

New red line drawn against terrorism under PM Modi's leadership: LG Sinha

Says 'Operation Sindoor,' marked one of India's boldest military responses

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sept 24: Asserting that 'Operation Sindoor,' marked one of India's boldest military responses in recent history, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi a new red line has been drawn against terrorism.

Interacting with a delegation of senior officers from the Indian Armed Forces, Civil Services and friendly foreign countries, currently attending the course at the National Defence College here, LG Sinha, according to the Kashmir Thunder said, "Under PM Modi's leadership, Operation Sindoor, marked one of India's boldest military responses in



recent history and the balanced strategic restraint with assertive action has drawn a new red line against terrorism."

He reiterated: "If there is a terrorist attack on India in the

future, it will be seen as an act of war and a fitting reply will be given. India has also made it clear that it will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail and it will strike precisely and decisively

at the terrorist hideouts,"

Talking about development of border areas in J&K UT, the Lieutenant Governor said the Prime Minister gave a vision of treating villages of forward areas as the "first village" not the "last village". He said the change in terminology emphasized their importance as the nation's first line of defence and our priority on the comprehensive development of border villages. "We adopted a strategic approach to a balance economic growth, security and socio-cultural integration while developing border areas here in Jammu Kashmir. We built robust connectivity to facilitate trade and tourism. Many areas deprived of electricity since 1947 were connected with grid power | [More on P6](#)

After 4-year hiatus, ECI announces polls for J&K Rajya Sabha berths

3 elections to be held for 4 seats; voting, counting on Oct 24



KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sept 24: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday announced the schedule for elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

According to a notification issued by the poll -body, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Commission will issue the notification for these seats on October 6.

As per the schedule, the last date for filing nominations is October 13, while scrutiny of nominations will take place on October 14. The last date for withdrawal of candidatures is October 16.

Voting will be | [More on P6](#)

NC-Cong alliance to win 3, BJP in better position to win 1 seat

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sept 24: With the Rajya Sabha elections announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday, the political arithmetic in the newly constituted Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly indicates a clear advantage for the National Conference-Congress alliance, which is expected to secure three of the four available seats. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), meanwhile, is comfortably positioned to claim one

seat.

According to a notification issued by the poll body on Wednesday, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), three separate elections will be held to fill the four vacant seats—one election each for the first two seats, and a combined election for the remaining two.

The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly comprises 90 seats, of which two-Budgam and Nagrota are currently vacant. This brings the effective strength of the House to 88, including the seat held by | [More on P6](#)

CDS Gen Chauhan's tenure extended by 8 months



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 24: Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan's tenure has been extended up to May next year, the government said on Wednesday.

Gen Chauhan's current stint as the top military officer is scheduled to end on September 30.

The defence ministry said the government has approved the extension of service of Gen Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, up to May 30 next year or until further orders, whichever is earlier. | [More on P6](#)

Wangchuk's provocative speeches led to violence in Leh: MHA

Mob torched police vehicle, injured over 30 SF personnel

Gol says committed to Ladakh's aspirations

Meetings with leaders on Sept 25, 26, Oct 6

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday said that provocative speeches by the activist Sonam Wangchuk led to the violence in Ladakh.

In a statement issued to the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the MHA said, "The Government



of India has been actively engaging with Apex Body Leh and the Kargil Democratic Alliance through the High-Powered Committee (HPC), a sub-committee, and multiple informal channels. These efforts have already yielded phenomenal results,

including raising Scheduled Tribe reservations in Ladakh from 45% to 84%, granting one-third women's reservation in councils, declaring Bhoti and Purgi as official languages, and initiating the recruitment process for 1,800 posts." | [More on P6](#)

Congress instigated Leh violence: BJP

Sajid Raina

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP), Sambit Patra on Wednesday said the violent protests in Leh, which left four persons dead and 50 injured, were not spontaneous youth-led demonstrations but instigated by the Congress party.

Speaking to reporters in Delhi, Patra, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Today, in Ladakh, attempts were made to portray some protests as being led by Gen Z. However, | [More on P6](#)

Pahalgam Terror Attack

Kulgam teacher-turned OGW arrested for logistic support to terrorists

KNO

Kulgam, Sept 24: Security forces on Wednesday arrested a seasonal teacher turned Over-Ground Worker (OGW) in South Kashmir's Kulgam district for his alleged role in providing logistical support to terrorists involved in April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists dead.

The arrested person has been identified as Mohammad Yousuf Katari, of Manzzgam Kulgam, an official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said that Katari was involved in providing logistical support to terrorists killed in the Operation Mahadev.

"The accused was arrested after an analysis of weapons seized during July's Operation Mahadev," the official said as per KNO.

"Kataria, a Lashkar-e-Taiba (TRF) operative, was called in for questioning for two days, after which he was formally arrested," he added.

It may be recalled that in one of the most gruesome attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistani terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists in Pahalgam on April 22, killing at least 26 people.

After two weeks, India launched 'Operation Sindoor' and destroyed nine terrorist camps deep inside Pakistan and PoK on May 7. The pre-dawn strikes, | [More on P6](#)

Chief Justice announces comprehensive action plan for speedy disposal of cases

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 24: In a significant move aimed at strengthening the justice delivery system, Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has launched a Comprehensive Action Plan for disposal of cases.

The initiative focuses on timely resolution of pending cases, reduction of backlog, and enhancement of judicial efficiency.

Recognizing the growing concern over case pendency and delayed justice, the Chief Justice has outlined a multi-pronged strategy to ensure swift and effective adjudication of matters, especially those that have been pending for several years.



Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, while launching Phase IV & V, emphasized the importance of judicial efficiency in strengthening public trust. He said that the Justice delayed is justice denied, and this Action Plan reflects the unwavering commitment to timely and accessible justice for all the citizens of Jammu | [More on P6](#)

People of J&K can't be punished for BJP's defeat: CM Omar on statehood

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Sept 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be punished for the defeat of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the region.

Speaking with reporters here, CM Omar, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the people of Jammu and Kashmir were promised a three-way process including delimitation, election and statehood.

He said statehood has not been restored due to the BJP's defeat in the assembly elections last year. "The people of J&K cannot be punished for the BJP's defeat," he added.

The CM said the biggest



challenge at present is that J&K is not a State. "We hoped that statehood would be restored, given the promises made to the people. Even the Supreme Court was told about its restoration after the three-way process," he said.

Omar further said that the

tourist footfall has not increased the way they expected after the recent pilgrimages. "Every sector has been facing losses in the absence of the expected tourist footfall. However, our efforts are still on to attract tourists to Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Reacting to the controversy over the use of the 'I Love Muhammad' slogan, the Chief Minister said there was nothing wrong with it as the people from other religious communities also display the names of their religious Gurus and Gods.

"There was nothing provocative in this slogan and only the people who lack mindset can oppose it," he said, adding that like other religious communities, Muslims too have every right to express their | [More on P6](#)

Gbl youth's death turns out to be 'pre-planned murder'; police arrest friends

Deceased was strangled with wire, dumped into canal: SSP Poswal

Raja Syed Rather

Kangan, Sept 24: Police on Wednesday confirmed that the death of a youth in Ganderbal's Power Canal, initially believed to be a case of drowning, was a pre-planned murder carried out by his friends.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ganderbal, Khalil Ahmad Poswal, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the deceased, 22-year-old Ajaz Ahmed Rather, son of Chulam Muhammad Rather of Sultan Colony, Kangan, was strangled with a wire

before his body was dumped into the canal.

He said a massive rescue operation was launched by Ganderbal Police, SDRF, NDRF, and local volunteers. Teams from Ganderbal and Gund worked nearly 12 hours before retrieving the body. Strangulation marks were found on Ajaz's neck, confirming foul play.

"CCTV footage shows the accused purchasing a wire used in the crime. He was called to the spot on Tuesday evening and strangled. The wire has been recovered, and both accused are in | [More on P6](#)

Five months after Pahalgam attack, Kashmir's tourism sector remains in deep crisis

'Only 10 pc hotels currently occupied'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sept 24: Five months after the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, Kashmir's tourism sector, a key pillar of its economy, continues to reel from its worst crisis in decades.

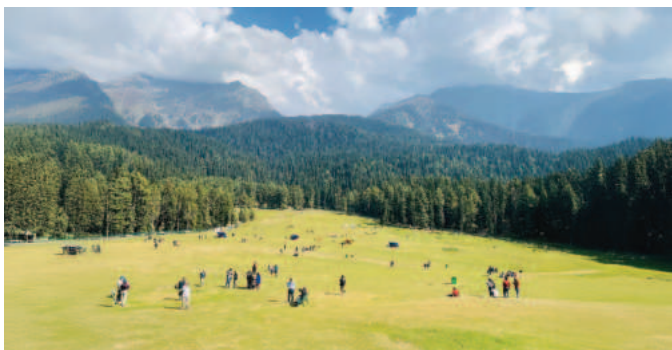
The attack that killed 25 tourists and a local resident not only shook the valley's sense of security but also triggered a cascading economic fallout, the effects of which are still being felt across hotels, transport, handicrafts and thousands of

livelihoods tied to the industry. As per the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the timeline from tragedy to struggle is as follows.

April 22, 2025 – The attack

A terror strike in the Baisaran meadows of Pahalgam claimed 26 lives, sending shockwaves through Kashmir's tourism industry at the onset of the spring season. Within hours, tourists fled in panic, mass cancellations followed, and businesses faced immediate losses.

Late April – Immediate fallout
Security was tightened across



major tourist sites, and 48 of 87 tourist resorts were shut as a precaution. Hotel occupancy nosedived to 5-10%, bookings were wiped out, and thousands of people dependent on tourism

— from pony handlers to taxi drivers — were left without work.

May – Desperate push for revival

The government and

stakeholders launched campaigns to restore visitor confidence. Security patrols were increased, and political leaders visited key sites. Despite discounts and incentives, footfall remained weak as fears persisted.

June – Partial reopening

In the month of June, after over three months, authorities reopened 16 of the closed resorts, offering hope to struggling businesses. Occupancy rose slightly but remained far below seasonal norms, forcing hotels and travel operators to offer steep discounts.

July – A fragile summer season

The annual Amarnath Yatra was held under heavy security, helping project a semblance of normalcy. Domestic tourists from states like Gujarat and Maharashtra slowly returned, yet foreign arrivals remained negligible, and overall numbers stayed far below 2024 levels.

August – Nature's fury adds to the crisis

In mid-August, a cloudburst in Kishtwar's Chositi village triggered flash floods and landslides, causing extensive

damage to infrastructure and affecting local travel. Ongoing landslides and road disruptions across the region hindered tourist movement, prompting cancellations and travel delays.

Tourism stakeholders said the combined impact of the natural disaster and the lingering effects of the Pahalgam attack further strained the sector, deepening the economic crisis.

Adding to the crisis, in August, landslides and rockfalls temporarily closed the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, disrupting tourist travel and forcing cancellations, further straining the region's struggling tourism sector | [More on P6](#)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICER OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BARAMULLA

INTERVIEW NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all candidates who have applied for various posts for the SBDU and BHD under Mission YUVA that pursuant to the Advertisement Notice issued under endorsement No. DCP/PS/ 4653-57 Dated: 22.07.2025 from this office, an Oversight Committee was constituted vide Order No. 49 DCB of 2025 Dated: 29.08.2025, issued under endorsement No. DCB/PS/5565-71 Dated: 29.08.2025, to scrutinize documents of the applicants.

A total of 462 candidates applied online for the posts, out of which 120 candidates qualified as per the details submitted by them through an Automated Scrutiny. However, following further scrutiny by the Designated Committee, only 35 candidates listed at Annexure-A to this notice have provisionally qualified for the interview.

The date, time, and venue for the interview is as under:

Date of Interview: September 26, 2025, at 10:30 AM Venue of Interview: Conference Hall, DC Office Baramulla

Important Instructions:

- a. Candidates must bring their original documents including experience certificates for verification at the time of the interview.
- b. Candidates are required to report at the venue at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled time.
- c. No TA/DA (Traveling Allowance/Dearness Allowance) will be provided to candidates for attending the interview.
- d. Any objection in this regard may reach the SBDU Office (DE&CC, Kanispora Baramulla) by or before 4.00pm, 25.09.2025.

Nodal Officer Mission YUVA

Addl. Deputy Commissioner Baramulla

No: ADCB/Reader/2025-26/1358-60

DIPK-6481/25

DATED: 24-09-2025

Annexure A																																						
List of Candidates qualified for the interview after scrutiny by the Oversight Committee																																						
Personal Detail				Address Details/Contact Details				Class 10th	Actual Class 10th after Phy Verification of Documents	Class 12th	Actual Class 12th after Phy document verification	Graduation	Actual Graduation after Phy verification of Documents	Post Graduation	Actual Post Graduation after Phy Verification of Documents	Institute of National Importance	Work Experience	Points Claimed by the Applicants as per Autocalculation of Marks										Status/Actual Points of Applicants after Phy Verification/ scrutiny of Documents Uploaded by Candidates										
S.No	Name of Candidate	Address	District	Mobile number	Percentage obtained (in %)	Percentage obtained (in %)	Percentage obtained (in %)	Percentage obtained (in %)	Percentage obtained (in %)	Percentage obtained (in %)	Have you pursued Post-Graduation?	Percentage obtained (in %)	Have you pursued Post-Graduation?	Percentage obtained (in %)	Did you complete your Graduation or Post-Graduation from an Institute of National Importance?	Select your Graduation/ Post-graduation Institution of National Importance	Total relevant Work Experience in months	Domain of Work Experience	Class 10th Marks	Class 12th Marks	Graduation Marks	Post-graduation marks	Institute of National Importance (NIs)	Work Experience Marks	District Certificate	Professional Degree Certifications (ICA/ CMA)	Total Marks (Auto-calculated)	Class 10th Marks	Class 12th Marks	Graduation Marks	Post-graduation marks	Institute of National Importance (NIs)	Work Experience Marks	District Certificate	Professional Degree Certifications (ICA/ CMA)	Total Marks	All documents verified	Final Status
1	Rizwan Ahmad Bhat	Chandkote	Baramulla	6006021868	73	65.4	74	73.6	68	68.29	Yes	75	yes	75.4	Yes	Allgarh Muslim University	2	Startup Incubation, Livelihoods, Skill Development, Program Management in the Development or Government Sector	3	3	4	6	15	0	10	0	41	2	3	4	8	15	0	10	0	42	Yes	Qualified
2	Parvaz Ahmad Lone	Rafiabad	Baramulla	9682199467	63.6	63.6	67.4	67.4	60.6	60.6	Yes	66.05	Yes	66.05	No		108	MSME Promotion, consulting, accounting, Manufacturing a enterprsing.	2	2	4	0	0	30	10	0	52	2	2	4	0	0	30	10	0	48	Yes	Qualified
3	ISHITIYAQ SHABIR	Mundji	Baramulla	7006368442	62	62	83.2	83.2	68.47	68.47	Yes	77.5	Yes	77.5	No		38	Livelihoods	2	4	4	6	0	15	10	0	41	2	4	4	6	0	15	10		41	Yes	Qualified
4	Aamir Rashid	Seeloo	Baramulla	9596425393	69.4	69.4	84.6	84.6	65.8	65.8	Yes	77.5	Yes	77.5	No		53	Entrepreneurship Development, MSME Promotion, Startup Incubation, Market Linkage, Skill Development, Planning and strategic marketing and Management.	2	4	4	6	0	20	10	0	46	2	4	4	8	0	20	10	0	48	Yes	Qualified
5	Khushnuma Khurshid	Hill view colony / Heevan lane sector 3	Baramulla	9149666306	75	75	68	68	87	87	Yes	90	Yes	90	No		5	Entrepreneurship	3	2	10	15	0	0	10	0	40	3	5	10	10	0	10	10	0	48	Yes	Qualified
6	Ahtisham Ahmad War	Warpora	Baramulla	6005086900	60.2	60.2	88.6	88.6	66.2	66.2	Yes	71.7	Yes	71.7	No		74	MSME Promotion, Experience in startups and MNCs.	2	4	4	6	0	30	10	0	56	2	4	4	6	0	15	10	0	41	Yes	Qualified
7	SHOWKET ALI RATHER	MATIPORA	Baramulla	9797711791	68	68	73	73.6	62	62.61	Yes	63	Yes	63.4	No		60	Livelihoods, Market Linkage, Skill Development	2	3	4	4	0	25	10	0	48	2	3	4	4	0	25	10	0	48	Yes	Qualified
8	Suraya Afzal	Rawoocha Rafiabad	Baramulla	9682605931	71.4		84.2		79.1		Yes	76.6	Yes	76.6	No		51	Entrepreneurship Development, MSME Promotion, Startup Incubation, Livelihoods, Market Linkage, Skill Development, Program Management in the Development or Government Sector	3	4	6	6	0	20	10	0	49	3	4	6	6	0	20	10	0	49	Yes	Qualified
9	FAZUL ASLAM	Managam	Baramulla	9622622799	79	79	80.2	80.2	66.3	66.3	Yes	82.1	Yes	82.1	No		34	Market Linkage, Accounting and Customer Related.	3	4	4	10	0	10	10	0	41	3	4	4	10	0	10	10	0	41	Yes	Qualified
10	Firdous Ahmad Rather	Azad Colony	Baramulla	788986386	60	55.8	66.4	66.4	68.6	68.6	Yes	64.13	Yes	64.13	No		48	Market Linkage, Skill Development	2	2	4	4	0	20	10	0	42	0	2	4	4	0	20	10	0	40	Yes	Qualified
11	Ishfaq Majed Rather	Sheri	Baramulla	9797700275	68	68	67.46	67.46	60.96	60.96	Yes	62.47	Yes	64.82	No		72	Market Linkage	2	2	4	4	0	30	10	0	52	2	2	4	4	0	20	10	0	42	Yes	Qualified
12	SYEDA SALMA	Budgam	Budgam	9797198898	75		83		66		Yes	77	Yes	74.7	No		120	Livelihoods, Market Linkage, Program Management in the Development or Government Sector, Cooperative development and development.	3	4	4	6	0	30	0	0	47	3	4	4	6	6	30	0	0	53	Yes	Qualified
13	IQRA FAROOQ	BARAMULLA	Baramulla	9622361403	67.8		73.6		67.9		Yes	79.7	Yes	79.7	No		51	Livelihoods, Market Linkage, Skill Development, Project coordination	2	3	4	6	0	20	10	0	45	2	3	4	6	0	20	10	0	45	Yes	Qualified
14	AKEEL ASHRAF GANIE	Near Jo tower	Baramulla	7006538372	68	68	65	64.6	73	73	No		No		No		51	Sales and marketing	2	2	6		0	20	10	0	40	2	2	6	0	0	20	10	0	40	Yes	Qualified
15	Zubair Ul Islam	Sherwani Abad Binner	Baramulla	9682603893	61.8	61.8	70	70	60.7	60.7	Yes	68	Yes	68	No		69	Skill Development	2	3	4	4	0	25	10	0	48	2	3	4	4	0	25	10		48	Yes	Qualified
16	Firdous Ahmad Bhat	Kranshivan	Baramulla	6005801281	77.6	77.6	72.2	72.2	65.68	65.68	Yes	73.4	Yes	73.4	No		54	Livelihoods.	3	3	4	6	0	20	10	0	46	3	3	4	6	0	15	10	0	41	Yes	Qualified
17	Mudasir Jameel Wani		Baramulla	7006304859	76.4		77.6		80.9		No				No		40	Entrepreneurship Development, Market Linkage, Hatch	3	3	10		0	15	10	0	41	3	3	10	0	0	15	10	0	41	Yes	Qualified
18	ATIQA BANO	DEVER ANDERBUGH	Kupwara	8493964175	57.2	57.2	79.4	79.4	73.7	73.7	Yes	62.4	Yes	62.18	No		96	Entrepreneurship Development, Livelihoods, Market Linkage, Skill Development, Program Management in the Development or Government Sector	0	3	6	4	0	30	0	0	43	0	3	6	4	0	30	0	0	43	Yes	Qualified
19	AAMIR SHAFI GANAIE		Baramulla	9541201533	37.4	37.4	49	49	68.8	68.8	Yes	58.87	Yes	58.87	No		84	Entrepreneurship Development, MSME Promotion, Startup Incubation, Livelihoods, Skill Development, Program Management in the Development or Government Sector	0	0	4	0	0	30	10	0	44	0	0	4	0	0	30	10	0	44	Yes	Qualified
20	MAQSOOD AHMAD	Wagoora	Baramulla	7006332088	74.5	74.4	63	63	64.6	64.6	Yes	70.7	Yes	70.7	No		84	Mahindra Finance as smart Branch accountant	3	2	4	6	0	30	10	0	55	3	2	4	0	0	30	10	0	49	Yes	Qualified
21	KHUSHBOO NAZIR		Srinagar	6005883886	78.2	78.2	79	79	68.89	68.89	Yes	78	Yes	78	No		72	Starting incubation, Worked as an Accountant under CA and in a Construction Firm	3	3	4	6	0	30	0	0	46	3	3	4	6	0	30	0	0	46	Yes	Qualified
22	mohammad arif tall	opposite al hadees masjid khampora NH 44	Baramulla	7006500782	55	55	67	67	68.54	68.54	Yes	68.36	Yes	68.36	No		83	Market Linkage	0	2	4	4	0	30	10	0	50	0	2	4	4	0	20	10	0	40	Yes	Qualified
23	Showkat Ahmad Mir	Chijhama	Baramulla	7006381241	60.4	60.4	65	64.26	64	64.22	Yes	7.39	Yes	73.9	No		60	Skill Development	2	2	4	0	0	25	10	0	43	2	2	4	4	0	25	10	0	47	Yes	Qualified
24	Mudassir ahmad ahanger		Baramulla	9592311222	57.4	57.4	57.6	57.6	66.14	66.14	Yes	72	Yes	72	No		73	It is Entrepreneurship development but in Foreign IT Company	0	0	4	6	0	30	10	0	50	0	0	4	6	0	30	10	0	50	Yes	Qualified
25	Mehmood Mir		Baramulla	7051653746	74	74	82	82	67	67	No		No		No		60	Entrepreneurship Development, MSME Promotion, Startup Incubation, Market Linkage	3	4	4		0	25	10	0	46	3	4	4	0	0	25	10	0	46	Yes	Qualified
26	MUBASHIR AHMAD	WADORA PAYEEN SPORE	Baramulla	9103745193	68.6	68.6	85	85	65.22	65.22	Yes	77	Yes	77	No		58	Skill Development	2	4	4	6	0	20	10	0	46	2	4	4	0	0	20	10	0	40	Yes	Qualified
27	MOHD YASEEN SHEIKH	PATTAN BARAMULLA JAMMU AND KASHMIR	Baramulla	6360627436	74.6	39.8	67.8	60.8	60	59.93	No		No		No		65	Startup Incubation, technical support in IT	3	2	4		0	25	10	0	44	0	2	4	0	0	25	10	0	41	Yes	Qualified
28	Sheikh Muzamil Ahmad		Baramulla	9419062726	76.4	76.4	50	50	64.6	64.6	Yes	72.5	Yes	72.5	No		123	Entrepreneurship Development, Skill Development, Program Management in the Development or Government Sector, In Executive	3	0	4	6	0	30	10	0	53	3	0	4	6	0	20	10	0	43	Yes	Qualified
29	Zubair Ali Khan	Village Manzgam	Baramulla	9622647406	58	58	71.73	71.73	64.95	64.95	Yes	71.4	Yes	71.4	No		76	Program Management in the Development or Government Sector, More than 40 months of experience in health sector, and 25 + months experience in edtech and K-12 Education	0	3	4	6	0	30	10	0	53	0	3	4	4	0	25	10	0	46	Yes	Qualified
30	Nighat Ashraf	Malabuchan	Baramulla	9541118766	82		85		62		Yes	79	Yes	79	No		68	Working as an accountant in a Chartered accountant form since 2019	4	4	4	6	0	25	10	0	53	4	4	4	0	0	25	10	0	47	Yes	Qualified
31	Nighat Ashraf	Malmo mag-am pattan	Baramulla	9541118766	82	82	85.6	85.6	63.27	63.27	Yes	71.9	Yes	71.9	No		60	Gst firm	4	4	4	6	0	25	10	0	53	4	4	4	0	0	25	10	0	47	Yes	Qualified
32	Iqra Jan	Hamdaniya colony srinagar	Budgam	9596708498	94.2	94.2	90.8	90.8	90.3	90.3	Yes	79	Yes	79	Yes	Allgarh Muslim University	0		5	5	15	6	15	0	0	0	46	5	5	15	6	15	0	0	0	46	Yes	Qualified
33	NAZISH RASHEED	Freethar BARAMULLA	Baramulla	9018153876	72	73.2	81.6	81.6	61	61.05	Yes	65.6	Yes	65.6	No		53	Livelihoods	3	4	4	4	0	20	10	0	45	3	4	4	4	0	20	10	0	45	Yes	Qualified
34	Aadiil Shakeel Masoodi	Near Jamia Masjid	Baramulla	7006085360	63.8	63.8	66.53	66.53	63.28	63.28	Yes	68.64	Yes	68.64	No		92	Entrepreneurship Development, MSME Promotion, Livelihoods, Market Linkage, Skill Development, Mission yuva project handling, NCS																				

HC admits petition challenging PSA detention of MLA Doda



SAJID RAINA

Jammu, Sep 24: After 16 days of his arrest under the Public Safety Act (PSA), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Doda, Mehraj Malik, challenged his detention in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh here on Wednesday.

The petition, filed through his counsel Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed, seeks the quashing of Detention Order No. 05 of 2025, dated

September 8, issued by the District Magistrate, Doda, under Section 8 of the J&K PSA, 1978.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul admitted the Habeas Corpus petition and issued post-admission notices to the Principal Secretary, Home Department; District Magistrate, Doda; SSP, Doda; and Superintendent, District Jail, Kathua. Notices were also issued to private respondent Deputy Commissioner, S. Harvinder Singh (IAS).

Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli, appearing for the government, was given time to file the response by October 14, 2025, the next hearing date.

During the hearing, Malik's counsel requested the shortest possible time for the respondents to file their reply, citing the urgency as Malik is an elected representative whose duties require his presence.

The petition challenges the detention on several grounds, including alleged personal bias by the District Magistrate. Malik has also claimed compensation of Rs 5 crore for curtailment of his personal liberty.

The High Court is scheduled to consider the matter again on October 14, 2025—(KNO)

KNO

Srinagar Sep 24: The senior administrative-staff crunch in the School Education Department of J&K is yet to ebb as nearly 150 junior assistants despite clearing departmental exams in April this year, await formal orders from the government.

This comes after Minister of Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo confirmed the elevation of 458 teaching and non-teaching staff to the next higher level on August 30. "Orders to follow shortly. Best wishes to all of them," Itoo had posted on X.

But three weeks since then, no formal orders have been issued for their promotion.

The delay is wearing thin on the patience of employees, who into a year-long haul appeared into the promotion-driven Secretariat

Despite 'shortage', SED sits on promotions



Assistant Training Course (SATC) examinations in August, 2024 and saw the declaration of results on 25th April, 2025.

Currently, sources say, at least 215 Senior-Assistant posts are lying vacant in the School Education Department among which, 27 posts are occupied by Incharge senior-assistants.

To address the shortage, the Departmental Promotional Committee (DPC) meeting was held on June-14-2025 to finalize the adjustment of 158

qualified candidates against the 188 remaining vacancies. But despite this and later the Minister's tweet, the formal orders for their promotion are nowhere in sight.

"It is important to highlight that the Department is facing an acute shortage of clerical staff which has been repeatedly highlighted and duly acknowledged by the Tribunal in Diary No. 3022/2025. This shortage continues to adversely affect the efficient functioning of the department," SATC

This comes after Minister of Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo confirmed the elevation of 458 teaching and non-teaching staff to the next higher level on August 30. "Orders to follow shortly. Best wishes to all of them," Itoo had posted on X.

pass-out Junior Assistants said in an application to the Director School Education, Kashmir on Saturday.

In view of the above, it adds, it is therefore humbly requested that the formal promotion orders of 158 Junior Assistants be issued at the earliest. "Issuing these orders will play a crucial role in alleviating the ongoing shortage of clerical staff thereby enhancing the smooth functioning and efficiency of the department. If the orders are delayed any further, we will have no choice but to

approach the Hon'ble Tribunal to protect our rights," the letter reads.

The junior employees have appealed the Minister, Sakina Itoo to direct for the issuance of formal orders, claiming that their counterparts in the Health and Public Works Department already stand promoted to higher levels.

"We've got all the clearances/verifications done but still, for reasons best known to higher ups, there's a wait that is only getting longer," said a junior assistant posted in Baramulla—(KNO)

PDP weakened backbone of JK: Sakina Itoo

JAHANGEEER GANAIE

Anantnag, Sep 24: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakina Itoo on Thursday countered Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President, Mehbooba Mufti's remarks, asserting that it was not the National Conference (NC) but the party led by her that "weakened the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir."

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating a newly constructed healthcare building worth Rs 2.71 crore at Arwani village in Anantnag, Itoo said the Omar Abdullah-led government has prioritised strengthening healthcare infrastructure, safeguarding the horticulture sector and ensuring equitable development across the Union Territory.

"From resuming work on stalled projects to establishing MRI and Cath labs, our government's focus has been to bring modern healthcare facilities to people's doorsteps. Patient care and welfare remain our top priority," she said.

Responding to Mehbooba Mufti's recent statement that the government has "broken the back" of Kashmir's fruit growers, Itoo stressed that horticulture is the backbone

of the region's economy and any hardships faced today are the result of "years of neglect and flawed policies by previous regimes."

"It is ironic that those who weakened the sector now blame others. Mehbooba Mufti is responsible for the economic mess and the pain people face today. Over the past year, our government has been working tirelessly to streamline systems and restart stalled projects," she added.

The Minister also called for greater accountability in developmental works executed after 2014, saying poor-quality construction had led to frequent damage of roads and embankments.

"Even a brief spell of rain causes roads and bunds to collapse. This raises serious questions about the quality of work undertaken in recent years. Vigilance and inquiry are essential to ensure public money has not been wasted," Itoo said.

She said healthcare has been placed at the forefront, with major hospitals being equipped with MRIs, Cath labs, linear accelerators and PET scans to provide advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities within the region—(KNO)

Prof Gupta calls on CM Omar

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 24: Prof. Harsh K. Gupta, Former Member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Public Outreach (Raabita) Office of CM to deliberate on strengthening earthquake resilience and disaster preparedness in Jammu and Kashmir.

The interaction was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani and Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST).

Prof. Gupta, in his detailed presentation, underlined the urgent need to develop earthquake-resilient infrastructure in Kashmir, which lies within the vulnerable Himalayan earthquake belt. Drawing from the example of a successful medium-term earthquake forecast in



the northeast Himalayan region, Prof. Gupta stressed the importance of conducting similar studies in Kashmir.

He suggested multiple measures including observing an "Earthquake Safety Day", training school students on earthquake safety, creating scenarios of past major quakes to plan preparedness, conducting mega-mock drills, ensuring strict compliance with earthquake-safe construction

practices, and deploying Earthquake Early Warning Systems along the Himalayan belt.

The Chief Minister appreciated Prof. Gupta's insights and emphasized that the government is committed to developing earthquake-resilient infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. He assured that the suggestions would be considered as part of the J&K's broader strategy on disaster preparedness and public safety.

Dr. Farooq, Omar grieves demise of Journalist Khurshid Wani's Daughter

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Sep 24: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President and honourable Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have expressed deep sorrow

over the tragic demise of the daughter of senior Kashmiri journalist Khurshid Wani, who lost her life in a hit-and-run accident in Hyderabad, Telangana.

In their condolence message, the duo conveyed their heartfelt sympathies to the

bereaved family, praying for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family in bearing this irreparable loss. They described the incident as deeply shocking and expressed solidarity with Wani and his loved ones during this moment of profound

grief. Party's Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar also expressed grief over the tragic demise of Khurshid Wani's daughter. They prayed for peace to the departed soul and fortitude to the bereaved family.

RS Polls....

Decision to be taken after talks with leadership: Cong

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 24: Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Wednesday welcomed the announcement of elections to the vacant Rajya Sabha seats from the J&K.

Party's spokesperson, Ravinder Sharma said that the J&K had remained without representation in the Rajya Sabha for nearly a year despite the Assembly functioning.

"There was no reason for

keeping Jammu and Kashmir without a representative in the Rajya Sabha for such a long time. But now that the time has come, our leadership will sit together, discuss and take the right decision," Sharma told reporters.

He said the Congress, which is in coalition with the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir, would take a final call on candidates only after consultations with leadership—(KNO)

Efforts on to break drug supply chain: SSP Sopore



WARIS FAYAZ

Sopore, Sep 24: Senior Superintendent of Police, Sopore, Iftkhar Talib on Wednesday said the police are making sustained efforts to break the drug supply chain with no loopholes left for traffickers, even as the fight against narcotics remains a pressing challenge despite daily raids and multiple arrests in the region.

Speaking to reporters, SSP Talib said police is working on a dual strategy of enforcement and rehabilitation to tackle the crisis. "We are taking action against drug peddling every day. We have registered multiple cases and in recent weeks, seven to eight peddlers have been arrested. Yet, it would not be

correct to say that the issue of drugs in Sopore has reduced or improved," he said.

The SSP stated that the narcotics remains the toughest challenge and they are trying to cut the supply chain and control it as soon as possible. "Police is acting on specific intelligence inputs to track down networks involved in drug trafficking. Our focus is on choking the sources and recent arrests are part of that sustained effort," he said.

Acknowledging that enforcement alone cannot address the problem, Talib announced that soon a fully functional drug de-addiction and rehabilitation centre will be established in Bomai area of Sopore—(KNO)

Police issue advisory over use of firecrackers

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 24: Srinagar police on Wednesday issued advisory to the public over the use of firecrackers containing harmful chemicals, stating that they are banned and any violation will attract legal action.

According to the advisory, police said that On September 21, a suspicious object was found outside the Passport Office, Srinagar. "The Police team promptly cordoned off the area and called in the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS). After thorough examination, the object was safely defused," reads the advisory.

It reads that subsequent investigation revealed that the object was firecrackers reportedly used during a nearby marriage function. "The Public is reminded that as per Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal (NGT) directions, firecrackers containing harmful chemicals are strictly banned. Any violation will attract legal action under relevant provisions of law," it reads.

Police also cautioned citizens not to spread rumours or misinformation regarding such incidents. "Any such attempt will invite strict legal consequences. Srinagar Police reiterates its commitment to public safety, peace, and order," it added—(KNO)

Unprecedented rush in cold storage units

JAHANGEEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Sep 24: Amid low demand for Kashmiri apples in outside markets and the recent National Highway crisis that disrupted smooth transportation, the cold storage units across the Valley are witnessing an unprecedented rush this year.

Officials and industry insiders said that nearly 50 per cent of cold storage facilities were filled in just 10 days, a process that usually takes almost a month. The remaining space had already been booked months in advance.

Traditionally, apple growers start shifting their produce to cold storage units after September 25, but this year, due to declining demand and uncertainty in transportation, half of the storage capacity was already filled before that date. This unusual trend has led to long queues of trucks and load carriers, with some growers waiting for more than 24 hours to unload their produce.

"This year the rush is unimaginable. Normally, it takes weeks before cold stores reach capacity, but this time, within a few days, they are almost full. Vehicles are stranded outside



storage facilities and are being asked to wait for their turn," said Bashir Ahmad, an apple grower from Shopian.

Some growers also complained of being charged higher rates for storing their produce. "We are already facing huge losses due to falling demand and low prices in the outside markets. On top of that, we are being asked to pay extra to get space in cold storage. This is sheer exploitation," alleged Abdul Rashid, a grower from Pulwama.

However, owners of cold

storage units dismissed these allegations, maintaining that the booking process had been completed well in advance and that rates were fixed through signed agreements. "How can we change the rates now? Bookings were made months earlier with proper terms and conditions. We have not revised the charges," said Mohammad Yousuf, owner of a cold storage facility in Lassipora Industrial Estate, Pulwama.

The owners argued that the issue might be arising from the role of middlemen.

EDITORIAL

Ayurveda: India's Gift Of Holistic Health To The World

The celebration of Ayurveda Day on September 23 marked a milestone in India's journey to reclaim its ancient wellness heritage and present it as a sustainable, holistic health solution for contemporary challenges. With the theme "Ayurveda for People & Planet", this year's observance highlighted the timeless relevance of a system that harmonizes human well-being with environmental balance – a vision increasingly critical in an era of climate crises and lifestyle diseases. The government's

institutional efforts to promote Ayurveda have been both strategic and transformative. The establishment of the Ministry of AYUSH in 2014 signalled a decisive shift toward integrating traditional medicine into the national healthcare framework. Initiatives like the National AYUSH Mission have expanded access to Ayurvedic care, co-locating services in primary health centres and establishing integrated hospitals, thereby democratizing wellness for millions. Global recognition has followed

policy commitment. The inclusion of Ayurveda in the WHO's International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) and the development of ISO standards for Ayurvedic products have elevated its credibility worldwide. The proliferation of AYUSH information cells abroad, Ayurveda chairs in foreign universities, and celebrations across 150 countries reflect India's soft power and the universal appeal of its wellness traditions. Technological integration has further modernised Ayurveda. The

launch of the DRAVYA and APTA portals democratizes access to authentic knowledge, while the nationwide health campaign "Desh Ka Swasthya Parikshan" leverages digital tools for preventive care. The upcoming Integrated Oncology Unit in Goa, developed with the Tata Memorial Centre, symbolizes a forward-looking synergy between traditional wisdom and modern science. Beyond healthcare, Ayurveda embodies an ecological ethos. Its emphasis on plant-based medicine, seasonal living,

and balance aligns perfectly with sustainable development goals. By championing Ayurveda, India is not merely promoting a medical alternative but advancing a philosophy of life that respects planetary boundaries. This ancient science is poised to play a pivotal role in building a healthier, more resilient world. The government's sustained efforts deserve applause for transforming tradition into tomorrow's wellness solution—one that heals both people and the planet.

Satellite Internet In India:
The Future Of Internet Above Us

India's progress in space is now directly contributing to making the lives of ordinary citizens easier: Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Press Information Bureau

India is one of the fastest-growing digital nations in the world, with internet connectivity playing a crucial role in its progress. This momentum is reflected in the staggering 1,002.85 million internet subscribers reported during April–June 2025, highlighting the scale and impact of India's digital revolution. However, internet penetration remains limited in certain regions of the country, underscoring the need for satellite internet to complement existing networks.

Satellite internet refers to the internet service provided through satellites placed in Geostationary Orbits (GSO) or Non-Geostationary Orbits (NGSO).

For realising the Digital India vision of a digitally inclusive nation, satellite internet is an emerging technology with the potential to provide connectivity from space to any location. This makes it particularly valuable for remote villages, hilly terrains, border areas, and islands where terrestrial internet services are either difficult to reach or economically unviable.

India's Regulatory Landscape for Satellite Internet

The government has introduced a progressive regulatory framework to govern Satellite Communications (Satcom), aiming to balance innovation with security and spectrum management. Recent policy measures are shaping an environment for private participation, streamlined approvals, and efficient spectrum use, paving the way for large-scale adoption of satellite internet.

In 2020, the Government introduced Space Sector Reforms to open the doors for private sector participation in space activities. Building on this momentum, the Indian Space Policy, 2023 established a level playing field for Non-Government Entities (NGEs) in the space sector by enabling their participation across the entire value chain of space activities in an end-to-end manner.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT)

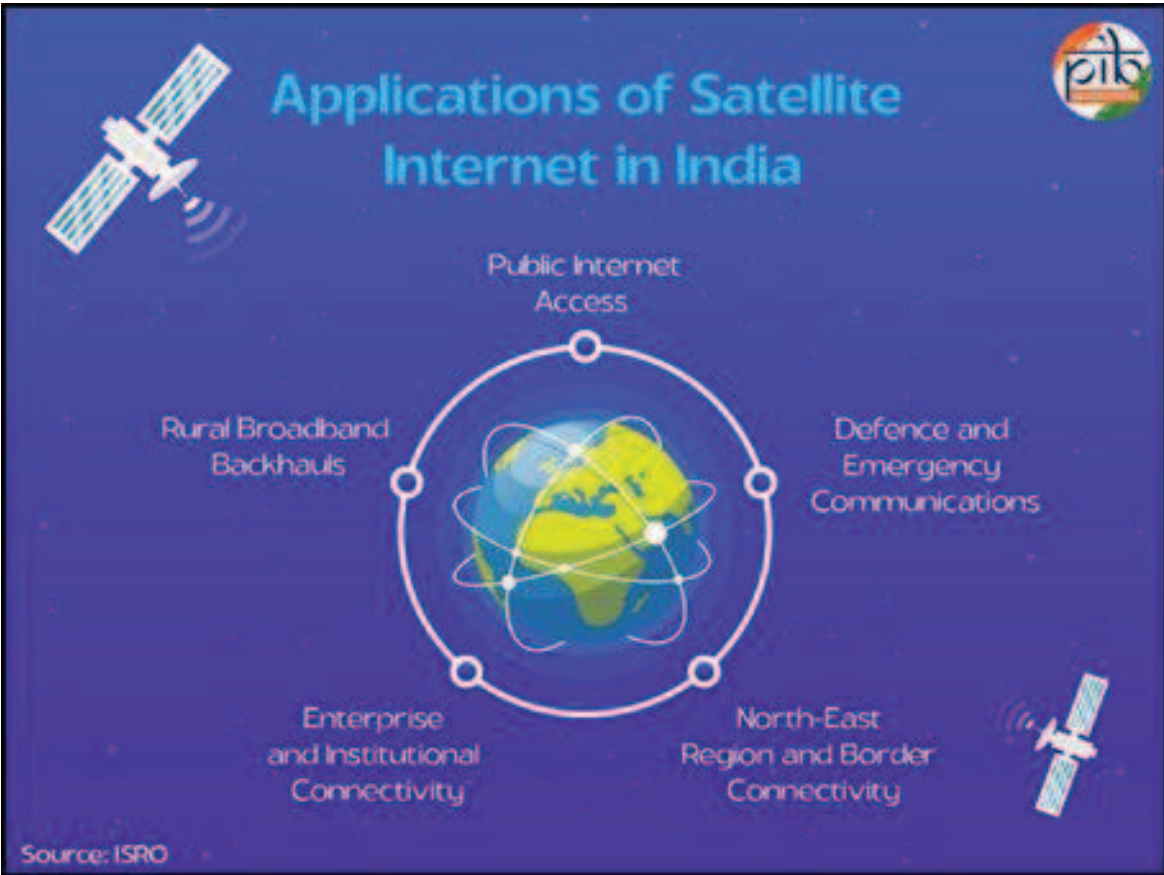
DoT regulates provision of satellite-based communication by granting authorisations under the Unified Licence Regime framework, enabling a range of satellite-based services such as Commercial VSAT CUG services, GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite), etc. These services are designed to complement terrestrial networks, extending connectivity to remote and unserved regions across the country. The Telecommunications Act, 2023 empowers the government to assign spectrum, enforce security conditions and, regulate satellite-based services as part of the broader telecom ecosystem.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

In May 2025, TRAI released its recommendations on the terms and conditions for the assignment of spectrum for satellite-based commercial communication services. To balance the regulatory framework with flexibility and efficiency in spectrum utilization, One of the key recommendations of TRAI is to assign the satellite spectrum for a period of five years, with the option to extend for up to two additional years based on market conditions.

Indian National Space Promotion & Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)

IN-SPACe plays a pivotal role in enabling satellite internet in India. It is responsible for promoting, authorizing and supervising various space activities of the non-governmental



entities (NGEs). This nodal agency acts as an interface between ISRO and NGEs, facilitating the growth of space-based activities including the use of India's satellite resources for broadband connectivity. It also assesses the needs of private players, including educational and research institutions, as well as explores ways to accommodate these requirements in consultation with ISRO.

New Space India Ltd. (NSIL) NSIL is a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Space. It is incorporated as the commercial arm of ISRO. NSIL is currently operating 15 in-orbit communication satellites and providing space-based communication services to various Indian users.

India's Transitioning Satcom Landscape

India's satellite communication (Satcom) ecosystem is undergoing a transformative shift. Traditionally dependent on the Geostationary Satellite (GSAT) of Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) and other satellite operators' series, the sector is now witnessing more active private participation and the adoption of next-generation Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) satellite systems. With the rollout of space sector reforms India is set to harness satellite internet as a key driver of Digital India.

Role of NSIL in Satellite Communications

NSIL plays a pivotal role in meeting India's satellite communication requirements through demand-driven missions and operational services. To address the national requirements in Satellite Communications, NSIL undertook two Demand-Driven Satellite Missions—

GSAT-N1 [GSAT-24] for Direct-To-Home (DTH) services, which has commenced its operational services.

GSAT-N2 [GSAT-20] for broadband connectivity which is currently undergoing in-orbit testing and commissioning operations.

NSIL has also proposed its 3rd Demand-Driven Satellite Mission, GSAT-N3 slated for Q1 2026 for the government's S-Band communication needs.

Satellite Band Services: Satellite

communication services and other space services are managed by NSIL through its ISAT/ GSAT satellites for extending multiple applications in S, C, Extended C, Ka and Ku bands.

Understanding the Satellite Communication Spectrum

In satellite communications, frequency bands serve as the essential channels through which voice, data, and broadband signals are transmitted between Earth and space. The popular frequency bands used for providing satellite communication services are:

Shift to LEO/MEO-based Satellite Internet Services

Driven by the need for lower latency, higher bandwidth, and more reliable coverage across remote and unserved regions, India is reimagining its satellite internet landscape from GEO (Geostationary Earth Orbit) satellites to LEO (Low Earth Orbit) and MEO (Medium Earth Orbit) systems. This transition will deliver faster and more reliable internet connectivity nationwide.

LEO satellites orbit close to Earth, typically between 400 to 2,000 km altitude. Their proximity allows for low-latency communication, making them ideal for internet services.

MEO satellites operate at altitudes ranging from 8,000 to 20,000 km. They cover larger regions than LEO satellites and have a slightly higher latency than LEO satellites.

Policy Reforms

With the rollout of space sector reforms, the government now permits up to 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in different segments of the space sector through automatic and government approval routes, thereby liberalising entry norms for private participation, marking the transition of India's satcom landscape.

Industry Developments

Marking a major step in strengthening the nation's digital connectivity landscape, Starlink Satellite Communications Pvt. Ltd. (SSCPL) in June 2025 received a license to launch satellite internet services in India. Prior to it, Jio Satellite Communication Limited and OneWeb India Communications Private Limited have been granted license for providing such services.

As of April 2025, more than 10 satellite operators have shown interest and applied for authorization to provide satellite capacity in India.

The entry of private-sector players in the space sector marks a significant step towards Viksit Bharat 2047, setting the stage for a seamless rollout of high-speed satellite broadband across the nation. The transitioning Satcom landscape underscores the government's focus on fostering innovation and next-generation technologies.

Government Initiatives: Expanding Inclusive Digital Connectivity

The government has launched several initiatives to extend mobile and internet connectivity to the nation's remotest areas, empowering individuals and communities alike. In today's digital era, such connectivity serves as a catalyst for socio-economic development, unlocking access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), formerly Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF))

Under Digital Bharat Nidhi, the government is implementing various schemes for the expansion of broadband facilities through installation of 4G mobile towers in the rural and remote areas of the country under the 4G saturation project. Further, DBN has been instrumental in funding projects that extend mobile and broadband connectivity to underserved areas.

For Island Regions:

The government has implemented Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for islands to provide connectivity to Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Satellite Bandwidth Augmentation executed by BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) increased capacity from 2 Gbps to 4 Gbps in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and from 318 Mbps to 1.71 Gbps in Lakshadweep. This satellite boost supplements fibre cables to ensure resilient telecom service coverage across the islands.

For North-Eastern Regions:

The government has implemented CTDP for providing mobile connectivity to villages and areas along

Key Takeaways

- India has 1,002.85 million internet subscribers as of April–June 2025.
- Rural internet penetration stands at approximately 46 subscribers per 100 population, highlighting the need for satellite internet to bridge the digital divide.
- Space sector reforms have enabled private sector participation in space activities.
- India is moving towards LEO and MEO-based satellite internet services to deliver faster and more reliable broadband services nationwide.
- Over 10 satellite operators, including the licensed Starlink, have entered India, with private sector allowed up to 100% FDI.

National Highways with the objective of extending mobile network access to underserved population. As of June 2025, 2,485 mobile towers have been commissioned, providing mobile connectivity to 3,389 locations.

National Broadband Mission 2.0 (NBM 2.0)

NBM 2.0 was launched on January 17, 2025, after the successful completion of NBM 1.0 with the goal of extending broadband services to the remaining 1.7 lakh villages across the country. The NBM 2.0 aims to propel India into a new era of digital transformation and global competitiveness aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat. Key components under NBM 2.0 are:

BharatNet Project:

Funded under DBN, BharatNet is an ambitious project aimed at providing affordable high-speed internet access to every Gram Panchayat in the country, bridging the gap between urban and rural communities. The satellite component of this project is being implemented by BBNL (Bharat Broadband Network Limited) and BSNL under Phase II. So far, over 2.14 lakh Gram Panchayats are connected through the BharatNet project, with BSNL covering 1,408 and BBNL covering 3,753 of them.

Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI):

PM-WANI is designed to create a network of public Wi-Fi hotspots across India. It aims to make affordable and reliable internet access available to citizens, fostering digital participation and economic opportunities. More than 3.73 lakh PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in the country, as of September 2025.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Decision Support System (DSS). It uses internet connectivity to deliver timely and impact-based early warnings for extreme weather events. The system relies on historical data, real-time observations, radar, and satellite imagery. It helps disaster-prone states monitor risks and take measures to protect lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure.

Together, these efforts underscore India's commitment to employing satellite communication to strengthen digital infrastructure and improve public services.

India's Key Broadband-Based Satellites

India's broadband reach is steadily

expanding through high-throughput satellites (HTS) developed by ISRO, which use advanced spot-beam technology to provide faster speeds and higher capacity. India has a fleet of 19 operational communication satellites, among which GSAT-19, GSAT-29, GSAT-11, and GSAT-N2 are specifically geared towards boosting India's broadband services. These satellites are designed to enhance internet connectivity in underserved areas, support in-flight communication, defence networks and disaster management. Together, they form the backbone of satellite-based broadband infrastructure in India, complementing ground-based networks like BharatNet.

Conclusion

In line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, satellite internet is emerging as a key enabler of digital connectivity, extending reliable access to remote and underserved regions, while strengthening critical applications in defence and disaster response. Through the power of space technology, India is reinforcing its strategic autonomy and leadership in space-based communications, ensuring that the benefits of connectivity reach every citizen. From operationalising HTS to enabling private participation in satellite communications, the country is steadily bridging its digital divide.

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Govt aims to improve medical infra: Sakeena Itoo

Inaugurates NTPHCs, PHC in Kulgam Anantnag villages

KT News Desk

KULGAM / ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 24: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday said the Omar Abdullah-led government has given top priority to strengthening healthcare facilities across Jammu and Kashmir with particular focus on rural and far-flung areas.

The Minister made these remarks while inaugurating various health facilities in several villages of Kulgam and Anantnag districts of South Kashmir.

At Arwani village, the Health Minister inaugurated newly constructed New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) built at an estimated cost of Rs 2.71 crores.

MLA Bijbehara-Strigufwara, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Veeri; CMO Kulgam, BMO Qaimoh, other senior officers and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that establishing these health facilities is part of larger vision of the government to ensure quality, accessible and affordable health care facilities are available grassroots level. She highlighted that the



government led by Omar Abdullah is making sustained efforts to upgrade health facilities across Jammu and Kashmir. She noted that improving medical infrastructure, especially in rural and far-flung areas, is a top priority of Government to bridge the gap in service delivery and reduce the burden on tertiary hospitals.

MLA Bijbehara-Strigufwara also addressed the gathering, highlighting

recent achievements of the government.

Later, Sakeena Itoo also visited Fathepora Anantnag and Brinty Anantnag and inaugurated newly constructed NTPHC and PHC respectively, in presence of MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Larmi; ADC Anantnag, CMO Anantnag, BMO Verinag, other senior officers of health department and large number of locals.

Addressing a mammoth

gatherings after inaugurations at these locations, the Health Minister highlighted that the inauguration of this centres marks a step forward in Government's resolve to make healthcare delivery more inclusive and accessible. She added that Government's commitment is to ensure that no patient is left unattended and every family has access to timely and affordable treatment close to their homes.

The Minister underlined that the Government is working to ensure better medical facilities are available in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in rural and far-flung areas. "From new health centres to MRI and cath labs, Government's focus is to improve patient care and provide facilities at doorsteps of people", Minister Sakeena said.

She further highlighted that these health care centres will be equipped with modern diagnostic facilities, essential medicines, maternal and child health services, and trained medical staff to address both preventive and curative needs of the local community.

MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Larmi also spoke on these occasions.

Earlier, Sakeena Itoo also conducted surprise inspection of Government Higher Secondary School Fathepora Anantnag and reviewed the educational standards of the institution.

The Minister took detailed round of school premises and interacted with the faculty and other school staff.

She also interacted with students and took feedback from them about the quality of education being imparted in the institution.

Speaker inaugurates mega awareness camp for Artisans



KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 24: Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather Wednesday inaugurated one-day Mega Awareness Camp cum Seminar for artisans, weavers and trainees at Nagam Chadoora here.

The Awareness Camp was organised by Handicrafts & Handloom Department.

The camp witnessed active participation of artisans, weavers, and trainees, besides officers and officials from various line departments.

In his inaugural address, Speaker applauded the role of artisans in preserving Kashmir's rich cultural heritage. He called upon them to adopt innovation and market-driven approaches while pursuing their craft with sincerity and dedication.

Stressing on the need for self-reliance, Rather said artisans should strive to become Job Givers instead of Job

Seekers. He also assured full support for initiatives aimed at the socio-economic upliftment of artisan communities.

Assistant Director Handicrafts & Handloom Budgam, on the occasion, highlighted the achievements and initiatives of the department aimed at strengthening the handicrafts and handloom sector. He urged artisans to take full benefit of the welfare schemes and capacity-building programmes being implemented by the Department.

Other speakers from various departments shared detailed insights into schemes and opportunities available for artisans and trainees.

Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Budgam, Principals of Government Polytechnic College and Government Girls Higher Secondary School Chadoora, representatives from J&K Bank Nagam Chadoora, and others officers were present on the occasion.

MISSION YUVA

DC Sgr hands-over sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs

Over 3000 applications approved by DLIC till date

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: As a part of ongoing Sewa Parv campaign, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday handed over 350 fresh sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs of the district under Mission YUVA initiative to support them in launching business ventures and promoting self-employment to generate jobs.

These sanction letters were distributed during the 4th Roz-e-Yuva which was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; Chief General Manager J&K Bank, Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani; Zonal Head J&K Bank, District Social Welfare Officer, LDM(Banks), Heads of various J&K Bank Business Units and other concerned, alongside a large number of Mission YUVA beneficiaries from different parts of the Srinagar district.

On the occasion, DC handed over 350 fresh sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs of Srinagar district under Mission YUVA initiative for whom proposals had been approved by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) after detailed evaluation. These 350 approvals follow the distribution of 450 sanction letters earlier, bringing the total number of

sanctioned cases to 800 in the district under Mission YUVA initiative. The proposals were approved by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) after detailed evaluation. Addressing the event, DC congratulated the Mission YUVA beneficiaries for embracing self-employment and economic empowerment, encouraging them to become job creators rather than job seekers. He also praised the efforts of all stakeholder departments and banks in fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial environment in Srinagar.

DC expressed his satisfaction at the enthusiastic participation of youth across the district in Mission YUVA and said that over 3000 applications have been approved by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) till date, the highest across Jammu & Kashmir under Mission YUVA initiative.

He added that the youth's response to Mission YUVA has been inspiring, with the initiative providing timely credit and essential support to help turn entrepreneurial ideas into reality. He encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to apply through the Mission YUVA website to learn about the government's benefits, including credit and interest subvention.

Senior officers from Jammu & Kashmir Bank, speaking at the event, affirmed their commitment to empowering young entrepreneurs by providing necessary credit and support.

Karkhandar Scheme a perfect example of Ustaad-Shagird camaraderie

Awardee artisans urged to apply with Dept to set up 'skill transfer karkhanas'



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: With an aim to transfer skill to new generation of craftsmen, Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir Wednesday urged interested awardee artisans to set up Karkhanas under the flagship Karkhandar Scheme of the department.

The initiative aims to empower master artisans to lead skill upgradation programmes, revitalizing traditional crafts on the verge of decline and fostering sustainable livelihood in the craft sector.

Giving details, a spokesperson of the department stated the Scheme provides institutional support, advanced training, and financial assistance to facilitate the transfer of traditional knowledge to the next generation, enhancing skills, wages, and market linkages

through entrepreneurship.

Highlighting the salient features of the Karkhandar Scheme, the spokesman said special consideration shall be given to those master artisans who have demonstrated excellence in their craft, recognizing their potential to mentor emerging talents and drive revival efforts. "Selected Karkhandars will receive comprehensive support, including a monthly honorarium of 2,000 per trainee (for up to 10 trainees per Karkhana), a lumpsum of 25,000 per batch for logistical support," he added.

He further stated that trainees under the scheme will also benefit from 2,000 monthly stipends, disbursed in instalments upon successful completion of their probationary training.

Launched in 2021 as a pilot project by the Directorate of

Handicrafts and Handloom, the Karkhandar Scheme focuses on identifying and training artisans in various crafts such as walnut wood carving, silver filigree, carpet weaving, Kani shawl weaving, Khatamband, Papier Mache, Sozni embroidery, as well as languishing crafts like glazed pottery, Numdha felting as well as Gabba and Wagguv making.

The Karkhandar Scheme has already transformed lives by sanctioning 80 units, empowering them to preserve our rich heritage while creating economic opportunities. "Eligible awardee artisans, particularly meritorious ex-trainees from department- are encouraged to apply with online applications which shall include completed form, affidavit, self-attested copies of documents such as Aadhaar, qualification proofs, and prior training certificates, and a passport-size photograph.

DC Kupwara conducts extensive tour of Lolab sub division

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Lolab sub division of Kupwara district to take stock of the ongoing developmental projects in the area.

He was accompanied by SDM Lolab, Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab, Tehsildar and other concerned officers.

During the tour, DC visited KGBV Potushai. While inspecting the school infrastructure, he directed the R&B department to expedite the restoration work of bathrooms, kitchen block. He also inspected the classrooms and interacted with the students, got feedback about the functioning of the school.

Suse also visited Government Degree College (GDC) Sogam and JNV Potushai during which he took stock of the key infrastructural works going in these institutions. He stressed upon the executing agency to gear up construction work and ensure completion of the work within the given time frame. He also took stock of the ongoing digitization work of the revenue department at GDC Sogam.

While inspecting the Water Supply scheme Wavoor, DC was informed that the scheme which stands completed under JJM, covers around 912 households of three villages of Wavoor, Surigam and Bunmaidanpora.

He also paid inspection of 10 MVA Receiving Station Sogam and enquired the status of the power supply scenario of sub-division and ongoing works under RDSS.

DC also paid a surprise visit to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Sogam during which he inspected all the sections of the hospital including OPD, Dental, Radiology, Dialysis, Gynaecology, Labour Room, OT, Pharmacy, etc.

He inspected the under construction building of ICDS Block office at Sogam and directed the R&B department to ensure completion of the project in a fast track manner.

At the Auditorium of GDC Sogam, DC convened a meeting of all sub divisional level officers to take a detailed review of the progress achieved by different line departments under UT CAPEX, District CAPEX and different beneficiary oriented schemes.

The meeting was attended by Principal GDC Sogam, SDM Lolab, SDPO Lolab, XEN R&B, Tehsildar Sogam, Tehsildar Lalpora, BDO, BMO, CDO, AEE PHE, SDAO, TSO Food and representatives from different departments.

DC directed the officers to work with full dedication and ensure completion of the pending works within the stipulated time frame and put special focus on saturation under beneficiary oriented schemes. He emphasized upon the officers to also put special focus on improving key performance indicators during the ongoing Sewa Parv campaign.

Sewa Parv Day-8: DC Pulwama attends Kala Utsav

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 24: The ongoing Sewa Parv campaign was Wednesday celebrated with a vibrant series of activities, reflecting the themes of cultural engagement, community service, health awareness, and environmental conservation.

A major highlight of the day was the Kala Utsav organised by the Education department at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Pulwama.

The event, attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, featured art, slogan, and essay competitions around the spirit of Sewa. Department of Information and Public Relations also presented cultural programmes spreading messages on cleanliness, hygiene, anti-drug awareness, and government initiatives, especially



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Qayoom highlighted the series of activities being undertaken across the district by various departments as part of the Sewa Parv campaign. He emphasised the crucial role of students as ambassadors of cleanliness and social change, urging them to take a firm stand against drug abuse under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan and actively contribute to the goals of the

Swachh Bharat Mission.

Dr. Qayoom also stressed the importance of healthy lifestyles, balanced nutrition, and regular health check-ups so that young people can contribute productively to society. "The energy of our youth," he said, "should be channeled into creativity, learning, and service, which will not only strengthen communities but also build a resilient and self-reliant Pulwama."

Later, DC visited a medical camp at Lajoorah organised

under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, interacting with health officials and reviewing ongoing activities. He directed teams to strengthen screening, early detection, and treatment linkages for both communicable and non-communicable diseases, with emphasis on anaemia, tuberculosis, and sickle cell disease.

Maternal and child health, immunisation, adolescent care, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, lifestyle disorders, and mental health awareness were also highlighted for comprehensive grassroots well-being.

Meanwhile, a series of plantation drives were organised by Social Forestry, RDD, Urban & Housing Development, and Education departments, promoting environmental consciousness and community participation.

DC B'pora discusses adoption of Bio-waste Fuel, Solar Dehydration initiatives

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Wednesday convened a meeting of concerned officers to discuss the adoption of Bio-waste Fuel and Solar Dehydration initiatives in the district.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation and live demonstration showcased the technologies, highlighting their scope and feasibility for local application.

It was explained that Bio-waste Fuel involves converting organic and agricultural waste into usable energy sources such as biogas or briquettes. This not only ensures efficient waste management but also reduces environmental hazards.

Similarly, Solar Dehydration uses solar energy to dry fruits, vegetables, and other perishables—helping preserve nutritional value, reduce post-harvest losses, and promote clean energy practices. A special focus was laid on the solar dehydration of fruits and vegetables, given Bandipora's agricultural potential.

DC emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination to ensure effective implementation of these eco-friendly practices aimed at resource conservation and sustainable growth. She underlined that adopting such technologies will reduce waste burden while offering cost-effective alternatives to local communities.

The meeting further stressed chalking out a comprehensive action plan with active involvement

of local bodies and community institutions to maximize benefits.

Notably, representatives from NRLM Self Help Groups (SHGs), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and the District Industries Centre (DIC) also participated in the programme, exploring avenues to integrate these technologies into community and industrial practices.

DC also appealed to the general public to adopt and utilize these technologies in their daily lives to help reduce waste, conserve energy, and contribute to environmental sustainability.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Coordinator WUCMA, Chief Agriculture Officer, and other concerned officers and departmental representatives.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacts with the officers attending NDC course

Chief Secretary reviews school infra development under different schemes

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sept 24: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of infrastructure development works being executed in schools across J&K.

The meeting was also attended by ACS, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, PWD; Secretary, School Education; Secretary, Law; MD, Samagra Shiksha; Director, School Education, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, JK BOSE; Chief Engineers of R&B besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the executing agencies should ensure time-bound completion of all ongoing projects and strictly adhere to strict monitoring mechanisms. He directed the officers to give priority to projects nearing completion so that the benefits of improved infrastructure are extended to the student community without delay.



Underscoring the importance of transparency, the Chief Secretary also called for effective utilization of resources, ensuring that each work taken up under the UT Capex contributes to strengthening the learning environment in government schools.

During the meeting, the Secretary, School Education Department (SED), Ram Niwas Sharma made a detailed presentation on the financial and physical achievements registered so far.

It was informed that during the financial year 2024-25, an allocation of Rs 185.67 Cr was approved, out of which Rs 146.77 Cr were made available. Against this, an expenditure of Rs 122.14 Cr was incurred, thereby achieving 83.21 percent expenditure.

For the current financial year 2025-26, an allocation of Rs 180.50 Cr has been made, with an availability of Rs 90.25 Cr till date. Out of this, an expenditure of Rs 25.06 Cr has already been registered up to August 2025.

On the physical side, the Secretary apprised that 2,716 works were taken up in 2024-25, out of which 1,048 works were completed. Similarly, for 2025-26, around 2,356 works have been taken up, with 1,779 works targeted for completion, out of which 10 works stand completed till August 2025.

The Chief Secretary was further informed about the district-wise abstract of Capex works for 2025-26, under which 1,089 works (540 in Jammu Division and 549 in Kashmir Division) have been approved. The overall allocation for these works stands at Rs 3905.79 lakh, out of which Rs 1261.32 lakh has been released so far. The allocations include Rs 2644.98 lakh for Jammu Division and Rs 1260.81 lakh for Kashmir Division.

The Chief Secretary also took note of the projects such as hostels of girl students, PM SHRI projects and those being taken up for completion under Samagra Shiksha and other sponsored schemes.

Three-day exhibition inaugurated by DGP on New Laws concluded at Jammu Y Kichloo-IPS adjudged as overall best performer

KNO

Srinagar, Sept 24: The three days exhibition inaugurated by Director General of Police (DGP), Nalin Prabhat-IPS on New Criminal Laws concluded in Jammu on Wednesday.

17 stalls were displayed by crime wing stalls, District Police, FSL, Cyber Police Station Jammu, Women Police, Finger Print Bureau, Eow, SCW, ANTF and prosecution branch etc participated and thousands of people visited the stalls and got awareness.

As per a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), DGP appreciated all stalls but adjudged the stall presented by CICE J&K headed by M. Y Kichloo-IPS as the best one in terms of presentation, technological facilities, awareness and arrangements.

The public and students had maximum footfall on this stall where functioning of



Cice cybercrime investigation centre for excellence was explained to the public besides different verticals and portals for registering complaint @ 1930 help line.

CybHer help desk exclusively for women was inaugurated by DGP J&K in presence of senior officers ADGP armed Anand Jain-IPS, IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Crime Branch J&K, Sujeet Kumar-IPS, DIG Doda

Jammu DIG and other senior officers.

On conclusion of exhibition, Sujeet Kumar, IGP Crime Branch J&K presented the overall best presentation and performance award to M. Y Kichloo-IPS head of CICE J&K for outstanding performance.

DGP J&K mentioned CICE in his speech a stall worth visiting to redress cybercrime related queries.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

New red line drawn

and internet which significantly improved quality of life," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said India's ancient Mantra and motto of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- the world is one family" will show the way to universal brotherhood and global unity.

After 4-year hiatus

held on October 24 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, the notification states. Counting of votes will take place on the same day at 5:00 PM.

The four Rajya Sabha seats-previously held by Mir Muhammad Fayaz, Shamsher Singh, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Nazir Ahmed Laway-have remained vacant since their retirement in February 2021.

The poll body attributed the delay in holding elections to the non-availability of the required electorate at the time the vacancies occurred.

Elected MLAs constitute the electorate for these elections. Nominated MLAs are not eligible to participate in Rajya Sabha polls.

The Commission stated that these seats will be filled through three separate elections-one each for two seats and a combined election for the two seats that became vacant simultaneously.

As per the notification, the tenure of the newly elected members will be subject to the outcome of a pending Supreme Court case-SLP (C) No. 17123/2015 (Election Commission of India vs. Devesh Chandra Thakur & Others). (KNO)

NC-Cong alliance

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Mehraj Malik, who is currently under detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The combined strength of the NC, Congress, CPI (M), and independent MLAs supporting the alliance stands at 53-down from 54 following Mehraj Malik's withdrawal of support to the Omar Abdullah-led government. The alliance includes 41 MLAs from NC, six from Congress, five independents, and one from CPI (M).

The BJP holds 28 seats. In addition, six MLAs from smaller Kashmir-based parties and independents form a non-BJP opposition bloc in the House. These members maintain a neutral stance, distancing themselves from both the treasury benches and the BJP. This group includes three MLAs from the PDP, one from the PC, and two independents-Shabir Kullay (MLA Shopian) and Sheikh Khursheed (MLA Langate), who is considered independent as his party is not registered with the Election Commission of India. With Mehraj Malik added to this bloc, the total rises to seven.

Based on current numbers, the NC-led alliance is expected to win the first two seats-each to be decided through separate elections-given its 53-member strength compared to BJP's 28. These two seats could go uncontested if the BJP decides not to field candidates.

For the third and fourth seats, which will be decided through a combined election,

voting will take place only if the NC-led alliance chooses to contest the fourth seat.

The NC-led alliance is projected to secure 29 first-preference votes for the third seat, leaving it with 24 second-preference votes for the fourth seat. The BJP, with 28 votes, is favoured to win the fourth seat.

The six MLAs from PDP, PC, and independents are expected to play a minimal role in the elections. They have been vocal critics of both NC and BJP.

There are also chances of cross-voting, considering that seven independent MLAs-five from the ruling alliance and two from the opposition-are not required to show their marked ballot papers to any authorized agent.

Mehraj Malik, who is in detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA), is eligible to vote in the Rajya Sabha elections. Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, does not bar a person from voting if they are under preventive detention. It only prohibits voting by individuals confined in prison or in lawful police custody-whether serving a sentence or otherwise.

Who are frontrunners for party tickets?

Sources in National Conference indicate that Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Sajad Kichloo are the frontrunners for the party ticket.

The Congress is also likely to seek one seat out of the three that the alliance is poised to win. The grand old party could field a candidate from mainland Jammu or a sitting MLA from South Kashmir, if the NC concedes a seat to it.

If the NC decides to contest the fourth seat, it may field a young face from South Kashmir to maintain its grip in the region, where it won 10 out of 16 seats in the last election.

The BJP is expected to keep its cards close to its chest until the last moment. It could field either a former MLA or a new face, given its reputation for springing surprises.

Sunil Kumar Sharma, the BJP's tactician who played a crucial role in the party's victories during the last Assembly elections across the entire Chenab Valley, is expected to play a key role in finalizing the party's strategy for the polls. (KNO)

Kulgam teacher-turned

according to the officials left at least 100 terrorists dead.

Later, Operation Mahadev unfolded over weeks starting May 22, when security forces received intel about terrorists hiding in Dachigam near Srinagar. After weeks of observation - during which time the military intercepted encrypted comms on China-origin devices - the assault began July 28.

The security forces gunned down Sulieman alias Asif, the alleged mastermind of the April 22 attack, along with two of his aides, in an encounter at Mulnar in Harwan area near Dachigam National Park.

CDS Gen Chauhan's

He has been serving as the Chief of Defence Staff since September 30, 2022.

Wangchuk's provocative

The MHA accused "certain politically motivated individuals" of trying to sabotage the dialogue process, despite the HPC having scheduled further meetings with Ladakhi leaders on September 25-26 and October 6.

According to the statement, despite appeals from several leaders to end the protest, Wangchuk continued his hunger strike and allegedly misled people with "provocative references to Arab Spring-style protests and Gen Z demonstrations in Nepal."

"The situation escalated on September 24 at around 11:30 a.m., when a mob allegedly influenced by Wangchuk's speeches left the protest venue and attacked a political party office and the office of the Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) in Leh, setting both on fire. The ministry said the mob also torched a police vehicle, injured over 30 police and CRPF personnel, and damaged public property," the statement said.

"In response, security forces resorted to firing in self-defence, leading to casualties, the MHA confirmed. The situation was brought under control by 4:00 pm," it added.

"It is clear that the mob was guided by Sonam Wangchuk through his provocative statements. Incidentally, amidst these developments, he called off his hunger strike," the MHA said.

The MHA reiterated that the Government of India remains committed to addressing the aspirations of Ladakh's people by providing adequate constitutional safeguards.

Reiterating its stand, the government assured that it "remains committed to the aspirations of the people of Ladakh by providing adequate constitutional safeguards." The MHA also appealed to the public not to circulate old or provocative videos on media or social media that may disrupt peace.

Congress instigated

when investigated, it was discovered that these protests were not led by Gen Z, but by Congress."

He named Congress Councillor Stanzing Tsepang, who represents the Upper Leh ward, as the main instigator. According to Patra, photos and videos show the councillor and his workers provoking violence and marching towards the BJP office with a weapon in hand. "He is instigating the mob and targeting the BJP office," Patra said, adding that the BJP had posted related visuals.

Patra also linked Tsepang to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, citing photographs of the two together. He accused Congress of having "nefarious designs" and claimed that the party's slogan was "Bharat tere tukde honge Inshallah." He said, "This is Rahul Gandhi's plan with George Soros, since they cannot win through the people, so they are working to break the country."

He further alleged that Rahul Gandhi was instigating unrest similar to situations seen in Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines. "What kind of leadership is this for the Congress," Patra asked.

The BJP MP said citizens could see the

difference between those who incite violence and the work being done by the government. "The people know what their PM is doing for them. Even the biggest leaders acknowledge India's strength. We are growing at a rate of 7.8 percent," he said.

Patra said that those trying to divide the country would face a response from the people themselves. (KNO)

Chief Justice announces

& Kashmir and Ladakh.

Following the successful completion of Phases I to III, the next phases i.e. - Phase IV (July 2025 - December 2025) and Phase V (January 2026 - June 2026 aims to deepen the impact of earlier interventions and enhance the delivery of timely justice to citizens.

This structured initiative aims to address the persistent backlog of cases in the district judiciary through strategic planning, monitoring, and implementation of best practices in judicial administration.

The following are the objectives of Phase IV:

- Identification and prioritization of 10+ year-old cases and cases involving senior citizens, women, and vulnerable groups
- Expansion of Evening/Weekend Courts and Special Arrears Sessions
- Strengthening of case management systems through digital dashboards and monthly performance reviews
- Improved coordination with the Bar and Prosecution Departments for early disposal
- And, the objectives of Phase V are as under:
- Consolidation of gains from previous phases
- Rollout of paperless courts in select districts on a pilot basis
- Enhancement of ADR mechanisms including mediation and Lok Adalats for compoundable matters
- Capacity building through targeted training for judicial officers and court staff

The implementation of Phases IV and V will be closely monitored by the Arrears Committee of the High Court, with monthly reporting from all District and Sessions Judges. Progress will be evaluated based on quantifiable metrics including disposal rates, reduction in pendency, and compliance with timelines.

The implementation of Phases IV and V will be closely monitored by the Arrears Committee of the High Court, with monthly reporting from all District and Sessions Judges. Progress will be evaluated based on quantifiable metrics including disposal rates, reduction in pendency, and compliance with timelines.

People of J&K can't love towards the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Omar called for respecting the religious sentiments of each other. (KNO)

Gbl youth's death

custody," the SSP told reporters, adding that a murder case has been registered, and further investigation is underway using scientific and forensic methods.

According to police, Ajaz had been playing cricket with two acquaintances, identified as Nayaz Ahmad and Muteen, when tensions escalated. The duo allegedly strangled him with the wire and threw his body into the Power Canal. While the final cause of death will be established through post-mortem, prima facie evidence points to strangulation.

The incident sparked protests in Kangan, with local women taking to the streets demanding justice. Police assured residents that strict action will be taken against those involved. Additional security forces have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order.

In a statement issued to KNO, Ganderbal Police described the arrests as a "major breakthrough", stating: "After strenuous efforts, the body of the deceased was recovered from the canal, and accordingly, case FIR No. 64/2025 U/S 103 (1) BNS stands registered at Police Station Kangan. After medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family for the last rites."

"During preliminary investigation, a wire used in the commission of the crime was recovered. Significantly, one of the close friends of the deceased has emerged as the prime eyewitness, whose statement has proven vital in cracking the case," the statement said. (KNO)

Five months after

September - Five months on, shadow persists

The sector continues to struggle. Only around 9,000 tourists, including 400 foreigners, visited in the first half of September - compared to over 1 lakh during the same period last year, as revealed by BJP spokesperson Manzoor Bhat on September 15.

The economic fallout Tourism, which contributes significantly to Jammu and Kashmir's GSDP, has seen a sharp contraction. Hotels, houseboats, transporters, artisans and small vendors remain deeply affected.

The government continues efforts to rebuild confidence with safety assurances, promotional campaigns, and financial incentives.

Speaking with KNO, Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Hotels Club, said hotel occupancy in the Kashmir Valley has dropped severely, with only 10 per cent of hotels currently occupied. "Losses cannot be estimated as hotels all over the valley suffered losses," Chaya said.

He said the Pahalgam attack has cast a shadow over the valley's tourism. "The Chief Minister, Prime Minister and others are pushing hard for revival of tourism, and we hoteliers are also requesting LG Manoj Sinha and the administration to reopen the closed tourist sites and let us show people that normalcy prevails here and that they can come," he said.

Recently, KNO also reported that the famous shikaras of Dal Lake - often referred to as the "floating taxis of Kashmir" now lie idle, their vibrant canopies fading under the sun.

With tourists vanishing after the April 22 Pahalgam attack, the men who rowed them for generations are being pushed to desperate choices.

Wali Mohammad, President of the Shikara Association Kashmir, told KNO that many owners have been forced to abandon the lake.

"Shikaras have been our identity, our lifeline. Today, the same boats float empty. Many owners are now running small shops, pushing carts, or doing gig work because they too have to feed their families," he said. (KNO)

PM Modi to launch dev projects, lay foundation of nuclear plant in Rajasthan

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of a slew of development projects during his visit to Rajasthan's Banswara on Thursday, including the Rs 42,000 crore Mahi-Banswara nuclear plant, officials said.

The projects span across key sectors such as energy, water, infrastructure, health and urban development, they said.

Among the projects to be launched, the proposed 2,800 MW nuclear facility is the most important as it is expected to play a crucial role in the state's journey toward energy self-sufficiency, officials said.

The other projects include a 590 MW renewable energy project in Bikaner to be built at a cost of Rs 8,500 crore, high-capacity power transmission lines with a total capacity of 15.5 gigawatts being laid across Jaisalmer,



Barmer, Sirohi, Nagaur and Bikaner for Rs 13,183 crore.

Fifteen new drinking water supply projects across 11 districts, including Banswara, Udaipur, Dungarpur, Sikar and Ajmer, worth Rs 5,884, construction of two new flyovers, a bridge over the Banas river, 119 roads under the Atal Pragati Path scheme in Bharatpur, and three new grid substations in Bikaner and Jaisalmer, they said.

The prime minister will also inaugurate multiple completed projects, including solar energy plants with a combined capacity

of 1,400 MW and 925 MW Nokh Solar Park in Phalodi, decentralised solar energy plants of 895 MW capacity built for Rs 3,132 crore under the PM-KUSUM-C scheme, works at Isarda dam, Dholpur lift scheme and other regional irrigation projects, seven road projects in Barmer, Ajmer, Beawar, Dungarpur, Banswara, Rajasmand and Udaipur, a water resources project worth Rs 20,833 crore, among others.

Modi will flag off Vande Bharat Express trains -- Bikaner to Delhi Cantt and Jodhpur to Delhi Cantt, and

the Udaipur-Chandigarh express.

Apart from these, 15,000 youths will receive appointment letters as part of a government drive to generate jobs across various departments.

"Overall, development projects worth over Rs 1.22 lakh crore will be either inaugurated or have their foundation stones laid in the programme, out of which Rajasthan alone will receive projects worth Rs 1,08,468 crore," the official said.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma gave directions to officials to complete all the preparations for the event.

He will visit the venue site in Banswara on Wednesday to take stock of the preparations.

Ahead of the event, BJP state president Madan Rathore visited households in Banswara on Tuesday, distributing "yellow rice" as a traditional invitation for the prime minister's programme. Rathore said that

Banswara's nuclear project would become a landmark initiative for Rajasthan.

"This project will not only ensure energy independence for the state but also drive local tourism, employment, and economic growth," he said.

Taking a swipe at the opposition, Rathore accused the previous Congress-led government of misgovernance and failing to address the people's concerns. He also claimed that former chief minister Ashok Gehlot prioritised political drama over public service.

Earlier, Gehlot had asked Modi to speak on the "slow progress" in the investigation of the 2022 Kanhaiya Lal murder case in Udaipur that is being investigated by the NIA.

He also demanded from the prime minister a national monument status for the Mangarh Dham in Banswara during his visit to the tribal dominated district.

SC bats for dedicated online portal to trace missing children

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to create a dedicated online portal under the aegis of the home ministry to trace missing children and investigate such cases.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan underlined the lack of coordination among police authorities entrusted with the job of tracing missing children in states and union territories in the country.

The court said the portal could have a dedicated officer from each state who could be in charge of missing complaints besides disseminating information.

The top court outlined the need for a "coordinated effort" to trace missing children and creation of a dedicated online portal to deal with the issue.

The bench consequently asked additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to seek instructions in the matter. The top court previously directed the Centre to issue reminders to several states and union territories to furnish data on missing children cases. NGO Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan had moved the top court and highlighted unresolved cases of kidnapping or missing children besides the actions required to be taken on the basis of information available with the 'Khoya/Paya portal' monitored by the government of India.

The petition illustrated its argument with five cases registered in Uttar Pradesh last year in which minor boys and girls were kidnapped and trafficked through a network of middlemen to states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

India, US trade talks on at different levels: Official

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 24: India, US talks are happening at different levels covering both trade and non-trade issues, an official said.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is in the US for trade talks. He is accompanied by senior officials of the ministry, including special secretary and India's chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal.

"Talks are happening at different levels," the official said, adding the minister led team is expected to return from the US later this week.

Goyal has held discussions with his US counterpart.

This visit comes in the backdrop of recently concluded day-long discussions in New Delhi between US Chief Negotiator Brendan Lynch and Agrawal on the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

On September 16, the commerce ministry stated that the day-long discussions with the visiting US team on a bilateral trade deal were positive, and both sides agreed to push for an early and mutually beneficial conclusion of the agreement.

The visit of the high-ranking US trade officials came for the first time after the imposition



of a 25 per cent tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods entering the American market for buying Russian crude oil.

In February this year, leaders of the two countries directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

It was planned to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall (October-November) of 2025. So far, five rounds of negotiations have been held.

The pact is aimed at more than doubling the bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from

the current USD 191 billion.

Goyal visited Washington earlier in May for the trade talks. He held deliberations with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick in Washington.

The US remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports).

The US accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in the country's total merchandise trade.

Judges appointment

SCBA urges CJJ, law min to finalise MoP, calls for transparent system

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) has written to Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal seeking finalisation of the memorandum of procedure (MoP) and institution of a "transparent, equitable, and merit-driven" framework for appointment of judges in the top court and high courts.

SCBA president and senior advocate Vikas Singh wrote to the CJ and Meghwal on September 12, flagging structural flaws in the existing collegium system and said the delays in reform were undermining both judicial integrity and public confidence.

He said while the collegium system was created to safeguard judicial independence, it inadvertently gave rise to serious challenges.

Singh said the collegium routinely overlooked qualified lawyers from the Supreme Court bar for elevation to high courts in their respective states, despite their extensive exposure to national jurisprudence.

"The prevailing Collegium mechanism, while designed to preserve judicial independence, has inadvertently created significant challenges. Its structural flaws demand urgent and comprehensive correction.

"First, it arbitrarily ignores the vast talent pool within the Supreme Court Bar for elevation to their respective home state High Courts. These practitioners, whose exposure to national jurisprudence should be viewed as a superior qualification, are being systematically overlooked. This not only wastes valuable judicial talent but also undermines the core principle merit-based selection," he said.

He also flagged "troubling" underrepresentation of women in judiciary and referred to official data.

"This is not an abstract concern but a reality borne out by hard data. As of February 2024, women constituted merely 9.5% of the sanctioned strength in High Courts and a stark 2.94% in the Supreme Court. This is a glaring indictment of systemic exclusion, where the tyranny of a presumed meritocracy masks a deeper reliance on informal networks and patronage," he said.

On the issue of marginalisation of



briefing lawyers, the SCBA president said the existing process focuses almost exclusively on arguing counsels while ignoring briefing lawyers and juniors, who are often the "unseen architects" of litigation.

"To elevate only the visible face is to perpetuate a flawed understanding of competence," he wrote to the CJ.

The Supreme Court, he said, had already laid down a reform blueprint for revising the MoP.

Singh stressed these directions were not merely aspirational but actionable, and any further delay in implementing them was "indefensible".

Proposing reforms in the MoP, the SCBA said permanent secretariats be set up in every High Court and in the Supreme Court to maintain data on candidates and vacancies, and to ensure institutional memory.

He also batted for transparent application-based process and said, "The current informal system must be replaced with a formal process where applications are invited publicly. This ensures every deserving candidate, including those from the Supreme Court Bar, is considered on demonstrable merit through a structured mechanism."

The MoP should contain the provision to publish objective criteria, covering minimum age, years of practice, reported judgments, and pro bono work, for evaluating candidates before their elevation to higher judiciary, he added.

Stock markets decline for 4th day as FF outflows, H-1B fee hike weighs

Sensex falls 386 points

PTI

Mumbai, Sept 24: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty fell for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday as foreign fund outflows and concerns over the steep hike in US H-1B visa fees continue to dent investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 386.47 points or 0.47 per cent to end at 81,715.63. During the day, it tanked 494.26 points or 0.60 per cent to 81,607.84.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 112.60 points or 0.45 per cent to 25,056.90.

Among Sensex firms, Tata Motors, Bharat Electronics, UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Axis Bank were the major laggards.

However, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever, NTPC and HCL Tech were among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,551.19 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

"Profit-booking has been observed in Indian markets



post-GST reforms, as investors recalibrate valuations and Q2 earnings expectations. IT stocks underperformed due to H-1B fee hikes, while US trade rhetoric amid ongoing trade negotiations and weak global cues are prompting cautious investor sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

India's relatively high valuations, coupled with moderation in earnings growth, continue to lead FIIs to trim their positions, Nair added.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi ended lower while Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory.

Cheese that raises cholesterol: Which varieties to limit for better heart health

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Sept 24: Cheese is a popular food enjoyed worldwide, valued for its rich flavours and nutrients such as calcium and protein. However, not all cheeses are equally healthy for the heart. Certain varieties contain high levels of saturated fat and sodium, which can raise LDL cholesterol and blood pressure, increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease. Frequent consumption of these cheeses may negatively affect heart health over time. By understanding which types of cheese are higher in these risk factors, and enjoying them in moderation, you can still include cheese in your diet while making smarter, heart-friendly choices that support overall wellbeing.

List of cheese that may have adverse effects on

cholesterol levels

While cheese can be part of a balanced diet, certain types are particularly high in saturated fats and sodium. Regular consumption of these cheeses may have adverse effects on cardiovascular health. Studies have shown that high intake of saturated fat and sodium can raise LDL cholesterol and blood pressure, increasing the risk of heart disease.

A study published in ResearchGate analysing 1,665 retail cheese samples found that processed cheeses contained the highest sodium levels (1,242 mg/100g), followed by cheddar and mozzarella, highlighting the variability in sodium content even within the same type of cheese.

Cheddar cheese
Cheddar is one of the most popular cheeses globally but is also high in saturated fat and sodium. The study found cheddar's mean

sodium content was 615 mg/100g, with some samples reaching over 700 mg/100g. Even moderate daily consumption can contribute to increased LDL cholesterol and elevated blood pressure, both linked to higher heart disease risk.

2. Parmesan
Parmesan adds a burst of flavour but contains high levels of saturated fat and salt. Regular consumption can impact cholesterol and blood pressure, major factors in cardiovascular health. Its salt content can vary, making it important to consume in moderation.

3. Halloumi
Halloumi is rich in fat and sodium, making it less suitable for frequent consumption for heart-conscious individuals. Diets high in saturated fat have been shown to negatively affect cardiovascular health over time.

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Tender Extension Notice

Subject: Tender Extension Notice for e-NIT mentioned below:

e-NIT No	Tender Ref ID	Work Description	No of Bids received
10/JKPTCL/TLMD-I/SGR/2025-26; Dated: 22.08.2025	2025_PDD_285040_1	Detailed Route Survey of 132kV Bemina-Zainakote Transmission Line for shifting of the line in order to facilitate the construction of New High Court Complex at Rakh-i-Gund Bemina Srinagar	Zero (0)

Due to Nil response, the last date for submission of e-bids and opening of Techno-Commercial bids for the above mentioned e-NITs is hereby extended as under:

1.	Last date for submission of e-Bid	04.10.2025 (02:00 PM)
2.	Last date for submission of Hard Copy of e-Bid in the office of the Executive Engineer TLMD-I, Bemina, Srinagar	06.10.2025 (04:00 PM)
3.	Date for online opening of Techno-Commercial e-Bid	07.10.2025 (02:00 PM)

Sd/-

No.: TLMD-I/TS/10A/25-26/2570-74

Dated: 24.09.2025

DIPK-NB-2029/25

Executive Engineer,
TLMD-1st Bemina Sgr

Iran starts rebuilding missile sites hit by Israel, but experts say key component missing

Dubai, Sept 24: United Arab Emirates: Iran has begun rebuilding missile-production sites targeted by Israel during its 12-day war in June, satellite images analyzed by The Associated Press show, but a key component is likely still missing — the large mixers needed to produce solid fuel for the weapons.

Reconstituting the missile program is crucial for the Islamic Republic, which believes another round of war with Israel may happen. The missiles are one of Iran's few military deterrents after the war decimated its air defense systems — something that Tehran long has insisted will never be included in negotiations with the West.

Missile experts told AP that obtaining the mixers is a goal for Tehran, particularly as it prepares for possible United Nations sanctions to be reimposed on the country later this month. The sanctions would penalize any development of the missile program, among other measures. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is due to address the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday.

Known as planetary mixers, the machines feature blades that revolve around a central point, like orbiting planets, and offer better mixing action than other types of equipment. Iran could purchase them from China, where experts and U.S. officials say they've purchased missile fuel ingredients and other components in the past.

"If they're able to reacquire some key things like planetary mixers, then that infrastructure is still there and ready to get rolling again," said Sam Lair, a research associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation



Studies who studied Iranian missile sites.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to questions about the country's efforts to rebuild its missile program.

Solid-fuel missiles can be fired faster than those using liquid fuel, which must be loaded just before launch. That speed can make the difference between launching a missile and having it destroyed in a launcher — something that happened during the war with Israel.

Iran has solid-fuel missile manufacturing bases at Khojir and Parchin, two sites just outside Tehran, as well as at Shahroud, some 350 kilometers (215 miles) northeast of the capital. Even before the most recent war, all of those sites came under Israeli attack in October 2024 during hostilities between the countries.

Attacks during the war in June appeared aimed at destroying buildings that housed the mixers, which are needed to ensure the missile fuel is evenly combined, according to experts. Other sites struck by Israel included manufacturing facilities that likely could be used to make the mixers.

Satellite images from Planet Labs PBC taken this month and

analyzed by AP show construction at both the Parchin and Shahroud facilities.

At Parchin, mixing buildings appear to be under repair, Lair said, and similar rebuilding is happening at Shahroud involving mixing buildings and other structures.

The speed at which Iran is rebuilding shows the importance Tehran puts on its missile program. Iran's bombed nuclear sites so far have not seen the same level of activity.

During the war, Iran fired 574 ballistic missiles at Israel, according to the Washington-based Jewish Institute for National Security of America, which has a close relationship with the Israeli military. In two exchanges of fire before the war, Iran launched another 330 missiles, the think tank said.

The Israeli military had estimated Iran's total arsenal at around 2,500 missiles, meaning that over a third of its missiles were fired.

Before the war, Iran was on track to be able to produce more than 200 solid-fuel missiles a month, said Carl Parkin, a summer fellow at the James Martin

Center. That drew Israeli strikes to missile-building facilities.

"Israel's targeting indicates that they believed mixing was a bottleneck in Iran's missile production," he said. "If Iran is able to overcome their mixing limitations, they'll have all the casting capacity that they need to start producing at high volumes again."

The Israeli military declined to respond to questions over its strategy. Iran's defense minister, Gen. Aziz Nasirzadeh, recently claimed Tehran now has new missiles with more advanced warheads.

"The 12-day war with Israel has altered some of our priorities," he said on Aug. 22. "We are now focused on producing military equipment with higher precision and greater operational capabilities."

Iran may choose to rely on China to obtain mixers and the chemicals to make solid fuel.

Such chemicals may have caused a massive explosion in April that killed at least 70 people at a port in Iran. Iran still has not explained the blast, which happened as its diplomats met with Americans in Oman over its nuclear program.

Just days after the explosion, the U.S. State Department sanctioned Chinese firms it said provided the Islamic Republic with "ballistic missile propellant ingredients."

Meanwhile, Iran's Revolutionary Guard likely supplied a planetary mixer to an underground ballistic missile construction facility in Syria near the town of Masyaf, some 170 kilometers (105 miles) north of the capital, Damascus, near the Lebanese border. Footage released by the Israeli military months after the September

2024 raid on the facility showed the mixer, which bore a resemblance to others sold online by Chinese firms.

Iran's president and military officials visited Beijing earlier this month for China's Victory Day parade. Iran's government has provided no detailed read-out on what Pezeshkian said to Chinese President Xi Jinping, and China's state-run media offered no indications that Tehran asked for help.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, asked about possibly supplying Tehran mixers and fuel ingredients, told AP that Beijing is "willing to continue leveraging its influence to contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East."

"China supports Iran in safeguarding its national sovereignty, security and national dignity," the ministry said. "At the same time, China is deeply concerned about the continued escalation of tensions in the Middle East."

Can Kasapo lu, a senior fellow with the Washington-based Hudson Institute, said Beijing could supply guidance systems and microprocessors as well for Iran's ballistic missiles.

"If Iran uses its relationship with China to bolster its disruptive military capabilities, the 12-day war could be a mere speed bump for the Iranian regime, rather than a decisive defeat," he wrote.

Lair, the analyst, said if Iran restarts its production at prewar levels, the sheer number of missiles produced will make it harder for the Israelis to preemptively destroy them or shoot them down.

"They are clearly very invested in their missile program, and I don't think that they're going to negotiate it away, ever," he said.

AP

US, EU too trading with Russia: China dismisses Trump's criticism of oil purchases



Chinese and Russian companies' normal exchanges and cooperation are in line with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules and market principles, Guo said, adding that Beijing's actions are not targeted against any third party and "should not be interfered with and influenced".

PTI

Beijing, Sept 24: Dismissing US President Donald Trump's criticism that India and China are the "primary funders" of the Ukraine war through purchases of Russian oil, Beijing on Wednesday pointed out that America and the European Union are also engaging in trade with Moscow.

Addressing a media briefing here, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun warned that Beijing will take countermeasures to safeguard its interests if its companies' normal trade with Russia is obstructed, as he rejected Trump's criticism.

"An overwhelming number of countries, including the US and EU, are engaging in trade with Russia," he said, reminding the American leader that Washington too is indulging in trade with Moscow.

Chinese and Russian companies' normal exchanges and cooperation are in line with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules and market principles, Guo said, adding that Beijing's actions are not targeted against any third party and "should not be interfered with and influenced".

He also reiterated that China has always maintained an "objective and just position" on the Ukraine crisis and consistently called for peace talks.

"China will take all necessary measures to safeguard its rights and interests," the spokesperson said. In his address to the UN General

Assembly on Tuesday, Trump accused China and India of being the "primary funders" of the ongoing Ukraine war by continuing to purchase Russian oil.

He also criticised the EU for its continued imports of Russian energy but was conspicuously silent on Washington's own trade with Moscow.

"Inexcusably, even NATO countries have not cut off much Russian energy and Russian energy products... Think of it, they're funding the war against themselves," Trump said, adding that he was not happy about it when he found this out.

The Trump administration has imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on India as a penalty for its purchases of Russian oil, taking the total levies imposed on the country by the US to 50 per cent, among the highest in the world.

Last month, India also pointed out that both the US and the EU are continuing their trade relations with Russia.

"Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had said. While the Europe-Russia trade includes energy, fertilisers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel, and machinery and transport equipment, the US continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV industry, fertilisers, as well as chemicals, it said.

No feeling of disappointment in team due to loss to India in Asia Cup: Pak's Talat



PTI

Dubai, Sept 24: Pakistan all-rounder Hussain Talat has rejected suggestions that the team's morale has taken a hit due to the resounding six-wicket loss to India in an Asia Cup Super 4 match, asserting that the players have shut out the criticism to stay composed for the remaining games.

Batting all-rounder Talat played a pivotal role in helping Pakistan win by five wickets and earn two crucial points on Tuesday against Sri Lanka, rescuing them from a precarious 80/5 in a chase of 133.

His 2/18 and unbeaten 32 helped his side keep alive hopes of an India-Pakistan final after two successive losses in the tournament. Pakistan now have to win against Bangladesh on Thursday to make the final.

"No, there was no feeling of mayusi (disappointment) coming into the match (against Sri Lanka) but since we had lost (to India in the Super 4s opener), no one was feeling good... (But) We put in our best effort in that match," said Talat in the post-match press conference on Tuesday.

"...but coming into this match there was no pressure. Of course, there was criticism all around but we made a conscious effort to avoid it. Sometimes it's (criticism) not good for the team coming into a crucial match," he added. India and Pakistan have clashed twice in the tournament so far with the former winning on both occasions.

The tensions between the two sides have also gone up after

the Indians refused to do the traditional handshakes at toss and after the game to show solidarity with the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The win over Sri Lanka on Tuesday, Talat said, had infused a lot of positivity in the side and if the team could play just two matches with the right intensity, it could lift the Asia Cup trophy.

"We are very confident and the atmosphere in the camp (is good) given that we have been playing non-stop cricket for such a long time and the kind of options we have.

"And, the good thing is that the players are being backed (by the management), unlike previous days when they were replaced if they were not performing. Now, only two matches are left. If we play two matches well, the trophy will be ours," he said confidently. Sri Lanka are out of contention following losses to Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Asked if game awareness was lacking among Pakistan cricketers and the batters were finding it difficult to read the spinners in the campaign so far, Talat said it was a case of low confidence among Pakistan batters. "We say if we want a player for No.4 or No. 5, then he should know how to play all three types (forms) of cricket. But the chances of failure increases in that position. Unfortunately, in our country if we lose a game or two or a series or two, then everyone, including the media, spectators... all of them get after you and then you get dropped from the team.

India 'mostly with us,' says Ukrainian President

PTI

Washington, Sept 24: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said India is "mostly with us" and expressed hope that New Delhi will change its attitude to the Russian energy sector with U.S. President Donald Trump's intervention. Zelenskyy was answering a question during an interview with Fox News about China and India contributing to Russia's war against Ukraine.

The U.S. has often blamed India and China for purchasing Russian, which President Trump has claimed funds Moscow's war against Ukraine. "I think India mostly with us. Yes, we



have these questions with energy, but I think that President Trump can manage it with Europeans, make more close and strong relations with India," Zelenskyy said.

"And I think, we have to do everything not to withdraw Indians and they will change their attitude to the

Russian energy sector," the Ukrainian President said.

He was answering a specific question by a Fox News interviewer: "China, India, they're all contributing here; European nations, the President said, need to get off oil, but need to do it with the US. Do you think that that

is going to happen?" "I'm sure with China, its more difficult because it's not for today. It's not in the interest to not support Russia," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

He also said, "I think Iran will never be on our side, because we'll never be on the side of the United States." Zelenskyy, in his address at the UN Security Council, said: "China is here — a powerful nation on which Russia now depends completely." "If China truly wanted this war to stop, it could compel Moscow to end the invasion. Without China, Putin's Russia is nothing. Yet too often, China stays silent and distant, instead of active for peace," Zelenskyy said.

2030 Commonwealth Games India presents proposal to host Games in Ahmedabad



PTI

Ahmedabad, Sept 24: A delegation from India has formally presented in London a proposal for hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad to the Evaluation Committee of Commonwealth Sport, the Gujarat government said.

The Indian team was led by Gujarat's Minister of Sports, Harsh Sanghavi, and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president, P.T. Usha, during the presentation on Tuesday (September 23, 2025).

The 2030 edition carries historic significance, marking 100 years of the Commonwealth Sport Movement, and India's bid positions Ahmedabad as the host

city for this centenary edition, a release by the Gujarat government said.

Ahmedabad offers a compact games footprint centred on international-standard venues, robust transport systems, and high-quality accommodation, it said.

"Aligned with the Games Reset principles, the proposal places strong emphasis on affordability, inclusivity, flexibility, and sustainability. It commits to integration of para-sport, protection of human rights, promotion of gender equity, and embedding of a long-term legacy framework that ensures benefits extend beyond the Games to athletes, communities, and the wider Commonwealth," the release said.

Thursday, 25th September

Movies

WATCH LIST

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)
HINDI - 10:40 AM, 05:15 PM
HINDI ATMOS - 12:00 PM, 03:15 PM, 06:30 PM

DEMON SLAYER INFINITY CASTLE (UA13+)
JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:00 AM, 01:50 PM

THE CONJURING LAST RITES (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
06:00 PM

BAAGHI 4 (A)
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