



Power Tariff Hike Puts Rs 251 Crore Burden On Consumers, Govt Admits In Assembly

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 22: Consumers in Jammu and Kashmir will have to pay an additional Rs 251 crore due to recent tariff hike, the government admitted in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday. In a written reply to a question by MLA Sajad Gani Lone, the Power Development Department said the 6.83% tariff hike, recently notified by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC), is expected to generate Rs 251 crore in additional revenue for DISCOMs during 2026-27.

The government said the tariff revision was long overdue and was required to bridge the gap between the cost of electricity supply and revenue realised and to meet the Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) of the DISCOMs.

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

DAILY NEWS TILL DATE

From The Desk Of Editor-In-Chief

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Jammu After August 5, 2019: From City of Temples to City of Fear?



RAJESH GUPTA

JAMMU is facing a troubling sequence of violent incidents that has shaken publicly confidence and demands an urgent, evidence-based response. Three recent cases the mysterious death of Sushma Devi in Arnia, the killing of Pawan Nair during a birthday celebration in Lower Roop Nagar, and the shooting death of newspaper vendor Deepak Sharma in Resham Ghar have deepened public anxiety. Investigations must establish the facts before conclusions are drawn. But taken together, these incidents make one point unmistakable: public safety must be treated as an immediate administrative priority, not as a matter for slogans or delayed assurances.

In the Sushma Devi case, a woman was found hanging at her residence amid allegations by her family and villagers of foul play. Police have arrested three people, and a medical board has conducted the postmortem. The final cause of death and responsibility must be established through evidence, not public pressure. At the same time, the case underscores the need for stronger mechanisms to identify and protect women facing domestic harassment before abuse turns fatal.

The death of Pawan Nair exposes another urgent concern: how quickly an ordinary disagreement can become deadly. Police say a dispute over cake during a birthday celebration escalated and a sharp-edged weapon was used. Two accused brothers were arrested. The larger question is how Jammu can prevent such violence through education, counselling, employment, sports and early intervention especially among young people. Prevention cannot begin only after a weapon has been used.

The shooting of Deepak Sharma inside his Resham Ghar home raises serious questions about firearms, surveillance, intelligence gathering and the ability of authorities to prevent targeted violence. The police investigation must establish exactly what happened and bring the facts before the public. More broadly, residents must be able to trust that credible threats will be detected, illegal weapons will be traced and violent offenders will face swift, lawful consequences.

Jammu cannot afford a debate driven only by political slogans. The administration must publish recent crime data, strengthen investigative and forensic capacity, improve emergency response, regulate illegal weapons and ensure accountability wherever failures are established. Public safety also requires visible coordination among the police, health services, local administration and community institutions. Confidence will not be restored by assurances alone; it will be restored by measurable action and transparent results.

The political changes of August 5, 2019 remain a matter of sharply differing political interpretations. But regardless of views on constitutional arrangements, the safety of Jammu's citizens is an immediate administrative responsibility. Political representatives should raise public-safety concerns through democratic institutions without fear or favour, while authorities must respond with facts, urgency and impartiality.

Jammu does not need panic. It needs facts, prevention, professional policing and justice. The city's reputation for peace can be protected only when every citizen can reasonably expect that violence will be prevented where possible, investigated swiftly and transparently when it occurs, and prosecuted impartially when evidence establishes responsibility.ZYADA

'Murder, Not Suicide?' Woman's Cremation at Home Sparks Fury in R S Pura

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 22: Amid allegations of foul play, the last rites of a 40-year-old woman, who was found hanging at her residence in R S Pura sector, were performed on the lawn of her home by agitated people instead of at the cremation ground, officials said on Tuesday.

Sushma Devi, a resident of Sai Sardari village of Arnia and mother of two minor children, was found hanging in her room on Monday, leading to protests by her parents and villagers who alleged that she was murdered by her husband and in-laws.

Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Anna Sinha said three people have been arrested in connection with the suspicious death of Devi. Police, however, have yet to identify the arrested accused.

A six-member medical board has conducted the postmortem, and the exact cause of death will be established after the report, the officer said at a press conference.

The agitated people tried to ransack the house on Monday, but the heavy police deployment maintained order and foiled their attempt.

However, the body of the woman was brought to her home after post-mortem and cremated on the lawn of her house as part of the villagers' protest.

SP Headquarters said the police acted swiftly in the case and arrested three people within an hour, "No one will be spared...state-ments (of those arrested) are being recorded at police stations, and the investigation will proceed as per law," Sinha said.

Sinha, at the presser, also appealed to women to approach the police and register an FIR in case of any harassment at their marital homes. Sinha urged women facing an emergency to dial 112, saying the call is recorded at the police control room and transferred to the nearest police station, following which an emergency response vehicle can be dispatched.





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SYNOPSIS

Three rusted mines found in Poonch, safely destroyed

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

MENDHAR, Sep 22: Three rusted landmines were found and subsequently destroyed in Mendhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. The mines were recovered by army personnel while carrying out some work in Phagwari Gali area near border village Dharana Basoni, the officials said.

They said the recovered explosive items were safely disposed by the bomb disposal team of the Army without causing any damage. As part of the counter-infiltration strategy, the army is using landmines to plug the possible infiltration routes and sometimes the explosive devices get dislocated due to rains.

J&K Forest Department Suspend Agrostologist Over Grave Misconduct

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sept 21: The Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has placed Sajjad Ahmad Khan, Range Officer Grade-I and in charge DFO/Agrostologist, Kashmir, under suspension with

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Woman jumps into Chenab river, dies

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

REASI, Sep 22 : A woman died after jumping from Baradari Bridge into the Chenab River in Reasi area here on Tuesday, officials said.

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Two ladies among six injured after car loses control, overturns in Bhandarwah

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

DODA, Sep 22 : Two ladies were among six persons injured after a car lost control and overturned in the Bhalla area of Bhandarwah in Doda district on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, officials said. An official told that an Ignis

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



BJP LEGISLATORS STAGE WALKOUT

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 22 : Pandemonium broke out in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday after National

Conference (NC) legislator Abdul Majid Larmi demanded that the government should either restore the holiday on the birth anniversary of NC founder Sheikh

Muhammad Abdullah or cancel the holiday marking the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh. As soon as proceedings began, Larmi said that if Sheikh Abdullah's holi-

day is not restored, the government must cancel the holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh.

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

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

Amid pro-Maharaja slogans, NC legislators Nazir Gurezi and Shamima Firdous coun-

tered by highlighting the contributions of Sheikh Abdullah. As BJP legislators continued their

protests, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather urged them to return to their

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Maharaja Ji's Holiday Will Not Be Cancelled, Focus on Daily Wagers & Power Bills: Devyani Rana to Elected Govt

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 22, 2026: MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana today strongly condemned the attempt to raise the issue of cancelling the public holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative

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Govt committed towards development of tourism in Jammu; focus on new destinations, circuits and year-round promotion: CM Omar

Says Jammu Division's tourism allocation rises from Rs 56.50 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 62.85 crore in 2025-26; 29 works underway across five pilgrimage circuits



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today stated that the Government has adopted a comprehensive and multi-pronged

strategy for the development, promotion and diversification of tourism in Jammu Division, with a focus on developing new and emerging destinations and positioning Jammu

as a year-round tourist destination at the national and international levels.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi during the ongoing Autumn Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, said the strategy combines developmental interventions with sustained promotional activities to diversify the tourism product of Jammu Division.

He said the Tourism Department is focusing on pilgrimage, heritage, adventure, eco, nature, rural, cultural, wellness

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Jamui Molestation Accused Caught In Encounter, Shot In The Leg By Cops

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

PATNA, Sep 22: Nandan Yadav, the prime accused in the chilling Jamui molestation incident has been caught by police in an encounter, where cops shot the accused in the leg.

A viral video from Bihar triggered outrage

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Amit Shah inaugurates 3rd Anti-Narcotics Task Force conference; focus on 2026-29 narcotics targets



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEW DELHI, Sep 22: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday inaugurated the 3rd National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) heads of states and Union Territories here in the national capital, with a

focus on achieving the targets envisaged in the Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-2029).

The two-day conference, being organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on September 22 and September 23, is being

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'Assembly not anybody's jageer': Mehraj Malik sparks uproar in Assembly

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 22 : AAP MLA Mehraj Malik on Tuesday raised issues related to electricity, water supply and development works in his Doda constituency in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, while also triggering noisy scenes after being denied permission to raise a supplementary question.

The issue arose when Malik sought to raise a supplementary question on the amnesty granted on electricity bills.

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Yash Paul Bourney Sworn In As Judge Of High Court Of J&K And Ladakh

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

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

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LG Approves Leh As Venue For High Court Bench In Ladakh On Chief Justice's Recommendation

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

Leh/Jammu, Sep 22: On the recommendations of the Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday approved Leh as the initial place of sitting for the sitting bench of

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India rejects Pakistan-China boundary commission: The Shaksam Valley dispute explained

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEW DELHI, Sep 22: India has rejected the Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission after the two countries operationalised the mechanism for managing their shared border, including

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GOC Reviews Agniveer Training At Ladakh Regimental Centre, Inaugurates DTN

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

LEH/JAMMU, Sept 22: Lieutenant General Madanraj Pandey, GOC, Fire and Fury Corps, visited the Ladakh scouts regimental centre and reviewed the training aspects for Agniveers and key regimental updates, officials said.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) also inaugurated a drone training node (DTN) aimed at strengthening technology-enabled training capabilities at the centre.

He reviewed the training infrastructure and witnessed a demonstra-



tion at the Chinese language lab, showcasing contemporary and operationally relevant training on Monday, they said.

Lt Gen Pandey inter-

acted with the Ladakh Scouts personnel over tea and commended them for their professionalism, dedication and commitment to duty, the Army said.

Kargil Bar Association Seeks Dedicated HC Bench; Work Suspended Till Sep 24



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

KARGI, Sep 21: The Kargil Bar Association has sought the establishment of a dedicated circuit bench of the Jammu and Ladakh High Court in the district, saying the region's geographical

conditions and volume of cases warrant such a facility.

The demand comes amid reports that a high court bench is proposed to be established in Leh, prompting the Kargil Bar to seek a similar facility for the district and suspend judicial

work over the demand.

"The suspension of court work will continue till September 24. We are seeking regular functioning of the high court bench at Kargil in the interest of litigants and the legal fraternity," president Riyaz Ahmed Khan told reporters here.

AJKPC demands Panchayat elections in J & K Statehood not necessary for local development: Mir



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 22: Demanding the immediate holding of Panchayat and local body elections in Jammu and Kashmir, All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) an apex body of ex. Panchayat members of the union territory said that the local development has nothing to do with the restoration of statehood saying that the statehood is required to those who want "Dada giri" not development. The prominent Panchayat leaders said this while addressing a press conference at winter capital Jammu on Tuesday.

Flanked by large number of Panchayat leaders, Shafiq Mir chairman All J & K Panchayat Conference said that Panchayat elections were due in Jammu and Kashmir since 2023 after the completion of five-year term of Panchayats and urban local bodies in the region but local regional government led by Omar Abdullah has again stalled this democratic local governing institution which was established in full form with all powers by the PM of India Narendra Modi himself. while detailing the achieve-

ments of PRIs, Shafiq Mir said that the historical and unparalleled development was done during the Panchayati Raj system in JK after the abrogation of article 370.

He said the establishment of three tier Panchayati Raj system in Jammu and Kashmir was the only good thing was given to the people of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of article 370 and it had provided local/ self-governance powers to the common people of the state.

Accusing the Omar Abdullah government of its failure on all fronts, Panchayat Conference chief said that statehood rant raised by Omar Abdullah and other Political parties was only for their self-empowerment not required for local development and empowerment of common people saying that they want statehood for their own 'DADA GIRI' not for development.

"The development can be done through local governing institutions, so we demand that union home minister must step in and restore this basic democratic institution which was established by union government itself", said Shafiq Mir

Panchayat Conference leaders said that they will launch a statewide campaign in this regard appealing the union Home Minister of India Amit Shah to intervene personally and restore the local governing institution which was created by he himself first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. Panchayat leaders also demanded that the state election commission of Jammu and Kashmir must be kept under the jurisdiction of union government so that local political interference is controlled in such institutions supposed to be autonomous.

Other Prominent leaders who spoke on the occasion included Mr Arun Kumar Sharma president AJKPC, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan provincial president Kashmir, ex. Srpanch Mohammad Sadeeq Doda, Ex Sarpanch Rajdev Singh Jamwal Jammu, Ex, sarpanch Makhnan Manhas Udhampur, Ex BDC Yogeshwar Singh Vijay pur, Ex BDC Drshan Singh Ramgarh, Ex BDC Chander Mohan Singh, reasi, Ex BDC Kuldeep Raj Bhagat, Ex BDC Mohan Lal Mandyal, Ex BDC Rajni Devi.

SSP Srinagar Chairs Crime, Security Review Meeting; Directs Intensified Action Against Drug Trafficking

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 22: Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar Dr G V Sundeeep Chakravarthy (IPS) chaired a high-level crime and security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir.

In a handout the police said that the meeting aimed to assess the prevailing security scenario, review operational preparedness, and evaluate disposal of crimes, with specific focus on cases under Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act (UAPA), Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and other social offences, a police spokesperson said in a statement.

The meeting was attended by Zonal SPs, SP Headquarters, DySP Headquarters, SDPOs, SHOs and other senior officers of Srinagar Police.

During the session, overall crime landscape of Srinagar was reviewed in detail. Threadbare discussions were held to enhance quality of inves-



tigations and prosecution to improve conviction rates across general crime, POCSO, crimes against women etc. SSP Srinagar conducted meticulous performance audit across all Zones, Sub-Divisions, and Police Stations, laying special emphasis on swift disposal of pending backlog cases and robust implementation of Nyaya Sanhita.

Addressing the officers, SSP Srinagar directed intensified action against drug trafficking. He instructed

officers to systematically dismantle NDPS hotspots, map forward and backward linkages in all narcotics and terror-funding cases, and strictly initiate financial investigations to freeze bank accounts and attach properties derived from illegal crime proceeds.

While reviewing the security grid, SSP evaluated operational readiness and deployment of personnel across the city.

He directed field formations to strengthen

counter-insurgency operations, intensify area domination exercises, and increase naka checking at vulnerable locations and inter-district borders.

Stressing that security protocols must remain dynamic and responsive to emerging threats, SSP ordered round-the-clock vigilance and seamless coordination among all field units to safeguard public order and maintain peace across Srinagar, the statement added.

50 quarters of JK Excise Whisky seized at Maroli Road, Kathua; 1 bottlegger arrested by JK Police



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

KATHUA, 22 SEP: Continuing its efforts to discourage the trade and transportation of illicit liquor, J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Ms. Mohita Sharma IPS arrested one bootlegger & recovered 50 Quarters of JK Excise Whisky 180 ml each (illicit liquor) from his possession in the Maroli Road, PP Hatli (PS Kathua) area.

On 21/09/26 a Police team led by IC PP Hatli under the supervision of Addl. SP Kathua, DySP Hqrs Kathua & SHO PS Kathua established a special naka at Maroli Road area for checking. During checking, the police team apprehended one person namely Bhukao Ram Jeet Lehray @Tara Chand

S/o Daya Ram R/O Kotgarh Chhattisgarh A/P Hatli Morh Kathua. During checking, 50 quarters of JK Whisky 180 ml each have been recovered which he has kept in his possession in order to gain illegitimate profit. In this regard a case FIR No. 474/2026 U/S 48(a)(f)/ Excise Act stands registered at this PS Kathua while further investigation is going on.

SSP Kathua Ms. Mohita Sharma IPS assures that strict action will be taken against anyone caught involved in illegal Trade/transportation of illicit liquor. The general public appreciates the efforts of Kathua Police in seizing the Illicit liquor and apprehending the accused and believes that such actions will deter others from engaging in similar activities.

Students of Modern Institute of Education, Sumb Celebrate Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Jayanti Eve



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SUMB, September 22: A colourful programme was organised today at Modern Institute of Education (MIE), Sumb, on the eve of the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji.

The programme began with floral tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. In the presence of Chairman MIE Sumb, Sh. Narinder Singh, students presented patriotic songs, speeches and

Dogri folk dances highlighting the life, contributions and reforms of the Maharaja.

Students also spoke about the life and achievements of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji and highlighted his contribution towards education and social reforms. Speakers threw light on his important initiatives, including efforts to promote education and measures aimed at ending child marriage and untouchability.

The Principal addressed the students and said that Maharaja Hari Singh Ji was a visionary ruler whose emphasis on education and social reforms continues to inspire generations.

The programme concluded with a message for students to learn from the life, values and contributions of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji and work towards building a progressive and responsible society.

JKTPO Organises Export Awareness Workshop and E-Commerce Onboarding Drive at Samba

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

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

The workshop was organised under the guidance of Sh. Sudershan Kumar, Managing Director, JKTPO, in collaboration with the District Administration Samba and witnessed the participation of around 120+ entrepreneurs, artisans, farmers, MSMEs, SHGs, producer groups and aspiring exporters from across the district.

The programme commenced with welcome remarks by Sh. Vishal Ray, Faculty JKTPO, who welcomed the participants and highlighted



the importance of export readiness, digital commerce adoption and market diversification for local enterprises. He also apprised the participants about various initiatives being undertaken by JKTPO for capacity building, market access, export promotion and handholding of businesses from Jammu and Kashmir.

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

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

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

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

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

place. The programme also featured a virtual session by Mr. Adil Javaid Khan, Flipkart, who apprised participants about e-commerce onboarding and the opportunities available to local MSMEs, artisans and entrepreneurs to expand their customer base and improve market visibility through online platforms.

The workshop provided participants with a comprehensive overview of export procedures, export finance, export credit insurance, international market access, the India-EU FTA, GeM and e-commerce platforms.

An interactive question-and-answer session was also held, during which participants raised queries related to exports, financing, digital commerce, onboarding and market access.

As part of the scheduled series of Export Awareness and E-Commerce Onboarding programmes, the next workshops are scheduled to be held at Kathua on September 25, 2026, and at Budgam on September 26, 2026.

Melting Glaciers, Unstable Mountains and a Growing Disaster Risk

By Rohni Thakur

THE Himalayas are far more than a snow-covered mountain range. They are the foundation of life, water, agriculture, energy and ecological security for hundreds of millions of people. Yet climate change, combined with development that often ignores the carrying capacity of mountains, is pushing the Himalayan region into an increasingly dangerous phase. Natural disasters are no longer merely sudden, isolated events; behind many of them lies a long process of environmental instability. The devastating rock-ice avalanche and subsequent debris flood in Nepal on 26 August 2026 brought this danger into sharp focus. Initial scientific assessments and subsequent reporting indicate that more than 1,300 people were killed and thousands remained missing. Scientists have described the catastrophe not simply as a weather event, but as the outcome of interacting climatic, geological and cryospheric factors.

Understanding the Nepal disaster is important because it was not a conventional Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF). On 26 August, a massive section of rock and ice detached from the Langtang Lirung massif at an altitude of around 5,000–5,200 metres. The falling material rapidly transformed into a highly mobile debris flow and flood. Scientific investigations indicate that long-term warming, glacier retreat, changing ice conditions, freeze-thaw processes and pre-existing geological weaknesses contributed to the instability, although climate

change cannot be regarded as the sole cause.

The avalanche travelled with extraordinary speed, devastating areas and infrastructure downstream. Scientific reconstruction indicates that the debris flow travelled roughly 22 kilometres within minutes before reaching the Gyirong border area, while the resulting flood propagated much farther through the Bhote Koshi-Trishuli-Narayani river system. The catastrophe is particularly significant for the Himalayas because glacier retreat is creating new glacial lakes while enlarging many existing ones. If the natural barriers holding these lakes back are breached by ice, rock, landslides, debris or water pressure, destructive floods can reach downstream valleys within a very short time.

For India, this warning is particularly relevant. Recent assessments in Sikkim have identified high-risk glacial lakes, while government agencies are strengthening remote sensing, field surveys, water-level and discharge monitoring and early-warning systems. The challenge, however, is not limited to glacial lakes. A rapidly changing Himalayan landscape demands a much broader understanding of mountain hazards. The situation in Himachal Pradesh is equally concerning. An IIT Mandi study mapped 2,076 glacial lakes above 3,500 metres in 2025—710 more than in 2015. During the same period, their cumulative area increased by 28.45 per cent. These figures demonstrate how rapidly Himalayan water geography is changing and underline the growing risk of Glacial Lake



Outburst Floods.

The problem is not confined to melting glaciers. Rising temperatures are weakening snow, ice and permafrost, while roads, tunnels, dams, hydropower projects, tourism facilities and unplanned construction are adding pressure to the natural structure of the mountains. Mountains are not plains that can simply be cut, excavated and reshaped according to human requirements. They have their own geological limitations, slopes, drainage systems, water-holding capacity and ecological balance. Ignoring these natural limits can ultimately result in landslides, debris floods and massive infrastructure failures. This does not mean adopting an anti-development approach. The real issue is to rethink the definition

and methodology of development in fragile mountain regions. Roads and electricity are necessary; tourism and employment are necessary too. But all of these must be planned according to the carrying capacity of the Himalayas. Development that weakens the very ecological system on which communities depend cannot remain sustainable for long.

For India, the most important requirement now is an integrated Himalayan monitoring and early-warning system. It is not enough to examine hazards within the administrative boundaries of individual states. A glacier may be located in one region, a glacial lake in another, and the potential flood path may extend into a completely different dis-

trict or state. Satellite imagery, drones, remote sensing, automated water-level sensors, weather stations and ground-based monitoring should therefore be integrated into a common digital network. Early warnings must not remain confined to district headquarters. They must reach villages, schools, hospitals, army posts, tourist centres, hydropower projects and settlements along rivers in real time. And issuing a warning is only the beginning. Communities must know what to do after the warning arrives. Every vulnerable valley should have clearly identified evacuation routes, safe zones, alternative roads and emergency communication systems. Local residents, tourists and project workers should receive regular training

through mock drills. During a rapidly developing mountain disaster, the first five or ten minutes can sometimes determine the effectiveness of the entire rescue operation.

Climate change has another serious dimension: today's crisis may become tomorrow's water crisis. Accelerated glacier melt may initially increase river flows, but as the long-term ice reserves continue to decline, dependable summer water availability could eventually be affected. This poses a major challenge to agriculture, drinking water, energy generation and the livelihoods of millions who depend upon Himalayan rivers. Black carbon and other forms of pollution add another layer of concern. Recent scientific assessments

have highlighted accelerating glacier mass loss across the Himalayas and the potential contribution of black carbon to warming and ice loss. The protection of the Himalayas, therefore, cannot be treated merely as the responsibility of forest or disaster-management departments. Energy, roads, tourism, industry, hydropower, urban development and environmental policies must all place Himalayan risk at their centre.

The Himalayan crisis is also larger than national boundaries. India, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Pakistan share interconnected Himalayan and Hindu Kush ecosystems. Their glaciers, rivers, climate systems and mountain environments do not recognise political borders. What happens in a high-altitude valley can affect an entire downstream river system. The need of the hour is therefore shared scientific databases, exchange of satellite information, joint monitoring of vulnerable glacial lakes and cross-border early-warning mechanisms. The 26 August disaster itself demonstrated how quickly a mountain hazard can become a transboundary emergency.

The Nepal tragedy must not be dismissed as merely another natural disaster. It demonstrates how climate change, glacier retreat, geological vulnerability and cascading mountain processes can combine to produce events that conventional disaster-management systems may struggle to handle. At the same time, scientists have rightly cautioned against attributing the disaster to climate change alone. Geological structure,

slope conditions and other physical factors were also important. The more defensible conclusion is that long-term warming and changes in snow, ice and permafrost can increase vulnerability, while local geological conditions determine how and when that vulnerability manifests itself. What we need now is not fear, but foresight; not panic, but preparedness. The more deeply we understand the Himalayas, the better we will be able to protect them. Development and environmental protection should not be treated as opposing ideas. India needs a development model in which mountain ecology, carrying capacity and the safety of local communities are integral to every major decision.

The Nepal disaster is a stern warning: development that challenges the natural limits of the mountains cannot remain development for long. Before constructing every road, tunnel, dam, hydropower project, tourism facility or major structure in the Himalayas, we must ask a fundamental question: How much pressure will this project place on the mountain, and who will bear the cost if an extreme natural event occurs? Timely monitoring, scientific risk assessment, carefully regulated construction, stronger local preparedness and regional cooperation can save countless lives. But if repeated warnings are ignored, future Himalayan catastrophes may no longer be described simply as natural disasters. They could also be seen as consequences of our failure to understand the limits of the mountains—and to respect them.

POONCH TO DELHI: LET PASSENGERS HAVE A CHOICE

By SHAHID HAKLA POONCHI

FOR the people of Poonch and Rajouri, travelling to Delhi has long involved more than simply getting on a bus. A passenger from Poonch generally has to first make the difficult journey to Jammu, covering roughly 250 kilometres, and then travel to the Jammu bus stand, wait for an onward service and begin the journey to Delhi. For someone carrying luggage, travelling with family or heading for medical treatment, education or work, the process can be tiring and time-consuming. The reported start of two direct sleeper-bus services between Poonch and Delhi has therefore brought a sense of relief among many people in the Pir Panjal region. A journey that previously required a change at Jammu can now potentially be completed in one direct service. The reported fare is ₹2,500 from Poonch to Delhi. For a region that has

repeatedly sought better connectivity, such a service naturally has significance.

Connectivity Is More Than a Convenience

Good transport is closely connected with people's everyday lives. Students travel for education, workers for employment, patients for treatment, traders for business and families for personal reasons. When a journey requires several changes, the cost is not only financial. It also consumes time and energy. The official Poonch district administration describes road transport as the principal means of connecting the district with the rest of the country. It also states that travelling between Poonch and Jammu can take around six to seven hours because of the terrain. A direct sleeper service cannot change the geography of the Pir Panjal. What it can do is reduce one of the difficulties created by that geography.

The Existing

Transport Sector Has Its Own Concerns

However, the other side of the issue also deserves attention. Videos circulated online shows opposition to the new sleeper services, including demands for their closure. Existing transport operators have raised concerns about the impact of the new services on their businesses and livelihoods. These concerns should not simply be brushed aside. Many existing operators have been serving passengers for years and depend on the route for their income. Any new competition can affect their passenger numbers and earnings.

But competition and illegal operation are two different matters. If an operator believes that the new buses do not have the necessary permits, documents or approvals, that complaint should be placed before the competent transport authorities. The authorities can then verify the facts and take action according to law. What should not happen is for a dis-

agreement between operators to become a reason for passengers to lose a transport option that they want.

Rs 2,500 Cannot Be Viewed the Same Way by Everyone

The reported ₹2,500 fare from Poonch to Delhi also needs a balanced discussion. For one passenger, the amount may appear reasonable because it provides a direct journey and avoids the additional arrangements required at Jammu. For another, particularly a student or someone from a lower-income household, the same amount may be difficult to afford. People have different incomes and different priorities. Some may prefer to travel from Poonch to Jammu by an ordinary bus or cab and then take a cheaper service to Delhi. Others may be ready to pay more for a direct sleeper journey because they value time, convenience and the ability to travel overnight without changing

vehicles. There is nothing unusual about people making different choices according to their circumstances. The important point is that they should have choices available to them.

The Passenger Is Also a Stakeholder

Transport debates sometimes become focused entirely on operators. The passenger, however, is the person for whom the transport system ultimately exists. Existing operators have a right to raise genuine concerns about their businesses. But passengers also have a right to seek services that suit their needs and budgets. Therefore, no individual group of operators should be treated as the sole representative of what passengers want. Public demand should be assessed through actual passenger use, surveys, feedback and transparent consultation—not simply through competing claims.

Safety Must Be Non-Negotiable

At the same time,

public demand alone cannot be enough to justify a bus service. Before allowing any service to continue, the concerned authorities should verify its permits, registration, insurance, fitness certificate and other mandatory documents. The physical condition of the buses should also be checked, along with the safety requirements applicable to passenger vehicles. The authorities should also ensure that the buses are authorised to operate on the particular route and that all applicable transport rules are being followed. The same standard should apply to every operator. A new service should not receive special treatment, but an established operator should not receive protection from competition merely because it has been operating for a longer period.

Government Has a Larger Responsibility

The present dispute gives the administration an opportunity to look beyond this particular disagreement. If the

new buses are properly authorised and meet all safety requirements, their operation should be assessed on those grounds. If violations are found, the law should take its course. At the same time, the government should examine the wider transport requirements of Poonch and Rajouri. If people need more direct services to Jammu, Delhi or other important destinations, additional properly regulated services could be considered. The answer to increased demand should ideally be better public transport—not fewer choices.

A Balance Between Livelihood and Public Interest

There is no need to present this issue as a battle between passengers and transport operators. Both have legitimate interests. Transport operators need to protect their livelihoods. Passengers need safe, affordable and convenient ways to travel. The government has the

responsibility to ensure that these interests are balanced through fair and transparent regulation. The new Poonch-Delhi sleeper buses should therefore neither be accepted without scrutiny nor rejected simply because they have created competition. Their permits, documents, safety standards, route permissions and fares should be examined by the appropriate authorities. If they meet the required conditions, passengers should be allowed to decide whether the service suits them. For the people of the Pir Panjal region, direct connectivity to Delhi is not merely about luxury. For many, it is about saving time, reducing unnecessary transfers and making a difficult journey somewhat easier. It should belong to law, safety and the passenger's right to choose.

The author is an independent researcher and columnist who writes on public policy, social change, youth affairs and governance. He can

Under seva mera yogdan , BJP OBC Morcha organises cleanliness drive at Bajalta and Ambphalla Mandal

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, September 22: The BJP OBC Morcha organised cleanliness drives at Bajalta and Ambphalla Mandal to promote cleanliness, hygiene and civic responsibility among the people.

Under the supervision of Braham Jyot Satti, president BJP OBC Morcha Jammu Kashmir, The cleanliness drives were organised by Arun Sethi, District President, BJP OBC Morcha Jammu, at Vishwakarma Temple, Ward No. 16, New Plot, and by Arun Verma, District President, BJP OBC Morcha Bajalta, at Diamond School, Khana Chhargal, Bajalta.

During the drives, the BJP OBC Morcha workers carried out extensive cleanliness activities inside as well as outside the respective premises. With the help of brooms and mops, the premises were thoroughly cleaned, while the surrounding areas were also cleared of unwanted vegetation and bushes. The workers also cut and removed overgrown shrubs around the premises to improve the overall cleanliness and surroundings.

At Bajalta, the programme was attended by Bishan Singh, mandal General Secretaries Sunny Sharma and Ashwani



Verma, General Secretary, BJP OBC Morcha, along with other party workers and local residents.

At New Plot, prominent participants included Suresh Salgotra, Vice-President, BJP OBC Morcha J&K; Ashok Salgotra, State Secretary, BJP OBC Morcha J&K; Arun Mehra, Vice-President, OBC Morcha District Jammu; Vicky Panday, Vice-President, OBC Morcha District Jammu; Rajesh Verma, General Secretary; Sudesh Kumar, Office Secretary; Rajinder Anand, Secretary; Madan Pandey, Additional Social Media Incharge; Ajay

Mehra, President, Amphalla Mandal OBC Morcha; Rohit Kumar, Vice-President, Amphalla Mandal OBC Morcha; Pardeep Kumar, General Secretary, Amphalla Mandal; Ashwani Mehra, Executive Member, Amphalla Mandal OBC Morcha; Mohinder Verma, President, Vishwakarma Mandir Committee, New Plot; and Narinder Angotra, besides other workers and local residents.

In his message, Braham Jyot Satti, President, BJP OBC Morcha J&K, said that cleanliness is not merely a government responsibility but a collective

duty of every citizen. He said that the BJP OBC Morcha would continue to organise such activities at different locations to create awareness about cleanliness, hygiene and environmental responsibility.

He said that the participation of party workers in cleanliness drives reflects the Morcha's commitment to serving society at the grassroots level. He appealed to people to maintain cleanliness around temples, schools, public places and residential areas and to actively contribute towards keeping their surroundings neat and healthy.

Arun Verma, District President, BJP OBC Morcha Bajalta, said that the cleanliness drive at Diamond School, Khana Chhargal, was organised with the objective of creating awareness among the local community about the importance of maintaining clean surroundings. He said that the active participation of BJP OBC Morcha workers demonstrated their commitment towards social service and community welfare.

The programme concluded with the participating workers reaffirming their commitment to continue cleanliness and community-service activities across different areas of Jammu.

Jai Baba Amarnath Barfani Langar Honoured for Social Service



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

KATRA, Sep 21: In recognition of their dedicated and sustained service to humanity, representatives of Jai Baba Amarnath Barfani Langar, Jammu were presented an appreciation award at the Spiritual Growth Centre

near Asia Chowk here today. The award was presented by Manoj Sinha to Harish Malhotra, President of the Langar Committee, who was accompanied by his son Rajeev Malhotra, grandson Master Shivam Malhotra and committee member Rajan Modgil. The honour recognises

the organisation's continued commitment to humanitarian service and its dedicated efforts towards serving devotees and the community. The representatives expressed gratitude for the recognition and reiterated their resolve to continue their selfless service to humanity.

Dharma must begin with delf-transformation: Swami Hari



Grand Dharma Conference on Sept 24-25

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU: A Grand Dharma Conference will be held at Jammu Club, M.A.M. Stadium, on September 24 and 25 where Shri Hari Chaitanya Puri Ji Maharaj will deliver spiritual discourses focusing on Dharma, devotion, patriotism and human values.

Shri Hari Kripa Seva Samiti has appealed to devotees and followers of Dharma to participate in the two-day conference along with their families and benefit from the spiritual programme.

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 22: Emphasising the importance of Dharma, satsang and self-discipline in bringing about positive change in society, Premavatar, Yugdrashta and Shri Hari Kripa Peethadishwar Swami Shri Hari Chaitanya Puri Ji Maharaj today called upon people to reform themselves first and follow the path of truth, righteousness and humanity.

Addressing a large gathering of devotees at Roop Nagar, Shri Maharaj Ji said that the

growing distance from dharma was contributing to a decline in human values. He urged people to avoid unrighteous company and instead associate with noble, disciplined and spiritually elevated persons whose conduct could serve as an example.

He said satsang illuminates the inner self with spiritual knowledge but its true benefit can be realised only when a person is receptive to that knowledge. Drawing an analogy with sunlight, he said that just as sunlight cannot enter a house when its doors and

windows remain closed, divine grace and spiritual wisdom cannot transform a person unless he opens his heart to them.

Shri Maharaj Ji asserted that falsehood, injustice and unrighteousness may appear to prevail temporarily but ultimately truth, dharma and goodness triumph. He called upon people to draw meaningful lessons from India's festivals and traditions and make their lives disciplined, dutiful, spiritually devoted and dedicated to humanity and the nation. Expressing concern over the growing materialistic outlook, he said that the pursuit of material comforts had increasingly become the primary objective of life, giving rise to hypocrisy, superstition, ostentation, hatred and social discord. He stressed the need to understand the deeper principles of dharma and apply them in daily life. He also called for an end to discrimination based on status and urged people to live in harmony and mutual respect observing that the world's religions convey the message of peace, unity and peaceful coexistence. "Renunciation, determination, self-restraint and righteous conduct, when combined, lead a person towards success," he said, adding that the strength to face difficulties and adversities enables an individual to experience true growth and fulfilment.

Earlier, Shri Maharaj Ji received a warm welcome from devotees at several places, including Sainik Colony, Paloura, Patoli and Rajouri Lines.

Book on Indian Traditional Knowledge Released

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, sept. 22: The book "Indian Traditional Knowledge" was formally released today at a function organized by the Bharatiya Vichara Kendra, State Committee. The book Titled Indian Traditional Knowledge: Solutions to Global Problems, has been authored by Dr. C. V. Jayamani, Professor of Management and noted Indian academic, and Dr. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu was released by Dr. G. Gopakumar, who handed over the first copy to Shri Sanjayan Ji marking the formal launch of the publication. Indian Traditional Knowledge: Solutions to Global Problems explores the practical relevance of ancient Indian wisdom particularly the Bhagavad Gita in addressing contemporary economic, social and environmental challenges. Drawing on selected shlokas and their interpretations, the book examines how traditional concepts of duty, self-reliance

and collective welfare apply to today's developmental and governance issues. It presents this ancient knowledge not merely as philosophy confined to reflection, but as a practical framework for problem-solving in the modern world.

On the occasion, Dr. K. Sasikumar, Former Dean of Commerce, University of Kerala, offered felicitations and spoke about the significance of the publication and its relevance to contemporary academic and intellectual discourse. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. C. V. Jayamani. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Suresh Babu, who served as the Master of Ceremony.

The function concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries. , organizers and participants for their presence and contribution to the successful conduct of the event.

NSS SMVDU Conducts Orientation Day with Spirit of Service, Leadership and Community



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, sept. 22: The National Service Scheme (NSS) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) conducted its Orientation Day in an inspiring and vibrant manner, introducing students to the spirit, purpose and values of NSS while highlighting the role of youth in community service and nation-building.

The orientation served as an engaging platform for volunteers to understand that NSS is not merely an extracurricular activity, but a journey of service, learning, leadership, teamwork and personal growth.

The programme highlighted the guiding philosophy of NSS, "Not Me But You," which encourages young people to move beyond individual interests and work towards the welfare of

society. The programme featured insightful addresses by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Programme Coordinator, who spoke about the vision and objectives of NSS and encouraged students to actively participate in community-oriented initiatives.

He emphasized the importance of developing a sense of responsibility, empathy and commitment among young volunteers.

Adding further enthusiasm to the occasion, NSS volunteers shared their perspectives on the significance of NSS, its motto and the experiences and opportunities it provides to students. Their interaction reflected how NSS enables students to step beyond the classroom, engage with real-world challenges and contribute meaningfully to society. The event beautifully brought together the val-

ues of service, culture, teamwork and youth leadership, giving both new and existing volunteers a deeper understanding of what it means to be part of NSS. At SMVDU, NSS has been actively involved in community outreach, awareness programmes, environmental initiatives, educational activities and other social-service efforts, providing students with opportunities to learn through meaningful engagement with society.

The Orientation Day concluded on a positive and motivating note, with volunteers carrying forward the spirit of "Not Me But You"-a reminder that true growth comes not only from what we achieve for ourselves, but also from what we contribute to the lives of others. NSS volunteer Tanisha Sharma also presented a folk dance performance

Cyber X Strikers Qualify for Semifinals of Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

S R I N A G A R , September 21, 2026: Cyber X Strikers stormed into the semifinals of the Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026 after registering a dominant 183-run victory over Valley Fresh Cold Chain in the second quarter-final at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

Valley Fresh Cold Chain won the toss and elected to field first, inviting Cyber X Strikers to set a target. Cyber X Strikers put up an impressive total of 235 runs, setting a challenging target for their opponents. In reply, Valley Fresh Cold Chain were bowled out for just 52 runs, handing Cyber X Strikers a comprehensive 183-run victory and a place in the semifinals.

Tajamul Baba was the standout performer of the match, scoring a brilliant 89 runs and claiming one wicket. He was declared Player of the Match for his outstanding all-round performance.

With this convincing win, Cyber X Strikers secured their place in the semifinals of the Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026.

The tournament is being organised by 92.7 BIG FM in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council. Featuring eight teams, the league provides a platform for emerging cricketers across Jammu and Kashmir to showcase their talent while

promoting sportsmanship, teamwork and healthy engagement among young people.

The tournament is supported by Greenlam Laminates as Title Partner, Excise Department, J&K, as Powered By Partner, Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Government of J&K, J&K Forest Department, Qureshi Kabab Corner and Kanwal Spices as Co-Powered By Partners, J&K Bank as Official Banking Partner, Arsh Autos as Auto Partner, Le Delice as Food Partner, JK Sports Time as Streaming Partner, Rising Kashmir as Print Partner, The Country Side Resorts as Hospitality Partner, and Team Ideation as Event Partner.

Abdul Quddir Kundria Distributes Dogri Books to Schools and Villages, Aims to Reach Every Household

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

REASI, Sep 22: With the aim of taking Dogri literature closer to the people and ensuring that books reach every household and village of the district, social and literary worker Abdul Quddir Kundria has been distributing books received from Dogri Sanstha Jammu among schools, libraries and local communities.

At a time when people often find it difficult to spare time for social and literary activities, Abdul Quddir Kundria has continued his efforts to promote reading and strengthen people's connection with their language and literature. For the past several weeks, he has

been visiting different areas and schools to personally distribute books free of cost.

During the past few days, Abdul Quddir Kundria visited Dera Baba Banda Bahadur and adjoining areas, where he provided books for school libraries. The initiative has been undertaken so that students can access reading material easily within their own schools and do not have to travel long distances to find books.

The books are being provided to school libraries with the objective of encouraging students to read during their free time and develop a regular reading habit. The initiative also seeks to make Dogri literature more accessible to children

and young readers and encourage them to remain connected with their language and literary heritage.

For nearly the past three months, books provided to Abdul Quddir Kundria by Dogri Sanstha Jammu have been taken by him to different schools and areas. These include books in Dogri and other languages.

The larger objective of the initiative is not limited to schools but is to take the books to villages, communities and ultimately every household of the district, ensuring that people have an opportunity to access and read literature in their own areas.

20 Tonnes, Rs. 550 Crore, No FIR Yet: Vaishno Devi ‘Fake Silver’ Row Widens; Police to Record Statements of Senior Officials of Shrine Board

Police informs CJM that 116 pages of official records and substantial CCTV/electronic data are under examination; Court grants further time and lists matter for October 10

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sept 22: The alleged Rs.550-crore “fake silver” offerings controversy at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Shrine has entered a significant stage, with the police informing the Court that statements of certain senior officials of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, considered necessary for a comprehensive enquiry, are yet to be recorded.

The police have also disclosed that 116 pages of official records and substantial CCTV and other electronic data concerning the collection, segregation, storage, transportation and processing of the metal offerings have been received and are presently under examination.

The disclosures were made in a status report submitted by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Bhawan, before the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, on September 19.

During the hearing, complainant Advocate Deepak Sharma appeared in person, while the learned Assistant Public Prosecutor filed the DySP’s report. The Court placed the report on record and perused it.

Noting that the Enquiry Officer had sought additional time for completing the enquiry, the Court granted further time on the basis of the facts and grounds stated in the report and permitted the DySP to proceed with the enquiry. The matter has now been listed for October 10, 2026.

The proceedings arise from

Sharma’s complaint seeking registration of an FIR and a fair, comprehensive and scientific investigation into the alleged adulteration, substitution, pilferage and possible misappropriation of approximately 20 tonnes of silver offerings made by devotees at the revered Shrine, reportedly valued at around Rs.550 crore.

Senior Officials Yet to Be Examined

According to the status report, statements of officials of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Pujaris, CRPF personnel deployed at Bhawan, J&K Police officials and Shrine Board security personnel connected with the relevant process have already been recorded.

The police stated that the procedure followed within the Bhawan premises for the collection, handling, segregation and storage of the “white metal” in the Strong Room/Store had been ascertained through the statements of the persons concerned.

Significantly, the report states that the statements of certain senior and concerned Shrine Board officials at Bhawan, whose examination is considered necessary for a comprehensive enquiry, are still to be recorded.

CCTV, Mint Records and 116-Page Record Under Scrutiny

The DySP further informed the Court that correspondence had been addressed to the Joint Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board/SDM Bhawan, seeking preservation and production of the relevant CCTV footage.

The footage sought reportedly concerns the entire process relating to the metal offerings, including their collection, segregation, storage in the Strong Room/Store, transportation from Bhawan to Katra and the procedure followed thereafter.

The police also sought production of the relevant orders, Standard Operating Procedures, rules, guidelines and prescribed procedures governing the handling, storage, transportation and processing of the offerings.

Records relating to the Indian Government Mint were also sought from the Shrine Board for preservation and examination.

According to the report, the material supplied in response to the police correspondence was received on August 18. It comprises 116 pages containing orders, SOPs, procedures and records relating to the handling, storage, transportation and processing of the metal offerings.

The report further states that the CCTV and other electronic data received are substantial in volume and require detailed and systematic examination.

The footage, according to the police, must be carefully viewed to identify relevant events, persons, movements and sequences and thereafter correlated with the statements of the persons concerned and the documentary material collected during the enquiry.

Citing the volume of the documentary and electronic evidence, the DySP sought further time to complete the scrutiny, verification and submission of

the final enquiry report.

Significantly, despite the complaint having remained under examination for more than four months, the status report does not disclose registration of an FIR.

“The police have now formally placed before the Court that substantial documentary and electronic evidence has been obtained, that several categories of officials and security personnel have been examined, and that the statements of senior Shrine Board officials considered necessary for a comprehensive enquiry are still to be recorded,” Advocate Deepak Sharma said.

Sharma further said “The report marks progress, but it also confirms that the enquiry remains incomplete. The senior officials responsible for supervision, custody, transportation, processing, accounting and institutional decision-making must be examined so that responsibility, if any, is determined from the highest level to the operational level. It is equally essential that the original physical material, samples, remnants, resultant bars, CCTV footage, electronic records, Mint documents, audit records and chain-of-custody material are protected against alteration, melting, transfer, destruction, deletion or overwriting. The allegations are yet to be investigated and judicially determined. The pending relief seeking registration of an FIR and a fair, comprehensive and scientific investigation shall continue to be pursued before the competent Court in accordance with law.”

Awareness-cum-Orientation Programme and Start-up Idea Challenge 2.0 Boot Camp Conducted at Government Polytechnic College Jammu



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 22: An Awareness-cum-Orientation Programme on Start-up Idea Challenge 2.0 and Boot Camp was conducted at Government Polytechnic College Jammu in collaboration with the JKEDI District Centre, Jammu, with the objective of creating awareness among students about entrepreneurship, innovation, start-up opportunities and various support mechanisms available to aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Start-up Idea Challenge 2.0 Boot Camp was formally inaugurated by Er. Talet Mahmood, Principal, Government Polytechnic College Jammu. While addressing the participants, the Principal encouraged students to develop innovative ideas, identify real-life problems and explore entrepreneurship as a viable career option. He emphasized the importance of innovation, creativity, technical skills and an entrepreneurial mindset in the present employment landscape.

The programme provided students with an orientation on developing innovative ideas into

viable start-up ventures. The participants were apprised of various stages involved in the entrepreneurial journey, including idea identification, problem solving, business-model development, market assessment, innovation, incubation, mentoring and funding opportunities.

The Start-up Idea Challenge 2.0 Boot Camp further encouraged students to identify local problems and develop innovative and technology-driven solutions. Students were motivated to participate actively in the challenge and transform their ideas into sustainable entrepreneurial ventures. Experts/resource persons from JKEDI District Centre Jammu interacted with the students and provided valuable guidance regarding entrepreneurship development, the start-up ecosystem, registration, mentoring and available institutional support.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members. The initiative served as an important platform for promoting an innovation and entrepreneurship culture among Polytechnic students and

encouraging them to explore opportunities for becoming job creators as well as job seekers.

The programme was conducted with the support and guidance of Er. Talet Mahmood, Principal, Government Polytechnic College Jammu, along with the faculty members and the JKEDI District Centre Jammu.

Government Polytechnic College Jammu remains committed to providing students with opportunities for skill development, innovation, entrepreneurship and industry-oriented learning. Er. Rajkumar H.O.D Mechanical Engineering Department, Er. RajShekhar H.O.D Automobile Engineering Department, Er. Sukhdeep Singh H.O.D Electrical Engineering Department, Er. Jasdeep Kour H.O.D Instrumentation and Control Engineering Department, Er. P.K Angral Incharge H.O.D Electrical Engineering Department, Er. Anshul Mahajan Lecturer Mechanical Engineering Department, Er. Vicky Sharma faculty Electrical Engineering Depa

AHD Jammu conducts four-day long mega awareness campaign

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

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

A series of awareness

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

Extension officer Dr. Suresh Kumar and his team explained the benefits available under numerous schemes/programs of the Animal Husbandry department. The farmers were urged

to avail incentives available under HADP, IDDS and IPDP in the form of impressive subsidies on establishment of Dairy units, Milk Collection, Processing and Transportation/Marketing infrastructure including Refrigerated Milk Vans, Silage bailing and packaging unit, starting new Poultry farms and Hatcheries.

Meanwhile, the subject experts and Veterinary Doctors responded to queries from the farmers’ regarding health related issues of livestock, particularly the recent incidences of



Lumpy Skin Disease.

They suggested appropriate treatment, wherever necessary and gave useful tips on proper

nutrition, housing and overall care and management of the livestock for improving their productivity.

PDP, NC MLAs Call For Relaxing Security Restrictions On Srinagar-Jammu National Highway



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

Srinagar, Sep 22: PDP MLA Waheed Para on Tuesday raised in the Assembly the issue of security-related restrictions on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, and urged the government to take it up with the Unified Command and the Centre to put an end to the “discrimination” faced by locals. Geographic Reference

“It has created a real sense of humiliation for all of us, like a Berlin Wall,” Para, the MLA from South Kashmir’s Pulwama, said during the Zero Hour, while flagging frequent stoppages and restrictions on the highway in South Kashmir during convoy

movement, Amarnath Yatra and the tourist season.

The MLA said that the concerns of residents must be addressed while maintaining necessary security arrangements and ensuring dignity and equal treatment for people using the highway.

“Whenever we set out from there in the morning -- though we travel as VIPs and our roads are cleared -- the common people face immense hardships. It has become a sense of discrimination.

“Every day, whether it is for tourists, the Yatra or convoys, the locals -- the very people who gave their land, who built the highway -- are stopped. Every day, they are forced to wait for 10 to 15 minutes,” he said.

Para said that the residents should not be made to bear the consequences of security-related restrictions and should not be treated as a problem or subjected to unnecessary hardship in their own region.

“If today, even after 70 years, a Kashmiri cannot walk along the highway with the rest of the nation, if this discrimination continues just because of a single past attack, it represents a grave inequality,” he said.

Para urged the elected government to take up the issue with security agencies and the Unified Command to review the existing restrictions to ensure that security measures do not result in “discrimination, humiliation or unnecessary disruption” of civilian movement.

“The government must take this up with the Government of India, with the security forces, with the CRPF. I think all of us need to raise this issue: this discrimination on the highway must end, and it should be taken up with the Unified Command,” he said.

Clean Himalayan & Hill Cities Initiative District Committee approves implementation plan for Patnitop



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

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

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

A threadbare discussion was held on different aspects of the initiative and its implementa-

tion on the ground. The Committee discussed the various components proposed under the CHHCI Action Plan and approved the implementation plan.

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

He stressed the importance of close coordination among the stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the initiative and promote the sustainable, clean and environmentally responsible development of Patnitop as a premier hill destination.

Media Delegation from Bhopal Visits Jammu; Briefed on Major Aviation Modernization at Civil Enclave and Landmark Industrial Growth under J&K Industrial Policy

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, September 22: A media delegation from Bhopal, currently on an exposure tour conducted by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), visited the Civil Enclave at Jammu Airport today, where they were given a comprehensive walkthrough and briefing on the airport's existing aviation infrastructure and the ongoing large-scale expansion anchored by the upcoming New Terminal Building.

Briefing the delegation at the Civil Enclave, Director, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Jammu Airport, Shri Devender Yadav highlighted the facility's dual administrative framework, wherein the runway is maintained and operated by Defence authorities while

terminal facilities, airside commercial operations, and passenger management are handled by the AAI, reinforced by robust security protocols overseen in coordination with Defence forces.

Shri Devender Yadav informed the journalists that the ambitious modernization and expansion project, sanctioned at an estimated construction cost of ₹864 crore, is progressing on schedule after commencing toward the close of FY 2023-24. “Around 70 percent of the construction work is already done, and the project is expected to be complete by November 2026,” Shri Yadav said, further adding that the proposal to elevate Jammu Airport into a full-fledged international airport remains under active consideration.

J-K LG offers prayers at Vaishno Devi shrine



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 22: In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Sunday and prayed for the peace, prosperity and progress of the UT during his visit to the Holy Shrine, the LG inaugurated and dedicated the new Yagyashala facility at Bhawan to the devotees. The Yagyashala, an integral part of the religious

landscape, has been meticulously designed and constructed to enhance spiritual practices at Bhawan. It will serve the religious needs of devotees and address pilgrims keen to experience and participate in the religious rituals. The newly constructed Yagyashala, situated near the old Bathing Ghat below the Atka area at main Bhawan, comprises five Hawan Kunds spread across 1600 square feet. This expansive design enables a

threefold increase in capacity, allowing 10 groups of pilgrims to perform Hawan Poojan concurrently, up from the previous limit of three groups. Additionally, an approach gallery with a covered area of 1100 square feet has been created, leading up to the Yagyashala. This gallery can accommodate more than 100 pilgrims during the Shat Chandi Mahayagya, conducted regularly during Navratras.

J&K Assembly holds Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign; CM, Ministers, Legislators take cleanliness pledge



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22: As part of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 campaign, a special Swachhata Signature and Pledge campaign was organised at the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar, today, with the elected representatives and members of the House joining together to reaffirm the message of cleanliness, collective responsibility and sustained public participation. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, along with Ministers, legislators and other dignitaries, participated in the campaign and joined the signature initiative, reaffirming the importance of making Swachhata a shared responsibility

and an integral part of everyday life. The initiative is part of the nationwide SHS 2026 campaign, being observed from 17 September to 02 October 2026 under the theme "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat." The campaign places emphasis on Jan Bhagidari, transformation of Cleanliness Target Units and public places, youth engagement, sanitation-worker welfare, source segregation and Waste-to-Wealth initiatives. The participation of the elected representatives at the Legislative Assembly provided a strong platform for reinforcing the message that cleanliness transcends the institutional boundaries and requires sustained involvement of citizens, communities

and public representatives. The campaign also encourages the Members of the Legislative Assembly to carry the message of Swachhata to their respective constituencies and promote community participation in cleanliness drives, responsible waste management, source segregation and other sanitation-related initiatives. The Directorate of Rural Sanitation has been coordinating the UT-wide SHS 2026 campaign, which was formally launched at Block Khonmoh, Srinagar, on September 17. At the launch, Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra called for transforming cleanliness from a time-bound campaign into a sustained habit and emphasised that Swachhata should have no defined beginning or end. The Legislative Assembly campaign further strengthened this message by bringing the principles of Jan Bhagidari, collective action and behavioural change into the highest democratic forum of the Union Territory. The SHS 2026 campaign will continue with a range of activities across Jammu & Kashmir, focusing on visible cleanliness outcomes, citizen participation, youth engagement, sanitation-worker welfare, waste management and sustained behavioural change.

Hanuman Ansh box office collection: Neem Karoli Baba biopic earns Rs 350 crore worldwide

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NEW DELHI: The film made on a budget of Rs 2 crore has amassed massive success, crossing the



Rs 350 crore mark and creating a solid impact. Hanuman Ansh, directed by Vishal Chaturvedi, opened with Rs 10 lakh and minted Rs 276 crore

in India after 46 days. Let's take a look at the box office collection below: **Hanuman Ansh box office collection** According to the trade tracking site Sacnilk, Hanuman Ansh on day 46 collected a net of Rs 4.15 Cr across 7,629 shows. This brings total India gross collections to Rs 325.95 Cr and total India net collections to Rs 276.03 Cr so far. Overseas, the film collected Rs 0.50 Cr on Day 46, taking its total overseas gross to Rs 26.50 Cr so far. This pushes the

Lieutenant Governor Launches Book on Sardar Patel's Jammu Kashmir Legacy

Lieutenant Governor underscores Sardar Patel's decisive leadership in integrating princely states and shaping modern India

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today launched the book "Sardar Patel and Kashmir: The Untold History". He paid homage to the foresight and nation-building genius of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and expressed gratitude to Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan Ji. The Lieutenant Governor commended the Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan for its unparalleled contributions to spiritual upliftment, education, and humanitarian service. He also congratulated Dr. Rizwan Kadri for editing and publishing this important work.

In his speech, the Lieutenant Governor described Sardar Patel as the "architect of modern India," whose indomitable will and practical wisdom ensured the integration of 562 princely states into a united country. He emphasized that Sardar Patel's vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" continues to define the essence of India's democracy and unity in diversity. The Lieutenant Governor recalled Sardar Patel's firm stance on Jammu Kashmir, noting his declaration that "we will not give even an inch of Jammu Kashmir's terri-



tory to anyone." He reflected on Sardar Patel's deep understanding of the nation's pulse and his ability to connect with the common people, workers and communities across India. "Through his indomitable willpower, clear vision, selfless diligence, and skilful organisational strength, he ensured that the dream of an undivided India became a reality. I also believe that had Sardar Patel been given the responsibility for Jammu Kashmir, perhaps the problems that the people here endured for more than six decades would not have arisen," he said. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the book's significance as a serious attempt to re-evaluate history with honesty and impartiality. He cautioned that for too long, historical narratives were shaped by ideological biases that overlooked the decisive contributions of leaders

like Sardar Patel. He urged the new generation of writers to treat history as a mirror of truth, not as a tool for glorification, and to learn from past decisions to guide the future. He also described the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in August 2019 as the fulfilment of Sardar Patel's unfinished dream. The Lieutenant Governor noted that this constitutional change was not merely legal but a profound step towards psychological and emotional integration, ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all communities in Jammu Kashmir. "In August 2019, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the nation witnessed a historic constitutional change. New possibili-

ties of education, employment, entrepreneurship and development opened up for the youth. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's decision proved that when national interest becomes the supreme priority, no obstacle remains permanent. This is the same firm willpower whose glimpse we saw in Sardar Patel's nation-building efforts in 1947. I believe that by consigning the era of Article 370 to history, Jammu Kashmir now stands at the threshold of a new future," he said. The Lieutenant Governor also outlined 4 priorities for Jammu Kashmir's future: peace through zero tolerance towards terrorism, rapid development through infrastructure and connectivity, empowerment

of youth by linking them to India's digital economy and startup culture, and revival of cultural heritage to strengthen tourism and human values. He envisioned Srinagar, Jammu, and other cities of the Union Territory as vibrant centres of education, trade, and innovation. He described the book as a "lighthouse" that illuminates Sardar Patel's dream of a united, confident India. He called upon citizens to dedicate themselves to the ideals of unity, integrity, and patriotism, and to build an India that leads the world not only economically but also through moral leadership, cultural richness, and democratic values. Acharya Shree Jitendriyapriyadasji Swamiji Maharaj; Shri Kishor Makwana, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Castes; Dr. Rizwan Kadri; Swami Bhagwat Priya Das Ji; Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; senior officials, prominent literary personalities and office bearers of Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan attended the book launch ceremony.

CM Omar Abdullah presides over MoU signing between SKIMS and J&K Bank

MoU to expand healthcare access, financial services across J&K



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd and Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), aimed at expanding healthcare access and strengthening institutional financial services across Jammu and Kashmir. The MoU was signed by Director SKIMS Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie on behalf of SKIMS and J&K Bank MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee on

behalf of J&K Bank Ltd. Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani among others, were present on the occasion. The agreement brings together the J&K's premier tertiary-care institution and its leading financial institution to facilitate patient services, employee welfare, financial inclusion and support for healthcare infrastructure. A key feature of the MoU is the integration of SKIMS' OPD ticketing and appointment booking system with the Banking Correspondent (BC) network of J&K Bank on a six-month pilot basis.

The initiative will enable patients in far-flung and rural areas to obtain SKIMS OPD tickets and appointments locally, reducing the need for them to travel to Srinagar solely for the purpose of booking appointments. Under the agreement, SKIMS has nominated J&K Bank as a banking partner and extended customized benefits to its regular employees, including zero-balance salary accounts, waiver of specified banking charges, concessional loan rates, auto-sweep facilities among other facilities. The MoU also provides for dedicated counters at SKIMS for J&K Bank employees, while SKIMS will depute a physician to the Bank's headquarters once every month to facilitate medical consultations for its staff. The partnership also envisages greater institutional support for patients and healthcare infrastructure. J&K Bank will prioritize CSR assistance for SKIMS hospital infrastructure and integrate the SKIMS Endowment Fund for poor patients with its Mpay Delight+ mobile application, enabling members of the public to contribute directly towards patient support. As part of the agreement, J&K Bank will also conduct fully funded digital financial literacy camps for SKIMS personnel and organize quarterly sessions on wealth management.

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