



J&K, Ladakh LGs and CM Abdullah greet PM Modi on his birthday

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Leh, Sep 17 : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena extended their greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 76th birthday on Thursday. "Wishing Hon PM @narendramodi ji a very happy birthday. Wish you good health and a long life," Abdullah said in a post on X.Tourist Destinations

In Leh, Saxena led a 'padyatra' (foot march) under the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' on the occasion of 'Sewa Diwas', marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor said Modi's visionary leadership in shaping a self-reliant, developed and progressive new India continues to inspire all. "Heartfelt birthday greetings to our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri @narendramodi Ji. Your visionary leadership in shaping a self-reliant, developed and progressive New India continues to inspire all of us. I pray for your long, healthy, and vibrant life as the nation collectively strives to fulfil your grand vision for

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Blind Murder in Jammu: A Wake-Up Call



RAJESH GUPTA

JAMMU is confronting an uncomfortable question: how safe is the city becoming for ordinary citizens? The fatal shooting of 35-year-old newspaper vendor Deepak Sharma inside his Resham Ghar residence on September 17 has once again shaken public confidence. Reports differ on the precise circumstances of the firing, and police are investigating; that uncertainty itself demands a thorough, transparent investigation and a clear public account of what happened.

A murder inside a home, in the heart of Jammu, cannot be dismissed as another isolated crime story. It should trigger serious questions about policing, surveillance, intelligence gathering, illegal weapons, response time and the confidence citizens have in the law-enforcement system. Jammu deserves answers, not assurances.

There is also a wider perception that crime is becoming increasingly visible whether thefts, assaults, sexual offences or violent incidents. Perception must not be confused with verified statistics, but neither should public anxiety be ignored. The administration must publish district-wise, recent crime data and explain what measures are being taken to prevent repeat offences and improve detection.

The debate about migration also needs maturity. Workers from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other parts of India contribute to Jammu's economy and cannot collectively be blamed for crimes committed by individuals. At the same time, authorities must ensure proper verification, registration and lawful monitoring of tenants, labourers and other temporary residents wherever required. Security and social harmony should go together; neither prejudice nor administrative negligence serves Jammu.

The restoration of statehood is a political and constitutional issue, but public safety cannot wait for constitutional arrangements to change. Whatever the administrative structure, responsibility for protecting everyday life and property remains immediate.

Jammu's people are often described as peaceful and accommodating. But peacefulness must never be mistaken for helplessness. Citizens have every right to demand safer streets, accountable policing and swift justice without fear or favour.

The Sharma case should therefore become a test of institutional seriousness. Police must establish exactly what happened, identify those responsible if a crime occurred, and place the facts before the public. Jammu does not need slogans about security. It needs security that citizens can actually feel.

Mining Contractors Threaten Crime Branch, ACB Action Against Dy CM, G&M Director, DMO Reasi Mohd Imtiaz

'Endurance' Tested: Contractors Allege Mining Department Nexus, Seek Probe into Delayed Lols



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary

Director G&M Pawan Sharma

DMO Reasi Mohd. Imtiaz

Rajesh Gupta

JAMMU: A group of mining contractors has threatened to approach the Crime Branch, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and other competent agencies against what they allege is a deep-rooted nexus involving influential persons and officials of the Geology and Mining Department, accusing them of deliberately delaying the issuance of mandatory Letters of Intent (Lols) despite completion of all legal and financial formalities.

The contractors have alleged that they have deposited crores of rupees with the department and complied with the prescribed requirements, yet their mining projects have remained stalled for nearly three and a half years, resulting in mounting financial liabilities and substantial losses.

The contractors said they had entered the mining sector after investing heavily and arranging bank finance with the expectation that the projects would become operational after completion of the mandatory procedures.

"We completed all legal formalities and deposited crores of rupees with the department. Many of us also raised substantial bank loans. But for nearly three and a half years, our projects have remained stuck and we are being forced to pay huge interest without any fault on

our part," the contractors said.

They alleged that repeated representations and visits to the concerned offices have failed to produce any concrete solution.

The contractors further claimed that they are now preparing to approach the Crime Branch and ACB with documentary evidence and representations naming senior officials and other persons whom they believe should be investigated.

They said the proposed complaints would include allegations concerning Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Director Geology and Mining Pawan Kumar Sharma and DMO Reasi Mohd Imtiaz, among others.

The contractors alleged that the role of senior officials in the handling of complaints and pending mining matters requires an independent investigation. They specifically alleged that Director Geology and Mining Pawan Kumar Sharma has so far failed to take effective action on the issues raised by the contractors.

The group also levelled allegations against DMO Reasi Mohd Imtiaz and claimed that complaints relating to the functioning of mining officials require examination by an independent investigating agency.

These allegations have not been independently established by **News Till Date** and would require verification by the com-

petent authorities.

The contractors further alleged that there exists an alleged nexus between influential persons and certain officials of the Geology and Mining Department, claiming that the alleged arrangement has resulted in genuine contractors being made to suffer while complaints against some officials have not been dealt with to their satisfaction.

Their allegations come amid earlier government action against mining officials following public complaints. In September 2025, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary ordered the attachment of DMO Samba and DMO Kupwara following complaints against the officers. The order stated that DMO Samba Mohd Sharfraz was attached to the Directorate of Geology and Mining in Srinagar.

In another development, DMO Reasi Mohd Imtiaz was assigned additional charge of DMO Udhampur and subsequently DMO Ramban after the suspension of the then DMO Ramban pending inquiry into allegations concerning his conduct and illegal mining.

The contractors said these developments make it necessary for the competent agencies to examine the functioning of the department independently and determine whether officials have acted according to rules.

"We have shown enough patience. We have been running from pillar to post for

more than three years. Now we will place the entire matter before the investigating agencies along with the documents available with us," they said.

They maintained that their objective is not to target any individual but to ensure accountability and a transparent investigation into the prolonged delay in issuance of Lols and the alleged irregularities surrounding the mining administration.

The contractors also appealed to the Chief Minister to order an independent inquiry into the matter and ensure that decisions concerning pending Lols are taken strictly in accordance with law.

They said they continue to have faith in the judiciary and would pursue all legal remedies available to them.

The allegations against Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Director Geology and Mining Pawan Kumar Sharma, DMO Reasi Mohd Imtiaz and other officials could not be independently verified. All the persons named in the allegations are entitled to respond, and their versions will be published if received.

News Till Date has also sought the official response of the concerned authorities. The department and officials concerned may clarify their position on the allegations and the reasons for the delay in issuance of the Lols.

--To be contd.



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LG Saxena Dedicates World's Highest-Altitude Twin Flower Fields In Leh To People



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India's Nutrition Crisis Begins Before Pregnancy: Why Adolescent Girls Need

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Babu Rampaul Calls for Youth Unity on Statehood, Urges Immediate Recruitment to Save Age-Barred Aspirants



SYNOPSIS

NHM employees extend strike by 72 hours from September 18 across J&K

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sept 17: The Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA), through its Joint Coordination Committee, has announced the extension of its ongoing peaceful protest/strike across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for a further period of 72 hours with effect from September 18, 2026.

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Properties Of Two Terrorists Attached In Kupwara

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 17: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Thursday ordered the attachment of properties belonging to two notorious terrorists from Kupwara district, operating from Pakistan.

The properties attached by the DGP belong to Abdul Majeed Qureshi and Parvaiz Ahmad Qureshi, both residents of Kachama in Kupwara district.

As per the order issued by Prabhat, 10 kanals of land belonging to Abdul Majeed and five Kanals of land belonging to Parvaiz Ahmad were attached.

The attached properties included two residential houses. The organisation of the terrorists was not immediately known.

J&K ACB registers FIRs against govt officials of different departments

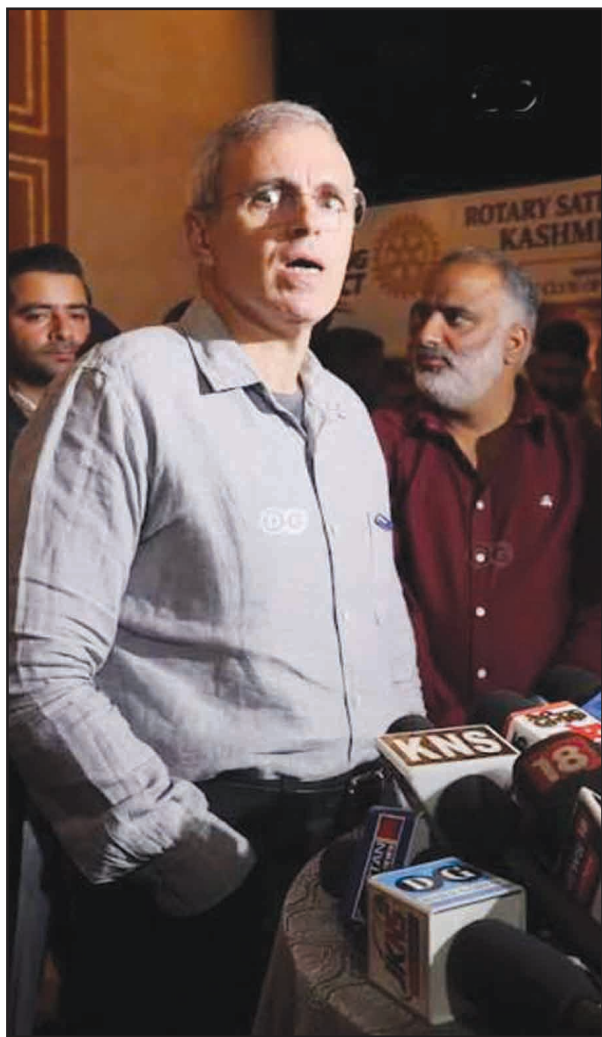
NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 17 : Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau on Thursday registered FIRs against the officers of Transport, Rural Development Department and Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

As per the official communique, J&K ACB has registered Disproportionate Assets case against an employee of Motor Vehicle Department, Jammu. The spokesman said that Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a case against public servant, namely,

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CM Omar Abdullah Ditches Congress Line On 'UPI Charge', says 'System Not Cheap'



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR: Sep 17: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has backed the Centre's move to introduce a 0.4 per cent merchant discount rate (MDR) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments above Rs 2,000. Abdullah highlighted everyone is not charged, and running the UPI system is not "cheap", notably a different stand from the National Conference's ally partner Congress.

The Jammu and Kashmir CM also stated that the government should ensure that any charges related to UPI transactions do not burden the common people.

"Not everyone is charged. First of all, person-to-person money transfers are not charged. After that, individual consumers will not be charged unless they cross a certain ceiling limit. As far as I understand, running this UPI system is not cheap. It takes a lot of money to run it," the J&K CM said.

He even highlighted that people often fail to properly appreciate things they receive for free.

"And the truth is, we don't properly appreciate what we get for free. The Government of India should ensure that the general public is not charged these fees. If a company is charged, I have no objection because companies make good money through UPI anyway," he said.

Rahul Gandhi Slams Centre:

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, criticised the Narendra Modi government over the UPI move. In a video message posted on X, Gandhi said, "He has put a tax on every single Indian person by taxing UPI and giving huge amounts of money to the United States," the Congress MP said in the video.

Notably, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Tuesday announced a new MDR

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Two JeM terrorists killed, one suspect detained in Udhampur



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 17: Two terrorists suspected to be affiliated with the Pakistan-based proscribed outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) were killed, and an alleged over-ground worker was

detailed in a remote high-altitude area in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said on Thursday. City & Local Guides

The joint operation by the Army, police and CRPF was conducted in

the dense Brattal Sohan and Khubban forests of Majalta bordering Kathua district amid heavy rain, they said.

Army confirmed the killing of two terrorists in the operation. "In a joint intelligence-based operation during the intervening night of September 16-17, confirmed inputs indicated the presence of terrorists in the general area of Brattal, Udhampur."

"Despite hostile weather, difficult terrain and poor visibility, troops of White Knight Corps, Police and CRPF launched a targeted

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Pahalgam attack: NIA court issues warrant against Pak-based LeT commander

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 17: The National Investigation Agency has issued a crucial non-bailable warrant against Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Saifullah, a significant development in combating terrorism linked to the Kashmir Valley.

JAMMU, Sep 17: A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Jammu has issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Saifullah, who has been linked to several major terror attacks, including the April 2025 Pahalgam massacre, officials said on Thursday. Saifullah is a resident of

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Broad daylight murder in Jammu newspaper hawker shot dead

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU: 35-year-old man was shot dead inside his house in Jammu on Thursday, September 17, after unidentified assailants allegedly opened fire. Police officials said the man sustained a gunshot injury and later died. The incident is under investigation. The shooting took place at the victim's residence in Jammu. Initial reports identify the attackers as unidentified, and further details about their motive and identities were not immediately available.

Mehbooba slams BJP over IPS officer Bushra Bano transfer, says 'even our vocabulary and votes are being policed'

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sept 17 : Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister

Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday criticised the BJP over the transfer of West Bengal IPS officer Bushra Bano, alleging

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"India no longer just condemns, delivers decisive responses": HM Amit Shah hails PM Modi's 'zero tolerance' policy against terrorism

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEW DELHI, Sep 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, stating that under his tenure, the country has witnessed the firm, ground-level implementation of a "zero-tolerance" policy against

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Assembly cannot act like pro-government courier agency: Sajad Lone questions silence on 1987 poll rigging resolution

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 17 : Peoples Conference chairman and MLA Sajad Lone on Thursday questioned the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Secretariat over the status of his resolution seek-

ing a discussion on the alleged rigging of the 1987 Assembly elections, accusing it of withholding information on what he described as a watershed event in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

Lone said he had submitted two resolutions

for the upcoming autumn session-one opposing the recent power tariff hike and another seeking a discussion on the alleged rigging of the 1987 elections.

According to Lone, the Assembly Secretariat

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Fresh Snowfall Blankets Gurez Valley as Widespread Rain Lashes J&K

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 17: Fresh snowfall was witnessed at Kabul Gali in north Kashmir's Gurez Valley on Thursday,

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PM Modi Leads Semiconductor Meet, Pushes Govt Industry Participation



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEWDELHI, Sep 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, chaired the Semiconductor Roundtable with leading CEOs at Seva Teerth in New Delhi. During the meet, he emphasised the importance of close collaboration between the Government and the

semiconductor industry in shaping India's technology future.

PM Modi Hails Indian Talent, Technology Adoption

PM Modi highlighted India's strong foundation of talent, technology adoption and infrastructure, and called for greater industry participation in skilling,

Contd. on Page 7

'India will protect its trade and economic interests': MEA on US' Russia sanctions bill threatening 100% tariff



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEW DELHI, Se 17: India has reiterated its commitment to safeguarding energy security for its 1.4 billion people following the US Congress's passage of a Russia sanctions bill that provides for tariffs of up to 100 per cent on

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Abdullah family wants Statehood to revive their 'Kingdom', impose PSA: LoP

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 17: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Thursday alleged that the Abdullah family wants statehood for imposing the Public Safety Act (PSA) and open firing on youth.

Speaking to reporters in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, Sharma said people of Jammu and Kashmir are not concerned about the restoration of statehood, and that only the Abdullah family wants it "to bring back their lost kingdom".

"They want to hold the stick, they want the power to impose PSA, they want the authority to fire bullets at the chests of youth -- that is the kind of statehood the Abdullah family wants. That is the statehood they are looking for. Otherwise, no one else is concerned about statehood," the BJP leader said.

Sharma asked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to stop acting as a "spokesperson" for Ladakh, and instead prioritise resolving the issues confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Discover Top Destinations

"Abdullah should stop being a spokesperson for Ladakh. He is the Chief Minister of Jammu



and Kashmir... where people are currently in distress today, he is once again playing the role of acting like a 'big brother'.

"It was during their government that the people of Ladakh had said they did not want to remain with them. Today, once again, he is showing sympathy for Ladakh. First, solve the problems of the people here," he said.

Sharma's remarks came a day after Chief Minister Abdullah advised the leadership of Ladakh not to rely on the Centre's verbal assurances regarding their struggle for constitutional safeguards with regard to land and jobs.

On the upcoming assembly session, the BJP leader said that

while the party has no interest in cornering anyone or in making noise, "we cannot just leave the people at God's mercy like this"

"People have pain and suffering, people have difficulties, people have issues. How can we stay silent? After all, we are in the opposition; we have also been sent to the House with 29 MLAs. We won't go there just for a salary. Look at the distress people are in," he said.

The LoP said that whenever someone approaches the government for redressal of his issues, there is only one response: 'we do not have the authority, we do not have the powers'.

"At the very least, we will fix

their accountability and hold them answerable. Let them answer. They made very big claims. Earlier, they used to peddle talks in the name of separatism, in the name of Pakistan, that won't work anymore. Now, they will have to answer on development, on actual work. And for this, the BJP is ready to fight every possible battle," he asserted.

Calling the Speaker of the assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, "biased", Sharma said the issues of the people cannot be addressed in six days.

"I called him biased because, look, there are 90 MLAs, 90 constituencies. Tell me, electricity, water, roads, schools, staff, daily wagers, NHM -- can you address so many issues in just six days? So, he is working to protect the government; that is why I am calling him biased," Sharma said.

Accusing the Speaker of shielding the government, the BJP leader said a 30-day session of the assembly should be held.

"There should be a debate every day, a debate on each issue. All MLAs should speak, and then the government should take a decision. Now, in five days, you want to hide the government, so he is biased," he added.

LG Saxena Dedicates World's Highest-Altitude Twin Flower Fields In Leh To People



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

LEH, Sept 17: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, today inaugurated the world's highest-altitude twin flower fields in Leh, to mark the 76th birth anniversary of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Besides being the highest in the world, the two flower fields at Choglamsar and Stakna in Leh, at an altitude of 10,600 feet, are also the highest and the largest flower fields in the country. With over 25 lakh high-value flowers -- including 24 lakh Lilium and 1 lakh Gladiolus, the flower fields spread over 40 acres. This is the first experiment of this size and nature at high-altitude in Leh, and its successful execution has further paved the way for replicating this model in other parts of Ladakh. Discover Top Destinations

The development of the twin flower fields marks a significant milestone in promoting agricultural diversification, farmers' empowerment and creating new livelihood opportunities through commercial floriculture in Ladakh, as envisaged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Interestingly, the flower field at Choglamsar has been developed in a record time of just two months. Plantation at Choglamsar began on 16th July, and the first bloom started in the first week of September. On the other hand, plantation of nearly 14 lakh

Liliums at Stakna flower field began in August, and the first bloom is expected around the end of October.

The project seeks to leverage Ladakh's unique climatic conditions and the growing national and international market potential of high-value flowers to create a new avenue for income generation, entrepreneurship and rural economic development.

As per market rates, Lilium sells at a premium of Rs 60-70 per stick in wholesale markets, while the retail sale of Liliums fetches an even higher price.

The Choglamsar flower park will serve as a demonstration and model floriculture centre, where high-value flowers such as Lilium, Gladiolus, Tulips and other ornamental species, with strong market demand in national and international markets, will be cultivated.

It will thus create a new, sustainable source of income for Ladakh's farming community through self-help groups and cooperatives. Under the project, the Agriculture Department in the first year will develop the flower field and, at the time of bloom, transfer it to the selected Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and cooperative societies. The department will handhold the SHGs and the cooperatives in marketing flowers in national and international markets to maximise returns. Subsequently,

from the next year, the cooperatives will themselves undertake commercial cultivation, harvesting and value addition of the Lilium flowers.

For this, local farmers are being given structured training in scientific floriculture, modern cultivation practices, and establishing floriculture as a viable commercial enterprise.

Inaugurating the Flower Garden, the Lieutenant Governor said the initiative is more than just the start of flower cultivation; it is an effort to sow the seeds of new livelihoods, skills, and opportunities for the people of Ladakh. A key objective of the Flower Garden is to develop it as a training and demonstration centre for farmers and youth. The facility will provide exposure to modern cultivation techniques, scientific farming practices and improved post-harvest management, enabling farmers to acquire the knowledge and skills required to take up floriculture at the farm and village level.

Besides functioning as a recreational and educational space for residents and tourists, the flower fields will create an ecosystem where not only flowers, but also knowledge, skills and enterprises can grow. Floriculture is a high-value agricultural activity that can complement traditional farming, enhance farmers' incomes and open new avenues for employment and entrepreneurship," L-G Saxena said.

The Flower Garden will be opened to the general public from September 18, 2026. To ensure its proper maintenance and upkeep, a nominal entry fee of ₹25 for adults and ₹10 for children has been fixed. The revenue generated will be utilised for the maintenance and upkeep of the Garden.

National Bootcamp on Mobile Forensics and Malware Analysis Begins at SMVDU and IIT Jammu



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 17: A five-day National Bootcamp on Mobile Forensics and Malware Analysis commenced, as a joint initiative of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, and IIT Jammu, with support from the IEEE Student Branch, SMVDU, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA).

The bootcamp is being designed to provide participants with comprehensive exposure to the emerging fields of mobile forensics, digital investigations, and malware analysis through expert sessions, hands-on training, case studies, and live demonstrations. The event started with welcome address and introduction about the National Bootcamp by Dr Pooja Sharma, Associate Professor, School of Computer science and Engineering. The inaugural ceremony was graced by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof.(Dr.) Pragati Kumar. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Kumar highlighted the growing importance of mobile forensics in today's rapidly evolving digital era and emphasized the need for developing expertise in digital investigation and cybersecurity. He provided valuable insights into the objectives of the bootcamp and encouraged the enthusiastic student participants to engage deeply with the sessions and practical activities planned over the next five days. He expressed his best wishes to all the participants, experts, organizers, and stakeholders associated with

the event. The inaugural session also featured a keynote talk delivered by Dr. Samresh Bera, Faculty, IIT Jammu and Dr Anil Saini, Senior Scientific Officer, IIT Jammu who provided valuable perspectives on the contemporary challenges and developments in mobile forensics and malware analysis.

The bootcamp brings together students, faculty members, experts, and cybersecurity enthusiasts for an intensive five-day learning experience. The combination of expert-led sessions and hands-on practical training is expected to enable participants to develop a better understanding of digital evidence acquisition, mobile device investigations, malware analysis, and emerging cybersecurity challenges. The students from all the streams including Computer science and engineering, Electronics and Communication, Electrical engineering, Mathematics

Ladakh's Nautor Framework To Bring Clarity To Historical Landholders: CS Ashish Kundra

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

LEH, Sep 17: The recently approved Nautor framework would provide greater clarity to eligible historical landholders, facilitate productive use of agricultural land and enable access to bank loans, a top Union territory official has said following concerns raised by some groups over its impact.

Nautor land refers to barren or wasteland owned by the government and historically allotted to individuals for cultivation or other productive purposes. More than 60,000 acres of land in Ladakh is presently recorded in revenue records as Nautor holdings.

Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra said the framework would also help address longstanding historical and revenue-record issues associated with Nautor land, while reiterating that the interests of genuine occupants, along with the broader public interest, would be duly considered while finalising the framework for implementation.

Kundra was chairing a consultative meeting with prominent citizens, religious leaders and various other groups here on Wednesday to deliberate on issues concerning the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Nautor Regularisation) Rules, 2026, an official



spokesperson said.

On September 4, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena approved the regularisation rules, paving the way for the grant of proprietary rights over eligible barren land and resolving a long-pending issue concerning thousands of landholders in the Union territory.

However, the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) opposed the framework, claiming that it would effectively amount to purchasing one's own land at market rates and could create further mistrust amid the ongoing dialogue with the Centre.

Among the key provisions of the Rules, eligible genuine Nautor holders may be granted proprietary rights over up to 10 acres at the notified market rate of the concerned revenue village, while land beyond 10 acres may be allotted on a leasehold basis at a premium of 80 per cent of the notified market rate.

Regularisation will be considered only in cases where occupation existed prior to the cut-off date of October 27, 2020, the

spokesperson said while abandoned land or land found to have been encroached upon will not be eligible for allotment and will be liable to eviction.

During the extensive consultation, participants raised several issues relating to the historical nature of Nautor land, tenancy and ownership rights, old allotments, agricultural and pastoral land, land in remote and nomadic areas, and cases where historical occupation may not have been adequately reflected in revenue records.

Concerns were also raised regarding land associated with monasteries, mosques, schools and other religious and community institutions, the spokesperson said on Thursday. Responding to the concerns raised at the meeting, the chief secretary assured the participants that the feedback would be examined and emphasised that the Administration would continue consultations with stakeholders and undertake necessary action before its further implementation, the spokesperson said

AJBRCCEAK : Assurances Must Now Translate Into a Time-Bound Government Decision with Immediate Security-Based Relief



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 17: The All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCCEAK) has once again urged the Government to immediately notify the long-pending Comprehensive Transfer Policy for Jammu-based employees serving in Kashmir Division, describing it as the need of the hour and the most practical permanent solution to the long-standing concerns of these employees and their families.

Chairman AJBRCCEAK, Vipin Kumar, said that the Association has repeatedly raised the issue before the Government and administrative authorities and has received assurances regarding consideration

of the demand. However, despite repeated commitments, the formal notification of the policy is still awaited.

In view of the prevailing security concerns, Vipen Kumar stated that safe and secure government accommodation be provided to Jammu Based Employees and the posts occupied by such Jammu-based employees be treated as Division-level until the last gun in Kashmir is silenced, the Government should consider posting Jammu-based employees presently serving in Kashmir Division, wherever administratively feasible, in Civil Secretariat, Directorates, Divisional offices, District Headquarters and other

protected Government establishments where secure Government accommodation and appropriate security arrangements are available. "Such an arrangement would provide immediate relief and a greater sense of security to employees and their families, while allowing the Government to utilize their services effectively. The Government must address the root issue through a properly notified Comprehensive Transfer Policy. At the same time, until such a policy is implemented and lasting normalcy is established, immediate security-oriented measures are necessary to protect the confidence and welfare of employees," Vipen Kumar said.

The Association appealed to the Government to take a concrete, time-bound decision and issue the Comprehensive Transfer Policy without further delay, while simultaneously examining the proposed protected/headquarters-level posting arrangement as an immediate measure.

"Thousands of employees and their families are looking towards the Government with hope. We appeal to the Government to convert its assurances into a concrete decision.

India's Nutrition Crisis Begins Before Pregnancy: Why Adolescent Girls Need to Be at the Centre of the Conversation

By: Poonam Muttreja

IN India, maternal and child nutrition should begin long before pregnancy, focusing on girls' nutrition, education, and empowerment. Poonam Muttreja writes...

National Nutrition Week 2026: The 8 Biggest Nutrition Myths You Need To Stop Believing

Let's debunk these 8 nutrition myths that are still very much believed by people all around the world.

When we speak about maternal and child nutrition in India, our attention often begins with pregnancy. A woman enters the health system, receives antenatal care, iron and folic acid supplements, nutrition counselling and, eventu-

ally, support during childbirth. But by then, we are too often intervening too late.

A healthy pregnancy begins years before the first antenatal visit. It begins with whether a girl has enough nutritious food, whether she remains in school, whether she has information and understand her body, whether she is able to delay marriage and pregnancy, and whether she has the agency to make decisions about her own health.

India has made some progress on a few nutrition indicators, but the burden remains substantial. NFHS-6 reports that 29% of children under five are stunted. At the same time, the most recent nationally compa-



rable anaemia data from NFHS-5 showed that 59% of girls aged 15-19 were anaemic. Alarming, anaemia indicators have been dropped from the NFHS-6 national fact sheet, making continued independent tracking of this major public-health challenge more difficult.

Protection Without Pause

Anaemia during adolescence is not simply a problem to be addressed when a girl becomes pregnant. Adolescence is a period of rapid physical growth and increased nutritional requirements. Poor nutrition during this period can affect girls' health and

wellbeing immediately and can also leave them entering pregnancy with nutritional deficits. Tragedies passed from woman to womb.

That matters enormously because adolescence and pregnancy are still overlapping realities for millions of Indian girls. According to NFHS-6, 6.7% of women aged 15-19 were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey, virtually unchanged from 6.8% in NFHS-5. The rural figure, at 7.9%, is more than twice the urban figure of 3.4%. Meanwhile, 20.1% of women aged 20-24 were married before 18. In

Bihar the figure is 34.6%, in West Bengal 36.4%, and in Tripura 34%.

These numbers show why nutrition cannot be separated from gender inequality. And gender often determines nutritional status. Even very young girls are expected to prove fertility soon after marriage.

A girl who leaves school early, marries young and has little say over when she becomes pregnant faces multiple, overlapping disadvantages. Her ability to access nutritious food may be shaped by poverty and household practices; her access to health services by mobility and

social norms; and her reproductive choices by whether she can negotiate contraception and birth spacing. Women and girls in the family often eat last, and eat least. Nutrition programmes therefore cannot succeed fully if they treat the adolescent girl simply as a future mother rather than as a person with rights and aspirations of her own.

The solution requires a comprehensive and definitive life-course approach.

First, adolescent nutrition must become a public-health priority in its own right. Anganwadi centres, schools and mid

day meals, primary healthcare services and adolescent health programmes should work together to ensure regular nutrition screening, iron and folic acid supplementation where indicated, dietary counselling and access to diverse, nutritious foods. Girls who are out of school require particular attention, because school-based interventions will otherwise systematically miss some of the most vulnerable adolescents. In the absence of NFHS data, we need urgent ways of monitoring nutrition comprehensively.

Second, nutrition policy must connect with efforts to keep girls in secondary education and delay marriage and first pregnancy. The determinants of malnutrition are not confined to the health ministry. Education, water and sanitation, social protection, gender equality and livelihoods all influence whether a girl enters adulthood healthy.

Third, adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services must become genuinely accessible. Young people need confidential, culturally sensitive, non-judgmental information and services that enable them to understand their bodies and make informed decisions. India's changing demographic landscape makes such a life-course approach increasingly important.

And finally, we must

recognise agency as a nutrition intervention. A girl who can decide when to marry, whether and when to become pregnant, continue her education and participate in paid work has a very different chance of achieving good health from one whose choices are made for her.

We should therefore ask ourselves a different question during nutrition week. Instead of asking only how we can improve nutrition during pregnancy, we should ask what it would take for every girl to enter adulthood healthy, educated and empowered.

We also need to address the social norms that shape what girls eat, when they marry, whether they can seek healthcare, and how much say, or agency, they have over their own bodies. Sustained social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), working with adolescents, parents, men and boys, schools and communities, is essential to shift these norms alongside improvements in services and nutrition programmes.

Waiting until pregnancy to address a woman's nutritional disadvantage, is like trying to repair in nine months inequalities that may have accumulated over eighteen years. To break that cycle, adolescent girls move from the margins of our nutrition strategy to its very centre.

The Growing Electricity Crisis

By Sushant Bhardwaj

ELECTRICITY has become one of the most essential necessities of modern life. Homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, industries and communication systems all depend on a reliable power supply. Yet electricity shortages and power cuts continue to affect people in many parts of India.

India's electricity demand has remained unusually high in September 2026. Peak demand reached around 269 GW on September 10, while deficient rainfall has reduced hydropower generation and increased pressure on thermal power plants.

The electricity crisis is not caused by a single factor. Rising temperatures have increased the use of air conditioners, coolers and other appliances. At the same time, inadequate rainfall has increased demand for irrigation while reducing hydropower generation. Recent reports have also highlighted critically low coal stocks at a significant number of thermal power plants. Another challenge comes in the evening. Solar power contributes strongly during daylight hours, but its availability falls after sunset, exactly when household and commercial demand can remain high. This creates additional pressure on conventional power sources and the electricity grid. The solution requires long-term planning rather than temporary measures. India needs stronger transmission and distribution networks, adequate fuel reserves, better maintenance of power plants, greater investment in energy storage and faster development of reliable renewable energy. Battery storage can help shift surplus daytime solar power to evening hours.

Consumers also have a role to play. Avoiding unnecessary electricity use, using energy-efficient appliances and reducing peak-hour consumption can help ease pressure on the grid.

Electricity is not merely a commodity; it is the foundation of economic and social development. A reliable power supply is essential for factories to operate, students to study, hospitals to function and businesses to grow. The electricity crisis should therefore be treated as a long-term infrastructure and planning challenge, with equal attention to generation, transmission, distribution and affordability.

The goal should not simply be to produce more electricity, but to build a reliable, efficient, affordable and sustainable power system capable of meeting the country's future needs.

The Most Dangerous Changes to a Building Happen After It Is Built

By Dikshu C. Kukreja

A city usually treats a building as complete the day it receives permission to be occupied. From then on, attention shifts elsewhere. Rooms are divided, terraces are loaded, services are inserted, basements are deepened, and homes acquire uses for which they were never designed. The building remains in the same place, but it is no longer quite the same building.

The collapse at Satya Niketan should make us confront this neglected period in the life of our structures. Seven people died in a five-storey building being used as a paying guest accommodation. Repair work was reportedly underway, and the precise cause must be left to the official investigation. Yet the wider question cannot wait: who is responsible for understanding everything that happens to a building after construction?

We tend to imagine structural failure as a sudden event. In reality, it may be the final moment of a long process. An opening is cut into a slab. A wall assumed to be non-structural is removed. A terrace receives water tanks or equipment. The ground beside a foundation is excavated. Seepage corrodes reinforcement. A residence becomes a hostel or clinic

ic and begins to hold many more people than before.

Each alteration may look manageable on its own. Together, they can amount to a slow rewriting of the original structural logic.

That logic is largely invisible. The public sees concrete, brick and steel, but an engineer sees a path along which forces must travel safely into the ground. A slab transfers load to beams, beams to columns or walls, and those elements to foundations and soil. Stability depends not only on the strength of each component but on the continuity of the whole arrangement. Interrupt that continuity at one critical point and the apparent solidity of the rest may offer little comfort.

This is why the debate over which construction material is "strongest" is misleading. Reinforced concrete can be robust, but only when its reinforcement, detailing, foundations and workmanship act as one system. Steel depends on sound connections, corrosion protection and fire performance. Masonry behaves well under some forces and poorly under others. No material carries an independent guarantee of safety.

The turquoise house that remained standing during the recent floods in Nepal offers a useful counter-image. While

surrounding structures were devastated, its reinforced frame endured even after parts of the lower level were damaged. Without a formal engineering assessment, it would be careless to declare the house flood-proof or reduce its survival to one material. Its foundation, geometry, position and the way water moved around or through it may all have mattered.

The lesson is not that one house was miraculous while another was weak. It is that buildings respond to forces as systems, shaped by both design and circumstance.

Age, by itself, is also a poor diagnosis. An old building that has been well designed, maintained and lightly altered may be safer than a new structure built badly or modified without engineering advice. Condition, use, intervention and exposure matter as much as age.

India needs to move from age-based suspicion to risk-based oversight. A basement excavation, an additional floor, a change from residential to high occupancy, visible settlement, recurring water ingress, fire damage or substantial work on an adjoining plot should trigger a structural review. These are not routine property improvements. They change either the forces acting on a building or its capacity to resist



them.

A change of use deserves particular attention. When a house becomes a PG, the change is not merely commercial or administrative. Occupancy increases. Internal layouts and services change. Evacuation becomes harder. Water and electrical demand rise. The consequence of failure becomes far greater. Planning permission, fire safety and structural safety must therefore speak to one another.

Delhi's move towards structural audits of PG properties is necessary, but an audit must not become another certificate added to a file. It should begin with reliable drawings and a physical investigation, identify undocumented changes, assess critical members where

required, and state what remedial action is necessary. Responsibility for compliance must also be traceable.

In the longer term, every high-occupancy building should have a structural record that remains with the property. It should contain sanctioned drawings, major repairs, changes of use, additions, audit findings and the names of responsible professionals. We preserve ownership histories with great seriousness; we should show equal seriousness about interventions that determine whether a building is safe.

Such a record would change the culture of renovation. Before altering a building, an architect, contractor or owner would have to ask not simply, "Can this space be changed?" but "What

is carrying what, and what happens if we disturb it?" That is a more demanding question, but it is the beginning of responsible design.

Much of the Indian city of the future has already been built. It will be extended, subdivided, adapted and occupied more intensely. We cannot reconstruct every ageing structure, nor should we. The task is to make adaptation intelligent.

A building is not frozen at completion. It has an afterlife, and every intervention becomes part of its engineering history. Structural safety must follow that history. Otherwise, our cities will continue to approve buildings once and alter them endlessly, while responsibility disappears in the gap between the two.

PDP MLA Waheed Para Moves Resolution Seeking Reconciliation And Amnesty In J&K

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 17: Senior PDP leader and MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para has proposed a resolution in the upcoming Autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, urging the Centre to initiate a "meaningful and sustained" political process in the Union territory and consider a one-time, comprehensive amnesty for those affected by years of turmoil.

The resolution submitted by Para to the Assembly secretary on September 5 calls for a humanitarian and time-bound review of cases involving "misguided" youth, who were caught in circumstances beyond their control, or continue to face cases and restrictions long after the events in question. Political news coverage

"The House calls upon the government of India to begin a meaningful and sustained political



process in Jammu & Kashmir and to take a historic step towards healing by offering a one-time, comprehensive amnesty to those affected by years of turmoil," the one-page resolution said.

"No young person should be condemned to a lifetime of suspicion because of an allegation, past case or circumstances of conflict. The House, therefore, calls for a time-bound review of eligible cases, including restrictions affecting passports, security clearances, education and employment, with due process and safeguards for serious offences.

"The House believes that peace cannot be built by keeping an entire generation trapped in its past. Our youth must be given the chance to study, work, travel, support their families and rebuild their lives with dignity. This is not a plea for forgetting. It is a call for justice with compassion, accountability with humanity and peace with dignity," the resolution said.

It also further said that the time has come to replace fear with trust, exclusion with opportunity and conflict with reconciliation.

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, September 17, 2026: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Central Zone, comprising the districts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua, on Thursday held an organisational meeting at the Zonal Office to chalk out the party's strategy for the forthcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of former minister and Central Zone President Babu Rampaul. Zonal Secretary and Coordinator, JKNC, Dr. Vikas Sharma, organised the meeting. The meeting also featured detailed deliberations on various public issues requiring the urgent attention of the government.

Addressing the meeting, Rampaul emphasised the need for the party organisation to remain closely connected with the people and give priority to their genuine concerns. He urged party workers to regularly visit their respective areas, listen to public grievances and make sincere efforts to ensure that people's issues are taken up through the appropriate forums.

The senior National Conference leader called upon the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to unite on a common platform and collectively raise their voice for the restoration of statehood.

He said that both Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had made commitments in Parliament, outside Parliament and before the Supreme Court regarding the restoration of statehood, but the promise had not yet been



fulfilled.

He also said that the youth should reflect deeply on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir before August 5, 2019, and compare it with the present circumstances. He said that such a comparison is important to understand the changes that have taken place and to recognise the challenges facing the people, particularly the younger generation. He emphasised the need for the youth to remain united and raise their concerns through democratic and peaceful means. He said that the struggle for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood should continue within the framework of the Constitution and through democratic institutions. He said that restoration of statehood is closely linked with the aspirations and future of the people, particularly the younger generation, and that greater employment opportunities and avenues for youth development must remain a priority.

He expressed concern over the growing unemployment situation and said that the aspirations of thousands of educated young people cannot be ignored. He emphasised the need for sustained efforts to create employment opportunities and

provide the youth with a secure and dignified future.

He welcomed the recent decision of the Jammu and Kashmir Government to refer vacant posts in various departments to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for initiating the recruitment process.

He said the decision was a positive step towards creating employment opportunities for educated and unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir. He appreciated the government for moving ahead with the process of filling vacant positions through the prescribed recruitment mechanism.

Rampaul further urged all recruitment agencies to expedite the recruitment process and fill vacant posts at the earliest. He pointed out that many aspirants are approaching or nearing the prescribed upper age limit and may lose the opportunity to compete if recruitment is delayed further. "Recruitment should not be unnecessarily delayed. The concerned agencies must take the age factor of aspirants into consideration and complete the recruitment process at the earliest so that eligible youth do not lose their opportunity merely

because of delays," he said.

He appealed to the authorities to adopt a time-bound recruitment mechanism, ensure transparency in the recruitment process and provide maximum opportunities to eligible young people of Jammu and Kashmir. Former Minister said the forthcoming Local Body and Panchayat elections would provide an important opportunity for the party to reconnect with the people, understand their aspirations and work collectively towards strengthening democratic institutions at the grassroots level.

Highlighting the achievements and initiatives of the government, he said important steps had been taken towards improving public services, strengthening infrastructure, promoting development and addressing the day-to-day concerns of the people.

He urged party workers to take information about government initiatives and welfare measures to the people and ensure that eligible beneficiaries were fully aware of the schemes and programmes available to them.

Commenting on the prevailing situation, Dr. Vikas Sharma expressed

concern over what he described as the lack of adequate representation of local people in several important positions and institutions in Jammu.

Referring specifically to the university in the Jammu division, Dr Vikas Sharma expressed strong concern over the appointment of non-locals in the education sector, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir's universities. "This trend is blocking employment opportunities for highly qualified local youth and creating a sense of discrimination among the educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir," he noted. The party demanded a fair and transparent recruitment policy with preference to local candidates.

The meeting also discussed various organisational matters, including strengthening coordination among different units, increasing the participation of youth and women, and ensuring greater representation and involvement of grassroots workers in organisational activities.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to further strengthen the organisation, expand its grassroots presence and work collectively towards addressing public issues while preparing effectively for the forthcoming Local Body and Panchayat elections.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, Shamlat Mehra, OM Dalmotra, Thoru Ram Mandi, S.P. Bharatwaj (Retd. DC), Rahul Mahajan, Bharat Bhushan, Dr. Gourav Bharat, Bishan Dass (Retd. SP), S. Surjeet Singh Sasan, Navid Raja, Arvind Jamwal, Birbal Sarpanch, Hemraj, Shakeel Ahmed, Manohar Lal and others.

CLUJ Organises Special Lecture on "From Youth Power to National Power



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sept. 17 : Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), in collaboration with Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Pranth, organised a special lecture on the theme "From Youth Power to National Power: Towards a Developed Bharat" at the Conference Hall of GGM Science College, Jammu, on Thursday.

The programme was organised with the objective of sensitising and inspiring the youth towards their role in nation-building and in achieving the vision of a developed Bharat. The special lecture provided an important platform for students and faculty

members to reflect upon the potential of the country's young population and the responsibilities associated with transforming youth energy, ideas and capabilities into constructive national power.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a welcome address by, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, who highlighted the importance of engaging young minds in the developmental journey of the nation and emphasised the significant role that educational institutions could play in nurturing responsible, skilled and socially conscious citizens.

The highlight of the programme was the spe-

cial lecture delivered by B.R. Shankaranand, Akhil Bharatiya Sangathan Mantri, Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal. In his address, he dwelt upon the immense potential of the youth and the need to channelise their energy, creativity, knowledge and aspirations towards nation-building. He emphasised that the youth constituted an important force in shaping the future of the country and that education should go beyond academic achievement to develop a sense of responsibility, social commitment and national consciousness.

Shankaranand also spoke about the vision of a developed Bharat and the collective responsibility of educational institutions, teachers and students in contributing towards this larger national objective.

He encouraged students to develop confidence, leadership qualities, innovative thinking and a strong commitment to society. The lecture also focused on the importance of values, knowledge, skills and active participation of young people in the country's social and economic progress.

The programme witnessed the participation of faculty members, students and representatives associated with Cluster University of Jammu and Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal.

The interaction provided an opportunity for the participants to gain broader perspectives on youth empowerment, education, national development and the responsibilities of the younger generation.

The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, who expressed gratitude to the distinguished speaker, dignitaries.

Three J&K sisters qualify to represent India at Asian Masters Swimming



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 17: The Jammu & Kashmir Swimming Association has congratulated the swimmers from the Union Territory who participated in the 22nd National Masters Swimming Championship. The trio qualified to represent India at the 2nd Asian Masters Swimming Championship, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru, Karnataka, from October 4 to 10, 2026.

Their achievement has been described as a significant milestone for the swimming movement in Jammu & Kashmir, as the three sisters have earned the opportunity to compete at the international level and represent the country.

A historic achievement was recorded by three real sisters from

J&K—Babita Rani, Bindu Pathania and Kiran Jamwal—who participated in the 22nd National Masters Swimming Championship held at Bahadurgarh, Haryana. The trio qualified to represent India at the 2nd Asian Masters Swimming Championship, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru, Karnataka, from October 4 to 10, 2026.

Their achievement has been described as a significant milestone for the swimming movement in Jammu & Kashmir, as the three sisters have earned the opportunity to compete at the international level and represent the country.

Omar-led Govt committed to welfare and empowerment of students: Rattan Lal Gupta



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, September 17: The Omar Abdullah-led Government is firmly committed to framing and implementing pro-student policies aimed at addressing the genuine educational, employment and career-related concerns of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, said Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, J&K National Conference.

Gupta was interacting with a delegation of students headed by Harshvardhan Singh, President, JKNC Students Wing, Jammu, which called on him and apprised him of various issues confronting students in Jammu Province in the Presence of Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell and Dharampal Kundal. Students thanked Omar Abdullah for implementation of Mission Yuva scheme in J&K which is generating 1.25 lakhs new units and also gener-

ating employment more than 4.5 Lakhs.

The delegation highlighted several concerns, including employment opportunities, timely conduct of competitive examinations, recruitment delays, scholarships, fee concessions, hostel and transport facilities, skill development, better educational infrastructure, career counselling and opportunities for higher and professional education.

Rattan Lal Gupta gave the delegation a patient hearing and assured them that their genuine concerns would be taken up with the concerned authorities.

He said that students are the future of Jammu and Kashmir and that their aspirations cannot be ignored.

He said the Omar-led Government is committed to strengthening the education sector, improving facilities for students in both urban and rural areas, promot-

ing skill development and creating an environment in which young people can pursue education and build their careers with dignity and confidence.

Gupta further emphasised the need for greater opportunities in higher education, vocational training, entrepreneurship and sports, particularly for students belonging to economically weaker sections and remote areas. He called upon the JKNC Students Wing to remain connected with students at the grassroots level and regularly highlight their genuine problems so that appropriate measures can be pursued with the Government.

"The aspirations of students are the aspirations of J&K's future. The National Conference will continue to stand with the student community and work for policies that promote education, skills, employment and equal opportunities," Gupta said.



Heartfelt Condolences

With profound grief and sorrow, we mourn the sad demise of

Deepak Sharma

S/o Ravi Sharma
R/o Resham Ghar Colony Jammu

May the Almighty give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.
May his soul rest in peace.

From
VIKAS NEWS AGENCY

JMC Launches ‘Swachhata Hi Seva 2026’ at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar, Commissioner Unveils Fortnight-Long Action Plan

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 17: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today launched the ‘Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026’ campaign at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women (PSPS GCW), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, ushering in a fortnight of intensified cleanliness drives, citizen participation and awareness activities across the city.

Being organised under the national theme “Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat” and the local call to action “Collective Action for Visible Impact,” the campaign will continue up to October 2, Swachh Bharat Diwas, with a focus on community participation, behavioural change and visible improvement of public spaces.

The campaign was formally inaugurated by Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, JMC, with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Kulvinder Kour,



Principal, PSPS GCW, Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation), Health Officer, senior sanitation officers, faculty members and a large gathering of students.

The inaugural programme featured a blend of awareness, technical and cultural activities designed to sensitise and engage young citizens in urban cleanliness. A documentary showcasing JMC’s solid waste management initiatives and field operations across Jammu city was screened, followed by a technical presentation on the key provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, with emphasis on four-

way source segregation at household and institutional levels. Students further conveyed the message of cleanliness and civic responsibility through a Nukkad Natak highlighting behavioural change, responsible waste disposal and the importance of litter-free surroundings.

A thematic dance performance focusing on ecological harmony and civic responsibility also formed part of the programme.

A major highlight of the event was the unveiling of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Activity Calendar by Dr. Devansh Yadav. The calendar outlines a series of targeted

interventions and citizen-centric activities to be undertaken across Jammu during the fortnight. As part of the campaign, JMC will undertake focused interventions for the transformation and beautification of identified Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) and Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs).

The campaign will also include cleanliness drives at public places, Sports for Swachhata activities incorporating zero-waste practices, post-event clean-up drives, dedicated SafaiMitra Suraksha Camps, and special sanitation initiatives at heritage and pilgrimage

sites in connection with World Tourism Day on September 27.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Devansh Yadav appreciated the college administration and students for their enthusiastic participation and stressed that sustainable improvements in urban cleanliness can be achieved only through collective responsibility, behavioural change and sustained public participation. He called upon citizens, particularly the youth, to become active partners in JMC’s cleanliness initiatives by practising responsible waste management, ensuring proper source segregation and refraining from littering.

He urged the students to become “Ambassadors of Cleanliness”, take ownership of their surroundings and inspire others to adopt responsible civic practices.

The programme concluded with officers, faculty members and students taking the Swachhata Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to a clean, green and garbage-free Jammu.

Vedic Prayers and Hawan Held at Ved Mandir on PM Modi’s 76th Birthday



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 17: On the occasion of the 76th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a special Vedic prayer ceremony and Hawan were organised at Ved Mandir and Ved Vidyalaya, Amphalla, Jammu, in accordance with traditional Vedic rituals.

The programme was attended by Braham Jyot Satti, State President, BJP OBC Morcha J&K; Suneet Raina, District General Secretary BJP, Sunny Sangotra, State General Secretary, BJP OBC Morcha; Rajesh Verma, District General Secretary, BJP OBC Morcha; Rakesh Sethi, District Spokesperson, BJP OBC Morcha, besides other prominent members and party workers and it was organised by Suneet Raina.

The ceremony witnessed the chanting of sacred Vedic mantras by the students of Ved Vidyalaya, who offered prayers for the Prime Minister’s good health, longevity, happiness and well-being. The atmosphere at the venue remained spiritually charged as the participants performed the Hawan and sought blessings for the continued

well-being and long life of the Prime Minister.

The organisers said that Hawan and Vedic chanting have traditionally held an important place in Sanatan Vedic traditions and are performed with the belief of invoking peace, prosperity, good health and longevity. The ceremony was organised as an expression of goodwill and prayers for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday.

Speaking on the occasion, Braham Jyot Satti, State President, BJP OBC Morcha J&K, said that the Vedic prayer and Hawan were organised to mark the Prime Minister’s birthday through a traditional and spiritual expression of goodwill. “On the auspicious occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s birthday, we have gathered here to offer Vedic prayers and perform Hawan, seeking blessings for his good health, long life, happiness and continued strength to serve the nation.

The Prime Minister has dedicated himself to the service of the country, and on his birthday, we pray that he continues to receive the blessings and support of the people and remains blessed with good health

and longevity,” Satti said.

He further said that Vedic traditions are an integral part of India’s cultural and spiritual heritage and that such programmes provide an opportunity to preserve and promote these traditions among the younger generation. He appreciated the students of Ved Vidyalaya for their participation in the ceremony and for reciting the Vedic mantras with devotion.

Suneet Kumar Raina said that just as members of a family pray for the good health, happiness and long life of a loved one on their birthday, the Vedic prayer ceremony was organised with the same sentiment for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said that the participants prayed for the Prime Minister’s good health, longevity and continued strength to serve the nation. He also appreciated the students and faculty of Ved Vidyalaya for conducting the Vedic rituals with devotion and discipline.

The participants concluded the ceremony by offering prayers for the Prime Minister’s long life, good health, happiness and continued service to the nation.

L-G VK Saxena rolls out LG Yuva Internship Programme on the birth anniversary of PM Modi

Calls upon youth to become active partners in Ladakh’s development

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

LEH, September 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena today rolled out the “LG Yuva Internship Programme” in Ladakh, a unique initiative aimed at institutionalising youth participation in Governance. The internship programme provides a structured platform for youth to work with and learn from the government.

Guided by the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision that youth are the greatest strength of a Viksit Bharat, this initiative integrates 2,000 youth into 25 different government departments for a 3-month internship, thereby empowering the young minds to become active partners in Ladakh’s development, rather than becoming mere beneficiaries.

Interns from different parts of Ladakh, including Kargil, Changthang, Sham, Nubra, Drass and Zaskar, participated in the orientation virtually, bringing together youth from across the Union Territory for the launch



of the programme.

The programme also aims to provide youth with an opportunity to understand the functioning of public institutions while allowing the Administration to benefit from their fresh ideas, creativity and innovative approaches.

The interns will undergo the three-month internship starting September 17, during which they will receive a monthly honorarium of ₹5,000. Based on their performance, the internship of the best-performing candidates may be extended by an additional three months. At the completion of the internship, participants will be

provided certificates that can strengthen their academic and professional profiles and support their future employment opportunities.

Addressing the Orientation Workshop of the LG Yuva Internship Programme, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the selected young interns to use the three-month programme as an opportunity to gain first-hand experience of governance, understand challenges at the grassroots and contribute innovative and practical solutions to Ladakh’s development. The Lieutenant Governor said the programme has been conceived to pro-

vide Ladakh’s youth an opportunity to work closely with different departments of the UT Administration and understand how government functions at the ground level. Through the internship, the youth will gain exposure to the process of policy formulation, implementation and delivery of government programmes, while developing a deeper understanding of governance and public service.

Addressing the interns, the Lieutenant Governor said the youth are not merely beneficiaries of development but must become active partners in the development process. He encouraged

the interns to look at the internship as much more than a three-month assignment or an opportunity to obtain a certificate. Instead, he urged them to treat it as a platform for learning, experience, exposure and service, which would help them develop a deeper understanding of Government and governance.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that the Orientation Workshop was being held on the occasion of the birthday of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Extending birthday greetings to the Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Ladakh, he recalled the Prime Minister’s emphasis on the power of youth and their role in building a Viksit Bharat.

He said the occasion also makes the message of seva particularly meaningful and urged the interns to undertake the programme with a spirit of learning, service, and responsibility, and to use the knowledge and experience gained to contribute towards empowering society.

Special Programme Marks Hindi Day Celebrations at GDC Women Kathua

Discussions Focus on Hindi’s Future, Employment Opportunities and Growing Role



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

KATHUA, Sep 17: The Department of Hindi, Government Degree College for Women, Kathua, organised a special programme to mark Hindi Day under the guidance of Principal Dr. Jai Pal Singh. The programme focused on the present status of Hindi, its future prospects and its growing significance in a rapidly changing world.

A wide range of topics, including “Hindi and the Future,” “Employment Opportunities in Hindi,” “Hindi in the Digital Era,” “Role of Hindi in National Integration,” “Challenges Before Hindi” and “Their Solutions,” and “Youth and Hindi” were discussed during the programme. Participants expressed their views on various aspects of the language, while students also showcased their love for Hindi through self-composed poems.

One of the major highlights of the programme

was a dramatic adaptation of the famous Hindi story “Chief Ki Dawat”, presented by students of the Hindi Department under the guidance of the Head of the Department. The performance was appreciated by faculty members and students.

Principal Dr. Jai Pal Singh, who presided over the programme, spoke at length about the past, present and bright future of Hindi. He said that Hindi has repeatedly demonstrated its strength and relevance over time and has emerged as one of the major languages of the world. Its increasing use across different sectors and growing presence in the digital era reflect its richness, adaptability and expanding reach.

He emphasised that Hindi gives India a distinct identity at the global level and encouraged students to use the language confidently in their daily lives. He said that adopting Hindi in

everyday communication would be a meaningful expression of commitment towards the language.

At the same time, he stressed the importance of learning other languages, saying that multilingual knowledge helps broaden understanding and enrich knowledge.

The programme was conducted by Lakshmi, a student of the Hindi Department. Dr. Mukesh Kumari, Head of the Hindi Department, welcomed the guests and Hindi enthusiasts, while Ram Murti, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi, presented the vote of thanks.

Among those present were Prof. Seema Jolly, Head, Department of Home Science; Prof. Ashwini Khajuria, Head, Department of Food Science; Dr. Rachna Devi, Head, Department of Education; Dr. Amita Dua, Head, Department of Physics; Dr. Renu, Head, Department of

L-G VK Saxena hands over appointment letters to 396 new recruits at Rozgar Mela



TAWI OBSERVER NEWS

LEH, September 17: Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena today handed over appointment letters to 396 newly selected candidates at a Rozgar Mela held at CIBS Auditorium Hall in Choglamsar, Leh, on the occasion of the birthday of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, being celebrated as Sewa

Diwas.

The newly selected recruits include lecturers recently selected by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and also those who successfully passed the recruitment exams conducted by the Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board (LSSSSB), Leh Autonomous Hill Development Subordinate Services

Recruitment Board and L A H D C - K a r g i l Subordinate Service Recruitment Board (KSSRB).

Welcoming the newly appointed government employees, the Lieutenant Governor said receiving an appointment letter is like seeing a dream come true, representing years of hard work, family expectations and the aspiration for a better future. He said the appointment is not merely an employment opportunity but also an opportunity to take on new responsibilities and serve society.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the Administration’s commitment to transparent and accountable recruitment, stating that regular recruitment in place of ad-hoc appoint-

ments is essential for a transparent and accountable system. He said regular recruitment can progress rapidly only when supported by a clear and robust framework.

In this direction, the Lieutenant Governor informed that the Administration has notified or amended 27 Recruitment Rules since March 2026, creating the necessary framework for regular recruitment across various departments. He said these administrative efforts are now translating into results on the ground. Since March 2026, more than 1,200 appointment orders have been issued in Ladakh, while 1,361 candidates have been recommended for appointment through the UPSC, LSSSSB and District Selection

Boards. He further informed that recruitment to 1,507 posts is in the pipeline for 2026.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted that employment opportunities extend beyond fresh recruitment and include career growth for those already in government service. He informed that 726 promotions have been made through Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) so far in 2026.

Addressing the young recruits, the Lieutenant Governor noted that the Rozgar Mela was being held on the birthday of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, observed across the country as Sewa Diwas. He said the appointment letters being received by the young employees on this occasion could also be viewed..

J&K, Ladakh LGs and CM Abdullah

Born on September 17, 1950, in Gujarat's Vadnagar, Modi turned 76 on Thursday. He completes 25 uninterrupted years in public office on October 7, having first taken the oath as Gujarat chief minister in 2001 before becoming prime minister in 2014. Speaking to reporters, Sinha said the country is fortunate to have Modi as its leader. "The nation's journey from the 'fragile five' to the top five economies certainly tells a pleasing and inspiring story. India's current economic growth rate stands at 7.8 per cent, earning recognition as the world's fastest-growing major economy," he said.

He asserted that the prime minister deserves credit for infrastructure development in J-K over the past 10 to 12 years. "The discrimination in J-K has come to an end. In road infrastructure and tunnels alone, projects worth over Rs 1.5 lakh crore are currently underway. Connecting Kashmir by rail was a long-standing dream, and that dream has now been fulfilled.South Asians & Diaspora

"There is an atmosphere of enthusiasm across the entire country. Seeing the children in Jammu and Kashmir today, I appeal to all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to actively participate in the programmes running throughout this month and celebrate them with great joy," Sinha said.

NHM employees extend strike...

In a formal communication addressed to the Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, the association said the decision to extend the agitation has been taken in view of the continued pendency of its long-standing demands and the absence of a concrete and time-bound resolution from the competent authorities.

The association stated that the extended protest would continue to remain peaceful, democratic and constitutional, with participating employees expected to maintain discipline and uphold public order.

According to the communication, the association has formally conveyed its decision to the authorities in advance for their information and necessary cognizance.

The JKNHMEA further reiterated its commitment to dialogue and constructive engagement, expressing hope that the government would initiate meaningful and time-bound measures to address what it described as the genuine grievances of NHM employees.

The communication has been issued by Abdul Roauff, Chief Spokesperson, Joint Coordination Committee, JKNHMEA.

Copies of the communication have been forwarded to several senior authorities, including the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Union Labour and Employment Ministry, Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Chief Minister, Health and Medical Education Minister, Labour and Employment Minister, Mission Director NHM, senior health officials, divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, heads of medical institutions and other concerned authorities.

The association has also circulated the communication to representatives of employees' organisations, legal advisers and the print and electronic media for information and necessary follow-up.`1

"India no longer just condemns..

terrorism for the first time.

In a post on X, the Home Minister asserted that India has transitioned from merely issuing diplomatic condemnations to delivering decisive and powerful responses to national security challenges.

South Asians & Diaspora

"Under the leadership of Modi ji, the country has witnessed for the first time the policy of 'zero tolerance' against terrorism being implemented on the ground. The end of Article 370, surgical strikes, air strikes, and Operation Sindoor these decisions have shown the world that India no longer just condemns, but delivers decisive responses," Shah said.

Highlighting the Modi government's achievements in internal security and border management, the Home Minister pointed out that internal insurgencies have been effectively tackled while long-standing territorial and ethnic issues have moved toward resolution.

"Naxalism has been eradicated, decades-old disputes in the Northeast have been resolved through peace accords, and the borders are secure," he added.

Shah further emphasised that national security remains the foundational pillar of India's development agenda.

"A secure India is the first prerequisite for a prosperous India; Modi ji has proven this," the Home Minister wrote.

'India will protect its trade and..

goods imported from major buyers of Russian energy.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs also flagged potential trade and economic risks originating from the legislation, which targets Russia's leadership as well as the 'shadow fleet' of vessels allegedly used by Moscow to circumvent sanctions on oil shipments.

India's foreign ministry said New Delhi has taken note of the US Congress passing the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act 2026 and is closely monitoring further developments on the matter.

"As stated on several earlier occasions, India remains firmly committed to ensuring energy security for its 1.4 billion people. It will continue to do so through diversified sourcing and on the basis of evolving market dynamics," the statement read.

"Its potential implications for not just the bilateral relationship but also the international energy market have been very clearly articulated by the Indian side," it said.

The ministry also said India's oil trade with Russia has been discussed at senior levels with various US interlocutors over the past several months.

New Delhi said India has made clear its resolve to take all necessary steps to safeguard its trade and economic interests. The government will also work closely with Indian trade and industry bodies to address the implications of these developments.

India is currently the largest buyer of Russian seaborne crude, while the new legislation gives the US president the authority to impose unprecedented tariffs as a punitive measure. However, Indian refiners have already been turning to the US, Brazil, Canada, Venezuela and African markets to secure additional supplies and diversify their sources of crude imports.

What is the bill

The Lindsay O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, passed by the US Senate last month, was cleared by the House of Representatives in a 262-159 vote on Wednesday. The legislation will now be sent to President Donald Trump for his signature. The package aims to restrict the financial resources sup-

porting Russia's war in Ukraine by targeting Russian officials, banks, energy interests and foreign entities accused of backing Moscow's military operations.

The legislation also authorises Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on China, India and other countries in an effort to discourage their dependence on Russian oil and gas.

According to the House Ways and Means Committee, the bill provides for tariffs of up to 500 per cent on Russian goods. It also allows duties of as much as 100 per cent on imports from countries subject to its provisions concerning the purchase of Russian oil and gas.

PM Modi Leads Semiconductor..

innovation and emerging technologies such as AI and Quantum Computing.

Referring to the target of training one crore people in AI, he said India's talent pool, combined with the experience and capabilities of global industry leaders, can create significant opportunities.

India Should Be Early Leader In Emerging Technologies

Prime Minister said India should aspire to be among the early leaders in emerging technologies. He noted the significant progress made in the semiconductor sector and said the ecosystem is now moving from foundational efforts to a phase of greater scale and opportunity.

He reiterated government's commitment to a predictable and responsive policy environment, while emphasising that policies must evolve in line with technological advancements and industry requirements.

Fresh Snowfall Blankets Gurez..

while widespread rainfall lashed Kashmir and parts of the Jammu division, bringing a sharp chill to the region and adding a fresh layer of snow across the higher reaches.

Kabul Gali, situated at an altitude of around 4,167 metres, received light to moderate snowfall, covering the high-altitude pass and surrounding areas in white. The pass connects Tulai Valley in Gurez with the Mushkoh Valley towards the Drass sector of Ladakh.

Srinagar recorded 8.2 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours, while Qazigund, Pahalgam and Gulmarg received 13.4 mm, 13 mm and 13.2 mm, respectively. Several areas of south Kashmir experienced heavy showers during the period.

Heavy rainfall was also recorded across parts of the Jammu division, with Udhampur receiving 117.8 mm, followed by Jammu with 112.9 mm and Katra with 45.2 mm in the past 24 hours.

Assembly cannot act like..

has informed him that his resolution against the power tariff hike has been admitted, but has not communicated whether the resolution on the 1987 elections has been admitted, disallowed or admitted with amendments.

"The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly cannot act like a post office that sends convenient letters but hides the inconvenient ones," Lone said on X, alleging that the Assembly cannot function as a "pro-government courier agency."

He said the Assembly Secretariat was the custodian of the rights of all MLAs and the trust placed in elected representatives by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Lone invoked "Rule 179 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly", which states that the Secretary shall inform a member whether a resolution has been admitted, disallowed or admitted with amendments by the Speaker.

"The Assembly cannot withhold information about resolutions, as the word used in the relevant Rule is 'SHALL'," Lone said, arguing that the provision makes it mandatory for the Secretariat to communicate the status of a resolution to the concerned member.

"Denial of information would be a breach of the Rules," he said, adding that he had written to the Assembly Secretariat seeking clarification over the status of his resolution.

The week long autumn session of J&K Assembly is set to begin on September 21.

Omar Abdullah plans patient..

which had remained neglected for years, is being renovated and restored. A new block would also be built on vacant land behind the existing building, with rooms, dormitories and suites.

The facility will be made available to people from Jammu and Kashmir who travel to Amritsar for medical treatment and often face difficulties finding affordable accommodation, he told a news conference.

"We want to ensure that patients coming from Jammu and Kashmir for treatment, and their family members accompanying them, have a place to stay and do not face unnecessary hardship," Abdullah said.

A similar accommodation facility is being developed on Jammu and Kashmir government property in Chandigarh's Sector 17, he said. It would cater to patients and attendants travelling for treatment at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) and other medical institutions in Chandigarh.

Abdullah also reiterated his advice to leaders in Ladakh to seek written and legally backed assurances from the central government rather than rely solely on verbal commitments.

"Ladakh has its own issues and we have our own problems. As a friend and well-wisher, my advice to the leadership of Ladakh is not to rely on verbal assurances. Whatever is promised should be given in writing and officially signed," Abdullah said.

Omar Abdullah Reiterates Demand

Narendra Modi on his 76th birthday.

Asked what announcement he expected today, Abdullah said, "What can I say as to what he (Modi) does... If nothing else, let him grant us statehood; what else could we want?"

Abdullah was in Amritsar to inaugurate the renovated heritage building of the Jammu & Kashmir House on Court Road.

Asked about statehood, Abdullah said, "You all know what happened with us. We were told that statehood would be restored after the (J&K) elections. But nothing was given in writing; only verbal assurances were given."

"There are no merchant charges on payments below Rs 2,000," he said. Starting October 15, 2026, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is introducing a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) of 0.4 per cent on person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions above Rs 2,000, while ensuring everyday consumer payments remain free.South Asians & Diaspora

Abdullah said one gets to hear that nearly Rs 20,000

crore is being spent to run the UPI ecosystem, which comes from the taxes paid by the people of the country.

"So, knowingly or unknowingly, we all are paying to run the UPI system. Today, we are paying from our taxes. So, if big industries and merchants pay, I don't think anyone should have any objection," Abdullah said.

Asked if industries are being set up in J&K after the abrogation of Article 370, the chief minister said that while a few have started, it is more because of the incentive scheme coming from the Centre. "There is a lot of scope for agriculture, agri-processing, horticulture and dairy farming in J&K, which we are promoting," Abdullah said.

On the renovated Jammu & Kashmir House, he said, "It was decided that the heritage block of the building will be renovated. Many people from J&K visit Amritsar for medical treatment. There is a big area behind the heritage building, where we will build a new block with rooms and a dormitory. This will facilitate the patients and their attendants," he said.

"We used to have a good guest house in Chandigarh too, which was given to Ladakh after the bifurcation of J&K in 2019. But now we have got the permission to build a guest house in the city. Like Amritsar, many patients from J&K visit the PGIMER in Chandigarh," Abdullah said.

Mehbooba slams BJP over IPS..

that the party was now "policing the vocabulary of Muslims."

Mehbooba said the move, which came after the IPS officer used expressions including 'Assalamu Alaikum', 'InshaAllah' and 'JazakAllah' in a video, did not surprise the Muslim community anymore.

"Bushra Bano's transfer after saying 'Assalamu Alaikum', 'InshaAllah' and 'JazakAllah'... doesn't shock us anymore," Mehbooba said.

She also referred to remarks attributed to West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenud Adhikari regarding an election being a "test" of Muslim loyalty, describing it as a "veiled threat to the community as a whole."

"First our food, clothes and marriages, now even our vocabulary and our votes are being policed. Insecurity, thy name is BJP," she added.

Bano, a 2021-batch IPS officer who was serving as Additional Superintendent of Police in Kharagpur, was transferred. Her transfer followed controversy over a video in which she spoke about her UPSC journey and credited Aligarh Muslim University's Residential Coaching Academy for helping her prepare for the civil services examination.

The video drew criticism from some right-wing organisations over Bano's use of Islamic expressions.

Pahalgam attack: NIA court..

Changa Manga village in Pakistan's Kasur.

He is also known in the terror ranks by the aliases of Sajid Jatt, Ali Bhai, Habibullah Malik, Langda, Noomi, Numan, Usman Habib and Shani.

He is a key figure in the terror outfit's operations and has remained active for over two decades.

LeT Commander's Background And Aliases

The NBW comes after NIA busted a 'deep-rooted' LeT module headed by Pakistani terrorist Abdullah, alias Abu Hureira, who was arrested with another Pakistani accomplice, Usman alias Khubaib, and three local operatives early this year.

Quoting an order issued by the special NIA court on September 8, the official said the case arose after J-K Police intercepted a LeT operative in the Pandach area of Srinagar in March, leading to the successful arrest of the entire group, particularly Abdullah, who had been on the run for 16 years, and successfully established bases outside the Union Territory.

Seeking the NBW against the LeT commander for his role in the terrorist module, the NIA told the court that Saifullah, the designated terrorist listed under the Fourth Schedule of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), has been operating from Pakistan and providing weapons, funds and directions to terrorists in the Kashmir Valley.

NIA's Case Against Saifullah

The agency also informed the court that Telegraph IDs linked to Saifullah were recovered from one of the arrested Pakistani terrorists, revealing that he had provided directions for attacks on security forces, civilians and government establishments.

After hearing the NIA and examining the application and accompanying material, the court issued the NBW against the LeT commander.

"Keeping in view the fact that the accused person is at large and the investigating agency has not been able to procure his attendance in the ordinary manner....as such a general warrant of arrest (non-bailable) is issued against Saifullah and is forwarded to SSP, Kulgam, as the last known address of the accused is village Yamrach (in South Kashmir district) for execution of the warrant as per procedure prescribed under law. The warrant has been sent for execution to the concerned authority through NIA," the official said, quoting the order.

Two JeM terrorists killed,...

counter-terrorism operation, resulting in the neutralisation of two terrorists.

"The operation is still in progress, with search and surveillance continuing in the area. Security forces remain deployed to track and neutralise any remaining threat," the Jammu-based White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The officials said police and security forces were looking for a terrorist group after its movement was noticed in the forested area last week.

The security forces cordoned off a particular area around 9 pm on Wednesday following fresh inputs, leading to the initial contact.

A few rounds of firing and blasts were heard shortly after the operation began, the officials said, adding that the area, however, remained largely quiet through the night before the lull ended on Thursday morning, when the terrorists opened heavy fire in an attempt to break the cordon.

Reinforcements were rushed to the area, and the search operation was continuing when the last reports were received, they said.

The officials said both the slain terrorists are believed to be Pakistani nationals, adding that a US-made M4 carbine and an AK assault rifle, along with a large quantity of ammunition, were recovered from the scene of the gunfight.

A local youth, believed to be an over-ground worker (OGW), has been detained for questioning, they said.

It was the second major encounter in Udhampur district this year. In February, two Pakistani terrorists, including a self-styled commander – Rubani alias Abu Mavia, who was active in the area for the past several years – were killed in the Ramnagar forests.

Over the past several years, the difficult mountain terrain of the Kathua-Udhampur-Doda belt was used by JeM terrorists to establish hideouts and evade

security forces after infiltrating from across the border.

However, security forces have dismantled these networks to deny terrorists safe passage and shelter in the upper reaches, the officials said.

They said the relentless operations have resulted in the elimination of a large number of active terrorists operating in the region, many of them identified as Pakistani nationals.

Security agencies are also maintaining heightened surveillance and launching searches in remote forest areas based on intelligence inputs and assessments of possible terrorist movement.

In Doda, four terrorists and five security personnel were killed in separate encounters in 2025, while five people, comprising four terrorists and one security personnel, were killed in adjoining Kishtwar district this year, compared to four deaths in 2025, including three terrorists and one security person.

In 2024, the district recorded five deaths – three security personnel and two civilians.

In Udhampur, four people were killed in 2024, including two terrorists, one security person and one civilian, while 2025 saw four deaths – one terrorist and three security personnel.

Kathua recorded the highest casualties among the four districts in 2024 with nine deaths, including two terrorists and seven security personnel.

The following year, seven people were killed – three terrorists and four security personnel – while 2026 has so far witnessed the death of one terrorist.

CM Omar Abdullah Ditches..

structure, with UPI merchant transactions above ₹2,000 set to carry an MDR of 0.4 per cent, while customers will continue to use UPI without any charges.

The updated framework will take effect from October 15, 2026, and will apply only to specified categories of merchant transactions.

Under this new framework, an MDR of 0.4 per cent will apply to Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI transactions above Rs 2,000, with the MDR capped at Rs 300 per transaction.

J&K ACB registers FIRs against..

Ashwani Kumar, an employee of Motor Vehicle Department, resident of Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu.

He stated that the case was registered on the outcome of a verification conducted into the allegations that the accused public servant has acquired huge assets, both moveable and immovable, disproportionate to his known sources of income, through corrupt practices and illegal means, in his own name as well as in the names of his family members.

The verification so conducted has revealed that the above named public servant has accumulated huge assets in the shape of shops, plots, flats, various luxurious vehicles etc.

During the course of investigation, search warrant was obtained from the Court and search was conducted at the residential premises of the accused, located at Vinayak Nagar, Muthi, Jammu in the presence of independent witnesses and Magistrates.

Meanwhile, the ACB J&K also registered FIR against the then Block Development officer, Singhpora/Pattan Sheeba Inayat, for accumulation of assets disproportionate to known source of income held by her which include huge bank balance, FDRs/LIC Policies, jewellery, besides immovable properties such as five-storied commercial shopping complex at Baramulla, plots of Land situated at Baramulla, Gulmarg, Kreeri and Chowadi, Jammu, by indulging in corrupt and illegal practices and by misuse of her official position.

The expenditure incurred and value of assets acquired have been found to be disproportionate to the income earned from all known sources by the suspect public servant, which reflects that the she has intentionally enriched herself dishonestly while employed in Govt service. Consequently, FIR has been registered against her at Police station ACB Baramulla.

During the course of investigation pursuant to search warrants received from Anti-Corruption Court Baramulla, searches were conducted at the residential as well as office premises of Sheeba Inayat, then Block Development officer, Singhpora/Pattan wherein incriminatory material evidence was seized in the case and the investigation of the case is underway.

However, in a separate incident, ACB J&K has also registered FIR against Sheeba Inayat, the then Assistant Director, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution (now FCS&CA) Baramulla into the allegations of malpractices done in the distribution of government food grains under the public distribution system during the period June 2013 to June 2015 by abuse of her official position and in furtherance of criminal conspiracy hatched with Mohammad Shafi Rather alias Kandaman, then Salesman in CA&PD Department Baramulla and other unknown public servants/private persons.

The ACB J&K had undertaken one verification into allegations of unauthorized diversion and misappropriation of Government food grains, further manipulation of official distribution and beneficiary records and failure to ensure proper account and remittance of Government revenue.

And during verification, he said that it got established that unauthorized diversion/re-appropriation of Government food grains from APL category to BPL/AA Y categories involving a quantified financial implication of Rs. 26,32,468/-, an unexplained shortage of 16,763.77 quintals of Government food grains to the tune of Rs. 1,67,63,770/- at the applicable APL issue rate, the substantial discrepancies between the consolidated District statements and circle-wise distribution statements involving an unexplained variation of 6,120.13 quintals of Government food grains having a financial implication of Rs. 61,20,130/-, the probable short remittance of Government revenue / loss to the Government exchequer amounting to Rs. 6,74,194/- and abnormal escalation in the name of ration cards / households during the flood period of 2014 followed by the sharp decline thereafter, prima-facie indicating manipulation of beneficiary records and unauthorized distribution of Government food grains. Thereby causing wrongful loss to the tune of Rs. 2, 61, 90,562/- and corresponding wrongful gain to Sheeba Inayat, the then Assistant Director, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (now FCS&CA) Baramulla, Mohammad Shafi Rather alias Kandaman, then Salesman in CA&PD Department Baramulla and other public servants.

During the course of investigation pursuant to search warrants received from Anti-Corruption Court Baramulla searches were conducted in the residential as well as office premises of Sheeba Inayat, then Assistant Director, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution (now FCS&CA) Baramulla and Mohammad Shafi Rather, then Salesman in CA&PD Department Baramulla and incriminatory material



Domestic capabilities essential for self-reliance, says Dr Jitendra

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEW DELHI, Sep 17: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday, stated that building domestic capabilities is essential to reduce reliance on other countries, warning that self-reliance remains an illusion without genuine independence. Addressing the third FICCI Conference on Digitalization, AI, Automation and Technology Integration in Mining and Metals, the minister said the mining and metals sector faces structural pressures ranging from declining ore grades, deeper deposits, and high energy costs to geopolitical concentration in critical mineral supply chains and decarbonisation requirements.

"I think it's important to have domestic capabilities if you have to reduce your reliance on others. Self-reliance can only happen when you are not dependent on others. Otherwise it's just a self-deceptive thought," Singh said.

He noted that the sector requires internal capacities spanning separation, purification, refining, magnet manufacturing, and recycling. Pointing to the utilisation of steel slag in road construction, Singh said the concept of industrial waste is outdated



because byproducts are now actively reused.

"Technology can be a strategic enabler. It could be digital technology to provide visibility, protection, coordination, and automation. And of course, process technologies that change the physical production system that we achieve," the minister said.

Turning to artificial intelligence, Singh said the technology is an essential operational tool across sectors rather than an exclusive asset for mining and metals. He stressed that outcomes depend on human stewardship.

"AI is more of a tool which is applicable everywhere. It's something that you have to do in the times to come. It's no longer a choice," he said.

"What is more important is how intelligent you are to handle artificial intelligence and finally the human led artificial intelligence. And that is a means to a

process, not the process per se."

Contrasting past decades, when India lagged behind global industrial shifts by years, Singh said the country is now an early adopter in frontier areas like quantum technology, space exploration, and biotechnology. He highlighted government initiatives to support the private sector, including a Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) fund established to accelerate industry partnerships.

The minister urged industry leaders to develop solutions tailored to domestic operating realities rather than relying on external datasets.

"Indian data for Indian solutions. Indian treatment for Indian diseases which also has started happening now of late in the last 10 years or so. And I think the same is applicable also in this sector," Singh said.

CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates renovated J&K House at Amritsar

Upgraded facility to provide affordable and comfortable accommodation to J&K residents

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

AMRITSAR (PUNJAB), Sep 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the renovated Jammu & Kashmir House at Amritsar, Punjab.

The heritage property, located at 2-Court Road, Amritsar has been comprehensively upgraded with modern amenities to provide affordable and comfortable accommodation to residents of Jammu and Kashmir visiting Amritsar, particularly patients and their attendants travelling to the city for medical treatment.

The renovation and upgradation works commenced in October 2025 and were completed at an approximate cost of ₹2.30 crore. The works covered civil and electrical works, interiors, guest amenities, external development and allied infrastructure.

The upgraded facility com-



prises four guest rooms with attached dressing areas and washrooms, besides a common sitting lounge, dining area and kitchen.

Located close to major hospitals and other key destinations in the city, the J&K House will serve as an important support

facility for patients and their attendants, besides benefiting students, pilgrims and other visitors from Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister inspected the upgraded facilities and directed the concerned officers to maintain high standards of hospitality, cleanliness

and upkeep for guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the facility would help ease the difficulties faced by patients and their families travelling outside Jammu and Kashmir for treatment, while also providing a convenient and affordable place to stay for other visitors from J&K.

The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the departments and officers involved in the renovation and upgradation of the property and stressed the importance of maintaining the facility to high standards.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Resident Commissioner J&K Ramesh Kumar, Secretary Hospitality & Protocol Avny Lavasa, Additional Resident

LG Sinha Attended Valedictory Session of National Seminar on Environment, Climate and Sustainability at Kashmir University

Lieutenant Governor emphasised bridging science and policy to tackle the challenges of climate change

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the Valedictory Session of National Seminar on "Environment, Climate and Sustainability: Science, Policy and Pathways", held at Kashmir University. The three-day conference brought together ecologists, hydrologists, soil experts, policy makers, and researchers from across the country to deliberate on pressing environmental challenges.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the national-level seminar for creating a shared language among diverse disciplines to collectively address the climate crisis. He underscored that climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution are not isolated phenomena but interconnected dimensions of the triple planetary crisis. Recognizing the finite and interlinked nature of Earth's systems, he emphasised the need for holistic approaches that transcend departmental silos in governance.

"Although government machinery has separate departments. One department formulates water policy, another forest policy, and yet another climate policy. But, I strongly believe such national seminars remind us that there is a deep connection among all these, and acknowledging it is the first step toward solving these problems," he said.

Highlighting the role of technology, the Lieutenant Governor described Geospatial Intelligence, including GIS, remote sensing, UAVs, as the lifeline connecting science and governance. He stressed that anticipatory governance must replace reactive responses, enabling real-time decisions through tools such as Climate Sensitivity Maps and Spatial Decision Support Systems.

"We must create systems that do not merely record what has already happened to a glacier, forest, or river valley, but can also tell us with full confidence what is going to happen next. And we must be able to deliver that information to those who today need to decide what should be built, where it should be built, and what should be conserved. I believe the role of scientists and environment experts is

no longer just to describe change. They must become co-creators of early warning systems. The time when we waited five years for a report on a subject is gone. Now we must make real-time decisions," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor made a strong appeal to bridge the gap between science and policy. He said while data and models are abundant, institutional mechanisms to integrate scientific conclusions into district development plans, water distribution, and disaster management remain inadequate. He called for trust, collaboration, and shared language between scientists and policymakers to ensure timely and effective action.

"If we can bridge the distance between what science knows and what policy delivers in line with that knowledge, then even the biggest challenges related to climate change can be addressed. Today, we do not lack data on climate change. With the help of Artificial Intelligence, we also do not lack tools and models. What we lack is the institutional system and the institutional arrangements that can take conclusions emerging from a lab or satellite record and deliver them in time to a district's development plan," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reminded the researchers and policymakers that development must be accompanied by responsibility, conservation, and duty. He urged young experts to think beyond disciplinary boundaries and policymakers to listen to the language of science.

"Development must mean establishing a relationship with the Earth in which use is accompanied by responsibility, progress by conservation, and rights by duties. Another important takeaway you will carry from this conference is that technological skills alone are not enough. We must prepare young researchers and scientists who can think beyond disciplinary boundaries, and we need policy makers who can listen to the language of science," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Looking ahead to the vision of a Developed India by 2047, the Lieutenant Governor stressed that develop-



ment must be climate-resilient and inclusive. He expressed hope that the dialogue initiated during the national seminar would continue beyond its conclusion, permeating laboratories, universities, districts,

and policies, ultimately benefiting the people. He reaffirmed India's commitment to sustainable development and climate resilience through science-policy integration, technological innovation, and cultural sensi-

tivity.

Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Prof. Talat Ahmad, former Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Dr. Rasik Ravindra, former Director,

Workshop on Interlinking of Budget with SDGs held at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: A workshop on "SDG Budget Tagging & Outcome-Oriented Financing Framework" was held today at Civil Secretariat, here with the objective of strengthening the linkage between the public expenditure, budgetary allocations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The workshop was presided over by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Finance, Shailendra Kumar and attended by senior officers including DG Budget, DG Codes, DG Resources, DG Audit & Trainings (A&T), Director SDG, Director DED-II, Directors Planning and Directors Finance of various Administrative Departments, besides resource persons from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The event focused on the need to move from SDG monitoring to SDG financing by linking identified development gaps with appropriate schemes, budgetary allocations and measurable outcomes. It was emphasised that SDG Budget Tagging would not

involve creation of a separate SDG budget. It would instead bring an SDG perspective to the existing budgetary framework, enabling better assessment of whether public expenditure is addressing the identified development gaps and delivering intended outcomes.

The participants deliberated on mapping of existing UT Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes with relevant SDG Goals and Targets to promote convergence, avoid duplication and identify financing gaps. The exercise is aimed at strengthening the linkage between resources, expenditure and development outcomes. Emphasis was also laid on outcome-oriented planning, with departments to prepare SDG-wise Action Plans covering identified gaps, targets, interventions, beneficiaries, responsibilities, resources, indicators and timelines. These Action Plans are proposed to be aligned with the Annual Budget formulation process, so that SDG priorities become an integral part of the regular planning and budgeting cycle.

The workshop also deliberated on integra-

tion of the existing SDG Dashboard with IFMIS for improved tracking of expenditure against SDG priorities, without creating any parallel financial system.

The UNDP Team apprised the participants of its proposal covering three broad pillars including Evidence-to-Action, SDG Financing and Institutional & Capacity Building. The proposal is presently under examination.

The workshop highlighted the important role of Master Trainers in operationalising the SDG Budget Tagging framework at the departmental level. They will facilitate departmental sensitisation, scheme and expenditure mapping, outcome-based budgeting and inter-departmental convergence. The workshop concluded with a clear roadmap to measure progress, identify gaps, plan interventions, converge resources, finance priorities, implement actions and measure outcomes.

The departments will prepare SDG-wise Action Plans aligned with the Annual Budget cycle, along with scheme mapping, sensitisation and integration of the SDG Dashboard with IFMIS.

IIM Jammu celebrate Birthday Of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 17: IIM Jammu celebrated the birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, reflecting on India's growth, innovation, and the aspirations of its people. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Shri Yudhvir Sethi, Hon'ble MLA, Jammu East; Smt. Abha Jammwal, Sarpanch,

Jagti Jammu; and Shri Shyam Narayan, Chairperson, Centre of Happiness. The celebration brought together the IIM Jammu community to reflect on the nation's development and the collective responsibility of building a stronger, more inclusive India.

Dr. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, addressed the gathering, highlighting India's transformation and the confidence that contin-

ues to drive its progress. His address emphasised the importance of visionary leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in inspiring the nation to achieve greater milestones.

The celebration concluded with a message of unity, responsibility, and hope for the future. Together, we carry forward the spirit of Viksit Bharat and the dreams of tomorrow.

JSCL, LEAD launch Jammu Smart City Hackathon to develop solutions for urban challenges

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 17: Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), in collaboration with LEAD (LJK Economic Growth & Development Dialogue), on Thursday launched the Jammu Smart City Hackathon, bringing together innovators, entrepreneurs, startups, researchers and community organisations to develop practical solutions to the city's urban challenges.

The initiative aims to create a platform for connecting innovative ideas with government departments and other city stakeholders, helping develop solutions that are practical, scalable and suited to Jammu's needs.

The hackathon will focus on six broad themes—urban planning, green spaces and public realm; cleanliness, waste management and sustainability; digital governance, mobility and smart infrastructure; tourism, heritage and culture; inclusive communities and animal welfare and urban resilience and disaster management.

Addressing the gathering, CEO, JSCL, Dr. Devansh Yadav said the hackathon would provide an opportunity to bring together innovative ideas and connect them with the city's development needs, with a focus on solutions that can be practically imple-

mented and scaled.

Registration for the hackathon will remain open from September 17 to 25, 2026. Participants will go through a structured process involving ideation, mentoring, prototyping and evaluation before presenting their solutions.

Selected participants will also have opportunities for incubation and potential investment support, aimed at helping promising ideas move towards implementation. As part of the launch, JSCL and LEAD also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on various development initiatives in Jammu.

The MoU was signed by LEAD Convenor Harinder Gupta and CEO, JSCL, Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The partnership will cover areas including cultural promotion, startup and entrepreneurship development, innovation and urban and economic development, with a focus on strengthening collaboration between the city administration and Jammu's wider innovation ecosystem.

The launch brought together representatives from academic institutions, industry and the innovation ecosystem, including Dr. Suhaib Batt of MIET Jammu; Dr. Jasvinder Pal Singh and Dr. Harnain Kour of Central University of Jammu; Dr. Raj Kumar V