets expect a 25-bps rate cut," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, currency and commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

"Any front loading of dovish commentary may lead to fresh decline in the US dollar and may lead to further improvement in the global risk sentiments," Choudhary added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.16 per cent to 96.78.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.66 per cent lower at USD 68.02 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market from the Sensex climbed 313.02 points to settle at 82,693.71, while the Nifty was up 91.15 points to 25,330.25.

Foreign Institutional Investors' buying equities worth Rs 308.32 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

## Atlanta Electricals' Rs 687-cr IPO to open on Sep 22



NEW DELHI, SEPT 17

Atlanta Electricals Ltd, manufacturer of power, auto and inverter duty transformers, on Wednesday said it will launch its initial public offering (IPO) on September 22 to raise Rs 687 crore.

The company has fixed a

price band of Rs 718 to Rs 754 per share, valuing the company at roughly Rs 5,800 crore at the upper end.

Atlanta Electricals' maiden public offering is scheduled to conclude on September 24, and the one-day bidding for anchor investors will open on September 19.

The Gujarat-based company's IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 400 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 38.1 lakh equity shares valued Rs 287 crore at the upper end of the price band, by a promoter and other selling shareholders.

The company proposes to utilize the proceeds from the issue for payment of debt, supporting working capital requirements of the company and for general corporate purposes.

According to a Crisil report, India's transformer market is driven by the relentless growth in electricity demand, with per capita consumption surging by over 50 per cent in the last decade.

Additionally, the government's investment in the renewable energy sector and expanding the power transmission network, which will create opportunities for the transformer market's growth.



## Committee on Estimates reviews functioning of Forest, Ecology & Environment Department

***Chairperson expresses concern over dwindling Forest cover, adverse impact on Environment***

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: The House Committee on Estimates today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest, Ecology & Environment Department. The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson Shamim Firdous and attended by members including Abdul Majid Bhat Lami, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Gharu Ram Bhagat, Aijaz Ahmad Jan, Shafi Ahmad Wani, Chander Prakash Ganga, Pyare Lal Sharma, and Arjun Singh Raju.

Expressing serious concern over the dwindling forest area and its adverse impact on the environment, the Chairperson stressed the need for sustainable and time-bound measures to protect forests and safe-



guard ecological balance. The Committee emphasized conducting massive and sustained plantation drives across all regions of J&K. She impressed upon taking tangible steps to curb deforestation and prevent forest fire incidents. The Committee undertook a detailed review of initiatives taken to contain deforestation caused by various developmental projects under

PMGSY, PWD, Rural Road Mission, National Highways Authority of India, and hydro-electric projects and measures taken for compensating falling of trees. She instructed that compensation of forest land use by user agency be also addressed on priority and details on the same be submitted to the Committee within 15 days time period. The Chairperson stressed

that concrete initiatives be taken for re-plantation on priority, especially in tourist resorts such as Gulmarg, Yusmarg, Sonmarg, and Pahalgam, and sought details of deteriorated and fallen trees in these areas. She also called for strict measures to check the smuggling of pine and deodar trees. Members raised the issue of shortage in timber supply and directed that vacant and

fallen timber be recovered immediately and distributed through timber depots. The Chairperson emphasized that the department should pick up many areas to develop them as green city areas, with planting variety of trees and also steps be taken to preserve our water body for sustainability of flora and fauna. The members raised issues of man-animal conflict and asserted that sterilization drives be taken to control the rising monkey population in Jammu areas, causing damage to crops and orchards. Senior officers present in the meeting included Commissioner Secretary, Forest Department, Sheetal Nanda; PCF, J&K, Suresh K. Gupta; CWLW, Suresh Rai; MD FDCL, Suresh Buxy; DG Budget Finance, M.S. Malik; Special Secretaries and other senior officers.

## AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre, Kenihama holds series of camps under Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 17: To commemorate the launch of Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan, AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre, Kenihama, under the guidance of District AYUSH Officer, Budgam Dr. Firdous Malik today organised series of health camps here.

The initiative is aimed to promote health and wellbeing of women, thereby strengthening families and communities as a whole.

A special outreach camp was held in local High school where female students actively participated, besides another camp was held at AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre, Kenihama which witnessed enthusiastic participation of women from the local community. During the camps, free health check-ups for anaemia, hypertension, diabetes, thyroid disorders and other lifestyle-related conditions, along with aware-



ness sessions on nutrition, menstrual hygiene, maternal and child health were held. Yoga, meditation and stress management demonstrations were also conducted to encourage holistic wellbeing, besides one-on-one counselling sessions were held on reproductive health, mental wellbeing and lifestyle modifications. During these camps, free medicines were also distributed among the participants. Speaking on the initiative, Dr. Nusrat Bashir, Medical

Officer, AHWC Kenihama, emphasised that women's health is the cornerstone of a healthy society. She highlighted the importance of regular health check-ups and preventive care for overall well-being of an individual. Dr. Nusrat further said that the program is part of a nationwide campaign that seeks to empower women through improved health outcomes, thereby contributing to stronger and healthier families.

## NIESBUD J&K flags-off batch of 30 participants for an exposure visit to Solar Plant

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 17: National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), J&K, with support of Government Polytechnic College, Baramulla, today flagged-off a batch of 30 participants for an exposure visit to a Solar Plant. The exposure visit is being organized as part of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) - PM Surya Ghar

Muft Bijli Yojana (PMS-GMBY) programme being implemented by NIESBUD in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The initiative aims to provide participants first-hand technical experience of solar plant operations, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application. Speaking on the occasion, Principal, Government Polytechnic College Baramulla, said, "Renew-

able energy is the need of the hour, and such exposure visits play a vital role in motivating our youth to take up green technologies and contribute to a sustainable future." Through such initiatives, NIESBUD is committed to promoting skill development and entrepreneurship in the renewable energy sector, enabling youth to explore emerging opportunities in the green economy.

## Sewa Parv -2025: Blood Donation, health awareness camps held in Doda on inaugural Day

DODA, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today inaugurated a one-day Blood Donation Camp at the Blood Bank, Government Medical College (GMC) Doda to mark the commencement of Sewa Parv campaign.

Principal GMC Dr Rakesh Bahl, CMO, Dr Om Kumar, MS AH GMC Dr Tanveer Ahmed and staff of the Blood Bank were present at the inaugural event. Dozens of volunteers, including members from the



MC, donated blood. Alongside this, NCD screening for

pregnant women was also conducted.

The campaign also witnessed an overwhelming response at the block level where a wide range of activities were organized including awareness programmes on women's health and family well-being, NCD screening and health check-up camps, plantation drives promoting eco-friendly health initiatives and Immunization sessions ensuring better maternal and child health. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the Health Department and encouraged the community to

actively participate in such initiatives aimed at strengthening the block level.

The CMO appealed the citizens to come forward and actively participate in the ongoing campaign. He emphasized the importance of women's health in building stronger families and a healthier society.

Meanwhile, the Social Welfare Department organized a special camp to provide assistive devices to specially-abled persons and senior citizens.

## Sakeena Itoo virtually attends 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' launch ceremony

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today virtually attended the inaugural ceremony of 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar (Healthy Women, Empowered Families)' Abhiyaan, a 16 days National Health Campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

Senior officers of health and medical education department also attended the launch ceremony alongside the Health Minister. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister urged upon the officers of health department to carry this unique national health outreach campaign regarding women's health and well-being to every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir. She asked them to involve all stakeholders from Panchayat level into this cam-



paign so that its desired objectives can be achieved.

The Health Minister also called upon the officers to conduct awareness among the masses through electronic, print and social media, so that maximum people can take benefits from this Abhiyaan. The Minister, on the occasion, also expressed gratitude to Prime Minis-

ter for launching a dedicated campaign for the women's health and well-being. Pertinently, 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' Abhiyaan is considered to be the largest ever health outreach for women in the country and over One Lakh Health Camps will be organized across the country from 17th September to 2nd October un-

der this initiative.

The camps will be organized at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres (CHCs), District Hospitals and other government health facilities across the country. Daily health camps will also be held in all government health facilities.

This nationwide intensified campaign seeks to provide women-centric preventive and curative health services at the community level. It will strengthen screening, early detection, and treatment linkages for non-communicable diseases, anaemia, tuberculosis, and sickle cell disease, while also promoting maternal, child, and adolescent health through antenatal care, immunisation, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, lifestyle and mental health awareness activities.

## Dy. CM reviews progress on Boulevard road widening project

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, convened a meeting to review the progress on the widening of Boulevard Road Project. The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman LCMA; Chief Engineer, R&B Central Kashmir; Superintending Engineer R&B; Executive Engineers and other senior officers of PWD. Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the PWD to immediately restart the work on the widening of Boulevard Road, considering its prime importance and vital significance for



tourism development. He instructed them to initiate the process on priority and expedite the pace of execution of works. The Deputy CM directed the concerned executing agency to complete the project in a stipulated time frame while maintaining the quality of works. The Deputy CM

also instructed the Vice Chairman LCMA to facilitate the concerned executing agency for smooth implementation of the project. During the meeting, Chief Engineer (R&B) presented a detailed report and gave a presentation outlining the current status of the projects.

## Javid Dar urges public to take active role in maintaining cleanliness, promoting environmental sustainability



BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 17: Directorate of Rural Sanitation today organized the 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' event at picturesque Gulmarg here, with the aim to spread awareness among the masses about the importance of cleanliness. Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development Department, and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, was the Chief Guest on

the occasion. Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized on the significance of maintaining cleanliness to protect the environment for future generations. "Let us work together to save our environment and ensure a healthy and prosperous future for our children," he said. The Minister stated that 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' event aims to promote cleanliness and sanitation awareness

among the public, encouraging community participation in maintaining a clean and healthy environment. He added that the event's theme, 'Cleanliness for a Better Future', resonates with the audience, inspiring them to take collective action towards a cleaner and greener tomorrow. The Minister urged the public to take an active role in maintaining cleanliness and promoting environmental sustainability. He underlined that individual efforts, when combined, can lead to significant positive change and a better future for all. MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the importance of cleanliness and plantation drives in the current situation, stressing that it is crucial to keep our surroundings clean and plant more trees to mitigate the impact of climate change.

## Commr Secy H&UDD launches Mega Plantation Drive under 'Sewa Parv 2025' at Srinagar

***Urges citizens, community groups, students to actively participate in plantation drives***

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: In a major push towards enhancing Srinagar's green cover and making all waste management facilities of J&K green with dense bio fencing, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur today launched a Mega Plantation Drive under the banner of 'Sewa Parv 2025' in collaboration with Self Help Groups (SHGs) and UEED.

MD NULM; CEO Urban Development Agency; SE, UEED, and other senior officers of UEED, Urban Forestry Division SMC, and members of SHGs participated in the inaugural event. Speaking on the occasion, Mandeep Kaur emphasized on the importance of expanding urban green spaces to obviate the ugly look and public nuisance created by bad odour emanating from these facilities. She added that the expanded green cover



will also enhance the air quality and create a healthier living environ-

ment. She urged citizens, community

groups and students to actively participate in the plantation drives and adopt the motto "Ek Paed Ma Ke Naam, Ek Paed Desh Ke Naam". The drive, formally kick-started at the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Allochi Bagh, will cover four STPs across Srinagar, with a target of providing two layered bio fence around each STP facility and surround all these facilities by dense green cover over the years which will not only improve the aesthetics of the neighbourhood, but will also enhance green cover of the city. It will focus on native species, with the aim of strengthening ecological resilience and improving the urban environment.

The drive is part of the Sewa Parv 2025 celebrations, reflecting the government's commitment to environmental stewardship and community participation in sustainable urban development.

## CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates Transport Bhawan at Bemina, launches new PVC Registration card

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the newly constructed Transport Bhawan at Bemina, Srinagar, marking a major step towards bringing all transport-related services under one roof and strengthening the office infrastructure of Transport Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Bhawan will serve as a central hub for transport administration and services, housing the offices of the Transport Commissioner J&K, Joint Transport Commissioner, Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir, ARTOs, and other allied sections.

Bringing these offices under one roof is expected



to enhance efficiency, coordination, and public service delivery.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched PVC Registration Certificates—a modern initiative designed to provide

durable, tamper-resistant, and convenient registration cards to vehicle owners. Replacing the traditional paper-based format, the new PVC cards will not only improve service quality but also help reduce misuse.

During the launch of PVC Registration Certificates, RTO Kashmir Qazi Irfan Rasool described the launch as an important step towards modernization and convenience of vehicle owners.

He informed that the new cards are durable, tamper-proof, pocket-sized, and equipped with QR codes, ensuring instant verification and reducing complaints.

## CS reviews impact of financial inclusion & social security schemes in J&K

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level review meeting with Deputy Commissioners and senior officers to assess the progress and impact of major financial inclusion and social security schemes being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Director General, Resources; Director General, Planning; Director General, Budget, besides all Deputy Commissioners who participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of key flagship initiatives including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Welfare Schemes, Ladli Beti, Marriage Assistance, Old Age Pension, Widow/Marriage Pension, and Disability Pension schemes.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of assessing the ground-level impact of these schemes, directing the concerned departments and J&K Bank to give renewed impetus for their saturation across all districts. He stressed the need to undertake a

detailed study of unique bank accounts district-wise to gauge financial penetration vis-à-vis the local population and ensure that eligible beneficiaries are comprehensively identified and covered under the available social security schemes.

The meeting was apprised of significant achievements made in recent years under both financial inclusion and welfare initiatives. It was given out that under the PMJDY, nearly 1.9 lakh new accounts have been added since March 2025, taking the total to 23.33 lakh active accounts. A rationalisation exercise was also undertaken to eliminate duplicate accounts and convert zero-balance accounts into savings accounts, the meeting was informed.

Regarding registrations under the PMSBY, it was given out that the scheme has shown an impressive growth, rising by 180% over the last five years, with the total coverage now at 24.64 lakh beneficiaries.

The PMJJBY scheme, was said, to have witnessed around an increase of 155% in enrollments, bringing the total number of insured beneficiaries to around 10 lakh. The APY has seen the sharpest rise, with subscriptions registering a 219% jump, reaching 2.71 lakh subscribers who will be eligible for assured pensions ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 per month after the age of 60.

## Committee on Environment calls for introducing Environmental Science as mandatory subject in all J&K Schools

**Stresses expert consultation to mitigate floods, land erosion, other climatic challenges**

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: The Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today emphasized the need to introduce Environmental Science as a mandatory subject across all schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Committee during a meeting today observed that the recent floods, frequent cloudbursts, and flash floods across the Himalayan region should serve as an eye-opener, underscoring the urgent need for preparedness to mitigate their adverse impacts.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman Committee on Environment, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, and members including Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khatana, Yodhvi Sethi, and Darshan Kumar also participated in the meeting. The meeting discussed the recent devastation floods in



Himalayan range due to ecological disorder and measures being taken to prevent disasters in the future.

At the outset, the Chairman stressed the importance of consulting environmental experts with experience across the Himalayan range to devise a comprehensive strategy for safeguarding

the region against future climatic challenges.

Highlighting the significance of protecting J&K's fragile ecosystem, the Chairman instructed the concerned departments to involve subject experts and prepare an annual action plan for rural sanitation. The Committee reviewed the ongoing flood-related

works and measures undertaken by the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Pollution Control Board, and Environment & Ecology Department to prevent future flood situations and other climatic challenges in J&K.

The Chairman directed the concerned departments to submit detailed reports on

with time-bound issuance.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary Transport Anvy Lavasa, Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Regional Transport Officer Kashmir Qazi Irfan Rasool, besides senior officers and officials of the Transport Department.

After inaugurating the facility, the Chief Minister toured the building and inspected its various sections.

He interacted with officers and staff, reviewing the facilities created for both employees and the general public.

Expressing satisfaction, he said that the new bhawan would significantly streamline the functioning of the Transport Department and ensure better service delivery to citizens.

## DC Reasi leads cleanliness, plantation drive to mark launch of Sewa Parv 2025

REASI, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today launched the Sewa Parv 2025 with the inauguration of a series of activities to mark the beginning of the fortnight-long program scheduled from 17th September to 2nd October 2025.

The program commenced with a plantation drive and cleanliness drive in the District Hospital premises and the Nursing College. Officers from across line departments, students and youth volunteers participated in the initiative. A Swachhta Pledge was also taken by all present, reaffirming their commitment to a clean and green Reasi.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the medical stalls put up by the Health Department, offering services including OPD consultation, disease testing and screening. A blood donation camp was also organized at the site.

Later, the DC also visited Sula Park, where a plantation and cleanliness drive was jointly organized by the Forest and the Social Welfare Departments. The DC led the plantation activity and participated in the cleaning of the park as well as the surrounding water sources with active involvement of district and sectoral officers.

The day's activities concluded with a cleanliness drive at the DC Office Complex, where officers and officials, led by the DC herself, participated in ensuring a clean



workplace.

Parallel to the district-level activities, Sewa Parv 2025 was also launched across all subdivisions and blocks of Reasi.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring environmental protection, cleanliness and community service, while urging citizens to actively take part in the upcoming programs under Sewa Parv 2025.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal; CPO Narinder Kumar, DSEO, CMO, CEO, DSWO and other district officers were also present.

## Almost every panchayat suffered damage water pipelines, electricity poles uprooted: Pawan Khajuria



Udhampur, Sept 17: Senior leader Pawan Khajuria, while addressing a press conference at the Salim Talab office in Udhampur, said that the heavy rainfall and landslides that began on August 26 have still not stopped. Every day, images of destruction are emerging from different areas. No one has remained unaffected by this disaster. Almost every panchayat has suffered damage—water pipelines are in terrible condition, electricity poles have been uprooted, and several transformers have sunk into the ground. Roads have also been washed away at many places. The district administration is doing everything it can to deal with this severe disaster and to reach the affected people. Whether it's a junior employee or a senior officer, everyone is trying to give their 100%. In Udhampur district, about 70 to 80 percent of the population lives in villages, many of which are in remote areas. Yet, the district administration has issued necessary guidelines to reach those areas as well. In addition, several NGOs have also

extended help by distributing relief materials in the villages. We, too, along with our colleagues, have visited remote areas to meet the affected families, understand their pain, and even in areas where roads were blocked due to landslides and vehicles couldn't go, we reached on foot and provided some relief materials. While everyone is trying to help in their own way during this time, our MLA is busy playing politics even amidst this disaster. He is telling people that they don't need to go to the patwari, police station, or any government office—that compensation will be delivered to

aged, but they too should be included in the list of fully damaged houses, because once a house develops cracks, it becomes uninhabitable and creates a constant sense of fear. People are forced to live in tents. Hundreds of cows, buffaloes, and other animals have also been rendered homeless, making it difficult for their owners to care for them.

Additionally, thousands of kanals of local residents' land have become almost barren due to landslides, and crops on that land have been completely destroyed. He also mentioned that due to road closures and suspension of transport to tourist spots, many transporters and business owners are finding it hard to run their households. We request the administration to also provide them with some form of relief so that they can continue their livelihoods smoothly. Present on the occasion were senior leader Sardar Palwinder Singh, Naib Sarpanch Vijay Kumar, Mohammad Anwar, Mohinder Kumar, Nateshwar Vaid, Rinku, Shyam Lal, Rohit Sarmal, and Arun Sethi.

## Abdul Rahim Rather inaugurates macadamization works on vital Chadoora-Brenwar road

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 17: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today inaugurated the much-anticipated macadamization works on vital road connecting Chadoora to Brenwar.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, the Speaker emphasized on the Government's commitment to upgrading rural infrastructure. "This road is a lifeline for the people of this area. Its macadamization will not only end the long-standing difficulties faced by the residents but will also act as a catalyst for the overall development of the area," the Speaker said. He added that the improved connectivity will open new avenues for economic growth, enhance access to markets, healthcare facilities and significantly improve the quality of life of local community.

On the occasion, Executive Engineer PMGSY assured the Speaker that the



macadamization work will be completed efficiently within a strict timeframe of 20 days. He informed the Speaker that this 9.90-kilometer road project, undertaken at an estimated cost of ₹2.15 crores, is a key infrastructure initiative aimed at providing a smooth and safe travel experience for commuters, farmers, and local businesses. Pertinently, the macadamization of this vital road marks a significant step towards improving

connectivity and boosting the socio-economic development of the region. It is expected to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce vehicle maintenance costs, and provide all-weather connectivity to the surrounding villages. The event, among others, was attended by local dignitaries, community leaders, and large number of enthusiastic residents who have long advocated for the upgradation of this crucial road.

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