



Indian killed in missile attack on merchant vessel near coast of Oman

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEW DELHI, Sep 24: An Indian seafarer from Uttar Pradesh was killed after sustaining head injuries in a missile attack on the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged bulk carrier MV Cape Dao off the coast of Oman, Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Wednesday. The vessel was carrying 20 Indian seafarers while transiting towards India.

Government Response and Repatriation Efforts
The 19 surviving crew members were safely evacuated by the Royal Navy of Oman and are currently ashore, Sonowal said. My heartfelt condolences to the family of young Indian seafarer, Wiper Suraj Yadav from Uttar Pradesh, who tragically succumbed to head injuries following a missile attack on M.V. CAPE DAO,' the minister said in a post on X.

DAILY NEWS TILL DATE

From The Desk Of Editor-In-Chief

JAMMU, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Maharaja Hari Singh's Legacy Is Bigger Than Sheikh Abdullah



RAJESH GUPTA

Jammu Must Not Be Dragged Into a Battle Over Historical Icons

The uproar in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly over holidays commemorating Maharaja Hari Singh and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah has exposed a deeper problem: history is again being turned into a political confrontation, while the sentiments attached to these figures are being treated as opposing camps.

National Conference legislator Abdul Majeed Larmi demanded restoration of an official holiday on Sheikh Abdullah's birth anniversary on December 5 and sought a holiday on his death anniversary on September 8. He also argued that if such a holiday is not restored, the holiday marking Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday should be scrapped. The remarks triggered protests from BJP legislators, who raised slogans in support of Maharaja Hari Singh. NC members responded with slogans honouring Sheikh Abdullah.

Maharaja Hari Singh remains a revered figure for many people in Jammu, and any statement perceived as dismissive of his legacy inevitably touches a sensitive emotional nerve. At the same time, Sheikh Abdullah remains a significant and contested figure in the political history of Jammu and Kashmir, with his supporters attaching their historical and political meaning to his legacy.

The answer cannot be to erase one figure in order to honour another.

If legislators want holidays restored for Sheikh Abdullah, they should make that case through proper administrative channels. If others oppose such restoration, they should explain their position through facts and reasoned debate. Turning the issue into a demand to cancel Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday holiday only deepens the divide.

Larmi should also recognise the emotional importance Maharaja Hari Singh holds for Jammu and publicly clarify his remarks if they caused hurt or were understood as disrespectful. An apology, where appropriate, can help lower political temperature rather than inflame it.

Maharaja Hari Singh's historical contribution, including his role in the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India, and Sheikh Abdullah's place in the region's political history deserve serious discussion, not slogan-based confrontation.

The Assembly should debate history without weaponising it. Jammu and Kashmir needs reconciliation, not another contest over whose legacy must disappear from the calendar.

Maharaja Hari Singh's 131th Birth Anniversary celebrated across J&K

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: The 131st birth anniversary of the last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh was celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, with political and social groups holding programmes and paying tributes to the erstwhile ruler.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the Maharaja and said his ideals of public service, equality and inclusive development should continue to guide society.

"An enlightened statesman and progressive thinker, he introduced far-reaching reforms for the welfare and empowerment of the people," Sinha said in a post on X.

The celebrations came amid a controversy over a demand in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for withdrawal of the public holiday on Maharaja's birth anniversary.

The BJP opposed the demand and asserted that the holiday, declared by the J&K administration in 2022 following a prolonged agitation led by the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS), should not be cancelled.

J&K BJP president and MP Sat Sharma, speaking at a function in Jammu, said the Maharaja held a special place in the history of Jammu and Kashmir and his contribution to the region and its integration with India would be remembered for generations. "Maharaja Hari Singh gave Jammu and Kashmir a distinct identity and played an important role in its history," Sharma said. His remarks came a day after NC MLA Abdul Majid Larmi sought restoration of a holiday on the birth anniversary of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and said that, if it was not restored, the holiday marking Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary should be withdrawn.

BJP members opposed the suggestion and later staged a walkout from the Assembly.

J&K BJP General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul, who attended a function in Srinagar, said remembering historical personalities was not wrong and described the Maharaja as an important figure in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Maharaja Hari Singh ruled Jammu and Kashmir for 22 years. During his rule, there were significant changes in education, health and infrastructure," Kaul said.

YRS activists, meanwhile, took out rallies in several districts, particularly in Jammu city, to mark the occasion. Activists in traditional attire, some carrying swords, took out a motor rally to Tawi bridge and garlanded the Maharaja's statue amid slogans.

YRS leader Yudhvir Singh said the public holiday was a long-pending demand and expressed concern over the reported demand for its withdrawal. BJP MLA Devyani Rana said Singh's contribution extended beyond Jammu and Kashmir to the larger national history and "we will neither allow it (holiday) to be cancelled nor should it be cancelled."

The BJP organised main programmes in Jammu and Srinagar, where leaders and workers paid floral tributes to the Maharaja.

Leaders and workers of various political parties, including the Congress and Democratic Progressive Azad Party, besides social organisations, also visited the venue separately to pay tributes. Cake-cutting ceremonies were also held amid drum beats.

As per the reports, Maharaja's birth anniversary was celebrated by taking out rallies and holding community kitchens in various districts across the Jammu region.





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65 Dogri poets participated Dogri Kavi Goshti organised by NDS

SYNOPSIS

2 policemen found dead inside car in Ramban

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

RAMBAN, Sep 23 : Two police personnel were found dead inside a car in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Tuesday evening, officials said.

The bodies were recovered from a Fiat Linea car (JK-19/5299) at Ziarat Morh in the Sana area of Batote tehsil around 8:30 pm, they said.

Locals rushed the two unconscious policemen to District Hospital Ramban, where doctors declared them brought dead, officials said.

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J&K High Court assigns additional charge to 2 Judges/ Members

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sept 23: High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh assigned two Officials with additional responsibilities until further orders.

As per details with Cross Town News, Pawan Kumar Sharma, Special Judge for Anti-Corruption (CBI cases) in Jammu, will now also hold the charge of Member of the J&K Special Tribunal in Jammu.

Also, Manoj Parihar, a One Man Forest Authority, has been assigned the additional charge of Member of the J&K Special Tribunal in Srinagar.

BJP MLA missing son traced to Delhi, being brought back

TP CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, Sep 23: The 17-year-old son of BJP Hiranagar MLA Vijay Kumar was traced to Delhi early Wednesday, a day after he was reported missing from his hometown in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Aditya Kumar, a Class 11 student, left for Delhi on Tuesday evening to meet his sister without informing his family, prompting them to file a missing person report at the local police station, the officials said. After hectic efforts, police

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Gangster Karanjeet Gugga who fled with Two Pakistani inmates arrested after 7 months

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: A Jammu-based gangster, who had escaped from a juvenile home along with two Pakistani nationals from R S Pura area here, was arrested in Delhi after a seven-month-long hunt, officials said on Wednesday. While both the Pakistani

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Omar Underscores Education, Health as Priorities for J&K's Global Competitiveness

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sept 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said education and healthcare must remain the top priorities of the Jammu and Kashmir Government to enable children from the Union Territory to compete at national and international levels. Travel Guides & Travelogues Addressing students at the ALOHA National

Level Competition (NLC)-2026 at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, the Chief Minister praised the performance of participating children, particularly their ability to solve complex arithmetic problems mentally. "Today, these children have really made me feel ashamed. If you had given me a calculator, I would not have

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600mn beneficiaries covered since 2018; PM Modi on 8 yrs of Ayushman Bharat

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEW DELHI, Sep 23: Over 600 million beneficiaries have been covered since the launch of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY) in 2018, according to Union ministry of health and family welfare data released on Wednesday.

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LG Manoj Sinha Remembers Maharaja Hari Singh, Hails His Progressive Reforms And Public Service

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sept 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh on the occasion of his birth anniversary, recalling his contribution to social reforms, public welfare and inclusive development.

In a message posted on X, the Lieutenant Governor described

Contd. on Page 7

**"Can't teach others about history": CM Omar hits back at BJP on Sheikh Abdullah's remark Says NC's sacrifices cannot be erased; "Elected govt has no authority to ban books"**

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 23 : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday hit back at the BJP over remarks on National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, saying those who did not participate in the freedom struggle could not teach others about that period of history.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at SKICC in Srinagar, CM Omar questioned the historical role of the RSS and the BJP's predecessor organisation, asserting that the contribution and sacrifices of the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir could not be erased.

"The people who did not take part in the fight for freedom, what lesson will they teach us? RSS and the ancestral party of BJP, everyone knows their role in the fight for freedom. Everyone knows who apologised and what they did," he said.

Omar said Sheikh Abdullah's role in Jammu and Kashmir's history was well known and that the sacrifices associated with the National Conference could not be forgotten.

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Azad appreciated Dr. Darakhshan for her efforts for exemplary Shrine Development in J&K

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 23: Former Chief Minister Gh. Nabi Azad Sahab,

after visiting the historic Hazratbal Shrine today, expressed deep appreciation for the

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BJP names Satish Poonia as in-charge for J&K, Rajkumar Bhatia gets Ladakh

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23 : The BJP on Wednesday announced new state in-charges and co-in-charges as part of a nationwide organisational reshuffle, naming senior leader Satish Poonia as the party's in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir and Reena Kashyap of Himachal Pradesh as co-in-charge.

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Baramulla police attaches residential property under UAPA in terror-related case

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

BARAMULLA, Sep 23: Baramulla Police has attached a residential property under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, in connection with a terror-related

case registered at Police Station Sheeri.

The case is registered under Sections 7/25 of the Arms Act and Sections 13, 18, 19, 20, 23, 38 and 39 of the UAPA.

The attached property is a double-storeyed

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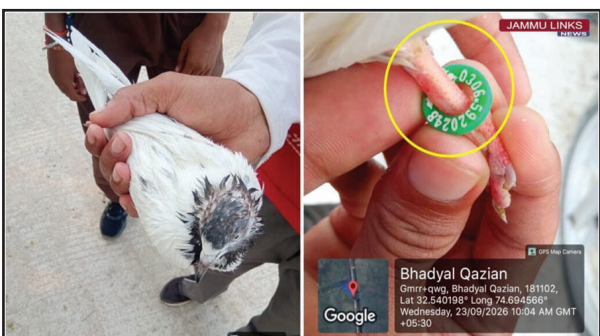
Pakistan must take credible action on crossborder terror before world believes it: MEA

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEW DELHI, Sep 23: India has asserted that Pakistan must execute credible measures against cross-border ter-

rorism prior to the international community placing any trust in its assertions, while launching a scathing critique

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Pakistani Pigeon Found in RS Pura Sector, Security Agencies Examine Ring

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: A pigeon believed to have flown in from the Pakistani side was found in the RS Pura sector of Jammu and Kashmir,

with a ring carrying a Pakistani mobile number tied to its leg, officials said.

The pigeon was found with the ring bearing the number +92 03065920248,

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UP man kills wife, 2 priests, took 3 children hostage shot dead in encounter

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

AZHAMGARH, Sep 23: A man who allegedly shot his wife and two priests before taking three children hostage in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh on Tuesday was killed in a police

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IIA J&K Chapter Gets New Team for 2026-28, Vishal Abrol Takes Charge as Chairman



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: The Indian Institute of Architects, J&K Chapter held its Annual General Body Meeting and Change of Guard ceremony at Amar Singh Club, Jammu.

In a symbolic change of baton, the outgoing team led by Chairman *Ar. Vikas Dubey* handed over charge to the new team. Ar. Dubey was lauded for taking the Chapter to national

prominence and was congratulated on his elevation to the National Council, IIA.

The new team for the term 2026-28 will be led by *Ar. Vishal Abrol as Chairman* and *Ar. Harbinder Pal Singh as Vice Chairman*.

Other office bearers are: Hon. Secretaries - Ar. Sandeepu Dhar & Ar. Sunil Nagari, Hon. Treasurer - Ar. Manu Rajput, Executive Members - Ar. Arshia Khajooria, Ar. Kulbir

Thakur, Ar. Anoop Sharma, Ar.vivek, Ar. Randhir Chand, Ar. Annav Sharma, Ar. Kushagra, Ar. Maninder and Ar. Archana Razdan.

The program was conducted by Ar. Arshia Khajooria. Welcome address was given by Ar. Anil Verma and Vote of Thanks by Ar. Harbinder Pal Singh. The new Chairman pledged to strengthen national-level networking and work for the benefit of the fraternity.

SMVDU Organises Three-Day Clay Modeling Workshop for B.Design Students



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), organized a three-day Clay Modelling Workshop for students of the Bachelor of Design (B.Des.) programme. The workshop brought together students from the batch 2024, Batch 2025, Batch 2026 providing them with hands-on exposure to clay as a material for form development, product conceptualization and industrial design.

Mr. Kunal Sadotra, Sculptor, served as the resource person and guided the students through various aspects of clay modelling, including material handling, clay preparation, tool usage, moulding techniques, form development and industrial modelling processes.

The workshop introduced students to the significance of understanding form and shape in the three-dimensional world, along with the principles of Colour, Material and Finish (CMF) in industrial and product design. The sessions also highlighted the continuing relevance of physical clay modeling in contemporary industrial and product design, particularly in aerodynamic development, prototyping, form exploration and auto-

mated design processes. Students were encouraged to transform conceptual ideas into tangible physical forms while developing an understanding of the relationship between material, process and finish. The workshop was coordinated by Mr. Abhinav Behal, Assistant Professor, School of Design, with support from Dr. Aditi Sharma, Assistant Professor, SoD and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Associate Porfessor, SME. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Ankush Anand, P r o g r a m m e Coordinator, B. Design. Prof Anand informed that workshop provided students with valuable practical exposure and strengthened their understanding of three-dimensional form, material behaviour, modelling techniques and design processes and conveyed thanks to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU for the overall guidance and support.

The workshop also helped the participants to bridge foundational design education with contemporary practices in industrial and product design, encouraging students to explore the potential of physical modeling as an integral part of the design development process.

Beating of Police Personnels by goons a matter of great concern

HRAK & PHDCCI strongly condemned the menace of Touts and Anti-Social Elements at Railway Station Katra

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: A joint meeting of Hotel & Restaurant Association Katra (HRAK) and PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu Region (PHDCCI) was held here today wherein strong concern over the alleged ransom of Katra Railway Station by Touts,Anti Social elements and druggists, causing serious problems to the pilgrims and tourists and adversely affecting the image of Katra Vishnudev was shown.

The associations stated that complaints regarding such activities have regularly been brought to the notice of the Central Railway Police, Katra, but no effective action has been taken against them till date.

Rakesh Wazir President HRAK & Chairman PHDCCI showed strong resentment against the alleged unchecked activities of these elements, who besides doing all illegal activities overhere at Railway Station besides fleecing pilgrims on false promises, taking them to different places and subsequently misbehaving with them is bringing all bad name to the holy

township of Katra and Katra Railway Station is becoming the hub of such anti social elements, which is causing serious concern among the tourism and hospitality fraternity.

He said that earlier people were scared of such elements and usually used to become the victim of these anti social elements and mis behaviour with them was a routine matter but it is surprising that , their courage has now allegedly reached such a level that, yesterday, they attacked personnels of Police on duty even, and videos of the incident gone viral all over world,which is a matter of shame for concerned.

Shyam Lal Kesar, while speaking on the occasion, said that under the Tourism Trade A c t , T o u r i s m Department is the only competent authority to issue licences/identity cards to tourist guides in J&K and no person other than those cards is authorised to guide even to the pilgrims then how these touts in that large number are allowed in the Railway Station Katra premises is surprising for all of us.

He said that katra is the most sensitive place

and pilgrims from all over the world come over here and any good or bad thing happening overhere makes an impact on the whole union territory and especially it's impact appears to be more in J&K because it is a Tourism related Union Territory and any bad happening makes a major adverse impact on the economy of J&K.

Virender Kesar HRAK Sr.Vice President HRAK & Head PHDCCI Katra said that if the Police personnel can be beaten by goons and anti social elements what would be the position of an ordinary person and urged Lieutenant Governor, Director General of Police and top authorities to immediately intervene in the matter and take effective steps to curb this menace.

He cautioned that if the situation is not addressed promptly, it will lead to a major law-and-order problem and will adversely affect the pilgrimage and tourism as a whole in J&K.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Vivek Sharma,Ramneek Nawada,Sudershan Sh a r m a , K u l d e e p Kesar,Vikas Gupta,Amit Rahi, etc.

Local Artists Get Opportunity to Perform Bhajans at Adhkuwari



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: : The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Katra, is making commendable efforts to encourage and promote local artists by providing them opportunities to showcase their talent at the holy shrine, said Sahil Mahajan, Manager Director of Maa Bawe Wali Records.

Mahajan said that, with the support and cooperation of the Joint Chief Executive Officer Satish Sharma of the Shrine Board, katra local

artists from Jammu have been given an opportunity to perform bhajans and devotional music during the Aarti at Adhkuwari.

He said that Jammu-based artists will present their devotional performances during the Aarti at Adhkuwari from September 29 to November 6. He expressed gratitude to Satish Sharma, Joint Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, for extending support to local artists and facilitating the opportunity.

Mahajan said that performing at the sacred abode of Mata Vaishno Devi is a matter of immense pride for local artists.

Such opportunities provide them with a prestigious platform to showcase their talent before devotees visiting the shrine from different parts of the country.

He specifically thanked the Shrine Board for providing Manik Sareen, Master Munish and Sahil Mahajan the opportunity to perform during the Aarti at Adhkuwari.

Mahajan said that providing a platform to local artists at a spiritually significant destination like Mata Vaishno Devi not only encourages emerging talent but also contributes to the promotion and preservation of Jammu's rich artistic and cultural heritage.

He expressed hope that the Shrine Board would continue its efforts to promote local artists and provide them with more such opportunities in the future.

Indian Army organised : Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam: campaign at Hanch, Doda



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

DODA, Sep 23: The Indian Army organised the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign at Hanch, Doda, Jammu & Kashmir on 22 Sep 2026 in collaboration with local school students. The campaign aimed to promote environmental conservation and create awareness among the younger generation about the importance of protecting and nurturing the environment. During the programme, The Indian Army troops and school students jointly participated in a tree plantation drive and planted saplings in and around the school premises.

The initiative provided an opportunity for students to actively contribute towards environmental protection while fostering a sense of responsibility towards nature. Their enthusiastic participation also highlighted the importance of collective efforts in creating a greener and more sustainable future. The campaign further encouraged students to understand the significance of afforestation, environmental stewardship and sustainable practices in preserving natural resources for future generations.

The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign reflects the Indian Army's continued commitment towards environmental conservation, youth engagement and strengthening people-to-force connect in the region.

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The Courage She Instilled Returns as Her Anchor: This Daughters' Day, Clinic Plus Proves Beti Hoti Hai Maa Ki Mazbooti

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: 'Maa ki Majboori nahi, Beti Hoti hai Maa ki Mazbooti' This is the thought at the heart of Clinic Plus' new film. Ahead of Daughters' Day, Clinic Plus celebrates the mother-daughter bond and the silent force they become for one another. In Indian households, mothers have long taught their daughters to stand up for themselves and find their voice, even as they are expected to stay silent, adjust, and absorb quiet compromises in their own lives. Yet, it is the daughter who observes what the rest of the world misses, intuitively reading her mother's silent sacrifices and absorbing her grace under pressure. The film honors today's daughter not just as a child to be nurtured, but as her mother's ultimate anchor: a confidante whose empathy, quiet presence, and belief give her mother the courage to step forward and choose herself.

Framed around a book

launch where an author celebrates a collection of poems drawn from her own life.

When asked what inspired her writing, the mother simply points towards her daughter, letting the narrative unfold from a childhood moment where the young girl requests a single braid instead of two, setting up the core metaphor that true strength lies within. As the years pass, their bond evolves from passive observation to active support.

While everyone around the mother advises her to adjust and endure a difficult marriage, it is her daughter who helps her see the situation differently, quietly reading between the lines of what a mother leaves unsaid. Sometimes, strength can mean choosing oneself, and ultimately, this shared resilience gives the mother the courage to rebuild her life on her own terms, coming full circle back to the book launch where she acknowledges her daughter as her ultimate source of strength.

Harman Dhillon, Executive Director, Beauty & Wellbeing, HUL said, "A mother raises her daughter to be strong, empathetic, and independent, and one day, that becomes the mother's greatest anchor."

This film is a celebration of that beautiful shift, where the confidence a mother gives her daughter becomes her primary source of support and courage.

We dedicate this story to the 1.3 crore single mothers across India whose resilience not only shapes their daughters' future, but proves that beti hoti hai maa ki mazbooti."

The campaign builds on Clinic Plus' long-standing association with mothers raising strong daughters. This Daughters' Day, Clinic Plus celebrates a profound shift in the mother-daughter bond: the hands that once taught a daughter to be strong are now held steady by the daughter herself.

Sometimes, the



human life lay in becoming useful to oneself, society and the Supreme Being. Through renunciation and inner peace, a person becomes useful to oneself, through generosity and service, useful to society and through loving devotion, useful to the Supreme Being.

"To become a peaceful, generous and loving devotee is the true glory of human life," he said, adding that renunciation did not mean abandoning the world but giving up attachment, ego, possessiveness, greed and excessive worldly desires.

He said the Supreme Being was not unattainable but eternally present, and what was required was to remain connected with satsang so that awareness and remembrance of the eternal truth remained alive. He also urged devotees to speak the truth and follow the path of righteousness for a meaningful and fulfilling life.

The discourse deeply moved the devotees, with the atmosphere resonating with chants of "Shri Guru Maharaj Ki Jai", "Kama Ke Kanhaiya Ki Jai" and "Lathi Wale Bhaiyya Ki Jai".

Earlier, large numbers of devotees accorded a grand welcome to Shri Maharaj Ji at Purani Mandi, New Plot, Roop Nagar and Durga Nagar. Among those present, along with thousands of devotees, were former Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court Justice R. C. Gandhi, former Chief Secretary V. K. Sharma, BJP office-bearers, senior officials and other distinguished personalities.

Meanwhile, a Grand Dharma Conference will be organised on September 24 and 25 at Jammu Club, M.A.M. Stadium where Shri Maharaj Ji will deliver discourses imbued with devotion, spirituality and patriotism.

Shri Hari Kripa Seva Samiti has appealed to devotees and followers of Dharma to attend the conference with their families and benefit from the spiritual programme.

India's Female Labour Force Participation Is Rising. But Are Women Getting Better Jobs?

By Sandhya Krishnan

FOR YEARS, India's low participation of women in the workforce has been a cause for concern. The latest numbers offer some reason for optimism. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2025, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the labour force participation rate for women aged 15 and above stood at 40 per cent. In rural India, it was even higher at 45.9 per cent.[1]

These are important numbers. More women being part of the workforce is good news. But before we celebrate, we need to ask a second question: what kind of work are women really getting?

A woman being counted as part of the workforce does not automatically mean that she has a secure job, a regular salary or even an income of her own. She could be running a successful business. But she could also be helping on the family farm, working in a family enterprise without a regular wage, or doing small amounts of home-based work because a salaried job is simply not possible for her. These are very different realities, even though all of them can add to the employment numbers. That is why India's conversation about women's employment needs to move beyond a top line number.

Working does not always mean earning well. Self-employment is

an important part of India's economy and should not automatically be seen as poor-quality work. Many women build businesses, run farms and create livelihoods for themselves and others. But self-employment can mean very different things.

There is a considerable difference between a woman who chooses to start and grow a business because she sees an opportunity and one who starts selling food, stitching clothes or doing piece-rate work from home because there are no suitable jobs nearby.

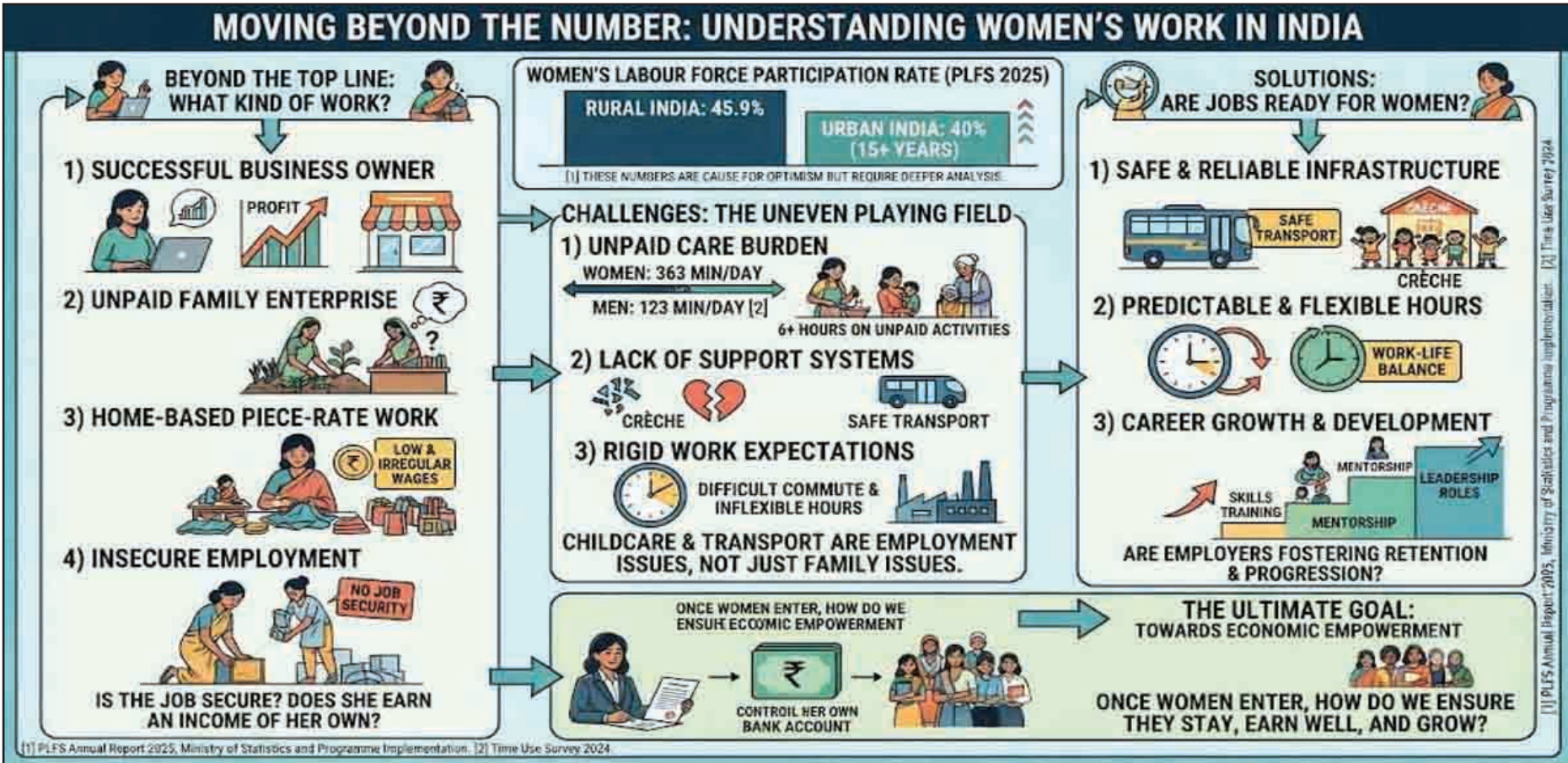
Similarly, unpaid work in a family farm or business is still work. It contributes to the household economy. But if the woman doing that work has little control over the income it generates, we should be careful about treating it as evidence of financial independence.

The question, therefore, should not simply be whether women are working. We should also ask: Are they earning enough? Do they control their earnings? Do they have job security? Can they move into better-paying work overtime?

Women are not choosing jobs on a level playing field.

One reason women may end up in informal or home-based work is that their employment choices are shaped by responsibilities outside the workplace.

The government's Time Use Survey 2024 makes this visible. Among people participating in unpaid activities, women spent an average of



363 minutes a day on such work. That is just over six hours. Men participating in unpaid activities spent 123 minutes[2]. Those hours matter. Imagine a woman who cooks breakfast, gets children ready for school, cares for an elderly parent and is expected to prepare dinner in the evening. A job that requires a long commute or rigid working hours may be almost impossible for her, however qualified she is.

She may therefore choose something closer to home or work that allows her to manage both responsibilities. We often describe such decisions as women's "choices". But sometimes they are choices made within very narrow limits. This is why childcare should not be seen only as a family or welfare issue. It is an employment issue.

A reliable crèche can make the difference between a woman taking a job and staying at home. Safe and affordable transport can determine whether she can work in an industrial area or commercial centre several kilometres away. Predictable working hours can decide whether she remains in a job after having a child.

These may appear to be small issues when compared with large employment schemes, but they often decide whether employment actually works for women.

We also need to look at employers. Much of India's employment policy focuses on women themselves. Women need skills. Women need training. Women need confidence. Women need to become "job-ready". All of this can help.

But it also raises an uncomfortable question: Are jobs ready for women?

A woman can complete an excellent training programme and still drop out of employment if there is no safe way to travel home after an evening shift. She may be recruited into a factory but leave because there is no suitable childcare. Another may join a company only to find that the jobs offering real career growth are difficult to combine with the responsibilities she is expected to carry at home. Employers therefore need to become part of the solution.

The aim should not simply be to encourage companies to hire more women. We should also look at whether women stay, whether their wages rise and whether they move into supervisory,

technical and leadership roles. Employer incentives could increasingly reward retention and progression rather than recruitment alone.

Measure what happens after women enter work.

India should continue to track female labour force participation. It is an important measure and the increase deserves recognition. But it should sit alongside a broader set of questions.

What proportion of women have regular salaried work? How much are they earning? How many have access to social security? Are women moving from low-paying occupations into better-paying ones? How many remain in employment after three or five years? Are women entering sectors traditionally dominated by men?

These questions tell us something that participation rates alone cannot: whether employment is actually improving women's economic lives.

The latest PLFS numbers give India reason to be hopeful. More women participating in the economy is an important step forward. But it should not become the finish line.

A woman who enters the workforce but remains trapped in insecure, poorly paid work has gained something but perhaps not enough. The larger goal must be to create an economy in which women have real choices about where they work, what they earn and how far they can progress.

India has spent years asking, "How do we get more women into the workforce?" Perhaps it is

time to add another question: Once women enter the workforce, how are we ensuring that they will stay and grow?

Sandhya Krishnan is a development professional with 29 years of experience working on maternal and child health, nutrition, education, child protection, gender, livelihoods, governance, and emergency response across India. She has held senior leadership roles at Magic Bus India Foundation, Educate Girls, and Save the Children, working closely with communities, government departments, and donor agencies to design and strengthen large-scale development programmes. She holds a Master's in Social Work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and is currently pursuing a short-term public pol-

Marathi Dalit literature inspired writers in other languages

By Vidyadhar Date

DAYA PAWAR, dalit writer and poet guided Sooni Taraporevala through the historical contexts, locations, and lived realities associated with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's life and the Dalit movement to help her authentically capture the narrative for the feature film on the leader. She was so overwhelmed, she became more radical, Ambedkarite than Dalits themselves.

Dr Jabbar Patel, director of the film, recalled this last week while presiding over a very well attended release of a volume in Marathi on Daya Pawar. His autobiography Balute, his poems stirred our social consciousness, made us aware of the misery of Dalits and in a way of oppressed communities everywhere.

It was an inspiring

evening, a walk through of the progressive cultural movement of the last several decades that began with a Marxist orientation, the dalit movement that burst on the scene in the 1970s gave it an even wider dimension. Was organised by Daya's poet daughter Pradnya and her team and there were very good speeches without cliches or platitudes and a good rendering of Daya's poems, we could hear some in his own voice on tape, that is 30 years after his untimely passing away.

In one poem a woman sings of the labour involved in constructing a dam, leaving her kids behind. Another poem asked a searing question when will the water reach us, the common people, so timeless as one thinks now when we face a serious threat to our water resources posed by many forces and now even Westerners are fac-

ing the threat posed by the Technology a dual threat to water resources through massive fresh-water consumption by artificial intelligence data centers and escalating cyberattacks on water treatment infrastructure.

That is the power of good poetry, the poet gives us several insights as also signals the dangers lying ahead.

Sitting in the audience was, Dinkar Gangal, now nearly 87, a central figure in the original publication of Balute by Granthali, a publishing house which came up through voluntary work. Gangal was then the features editor in Maharashtra Times, a sister publication of the Times of India group so I remained acquainted with the progress. Gangal, Arun Sadhu, journalist, novelist, both Brahmins, and team's deliberation and encouragement went into the

book coming out, initial discussions were held in Sadhu's small house in the housing board colony in Kurla east.

Sadhu was later to be the co author of the script of the Ambedkar film along with Daya and Sooni.

The book is published by Lokvangmay griha, an affiliate of People's Publishing House with a decades long nationwide network of its branches publishing the most progressive literature in various languages. Rajan Bawdekar spoke on behalf of Lokvangmay in the absence of Dr Bhalchandra Kango.

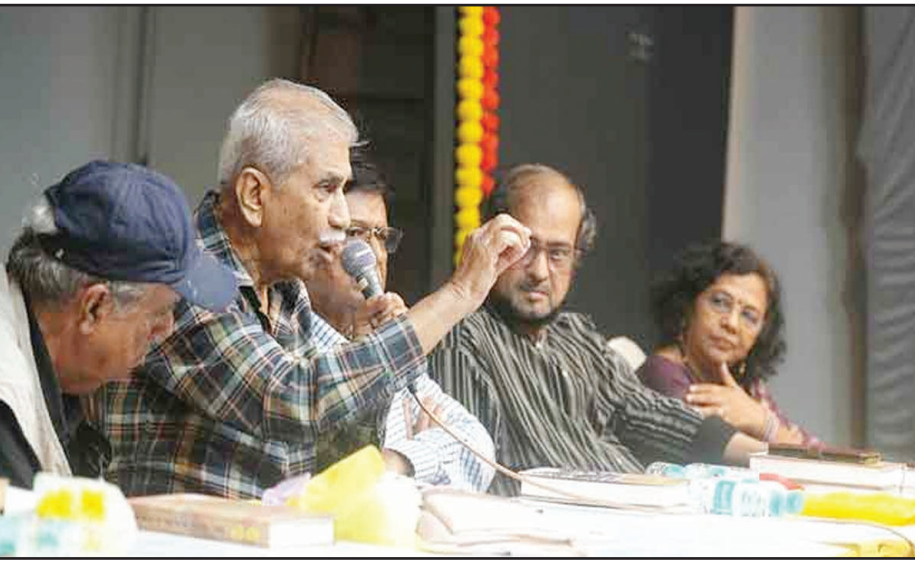
Among the speakers were Arjun Dangle, joint editor of the volume along with Maya Pandit and Pradnya, Jerry Pinto, translator into English of the book, Nikhil Wagle, who published a column of Daya in his early in his evening paper, and Jitendra Bhatia, Hindi

writer. Wagle said Granthali's earliest publications were a manifesto of a new way of thinking.

Bhatia recalled the progressive days of the Samantar movement in Hindi led by Kamleshwar and the birth Marathi dalit literature gave to similar literature in other languages. He was also right in saying that poet Shailendra could rival Bob Dylan in influencing people.

For me personally, it was a privilege to work in TOI with Kamleshwar, Sarita editor, and other top most names in the cultural world then in the TOI publications, few universities could match such an assemblage.

Jerry Pinto said Balute was of international importance. The evening was evocative of so many important progressive writers including S h a r a d c h a n d r a



Muktibodh, poet, James Baldwin, M.N. Wankhede, an early scholar of Afro American and dalit literature, Avadhoot Dongre, Wamanrao Bhat, a dhoti wearing respected Marxist publisher of the earliest dalit literature, Baburao Bagul, a father figure of the movement and so on.

Datta Bal Saraf was the compere and the poetry session was conducted by actor Akshay Shimpi along with Chinmayee Sumeet and Kailas Waghmare, an actor in India's recent Oscar entry film Gondhal.

Jabbar Patel said there was an element of karunya (compassion) in the writing of Dr Ambedkar

and Daya beneath the intense ideas they conveyed. He said Mamooty's role of Dr Ambedkar in the film was appreciated and the dubbed versions in Tamil and Punjabi also made a big impact.

Vidyadhar Date is a senior journalist, cultural critic and author of a book on public transport

Deep rupture within Election Commission raises serious questions over electoral rolls: Rattan

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, September 23: Expressing serious concern over the reported differences within the Election Commission of India, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, J&K National Conference, said that the revelations regarding repeated objections by two Election Commissioners have raised legitimate and serious questions about transparency, institutional functioning and the integrity of the electoral-roll revision process.

According to a report published by The Indian Express, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi reportedly recorded objections on at least 14 occasions over a period of ten months concerning decisions relating to addition of new voters, deletion and restoration of names, and the functioning and control of the electoral-roll software. The report further states that the two Commissioners raised concerns about the centralisation of electoral-roll databases and separately approached the Cabinet Secretary



regarding certain administrative and IT-related issues.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that these developments cannot be brushed aside as an internal administrative matter because the voters' list is the foundation of representative democracy. Every eligible citizen must have an equal opportunity to get his or her name included, while no genuine voter should be removed without due process, notice and an effective opportunity to raise an objection.

He said the reported objections regarding changes to Form 6, used for registration of new voters, are particularly serious. The two Commissioners reportedly questioned the legality and authorisation of changes made to the form in connection

with the Special Intensive Revision.

"If two members of the three-member constitutional Election Commission themselves record that important decisions were taken without their knowledge or approval, the country deserves a complete explanation. There must be no secrecy in a process that determines who is entitled to participate in elections," Gupta said.

Gupta called upon the Election Commission to make public the relevant records concerning the objections raised by the two Commissioners and to conduct an independent technical and legal audit of the electoral-roll software and also explain. How and on whose authority changes were made in the new-voter registration process; The complete procedure followed for addition, deletion and restoration of names from electoral rolls.

He said that democracy depends not merely on holding elections, but on ensuring that every eligible citizen can vote and every electoral-roll decision is taken strictly according to law, transparently and without dis-

Public outreach programme held at Chhajla Baba Peer Haider Shah Ziyarat

Jammu: SDPO Mendhar Touseef Ahmed Calls for Collective Action Against Drug Abuse and Anti-Militancy Activities

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

MANKOTE / CHHAJLA, POONCH: A public outreach and awareness programme was organised at Chhajla Baba Peer Haider Shah Ziyarat, Tehsil Mankote, District Poonch, with the participation of a large number of local residents, senior citizens and prominent members of the community.

The programme focused on creating awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and drug addiction, particularly among the younger generation. The gathering also highlighted the importance of anti-militancy awareness, communal harmony, peace, social responsibility and public cooperation in maintaining a safe and secure environment in the border area.

Addressing the gathering, SDPO Mendhar Touseef Ahmed urged the people, particularly the youth, to remain vigilant and stay away from drugs, unlawful activities and elements that could disturb peace and public order.

He emphasised that combatting the drug menace is a collective responsibility and requires the active cooperation of par-



ents, teachers, community members, NGOs, civil administration and law-enforcement agencies.

The SDPO stressed that parents and teachers have an important role in identifying early warning signs among children and young people, including irregular attendance, prolonged absence from school, sudden behavioural changes or association with harmful influences. Timely counselling, emotional support and proper guidance can help prevent young people from falling into substance abuse.

The programme further emphasised the importance of

guiding the younger generation towards education, sports, skill development, employment opportunities, healthy lifestyles and other constructive activities.

The awareness programme was attended by SHO Mendhar Inspector Mohd Bashir and In-Charge Chhajla Police Post/Chowki Inspector Parveez Choudhary, along with police personnel and members of the local community.

Senior citizens and prominent residents appreciated the police outreach initiative and expressed their commitment to extending cooperation to the police and civil administration

in preventing drug-related activities and promoting awareness among the people.

The participants emphasised that the fight against drugs cannot be left to law-enforcement agencies alone. Families, educational institutions, social organisations, community leaders, NGOs, police and the administration must work together to create a supportive environment for young people and prevent addition.

The gathering also stressed the need for continued vigilance against drug trafficking and other unlawful activities. Members of the public were encouraged to remain alert and report suspicious or drug-related activities to the concerned authorities through appropriate channels.

The large participation of residents reflected the community's concern for the future and well-being of the younger generation. The programme concluded with an appeal to all sections of society to join hands in building a drug-free, peaceful, harmonious and secure society.

"Nasha Mukht J&K Awareness, Responsibility and Collective Action for a Safe Future."

PIB Media Delegation from Bhopal Visits AIIMS Vijaypur

AIIMS Vijaypur caters to over

1,500 OPD patients daily from J&K, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh & Delhi: Director AIIMS



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SAMBA, September 23: As part of an exposure and media tour organized by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), a delegation of media persons from Bhopal visited the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur, Samba, to gain first-hand insight into the premier institute's infrastructure, clinical advancements, academic programs, and patient-centric innovations. During an extensive

interactive session with the visiting media representatives, Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Sinha, Director & CEO, AIIMS Vijaypur, provided an overview of the hospital's expanding clinical footprint and highlighted that the institute is structured with a 750-bed capacity, including 650 fixed beds, modern modular operation theatres, a fully equipped emergency medicine block, and an integrated AYUSH Centre. The Director shared that the hospital is currently recording an

average daily Outpatient Department (OPD) footfall of 1,000 to 2,000 patients—averaging around 1,500 daily—catering not only to residents across Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh, but also drawing patients from New Delhi.

Emphasizing self-reliance and comprehensive clinical care, he underscored that 30 broad specialties and 14 super-specialties, including Cardiology, Neurosurgery, and Plastic Surgery, are fully operational, ensuring patients receive end-to-end management locally without transfers, while specialized teams from AIIMS New Delhi are mobilized to assist on-site whenever necessary. He also highlighted that the institute has achieved prestigious milestones by becoming the first hospital in the region to earn NABH accreditation, alongside bagging the Best Infrastructure.

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) called upon people to embrace the spirit of social responsibility and selfless service, saying that meaningful initiatives undertaken for the welfare of society are the true way to remember great personalities such as Maharaja Hari Singh Ji.

Sat Sharma was speaking after inaugurating an organ donation awareness and registration camp organized by the BJP OBC Morcha under the "Seva Mera Yogdan" initiative at Arya Samaj Mandir, Janipur, Jammu, to mark the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji. The programme was followed by a plantation drive at Shri Ram Mandir, where saplings were planted with the message of environmental protection and greater green cover.

The programme was organized by Manohar Babbar, State Executive Member, BJP OBC Morcha. Braham Jyot Satti, President, BJP OBC Morcha J&K, along with Sunny Sangotra, State General Secretary, OBC Morcha; Ravish Mehngi, District General Secretary; Shamsher Prapapati, District President, OBC Morcha; Parshottam Punna, State Social Media Incharge, OBC Morcha; Keshav Chopra, District Spokesperson; Sunita Devi, former Corporator; Baba Ramesh Ji and several social workers and



members of the OBC community participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that Maharaja Hari Singh Ji made significant contributions towards the welfare and development of Jammu and Kashmir and his life continues to inspire people towards social responsibility and public service. He said that initiatives such as organ donation awareness and plantation drives reflect the spirit of service and encourage citizens to contribute towards the welfare of society.

Sat Sharma said that organ donation is a noble act which has the potential to give a new lease of life to people in need of transplants. He appealed to the people to spread awareness about organ donation and take part in such humanitarian initiatives.

Braham Jyot Satti said that the BJP OBC Morcha is committed to taking up activities that directly benefit society

and create awareness on important social issues. He said that the "Seva Mera Yogdan" initiative is aimed at connecting people with the spirit of service and encouraging them to contribute towards society in different ways.

He said that observing Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's birth anniversary through an organ donation initiative and plan-

tation drive was a meaningful way of remembering his contribution to the people. He said that both organ donation and protection of the environment are important responsibilities of every citizen and called upon the people, particularly the youth, to actively participate in such social causes.

Following the organ donation programme, a

plantation drive was organised at Shri Ram Mandir, with the participation of the same group of social workers, party workers and members of the OBC community. Saplings were planted in and around the temple premises with the message of protecting the environment and increasing green cover.

The organizers thanked Irfan Ahmad Lone, Transplant Coordinator, SOTTO, Manik Sharma, Transplant Coordinator, GMC Jammu, Ashwini Kumar, SOTTO J&K and other officials for their support and said that both programmes received active participation from the local community and provided an opportunity to spread awareness about organ donation, environmental protection and the importance of collective social responsibility.

Omar Abdullah-led government is deeply committed to empowering youth across J&K: Tejinder Pal Singh

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SUNDERBANI, Provincial President of the Youth National Conference (YNC) Jammu, Sardar Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, recently visited the Pir Panjal region as part of an organizational tour in Rajouri.

Returning back he met NC workers in D a k b a n g l o w



Sunderbani with Key Highlights of the Visit for Youth Meeting: He chaired a major meeting of the YNC Zone Pir Panjal at the Dak Bungalow in Rajouri. The meeting was organized by Waqar Lone (Zonal President, Pir Panjal Zone YNC) and Sunderbani.

Strengthening the Grassroots Addressing the youth workers, Tejinder Pal Singh Aman urged them to strengthen the National Conference party at the grassroots level and remain closely connected with the public to highlight local issues. Youth Empowerment Agenda: He emphasized that the

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led government is deeply committed to empowering youth across Jammu and Kashmir and providing them with proper leadership opportunities.

Meanwhile Sahil Abrol District Vice President Block President youth Ishan Gupta, S.Gursharan Singh Zonal Youth Secretary Rajouri, Block President Buti Ram Abrol Nissar Ahmed province Secretary OBC kamran sahil join secretary YNC Gian Singh general Secretary, Mohd Akram NC Aftab Mirza, Gulshan Kumar, Rakesh Sharma, Abdul Rashid Khatan and others was presented.

JU Bhaderwah Campus unleashes 3 day inter-department sports fest



AMIR IQBAL KHAN

BHADARWAH, Sept. 23: The University of Jammu's Bhaderwah Campus launched its power-packed three day Inter Department Sports Meet today bringing together students, faculty and staff for a celebration of fitness and camaraderie.

The mega event features fierce and friendly competition across diverse disciplines

including Cricket, Badminton, Chess, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Track Events, Shot Put and Discus Throw.

Rector Prof. Rahul Gupta inaugurated the meet emphasizing that sports are vital for holistic education, discipline and leadership. He lauded the Department of Physical Education for supplying qualified officials to ensure smooth and professional refereeing.

Dr. Kuljit Singh, I/C Sports highlighted that the primary goal is maximizing participation and building a vibrant sporting culture grounded in fair play and mutual respect.

Organized by the campus Sports Committee, the initiative underscores the institution's dedication to balancing rigorous academics with robust physical development and overall personality building.

Social Activist Vinod Sharma Leads Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign in Nowshera in Collaboration with Social Welfare Department

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SUNDERBANI, In a major initiative to combat the growing menace of substance abuse, Mr. Vinod Sharma, prominent Social Activist and Senior Vice President of the All Jammu and Kashmir Handicapped Welfare Association (District Rajouri), organized an anti-drug awareness campaign in coordination with the Social Welfare Department, Nowshera.

The event was conducted under the aegis of the nationwide Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan and the regional Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Sharma made a passionate appeal to the public to unite against addiction. "We must collectively eradicate drug abuse from its roots," he urged, placing special emphasis on reaching the youth. "Our young generation is the backbone of the nation. When our youth are free from drugs, our country becomes strong, and a strong nation naturally paves the way for rapid progress and development."

The event resounded with energetic slogans, including "Nashe Ko Mitana Hai, Desh Ko Bachana Hai" (Eradicate drugs, save the nation), as participants pledged to actively fight substance abuse in their communities.

BJP pays glowing tributes to the People's Maharaja on his 131st birth anniversary in Jammu

Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's vision, courage and commitment to people continue to inspire J&K: Sat

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, Sep 23: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir paid glowing tributes to the great Dogra ruler and People's Maharaja, Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, on his 131st birth anniversary, with J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) and Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma leading the tributes at different locations in Jammu.

At BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Sat Sharma, Sunil Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretaries Baldev Singh Billawaria and Gopal Mahajan, along with senior party leaders and workers, paid respectful tributes to the Maharaja.

Sat Sharma, along with J&K BJP Vice President Rajiv Charak and MLA Vikram Randhawa, paid floral tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji at Bahu Fort. He also offered floral tributes to the revered Dogra ruler at Janipur.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that Maharaja Hari Singh Ji occupies a unique and enduring place in the history, heritage and public life of Jammu and Kashmir, and that his vision, courage and commitment towards the people continue to inspire generations.

Sat Sharma said Maharaja Hari Singh Ji was a ruler who worked towards strengthening the social and institutional foundations of the erstwhile State and introduced measures aimed at expanding education, improving the lives of common people and promoting a sense of



responsibility towards society. His legacy, he said, should be remembered not merely through commemorative programmes but by drawing inspiration from his commitment to public welfare and progressive governance.

"Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's life reminds us that leadership is measured by the welfare of the people and the courage to take decisions in the larger interest of the State and its people. His contribution remains an inseparable part of Jammu and Kashmir's history and Dogra heritage, and his ideals continue to inspire us to work for a

stronger, prosperous and united Jammu and Kashmir," Sat Sharma said.

Sat Sharma further said that Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's historic role during the crucial period of 1947 remains an important chapter in Jammu and Kashmir's journey. He said that the Maharaja's legacy should be understood in the context of the challenges of his time and his enduring place in the history of the region.

Sunil Sharma, paying tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, said that the People's Maharaja will always be remembered for his courage, administrative vision

and efforts towards the welfare of his subjects. He said that his contribution to Jammu and Kashmir's history and the preservation of its cultural and institutional heritage cannot be overlooked.

Sunil Sharma said that the observance of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's birth anniversary provides an opportunity for the younger generation to learn about the history, sacrifices, traditions and values associated with Jammu and Kashmir. He called upon the youth to remain connected with the region's rich heritage while contributing towards its development and progress.

Rajiv Charak said that Maharaja Hari Singh Ji remains a symbol of courage, dignity and public service, and that his contribution continues to hold deep significance for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that remembering the Maharaja is also an expression of respect for the region's rich Dogra heritage. Baldev Singh Billawaria said that Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's life and legacy continue to inspire people to work for social progress and public welfare. He said that the BJP remains committed to preserving and promoting the historical and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Gopal Mahajan said that the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji is an occasion to remember his contribution to the people of the region and reaffirm the importance of public service, social responsibility and commitment to Jammu and Kashmir.

65 Dogri poets participated Dogri Kavi Goshti organised by NDS

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU: Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) organised a mega dogri kavi goshti at Kala Kendra Jammu, wherein about sixty five literary personalities of dogri participated and thirty poets drawn from various areas of doggar ie Sudha mahadev, Dudu, Reasi, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Rajouri, Sunderbani, Billawar, R S Pura recited their dogri poetry.

Capt Lalit Sharma IFS and well known dogri poet presided over the Poetic Meet and he was accompanied on the dias by prominent literary personalities which comprise Krishan Lal Sharma recipient of Sahitya Academy award thrice,

The poets who read their poetry include S/Shri T R Magotra, Ajit Jaiswal, Madan Magotra, Sopaan Mohammad, M S Kamara, Sathi Salgotra, Neelam Verma, Sanjay Kapil, Neha Sharma, Sunaina Kaila, Mohinder Singh Mandawa, Chanchal Dogra, Abdul Qadir Kundria, Brij Mohan, J S Babli,



Arun Banathia, Girdhari Lal Rahi, Chaman Lal Sagoch, Ramesh Rahi, P L Parihar, Ramesh Singh, Devender Mishra, Rakesh Sharma Tript, Sheikh Fiaz Duggar ki Khak, Narinder Singh Chib, C S Katal, Gopal Dass, Randhir Singh Raipuria and Capt Lalit Sharma. Sham Pal from Sudh Mahadev and Arjun Singh Manhas presented a lok geet each in their melodious voice and made the goshti vibrant. Veens Dogra and Yash Pal Yash

General Secretary of NDS compered the programme.

Capt Lalit Sharma expresses his views on each and every poetic item read in the Poetic Meet. He stresses upon the unification of the literary fraternity so as to synergise their efforts to strengthen the doggar society.

Prof Anupama Sharma Patron NDS emphasized upon the need of good and innovative music to popularise dogri language.

Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS said that all the NDS branches shall be reactivated.

Krishan Lal Sharma said that scribes are mirror of the society and show the society it's really image with positivity and devotion.

Satya Paul Gadwalia said that it is collective responsibility to connect our new generation with dogri language and doggar culture.

Pangotra Mangal Dass Dogra said that we should disseminate our great history and proud heritage to our new generation through our writings so that they feel pride in, their heritage.

Randhir Sing Raipuria said that time demands that we created a strong movement to popularize our dogri language and it's culture.

Raj Rishi Sharma said that collective efforts need to be made to crate intrest in new generation to read books and literature to create an Pal Yaah General Secretary NDS extended Vote Of Thanks.

NIT Srinagar hosts lecture on Interface Engineering of 2D Hybrid Materials Director stresses interdisciplinary research and innovation



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sept: 23: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised a special lecture on "Interface Engineering of 2D Hybrid Materials: From Energy Technologies to Sustainable Geopolymer Nanocomposites", bringing together researchers, faculty members and students to explore emerging developments in advanced functional materials and sustainable technologies.

The lecture was jointly organised by the Departments of Physics, Chemistry and Civil

Engineering. Dr. Vijay Kumar from the Department of Physics, Dr. Ravi Kumar from the Department of Chemistry, and Dr. Parameshwar from the Department of Civil Engineering coordinated the programme.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Jayaramulu Kolleboyina, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Dean, International Relations, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu.

The programme was attended by Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Anurag Misra, Dean R&C Prof. Roohie Naaz, Dean

International and Academic Affairs Dr. M. A. Shah, Head Chemistry, Prof Kowsar Majeed, senior faculty members, research scholars and students.

In his key address, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Anurag Misra said the lecture reflected the institute's emphasis on strengthening academic interaction and research collaboration with leading institutions.

"Emerging materials science has applications across several important areas, including clean energy, environmental protection and sustainable construction. Lectures by researchers working at the forefront of these fields give our students and scholars an opportunity to understand current research challenges and explore new possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration," Prof. Misra said.

During his lecture, Dr. Jayaramulu Kolleboyina discussed the potential of two-dimensional materials in developing

advanced functional materials, highlighting their high surface area, tunable surface chemistry and distinctive electronic, mechanical and physicochemical properties.

He explained that practical applications of 2D materials can often be constrained by challenges such as restacking, poor dispersion and weak interfacial interactions.

He emphasised the role of interface engineering and interfacial chemistry in overcoming these limitations.

The first part of the lecture focused on hybrid 2D porous materials developed by integrating two-dimensional materials with metal-organic frameworks, metal-organic polyhedra and other functional porous components.

Such hybrid systems can enhance properties including porosity, charge transport, stability and surface reactivity, with potential applications in catalysis, CO2 conversion, water purifi-

cation and energy technologies.

Dr. Kolleboyina also discussed the development of 2D-material-reinforced geopolymer nanocomposites. He explained how surface chemistry, material dispersion and interfacial bonding can influence geopolymerisation and the resulting mechanical performance of these sustainable materials.

Dean International and Academic Affairs Dr. M. A. Shah said such programmes contribute to strengthening the institute's academic ecosystem and international and inter-institutional research linkages.

"Knowledge exchange is an essential part of a vibrant academic environment. Interaction with researchers from premier institutions allows our faculty and students to engage with contemporary scientific developments, identify potential areas of collaboration and develop a broader perspective on research and innovation," Prof. Shah said.

Governor Calls for Education that Goes Beyond Degrees

Says Universities Must Equip Youth with Knowledge, Skills, Employability and Entrepreneurship

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU/SHIMLA, Sep 23: Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta said that in the present context, merely obtaining a degree was not enough. There was a need for an education system that imparted knowledge along with skills, confidence, employability and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

The Governor was addressing the Foundation Day celebrations of Shri Sai University at Palampur in Kangra district, today.

Shri Kavinder Gupta said that the real identity of any university was defined by its contribution to knowledge, values, research, innovation and society. He said that the academic journey of the Shri Sai Group, which began at Badhani in 1996, was an inspiring example of long-term commitment and sustained efforts in the field of education.

Highlighting Himachal Pradesh's unique geographical conditions, the Governor said that many parts of the State were mountainous, rural and remote. In such circumstances, establishing an institution of higher education in a region was not merely an academic achievement but also an important instrument of social transformation, opening new avenues of opportunity for local youth.

Shri Gupta said that the impact of establishing a university was not confined to one generation but extended to generations to come. Visionary leadership, he said, should consider not only present requirements but also the possibilities and challenges of the next 20, 30 and 50 years.

Describing India as a young nation, the Governor said that universities needed to further strengthen their linkages with industry to channelise the energy and potential of the youth. The Governor said, "Your goal should not be limited to securing a job. You should also aspire to become capable of creating employment



opportunities for others."

He said that India today was witnessing a growing ecosystem of innovation, startups and entrepreneurship. Universities, therefore, should create an environment where students become not merely job seekers, but employment creators, problem-solvers and innovators capable of turning new ideas into reality.

Referring to the National Education Policy-2020, the Governor said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had emphasised making education more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary and aligned with future requirements. Access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability were among the important pillars of the policy, while research, innovation, skills and multidisciplinary learning had been encouraged in higher education.

He said that the emphasis on skills, startups and innovation also provided a clear direction to universities to prepare young people who could contribute to the nation through knowledge, skills, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Governor expressed particular appreciation for the university's focus on education related to mountain and mountaineering activities. He said that Himachal Pradesh possessed natural and distinctive potential in this field.

"Our mountains are not merely a symbol of our identity; they are also important foundations for tourism, adventure sports, environmental conservation, disaster management, sports science and local employment," he said.

He urged the university to integrate education, training, research and practical experience in this field and develop an exemplary model through which the youth of Himachal Pradesh could establish themselves at the national and international levels.

Addressing the students, Shri Kavinder Gupta said that they were the greatest asset of the university and should make the best use of the opportunities available to them. He called upon them to respect their teachers, remain committed to continuous learning and move forward with technology while remaining connected with their roots and culture.

He advised the students not to fear failure, saying that failure was not the end but an opportunity to learn and improve.

"Never compromise on three things in life—discipline, hard work and honesty. If these three become an integral part of your life, the path to success will continue to open before you," he said.

Earlier, Chancellor of Shri Sai University Shri S.K. Punj welcomed the Governor and highlighted the academic journey and achievements of the university.

Maharaja Hari Singh's 131st birthday was celebrated with great pomp and show

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SUNDERBANI, Today, the Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha Kangri celebrated Maharaja Hari Singh's 131st birthday with great enthusiasm in Baja Bain Kangri.

On this occasion, a bike rally was organised by the soldiers from Baja Bain again to Rajputana Bhawan Kangri and retired Colonel KL Khajuria was present as the chief guest at this event. In this occasion they addressed to gathering about history of Maharaja.

Hari Singh was the son of Amar Singh in 1923, following his uncle's death, Singh became the new Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. After Indian Independence in 1947, Singh wanted Jammu and Kashmir to remain as an independent kingdom. He acceded to the Dominion of India to get the support of Indian troops against an invasion by tribal armed men and the Pakistan Army into his state. Singh remained the titular Maharaja of the state



until 1952, when the monarchy was abolished by the Indian government. After spending his final days in Bombay, he died on 26 April 1961.

Meanwhile SHO Sunderbani Ranveer Singh, Deputy President of Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha Jammu Kashmir UT, retired head master Vakil Singh, head Master Purushotam Singh, President of Kunwar Sabha Sukhdev Singh Jamwal, retired Captain

Veer Chakra Swaran Singh, Ravinder Singh alias Nano Bangbal, former Sarpanch Anil Singh, retired Master Jasvir Singh, Kunwar Jitendra Singh, Master Vinod Raina Sathi, Vivek Sharma, Tarun Verma, Arun Uppal, Captain Sagar Singh, retired sub-inspector Chandrakant, Captain Jeet Singh, Captain Devraj, Captain Baburam, retired Master Subhash Singh, and other friends were present on this occasion.

2 policemen found dead inside car

The deceased were identified as Head Constable Farid Ahmed (408/Rbn), a resident of Bhatti Ramban, and Selection Grade Constable Muhammad Yaqoob (309/Rbn), a resident of Jatgali Ramban, they said.

Both were posted at District Police Lines (DPL), Ramban.

The bodies have been kept at the hospital for medico-legal formalities, officials said.

The exact cause and circumstances leading to their deaths were not immediately known, they said, adding that police have initiated further proceedings to ascertain the circumstances

BJP MLA missing son traced..

teams traced Kumar while he was travelling on a Delhi-bound bus.

Acting on leads gathered during the night-long search, the police located the bus and established contact with the teenager, who is now being brought back to Jammu, the officials said.

His father had also left for Delhi on getting information about his son's whereabouts.

600mn beneficiaries covered..

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also posted a message on social media commemorating eight years of the government's flagship scheme.

"Eight years ago, Ayushman Bharat was rolled out with the idea that every Indian should have access to top-quality and affordable healthcare. Today, more than 60 crore beneficiaries have access to Rs. 5 lakh annual health cover, making it the largest healthcare scheme in the world," read his post on the microblogging site X.

"It has enabled record savings on medical expenses, thus benefitting the poor and middle class. And healthcare is moving closer to every doorstep. Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have already recorded over 500 crore visits, strengthening primary healthcare at the grassroots. My best wishes to all Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries. #8YearsOfAyushmanBharat," PM Modi said.

The health ministry statement also read, "As the nation marks 8 years of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme continues to expand access to quality, cash-less healthcare for millions across the country."

According to government data, at least 600 million people have been covered under the scheme so far, and nearly 485 million people have Ayushman Cards. Around 130 million people have also availed free treatment with ?2 lakh crore including hospitalisation and treatment.

Nearly 39,000 public and private hospitals are empanelled across the country under the scheme.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY provides health cover of up to 75 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to eligible beneficiaries.

"From expanding healthcare access to reducing financial barriers to treatment, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY stands as a landmark of India's commitment to ensuring affordable and accessible healthcare for all," said the health ministry.

UP man kills wife, 2 priests..

encounter. During the standoff, the man also shot one of his children, a son. Both the man and his son were taken to a hospital, where they later died from their injuries, police said.

The incident began on Tuesday evening when the man, identified as Arvind Singh, returned home around 6 pm and found his wife, Babita Singh (32), performing a religious ritual with two priests, Mahendra Pathak (60) and Akhilesh Mishra (50).

A verbal altercation followed, after which Arvind allegedly pulled out his licensed gun and first shot his wife before opening fire on the two priests. He then took his three children hostage and locked himself inside a room with them.

According to Naveen Arora, Additional Director General of Police (ADG), Varanasi Zone, the police initially exercised restraint as Arvind refused to leave the house and insisted that they wait until morning. The situation escalated when Arvind opened fire from inside the house, prompting the police team to enter the premises.

Police rescued all three children and immediately took them to a hospital for medical treatment.

"Arvind and his son died of their injuries during treatment," Dr Anil Kumar, Senior Superintendent of Police, Azamgarh, said.

Police are collecting evidence from the scene, while other necessary legal proceedings are also underway. Arvind Was "mentally disturbed"

As per the police, Arvind's mother and wife had previously raised complaints about his behaviour.

"After speaking with villagers, the accused's family members, and an individual who survived the shooting unharmed, the investigation so far has revealed that Arvind was mentally disturbed and exhibited aggressive behaviour," SSP Kumar said.

He further said, "His mother and wife had frequently complained about him assaulting family members and engaging in such conduct. Distressed by this situation, his mother and wife had organised a religious ritual. They suspected he was under the influence of an evil spirit and arranged the ceremony in the hope of dispelling it."

Arvind strongly objected to the religious ceremony and grew furious about it. When his wife remarked that he was insulting the priest performing the ritual, he became enraged and shot her along with two of the priests.

Local resident said, five priests had come to the house for the ceremony. Three managed to escape, while the other two were killed during the dispute.

LG Manoj Sinha Remembers.

Maharaja Hari Singh as an enlightened statesman and progressive thinker who introduced several far-reaching reforms aimed at improving the welfare and empowerment of the people.

"His ideals of public service, equality and inclusive development continue to guide us all," LG Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the enduring relevance of Maharaja Hari Singh's vision, particularly his emphasis on social equality, welfare-oriented governance and development for the wider public.

The birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh is observed to commemorate his legacy and contributions to the social and administrative development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Gangster Karanjeet Gugga..

nationals were arrested within 20 hours of the incident in February, Karajeet Singh alias Gugga, who allegedly masterminded the escape, had been on the run since escaping from the facility and was traced following sustained efforts by the police, the officials

said.

Singh, a resident of Dablehar in R S Pura, and Pakistan citizens Mohammad Suna-ullah (20) and Ahsan Anwar (21) allegedly attacked police personnel and fled from the juvenile home on February 16. Two cops were injured in the incident.

The Pakistani nationals were tracked near Ambala railway station while heading for Nepal and subsequently arrested by police next day.

The alleged gangster evaded arrest for the past seven months and was finally traced to Delhi by police which was actively looking for him, the officials said.

He was subsequently arrested and is being brought to Jammu, the officials said.

Singh was a juvenile when he was lodged at the home, but at the time of his escape he had attained the age of majority.

Baramulla police attaches..

residential house located on land bearing Survey No. 423 at Village Namblan, Sheeri, Baramulla, belonging to accused Aijaz Ahmad Ganie, son of late Mohammad Sultan Ganie.

According to Baramulla Police, during the investigation, the property was found prima facie to have been used for providing shelter and logistical support to terrorists and facilitating terrorist activities, attracting relevant provisions of the UAPA related to proceeds of terrorism.

The attachment was carried out after obtaining approval from the Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir, conveyed through Order No. 2695 of 2026 dated September 22.

A public notice was also displayed at the property, prohibiting its sale, transfer, lease, mortgage or creation of any third-party interest.

Baramulla Police said the action is part of its continued efforts to disrupt and dismantle the logistical and support networks of terror groups and take legal action against individuals and properties found involved in facilitating terrorist activities.

The police reiterated their commitment to maintaining public security and taking lawful action against terror networks and their support structures.

Pakistan must take credible..

against Islamabad concerning its distortions regarding a recent verdict by the Permanent Court of Arbitration on Indus Water Treaty.

Stream History Documentaries

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal censured Pakistan for deliberately manipulating facts and circulating fabrications intended to advance its malicious propaganda campaign.

"Pakistan has a habit of misrepresenting facts and propagating falsehoods to serve its malicious propaganda," Jaiswal stated.

"For starters, the so-called ruling is not a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, as sought to be projected by the Pakistan minister. It is a ruling by an illegally constituted court. We see this as just one more attempt by Pakistan at distorting the reality," he added.

Jaiswal's remarks came in response to an inquiry concerning Islamabad disseminating correspondence addressed to the president of the United Nations Security Council pertaining to recent determinations associated with the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

This exchange transpired merely days after Pakistan elevated financial bounties for intelligence culminating in the apprehension or sentencing of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) leader Masood Azhar.

New Delhi previously dismissed Pakistan's PKR 70 lakh bounty announcement regarding Azhar as an insincere gesture, demanding tangible actions against the terrorist leader.

The Pakistan-headquartered Jaish-e-Mohammed stands implicated in multiple devastating terrorist strikes targeting India, encompassing the 2001 Parliament attack alongside terror plots in Pathankot and Pulwama. The group was originally established by the globally designated terrorist Masood Azhar.

New Delhi has consistently underscored that Islamabad's demonstrated willingness to dismantle cross-border terrorism serves as the fundamental benchmark for evaluating its credibility.

Amid strained India-Pakistan ties following the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in April 2025, in which 26 people were killed in the name of religion, India has maintained a firm position against Pakistan backed terrorism and has repeatedly called for credible and verifiable action against those responsible for supporting cross-border terror.

Jammu Local Events

The Pahalgam terror attack was followed by a strong military response by India, with New Delhi launching Operation Sindoor in retaliation, targeting terror infrastructure, after which military exchanges between the two sides continued until May 10, 2025, when a ceasefire understanding was reached.

This firm stance builds upon New Delhi's decisive rejection last month of an unauthorised "award" issued by a flawed arbitration panel concerning interim measures under the water pact.

Rejecting the so-called "award", the Ministry of External Affairs stated that the so-called "Court of Arbitration" was set up by the World Bank in patent breach of the terms of the treaty.

"Today, the illegally constituted so-called Court of Arbitration (CoA) has issued what it termed as an award concerning Interim Measures and Status of the Indus Waters Treaty. This so-called Court was constituted by the World Bank in patent breach of the terms of the Treaty and India categorically rejects its so-called award, just as it has firmly rejected all prior pronouncements by this illegally constituted body," the MEA stated on August 31.

Reiterating its unyielding legal posture, the MEA underscored that India has never recognised the existence in law of "the illegally-constituted and so-called Court of Arbitration" and consistently maintained that the creation of this alleged arbitral body constitutes a grave violation of the IWT.

"Accordingly, India has never appeared before this body and has refused to take any cognisance of its earlier pronouncements. This so-called Court of Arbitration has no jurisdiction whatsoever to pronounce on India's sovereign decisions. Its pronouncements, now or in the future, will have no effect on India's actions in connection with the projects being undertaken by India," the MEA mentioned.

Jammu Kashmir Travel

Furthermore, New Delhi reaffirmed that the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty remains in force. The historic water-sharing accord was signed between India and Pakistan on September 19, 1960, concerning the utilisation of the waters of the Indus system rivers.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had earlier reiterated India's consistent stance on the IWT in

June, making it categorically clear that bilateral cooperation remains suspended until cross-border terror completely stops.

"We have suspended the Indus Waters Treaty and kept it in abeyance until Pakistan completely stops cross-border terrorism," Jaiswal said.

Addressing bilateral dynamics concerning Bangladesh, Jaiswal reiterated that New Delhi aspires for constructive and cooperative relations with Dhaka.

"India seeks positive, constructive and forward-looking ties with Bangladesh," he noted.

Turning to the status of Indian citizens unaccounted for following severe flooding in Nepal, Jaiswal outlined that a specialised Indian forensic delegation is collaborating directly alongside Nepalese counterparts to facilitate identifications.

"As I told you last time, we had given you a figure of 275 Indian nationals who were missing. Over and above that, several other people from the Indian diaspora and persons of Indian origin are also missing," he said.

Stream History Documentaries

"We have a forensic team in Nepal that is working in Kathmandu in several laboratories along with their Nepalli colleagues," Jaiswal added.

He detailed that the visiting Indian specialists are processing roughly 3,000 biological samples, having successfully generated exceeding 1,200 definitive DNA profiles thus far.

"The work is going on, and regarding the missing Indian nationals and missing persons, we await to hear from the Nepali authorities," he stated.

Regarding geopolitical developments concerning the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Jaiswal confirmed that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conducted a meeting with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha on Monday to evaluate evolving circumstances.

"Yes, the external affairs minister met with the Ukrainian foreign minister yesterday. During the meeting, he discussed the recent developments in the conflict," Jaiswal remarked.

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar reaffirmed New Delhi's steadfast conviction that sustainable conflict resolution can exclusively be achieved through sustained dialogue and diplomatic engagement.

"The external affairs minister once again put forth India's point that dialogue and diplomacy are the way forward for a peaceful resolution," Jaiswal affirmed.

"India, as you know, is in touch with both sides, Ukraine and Russia, and we have told them that if there is any way that India can contribute, India is ready to do so," Jaiswal added.

BJP names Satish Poonia..

For the Union Territory of Ladakh, the BJP, accordinfg to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), appointed Rajkumar Bhatia, a leader from Delhi, as its in-charge.

The appointments were announced by BJP president Nitin Nabin.

The party designated in-charges and co-in-charges for all 28 states and eight Union territories

Azad appreciated Dr. Darakhshan..

transformation and arrangements at the shrine.

He said that what he witnessed today was completely different from what he had expected and went far beyond his expectations. Expressing his happiness, he congratulated Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi Sahiba for her efforts and described Hazratbal as a remarkable example that can serve as a model for the entire country.

"Today, I am truly delighted to see this transformation. I congratulate Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi Sahiba for creating such a remarkable example for the whole of India", said Azad Sahib.

Delhi Shame Returns: 4 Minors..

home alive. Start with the latest. On Monday night, a 17-year-old and a male friend entered Astha Kunj Park near the Kalkaji temple. Three men allegedly approached them claiming to be policemen, accused the pair of "doing wrong," separated them, and raped the girl in turns. The accused , Asif, Hemant and his brother Mukesh , were arrested early on Tuesday after an hours-long manhunt.

The same Monday, in another part of the city, a six-year-old was raped near Deshbandhu Gupta Road. The accused has been held.

What connects the four is not just their ages. It is where they were taken. A temple park after dark. A residential stretch a child should have been able to cross alone. A shopfront on a crowded bazaar lane. A patch of open ground. None of these are remote or lawless corners; they are ordinary Delhi, the kind of spaces the city fills with safety slogans and self-defence camps. The gaps that let these crimes happen were not exotic , poor lighting, thin patrolling, unwatched public spaces, and the plain absence of anyone to call in time.

That absence on the ground is only half the problem. The other half is what the law does once the harm is already done.

All four are being prosecuted under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, which covers every victim under 18. On paper, the law is strict: special courts, in-camera trials, a bar on identifying the victim, and a mandate to complete trial, as far as possible, within a year of cognisance. In practice, the gaps are wide. POCSO courts carry heavy pendency, and the one-year timeline is routinely breached, so "fast-track" justice can still run for years.

The starkest gap sits in the Swaroop Nagar case, where three of the four arrested are juveniles. Under the Juvenile Justice Act, a 16-to-18-year-old can be tried as an adult for a heinous offence only after a Juvenile Justice Board assessment; a child under 16 cannot be, however grave the crime. A juvenile not tried as an adult faces a maximum of three years in a special home , so in a rape-and-murder, the punishment can turn on the age of the accused, not the act.

The numbers frame the pattern. NCRB's 2023 report logged 1,088 rapes in Delhi, the most of any metropolitan city in India. Its 2024 data placed the capital on top of 19 major metros, with 1,058 rapes and 13,396 total crimes against women. Delhi Police's January 2026 figures, by contrast, claimed a 5-to-8 per cent fall in crimes against women and a solving rate above 95 per cent. NCRB's full 2025 figures are not yet out.

An arrest, in every one of these cases, came after the harm was already done. The law's weight falls almost entirely on what happens next , and far too little on stopping the next case before it begins.

Until a girl can walk to a temple, a shop, a friend's house and come home unharmed, no press release gets to call this city safe.

Pakistani Pigeon Found..

prompting security agencies to examine the markings and other details to ascertain its origin and pur-

pose.

The recovery is reportedly among the recent instances of pigeons suspected to have crossed over from the Pakistani side being found in the RS Pura sector.

Further details are awaited as authorities examine the circumstances surrounding the pigeon's presence and the information inscribed on the ring.

"Can't teach others about..

"No one can forget the role of Sher-e-Kashmir here. The sacrifices that were made in the National Conference. The sacrifice started from the National Conference," he said.

Referring to the slogan associated with the party's political history, Omar said: "Hamlaavar khabardar, hum Kashmiri hain khabardar. Where did this slogan come from?"

He accused the BJP of attempting to reinterpret history when it disagreed with a particular narrative.

"Now BJP has made it a habit. When they don't like anything, they try to present history in a new way. They have tried in this too," he said.

The Chief Minister also raised concerns about the functioning of the Election Commission, saying public trust in elections was fundamental to democracy.

Referring to delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir, Omar reiterated concerns earlier expressed by his party. "We believe that the process was opaque, the process was flawed and the entire process was designed to benefit one political party and its friends," he said.

He also referred to reported differences within the Election Commission, saying such developments raised questions about the electoral process.

"The foundation of democracy is the elections. And if people's trust in the elections is lost, then why do people participate in the elections?" he asked.

Rejecting suggestions that little work had been done during the ongoing Assembly session, Omar said questions, bills and resolutions had been taken up in the House.

He said BJP members had also participated in discussions and noted that deliberations on a resolution concerning teacher training and the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), moved by School Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, would continue.

"Some more resolutions will come before the House," he said.

On being asked about the issue of banning books, Omar said the elected government did not currently have the authority to decide such matters. "We just have to wait for that situation to change. And then we will take a fresh look at what's happening," he said

Omar Underscores Education..

been able to find the answers as quickly as they did," Omar said.

Recalling his own school days, the Chief Minister said mathematics had been a difficult subject for him and that merely passing it had been a significant achievement. "I know how many times I had to study it. What I saw from these children today makes me feel that whatever they choose to do, they will succeed in it. May Allah give them more success," he said.

Omar said children today face far greater distractions than previous generations, with multiple television channels, mobile phones and other digital platforms competing for their attention.

"In our time, we did not have so much competition for the attention of children. We had hardly one channel on television. Today, when you have 30, 40 or 50 channels and then a phone to turn to, keeping a child interested in one thing is very difficult," he said.

He credited parents and teachers for helping children reach a level where they could compete successfully at national-level events.

The Chief Minister said education and healthcare form the foundation of development, stressing that other investments would have limited value without progress in these two sectors.

"The biggest responsibility for the government is to pay attention to these two things and how we improve the education system and how we improve the health system. Only then can our children compete not just at the national level but at the international level," he said.

Omar also highlighted the need to improve student retention in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the region performs well at the primary and middle-school levels but witnesses a decline in retention as students move to high and higher secondary classes.

He said strengthening retention was essential to safeguarding the future of children in J&K.

The Chief Minister also called for greater cooperation between government and private schools, saying children should not be viewed differently on the basis of the institution they attend.

"This is not a competition between a private school and a government school. The children are ours, whether they study in a government school or a private school, and they are the future of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said the government is working to simplify procedures for private schools, particularly by reducing hurdles and delays related to permissions and approvals.

He said efforts are also underway to simplify processes in school and higher education, adding that the government had passed a bill for private universities to provide students with greater opportunities to pursue higher education within Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to prepare students for emerging fields, including artificial intelligence, by incorporating new developments into the curriculum and syllabus. Referring to the ALOHA competition, Omar said the participation of children from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, other states and abroad was encouraging.

"Children from remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir, along with participants from Karnataka, Rajasthan and other parts of the world, have travelled to Kashmir to be part of this competition. It gives us a lot of hope," he said.

He said the participation and performance of students demonstrated the potential for stronger collaboration between schools, students and ALOHA in the coming years.Omar also praised the enthusiasm of the participants, saying he had rarely seen the SKICC hall filled with so many young awardees.

"You are all winners, whether you took back a trophy from here or not. Just being here and being able to compete is a victory," he said, congratulating the students, parents and teachers.

The Chief Minister further said the government would examine the possibility of introducing mental arithmetic and similar initiatives in government schools to provide students with a level playing field. "Today, what I saw makes me believe that the future of Jammu and Kashmir will be very bright," Omar said



DoPT Cleared Over 23,000 Promotions In Last 12 Years: Dr Jitendra



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

NEW DELHI, Sept 23 : A delegation of the Central Secretariat Group-C Employees' Association today thanked Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and MoS in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, for frequently interacting with them and receiving their inputs on service-related matters. During the interaction, Dr. Jitendra Singh referred to the Department of Personnel & Training/ DoPT's sustained efforts to address promotion-related issues and said that over 23,000 promotions have been cleared during the last 12 years. He said that timely career progression is important for keeping employees motivated and ensuring effective functioning of the administration.

Responding to the representatives, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Government is keen to provide a work-friendly environment to employees so that they remain motivated and are able to discharge their responsibilities effectively. He said that while employees may have a range of demands, their genuine issues would be looked into through the appropriate mechanism. He also said that inputs received from employees on service and cadre-related matters are important and should continue to be brought before the

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

concerned authorities. The interaction was with representatives of the Central Secretariat Group-C Employees' Association, representing more than 8,000 Group-C employees working across 135 Ministries, Departments and Organisations under the Central Secretariat. The delegation placed before the Minister a detailed set of concerns relating to service conditions and career progression of its members.

The representatives placed their inputs regarding cadre review and the existing cadre structure, seeking consideration of issues affecting promotional avenues and career progression. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that such genuine inputs would be considered through the appropriate institutional mechanism.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that regular interaction with employees and receiving their inputs provides an important channel for understanding genuine service-related concerns. He said that the Government's objective is to ensure that legitimate issues are considered while creating a conducive working environment in which employees can remain motivated and perform their responsibilities effectively.

The Minister's emphasis on employee motivation and timely career progression comes in the context of the Government's continuing efforts to address stagnation in Central Secretariat services. In an earlier interaction with employee bodies in

March 2026, representatives had also appreciated the Government's cadre-management and promotion initiatives and thanked Dr. Jitendra Singh for his guidance and support.

The Government has, in recent years, undertaken large-scale promotion exercises across Central Secretariat services. In December 2025 that more than 8,000 promotions were affected on June 30, 2022 alone, while over 16,200 promotion orders had been issued between 2022 and 2024 across various grades.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that employee representatives should continue to provide their inputs on genuine service-related matters, including cadre-related issues and matters requiring cadre review, so that these can be examined through the appropriate institutional mechanism. He reiterated that the larger objective is to create a work-friendly environment that keeps employees motivated and strengthens the efficiency of administration.

The interaction concluded with the Minister assuring the representatives that genuine issues raised by them would be looked into through the appropriate mechanism, while encouraging continued constructive engagement between employee representatives and the concerned authorities.

The representatives thanked Dr. Jitendra Singh for his continued interaction with employee bodies and for providing them an opportunity to place their concerns directly before him.

CM Omar Abdullah meets IUST VC, KCCI delegation at Raabita



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, Sep 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, and a delegation of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) at Raabita here.

During his meeting with Prof. Shakil Ahmad

Romshoo, the Chief Minister discussed matters relating to higher education and academic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The interaction reflected the Government's continued engagement with academic institutions to strengthen educational initiatives and promote excellence in higher education.

The Chief Minister also met KCCI delegation

led by its President Javid Ahmad Tenga and discussed matters concerning trade, business and the economic growth of the region.

The meetings provided an opportunity to exchange views on strengthening collaboration with academic and business stakeholders and advancing initiatives of wider public and economic significance.

Speaker inaugurates macadamisation work on Nowgam-Kanidajan Charar-i-sharief Road, PHC at Watkaloo

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

BUDGAM SEPTEMBER 23: Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather today inaugurated the macadamisation work of the Nowgam to Kanidajan Charar-i-sharief road, marking an important step towards strengthening road connectivity and improving transportation facilities for the people of the area.

The 9 kilometre long road is being macadamised at an estimated cost of Rs 1.72 crore. The project is expected to significantly improve the condition of the road, facilitate smooth and hassle-free vehicular movement and provide better connectivity to the adjoining villages and localities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker underscored the importance of robust road infrastructure in promoting overall development and improving the quality of life of the people. He said that improved connectivity plays a vital role in facilitating access to education, healthcare, markets and other essential services besides providing impetus to local economic activities.



He emphasized that timely completion and proper execution of development works should remain a priority so that the intended benefits reach the people at the earliest.

Speaker also visited Darekanjan and Braripathri, where he interacted with local residents and listened to their demands, grievances and issues requiring government's attention.

The locals apprised the Speaker of various issues concerning basic amenities, infrastructure and other develop-

mental requirements of their respective areas.

The Speaker gave a patient hearing to the people and assured them that their genuine demands and issues would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate consideration and necessary action.

He stressed the importance of regular interaction with the public and directed that issues of genuine public concern should be addressed in a timely and coordinated manner.

Later, the Speaker visited

Watkaloo, where he inaugurated a Primary Health Centre (PHC) aimed at strengthening healthcare services in the locality. The newly inaugurated PHC is expected to provide essential medical facilities closer to the people and reduce the need for residents to travel to distant health institutions for routine healthcare requirements.

On the occasion, the Speaker highlighted the importance of accessible and quality healthcare services, particularly for people living in rural and far-flung areas. He said that strengthening healthcare infrastructure at the grassroots level is essential for ensuring timely medical assistance to the public.

The inauguration of the PHC is expected to benefit the local population by providing essential healthcare services in the vicinity and further strengthening the public health delivery system in the area.

The Speaker reiterated his commitment to ensuring sustained development of the constituency and stressed that infrastructure, healthcare and other essential public services would continue to receive due attention.

Rana reviews physical, financial progress of Jal Shakti, I&FC works in Kashmir Directs officers to ensure completion of projects before onset of winter

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 23: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of various schemes and developmental works being executed by the Jal Shakti Department and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC)

Departments in Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineers of the Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control Departments, besides all Superintending Engineers of the Hydraulic Circles of Kashmir Division.

During the meeting, the concerned officers briefed the Minister on the progress of ongoing schemes, achievements



recorded so far, bottlenecks and the status of expenditure against funds sanctioned and earmarked for different works.

While reviewing the progress, the Minister directed the officers to accelerate execution of works on the ground and ensure that all projects nearing completion are completed within the prescribed timelines, particularly before the onset of winter.

Reviewing the functioning and progress of the Jal Shakti Department, Rana directed the officers to accord top priority to all incomplete drinking water supply schemes and make every effort to commission them before the winter season sets in.

He stressed the need for advance functional testing of pipelines, pumping arrangements, storage tanks and other associated infrastructure so that any technical deficiencies are identified and rectified well in time.

The Minister also called for close field-level monitoring of schemes and directed the concerned officers to undertake regular inspections of works, particularly those at advanced stages of completion, to ensure adherence to quality standards and approved timelines.

Reviewing the progress of works under the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, the

Minister directed that de-silting of water channels and strengthening of flood-protection infrastructure and embankments along vulnerable stretches be undertaken and completed on priority.

Rana asked the Chief Engineer, I&FC, to furnish a river-wise status report detailing the progress of flood-protection works and the preparedness of vulnerable areas ahead of the winter season.

He stressed that physical progress and financial expenditure must move in tandem and that funds allocated for developmental works should be utilised judiciously, transparently and within the prescribed timelines.

Governor felicitates Hamirpur's young innovator for developing indigenous drone technology for Indian Army

Urges youth to become job creators and contribute to PM Modi's vision of a self-reliant, developed India



NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU/HAMIRPUR, Sept 23: Hon'ble Governor Himachal Pradesh Shri Kavinder Gupta felicitated Shri Sarvesh Sharma, a student of Government Polytechnic, Hamirpur, for securing a ₹3.5-crore grant from the Ministry of Defence for the development of the indigenous 'Rudra Edge T-1 (Spectra)' drone for the Indian Army.

Appreciating his achievement, the Governor said that the initiative reflects the talent, innovative spirit and technological potential of the youth of Himachal Pradesh. He commended Shri Sarvesh Sharma's dedication, vision and perse-

verance in contributing to the development of indigenous defence technology.

The Governor said that such achievements give impetus to the spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and strengthen the country's efforts towards developing indigenous technological capabilities in the defence sector.

Interacting with Shri Sarvesh Sharma, the Governor enquired about the key features of the drone, the challenges faced during its development and the inspiration behind undertaking the project. He also discussed the future plans for advancing indigenous drone technology.

Shri Kavinder Gupta appealed to the youth of

Himachal Pradesh to draw inspiration from Shri Sarvesh Sharma's achievement and pursue innovation, research, technology and entrepreneurship with dedication. He said that the youth should aspire not only to seek employment but also to become job creators and contribute to the vision of a self-reliant and developed India, in line with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Governor wished Shri Sarvesh Sharma continued success in his endeavour.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, Hamirpur, Mrs Gandharva Rathore and Superintendent of Police, Hamirpur, Shri Balbir Singh, were also present.

Ayurveda complements modern healthcare through prevention, healthy living: Sakeena Itoo

NEWS TILL DATE BUREAU

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 23: Minister for Medical and Health Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, today said that a healthy society requires not only hospitals and medicines, but also awareness, prevention, healthy lifestyles and responsible use of natural resources.

Sakeena Itoo made these remarks while speaking as Chief Guest at the 11th Ayurveda Day 2026 celebrations organised by the Directorate of AYUSH, Jammu & Kashmir, under the theme "Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow". The Minister said Ayurveda is an important part of India's traditional knowledge and is increasingly receiving global recognition, adding that the theme reflects the growing relevance of Ayurveda in preventive healthcare, wellness and community wellbeing. Sakeena Itoo emphasised the need to strengthen an integrative approach to healthcare in J&K, including

greater co-location of AYUSH services in healthcare institutions. She appreciated the contribution of the Directorate of AYUSH through inter-sectoral convergence and its participation in programmes such as Nasha Mukti Bharat, Anaemia Mukti Bharat and prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Highlighting the strengthening of AYUSH infrastructure, the Minister referred to the 50-bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital at Kulgam, progress of hospitals at Kathua and Samba and the Government Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital at Amargarh, Sopore. She said District AYUSH Officer posts have been created and filled to strengthen district-level functioning.

The Minister also highlighted J&K's rich medicinal plant wealth and appreciated initiatives such as school herbal gardens, farmer training, buyer-seller meet and medicinal plant cultivation.

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