



‘Op Sindoor’ Showed World India’s Vow to Avenge Every Attack: LG Sinha

FE NEWS NETWORK

Addresses Mega Rally of Ex-Servicemen in Jammu

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, paid tribute to martyrs and felicitated ex-servicemen to mark commemoration of Diamond Jubilee of India’s victory over Pakistan in 1965 war. The event was organised by Western Command and 26 Infantry Division in Jammu.

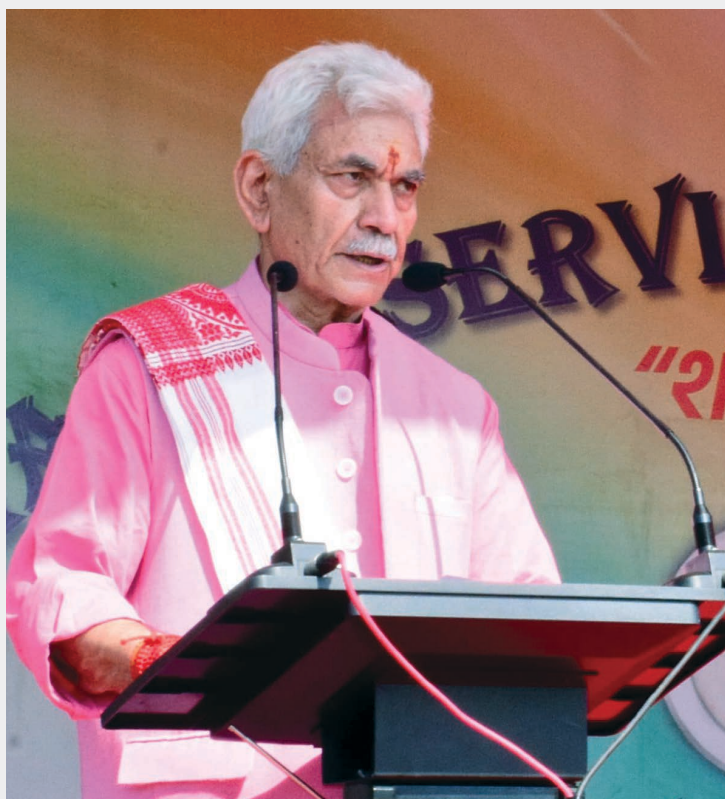
Addressing a mega rally of Ex-servicemen, the Lieutenant Governor said that 1965 war victory and recent Operation Sindoor was the result of the valour and sacrifice of soldiers of Indian armed forces which is considered among the strongest across the globe.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled the sacrifice of 1965 war heroes and paid homage to all the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice, defending the sovereignty and integrity of India.

He said the abode of soldiers, who are the first line of defence against terror country Pakistan is a sacred land.

“Unwavering devotion to ex-servicemen is the fundamental foundation of my policies. Personally, for me the land of veterans is no less than a pilgrimage site. Our veterans have made immense contribution in economic growth, social transformation and the resurgence of a glorious India,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He recalled the valour of 26 Infantry



This Diwali ‘Vocal for Local’ should be our mission: LG Sinha

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said this Diwali ‘Vocal for Local’ should be our mission to

boost self-reliance and national pride. “All the families should buy hand-crafts, handloom and other traditional products as a gift for Diwali. This will instil patriotism among people and support small businesses,” the Lieutenant Governor said

See On P/6

Division during Operation Sindoor and army’s selfless work in saving people’s lives during recent natural calamities.

“Operation Sindoor gave a message to the world that we will avenge every drop of Indian citizen’s blood. No one



“Our **ex-servicemen** are role models for the youth. They must guide the **young generation** on the righteous path and teach them the values of **patriotism**, discipline, and selfless service,” he further said.



can dare raise their eyes towards our country,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon ex-servicemen to contribute to society by applying their leadership skill and discipline in ongoing community service, and civic action programmes.

“Our ex-servicemen are role models for the youth. They must guide the young generation on the righteous path and teach them the values of patriotism, discipline, and selfless service,” he further said.

See On P/6

From Art-370 to Op Sindoor, Govt Has Broken Back of Terrorism: HM Shah

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that from the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir to Operation Sindoor, the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government broke all walls of terrorism.

Speaking at the 41st Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG) at its headquarters in Manesar, Shah said, the government’s approach follows a “zero tolerance” policy toward terrorism.

He mentioned amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), new definitions of terrorism in criminal laws, and bans on organisations such as the Popular Front of India (PFI) as part of this strategy.

Shah said that Operation Sindoor successfully destroyed Pakistani terror bases, training camps, and launch sites. He added that in Operation Mahadev, Indian security forces conducted tar-

geted operations to neutralise those responsible for the Pahalgam attack, boosting public confidence in the armed forces.

The Home Minister said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government



maintains a zero-tolerance approach toward terrorism. “The campaign against terror has been broad and coordinated, from the abrogation of Article 370 to surgical strikes, airstrikes, and Operation Sindoor, aiming at dismantling the

See On P/6

Some Nations Are Openly Violating Global Norms: Rajnath

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Some nations are “openly violating” the international rules, while many others are wanting to create their own norms and dominate the next century, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

India, while advocating for the reform



of “outdated” international structures, is standing “strong” in upholding the international rules-based order, he said.

See On P/6

Two infiltrators killed in Kupwara



SRINAGAR: Two infiltrators were killed after security forces foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control in Machil sector of north Kashmir’s Kupwara district, officials said on Tuesday.

An Official said, that based on specific intelligence input, a joint operation by the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police was launched in Machil sector on October 13.

Alert troops noticed suspicious movement near the LoC and challenged the infiltrators, who opened indiscriminate fire. In the ensuing gunfight, two terrorists were neutralized.

A large quantity of weapons and other war-like stores were recovered from the encounter site, officials added—(KNO)

India’s Action Following Pahalgam Massacre Was Precise: DGMO Ghai

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Director General Military Operations (DGMO) and Army’s Deputy



Chief Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai on Tuesday said that India’s military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack was measured, meticulously planned and carried out with precision.

Speaking at a function here, Lt Gen Ghai described the Pahalgam attack — in which 26 tourists were shot dead by terrorists — as

a “sponsored” cross-Line of Control (LoC) strike in which terrorists singled out victims on the basis of community. “They asked for the community that they came from and shot them in cold blood in front of their families and loved ones,” he said.

“There were immediate claimers; this was ‘glory’. However, when the Kashmir Resistance Front initially claimed the attack, they realised that matters had possibly gone beyond their control, and they immediately withdrew,” Lt Gen Ghai added, underscoring that while a response was inevitable, the armed forces intentionally took time to plan and prioritise targets.

He said operations evolved between April 22 and the night of May 6-7, during which precautionary deployments were made along borders and multiple services and government agencies coordinated closely.

See On P/6

CM Omar Advocates for Boosting Agriculture Through Value-Addition

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that the agriculture sector in Jammu and Kashmir holds

The Chief Minister made these remarks while addressing the National Executive Committee Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and In-

FICCI Jyoti Vij, Past President Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Chairman FICCI J&K Council Mushtaq A. Burza, and members of the National Executive Council.



immense potential and requires focused attention towards value addition to unlock full gamut of business opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by FICCI President Harsh Vardhan Agarwal, Senior Vice President Anant Goenka, Director General

“The **Chief Minister** informed that the **government** is simultaneously engaging with domestic and international **tourism partners** to attract **visitors** and revive the sector.”

Highlighting the immense potential of the agriculture sector, the Chief Minister said that most of the produce from Jammu and Kashmir leaves the region

See On P/6

GST rejig boosts J&K’s traditional handicraft, E’ship: Dr. Jitendra

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences; and Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that the Modi Government’s decision to reduce GST on “Pashmina” products to 5% had not only boosted a very important and historic traditional handicraft of Jammu & Kashmir, but also increased the business potential for artisans and entrepreneurs.

During a visit to the 2-day “The Splendor of Kashmir” Exhibition organised at the national capital with the support of FICCI-FLO, when the Minister asked the Founder and Curator of “The Splendor of Kashmir”, Varuna Anand and her team for this successful venture, Dr Jitendra Singh observed that this was one of the

he was told that within a short span of just about three weeks, the sale had gone up multiple times.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, PM Narendra



Modi’s decision to reduce GST tax, has exposed the new generation and the youngsters to the versatile grandeur and beauty of Pashmina and at the same time, encouraged new entrepreneurs to take to this vocation.

Lauding Varuna Anand and her team for this successful venture, Dr Jitendra Singh observed that this was one of the

finest examples of women-led entrepreneurship and noted that while on PM Modi’s call from the Red Fort, the number of StartUps in the country had gone up from around 350 to over 1.7 lakh, what is

Dr Jitendra Singh said, PM Narendra Modi’s decision to reduce GST tax, has exposed the new generation and the youngsters to the versatile grandeur and beauty of Pashmina and at the same time, encouraged new entrepreneurs to take to this vocation.

significant is that nearly 60,000 of these are women-led and many from Tier 2 and 3 cities.

The exhibition, curated by Varuna Anand, Founder of The Splendor of

See On P/6

‘Operation Sindoor 2.0’ Will Be Stronger: Lieutenant General Katiyar

FE NEWS NETWORK

Says Pak could pay a heavy price if it doesn’t mend its ways

JAMMU: Warning Pakistan that ‘Operation Sindoor 2.0’ would be stronger than the first one, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command, Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar, on Tuesday said that if the neighbouring country refuses to mend its ways it can pay a very heavy price this time around.

Lieutenant General Katiyar said, “Operation Sindoor 2.0 would be stronger than the first phase.”

Pertinently, Operation Sindoor was launched after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead. The Indian armed forces attacked nine terror camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). The skirmishes that followed con-

tinued for 4-days until Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) reached out to his



counterpart in India and requested for a ceasefire.

In a strongly worded message, Lt Gen Katiyar said, “If Pakistan repeats what it did, then what we do next will be more than the last time. Operation Sindoor 2.0 has to be more powerful.”

Lt Gen Katiyar said Pakistan follows a policy of causing harm through multiple smaller actions rather than open conflict. “It does not have the capacity to fight a war with us. It does not want to fight a war. Its actions are part of the policy of ‘bleed India through a thousand

See On P/6

CS reviews progress on mobile and internet connectivity in shadow areas

Directs for regular monitoring and time-bound completion of these projects

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo emphasized the need for coordinated and time-bound execution of the Union Government’s Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) programme aimed at expanding mobile network and 4G connectivity in shadow areas of the Union Territory.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting convened to review the status of mobile tower installation and network coverage across the uncovered areas of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Secretary, Information Technology; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Chief General Manager, BSNL; and other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary directed both Divisional Commissioners to take weekly appraisals

See On P/6

Mega Health Camps being organized to provide free medical services across Kathua District

DC reviews arrangements with Health Department, Rotary International

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma chaired a meeting to review arrangements and logistics for the upcoming Mega Health Camps being organised jointly by



Rotary Club International and the District Administration Kathua in different medical blocks of the district in the last week of October 2025.

These camps will be held at Basohli, Bani and Kathua where surgical procedures will be conducted on the identified patients.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Rotary Club International, ADCs, Sub Divisional Magistrates, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina and Block Medical Officers. The meeting held a detailed discussion to ensure smooth and successful conduct of the health camps.

The Mega Health Camps aim to extend free medical services, including surgeries, to the needy and marginalized sections of society, especially those residing in remote and far-flung areas of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Health Department to give wide publicity to the initiative and prepare a database of beneficiaries who could avail the facilities during the camps. He further instructed the CMO and BMOs to identify patients requiring surgical intervention and ensure their participation in the programme.

It was informed that Rotary Club International has earlier conducted similar Mega Health Camps in various districts, benefitting thousands of people through quality medical services and specialized surgeries.

During the upcoming camps, teams of renowned doctors and specialists from across the country will perform surgeries and provide specialised healthcare services to alleviate the sufferings of patients.

The District Administration in collaboration with Rotary Club International and the Health Department will extend full logistical support and facilitate necessary arrangements for the conduct of these camps at Basohli, Bani and Kathua.

DDC Doda Reviews Implementation Of RDD Schemes

DODA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh chaired a review meeting in the conference hall



of DDC Office Complex Doda to assess the progress of key schemes being implemented by the Rural Development Department (RDD) in the district.

The review covered major flagship programmes including the District Capex Budget (CAPEX), MGNREGA, PMAY(G), Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGS), Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and the MPLAD.

At the outset, ACD presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the latest status and progress achieved under these schemes. The DDC Doda held a detailed block-wise and sector-wise review of the works and emphasized the need to ensure timely completion of ongoing projects.

The DDC directed all departments to maintain close coordination and effective monitoring to achieve results on the ground. He also instructed officers to expedite the pace of work and ensure transparency and quality in execution.

The meeting was attended by the ADDC, ADC, CPO, ACD, SE R&B, ACP, BDOs, JEs and other concerned technical staff.

UT level Wrestling Tournament at Doda: District Jammu shines with 17 Gold medals

DODA: Jammu District has dominated the Inter-District UT Level (AAG) Boys and Girls Wrestling Tournament held at the Indoor Sports Stadium Doda.

The tournament witnessed intense competition and spirited performances from participants representing different districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

District Jammu showcased outstanding dominance by bagging 17 Gold, 5 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.

District Doda followed with a commendable performance, winning 3 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals, while Udhampur, Rajouri, Reasi, Samba, Kathua and Kishtwar also displayed strong participation and sportsmanship.

The event highlighted the growing enthusiasm for wrestling among the youth and reaffirmed the commitment of the Youth Services and Sports Department to promote sports excellence and unity across the Union Territory.

Doda: District Road Safety Committee reviews status of corrective measures

FE NEWS NETWORK

DC asks NHIDCL to create civic amenities for travellers

DODA: The 3rd meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) was convened under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by senior functionaries from the Police, BRO, Health, Education, Forest, Transport, NHIDCL and other line departments. The meeting reviewed ongoing road safety measures including identification of accident-prone areas and strengthening coordination among departments to ensure safer roads across the district. The stakeholder departments were directed to submit updated Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the measures listed in previous meetings.

He directed the departments to expedite works related to the construction of safety barriers, installation of signboards, safety channels and crash barriers. The NHIDCL authorities were instructed to shift electric towers from unsafe locations to suitable spots and to ensure proper maintenance of national highways to prevent accidents. The DC also asked NHIDCL to conduct a design speed study to enhance traffic flow and vehicle speed safety.

Directions were issued for the installation of crash barriers in remaining vulnerable areas and the DySP Traffic, NHIDCL and

XENPWD (R&B) were asked to take prompt action. The DC further directed NHIDCL to maintain roadside safety signs and ensure all road safety measures are in place. He also emphasized ensuring toilet facilities for travellers at designated roadside locations.

Referring to the Raggi Nallah area, which



has been identified as a sensitive stretch, the DC urged the authorities to implement immediate safety measures on the stretch. The BRO was directed to ensure timely maintenance of damaged roads for public safety and to prioritize maintenance and safety improvements of the road leading to Chattergalla, keeping in view the expected influx of tourists during the upcoming snow adventure tourism season.

The meeting also discussed the blacktopping and crash barrier works along the

Goha-Marmat stretch, for which the DC directed to appoint a Nodal Officer for effective execution and daily reporting of progress. The DC emphasized that all road safety and maintenance works must be completed within targeted timelines.

The ARTO and DySP Traffic were directed to maintain detailed records of all accidents, along with proper analysis and reporting. The ARTO was further instructed to take stern enforcement action against traffic violators and to ensure strict adherence to helmet use and road safety norms. The DC called for effective monitoring of traffic management and violations, with weekly reports to be submitted by the DySP Traffic and ARTO Doda regarding the movement of vehicles, route permits and other regulatory parameters.

Additionally, the DC directed the concerned officers to provide accident site reports promptly and to identify black spots in their respective jurisdictions. He also stressed the need for regular awareness programmes on road safety at the community and institutional levels.

The meeting concluded with the Deputy Commissioner urging all departments to work in close coordination to achieve the shared goal of "Zero Fatality Corridors" across District Doda, ensuring that road safety remains a top priority for all stakeholders.

Mega Awareness Camp Empowers Livestock Farmers At Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: In line with the vision of promoting livestock welfare and sustainable animal husbandry, the Department of Animal Husbandry Kishtwar organized a Mega Awareness Camp here at the Office of the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO).

The event was held under the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma and it formed part of the 'Information Dissemination & Promotional Activities' component under the UT Capex Budget 2025-26.

The camp aimed to sensitize livestock farmers about key aspects of modern animal husbandry including scientific breeding, disease prevention, balanced nutrition, vaccination schedule and improved management practices.

Over 150 livestock farmers from different blocks of the District participated enthusiastically. Technical experts and departmental officers interacted with farmers, addressing field-level challenges and guiding them on disease control, feeding management and government support schemes designed to boost livestock-based income.

As part of the Department's balanced nutrition initiative, mineral mixture packs were distributed among participating farmers. The distribution process was conducted

with proper documentation and acknowledgment to ensure transparency and audit compliance.

ensured the camp's technical success. The logistical arrangements were efficiently managed by Ashfaq Ahmed Dev



The event was held under the supervision of Dr. Mohammad Irfan Wani Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (Additional Charge) Kishtwar.

Among others present at the camp included Dr. Arif Shah (PEO Kishtwar); Dr. Indu Bhushan (Technical Officer to CAHO); Dr. Rajan Sharma (VAS); Dr. Shimmona Parihar (VAS); Dr. Mudasar Khateeb (VAS); Dr. Mukesh Kumar (VAS) and Dr. Anas Beig (CP Kishtwar) whose contributions

(Storekeeper), Ravi Kumar Sharma (LSS), Sajid Hassan (SVP) and other dedicated staff members of the CAHO Office.

The session concluded with an interactive dialogue where farmers shared field experiences and practical insights. Departmental officers assured continued support through regular awareness drives, field visits and the timely supply of veterinary essentials to strengthen livestock welfare initiatives.

DC Kathua Reviews Working Of Agriculture, Allied Sectors

Stresses on effective implementation of HADP, financial inclusion schemes for farmers

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Agriculture and allied departments to assess the physical and

Cooperative Shrutti Sharma besides representatives of different banks attended the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner took a



financial progress of the schemes being implemented in the district. The meeting was convened in the VC Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur; Chief Agriculture Officer, Jatinder Kumar; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Jugal Kishore; District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Ramesh Kumar Manhas; AD Fisheries Pawan Sharma; Chief Horticulture Officer Ashwani Kumar; Dy Registrar

detailed appraisal of activities under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other flagship initiatives focused on strengthening the rural economy and promoting financial inclusion. He emphasized coordinated and result-oriented efforts among all departments including Banks to achieve set targets within stipulated timelines for the larger welfare of the farming community.

Assessing the progress made in Agriculture sector, the DC reviewed the ground level impact of different beneficiary-oriented schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), PM-KISAN, Soil Health Card Scheme, Mushroom Development Programme, PM Fasal Bima Yojana and initiatives for the promotion of Women Self Help Groups (SHGs). Progress under Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture and Cooperative sectors was also reviewed in detail. The DC exhorted the officers to intensify outreach and awareness activities to ensure that the benefits of all welfare schemes percolate down to the grassroots level.

He further directed the departments to maintain close coordination with banking institutions for effective implementation of financial inclusion schemes and to extend credit facilities to all eligible farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all stakeholders to work with renewed zeal for the holistic development of the farming community under HADP and other flagship programmes.

TrueNat Machines dedicated to strengthen TB Diagnosis in District Doda

DODA: In a major boost to the health sector, TrueNat machines under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) have been dedicated and installed at CHC Gandoh and PHC Assar in District Doda.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar said that the installation of TrueNat machines will sig-



nificantly enhance the diagnostic capability for Tuberculosis (TB) at the block level, ensuring early detection and timely treatment of patients. This initiative will also reduce dependency on distant testing centers, thus providing faster results and better patient management.

While giving details, District TB Officer (DTO) Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma extended his gratitude to Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Hamid Zargar and Chief Medical Officer for their continuous efforts in strengthening TB control infrastructure. He further informed that, apart from Doda, three TrueNat machines have already been installed in District Kishtwar at District Hospital Kishtwar, Block Chattroo and Block Dachhan, marking a significant expansion of molecular diagnostic facilities in the region.

Block Medical Officer Assar Dr. Syed Mohammad Ismail and Block Medical Officer Gandoh Dr. Farooq Saleem also expressed their gratitude to DHS Jammu, CMO and DTO for making this possible and for their dedicated efforts towards strengthening diagnostic services at the grassroots level.

This initiative reaffirms the commitment of the Health Department towards achieving the goal of "TB Mukht Bharat" by ensuring accessible and quality diagnostic services across the region.

YSS Department Poonch hosts Inter District Division Level Hockey, Football competitions

POONCH: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Poonch successfully hosted the Inter District Division Level Competitions in the disciplines of Hockey (AAG Boys & Girls) and Under-17 Girls Football as part of the YSS Activity Calendar 2025-26. The Hockey events were held at the Hockey Astro Turf, while the Football matches took place at the Sports Stadium.

The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik who formally declared the competitions open.

Addressing the young athletes, he motivated them with the inspiring message, "Say no to drugs, yes to sports," and praised the Department for its continuous efforts in promoting youth engagement and sportsmanship across the district.

The competitions were organized under the leadership of Director General Youth Services and Sports, J&K Anuradha Gupta and the guidance of Joint Director DYSS Jammu Vinakshi Koul. The entire event was conducted under the supervision of District YSS officer Mohammad Qasim.

The Directorate had constituted a selection Committee for both Hockey and Football events. The Committee maintained a transparent and confidential selection process, ensuring that the best-performing players were chosen to represent at the next level of competition.

DLSA Shopian conducts 4th UTRC meeting for release of UTPs

SHOPIAN: In compliance with the directions of Judge Supreme Court of India (Executive Chairman, NALSA), Justice Surya Kant, District Legal Services Authority Shopian conducted 4th Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting in District Court Shopian.

The meeting was held to expedite the identification and review of prisoners who are eligible to be considered for release, as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of UTRC and review all eligible under-trial prisoners (UTPs)/Prisoners.

In the meeting, chaired by Pr. District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, the committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlisted by the Secretary, DLSA Shopian for consideration and the committee has recommended two under-trial prisoners for medical examination and age determination so that their cases will be taken up in next UTRC meeting.

CM Omar Abdullah reviews progress of development works in Baramulla

Inaugurates projects worth 525 lakh

BARAMULLA: Continuing with his district review meetings to personally evaluate development initiatives in various districts, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited Baramulla today and chaired a high-level meeting to assess the district's progress in execution of works and implementation of various government schemes.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javed Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma, DDC Chairperson Safina Beig, legislators from Baramulla, Sopore, Pattan, Uri, and Wagoor-Kreeri, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, besides Heads of Departments and senior district officers.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, gave a presentation on sector-wise achievements and ongoing projects, highlighting progress in key areas including power, health, education, rural development, agriculture and allied sectors, among others.

The Chief Minister was apprised about the progress achieved in respect of utilization of funds under the District capex.

During his visit, the Chief Minister also through virtual mode e-inaugurated several developmental

The meeting also held detailed discussions on constituency-wise development priorities. The



projects completed at a total cost of 5.25 crore. Some of the major projects inaugurated were the construction of a 1x6.3 MVA Receiving Station at Kalantra (1.84 crore), a 33/11 KV 1x10 MVA Receiving Station at Bharahampora, Rafiabad (2.73 crore) and development of footpaths along the National Highway from Post Office to Carriappa Park in Baramulla (0.67 crore) executed by the Urban Development Department.

Chief Minister assured the public representatives that all genuine demands have been noted and will be considered on merit.

Issuing key directions, the Chief Minister instructed the identification of alternate land for the Industrial Estate and to facilitate the expansion of GMC Baramulla. He also directed to initiate the process for handing over TRC Salamabad to the Tourism Department, formulation of DPRs

for the Drug Reservoir, multi-level car parking at Tangmarg, and completion of the Tangmarg Administrative Complex.

The Chief Minister further directed that joint exercise be conducted by the Forest and R&B Departments for developing an alternate road to Gulmarg via Baba Reshi.

He also emphasized the preparation of a DPR for the Administrative Complex, Baramulla, decongestion and expansion of the Fruit Mandi through coordinated efforts of the Horticulture and Housing Departments, and the creation of a district-level land bank to support future developmental projects.

Emphasizing youth empowerment, Omar Abdullah stressed on making Mission YUVA more vibrant, with J&K Bank playing a proactive role in promoting youth entrepreneurship.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reaffirmed the government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, underscoring the importance of inter-departmental coordination and time-bound execution of projects to maximize public benefits.

Public delegations, Legislators call on CM at Srinagar Raabita office

Highlight developmental priorities and public issues



SRINAGAR: Various public delegations called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at his public outreach Raabita Office here in Srinagar and apprised him of a wide range of public issues and developmental concerns.

The delegations comprising representatives from different areas of Kashmir projected demands relating to infrastructure, civic amenities, power, water supply and road connectivity in the Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the visiting delegations and assured that their genuine demands would be examined and addressed in a time-bound manner.

Several legislators also met the Chief Minister and discussed key developmental priorities concerning their constituencies. They briefed him about ongoing works, public grievances, and sector-specific requirements aimed at improving service delivery and accelerating local development.

The Chief Minister assured the visiting delegations that the government will continue to give focused attention to strengthen basic infrastructure and improving delivery of essential services across Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Ganderbal chairs DLSCC meeting, clears several cases under SRO-43

GANDERBAL: District Level Screening cum Coordination Committee (DLSCC) met here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore to review, discuss, and finalize relief cases submitted under SRO-43 by NoKs of those killed in terrorist attacks.

The meeting held a comprehensive review of cases submitted with inputs gathered from the Police, Army, CRPF and Tehsildars. Speaking on the occasion, DC stressed the concerned officers to ensure speedy and transparent disposal of all such cases to ensure families of the victims receive timely relief.

After thorough deliberation, several cases were cleared by the Committee and submitted to the General Administration Department for relief as per the laid down rules and procedures.

Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal; ADC Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, ACR and Tehsildars, besides, officers of BSF, CRPF and Army attended the meeting.



Sakeena Itoo flags off Red Run 2025 on HIV/AIDS awareness at Srinagar

Highlights role of Youth in fighting drug menace, other societal issues

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo flagged off 5-KM Red Run 2025 from Foreshore Road here to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote healthy lifestyles.

The race was organised by Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) in collaboration with University of Kashmir to spread awareness regarding HIV/AIDS and breaking the stigma associated with the disease.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the importance of collective action in combating stigma and promoting awareness around HIV/AIDS. She lauded the efforts of JKACS in engaging the youth and educational institutions in health promotion initiatives.

The Minister further said that the Youth of J&K have pivotal role to play in eradicating drug menace, besides other fighting other societal issues and problems. She highlighted that the energy and excitement among the young participants reflected their strong commitment toward spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS and breaking the stigma associated with the disease.

Vice Chancellor of the

University of Kashmir, Dr. Nilofer Khan and Project Director, JKACS, Dr. Jehangir Bakshi also spoke on



the occasion and highlighted the importance of continued youth engagement and community-driven awareness campaigns to achieve the vision of an AIDS-free J&K.

Pertinently, the Red Run 2025, a 5-kilometer awareness run commenced from the scenic Foreshore Road and concluded at the University of Kashmir witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 500 students representing various colleges across the Srinagar District.

On the sidelines of the Run, a 2-kilometer Walkathon was also organized by JKACS in collaboration with the Dean Students Welfare, University of Kashmir, which saw the participation of more than 300

students from the University of Kashmir. The Walkathon served as a powerful symbol of



unity, compassion, and shared responsibility in combating HIV/AIDS and promoting inclusivity.

The winners of the Red Run were felicitated and awarded for their outstanding performances, celebrating both their athletic achievements and their commitment to the cause.

The Red Run 2025 and Walkathon stand as a testament to the power of collaboration between public institutions, academia, and the community to address pressing public health challenges.

The event not only spotlighted the importance of physical well-being but also reinforced the urgent need for sustained HIV/AIDS awareness and preventive education efforts across Jammu & Kashmir.

J&K Participates in the State/UT Tourism Ministers' Conference at Udaipur

Advisor Nasir Aslam led team represented J&K at the conference

UDAIPUR: J&K participated in two-day State and UT Tourism Ministers' Conference held at Udaipur on 14th and 15th of October, 2025. The delegation of J&K was led by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani and included Dr. Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu; Waseem Raja, Joint Director Tourism Kashmir; and Arif Lone, Assistant Director Tourism Jammu.

The Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, delivered a presentation and highlighted the Tourism potential of J&K and the Government's commitment to developing Jammu & Kashmir as a vibrant, all-season tourist destination. The presentation highlighted key destinations of J&K Viz Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Gurez and 'Sukrala Devi - Shiv Khori- Machail Mata & Sarthlal Devi-Kheer Bhawani pilgrimage circuit' for development under the

Budget Announcement Initiatives. The presentation focused on unlocking vast tourism potential

by Union Minister of Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who emphasized the importance of



through improved infrastructure, enhanced connectivity, and enriched visitor experiences, with an emphasis on promoting adventure, heritage, wellness, and spiritual tourism.

The conference brought together Tourism Ministers, Secretaries and senior officials from across the country to deliberate on strategies for destination development in India. The event was inaugurated

collaborative efforts between the Centre and the States to strengthen the tourism ecosystem and enhance India's position as a premier global travel destination.

The conference served as a vital platform for sharing best practices, forging partnerships, and aligning State and UT tourism strategies with national priorities to boost tourism-led growth and employment generation across the country.

GMC Srinagar organizes Walkathon to Promote Palliative Care Awareness

SRINAGAR: The Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care, Pain and Palliative Care Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, organized a Walkathon to commemorate World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. The event, themed "Walk of Compassion for Palliative Care," aimed to raise awareness about the importance of palliative care in improving the quality of life for patients with life-limiting illnesses.

The Walkathon, which began at Nishat and culminated at Duck Park, saw enthusiastic participation from faculty members, senior residents, postgraduate and undergraduate students.

Principal/Dean Government Medical College Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan led the walk and commended the department for their efforts in creating awareness about palliative care as an essential part of holistic health services.

She said that Palliative medicine plays a vital role in improving the quality of life for patients with life-limiting illnesses through early identification, assessment, and management of pain and other symptoms. She

emphasized to strengthen the continuum of care from curative to palliative stages and promote community-based outreach. Head of Department, Prof. (Dr.) Hina Bashir



Shah emphasized the importance of a multidisciplinary approach involving anesthesiologists, oncologists, and palliative specialists.

"Palliative care combines clinical expertise, communication, and ethical decision-making, helping doctors manage chronic pain, cancer-related distress, and

end-of-life care with empathy and precision," she said. Dr. Nusrat Jehan, Dr. Arshi Taj, and Dr. Mubasher Ahmad Bhat lead the core palliative care team of the Department of Anaesthesiology.

They serve as Nodal Coordinators for ten district hospitals of Kashmir under an ICMR-supported project aimed at building capacity and improving palliative care delivery across the region.

Their work focuses on training healthcare providers and extending compassionate care to patients even in remote areas.

The department has been working tirelessly to promote evidence-based pain management, responsible opioid use, and compassionate care.

Under an ICMR-supported project, the department has been training healthcare providers and extending palliative care to patients in remote areas.

The Walkathon concluded with a renewed commitment to advancing clinical excellence, patient comfort, and compassionate care through continued education, research, and public engagement.

From Crafts to Confidence; SARAS Mela in Srinagar empowers women entrepreneurs across India

Self Help Group movement emerges as a catalyst for social revolution: Secy RDD

SRINAGAR: The 10 days SARAS Mela 2025 concluded today at Sher-e-Kashmir Park here with resounding success. During the concluding ceremony, Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Ajiaz Asad was present.

The Secretary described the 10-day event as a resounding success celebrating India's unity in diversity while giving a strong boost to women entrepreneurship across the country.

While appreciating the enthusiastic participation and overwhelming public response, the Secretary said, "The SARAS Mela is not just a sale exhibition, it is a celebration of India's unity and diversity".

He informed that self-help groups (SHGs) from states as diverse as Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, and Jammu & Kashmir participated in the event, reflecting the national scale of the initiative.

"All Kerala products were sold out. The stalls from Kishitwar are also empty, and even those from Uttar Pradesh have registered massive sales," he noted, adding that the commercial success was matched by the social impact of

the event. Highlighting the broader significance of the initiative, the Secretary termed the SHG movement as a catalyst for social revolution.

"The biggest benefit of this celebration is the exchange of



ideas. SHGs from J&K learn best practices from their counterparts in other states and vice versa. This exchange strengthens the entire network of women entrepreneurs," he observed.

He further said, "not only Lakshmi sisters, but millionaire sisters have also emerged from this movement. This is not merely a programme; it is a revolution in women empowerment".

MD, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma said that the participants expressed immense satisfaction with their experience in Kashmir and lauded the warmth, hospitality, and cooperation extended by the local community.

She added that the SARAS Mela served as a powerful platform for financial independence and

empowerment of SHG members supported under DAY-NRLM, representing states including Rajasthan, Lakshadweep, Haryana, Punjab, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, and Tripura, among others.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) from October 4 to 14, the SARAS Mela brought together the talent and creativity of over 150 rural women entrepreneurs from 13 states, offering visitors a colourful display of crafts, culture, and cuisine, a true national tapestry in the heart of Srinagar.

During the event, the Secretary also visited over 60 stalls run by SHG participants from outside the Union Territory, each showcasing unique products that reflected the artistry and craftsmanship of their regions.

The Mela concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where SHG members were awarded certificates for their outstanding contributions. In the awards category, Kishitwar district secured first position for best sales, while Srinagar district bagged the top honour in the best food category. The event reaffirmed Jammu and Kashmir's role as a hub of cultural and economic collaboration, with the SARAS Mela acting as a bridge connecting women entrepreneurs from across the nation.

Awareness Programme under Poshan Maah Organised at Kokernag



ANANTNAG: As part of the ongoing Poshan Maah-2025, an awareness programme was organised by the Poshan (ICDS) Project Breng at Town Hall, Kokernag. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Kokernag, Prince Kumar attended the event as the Chief Guest, while CDPO Breng, Rameez Raja, Supervisors, officials from the Health and AYUSH Departments, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), and other stakeholders also participated. In his address, the SDM commended the ICDS team for their dedicated efforts in achieving the objectives of the Poshan Abhiyaan. He emphasized the need for a proactive approach to combat malnutrition and to promote healthy eating practices within the community. The CDPO advised for incorporating local and nutritious foods into daily diets besides minimizing the consumption of processed foods particularly by children aged 0-6 years. At the conclusion, officials and field functionaries who have performed excellently during the Poshan Maah were felicitated with Mementos. On the sidelines, zone-wise nutritional stalls were displayed to showcase the diversity of local and healthy food options and were jointly inspected by SDM and CDPO.

Forest Department Launches Major Green Drive, Plastic Free Forest Campaign

KUPWARA: The Langate Forest Division Handwara of North Forest Circle organized an environmental awareness programme and plantation drive at Poshnar Forest Magam to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Martyr Shaheed Ghulam Nabi Sheikh, Forester.

The event served as a potent convergence of environmental advocacy and a solemn tribute to the dedication of the forest frontline personnel and was attended by Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore, Irfan Ali Shah, and

Environmentalist, Rakshanda Vishwanath.

The event commenced with a profound two-minute silence observed in honor of the late Shaheed Ghulam Nabi Sheikh.

On the occasion Rakshanda Vishwanath delivered a powerful message on community involvement in environmental safeguarding. Following the session, she flagged off a Plastic Free Forest Campaign and swachhta drive rally. Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore, in his address stressed upon the paramount importance

of protecting forest resources and paying rich tribute to the sacrifice of the Martyr.

He said, "Shaheed Ghulam Nabi Sheikh laid down his life in the line of duty, a testament to the selfless courage and unwavering dedication of the Forest officers and officials who protect our forests. Later, a plantation programme was carried out with Army Brigade Unit in Boniyar Range, Jhelum Valley Forest Division, Baramulla in collaboration with Forest Department and local forest fringe community.

Road crash in Katra leaves three dead

Katra/Jammu: Two Vaishnodevi pilgrims were among three killed and two others injured when a three-wheeler collided with a bus in Katra on Tuesday, officials said. The bus was heading from Katra towards Udhampur when the accident took place near Serli



check post in Katra. Those killed in the accident

were identified as auto driver Jeet Lal and pilgrims Vachitar Kumar Sahu, and Joginder Matari (66), residents of Odisha.

Two other injured devotees -- Kavita Sahu and Sneha Lata Matari from Odisha -- were referred to Jammu after receiving preliminary treatment. (PTI)

Editorial

Congress-NC Rift Widens

The carefully crafted appearance of unity in Jammu & Kashmir's ruling coalition has developed a deep and public crack. The submission of a scathing report by the Congress unit to its top brass regarding its partner, the National Conference (NC), is not just a political grievance. It is a severe indictment of a coalition that is unraveling, fraught with mutual distrust and betrayal. Coalition dharma has been violated and the political consequences have the potential to be severe for the stability of the state.

The immediate antecedent to the crisis was the NC's refusal to offer a 'safe seat' to Congress for the Rajya Sabha elections. Congress feels cheated because parties agreed on this arrangement at the highest level, from Dr. Farooq Abdullah to Congress President Sonia Gandhi. Omar Abdullah's denial of such an offer is cast not as a political misunderstanding but as a bad faith negotiation. This is more than just a seat-sharing disagreement; it strikes at the very heart of political trust, which is the backbone of coalition politics.

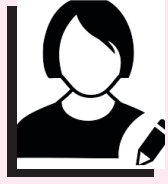
Nevertheless, the Rajya Sabha incident is just the symptom of a more serious issue. The Congress report reveals a pattern of behaviour that has systematically excised the Congress from the process. The NC's unwillingness to create a coordination committee, a typical arrangement for smooth governing of a coalition, would indicate that the NC hopes to govern unilaterally, treating its partner as simply a legislative crutch. Furthermore, the conclusion in the report identifying that Congress MLAs were systematically excluded from the process and governance points toward a partnership that is name only, with one partner feeling dismissed, disrespected, and increasingly irrelevant in the power structure.

The language of the report, "betrayal," "violated," and "anguish," is the language of a wounded partner. It tells us that the Congress cadre in J&K is on the verge of running out of patience, with growing pressure on the leadership to consider the nuclear option: withdrawing from the government. A withdrawal would throw the state into political turmoil, when stability is needed.

The ball now rests firmly with the Congress high command. It will now decide a crucial predictor of whether it continues its political strategy or whether it is more embarrassed at the prospect of humiliation in a coalition where they are merely a junior partner, and they can sacrifice self-respect for the sake of the exercise of power? Will Congress choose to swallow its pride and support an alliance it desires to terminate, risk the entire government? Or will they take a stand to virtue signal their contempt for this humiliation they feel as allies?

The citizens of Jammu & Kashmir need a stable, viable government. The existing public clash among the ruling partners, focused mainly on seat-sharing and political one-upmanship, does not serve to build confidence at all. The time has come for the leadership of the parties to pull back from the precipice. They need to enter into meaningful dialogue, recommit to the coalition's common minimum program and then address the structural problems of their coalition. Otherwise, they risk not only their own political survival but also the continuity of the administration of the state. Partners who come together through suspicion are partners who will break apart.

Beyond Ritual: Ahoi Ashtami And The Soul Of Motherhood



■ PRIYANKA SAURABH

In Indian culture, fasts and festivals are not merely a means of worship, but rather reflect the depth of life's ideals, emotions, and relationships. One such fast is the Ahoi Ashtami fast, a sacred festival associated with the spirit of motherhood. Mothers observe this fast to pray for their children's long life, good health, and happiness and prosperity. This festival is a wonderful symbol of a mother's sacrifice, love, and devotion.

The Ahoi Ashtami fast is observed on the Ashtami Tithi (eighth day) of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of the month of Kartik. This festival falls exactly four days after Karva Chauth and seven days before Diwali. In 2025, Ahoi Ashtami will be celebrated on Monday, October 13th. Auspicious conjunctions such as Adra and Punarvasu Nakshatras, Bava Karan, Paridhi Yoga, and Shiva Yoga are forming on this day. Worshipping and fasting for Ahoi Mata during this auspicious time are considered especially fruitful.

The purpose of the Ahoi Ashtami fast is a selfless vow made by a mother for the longevity, happiness, and safety of her children. On this day, mothers observe a waterless fast and break it only after seeing the stars at night. This fast is an example of a woman's dedication and faith. In ancient times, it was observed only for the long life of her son, but now it is observed for the well-being of all children—both sons and daughters.

According to legend, a long time ago, there lived a moneylender couple. They had seven children. During Diwali, the moneylender's wife went to the forest to collect soil for their home decoration. While digging, her shovel accidentally struck a porcupine's baby, killing it. This deeply saddened her. Shortly thereafter, all seven of her sons died. She remained immersed in grief, believing this was the result of her sins. One day, she confided her grief to a sage. The sage advised her to worship and fast to Ahoi Mata, who would forgive her and protect her sons. With a sincere heart, she observed the Ahoi Mata fast. Pleased with her devotion and repentance, Ahoi Mata granted life to all her sons. Since then, this fast has become a symbol of motherhood, forgiveness, and compassion.

On Ahoi Ashtami, after bathing in the morning, mothers vow to fast throughout

the day and pray for the well-being of their children. A dry fast is considered ideal on this day, but some women may choose to eat fruits. In the evening, preparations for the puja are made. A picture of Ahoi Mata is drawn on the wall or on paper. The picture depicts Ahoi Mata, Sahi Mata, and seven sons. Seven stars or dots are also drawn, symbolizing seven children or seven generations. The puja plate contains a kalash (urn), a water pot, milk, roli (roli), rice, halwa

This festival highlights the form of motherhood that not only creates but also protects. During this fast, a mother vows to make every effort and sacrifice for the protection and progress of her children. This sentiment makes women revered in Indian culture.

Even in today's modern age, the significance of Ahoi Ashtami remains undiminished. Despite cities and busy lifestyles, women observe fasts on this day, listen to the Katha online, and perform puja digitally. While

this day, sowing seeds of faith in their hearts.

Ahoi Ashtami also expresses the spirit of life in which, after making a mistake, the path to repentance and correction remains open. This festival teaches us that if someone has unintentionally committed a mistake, forgiveness can be obtained through sincere repentance and prayer to God. This spirit of forgiveness makes society humane and sensitive.

In Indian traditions, every festival holds



(pudding), puri (puri), sweets, and a silver Ahoi.

In the evening, when the star begins to rise, a lamp is lit and Mata Ahoi is worshipped. A story is narrated, and a prayer is offered to Mata Ahoi, asking her to protect her children just as she saved the moneylender's sons. After the puja, mothers gaze at the star in the sky, offer water to it, and break their fast at that very moment. In many places, mothers also break their fast when the moon rises, but traditionally, the sight of the star is considered the most important.

The word "Ahoi" itself means "mistake" and "I" means forgiveness. Ahoi Mata is the goddess who forgives unintentional sins and removes troubles from the lives of her devotees. She is considered an incarnation of Goddess Parvati. Worshipping Lord Shiva along with Goddess Parvati on this day is considered especially auspicious. The effect of the puja is further enhanced when the Shivavas Yoga is observed.

The Ahoi Ashtami fast is not just a religious tradition, but also highlights the role of women in society, their sensitivity, and their sacrifice.

the medium may have changed, the sentiment remains the same—a mother's selfless love and wish for the well-being of her children. This tradition also teaches that while culture changes with time, its roots remain in faith and relationships.

Ahoi Ashtami also has an environmental message. The porcupine described in the story is a wild animal that contributes to the fertility of the land and forests. This story conveys the message that it is human duty to be kind and compassionate towards nature and living creatures. Causing pain to any living creature, even unintentionally, is considered a sin. From this perspective, Ahoi Ashtami is not only a festival of worship for children, but also a festival of compassion for living creatures and respect for nature.

This fast also serves as a means of unity, affection, and social connection within the family. Mothers gather together to listen to stories, perform puja, and share their experiences. This not only strengthens family bonds but also ensures the flow of values across generations. Even young children witness their mothers performing puja on

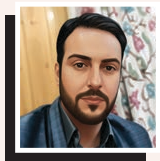
a deep social and spiritual message. Ahoi Ashtami also teaches that true religion lies not only in worship, but also in love, forgiveness, and compassion. When a mother breaks her fast after seeing a star for her children, she prays not only for her children but for the well-being of her entire family. This fast symbolizes restraint, devotion, and faith in life.

Ultimately, Ahoi Ashtami is a tribute to the power of the Indian woman who creates, nurtures, and protects. This festival celebrates the sacredness of motherhood. In societies where mothers are respected, auspiciousness and prosperity always prevail. This tradition of Ahoi Ashtami reminds us that mothers are not just a source of life, but a divine form whose love sustains the world.

May Ahoi Mata's blessings remain upon all our children. Heartiest greetings to all mothers on Ahoi Ashtami.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science. She can be mailed at priyankasaurabh9416@gmail.com

Mounting Antibiotic Resistance Fuels Global Health Crisis



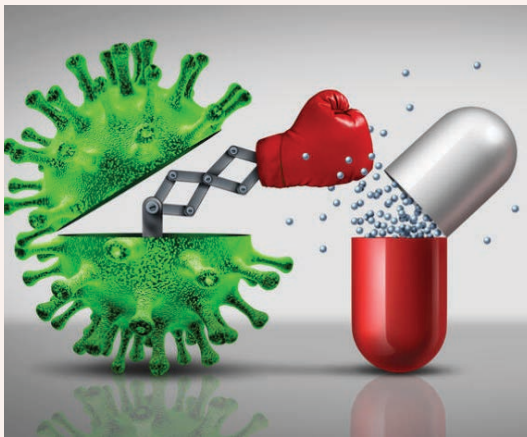
Mohammad Hanief

The world is confronting a mounting health emergency as bacteria increasingly develop resistance to the antibiotics once relied upon to cure common infections. The World Health Organization (WHO) has sounded a grave warning in its latest Global Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Report 2025, which reveals that one in six laboratory-confirmed bacterial infections worldwide in 2023 did not respond to standard antibiotic treatments. The findings underscore how antimicrobial resistance is spreading at a pace that threatens to outstrip medical innovation and undermine global health security.

The WHO report shows that between 2018 and 2023, antibiotic resistance rose in more than forty percent of the pathogen-antibiotic combinations it monitored, with average annual increases ranging from five to fifteen percent. The data, gathered from over one hundred countries through the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), highlights an accelerating crisis in which life-saving drugs are losing their power against some of the world's most widespread infectious diseases. The report compiles resistance prevalence estimates for twenty-two antibiotics used to treat infections of the urinary and digestive tracts, the bloodstream, and certain sexually transmitted infections, revealing disturbing patterns of resistance across eight major bacterial pathogens that cause millions of infections each year.

Antimicrobial resistance is not evenly distributed around the world. The WHO notes that the problem is most acute in the South-East Asian and Eastern Mediterranean regions, where one in three infections are resistant to antibiotics, while in the African region one in five show resistance. Countries where health systems are fragile, diagnostic capacity is weak, and regulation of antibiotic use is poor are the most severely

affected. In many such places, antibiotics can be purchased without prescription, leading to widespread misuse and overuse. The absence of strong surveillance networks and laboratory infrastructure has made it difficult to detect resistance early or track its spread, allowing resistant strains to circulate unchecked in communities and hospitals.



The rise of antimicrobial resistance is eroding one of the fundamental pillars of modern medicine. Medical procedures such as organ transplants, cancer chemotherapy, and caesarean deliveries depend on effective antibiotics to prevent and treat infections. As these drugs lose their efficacy, routine surgeries and common illnesses risk becoming fatal. The WHO warns that the progress achieved over decades of medical advancement could be reversed, pushing the world toward a post-antibiotic era in which once-curable diseases again become deadly.

The report draws attention to the growing threat posed by Gram-negative bacteria, which are developing resistance faster than most other pathogens and are particularly difficult to treat. Among them, *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* have emerged as leading causes of bloodstream infections that often lead to sepsis and organ failure. Globally, more than forty percent of *E. coli* and over fifty-five percent of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* are now resistant to third-generation cephalosporins, which have

long been considered first-line treatments for such infections. In Africa, the situation is even more dire, with resistance exceeding seventy percent in some areas. Resistance is also increasing against carbapenems and fluoroquinolones, antibiotics that were once reserved as last-resort options. The growing inefficacy of these drugs has drastically narrowed treatment options and pushed healthcare providers to depend on older, less effective, or more toxic alternatives. In many developing countries, newer antibiotics remain prohibitively expensive and are often unavailable, leaving large sections of the population without access to adequate care.

While the spread of resistance continues, there has been some progress in global monitoring. Participation in WHO's GLASS network has expanded from twenty-five countries in 2016 to more than one hundred in 2023, representing a significant step toward understanding resistance trends worldwide. However, gaps remain considerable. Nearly half of WHO member states failed to report any data to the system in 2023, and among those that did, many lacked the infrastructure to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the information collected. Countries with the greatest burden of resistance are often the least equipped to monitor it effectively, leaving the global community without a complete picture of the crisis. The WHO emphasizes that reliable surveillance data are essential for guiding treatment protocols and designing effective national strategies, and calls for investments in laboratory capacity, training, and data systems.

The worsening situation prompted world leaders to adopt a political declaration on antimicrobial resistance at the United Nations General Assembly in 2024, setting targets to strengthen health systems and coordinate action across human health, animal health, and environmental sectors. The WHO report reinforces the importance of this "One Health" approach, which recognizes that antibiotic resistance arises not only from human medicine but also from

agriculture and the environment. The use of antibiotics to promote animal growth or prevent disease in livestock remains widespread in many parts of the world, contributing significantly to the development of resistant bacteria that can spread through food chains, water sources, and direct human contact. Controlling resistance therefore requires policies that address antibiotic

The WHO's 2025 report portrays both progress and peril. On one hand, growing international participation in surveillance efforts marks an important achievement in collective response. On the other, the continuing rise in resistance, the uneven capacity among countries to respond, and the lack of new treatment options point to a global health threat that remains largely unchecked...

use across all sectors and ensure responsible practices in both healthcare and farming. Innovation remains central to addressing the crisis, yet the development of new antibiotics has slowed to a near standstill. Pharmaceutical companies have scaled back research due to high costs, regulatory hurdles, and limited financial returns, leaving few new drugs in the pipeline. The WHO stresses the need for global incentives to reinvigorate antibiotic research while guaranteeing equitable access to new medicines, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Alongside innovation, preventive measures are vital. Improved vaccination coverage, better sanitation, clean water, and hygiene can reduce infection rates and limit the need for antibiotics in the first place. Equally important is the promotion of public awareness about

responsible antibiotic use. The misuse of antibiotics—taking them without medical advice, stopping treatment too early, or using them for viral illnesses—remains a widespread problem that accelerates resistance. Combating these behaviors requires sustained education and awareness efforts targeting both the public and healthcare professionals. To support countries in tracking and managing resistance, WHO has expanded its digital GLASS dashboard, which provides detailed data visualizations of global and regional trends in resistance and antimicrobial use. The platform allows policymakers and researchers to access country profiles, analyze progress, and identify priority areas for intervention. This move toward greater transparency and accessibility aims to strengthen international collaboration and promote accountability in the fight against antimicrobial resistance. The WHO's 2025 report portrays both progress and peril. On one hand, growing international participation in surveillance efforts marks an important achievement in collective response. On the other, the continuing rise in resistance, the uneven capacity among countries to respond, and the lack of new treatment options point to a global health threat that remains largely unchecked. Without decisive and coordinated action, the world risks entering a future where minor injuries or routine infections once again carry deadly consequences. Antimicrobial resistance now stands as one of the most urgent health challenges of the century. It demands not only stronger policies and systems but also a fundamental shift in how societies value and use antibiotics. The preservation of these vital medicines depends on global solidarity, scientific innovation, and responsible stewardship at every level. The coming decade will determine whether humanity can stay ahead of the evolving resistance or succumb to an era where the simplest infections become untreatable once more.

The author is a senior analyst based in Kashmir and can be reached at m.hanief@gmail.com
Twitter / X: @haniefmha

Chief Secretary Terms PMGS To Serve As A Holistic Planning Tool

FE NEWS NETWORK

Reviews Progress on Data Integration on the portal

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Duloo, chaired a meeting of Administra-



tive Secretaries to review the progress made on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) portal, with a special focus on uploading of thematic data layers to strengthen evidence-based planning across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for comprehensive and coordinated data integration on the portal. He directed all con-

cerned departments to upload data layers pertaining to Mission YUVA and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), besides incorporating the digitized land bank created by the Forest Department, to enable inclusive and informed decision-making.

ventions and better resource planning. The Chief Secretary also took stock of the Action Taken Report on his previous directions regarding the portal and reviewed progress made in transitioning from point data to polygon data for mapping departmental assets. He called

proving developmental outcomes.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh gave a detailed presentation on the current status of the portal. He informed that all 28 mandatory data layers have been successfully uploaded by J&K, in addition to 608 supplementary layers, with the onboarding of 40 departments and conduct of over 100 major and 120 minor training sessions to build departmental capacity.

Providing further insights, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Arun Manhas, highlighted several new features and initiatives incorporated into the portal to enhance its utility. These include the Unified Geospatial Interface, PMGS offshore integration, Knowledge Management System for sharing best practices, Decentralized Data Sharing Module, formulation of District Master Plans in Aspirational Districts, and the rollout of the LEAPS 2025 framework for effective monitoring and implementation.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts made so far and urged all departments to ensure real-time data updation and cross-sectoral linkages to make the PM Gati Shakti portal a comprehensive planning and monitoring tool for accelerated development across J&K.

Underscoring the importance of leveraging the Gati Shakti platform for social sector interventions, Duloo stressed on the mandatory inclusion of datasets related to education infrastructure, health indicators, employment statistics, drug hotspots, and disaster-prone areas. He said that consolidating such multi-sectoral information on a single digital platform would facilitate focused inter-

upon departments such as Industries, Tourism, Power Development, Health, and Jal Shakti to expedite the transition and provide clear timelines for completion of the data uploads.

Highlighting the value of data-driven governance, Duloo directed that relevant datasets be shared with research institutions to encourage analytical inputs and innovative solutions for im-

DC Ganderbal Chairs District Level NCORD Committee Meeting

FE NEWS NETWORK

Directs to enhance awareness to sensitize public about the ill effects of drug abuse

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today convened a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review and strengthen measures aimed to curb drug abuse in the district. Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal was also present in the meeting.

At the outset, a detailed review was held on various aspects of drug prevention including identification of hotspots, follow up of cases registered under the NDPS Act, surveillance of educational institutions, and awareness campaigns under IEC and Nasha Mukh Panchayat initiatives besides destroying the channels/ networks and sources of drug peddling.

Officers from Health, Drug Control, Education, Excise, Social Welfare, Tehsildars, BDOs and police besides others concerned briefed the chair regarding activities carried out by their respective departments to curb drug menace in the district.

The DC emphasized on strengthening inter-departmental coordination to track and apprehend

those involved in drug trafficking, and promote community-level awareness efforts. The DC laid strong emphasis on tracking suspected couriers, and directed to implement enhanced

Mukt Abhiyan to sensitize the public about the ill effects of drug abuse.

DC directed Tehsildars to re-verify all 126 panchayats and submit a report within a week for declaration of Nasha



surveillance measures across key transportation hubs to intercept the flow of illicit materials.

He directed officers from the Drug Control department to ensure sealing of medical establishments that fail to comply with installation of CBS and CCTV systems, and called for stringent action against drug peddlers. He also directed the Excise department to intensify drives on destruction of illicit crops.

The DC directed CMO for establishing a facility for drugs testing at the District Hospital. He also directed BDOs and Social Welfare department to enhance awareness under Nasha

Mukt Panchayats.

He stressed to put curbs on sale and consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products around educational institutions and levy fines on those found guilty.

He also asked the Police and Revenue Department to work in close coordination with each other to identify drug peddlers and attach the properties obtained from proceeds if crime.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, CMO, all Tehsildars, all BDOs, representatives from Education, Excise, and Social Welfare, besides other officials from multiple departments.

AP To Field Candidates In Nagrota, Budgam Bye-Polls: Bukhari

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR/JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday said that the party will contest the upcoming Assembly bye-elections from both Nagrota and Budgam constituencies.

Speaking to media persons after chairing a key meeting with provincial leaders at the party's Jammu office in Gandhi Nagar, Bukhari, said the candidates' names will be finalised and announced after the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting in Srinagar.

"Our Jammu organisation has finalised the candidates. We will announce the names tomorrow. We are neither supporting anyone nor taking support from anyone," Bukhari said, adding that the Apni Party will independently contest from both constituencies.

Taking a dig at the ruling National Conference (NC) government in Jammu and Kashmir and the BJP-led Central Government, Bukhari said both parties have failed to deliver on their promises.

"The people have lost faith as NC and BJP have failed to fulfil their commitments. There is no visible development, no electricity waiver, no social welfare schemes, no free 200 units of power, no release of jailed youth, and rising unemployment," he said.

Bukhari also alleged that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway closure for 17 days caused heavy losses to fruit growers in Kashmir, while BJP MLAs from Jammu "ignored the flood-affected people and failed to secure special relief packages for their voters."

"The government has failed to implement its manifesto. Statehood is crucial; otherwise, why are there 29 states in India?" he said, reiterating the Apni Party's demand for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting his party's role after the abrogation of Article 370, Bukhari said the Apni Party ensured protection of jobs and land rights for locals by engaging directly with the Union Government—a step no other party took.

He urged people to reject both NC and BJP in the upcoming bye-polls and extend their support to the Apni Party candidates—(KNO)



DLSA Srinagar Empowers Widows Through Awareness On Welfare Schemes

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, launched a special awareness campaign aimed at sensitizing people about the various benefits and welfare schemes available for widows.

Under this campaign, several programmes, drives, door-to-door campaigns, and awareness activities were organized in district Srinagar and also at the Legal Aid Clinic, Zila Sainik Bhawan.

A dedicated team of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) was selected and deputed for the said campaign, which was conducted in pursuance of the advisory issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on the protection of human rights of widows.

The campaign was organized under the leadership Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh,

and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Arun Palli, and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar.

The initiative was carried out under the directions of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum, and under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief. The overall supervision of the campaign was ensured by Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman.

At Zila Sainik Bhawan, the awareness programme was organized in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Department and Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Forum.

Panel Lawyer, Advocate Laila



Khalid, and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar, Safa addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of understanding and availing various welfare schemes meant for widows.

They highlighted the legal rights and entitlements available to widows under different government initiatives and urged the participants to come forward and benefit from these schemes.

The campaign reflects DLSA Srinagar's continued commitment towards protecting the rights of vulnerable sections of society and ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach every deserving individual.

Tata BlueScope Steel Inaugurates Rebranded Showroom of Saleem Trading Co. in Bandipora

FE NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Tata BlueScope Steel on Tuesday inaugurated the rebranded showroom of its district dealer Saleem Trading Co. Bandipora, reaffirming its commitment to bringing world-class steel roofing and cladding solutions closer to customers in north Kashmir.



The showroom was inaugurated by Tata BlueScope officials including Senior managers Tarun Jadlei and Satvinder Singh, in the presence of Business Manager Abdul Hameed, Tabish Ahmad and Proprietor of Saleem Trading Co., Sheikh Saleem.

On the occasion, the Tata BlueScope officials hailed Saleem Trading Co. for providing quality roofing products to the people of Bandipora right at their doorsteps.

Senior Manager Tarun Jadlei, while speaking on the occasion, congratulated the people of Bandipora for getting a quality showroom in the district, where they will now have access to the complete range of colour-coated roofing sheets in different designs, sizes and colours.

He said Tata BlueScope Steel (TBSPL) used the occasion to showcase its latest offerings in roofing, cladding, and structural solutions. Key product launches included the Cool Panel System, Bamboo Tile Profiles, Hi-Rib Sheets, and a wide array of accessories tailored for both residential and commercial needs.

He added that the products, designed for high performance, quick installation, and eco-friendliness, received an enthusiastic response from the participating architects and builders.

Speaking on the occasion, Satvinder Singh said that "the name of Tata itself is enough to convey the quality of the product." He emphasized that people invest heavily in their dream houses and should therefore use only high-quality roofing materials whose colours will never fade.

He added that under the company's expansion initiative, efforts will be made to reach every part of Jammu and Kashmir and ensure the brand's message and offerings are effectively communicated to

a wider audience.

He explained that Tata BlueScope Steel is an outcome of a joint venture between two globally renowned companies – Tata Steel (India) and BlueScope Steel (Australia). Both companies, with legacies of over a century and leadership in their respective domains, envisioned India's construction landscape well before its time.



"With a will to offer best-in-class products driven by quality and innovation, this joint venture is a consolidation of years of research backed by sheer commitment," he said.

Later, the company also held a meeting with local fabricators and obtained valuable feedback about Tata Steel products. The officials also received suggestions regarding different patterns, colours, and sizes to suit local construction preferences.

Officials reiterated that Tata will never compromise on product quality and will continue to work toward providing better and more durable products to customers.

They said the event aimed at strengthening collaboration between the steel solutions giant and the fabricators of Bandipora, fostering greater synergy between fabricators, architects, and industry leaders to promote responsible and sustainable urban development. "This is just the beginning of a long-term collaboration," a Tata BlueScope representative said, stressing the importance of innovation and co-creation in shaping the future of infrastructure in Kashmir.

TBSPL representatives – Mr. Satvinder Singh, Mr. Tarun Jadlei, and Mr. Abdul Hameed – also introduced attendees to the company's digital and social initiatives aimed at enhancing customer experience through digital tools. They said the company aims to not only gather public feedback on Tata products but also raise awareness about the benefits of new launches made over the past few years.

Officials added that through such initiatives, Tata BlueScope Steel continues to assert its leadership in delivering cutting-edge, sustainable building material solutions tailored to India's evolving construction landscape. (ADVT)

FCS&CA Kashmir conducts extensive inspections of market establishments in Srinagar City

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department (FCS&CA) Kashmir conducted extensive inspections across multiple restaurants and food establishments in Srinagar city.

The inspection drive was led by Assistant Director Enforcement (First Class Magistrate), Shohab Latief, along with officials from the Food & Safety Department and Legal Metrology Department. The inspection team visited several prominent establishments and other high-footfall restaurants and sweet shops.

The focus was on ensuring compliance with food safety standards, proper hygiene practices, and consumer protection regulations.

The inspection covered multiple critical aspects including quality verification, quantity verification, cleanliness and hygiene standards, proper product dating and labeling, and overall food safety compliance.

Officials from the Legal Metrology Department conducted thorough checks on measurement accuracy and quantity standards. The inspection results were largely satisfactory with no major violations discovered.

Minor issues were identified at some establishments, for which warning were issued. The Food & Safety Department imposed compound fines for minor violations to ensure strict compliance.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director Enforcement reaffirmed the department's unwavering commitment to consumer rights and safety, emphasizing that regular inspection drives are being conducted to maintain transparency and accountability. "All departments are working in close coordination to protect consumer interests and to ensure that food establishments maintain the highest standards of hygiene and quality," he said.

Citizens have been urged to report any complaints related to food quality, safety, or malpractices through the toll-free helplines and official social media handles of the FCS&CA, Food Safety, and Legal Metrology Departments.

DC Bandipora inspects Waste Management, Recycling Facilities in Sumbal Sub-Division

FE NEWS NETWORK

Emphasizes Rural-Urban Convergence, Sustainable Waste Management under SBM

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday visited the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Municipal Committee Sumbal and the Plastic Waste Management Unit (PWMU) at Nowgam to review the progress of ongoing waste management initiatives in the Sumbal Sub-Division.

The DC was accompanied by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora, B.A. Padder, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Bandipora, Block Development Officer (BDO) Nowgam, Executive Officer (EO) MC Sumbal, and representatives from the Pollution Control Committee and Cooperatives.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the functioning of the MRF and PWMU units and interacted with field staff to understand operational procedures. She emphasized the importance of rural-urban convergence to develop an integrated and sustainable waste management system under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).

The DC stressed the need for reduction of waste generation at the source by adopting the principles of Refuse, Reduce, and Reuse (RRR) and encouraged people to minimize plastic consumption in daily life. She also urged the public to replace polythene and single-use plastics with eco-friendly cloth bags, calling it an important step towards responsible waste behavior.

Inspecting the MRF, the DC was informed that the facility ensures scientific segregation and treatment of dry and wet waste, where biodegradable waste is converted into compost and recyclables are processed for reuse.

She appreciated the efforts of the Municipal Committee and directed further improvement in cleanliness, operational efficiency, and record maintenance.

To strengthen infrastructure and ensure smooth functioning, the DC directed that both facilities be properly fenced and equipped with electricity, water

supply, street lighting, and CCTV surveillance for better monitoring and safety. She also instructed concerned departments to expedite works on approach roads and other related infrastructure for hassle-free operations.

Highlighting the welfare of sanitation workers, the DC directed that a special medical camp be organized for their health check-up and awareness, recognizing their crucial role in maintaining community hygiene.



At Zalpura Nowgam, the DC also inspected the Segregation Shed set up by the Rural Development Department and reviewed the machinery and operational practices. She reiterated the administration's goal of achieving zero landfill status by ensuring complete treatment and recycling of waste, thereby eliminating the need for dumping grounds.

The DC further informed that the district administration would soon enforce challan and penalty provisions against individuals and commercial establishments found violating waste management norms, including littering and plastic misuse. She said these measures aim to strengthen public accountability and reinforce the district's commitment to clean and green living.

On the occasion, the DC called for coordinated action among all departments and active community participation to make Bandipora a model district for scientific waste management and environmental sustainability in Jammu and Kashmir.

LG Sinha

The Lieutenant Governor urged all sections of society to honour the sacrifices and dedication of security forces' brave hearts. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that our veterans and the families of our martyrs live a dignified life, he said. (DIPR)

This Diwali

while inaugurating the J&K Police's Diwali Mela-2025 at Gulshan Ground, Jammu today. He paid tributes to the Bravehearts of J&K Police who devoted their lives in the service of the nation. The Lieutenant Governor has urged the people to buy Swadeshi and products made by Self-help Groups and local artisans. "Let us boost our local economy, empower local entrepreneurs, increase employment and strengthen the overall economic position of UT of Jammu Kashmir," he said.

The Mela organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police, in collaboration with the Police Wives Welfare Association (PWWA), features a wide range of attractions for the people. These include food and shopping stalls, public awareness programmes, Career counselling and educational stalls, live magic show, police band display, spectacular laser show, and fireworks.

DGP, Nalin Prabhat; ADGP Headquarters, MK Sinha; ADGP Armed, Anand Jain; IGP Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; serving and retired officials of Police and civil administration, members of Police Wives Welfare Association and a large number of citizens attended the inaugural ceremony. (DIPR)

From Art-370

core of terrorist networks," he said. "No matter where terrorists try to hide, they cannot find safe havens. Our forces are prepared to take action anywhere to respond to acts of terror," he added.

Shah said that since 2019, the government has taken several steps to enhance national security. These include amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Investigation Agency Act, along with actions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act by the Enforcement Directorate to stop funding of terror groups, he said.

"For the first time, terrorism has been clearly defined under criminal law, addressing previous gaps. So far, more than 57 individuals and several organisations have been declared unlawful," Shah said. The HM said the NSG's new hub is being established in Ayodhya, joining five existing hubs in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Jammu to respond to terror threats quickly. The commands will operate around the clock, with special groups ready to respond to any sudden terror attacks, he added.

These actions, Shah said, have made India's security forces capable of dismantling terror networks inside and outside the country. "We have ensured that terrorists do not find safe havens anywhere, whether inside India or abroad," he said. On the NSG's role, the Home Minister said the force has been operating for over four decades and remains critical in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

"The government will continue to strengthen security measures and maintain readiness to respond to any threats, ensuring the safety of the nation's citizens," he said—(KNO)

Operation Sindoore

cuts," he said. Asked if similar attacks like the one in Pahalgal could happen again, he said, "Until there is a change in Pakistan's thinking, it will continue with these actions."

Earlier during his address at an ex-servicemen rally held to mark 60 years since the 1965 India-Pakistan War ceasefire, Lt Gen Katiyar, as per KNO, said that public support played a key role during Operation Sindoore. "We acted after our people were killed. The response was carried out with the support of the administration, ex-servicemen, and local people."

He said the army remains prepared to act again if needed. "Pakistan will try again. It has always tried to repeat Pahalgal-type attacks. The army is ready to respond. The action this time will be more than last time."

Referring to the 1965 war, Lt Gen Katiyar said that Pakistan had miscalculated the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. "They sent around 10,000 Razakars trained by their army. But they failed to understand the people here. The public supported the army. We were able to drive them back."

He said that the same level of support will be required if another response becomes necessary.

Lieutenant General Manoj Katiyar hailed Operation Sindoore, saying the Indian Army gave a befitting reply to Pakistan after the Pahalgal terror attack. "Terrorists killed our innocent people. Our befitting reply to Pakistan taught them a lesson."

He assured the public of the Indian Army's readiness to thwart future attacks by the neighbouring country—(KNO)

CM Omar

in its raw form, with very little processing or value addition being done locally.

"This opens significant opportunities for industrial growth, both on Jammu side and Kashmir's side," he stated.

Citing the dairy sector as an example, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that only about 4-5 percent of the J&K's dairy production is processed within Jammu & Kashmir, while the rest goes unprocessed into the market. He urged industry leaders to explore these areas for investment and growth.

Referring to the broader economic scenario, the Chief Minister said that the J&K has faced challenges due to recent natural calamities and the downturn in tourism following the Pahalgal incident, but the administration remains optimistic about revival across sectors.

"This is not a story of pessimism but of hope and optimism. We are working hard with all stakeholders to put the economy back on track," he said.

The Chief Minister informed that the government is simultaneously engaging with domestic and international tourism partners to attract visitors and revive the sector. "Jammu and Kashmir has always been the country's premier destination and we are determined to sustain that legacy," he added.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also outlined the areas where the government is focusing on sustainable and competitive industrial growth, including agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, electronics, pharmaceuticals, packaging and cement. He said that new road-connectivity projects such as the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway will further enhance logistics and investment potential.

Reiterating the government's commitment to improving the ease of doing business, the Chief Minister invited FICCI's inputs on policy reforms to make J&K more investor-friendly.

"We are keen to learn from best practices across the country.

Reforms will be guided by feedback from the industry itself," he said. (DIPR)

Some nations

Though Singh, addressing a conference of military chiefs of nations contributing troops for the UN's peacekeeping missions, did not name the countries that he said are violating global norms, the remarks came against the backdrop of growing global concerns over China's increasingly assertive behaviour on many critical issues.

"Now-a-days, some nations are openly violating the international rules, some are trying to undermine it, while some want to create their own rules and dominate the next century," he said.

"In all this, India, while advocating for the reformation of outdated international structures, stands strong in upholding the international rules-based order. India is the land of Mahatma Gandhi, where peace is deeply rooted in our philosophy of non-violence and truth," he said.

"For Mahatma Gandhi, peace was not merely the absence of war, but a positive state of justice, harmony, and moral strength," he said. (PTI)

Dr Jitendra

Kashmir, showcases the rich legacy of hand-crafted Pashmina shawls and traditional Kashmiri textiles, representing the centuries-old artistry of the Valley.

While interacting with the founder Varuna Anand, Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the intricate craftsmanship and the months of dedicated labour that go into the making of a single Pashmina shawl. He was briefed about the entire process, from the delicate hand-spinning of fine Pashmina yarn to the detailed embroidery that reflects the cultural heritage of Kashmir.

Varuna Anand highlighted that the recent reduction in GST on handmade shawls from the earlier 12-22% slab to 5% has given a significant boost to the traditional handicraft sector, enabling artisans to reach wider markets and enhance livelihoods.

Dr. Jitendra Singh commended the initiative for not only preserving India's timeless craft traditions but also providing a platform for women entrepreneurs. This also reflects the growing contribution of women in shaping India's innovation and economic landscape, he said. (PIB)

CS reviews

of the progress made on each identified site. He asked them to closely monitor the pace of tower construction, electricity provisioning, and land-related issues, ensuring that every tower is made functional at the earliest.

He also reviewed the status of NoCs from the Forest Department for tower erection and laying of electricity networks and directed for early resolution of such matters through inter-departmental

coordination.

The Chief Secretary instructed the IT Department to act as the nodal agency for the programme, ensuring effective coordination among all stakeholder departments and timely removal of operational bottlenecks. Reviewing the extension of 4G network coverage under Bharat Net and Amended Bharat Net Programmes, the Chief Secretary observed that enhanced digital connectivity in these network shadow areas will significantly strengthen grassroots-level empowerment, governance delivery, and access to public services.

He urged BSNL, the implementing agency, to expedite tower installations and ensure early commissioning. The company was advised to flag any implementation hurdles with the IT Department for prompt redressal.

The Chief Secretary was informed that out of a total 847 identified sites, BSNL has applied for electric connections at 744 sites, of which 505 sites have been energized. Additionally, 466 towers have been put on air, 98 more have been erected, and 95 others are ready for commissioning. Seven sites are off-grid and 19 are currently under execution.

BSNL representatives apprised the Chief Secretary that land issues persist at around 30 locations, for which he directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to resolve matters at the earliest to avoid project delays.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the 'Call Before U Dig' (CBuD) initiative, highlighting its importance in preventing avoidable damage to road infrastructure. He directed the PWD to enforce mandatory use of the app before any road excavation, maintain strict vigilance, and initiate legal action against violators.

It was informed that the portal currently has 40 registered agencies and 403 asset owners, with 176 unauthorized excavation instances recorded in the past. The meeting was also apprised that 5G infrastructure mapping is underway, with around 1,58,126 assets including electric poles, traffic lights, bus terminals, and government buildings already mapped by H&UDD so far.

Regarding the Amended Bharat Net project, it was informed that 4,299 Gram Panchayats are targeted for coverage across the UT, providing high-speed internet connectivity to government institutions and the public.

Implemented by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the project has a three-year timeline, with 10% Gram Panchayats to be commissioned by December 2025 and 30% by June 2026. The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment to achieving universal mobile and broadband access, noting that digital inclusion is critical for accelerating socio-economic growth, improving governance efficiency, and bridging the urban-rural divide.

He urged all departments and agencies involved to work in close coordination to ensure that every household in remote and underserved areas gains

access to reliable digital connectivity soon. (DIPR)

India's Action

"The final selection of targets was carried out from a large number of targets that we scrutinised," he said, noting a concurrent "harmonised and proactive information warfare campaign." Describing the military escalation in early May, Lt Gen Ghai said drone activity intensified even after two DGMOs had addressed the situation, prompting the Indian Air Force to act. In precision strikes on the nights of May 9 and 10, he said, Indian forces struck 11 Pakistani air bases — damaging eight bases, three hangars and four radars — and destroyed several Pakistani air assets on the ground.

He also claimed the destruction of one C-130 class aircraft, one AEW (airborne early warning) platform, and "four to five fighter jets," with some assets also destroyed in the air.

"We now know that the world's longest ever ground-to-air kill was at 300 kilometres plus and five high-tech fighters," Lt Gen Ghai said, adding that the "impunity" with which the attacks were conducted by the perpetrators was a key factor prompting a strong response.

All figures and operational details were attributed by Lt Gen Ghai to India's operational account of the events. The DGMO emphasised that the deliberate timing and multi-service coordination of the response reflected the armed forces' flexibility and intent to deliver a care-

fully calibrated, effective retaliation.

The Army Deputy Chief while referring to the turmoil that prevailed in J&K for three decades, as per KNO, said, "Over 1,00,000 people, including around 60,000 minority families, had to leave Jammu and Kashmir since 1990 due to threats and violence." (KNO)

Public Notice.

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0203010007975, which is Registered in the name of Name/Myr Zahoor Ahmad Rather, S/O Abdul Ahad Rather now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Syed Mohsin Attiq, S/O: Syed Attiqullah. R/O HNO 189 Muslimabad Nund Rish Colony B Batamalo Srinagar, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division watal kadal, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Syed Mohsin Attiq
S/O: Syed Attiqullah
R/O R/O HNO 189 Muslimabad Nund
Rish Colony B Batamalo Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore Extension Corrigendum

Sub: Extension of e-tender.
Ref: 1. This office E-NIT No. 11 of 2025-26, S. No. 03.
2. This office E-NIT No. 17 of 2025-26, S. No. 06.
3. This office E-NIT No. 18 of 2025-26, S. No. 03, 04, 05, 06 and 09.
4. This office E-NIT No. 19 of 2025-26, S. No. 03.
5. This office E-NIT No. 21 of 2025-26, S. No. 06 and 07.
Due to poor response the above referred works are hereby extended as

hereunder:

S. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Last date for online submission of bids	17-10-2025 (06:55 pm)
2.	Date of online opening of bids	18-10-2025 (02:00 pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/3837-40
Dated: 13-10-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

DIPK-7178/25 Dt: 14-10-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) MECHANICAL DIVISION CENTRAL KASHMIR (NOTICE INVITING TENDERS)

e-NIT No:- R&B/MDCK/NIT/15 of 2025-26
Dated: 14-10-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two-cover system (Technical and Financial) on percentage basis from OEM/experienced firms/ authorized dealers of OEM with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

S. No	Name of work	Cost of Tender Documents (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Advertised cost (Rs.)	Time Completion (days)	Tender Opening Authority	Position of Funds
1	Installation of lift G+4 in the Additional Classroom Building under JTRF at Govt. College for Women, M.A Road Srinagar.	1100	61,381	30,69,076	45 days	Executive Engineer, R&B Mechanical Division Central Kashmir	Available with intending department

Position of AAA: Administrative Approval accorded by Principal, Govt. College for Women, M.A Road vide letter no. GCW/MAR/25/3562. Dt:- 11.10.2025
Position of TS: Accorded by Executive Engineer, R&B Mechanical Division Central Kashmir vide order no. XENMC/Sgr/TS/08. Dt:- 13.10.2025
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule.

S.No	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-10-2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 14-10-2025 (12:45 hrs) To 01-11-2025 (16:00 hrs)
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From 14-10-2025 (12:45 hrs) To 01-11-2025 (16:00 hrs)
4	Bid Submission End Date	01-11-2025 (16:00 hrs)
5	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (online)	03-11-2025 at/after 12:00 hrs in the office of Executive Engineer, R&B Mechanical Division Central Kashmir
6.	Date and time of opening of Financial bid (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.
7.	Cost of Tender documents	Rs 1100/- (Rupees Eleven Hundred Only)
8	Tender document to be deposited at	In the shape of e-challan as per details given below Account No:- 000501020000283. Branch Name: Residency Road, Srinagar-0005. Branch Code- CHINAR IFSC:- JAKACHINAR MICR:- 190051056 or by uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer, PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division, Central Kashmir to be deposited in Major Head 0059. The Authority reserves the right to cross check genuineness of the receipt of tender documents.
9	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 61,381/- in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR pledged to Executive Engineer, R&B Mechanical Division Central Kashmir from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank.

Note:- The bidder must get registered on JKPWDOMS, as no payments shall be made unless the bill is processed on JKPWDOMS in view of circular issued by Finance Department of JK UT. No payment shall be released until and unless bill is processed through JKPWDOMS application and routed through JKPaysys. However for those bidder who are not yet registered on JKPWDOMS shall submit and undertaking that JKPWDOMS registration will be done well on time before release of payment.

"Additional Performance Security shall be taken from the successful bidder with the break up as stipulated in the Govt. Circular issued by Finance Department, J&K vide order no. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158. Dt:- 08.08.025"

Note: - Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Authority even during the currency of the contract or before or after the contract, shall be cancelled for the bidder shall be penalized as per relevant laws and when it comes to the notice of the Authority. The Authority reserves the right to debar/blacklist such firm(s)/penalize such contractors/firms on case basis.

No. XENMC/Sgr/1658-64.
Dated: 14/10/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Mechanical Division
Central Kashmir
DIPK-7185/25 Dt: 14-10-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDEBAL

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No: 20 of 2025-26 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Aggregate Percentage Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work(s) to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti, Division Ganderal:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertisement Cost (in Lacs)	AAA	Cost of Tender Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money Lac(s)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	Rejuvenation/ Upliftment of Tulmush Nallah 1/5 and D/S of Mala Kherawatwari Shrine including protection works for smooth conduct of religious activities by way of (Cleaning/ Flood Protection works and Rejuvenation of Bathing area) Part-II (Balance Work)	12.05		1000/-	36,200/-	90 Days	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	MH 4711 UT CAPEX

Total Number of Work is 01 (One Work)

Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01	Publishing Date	12-10-2025	10:00 A.M
02	Download Date Start	12-10-2025	10:00 A.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	12-10-2025	10:00 A.M
04	Pre Bid Meeting Date	13-10-2025	02:00 P.M
05	Bid submission Date End	18-10-2025	04:00 P.M
06	Bid opening Date	20-10-2025	11:00 A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 20.10.2025 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.

4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderal, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.

5) All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.

6) The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/forged/fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bidder which shall include but not limited to:

A) Debarment of the bidder for at least two years.

B) encashment of the Earnest money deposit.

C) criminal proceedings.

D) Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.

DIPK-7146/25 Dt: 14-10-2025

Sd/-
Ex.Engineer

8th Codex Committee: India Strengthens Global Leadership in Spice Standards

NEW DELHI: The 8th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs began in Guwahati, Assam, on 13th October, highlighting India's role in the global spice sector. Organised by the Spices Board under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the event brought together 81 delegates from 27 countries to discuss harmonised international standards for spices and culinary herbs.

Inaugurating the session, Governor of Assam, Lakshman Prasad Acharya, welcomed the international delegates and highlighted the North Eastern region's rich biodiversity and agricultural heritage. He noted that the 8th session of CCSCH would open new avenues to elevate quality standards through collaborative deliberations and strengthen the foundation of a food system that is safe, sustainable, and beneficial for all. The Governor also underscored Assam and the North-East's growing potential as emerging spice hubs, emphasizing that enhanced processing facilities, value addition, and export promotion initiatives are improving farmers' income and driving socio-economic development in the region.

Acharya commended the joint efforts of the Government of India and the Spices Board in strengthening India's spice value chain, aligning domestic standards with global benchmarks, and ensuring food safety and quality for consumers worldwide.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary, Spices Board, Smt. P. Hemalatha, IAS, said that spices have long

shaped global trade, culture, and culinary traditions. She noted that spices such as black pepper, cardamom,



turmeric, cinnamon, and cloves represent not just flavour but the cultural essence and heritage of civilizations. Highlighting the growing need for harmonised and science-based global standards amid rapid advances in food science and technology, she emphasised that unified standards are vital for ensuring safety, fairness in trade, and consumer trust. She further noted that Codex standards play a crucial role in ensuring transparency, efficiency, and sustainability across the global spice industry.

Delivering the special address, CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Rajit Punhani, highlighted the economic and cultural significance

of the spice sector. He noted that the global spice industry, valued at USD 28.5 billion in 2024, is projected to reach USD 41.9 billion by 2033, and stressed the importance of harmonised, science-based food standards to ensure consumer safety and promote equitable trade.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Dr. M.R. Sudharshan, Chairperson, Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs; Dr. A.B. Rema Shree, Director (Research), Spices Board and Head, CCSCH Secretariat; Shri B.N. Jha, Director, Spices Board; and Shri Dharmendra Das, Director, Spices Board. Senior scientists, officials from the Spices Board and FSSAI, and representatives from Codex member countries were also present.

Established in 2013 at India's initiative, the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs functions under the Codex Alimentarius Commission of the FAO and WHO, with India, through the Spices Board, serving as its Secretariat. So far, Codex has finalised standards for 16 spices, including pepper, turmeric, cumin, nutmeg, cardamom, and saffron. The ongoing session will focus on developing new standards for large cardamom, sweet marjoram, cinnamon, and dried coriander seeds.

The CCSCH session will continue through the week, with discussions focused on aligning global standards, enhancing transparency, and promoting sustainable trade practices in the international spice sector. (PIB)

India calls for balanced, dialogue-based approach to climate ambition at Pre-COP30 Meet

NEW DELHI: Addressing the Global Stock Take (GST) breakout session during Pre-COP30 Meetings in Brasilia on 13th October, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav acknowledged the successful conclusion of the first GST, and stated that it represented a significant affirmation that the Paris Agreement is being imple-



mented in earnest.

GST is a five-year process to assess the world's collective progress toward the goals of the Paris Agreement. Yadav highlighted that the GST is designed to strengthen ambition by performing three essential roles — enabling Parties to evaluate collective progress, identify remaining gaps, and guide enhanced actions both domestically and globally.

In this sense, the Minister stated, the GST functions as the driving force of the Agreement, fostering political momentum and sustaining dynamic efforts toward higher ambition. The focus on these aspects within the Dialogue would help promote international cooperation and domestic climate action informed by the GST outcomes.

For future GSTs, the Minister proposed that there should be no rushing for the inclusion of scientific assessments without proper discussion on their global relevance. Science, he said, must follow rigor, accuracy, and robustness, with due consideration from all relevant sources.

"We must now focus on implementing ambitious climate measures and, above all, addressing the most pressing challenge: the urgent lack of resources for developing countries to deliver adaptation and mitigation", the Minister added. He stressed that the time for continuous reviews without action has passed. "Dialogue is important, but action is imperative", he said. (PIB)

WHO issues alert over 3 adulterated cough syrups manufactured in India, cautions use globally

GENEVA [SWITZERLAND]: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a medical product alert for three adulterated oral liquid medicines (cough syrups) manufactured in India.

It has warned that the identified syrups commonly used to treat cold, flu, and cough symptoms, have been linked to cases of severe illness and child fatalities and could cause severe and potentially life-threatening illnesses.

The global health body has urged authorities worldwide to report to the agency if any of these products are detected in their countries. The Organisation said that such medications should not be prescribed or dispensed to children below two years of age and are generally not recommended for those under five.

The WHO has identified specific batches of Coldrif from Sresan Pharmaceuticals, Respiresh TR from Rednex Pharmaceuticals, and ReLife from Shape Pharma as the affected medicines.

The products identified in this alert are considered substandard as they fail to meet their quality standards and specifications, the WHO said.

On October 8, India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) reported to the WHO the presence of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) in at least three products—COLDRIF, Respiresh TR and ReLife. These medicines were manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceutical, Rednex Pharmaceuticals, and Shape Pharma, respectively.

Following the deaths of several children in Madhya Pradesh a week ago, linked to the consumption of Coldrif cough syrup, the Government of India had issued an advisory to all states and union territories, urging extreme caution in the prescription of cough syrups for children.

The Coldrif syrup, manufactured in Tamil Nadu by Sresan Pharmaceuticals, was found to be dangerously contaminated with the toxic chemical diethylene glycol. The company's manufacturing license was revoked, and its owner, G. Ranganathan, was taken

into custody.

"Diethylene glycol is toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal. The contaminated oral liquid medicines referenced



in this alert are unsafe, and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death. Toxic effects can include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache, altered mental state and acute kidney injury, which may lead to death," WHO said.

The CDSCO has confirmed that relevant state authorities have ordered an immediate halt to production at implicated manufacturing sites and have suspended product authorisations. In addition, a recall of the contaminated products has been initiated by the relevant state authorities.

The CDSCO has informed WHO that none of the contaminated medicines have been exported from India, and there is currently no evidence of illegal export.

Nevertheless, WHO encourages National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to consider targeted market surveillance, with particular attention to informal and unregulated supply chains where products may circulate undetected. NRAs are also advised to carefully evaluate the risks associated with any oral liquid medicines originating from the same manufacturing sites—particularly those produced since December 2024.

WHO continues to collaborate closely with Indian health authorities to monitor the situation, identify the source of the contamination and mitigate any potential public health risks. (ANI)

IMF upgrades US growth outlook as Trump's tariffs cause less disruption than expected

WASHINGTON: The US and global economies will grow a bit more this year than previously forecast as the Trump administration's tariffs have so far proved less disruptive than expected, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday, though the full impact of those policies is still emerging.



The United States' economy will expand 2 per cent in 2025, the IMF projected in its influential semi-annual forecast, the World Economic Outlook. That is slightly higher than the 1.9 per cent forecast in the IMF's last update in July and 1.8 per cent in April.

The US should grow 2.1 per cent next year, also just one-tenth of a percent faster than its previous projection, the IMF said.

The global economy, meanwhile, will grow 3.2 per cent this year, up from a 3 per cent estimate in July, the IMF forecast, and 3.1 per cent in 2026, the same as its previous estimate.

The figures represent a bit of a round-trip for the IMF: In January, before Trump began imposing tariffs, it had forecast global growth of 3.3 per cent, only slightly higher than its newest estimate. While the US and world economies have fared better than expected, it's too soon to say they are fully in the clear, the IMF said, as Trump has continued to make tariff threats and it can take time for changes in international trade patterns to play out.

The reasons for the better performance "are clear," IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said in a blog post.

"The United States negotiated trade deals with

various countries and provided multiple exemptions," Gourinchas wrote. "Most countries refrained from retaliation, keeping instead the trading system largely open. The private sector also proved agile, front-loading imports and speedily re-routing supply chains."

By front-loading imports, many companies were able to stock up on goods before the duties took effect, enabling them to avoid or delay price increases.

Yet many of those factors only reflect "temporary relief, rather than underlying strength in economic fundamentals," the IMF's report said.

The IMF also said that import price data in the U.S. shows that so far importers and retailers are paying most of the tariffs, not overseas companies, as many Trump administration officials have predicted. Over time, those firms are likely to pass on more of the price hikes to consumers, the IMF said.

There are signs that some downsides of the higher tariffs are starting to emerge, the IMF outlook said. Core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy categories, has ticked up to 2.9 per cent, according to the Federal Reserve's preferred measure, up from 2.7 per cent a year ago.

Hiring has ground to nearly a halt, which could partly reflect a more cautious approach by many firms in the wake of the uncertainty created by the higher tariffs.

The IMF's forecasts are mostly more optimistic than many private-sector economists' expectations. The National Association for Business Economics, a group of academic and business economists, on Monday forecast that the US would grow just 1.8 per cent this year and 1.7 in 2026.

Nearly two-thirds of the economists surveyed by the NABE said they think the administration's duties are nevertheless slowing growth, by up to a half-percentage point.

Other trends are offsetting some of the downsides of tariffs in the US, Gourinchas said. For example, a clampdown on immigration has reduced the supply of workers at the same time that hiring has slowed. As a result, the unemployment rate has remained low.

An artificial intelligence-driven investment boom in data centres and computing power has also provided a lift to the economy, Gourinchas noted in his blog post. (PTI)

ECI Directs Political Parties and Candidates to Pre-Certify Advertisements, Share Authentic Social Media Accounts

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued strict guidelines requiring all political parties and contesting candidates to obtain pre-certification for their political advertisements on electronic media, including social media, ahead of publication.

The announcement follows the schedule for the General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar and bye-elections to eight Assembly Constituencies in six States and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, declared on October 6, 2025.

According to the orders issued by the ECI on October 9, 2025,

every registered national or state political party, as well as individual candidates, must apply to the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) for pre-certification of all political advertisements before release. District and State-level MCMCs have been constituted to scrutinize advertisements in line with prescribed guidelines. No political advertisement is allowed to be published on any internet-based media, including social media platforms, without prior certification from the respective MCMC. The MCMCs are also tasked with monitoring

and taking action against suspected cases of paid news or misinformation in electronic and print media. Given the growing influence of social media in elections, candidates have been instructed to provide details of their authentic social media accounts at the time of filing

nominations to ensure transparency and accountability.

In line with Section 77(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and directives from the Hon'ble Supreme Court, political parties are required to submit a detailed statement of expenditure on internet

and social media campaigning to the ECI within 75 days after the completion of assembly elections. This statement must include payments made to internet companies and websites for advertisements, development of campaign content, and operational expenses for maintaining social media accounts.

The ECI's directives aim to ensure fair play in elections, curb misuse of digital platforms, and promote transparency in political campaigning across electronic and online media. (PIB)



Egyptian president says Trump's Mideast proposal is 'last chance' for peace in the region

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: The Egyptian president told a summit of world leaders Monday that US President Donald Trump's Mideast proposal represents the "last chance" for peace in the region and reiterated his call for a two-state solution, saying Palestinians have the right to an independent state.

The summit in Egypt's Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh was aimed at supporting the ceasefire reached in Gaza, ending the Israel-Hamas war and developing a long-term vision for governing and rebuilding the devastated Palestinian territory.

The gathering appeared designed to rally international support behind the Trump vision of putting an end to the war. Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, the co-chair of the summit, told Trump "only you" can bring peace to the region.

Trump's plan holds out the possibility of a Palestinian state, but only after a lengthy transition period in Gaza and a



reform process by the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposes Palestinian independence. Trump made no mention of a two-state solution at the summit.

In his own address to the summit, Trump called for a new era of harmony in the Middle East, saying that the region has "a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put the

old feuds and bitter hatreds behind us." He urged leaders "to declare that our future will not be ruled by the fights of generations past."

Israel and Hamas came under pressure from the United States, Arab countries and Turkey to agree on the first phase of the ceasefire deal negotiated in Qatar through mediators. It began Friday.

On Monday, Trump, el-Sissi, the Qatari emir and the Turkish president signed a document.

Trump said the document spelled out "a lot of rules and regulations and lots of other things, and it's very comprehensive." The document was not shared with journalists in the room or made public.

The summit unfolded soon after Hamas released 20 remaining living Israeli hostages and Israel started to free hundreds of Palestinians from its prisons, crucial steps under the ceasefire. But major

questions remain over what happens next, raising the risk of a slide back into war.

More than 20 world leaders attended the summit, including King Abdullah of Jordan, the French president and the British prime minister.

A Turkish government official said Turkey launched "a diplomatic initiative" to prevent Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from attending the meeting, and after other countries backed the effort, Netanyahu decided not to come.

The official would not confirm Turkish media reports that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's plane circled over the Red Sea as Erdogan threatened to boycott the meeting, and that the plane landed only after it became clear that Netanyahu would not arrive. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government rules.

Earlier, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani had warned Egyptian

and US officials that he would withdraw from the summit if Netanyahu attended, according to the state-run Iraqi News Agency.

Netanyahu's office announced that he would not attend, citing a Jewish holiday. Israel has rejected any role in Gaza for the internationally backed Palestinian Authority, whose leader, Mahmoud Abbas, was in Sharm el-Sheikh.

A new page El-Sissi's office said the summit aimed to "end the war" in Gaza and "usher in a new page of peace and regional stability" in line with Trump's vision.

Directly tackling the issues in depth was unlikely at the gathering, which lasted only about three hours and was mostly ceremonial. During the summit, world leaders lined up one by one to have their photos taken with Trump, who smiled and gave a thumbs-up to photographers. Then el-Sissi welcomed Trump, invited him to the stage and asked him to join world leaders "who love peace." (PTI)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

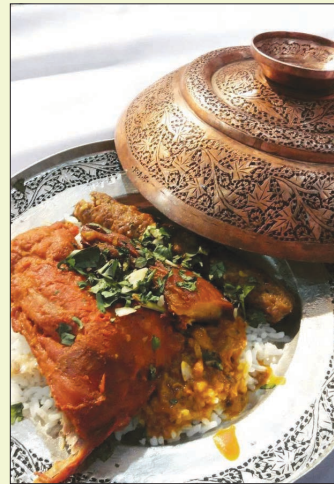
● CAFE & RESTAURANT

DAAL ROTI, BURGER, MOMOS, etc
Biryani, Fried Rice, Pizza, Chicken Roll,
kanti, kabab Rista, Yakni

ONLY FRESH PRODUCTS

CONTACT NO:

- 9149631319
- 6006116690



HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE

NH 44 VESSU ANATNAG NEAR CRPF CAMP-192101

Satisfy Your Cravings
GRAB A 90 BITES BURGER

ORDER NOW

Dine In @90 Bites, Take Away Or Ask For A Delivery

www.90bites.com +91-9055-39-49-59 created by **ACMO**

Avoid getting TRICKED!

Scan QR code for GENUINE DURASHINE®

Roofs and tiles

Longline

3 Level Robust Protection (Also available with Coolshield [Insulation])

Now also available in Wood texture

Stronger but lighter in weight For the support of Roofs and Walls

Ultimate armor against corrosion Superior Corrosion Resistance against Harsh & Aggressive Environments

1800 270 8333
Toll Free

UNDERSTAND

CHECK

BUY

Identify GENUINE DURASHINE® roofing, Guard Film with brand

Auth Dealer: Saleem Trading Co. Bandipora +917006263383