



No sedition, religious violence case reported in J&K in 2023

UT emerges as India's most communal-friendly region, reveals NCRB data

Peerzada Ummer

Srinagar, Oct 01: Jammu and Kashmir did not record a single case of communal or religious violence in 2023, reveals the annual report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The report which is in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states that while 425 riot cases were registered involving 655 people, none of them were linked to communal tensions. No sedition



cases were registered during the year either.

The report, as per the news agency- Kashmir News Observer (KNO) shows that 3,653 cases of violence against women were registered in the Union Territory in 2023 compared to 3,937 in 2021. Kidnapping was the most common crime against women with 895 cases, followed by 524 cases of cruelty by husband and 231 cases of rape. A total of 427 women were abducted for forced marriage, including ten minors. Jammu and Kashmir ranked fourth among Union

Territories in domestic violence cases with a rate of 8.1 percent.

The NCRB data recorded 84 murders, 1,004 cases of kidnapping overall, and 673 cases of death due to negligence, most of them road accidents. There were nine cases of dowry, 44 cases of abetment to suicide, 438 cases of attempted murder, and 434 cases of attempted suicide.

Cybercrime against women has emerged as a growing concern. Jammu and Kashmir topped all | [More on P6](#)

Pak shelling-hit border villages returning to normal

Celebrate peace with weddings, festivities

Sajid Raina

Baramulla, Oct 01: Life is fast returning to normal in villages along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border months after suffering heavy damage in Pakistan shelling following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

Pertinently, after Indian armed forces destroyed nine terrorist camps deep inside Pakistan and PoK, the neighbouring country resorted to heavy shelling on the civilians in frontier areas leading to loss of lives and widespread damage to property. After 4 days of skirmishes, Pakistan Director General of Military



Pic source: AFP

Operations (DGMO) reached out to his counterpart in India and requested for the cessation of hostilities, which led to the truce between the two nations.

Since then, residents told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) life is gradually | [More on P6](#)

LG, CM greet people on Vijayadashami, Gandhi Jayanti

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have greeted the people on the eve of Vijayadashami and Gandhi Jayanti.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the joyous occasion of Vijayadashami, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to all for their happiness, well-being and prosperity. Vijayadashami symbolises the victory of good over evil and that of righteousness over un-righteousness. May this sacred festival inspire us to work for unity, peace and progress of the country and strengthen our spirit of harmony, brotherhood and oneness."

CM Abdullah, | [More on P6](#)

Next DGP-IGP Conference to discuss J&K situation

PM Modi, HM Shah to attend

KNO Monitoring Desk

New Delhi, Oct 01: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are set to attend the All India DGP-IGP Conference in Chhattisgarh in November, where top police officials from across the country will deliberate on key issues including

internal security, anti-Naxal operations, cyber security, the fight against narcotics, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and border management.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the 60th edition of the three-day conference beginning November 28 will be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while the valedictory session is likely to be attended by | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi lauds RSS, says it stands strong despite challenges

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 01: The RSS works with different sections of society but there are never contradictions among its various wings as they work on the principle of nation first, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Wednesday.

PM Modi, who released a postal stamp to mark 100 years of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), noted that Sangh



volunteers have been tirelessly devoted to serving the nation and empowering society.

"The commemorative stamp released today is a tribute, recalling RSS volunteers proudly marching in the 1963 Republic Day parade. Since its founding, the RSS has focused on nation-building. The RSS works in different sections of society but there are never contradictions among its various wings as they work on principle of nation first," he said.

Modi asserted that the RSS believes in | [More on P6](#)

Under present PPAs, J&K unlikely to cater power demand by 2034-35

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 01: With the present and other planned Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or a Transmission Service Agreement (TSA), Jammu and Kashmir will likely be unable to meet and cater the power demands of consumers in the upcoming nine years.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO), a study by the Government of India (GoI) reads, "The study has analyzed the daily and monthly pattern of unserved energy in the year 2034-35, it can be seen that contracted capacity (present and planned) is unable to meet the demand."

"It can be seen that during the high demand of winter months, the proportion of unserved energy | [More on P6](#)

JAMMU AND KASHMIR IS CELEBRATING WILDLIFE WEEK FROM 2-TO 8-OCTOBER-2025



Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor
Jammu & Kashmir



MESSAGE

Wildlife Week is observed across the country from 2 to 8 October each year, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The week is marked by various activities conducted nationwide with the objective of raising awareness on the importance of wildlife conservation.

This year's theme "Human-Animal Coexistence" emphasizes the need for human development in harmony with nature. Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is blessed with rich forests, wetlands, meadows, and rivers which sustain essential ecological functions, such as, water balance, climate moderation, and soil preservation. Any disturbance in this delicate system can affect not only wildlife but also human livelihoods and safety. Vast protected area network of Jammu & Kashmir provides sanctuary to a large number of rare and endangered animal and plant species such as Hangul, Snow Leopard, Markhor and Pangolin. Protection of this natural heritage is our collective responsibility. I appeal to every citizen of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to join hands with the Department of Wildlife Protection in protecting our biodiversity for a sustainable future. Let us reaffirm our responsibility towards nature.

Manoj Sinha
Manoj Sinha



Omar Abdullah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Jammu & Kashmir



MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Protection Department will observe Wildlife Week from 2nd to 8th October, 2025. The theme for a week-long event is "Human-Animal Coexistence", aimed at raising awareness among the public about the importance of protecting Jammu & Kashmir's rich biodiversity for sustaining our ecosystem and securing our future.

Our Wildlife Protected Areas of National Parks, Sanctuaries, and Conservation Reserves, provide a safe and conducive habitats for a remarkable array of wildlife. Thanks to our unique geography and climatic, we are home to several rare endangered species such as the Hangul, Markhor, Musk Deer, Himalayan Brown Bear, and Snow Leopard. Our avian diversity equally impressive, including species like the Western Tragopan, Kashmir Flycatcher, and Kalij Pheasant. Our wetlands attract a large variety of migratory birds every winter, adding to the ecological richness of the region. The Wildlife Protection Department continuously manages these protected areas through scientific planning. I extend my best wishes to the organizers of Forest Department and everyone participating in this significant event. Let this Wildlife Week inspire every citizen to embrace conservation as a shared mission. Together, we can build a harmonious future for both people and wildlife.

Omar Abdullah
Omar Abdullah



Javed Ahmed Rana
Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti,
Forest, Ecology & Environment
and Tribal Affairs



MESSAGE

"Ann poshiteliyeliwannposhi" Food will last as long as forests last are a timeless teaching of Kashmir's Sufi saint, Sheikh-ul-Alam Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani. This year's Wildlife Week theme, "Human-Animal Coexistence" reflects the deep ecological and cultural values of Jammu & Kashmir. It highlights the urgent need to live in harmony with nature.

Wildlife Week is an opportunity to raise awareness especially among youth the importance of protecting our natural heritage. Across Jammu & Kashmir, event like painting and essay competitions, nature walks, plastic free drives, and seminars are being held with active participation from schools, NGOs, and communities. Our region is blessed with diverse ecosystems forests, alpine meadows, snow-covered mountains, and wetlands that shelter rare and endangered species such as the Hangul, Snow Leopard, Markhor, Brown Bear, Otters, Flying Squirrels and the newly discovered Brandt's Hedgehog. Our wetlands also support a rich variety of migratory and resident birds. Let us use this occasion to renew our commitment to conservation. The health of our forests and wildlife is deeply connected to our own survival. Together, let's protect our natural legacy for today and for future generations.

Javed Ahmed Rana
Javed Ahmed Rana



Atal Dulloo
IAS Chief Secretary
Jammu & Kashmir



MESSAGE

On the occasion of Wildlife Week celebrations, we reaffirm our collective commitment towards conservation of our rich natural heritage which sustains the delicate ecological balance. This year's theme, "Human-Animal Coexistence", reminds us of the intrinsic bond between humans and animals. Our forests, rivers, wetlands and grasslands sustain unique and varied life forms such as, majestic Hangul in Dachigam National Park, Snow Leopard in Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Markhor in Kazinag National Park, Brown Bear in Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary and Musk Deer in Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary. Our wetlands support migratory as well as resident birds. The Wildlife Protected Areas also sustain a large number of rare and threatened plant species including medicinal plants. The Government of J&K is committed to strengthen conservation through scientific management, technology-driven monitoring & survey, habitat improvement, sustainable eco-tourism and protection measures. Involvement of local communities, especially in human-wildlife conflict management and prevention of illegal trade and forest fires is essential in ensuring long-term survival of our precious wildlife species. On this occasion, let us join hands to ensure harmonious co-existence of people and nature for our survival and prosperity.

Atal Dulloo
Atal Dulloo



Sheetal Nanda, IAS
Commissioner/Secretary
to Govt Department of
Forest, Ecology
& Environment



MESSAGE

Wildlife Week 2025 is a celebration of our enduring relationship with nature. Since its inception in 1952, this observance has highlighted the importance of protecting ecosystems that sustain life and livelihoods. The theme for this year "Human-Animal Coexistence" highlights a vital truth that the harmonious co-existence of humans with nature is essential for ensuring our collective survival.

Our efforts are focussed on scientific management of the protected areas through management plans. Habitat improvement measures include plantation of fruit and fodder bearing species, pasture development, fire control and construction of water holes. Among various measures, eco-sensitive zones around protected areas have been notified to regulate the development works so as to minimize adverse impact on wildlife. The department is committed to effectively manage and minimize human-wildlife conflicts. A network of wildlife control rooms equipped with modern necessary equipments like tranquilizing guns, trap & transport cages and capture nets has been established. Rescue vans have also been provided for a quick response.

As we celebrate Wildlife Week, let us renew our commitment towards protection of wildlife and their habitat to ensure a harmonious existence between human and nature.

Sheetal Nanda
Sheetal Nanda



Suresh Kr. Gupta, IFS
Pr. Chief Conservator
of Forests & HoFF
Jammu & Kashmir



MESSAGE

Forests, wildlife and humans share a vital interdependence that sustains ecosystems and our well-being. This year's theme "Human-Animal Coexistence" emphasises the need for human development in harmony with nature. Forests serve as habitats for wildlife, supporting biodiversity and ecological balance. Wildlife in turn, contributes to forest health through pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control, ensuring forest regeneration. We rely on these ecosystems for livelihood, cultural practices and recreation. The wild animals do not recognize boundaries between forests under wildlife protected areas and other forests. Therefore, wildlife outside protected areas is also a crucial part of the biodiversity management. The Forest Department has established a number of Joint Control Rooms with the Wildlife Department for management of human-animal conflict, forest fire mitigation and protection of forest wealth. These control rooms work 24x7 and are well-equipped with the latest equipments. The action plan for celebration of Wildlife Week, jointly by Forests & Wildlife Departments, in association with other Govt. Departments, NGOs and educational institutions, shall drive home the message of Human-Animal coexistence for our survival.

Suresh Kr. Gupta
Suresh Kr. Gupta



Sarvesh Rai, IFS
Pr. Chief Conservator of
Forests & Chief Wildlife
Warden, J&K



MESSAGE

A total of 11.51% of geographical area of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir is under wildlife protected area network which includes 4 National Parks, 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 30 Conservation Reserves. These protected areas are vast repositories of rare and endangered flora and fauna, and provide vital ecosystem services.

The wildlife protected areas are being managed on scientific lines. The management activities include protection of areas vulnerable to encroachment, habitat management, soil & water conservation works, fire protection, development of infrastructure and census & survey. These activities have been given a renewed focus which have resulted in a significant increase in population of several iconic species like Hangul and migratory birds. Besides, Wildlife Protection Department in association with Police, Administration, Forest Protection Force and NGOs is actively engaged in management of human-wild animal conflict, rescue operations and veterinary care of wild animals. Effective action is being taken in wildlife offence cases. Activities planned for celebration of wildlife week like painting competitions, walkathons and plastic free drives are aimed at spreading the message of harmonious coexistence of humans with wildlife.

Sarvesh Rai
Sarvesh Rai

Job fairs serve as direct bridge between trained youth, employers: Secy RDD

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCTOBER 01: Giving a major boost to youth employment, Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday inaugurated 'Kaushal Parv 2025', an IEC-cum-placement drive under the Himayat-Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).

The placement drive turned into a significant recruitment platform with 17 reputed employers, like PepsiCo, Domino's, Coca-Cola, Barbeque Nation, Burger King, Vardhman Textiles and Rubli Foods, offering a wide range of opportunities across sectors including retail, hospitality, textiles, food & beverages, IT-ITES, and surveillance services.

The event witnessed the participation of over 250 skilled youth mobilised by



Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) under Himayat, with several candidates receiving on-the-spot job offers.

In his address, the Secretary underscored that placements are the core milestone of the Himayat-DDU-GKY programme. "Job fairs like Kaushal Parv serve as a direct bridge between trained youth and employers, ensuring transparent, sustainable, and industry-driven employment outcomes," he said.

Highlighting the Department's focus on market-relevant skills, Aijaz Asad said that the twin initiatives, Kaushal Parv and Kaushal Rath, reflect the commitment to equip J&K's youth with skills for sustainable livelihoods.

The Secretary also distributed offer letters to selected candidates on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, COO, HMMU-JKRLM, Rajneesh Gupta said, "This

is not merely a placement drive; it is a platform where skills meet opportunities and dreams take their next step forward. Each placement secured today is not just about a job but about dignity, courage, and empowerment."

The event concluded with Secretary flagging off of 'Kaushal Rath', a mobile outreach vehicle that will travel block-to-block for 20 days, disseminating recorded messages, distributing pamphlets, and mobilising rural youth for skill training and placements—taking the scheme's benefits to last-mile villages.

Pertinently, Himayat, the J&K chapter of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), is a flagship placement-linked skill development programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

Gandhi Shilp Bazaar inaugurated at Numaish Gah

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 01: A 10-day UT level Gandhi Shilp Bazaar, was inaugurated at Kashmir Haat, here Wednesday, showcasing Kashmir's famed handicrafts and handloom products.

Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, along with Assistant Director, Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Rafiq Ahmad, Manager Central Market, and other senior officers, were present on the occasion.

Organized by the Ministry of Textiles, Gol, as many as 70 stalls have been installed for artisans and weavers to display a wide range of exclusive Kashmiri Handicrafts including Sozni embroidery on Pashmina, Kani Shawls, Crewel Embroidery, Chain stitch and Aari work.

Speaking on the occasion,



Director Handicrafts urged the general public to come to Kashmir Haat in large numbers and buy authentic handmade products on extremely affordable prices. "By buying directly from the artisans, you shall support the department's endeavor to safeguard the interests of the community," he stated.

The Director interacted

with all the stall holders and advised them to invest in packaging to give their unique products of Kashmir an aesthetic look. "The Department will continue to focus on implementation of welfare schemes for benefit of artisans and also provide them platforms for display and sale of their unique craft products," he added.

DIPR Kathua lights up Basohli Utsav with spectacular laser extravaganza

KT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, OCTOBER 01: The third edition of Basohli Utsav witnessed yet another spectacular evening as the Tri-Theme Laser and Beam Show organized by the District Information Centre Kathua of DIPR J&K lit up the skies over Rameela Ground, leaving spectators mesmerized.

The Chief Guest, Director ACB, Shakti Pathak along with jam packed Ram Leela Ground witnessed the colourful show. Other prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included ADC Basohli, Pankaj Bhagotra and District Information Officer, Rajinder Diga.

The specially curated show was designed around three powerful themes - the eternal saga of Rameela, the spiritual fervour of Navratri and the spirit of patriotism.

Through vibrant laser projections and synchronized beam effects, epic tales, devotional narratives and nationalistic motifs were brought alive in a rare fusion of tradition and modern technology.

The Rameela segment of the show recreated key episodes from the epic, blending devotional chants with striking visuals that celebrated the timeless values of righteousness and sacrifice. The Navratri theme radiated the festive energy of the season, portraying divine power and



devotion through vibrant colours and synchronised music. The patriotic sequence, marked by stirring imagery of the national flag and freedom struggle, drew loud cheers from the audience, igniting a collective sense of pride and unity.

The dazzling beam show added another dimension to the spectacle as coordinated rays of light swept across the venue, symbolising divine blessings, festive energy and national pride, thus creating a truly immersive experience for the spectators.

Earlier in the day, traditional sports events like Santolia and Tug of War, witnessing active participation of school children. Academic and cultural competitions including essay writing, painting, storytelling and Sanskrit Shloka recitation

highlighted the creative zeal of young participants.

The cultural evening also featured soulful performances of Dogri Geetru and Sithania songs, adding a folk flavour to the festivities. At Rani Ka Talab, departmental and SHG stalls drew large crowds with live demonstrations of Basohli paintings, Pashmina weaving and local handicrafts, besides exhibitions on manuscripts, archives and services of different departments.

With an overwhelming response from locals, tourists and students, Basohli Utsav 3.0 continues to stand out as a confluence of heritage, devotion and patriotism, reaffirming Basohli's identity as Vishwasthali—the land of faith.

GMC Rajouri student bags Bronze Medal

KT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 01: Anadya Handa, a Final Year MBBS student of Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri has brought laurels to the institution by securing Third Position (Bronze Medal) in the Inter-College Yoga Competition organized by the University of Jammu.

Her remarkable achievement reflects the institution's commitment to nurturing talent and encouraging students to actively participate in extracurricular and sports activities, alongside their rigorous academic curriculum.

This success was made

possible under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) A.S. Bhatia, Principal GMC Rajouri, and Prof. (Dr.) Jameel Ul Hussain, Chairman Sports Committee GMC Rajouri.

Anadya Handa was accompanied and supported by Jagatar Singh, Sports Assistant GMC Rajouri, whose dedicated efforts ensured smooth participation in the competition.

GMC Rajouri continues to promote holistic student development by providing its students with ample opportunities to excel in both academics and sports, thereby fostering a culture of excellence and all-round growth.

MC Poonch organises felicitation ceremony

KT NEWS DESK

POONCH, OCTOBER 01: The Municipal Council Poonch under the ongoing Sewa Parv initiative organised a grand Felicitation Ceremony and a Blood Donation Camp to honor contributions towards cleanliness, community service and social responsibility.

The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Sharma as the Chief Guest, Addl. District Development Commissioner, Pankaj Magotra as the Guest of Honour and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Mohd Sayeed as the Special Guest. Prominent personalities including Ex-ACR Zafar Bandy, Chairman Shaheed Manjit Singh Volleyball Club Tariq Khan, Ex-Councillor Imtiaz Salaria, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha Master Khetar Pal, Advocate Zaman, Advocate Iftikhar Bazmi, Master Kar Chand & team and several other members of civil society and the Bar also attended the program.

YS&S brings Divisional Kabaddi extravaganza to Doda

KT NEWS DESK

DODA, OCTOBER 01: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) organized a grand inaugural ceremony Wednesday to mark the start of Inter-District Division Level Kabaddi Tournament for U/17 Boys at the Indoor Sports Stadium Doda.

The event is being held under the direction of Director General YSS J&K, Anuradha Gupta (with the guidance of Joint Director YSS Jammu, Vinakshi Koul and supervision



of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Kishtwar, Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Jaffer Haider Sheikh, who attended as the Chief Guest.

In his address, he applauded the sportsmanship of the young athletes

and commended the department's efforts in providing a strong platform for budding talent to showcase their skills at the divisional level. He further expressed confidence that such tournaments not only encourage healthy competition but also instill discipline

and holistic growth among youth.

The opening day witnessed high-voltage Kabaddi clashes as teams from different districts competed with passion and determination.

The matches created an energetic and vibrant atmosphere

inside the Indoor Sports Stadium Doda, setting the tone for an action-packed sporting extravaganza. The tournament promises to inspire young athletes and foster a culture of sportsmanship, teamwork and unity across the region.

Accelerate pace of execution of works further: Secy RDD

Reviews progress on SASCI, UT CAPEX, SBM-G

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCTOBER 01: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress under UT-CAPEX, Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), SNA-Sparsh and Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

The meeting was attended by DG Rural Sanitation, Anu Malhotra; Mission Director NRLM, Shubhra Sharma; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director RDD Jammu, Shahnaz Akhtar; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma; Additional Secretary, Waseem Raja, besides all ACDs, ACPs, Executive Engineers, and BDOs of various districts.

While reviewing SASCI, it was revealed that loan assistance of Rs



21.10 crores has been sanctioned for RDD projects.

The Secretary highlighted Finance

Department directives mandating utilization of 75% of sanctioned assistance by December and surrender of

non-viable projects for reallocation. Departments, he said, must demonstrate capacity to incur at least Rs 2 crore expenditure within the financial year, failing which funds may be withdrawn.

While reviewing UT Capex works, Secretary directed that the pace of execution of works be further accelerated.

Aijaz Asad instructed the concerned Executive Engineers to personally visit construction sites, inspect each building and asset, and ensure their completion strictly within the stipulated timelines.

The Secretary emphasized that in the Kashmir division, where developmental activities get slowed down during winter, the pace of work must be doubled to meet targets well in time.

With regard to SNA-Sparsh, the Secretary asked the heads of all schemes to complete critical post-sanction

processes, including integration, FTO generation, and DSC enrolment, so that the implementation of schemes does not face any bottlenecks.

Reviewing progress under SBM-Gramin, Secretary laid special emphasis on timely execution of Gobardhan Plants, Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs), and Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Plants (DEWATs). He directed the officers that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), feasibility studies, and tendering processes for the remaining Gobardhan projects be completed expeditiously so that all such plants are operational within the next two months.

He added that these projects are a top priority and will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

Secretary observed that many districts of J&K are already running such plants successfully, and stressed the need for ACPs and BDOs of other

districts to undertake exposure visits to these functional units for adopting best practices.

Speaking on FSTPs, Aijaz Asad underlined that as Deputy Commissioners are the Chairpersons of Sanitation Committees, any issues related to execution should be resolved through their direct intervention.

He also called for awareness programmes to sensitize the public about the significance of these projects and the role they play in ensuring cleanliness and sanitation in rural areas.

Similarly, Secretary stressed the timely completion of DEWATs and instructed that restoration of assets damaged during the recent floods must also be included in the planning process.

The Secretary issued strict directions to ACPs that any delay in the timely completion of these projects would invite disciplinary action.

Paddy yield down by over 40%: Farmers

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Oct 01: Farmers across Kashmir have reported massive losses in paddy production this year, with yields dropping by nearly 40-50 per cent. They blame the prolonged dry spell during the crucial growing months, followed by incessant rains and flood-like conditions just before harvest, for the crisis.

Growers from several districts said the weather pattern this year has devastated their livelihood. "For three consecutive months—June, July and August—there was hardly any rainfall. The crop did not grow properly, and then just when we were expecting to harvest, heavy rains submerged the fields for days together. The paddy fell flat and started rotting," said Ghulam Nabi, a farmer from Pulwama.

Many said that their produce, already weakened by the dry spell, could not withstand the continuous waterlogging. "Our fields were inundated for almost a week before harvesting. By the time the water receded, the crop



was damaged beyond recovery. In many places, farmers couldn't even collect enough paddy for household use," said another farmer from Anantnag.

According to locals, hundreds of families who are directly dependent on paddy cultivation for sustenance have been left without a secure income this year. "We have lost almost 40 per cent of our crop. Families

who rely only on paddy are starving at a financial crisis," said Abdul Rashid, a farmer from Budgam.

Farmers also expressed anger over the compensation policy, saying that authorities have informed them that only those insured under the Fasal Bhima Yojna scheme would be eligible for relief. "We have all suffered losses, whether insured or not.

The government cannot abandon a large section of farmers at this time. Compensation must be extended to everyone who has faced damage," demanded Bashir Ahmad, a farmer leader from Shopian.

They appealed to the government to intervene immediately and announce a special relief package for paddy growers across the valley. "It is not about one village or one district—this crisis is widespread. If the government doesn't step in now, it will break the backbone of thousands of families dependent on paddy farming," they said.

Agricultural experts also confirmed that the unusual weather pattern—long dry spells followed by excessive rainfall—was detrimental to the paddy crop this season.

Meanwhile, farmers have urged authorities to announce the compensation to affected areas as a priority and ensure timely support. "We cannot wait for months. Our losses are visible in every field. The government must act before it is too late," they said—(KNO)

LG Gupta reviews law and order situation in Ladakh

KNO

Leh, Oct 01: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to take stock of the prevailing law and order situation in the Union Territory.

According to a statement, the meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Dr Pawan Kotwal, Director General of Police Dr S D Singh Jamwal, DIG Srinagar South P K Singh, Deputy Commissioner Leh, Senior Superintendent of Police Leh, Sanjay Kumar, CO 79, Rajat Jain, CO 25, and other senior officials.

The statement reads that the officials briefed the Lt Governor on the latest security scenario and the measures undertaken to maintain peace and stability in the region. "He lauded the relentless efforts of security forces and the civil administration in restoring normalcy over the past week under challenging circumstances. He also expressed appreciation for the patience and cooperation shown by the people of Ladakh," it reads.

It added that LG Gupta also enquired about the condition of



the remaining injured undergoing treatment at the government hospital. "He directed the administration and hospital authorities to ensure the best possible medical care. He further directed the Deputy Commissioner that, in cases where advanced medical treatment is required outside the UT, the administration must provide all possible humanitarian aid and financial support so that no individual faces hardship or feels neglected," it reads.

The Lt Governor urged people not to pay heed to rumors or misinformation and assured them that peace and harmony

will be safeguarded at all costs.

He emphasised that the administration, along with security forces, is fully committed to maintaining peace and law and order across the Union Territory.

"He further assured that very soon all restrictions imposed as precautionary measures will be lifted in a phased manner once the situation fully stabilizes. Peace and development are the top priorities of the administration. Together, with the cooperation of the people, Ladakh will continue on the path of progress," reads the statement—(KNO)

Centre approves DA, DR 3 % hike for employees, pensioners



KNO

New Delhi, Oct 01: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday increased Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) by 3 per cent for about 49.19 lakh central government employees and 68.72 lakh pensioners and also approved opening of 57 new Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country.

The DA/DR increase of 3 per cent over the existing rate of 55 per cent of the basic pay/pension to compensate against the price rise will be effective retrospectively from July 1, 2025.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav while briefing on decisions taken in the Cabinet meeting told reporters here that the combined impact on the exchequer on account of an increase in DA and DR will be Rs 10,083.96 crore per annum.

"The increase is in accordance with the accepted formula based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission," he added.

CABINET APPROVES OPENING OF 57 NEW KENDRIYA

VIDYALAYAS

The Minister said the Union Cabinet also approved the opening of 57 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) which would benefit over 86,000 students.

Out of the 57 new KVs, seven will be sponsored by the Union Home Ministry, and the rest by state governments. Twenty of the newly approved KVs are proposed to be opened in districts where no KV presently exists despite a significant number of Central Government employees.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the opening of 57 new Kendriya Vidyalayas under the Civil sector across the country to facilitate the educational needs of the wards of the increased number of central government employees," Vaishnav said.

The total estimated requirement of funds for establishment of the 57 new KVs is Rs 5862.55 crore spread over a period of nine years from 2026-27. This includes a capital expenditure component of Rs 2585.52 crore and operational expenditure of Rs 3277.03 crore—(KNO)

Mehbooba accuses BJP of 'forced nationalism' in J&K

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 01: Former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of resorting to "forced nationalism" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to the media persons, the PDP Chief questioned the direction in which Jammu and Kashmir is being taken by the BJP.

"It is unfortunate that the people are being forced to



stand on the National Anthem at gunpoint. I remember during our school, college days and in

the picture hall or at any other functions, we used to stand without any pressure. Nobody used to pressurise us and force us to stand by the force of a gun," she said.

She added that forcing people to stand on the National Anthem at gunpoint is their (BJP's) failure.

Reportedly, several spectators were detained after the Police Martyrs' Football Tournament closing ceremony in Srinagar as they allegedly failed to stand up during the National Anthem—(KNO)

Northern Railway collects Rs 30 lakh fines in Jammu

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

Jammu, Oct 01: Northern Railway's Jammu Division has generated revenue of around Rs 30 lakh in September 2025, through intensive ticket checking drives, officials said on Wednesday. Officials have said that 5,436 passengers were apprehended for irregular or ticketless travel during the month-long drive.

The fines were collected under the supervision of Divisional Railway Manager Vivek Kumar and led by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal.

Railway authorities said surprise inspections are also being carried out regularly to curb unauthorized entry of passengers and to ensure better travel services for genuine rail users.

"The division's checking staff has performed exceptionally well in apprehending



illegal travelers and imposing appropriate fines on them. This demonstrates the success of the railway's crackdown on illegal travel," said Uchit Singhal, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued to KNO, Uchit Singhal, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, said that during the ticket checking drive in

September 2025, the division's checking staff and Chief Ticket Inspectors apprehended 5,436 passengers for irregular travel and collected fines of approximately Rs 30 lakh.

Railway officials also conduct regular surprise ticket checking drives to prevent unauthorized entry of passengers onto trains, where passengers are advised to travel with valid tickets—(KNO)

Maha Navami celebrated with traditional fervour

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 01: Kashmiri Pandits across the Valley celebrated Maha Navami, the ninth day of the Navratri festival, with traditional devotion and enthusiasm on Wednesday, as temples witnessed a large turnout of worshippers participating in prayers and rituals dedicated to Goddess Durga.

From the iconic Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar to the revered Kheer Bhawani shrine in Ganderbal, the devotees thronged temples early in the morning to take part in special rituals that included havan, chanting of sacred verses and offering of traditional prasad.

Families performed Kanjak Puja at their homes, worshipping young girls as representations of the goddess—a practice deeply rooted in tradition and faith.

The celebrations extended beyond individual homes, with community gatherings and special feasts held at temples in several districts, including Anantnag and Baramulla, as well as in Jammu for displaced families. Cultural

programmes featuring devotional music and recitations were organized at various community centres, adding to the festive atmosphere. Many participants said the celebrations served as a reminder of their cultural identity and faith despite the challenges the community has faced over the years.

Moreover, authorities said security measures were strengthened around prominent temples and religious sites to ensure peaceful celebrations.

Vivek Raina, a devotee at the Shankaracharya Temple, said, "Taking part in these rituals here in Srinagar keeps our traditions alive and strengthens our bond with the land we belong to."

"Seeing our children participate in Navratri celebrations gives us hope that our cultural roots will remain strong for generations," said Neelam Kaul, another resident of Ganderbal.

Meanwhile, Maha Navami, also considered one of the most sacred days of the Navratri festival, is dedicated to the fierce and protective form of Goddess Durga, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil—(KNO)

Stray dogs injure 20 persons in 3 days

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Oct 01: Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, is facing a growing crisis due to the rising number of stray dogs, instilling fear among residents and restricting their movement, particularly after dark.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), however, has so far failed to act effectively on the ground.

Localities including Jawahar Nagar, Sanat Nagar, Chanapora, and several others have been badly affected. For residents, stray dogs have become a daily menace. Municipal authorities continue to maintain silence over the issue.

While the Supreme Court has banned the killing of stray dogs, residents argue that alternative measures could still be implemented to control their population and ensure public safety. Communities across

Kashmir are waiting for concrete steps to address the growing problem.

Sources within the Srinagar Municipal Corporation said that funds earmarked for sterilization of stray dogs have been drastically curtailed, leaving the corporation with little room to act.

"The implementation of the dog sterilization project has been virtually halted due to curtailment of funds. It requires proper planning, mechanisms, and resources to carry out the initiative across Srinagar. But over the past few years, funds under this head have continued to shrink, and we are now struggling to move forward," a senior SMC officer said.

Meanwhile, in the Waliwar area of Tehsil Lar, stray dogs attacked 20 people in the last three days, leaving many injured and creating panic across the locality.

Residents told KNO that

dogs have launched sudden attacks on women, children, and men, leaving them badly wounded.

The injured were shifted to nearby health centers, while some were referred to SKIMS Soura and Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla for specialized treatment. Several victims are still under medical care, while others have been discharged but are required to take daily anti-rabies injections. Fear has gripped the area, with many residents avoiding stepping outside. Schoolchildren, in particular, are reluctant to attend classes.

Locals alleged that they have repeatedly informed the Municipal Council Ganderbal about the issue, but no action has been taken so far. The situation has worsened to the extent that residents are now avoiding nearby streams for drinking water out of fear of dog attacks.—(KNO)

Vibrant Dussehra celebrations in Jammu

YOGESH

Jammu, Oct 01: As the city of temples prepares to immerse itself in the joyous fervor of Dussehra on October 2, the authorities have rolled out comprehensive arrangements to ensure a safe and seamless celebration of the festival.

Thousands of devotees are expected to flock to key venues across Jammu for Ramlila enactments, processions and the iconic burning of Ravana's effigy, marking the culmination of the nine-day Navratri festivities.

Dussehra, also known as Vijaydashami, commemorates Lord Rama's victory over the demon king Ravana, as narrated in the epic Ramayana.

In Jammu, the celebrations blend deep-rooted spiritual traditions with community spirit, featuring elaborate stage performances, cultural parades and family gatherings.

Preparations have been in full swing since mid-September, with effigies of Ravana, Kumbhakarna and Meghnath being meticulously crafted at temple complexes and community grounds.

The highlight of tomorrow's celebrations will be the grand Ramlila performances and the ceremonial effigy burning at major venues such as the Parade Grounds, Gandhi Nagar Dussehra Ground and grounds near historic sites like Kol Kandoli and Bawe Mata Mandir.

According to district administration guidelines, events are slated to begin early in the morning with special pujas and aartis at prominent temples, followed by processions that weave through the city's bustling streets.

Devotional programs and Shobha Yatras (grand processions) starting from local temples including floral tributes to Goddess Durga and Lord Rama.

After culminating Ramlila enactments depicting the final battle between Rama and Ravana at designated open grounds.

The much-anticipated burning of massive Ravana effigies would be accompanied by fireworks and

cultural shows. Fairs (melas) with traditional games, food stalls and handicraft exhibitions will light up areas around the venues until late night.

Additional attractions include community feasts, bhajans and dance performances showcasing Dogra folk arts.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has organized special sanitation drives along procession routes and congregation sites to maintain hygiene.

Devotees are urged to arrive early to avoid crowds with parking facilities arranged at peripheral lots.

Elaborate security and civic arrangements in light of the large gatherings anticipated, the Jammu and Kashmir Police, in coordination with district authorities, have implemented multi-layered security protocols to ensure public safety.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anusya Jamwal reviewed these preparations earlier this month, emphasizing coordinated efforts from all departments.

As per officials, over 500 police officers, including specialized anti-terror squads will be stationed across 14 sectors in the city, with a focus on high-footfall areas. Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and bomb disposal squads will patrol procession routes.

Enhanced CCTV coverage with 100+ cameras at temples, stadiums and key junctions, integrated with real-time monitoring from a central command center.

Drones will provide aerial oversight during evening events. Diversions on major roads like NH-44 and routes to the sports stadium from 2:00 PM onwards.

Commuters are advised to use public transport or alternate paths to minimize disruptions. Fire and Emergency teams will have tenders on standby at all effigy-burning sites, while the Health Department will deploy medical camps with ambulances and paramedics. The Jal Shakti Department guarantees uninterrupted potable water supply via tankers at venues—(KNO)

Police attaches banned Hurriyat head office

KNO

Budgam, Oct 01: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday attached the head office of the banned organisation Tehreek-e-Hurriyat in Rehmatnagar area of Jammu under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

According to a statement, the attached property comprises a three-storey building on one kanal and one marla of land, which was being used as the office of the banned outfit.

The statement reads that the action is linked to FIR No. 08/2024 registered at Police Station Budgam

under UAPA. "The property was attached out on the basis of collected evidence and with due approval from the competent authority. This action marks a significant step in the ongoing investigation against unlawful and subversive activities and reflects the resolve of Police to neutralise threats to national security and maintain peace in the region," it reads.

It reads that in coordination with other agencies, police will continue to take strict measures against individuals and organisations engaged in activities detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of the nation—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Kashmir's Horticulture Sector Needs Systemic Reform

Kashmir's horticulture sector, long celebrated as the backbone of its rural economy, is facing a crisis that demands immediate and systemic intervention. The consultative meeting between the horticulture minister and fruit mandi associations highlighted critical challenges, including inadequate cold storage and packaging standards, unreliable transport, and weak market linkages. Growers report mounting losses, frustration, and a growing sense of

despair. The cold storage facilities are full, grading lines are lying idle, and farmers are forced to sell their produce at distress prices. With a storage capacity of just 3,000 lakh metric tonnes against an annual production of 22,000–25,000 lakh metric tonnes, the infrastructure gap is staggering. Growers wait for hours, sometimes days, to unload their harvest, while millions of rupees worth of grading machinery stands unused because farmers see no value in quality packaging

when markets offer no premium for quality. This is a policy failure. The government must move beyond mere meetings and announcements to deliver tangible solutions that effectively address key issues. Firstly, there should be an expansion of cold storage capacity by investing in modern, high-capacity controlled atmosphere stores on a war footing, particularly in horticulture-rich districts like Shopian and Pulwama. Secondly, it is essential to revive market incentives

by strengthening the Market Intervention Scheme and ensuring minimum support prices, which will help make grading and standard packaging financially viable for growers. Thirdly, efforts should be made to improve market access by ensuring smooth transit on national highways, promoting e-NAM trading, and establishing direct market linkages to reduce dependence on intermediaries. Lastly, supporting processing industries is crucial; the government should

encourage agro-processing units to add value and create alternative revenue streams, especially for lower-grade produce, thereby strengthening the overall agricultural economy. The government must treat this not as a seasonal issue, but as an economic priority. By investing in infrastructure, ensuring fair pricing, and empowering farmers with technology and market access, we can transform this sector from a story of struggle to one of resilience and prosperity.

Enhancing Capacities, Enabling Growth
Empowering Farmers Through Skill Development And Training

Skill development is now firmly embedded in India's agricultural landscape. From hands-on training at KVKs and ATMA's state-led programmes to sector-specific skilling under PMKVY, SMAM, RGM, and PMKSY, these initiatives are equipping farmers and rural youth with knowledge, confidence, and practical abilities.

Press Information Bureau

Farmer empowerment has emerged as a cornerstone of India's agricultural strategy. With nearly two-thirds of the population living in rural areas and almost half dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, strengthening the skills and capacities of farmers is essential for inclusive and sustainable growth. The challenges faced by farmers today go beyond access to credit or inputs; they include adapting to climate variability, managing soil health, embracing mechanization, and securing better market opportunities.

Recognising this, the Government of India has placed skill development and training at the centre of its rural development agenda. Over the past decade, a range of programmes have been launched to equip farmers with practical knowledge, vocational skills, and exposure to modern technologies. These initiatives seek to ensure that farmers are not just cultivators but also innovators, decision-makers, and active contributors to the agri-value chain.

Institutions such as Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and schemes like Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), and The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) have built strong training platforms, while sector-specific interventions in horticulture, livestock, soil management, and food processing are integrating skilling into their frameworks. Collectively, these efforts underline a clear vision: empowering farmers through skill enhancement is vital to boosting productivity, raising incomes, and building a resilient agricultural sector.

Building Institutional Platforms for Farmer Training

A strong institutional framework has been created to take skill enhancement directly to farmers, with the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) playing a central role. Established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), KVKs act as frontline extension centres across districts, bridging the gap between research and practice through hands-on training, demonstrations, and vocational courses tailored to local agro-climatic conditions. Between 2021 and 2024, KVKs trained 58.02 lakh farmers, with the outreach steadily rising each year—16.91 lakh farmers in 2021–22, 19.53 lakh in 2022–23, and 21.56 lakh in 2023–24. In 2024–25 alone, up to February 2025, an additional 18.56 lakh farmers had also been trained.

These figures reflect the consistency and scale of the KVK network in empowering farmers with practical skills in crop management, soil health, animal husbandry, and allied activities. By grounding training in local realities while introducing scientific methods, KVKs have become one of the most effective platforms for farmer capacity building, ensuring that scientific knowledge translates into field-level improvements and long-term resilience.

Complementing this, the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) has supported states in revitalising their extension systems. This Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' popularly known as Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is being

implemented across the country by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare under the component of Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE). The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly Extension system in the country with an objective to support State Government's efforts to revitalize the extension system and making available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied areas to farmers, farm women and youth, through various interventions like Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Melas etc.

In 2021–22, about 32.38 lakh farmers were trained under ATMA. This increased to 40.11 lakh in 2022–23 and stood at 36.60 lakh in 2023–24. For 2024–25, the figures are still being compiled, but by 30 January 2025, nearly 18.30 lakh farmers had already been trained. Overall, from 2021 to 2025, the scheme has reached around 1.27 Crore farmers.

Skilling Rural Youth and Promoting Mechanization

Special attention has been given to preparing the younger generation of farmers for emerging opportunities in agriculture. The Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) programme has been designed to impart short-term, skill-based training of about seven days to rural youth and farmers in agriculture and allied sectors. The aim is to upgrade their knowledge, promote wage and self-employment, and create a pool of skilled manpower in villages. Recently, the programme has been subsumed under the ATMA cafeteria, ensuring closer integration with state-led extension efforts.

STRY provides practical vocational training in areas such as horticulture, dairy, fisheries, and animal husbandry, and is targeted at rural youth aged 18 years and above, including women farmers. Over the past four years, the scheme has steadily expanded its outreach. In 2021–22, 10,456 rural youth were trained, rising to 11,634 in 2022–23 and 20,940 in 2023–24. This brought the cumulative number to more than 43,000 youth trained between 2021 and 2024. The momentum has continued in the current year as well, with an additional 8,761 youth trained up to 31st December 2024. By equipping participants with hands-on skills and encouraging entrepreneurship, the programme is building a new generation of skilled and self-reliant farmers who can strengthen rural economies.

The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), being implemented as a component of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), seeks to expand the reach of farm mechanization among small and marginal farmers and in regions with low farm power availability. Its objectives include promoting Custom Hiring Services to address the challenges of small landholdings and high ownership costs, creating awareness through demonstrations, capacity building and IEC activities, and ensuring quality assurance through performance testing and certification at designated centers across the country.

According to official data, the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) has trained a total of 57,139 farmers during the four-year period from 2021 to 2025.

Strengthening Knowledge on Soil,



Resources and Value Chains

The Soil Health Card Scheme has played a vital role in helping farmers make informed choices on crop planning and fertilizer application. As of 24th July 2025, more than 25.17 crore soil health cards have been distributed across the country, alongside the organization of over 93,000 farmer trainings, 6.8 lakh demonstrations, and thousands of awareness campaigns. These initiatives have promoted balanced nutrient management practices among farmers, leading to improved soil health and sustainable enhancement of agricultural productivity.

At the collective level, the Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) has created new platforms for farmer capacity building. With 10,000 FPOs registered, farmers are receiving regular training through digital modules and webinars on agri-business management, market linkages, and use of digital platforms like e-NAM and GeM.

The government has also embedded skill development within flagship national schemes. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 4.0) (2022–26) has incorporated agriculture as a priority sector, it integrates agriculture and allied sectors within India's flagship skilling framework. Through accredited training centres, skill hubs, and PM Kaushal Kendras, farmers and rural youth are trained in short-term courses (300–600 hours), Recognition of Prior Learning, and special projects.

Under the PMKVY scheme, since its inception in 2015 till June 30, 2025, more than 1.64 Crore have been trained and more than 1.29 Crore have been certified.

Like PMKVY, sector-specific interventions

such as the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), and Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) have dedicated components for capacity building in horticulture, livestock, and food processing respectively.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.

Under Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme, 9.73 lakh farmers have been trained under various horticulture activities from 2014–15 to 2023–24.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) The Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) is being implemented since December 2014 for the development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds. It is being continued under the umbrella scheme Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana for the period 2021–26 with a budget outlay of 2400 crore.

Under RGM, Multi-purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India (MAITRIs) are trained and equipped to deliver quality artificial insemination services at farmers' doorsteps and so far, 38,736 MAITRIs trained and equipped in the country.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA

Yojana is a comprehensive scheme aimed at developing modern infrastructure for the food processing sector and creating seamless supply chains from the farm gate to retail outlets

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana, one of the seven key components is "Human Resources and Institutions", which focuses on R&D, promotional activities, skill development, and strengthening of institutions. The Skill Development element under this component is designed to create a sector-specific skilled workforce for the food processing industry, ranging from floor-level workers, operators, packaging and assembly line staff to quality control supervisors, thereby meeting the diverse human resource requirements of the sector and supporting its sustainable growth.

As on June 30, 2025, under various component schemes of PM-Kisan SAMPADA Yojana, 1601 projects have been approved, out of which 1133 projects have been completed benefiting more than 34 lakh farmers in the country.

Conclusion

Skill development is now firmly embedded in India's agricultural landscape. From hands-on training at KVKs and ATMA's state-led programmes to sector-specific skilling under PMKVY, SMAM, RGM, and PMKSY, these initiatives are equipping farmers and rural youth with knowledge, confidence, and practical abilities.

By focusing on capacity building, the Government is not only enabling farmers to adopt better practices but also empowering them to become entrepreneurs, agri-business leaders, and key drivers of rural growth. Together, these efforts are laying the foundation for a skilled, self-reliant, and resilient farming community in line with the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

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Celebrating A Century Of Service: The RSS's 100-Year Journey Of Nation-Building And Unity

From its founding on Vijayadashami to today, the Sangh has exemplified patriotism, character-building, and social harmony, shaping India's progress and inspiring its future

Shri Narendra Modi

A hundred years ago, on the sacred occasion of Vijayadashami, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh was founded. This was not the creation of something entirely new. It was a newer manifestation of an ancient tradition, where India's eternal national consciousness expresses itself periodically, in different forms, to face the challenges of the times. In our times, the Sangh is the embodiment of that timeless national consciousness. It is the good fortune of our generation of swayamsevaks that we are witnessing the Sangh's centenary.

On this historic occasion, I extend my greetings to the countless swayamsevaks who remain dedicated to the pledge of serving the nation and its people. I also bow in reverence to the founder of the Sangh, our guiding ideal, Param Pujya Dr. Hedgewar Ji. To mark this glorious journey of a hundred years, the Government of India has released a special postage stamp and commemorative coin.

Human civilizations thrived on the banks of great rivers. Similarly, countless lives have flourished due to the impact of the Sangh. A river enriches each part of the land that it touches with its waters. Likewise, the Sangh has nourished every part of our nation, every sphere of our society. A river often multiplies into many streams and expands its impact. Something similar has happened in the Sangh's journey. Through its various affiliated organisations, the Sangh works in every domain of life, such as education, agriculture, social welfare, tribal welfare, women's empowerment and more. Though diverse in their fields of work, they all embody one spirit and one resolve: 'Nation First'.

From its very inception, the Sangh has devoted itself to nation-building. To achieve this, it chose the path of character-building. Vyakti nirmaan se rashtira nirmaan, nation-building through character-building – this has been the Sangh's path. For this, it created the unique, simple and enduring mechanism of the daily shakha. The shakha is an inspiring place where every



swayamsevak begins his journey from 'Me to We' and goes through a process of personal transformation.

The foundation of the Sangh's hundred-year journey has been laid by a great national mission, a path of personal transformation and the practical method of the shakha. Through these, the Sangh has shaped lakhs of swayamsevaks who continue to propel India forward in every sphere of life.

Right from the moment of its founding, the Sangh has considered the nation's priority as its own priority. Param Pujya Dr. Hedgewar Ji and many swayamsevaks participated actively in the freedom struggle. Dr. Hedgewar Ji himself was imprisoned several times. The Sangh also provided support and protection to many freedom fighters. After Independence, the Sangh continued working for the nation.

Along this journey, there were conspiracies and attempts to crush the Sangh. Its

second Sarsanghchalak, Param Pujya Gururji, was falsely implicated in a case and even imprisoned. But the Sangh never allowed bitterness to take root, because swayamsevaks believe, "We are not separate from society. Society is formed of us." This feeling of oneness with society and unshakable faith in the Constitution and constitutional institutions gave the swayamsevaks steadiness of mind and kept them sensitive towards society, even in the gravest crises.

The Sangh has always been synonymous with patriotism and service. When Partition left lakhs of families homeless, swayamsevaks came forward to serve refugees. In every disaster, despite limited resources, swayamsevaks are among the first responders and work at the frontlines. For them, this is not just relief work, but the work of strengthening the nation's very soul. Bearing hardships personally while easing the pain of others is the motto of every

swayamsevak.

In its journey of a century, the Sangh has awakened self-awareness and self-confidence among various sections of society. It has worked even in the most remote, inaccessible parts of the country. For decades, it has dedicated itself to preserving and nurturing the traditions, customs, and values of tribal communities. Today, institutions such as Sewa Bharati, Vidya Bharati, Ekal Vidyalayas and the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram have become strong pillars of empowerment for tribal communities.

For centuries, social ills such as caste discrimination and untouchability have been challenges for Hindu society. From the time of Dr. Hedgewar Ji until today, every member of the Sangh, every Sarsanghchalak, has fought against such discrimination. Param Pujya Gururji constantly carried forward the spirit of 'Na Hindu Patito Bhavet', meaning 'no Hindu can ever be fallen'. Pujya

Balasaheb Deoras Ji declared: "If untouchability is not wrong, nothing else is wrong in the world." Later, Pujya Rajju Bhaiya Ji and Pujya Sudarshan Ji, too, carried this message forward. In the current times, the present Sarsanghchalak, respected Mohan Bhagwat Ji, has given a clear call for unity, calling for one well, one temple, one cremation ground for everyone.

When the Sangh was formed a century ago, the needs and struggles of the time were different from those of today. Today, as India advances towards becoming a developed nation, there are newer challenges. Dependence on foreign countries, conspiracies to divide our unity, demographic changes through infiltration and more. Our government is actively countering these. I am glad that the RSS too has prepared a concrete roadmap to face them.

The 'Panch Parivartan' of the Sangh gives every swayamsevak the path to overcome today's challenges.

- Sva-Bodh: Self-awareness helps us free ourselves from the colonial mindset, taking pride in our heritage and advancing the principle of Swadeshi.

- Samajik Samrasta: Social harmony is brought about by ensuring social justice by prioritising the marginalised. Today, our social harmony faces a grave challenge from demographic imbalances caused by infiltration. To address this, the nation has announced a High-Powered Demography Mission.

- Kutumb Prabodhan: Family values strengthen the institution of family which is the foundation of our culture.

- Nagrik Shishtachar: Civic sense and a sense of responsibility need to be awakened in every citizen.

- Paryavaran: Safeguarding the environment is of paramount importance to secure the future of coming generations.

Guided by these resolutions, the Sangh now begins its journey into its next century. In the mission of building a developed India by 2047, the contribution of the Sangh will be crucial. Once again, my best wishes to every swayamsevak.

The author is the Prime Minister of India

We often see lists of 'top' schools. But what makes a good school for your child?

Nicole Brownlie and
Renee Desmarchelier

Lists of Australia's "top" schools regularly make headlines.

We see this every year with Year 12 and NAPLAN results. Earlier this month, News Corp papers also ranked public high schools across different states.

Parents are likely to scroll these lists eagerly, scanning for their child's school or the names of schools they might be thinking about. With families understandably keen to ensure their kids get a good education, rankings provide a clear and seemingly easy guide.

But do they really tell us which schools are the best? And more importantly, how do you know if a school is a good fit for your child?

What do league tables measure?

League tables typically rely on academic performance. NAPLAN results compare how students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 perform in literacy and numeracy tests, while Year 12 results show how senior students fared in final exams.

These measures give a snapshot of achievement and show patterns across time. But standardised testing only offers a partial view of a school. Often, it reflects community demographics and unequal distribution of resources more than teaching quality. For example, students in wealthier suburbs tend to do better than students in disadvantaged areas.

Some other rankings include other measures such as student attendance or parent satisfaction surveys. Even so, they remain narrow.

These tables do not reveal what happens in classrooms. They do not show the quality of relationships between teachers and students. They do not capture whether a school provides strong wellbeing support, fosters creativity, or values diversity. And they certainly cannot tell you whether your child will be happy



there.

On top of this, they assume families always have a choice about where they send their kids.

But popular public schools typically have strict catchment areas, which means only children living locally can enrol. For families outside those boundaries, the options are often limited to a less sought-after public school, a specialist intake program at their preferred school (such as a music or academic scholarship), or paying for a private education.

They may not have the funds for private education, or they may not have put their names on waiting lists in time.

What research says really matters

Of course academic results matter, but they are only part of the picture when it comes to a "good school". Research shows learning flourishes when students feel safe, respected and inspired.

A truly good school feels good to be in. According to a 2024 UNESCO report, joy, relationships and belonging fuel both wellbeing and achievement. The Australian government's student wellbeing framework similarly says schools must prioritise safety, inclusion and student voice to best support student learning.

So this means opportunities beyond academics also count. This can include arts, sports, vocational pathways and other extracurricular activities to give students chances to develop their talents, build confidence and make social connections.

Personal and family values matter too. A school might be academically strong but highly competitive, which does not suit every child. Conversely, a smaller school with average test scores might offer a nurturing environment where your child can thrive.

What's right for your child?

So how do families put this into practice when weighing up schools?

Visit in person. League tables cannot show you what it feels like to walk through the gates. Notice how staff and students interact. Watch whether students seem engaged.

Talk to the school. Ask staff about their teaching approach, wellbeing policies and how they support diverse learners. For example, how do they respond if a student is struggling academically or emotionally?

Look for balance. A good school is not just about grades. Consider whether it offers music, visual arts, sport or vocational programs alongside academics.

Ask families already there. Parents and carers can share valuable insights into the culture. Do they feel welcome? Do their children enjoy going to school?

Think about your child. Some thrive in large, academically competitive schools. Others do better in smaller, community-focused environments. The best school is one where your child feels safe, challenged and supported.

Beyond rankings

League tables will keep appearing because they make good headlines and spark debate. But they should not be the guide for choosing schools.

A truly good school partners with families, supports student wellbeing, and helps young people grow into capable, caring adults. That will not look the same for every child, and it will not be captured neatly in a newspaper list.

So next time you see a headline about the "top" schools, ask yourself: what kind of environment will help my child learn, belong and thrive?

Nicole Brownlie is Lecturer in Education, University of Southern Queensland
Renee Desmarchelier is Associate Professor, Critical Pedagogies, University of Southern Queensland

Source: The Conversation



Faizal E. Kottikollon, Chairman, UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday.

Rajnath hails DAD as silent guardian of India's defence strength

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 01: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday listed the broad contributions of the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) in the successful conduct of Operation Sindoor as he highlighted its silent yet crucial role in ensuring efficient financial management and war preparedness.

In an address at an event, Singh commended the DAD for its "historic legacy" and continuing role as the financial backbone

of India's armed forces.

"While the entire world witnessed the valour and courage of the armed forces in achieving a historic and decisive victory during Operation Sindoor, the silent yet crucial role of the Defence Accounts Department ensured efficient resource utilisation, financial management and war preparedness," he said.

Singh described the DAD as an institution that not only ensures fiscal prudence and transparency but also strengthens operational readiness by enabling timely availability of resources to the

military. The defence minister was speaking at an event hosted to mark the 278th foundation day of the organisation.

"The DAD is not just an accounting organisation, it is an enabler that ensures the smooth functioning of the nation's economic cycle. It is the invisible bridge that connects finance and the armed forces. Behind the valour of our soldiers lies your silent but decisive contribution," he said.

Underlining the importance of finance as the lifeblood of governance, Singh said the strength of a

country is reflected in the strength of its financial foundation.

A steady flow of finances is essential for the smooth functioning of national governance and the defence machinery, he said.

The defence minister praised the department for ensuring that as of September 30, 50 per cent of the capital budget expenditure was already booked.

He also congratulated it for achieving 100 per cent utilisation in the previous financial year and expressed confidence that the same momentum would continue this year as well.

Blood donation reduces heart attack risk, has multiple health benefits: Doctors

'Uncontrolled diabetes, infections among key deferral reasons for donors'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 01: On the occasion of National Voluntary Blood Donors Day, doctors across Jammu and Kashmir reiterated the importance of voluntary blood donation, calling it not just an act of humanity that saves lives but also a practice that significantly benefits the donor's own health.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag, Dr Khalid Parvaiz, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that awareness about blood donation is improving, but more people, especially the youth, need to come forward to make it a regular practice.

"Blood donation is one of the noblest contributions a person can make to society. Apart from saving the lives of patients suffering from cancer, blood disorders, accident victims, and those undergoing surgeries, it also benefits the donor by improving heart health and balancing iron levels in the body," he said.

Dr Parvaiz added that every unit of blood can save up to three lives as it is separated into components like platelets, plasma, and red blood cells that cater to different patients. "Regular donation helps reduce the risk of heart attack,

prevents iron overload, and improves blood circulation. It is also a kind of mini-health checkup for the donor since vitals and haemoglobin are assessed before each donation," he explained.

Dr Mudasir Lone, a general physician at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), said donating blood once or twice a year plays a crucial role in maintaining cardiovascular health. "Studies have shown that regular donation reduces arterial blockages, maintains healthy blood viscosity, and lowers iron overload, all of which are linked to a reduced risk of heart disease," he said.

He further noted that balanced iron levels also lower the chances of developing certain cancers, while the pre-donation screening process often helps identify hidden medical conditions.

Dr Shahnaz Akhter, another senior medical officer, explained the eligibility criteria for donation. "To donate blood, a person must be between 18–65 years of age, weigh at least 50 kg, and have a minimum haemoglobin level of 12.5 g/dL for women and 13 g/dL for men. Whole blood donation can be done every 12 weeks for men and every 16 weeks

for women, while platelet and plasma donations follow shorter intervals," she said.

According to her, people with controlled diabetes can safely donate, but those with uncontrolled diabetes, active infections like HIV or Hepatitis, and individuals who have recently undergone surgery or received certain vaccinations are deferred.

Doctors cautioned against donating in cases of active infections, flu, cold, uncontrolled hypertension, pregnancy, recent childbirth, or if the donor had a tattoo or piercing in the past 3–6 months.

Medical experts stressed that the demand for blood remains constant in hospitals due to surgeries, trauma cases, and chronic illnesses. "Every healthy individual should make it a habit to donate. A single pint of blood can save multiple lives, and the sense of satisfaction one gets from helping others is priceless," they said.

They appealed to people to spread awareness and encourage voluntary donation. "Blood cannot be manufactured; it only comes from generous donors. By donating, you're giving someone the most precious gift—the gift of life," they added. (KNO)

MSP hike, launch of National Pulses Mission to help farmers in long term: Chouhan

PTI

Bhopal, Oct 01: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said the Centre's decision to enhance MSP for rabi crops and approval of the National Pulses Mission will have a long-term positive impact on food and nutritional security and farmers' welfare.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took two historic decisions on Wednesday on the eve of Dussehra during the auspicious Navratri festival by approving the National Pulses Mission, and simultaneously increased the MSP (minimum support price) for rabi crops," Chouhan told reporters here.

Chouhan said these decisions will have long-term positive impacts on food and nutritional security, farmers' welfare, and agricultural production. He said the government has aligned resources

and schemes with farmers' interests as its top priority.

The MSP for Rabi crops, including wheat, has also been increased, with farmers assured of up to 109 per cent returns over cost, he said.

Chouhan assured that the MSP policy, the Pulses Mission, and other schemes will be implemented with full transparency, scientific rigour, and farmer welfare in focus.

The minister said the MSP hike on safflower is Rs 600 per quintal, followed by lentil (masur) at Rs 300 per quintal. For rapeseed and mustard, the increase is Rs 250 per quintal, gram Rs 225 per quintal, barley Rs 170 per quintal and wheat by Rs 160.

The MSP hikes are in line with the commitment in Union Budget 2018–19 to set MSPs at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production, he said.

Compared to 2014–15, MSPs have more than doubled during

the Modi government's tenure, he said, highlighting that the support price for wheat rose from Rs 1,400 to Rs 2,585 per quintal, barley from Rs 1,100 to Rs 2,150, gram (chana) from Rs 3,100 to Rs 5,875, lentils from Rs 2,950 to Rs 7,000, rapeseed/mustard from Rs 3,050 to Rs 6,200, and safflower from Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,540.

"These historic decisions reflect the central government's farmer-first approach and mark decisive steps to enhance farmer incomes," Chouhan said, adding that farmers' welfare remains the Modi government's foremost priority.

Referring to the approval of the National Pulses Mission, Chouhan said that it aims to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses, enhance nutrition and raise farmers' income. Its target is to increase the production of pulses from 24.2 million tonnes in 2024–25 to 35 million tonnes by 2030–31, he said.

India looks at USD 250 bn investments from EFTA nations: Goyal

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 01: India will not only attract USD 100 billion committed investments from the four-nation EFTA bloc under a trade agreement, but also look at an additional USD 150 billion, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

He said that huge opportunities are there for companies from these four countries to invest in India.

Under the India-EFTA trade and economic partnership agreement (TEPA), New Delhi has received a commitment of USD 100 billion FDI from EFTA over the next 15 years.

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The pact was signed on March 10, 2024.

"We have also got a promise from (Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs) Helene for another USD 150 billion after

we finalise the data exclusivity in our IP (intellectual property) laws, which I am working towards. So, effectively, we have to get USD 250 billion from the EFTA region," he said.

The minister was speaking at a function to announce the implementation of TEPA from Wednesday. Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs Helene Budliger Artieda was present at the event.

Data exclusivity provides protection to the technical data generated by innovator companies to prove the usefulness of their products. In the pharmaceutical sector, drug companies generate data through expensive global clinical trials to prove the efficacy and safety of their new medicine.

By gaining exclusive rights over this data, innovator companies can prevent their competitors from obtaining a marketing licence for low-cost versions during the tenure of this exclusivity.

The four-nation EFTA bloc

had sought data exclusivity in the trade agreement negotiations with India.

When asked about the USD 150 billion investments, Goyal said, "We will not only attract the committed USD 100 billion investments, but we are hoping to attract much more than that".

He said that Switzerland and the UK were always considered the most difficult countries to work in IP and the laws around it.

Somehow, there was a lack of trust for decades between these European countries and India on IP issues, he said.

"I am happy to share with you that we have built that trust by having a very robust IP chapter in EFTA, with free trade agreement with the UK and will have a chapter on this with the EU...we are confident that given the robust IP laws and enforcement in India and the plans to make them even stronger in the future, we will not only attract the committed USD 100 billion investments, but we are hoping to attract much more than

that," Goyal told reporters here.

"It is a great day today as TEPA has come into effect from today."

India is fast catching up with the developed world as it has signed trade pacts with the UAE, UK and Australia, he said.

With the UK, he said, it was signed in July and the pact is in the process of ratification in Britain, "and will probably come into effect sometime next year".

He described TEPA as a beacon of stability and certainty amid global trade volatility, ambiguity and disruption.

The imposition of high tariffs on a number of countries by the US has disrupted global trade.

The minister underlined the wide-ranging opportunities opened by the agreement in diverse areas, including life sciences, clean energy, precision engineering and food processing, technology, artificial intelligence, accountancy and nursing, education, audio-visual services, culture, tourism and recreation, and geothermal energy.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

No sedition, religious

Union Territories with 43 such cases, including 39 related to dissemination of obscene material and four of blackmail or photo morphing.

Cases under Special and Local Laws increased to 4,468 in 2023, with a chargesheet filing rate of 90.7 percent, while cases under the Indian Penal Code fell from 27,447 in 2021 to 25,127 in 2023. (KNO)

Pak shelling-hit

returning to normal as guns have fallen silent and people are rebuilding their lives and damaged settlements.

Residents of border villages earnestly pray for lasting peace so their communities can grow, prosper, and live without fear after years of conflict and hardship.

Villages including Keran, Machil, Bangus, Tangdhar, Gurez, and Uri in north Kashmir are once again witnessing marriage ceremonies being held in local homes rather than being shifted to safer places, as was the case in previous years.

Farming, schooling, marriages, and sports activities are being carried out normally and without fear.

Razia Begum, a resident of Gurez who recently got married, said families are now able to organise weddings in their native villages. "There was a time when we would stay indoors for days due to firing across the border. Now, people attend weddings in large numbers," she said.

Farah Jan from Uri, who also recently got married, said that earlier the frequent ceasefire violations made border life uncertain. "People had stopped organising large gatherings, but over the past two years, things have changed," she said.

In Karnah, Shahbaz Ahmad noted that several weddings have been organised recently with full community participation. "We remember those who lost their lives in the past, but now the atmosphere has changed. People are coming together once again," he said.

Mehreen Akhtar from Machil recalled how some weddings in the past were disrupted or turned into mourning due to shelling. "We are now seeing weddings with proper arrangements in the villages. Guests are attending without hesitation," she said.

In Gurez, Junaid Lone said that social gatherings such as marriages, engagements, and other community functions have resumed after a long gap. "The normal routine has returned. People are living without the constant fear that used to dominate our lives," he said.

Sajad Mir, a farmer from Tangdhar, said farming activities are going on without any disruption. "We are working in our fields as usual, and this season has been smooth for cultivation," he said.

In Gurez, 17-year-old Adil Lone, who plays cricket with local youth, said sports activities have become a regular part of their routine. "We're holding local matches and tournaments again. Everyone is taking part actively, and it's good to see the energy back," he said.

Recently, the government announced a major relief initiative to provide 1,500 free smart homes to families whose houses were damaged in Pakistan shelling earlier this year.

Locals in Poonch said that this initiative will greatly benefit the families most severely affected by the Pak shelling. "We hope the construction process begins at the earliest so that the affected households can receive timely relief and regain a sense of stability in their lives," Abdul Rashid Khan, a resident said. (KNO)

LG, CM greet people

in his message on the eve of the festival, said that Dussehra inspires people to uphold the values of truth, righteousness and justice under all circumstances. He observed that the festival conveys a timeless message of moral courage and harmony, which remains vital for building a better society. Abdullah wished the people of Jammu and Kashmir joy, peace and renewed spirit on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor, in his message on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, said, "I pay my heartfelt tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 156th birth anniversary. I extend my warm greetings to the people of Jammu Kashmir. This is an occasion for all of us to rededicate ourselves to internalize Bapuji's ideals of peace, non-violence, truth, tolerance, compassion, selfless service and contribute in building Viksit Bharat."

He added, "Bapu dedicated his life for freedom of our country, social equity and development of our villages. His concept of Swadeshi was focused on making India Aatm-Nirbhar and boost local production. I appeal to all the people to buy Swadeshi Products and strengthen local artisans and cottage industries. On this momentous day, let us take a pledge to follow the path of truth and non-violence and dedicate ourselves towards promoting peace and work for the Viksit Bharat."

The Chief Minister, in his message of felicitation, said that Gandhi Ji's timeless teachings of truth (Satya), non-violence (Ahimsa), peace and humanity hold greater significance in today's world, which continues to grapple with conflict, divisions and social discord.

"Gandhi Ji dedicated his entire life to the service of humanity. He waged an unwavering struggle against social evils such as untouchability, the caste system and inequality, and stood for justice, compassion and equality of all," the Chief Minister said. Omar Abdullah emphasized that Gandhi Ji's philosophy continues to inspire generations across the world and remains the guiding light for building a society based on tolerance, harmony and brotherhood. The need of the hour is to imbibe his principles and walk on his path of truth and non-violence to create a just and inclusive society," he observed.

CM Omar urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the youth, to draw inspiration from Gandhi Ji's life and to uphold the

values of peace, communal harmony and mutual respect in their day-to-day lives.

Under present

is high," reads the study.

Besides, the report further reveals that the surplus capacity is available with states due to RE availability, demand variation etc.

"The pattern of surplus capacities for J&K and Ladakh has been observed as below. This capacity can be shared with other states which might result in reduced fixed cost burden on the utilities resulting in further reduction in the cost for consumers," it reads.

The report further suggests that J&K and Ladakh have likely surplus capacity available from April to September in the range of 230-740 MW for 2027-28 as shown below which can be shared with other states.

The GoI has further said that a study has been carried out for J&K & Ladakh based on the inputs received from J&K SLDC with a view of fulfilling RPO trajectory.

The study suggests the optimal resource mix till 2034-35 taking into account all technical and financial parameters associated with capacities.

It also optimizes power purchase on a long-term basis while evaluating resource adequacy for meeting the demand on 24 X 7 basis while considering variation in demand, RE generation and forced outages of thermal capacities.

The study has also assessed the requirement of Planning Reserve Margin for catering to above highlighted uncertainties so that demand can be met reliably throughout the year. (KNO)

PM Modi lauds

'One India, Great India' yet post-Independence attempts were made to prevent it from joining the national mainstream

"Unity in diversity has always been the soul of India, if this principle is broken then India will weaken. Despite challenges, the RSS stands strong and is tirelessly serving the nation," he

added.

Founded in 1925 in Nagpur by Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, the RSS was established as a volunteer-based organisation with an aim to foster cultural awareness, discipline, service and social responsibility among citizens.

Modi was himself an RSS 'pracharak' and made a mark as an able organiser before being shifted to the BJP, which draws its ideological inspiration from the Hindutva organisation.

Next DGP-IGP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said an official.

He said about 250 officers in the rank of DGP and IGP will attend the event physically while more than 200 others would participate virtually, said an official.

He said the special focus at the conference will be on Naxal-affected regions. It is expected to discuss ways to build further on these gains and chalk out new strategies. "Other key issues that will come up for discussions include internal security, cyber security, the fight against narcotics, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and border management."

The Union Home Minister has already set a deadline of March 31, 2026 to completely wipe out the Naxal menace from the country.

Notably, since 2014, PM Modi has taken a keen interest in the DGP conference. Free flowing thematic discussions over breakfast, lunch and dinner have also been planned in the conference.

The event will provide an opportunity to senior police officials to share their views and recommendations on key policing and internal security issues affecting the country to the Prime Minister.

Till 2013, the annual meet was held in New Delhi. However, after the PM Modi led government came to power, it was decided to hold the event, organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Intelligence Bureau, outside the national capital. (KNO)

RBI raises FY26 GDP growth projection to 6.8 pc, lowers inflation forecast to 2.6 pc

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 01: The Reserve Bank on Wednesday revised upward its growth estimates for the current fiscal year to 6.8 per cent and lowered its inflation projection to 2.6 per cent based on an above-normal monsoon and the rationalisation of GST rates.

In August, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projected a 6.5 per cent GDP growth rate for 2025-26, along with an inflation forecast of 3.1 per cent.

Announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra said significant developments on the domestic front, amid a rapidly changing global economic landscape, have altered the narrative on growth-inflation dynamics in India.

"Buoyed by good monsoon, the Indian economy continues to exhibit strength by registering a higher growth in Q1 2025-26. At the same time, there has been a considerable moderation in headline inflation," he said.

On rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates, he said it is likely to have a sobering impact on inflation, while



stimulating consumption and growth. However, US tariffs, on the other hand, will moderate exports, the Governor added.

"Taking all these factors into account, real GDP growth for 2025-26 is now projected at 6.8 per cent, with Q2 at 7.0 per cent, Q3 at 6.4 per cent, and Q4 at 6.2 per cent," he said, adding GDP growth for the first quarter of 2026-27 is estimated at 6.4 per cent.

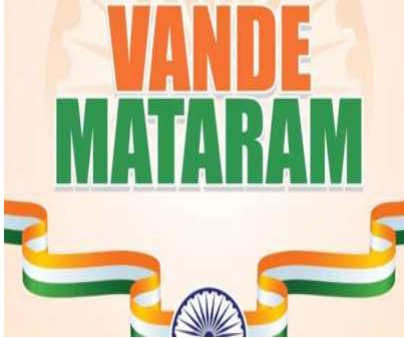
Malhotra further said inflation conditions remained benign during 2025-26 so far, with actual outcomes turning out to be significantly lower than projected. Low inflation, he said, is primarily

attributed to a sharp fall in food inflation, aided by improved supply prospects and government measures to manage the supply chain effectively.

Core inflation remained largely contained with the August reading at 4.2 per cent, despite continued price pressures on precious metals.

"CPI inflation for 2025-26 is now projected at 2.6 per cent with Q2 at 1.8 per cent; Q3 at 1.8 per cent; and Q4 at 4.0 per cent," Malhotra added. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation for the first quarter of 2026-27 is projected at 4.5 per cent.

50 years of 'Vande Mataram' to be celebrated across India: Union Cabinet



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 01: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to celebrate 150 years of the national song, 'Vande Mataram', across India.

The Constituent Assembly had accorded 'Vande Mataram', composed by Bankimchandra Chatterji, the status of national song.

Briefing reporters on the decisions taken by the Union Cabinet, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that keeping in mind the role played by the song during the freedom struggle, a decision was taken to hold country-wide celebrations to mark its 150th year.

According to the 'India.Gov' portal, Vande Mataram was composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji. It has an equal status with the national anthem, 'Jana Gana Mana'.

Husband can't assert exclusive ownership over joint property because he paid EMIs: Delhi HC

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 01: A husband cannot assert exclusive ownership over a property jointly acquired and registered in the name of both spouses, solely on the basis that he paid the EMIs, the Delhi High Court has held.

A bench of justices Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar made the observation on September 22.

"Once the property stands in the joint names of the spouses, the husband cannot be permitted to claim exclusive ownership merely on the ground that he alone provided the purchase consideration," the court said.

It said the husband's claim would contravene Section 4 of the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, which bars a person, claiming to be the real owner of the property, from instituting any suit, claim or action to enforce rights against any other person in whose name the property stands.

In her petition before the high court, the wife also claimed that 50 per cent of the surplus amount belonged to her, asserting that it formed part of her 'stridhan' (a woman's absolute and exclusive property as per Hindu Law) and, therefore, she had exclusive ownership over it.

According to the petition, the couple got married in 1999 and jointly purchased a house in 2005 in Mumbai. However, they began living separately in 2006, and the husband filed for divorce the same year, which is currently pending.

Cabinet hikes wheat MSP by Rs 160/qlt to Rs 2,585: I&B Minister

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 01: The government on Wednesday announced a 6.59 per cent increase in the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat to Rs 2,585 per quintal for 2026-27 marketing year.

The decision was taken in the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

Last year, wheat MSP was fixed at Rs 2,425 per quintal for 2025-26 marketing year.

Wheat is the main rabi (winter) crop, with sowing beginning from late October, while harvesting from March onwards. Other rabi crops include jowar, barley, gram and lentil.

Briefing media after the Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The Cabinet has approved MSP of six rabi crops for 2026-27 marketing year. Wheat MSP has been fixed at Rs 2,585 per quintal." Wheat marketing year 2026-27 will start from April.

India added more than 1 billionaire every week in 2025: Hurun Report

IANS

New Delhi, Oct 01: India's billionaire club is growing at a record pace, with the country adding more than one billionaire every week this year, a new report said on Wednesday.

The M3M Hurun India Rich List 2025 shows that India now has 350 billionaires, six times higher than when the list was first released 13 years ago.

The 14th edition of the Hurun list features 1,687 individuals with wealth of over Rs 1,000 crore.

This includes 284 new



entrants, with the total number rising by 148 compared to last year and by 859 in the past five years. "Together, the listers added wealth at the rate of Rs 1,991 crore every single day," as per the report.

The combined wealth

declined slightly to Rs 9,850 crore from Rs 10,320 crore last year, impacted by global tariff issues and geopolitical tensions.

India's top 10 richest are getting wealthier and younger. The entry bar for the top 10 has risen to Rs 1.83 lakh crore, compared to Rs 1.63 lakh crore last year, while their average age has dropped to 69, three years younger than before.

Remarkably, the top 10 alone hold wealth equal to 28 per cent of the rest of the entire list, the list showed.

Cabinet approves opening of 57 new Kendriya Vidyalayas Over 86,000 students to benefit

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 01: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved opening of 57 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) which would benefit over 86,000 students, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Out of the 57 new KVs, seven will be sponsored by the Union Home Ministry, and the rest by state governments.

Twenty of the newly approved KVs are proposed to be opened in districts where no KV presently exists despite a significant number of Central Government employees.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved opening of 57 new Kendriya Vidyalayas under Civil sector across the country to facilitate the educational needs of the wards of increased number of central government employees," Vaishnaw said at a press conference.

The total estimated requirement of funds for establishment of the 57 new KVs is Rs 5862.55 crore spread over a period of nine years from 2026-27. This includes capital expenditure component of Rs 2585.52 crore and operational expenditure of Rs 3277.03 crore.

It is worthwhile to note that as exemplar schools for National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, for the first time, these 57 KVs have been sanctioned with Balvatikas -- three years of foundational stage (pre-primary).

The Centre had approved the Scheme of KVs in November 1962 to provide educational facilities of uniform standard throughout the country to cater to the educational needs of wards of transferable and non-transferable employees of Central Government including Defence and Parliamentary forces.

Consequently, "Central Schools Organization" was



started as a unit of the Ministry of Education of the Government of India.

"Opening of new KVs is a continuous process. The Ministry and KVs regularly receive proposals from various Sponsoring Authorities, including Central Government Ministries, departments, states and UTs for opening of new KVs.

"These proposals are sponsored by the concerned sponsoring authority--state, UTs, Ministries, Departments of Central Government," an official statement said.

There are 1,288 functional KVs at present including three abroad -- Moscow, Kathmandu and Tehran.

The total enrolment of students is around 13.62 lakh. "Together with the earlier sanctioning of 85 KVs, the instant proposal responds to the high demand for KVs while balancing pan-India expansion. The CCEA has approved 7 KVs sponsored by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the remaining 50 by State and UT authorities," it said.

"The 57 new proposals for Kendriya Vidyalayas reflect a strong commitment to reaching underserved and strategically important regions. The proposal demonstrates an approach, which anchors growth in the East while ensuring balanced representation across North, South, and West to strengthen inclusivity and national integration," the statement said.

Continuing with the 85

KVs sanctioned in December 2024, in this proposal, 17 states and UTs are being covered.

Among these 57 KVs, 20 are proposed to be opened in districts where no KV presently exists despite a significant number of Central Government employees.

Furthermore, 14 KVs are proposed in aspirational districts, four KVs in LWE districts and five KVs in NER and hilly areas.

"In continuation of sanction of 85 KVs accorded in December 2024, further 57 new KVs have been approved by prioritising those states which had not been covered since March 2019."

The administrative structure for implementing the project will require creation of posts at par with the norms fixed by the Sangathan for running of one full-fledged KV with a capacity of approximately 1,520 students.

Hence, 86,640 students would benefit, it said.

As per norms in vogue, a full-fledged KV (from balvatika to class 12) provides employment to 81 persons and accordingly, with the approval of 57 new KVs, a total of 4,617 direct permanent employment opportunities will be created.

Construction and allied activities associated with augmentation of various facilities in all KVs are likely to generate employment opportunities for many skilled and unskilled workers.

6 common causes of bloating that need medical attention

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Oct 01: Bloating is a common digestive complaint that many people dismiss as simple indigestion or overeating. While occasional bloating after a heavy meal is usually harmless, persistent or severe bloating may indicate underlying health issues that require attention. Conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), food intolerances, bacterial overgrowth, or even tumours can present with bloating as a primary symptom. Ignoring these signs can delay diagnosis and treatment. If bloating is accompanied by abdominal pain, changes in bowel habits, or unexplained weight loss, it is essential to consult a healthcare professional promptly to prevent complications.

6 warning signs your bloating is more than indigestion

A study published in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, aimed to examine the symptomatic and healthcare-seeking burden of bloating using survey data from 88,795 Americans. Findings revealed that nearly 1 in 7 Americans experience bloating on a weekly basis, yet most do not seek professional care for it. The study highlights that bloating can be a symptom of various underlying conditions, including irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), food intolerances, and other gastrointestinal disorders.

Irritable bowel syndrome and digestive irregularities

Irritable bowel syndrome, commonly known as IBS, is one of the most frequent causes of persistent bloating.

People with IBS often experience abdominal discomfort combined with alternating episodes of diarrhoea and constipation. The condition affects the normal function



of the gut, causing increased sensitivity and abnormal bowel movements. Management typically involves a combination of dietary modifications, such as reducing foods that trigger symptoms, and medications prescribed by a healthcare provider. Identifying IBS early allows individuals to control symptoms more effectively and reduce the frequency of bloating episodes.

Food intolerances and celiac disease

Food intolerances are another common culprit behind bloating. Lactose intolerance, caused by an

inability to digest lactose in dairy products, often leads to gas, bloating, and discomfort. Gluten sensitivity or celiac disease is another important consideration. In celiac disease, consuming gluten triggers an immune response that damages the small intestine, impairing nutrient absorption and potentially causing chronic bloating. Individuals who notice consistent bloating after consuming certain foods should consider being evaluated for intolerances or celiac disease. Early detection can prevent long-term nutritional deficiencies

and improve quality of life.

Inflammatory bowel disease and chronic inflammation

Chronic inflammatory conditions of the digestive tract, such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, can also cause bloating. These conditions, collectively referred to as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), involve ongoing inflammation in the intestines, leading to symptoms like diarrhoea, abdominal pain, fatigue, and occasionally blood in stools. Persistent bloating in these cases should not be ignored, as timely diagnosis and treatment are crucial for managing inflammation, preventing complications, and maintaining digestive health.

Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth

Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth, or SIBO, occurs when excessive bacteria accumulate in the small intestine. These bacteria ferment undigested food, producing gas that leads to bloating, discomfort, and distension. SIBO can also interfere with nutrient absorption, potentially causing malnutrition if untreated. Treatment may include targeted antibiotics or dietary adjustments to restore the natural balance of intestinal bacteria. Recognising the signs of SIBO early helps prevent ongoing digestive issues and supports overall gut health.

Ovarian and abdominal tumours

In some cases, unexplained or persistent bloating may signal more serious conditions such as ovarian or abdominal tumours. Women experiencing chronic bloating accompanied by pelvic pain, pressure, or unexplained weight loss should seek medical evaluation

immediately. Ovarian cancer often presents subtly, and bloating may be one of the earliest symptoms. Early investigation can improve outcomes, as timely diagnosis allows for earlier treatment and better management of potentially life-threatening conditions.

Liver and pancreatic disease

Bloating may also indicate underlying liver or pancreatic problems. Conditions such as liver cirrhosis or pancreatic insufficiency can cause fluid accumulation in the abdomen, which may feel like bloating. These serious health issues often require specialist care, and early identification is essential to prevent progression and complications. Anyone noticing frequent abdominal distension alongside other symptoms like jaundice, fatigue, or changes in digestion should consult a healthcare professional promptly.

Frequent, severe, or unexplained bloating should never be ignored. If symptoms persist or are accompanied by warning signs such as significant abdominal pain, changes in bowel movements, blood in stools, or unintentional weight loss, it is vital to seek medical advice. Early diagnosis not only eases discomfort but can also prevent complications and identify serious illnesses at a treatable stage. Maintaining awareness of your digestive health and consulting a specialist when necessary is key to managing bloating effectively and ensuring overall well-being.

Disclaimer: This article is for general informational purposes only and is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the guidance of a qualified healthcare provider regarding any medical condition or lifestyle change.

US govt shuts down as Republicans, Democrats fail to break impasse

IANIS

Washington, Oct 01: The United States government has shut down as lawmakers failed to achieve a breakthrough on a funding bill.

As a consequence, the funding for US government departments will be cut and will bring a few federal services to a halt. On Tuesday, Democrats blocked Republicans' plans to pass the spending bill in the Senate.

Democratic leaders met US President Donald Trump on Monday but failed to come to an agreement.

Hours after the meeting, Trump shared an AI-generated video on Truth Social, mocking House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Trump on Tuesday



continued to blame Democrats, saying that he "didn't see them bend even a little bit." He also threatened to fire more federal workers during the shutdown. "When you

shut it down, you have to do layoffs, we'd be laying off a lot of people," Trump said.

Democrats are demanding to reverse the healthcare cuts in the "Big Beautiful Bill,"

which was passed earlier this year. Republicans assert they would not agree to Democrats' demands and had proposed to extend funding until November 21. While the Republicans

control both the Senate and the House of Representatives, they are seven votes short in the Senate as the funding bill requires 60 votes to pass.

It is the first US government shutdown in seven years, as the last one happened under Trump 1.0 and lasted for 35 days – the longest in history.

Essential services such as border protection, law enforcement and air-traffic control would continue to function while food assistance programmes, government-funded preschool, food inspectors and operations at national parks could be adversely affected.

If the shutdown is extended over a long period, air travel could face challenges as many of those workers would be forced to work without pay and may not report for duty.

Trump says it'll be 'big insult' to US if Nobel Prize not awarded to him

PTI

Washington, Oct 01: US President Donald Trump has said it will be a "big insult" to America if the Nobel Peace Prize is not awarded to him even though he has ended over seven global conflicts.

Referring to his plan to end the Gaza conflict, Trump said Tuesday in remarks to military leaders in Quantico: "We got it, I think, settled. We'll see. Hamas has to agree, and if they don't, it's going to be very



tough on them. But all of the Arab nations, Muslim nations,

have agreed. Israel has agreed. It's an amazing thing. It just

came together."

Trump said that if his plan, announced Monday, to end the Gaza conflict works out, he would have solved eight conflicts in as many months.

"That's pretty good. Nobody's ever done that. 'Will you get the Nobel Prize?' Absolutely not. They'll give it to some guy that didn't do a damn thing. They'll give it to a guy that wrote a book about the mind of Donald Trump and what it took to solve the

war... The Nobel Prize will go to a writer, yeah, but we'll see what happens," Trump said.

"But it'll be a big insult to our country. I will tell you that. I don't want it. I want the country to get it. It should get it because there's never been anything like it. Think of it. So if this (plan to end the Gaza conflict) happens, I think it will. I don't say that lightly, because I know more about deals than anybody. This is what my whole life was based on," he said.

Indian domination: Record-breaking Abhishek, Varun continue to top ICC T20 rankings



Chakravarthy remained the No.1 ranked bowler in T20I cricket after seven scalps at the Asia Cup, with teammate Kuldeep Yadav (up nine spots to 12th), Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi (up 12 places to equal 13th) and Bangladesh tweaker Rishad Hossain (up six rungs to 20th) among the big movers on the latest rankings.

PTI

Dubai, Oct 01: Rapidly-rising Indian batting star Abhishek Sharma widened the gap between him and the rest by achieving the highest-ever rating points, while Varun Chakravarthy continued to top the bowling charts in the latest ICC T20 International Rankings issued on Wednesday.

However, Pakistan's Saim Ayub has ended Hardik Pandya's run at the top of the T20I all-rounder rankings.

Abhishek broke a record that has lasted for almost five years by reaching the highest-ever rating 931 points in the ICC Rankings following India's title-winning run at the just-concluded Asia Cup here.

The 25-year-old overtook the previous best rating of 919 points, which was achieved by England right-hander Dawid Malan in 2020, the ICC said in a statement.

The left-hander, who was adjudged player of the tournament in Asia Cup for his blazing form that helped him score at a strike rate of over 200, also surpassed the previous best ratings of teammates Suryakumar Yadav (912) and Virat Kohli (909).

Abhishek only made his international debut last year, but has put together an amazing record amassed a total of 314 runs at an average of 44.85 in the seven Asia Cup games.

He now leads England's Phil Salt in second place by a total of 82 rating points, while his India

teammate Tilak Varma remains in third place in the batter rankings after his 213 runs at the Asia Cup.

Sri Lanka right-hander Pathum Nissanka gains two spots to improve to fifth with a new career-high rating following his 261 runs at the Asia Cup, while teammate Kusal Perera (up two places to ninth), Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan (up 11 rungs to 13th) and India's Sanju Samson (up eight spots to 31st) also made gains following some impressive efforts at the same tournament.

Chakravarthy remained the No.1 ranked bowler in T20I cricket after seven scalps at the Asia Cup, with teammate Kuldeep Yadav (up nine spots to 12th), Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi (up 12 places to equal 13th) and Bangladesh tweaker Rishad Hossain (up six rungs to 20th) among the big movers on the latest rankings.

Saim Ayub displaced Pandya to claim top spot in the all-rounders' category for the first time. Ayub was in horrendous batting form but did well with the ball collecting eight wickets and his efforts saw him rise four places overall and overtake Pandya in the No.1 spot for all-rounders. Pandya dropped to second and eight rating points behind Ayub, while Pakistan's Mohammad Nawaz (up four spots to 13th) and Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka (up three places to equal 30th) were the other players to make ground in the all-rounder category this week.

Taliban rejects reports of Internet ban

AP

Islamabad, Oct 01: The Taliban government on Wednesday rejected reports of a nationwide Internet ban in Afghanistan, saying old fiber optic cables are worn out and are being replaced.

The announcement was the Taliban's first public statement on a communications blackout that has disrupted banking, commerce and aviation.

Last month, several provinces confirmed an Internet shutdown because of a decree from the Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada to combat immorality.

"There is nothing like the rumors being spread that we have imposed a ban on the Internet," Taliban officials said in a three-line statement in a chat group with Pakistani journalists.

Zelenskyy, UN atomic agency head warn of heightened risk at huge Ukrainian nuclear plant

AP

Kyiv, Oct 01: Ukraine's president and the UN nuclear agency head are sounding the alarm about increased safety risks at the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southern Ukraine, which lost its external power supply more than a week ago as the war raged around it.

Emergency diesel generators are providing power for crucial cooling systems for the facility's six shutdown reactors and spent fuel, and there is no immediate danger to Europe's biggest nuclear plant, according to International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi.

But "it is clearly not a sustainable situation in terms of nuclear safety," he said.

The backup generators have never needed to run for so long, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

China will resolutely oppose Taiwan independence: Xi Jinping

PTI

Beijing, Oct 01: China's President Xi Jinping on Tuesday said China will resolutely oppose "Taiwan independence" separatist activities and external interference, and firmly safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at a



reception held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. "Efforts should be made to deepen exchanges and cooperation across the Taiwan

Strait, resolutely oppose 'Taiwan independence' separatist activities and external interference, and firmly safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Xi said.

Earlier, Xi, along with other leaders from the

ruling Communist Party of China and the state, attended a ceremony at Tiananmen Square in central Beijing, where they presented flower baskets to honour fallen national heroes. The event was held to commemorate Martyrs' Day, a day ahead of the National Day.

Starting Wednesday, China will officially observe a week-long holiday to celebrate National Day. This year also marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of

Resistance against Japanese Aggression during World War II.

In his address, Xi called on the nation to keep on working hard and forge ahead with determination in advancing Chinese modernisation. "Achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is an unprecedented cause," Xi said. "Both aspirations and challenges inspire us to seize every moment and persevere with unwavering vigor," Xi said.

India-Sri Lanka WC opener brought highest turnout for group game of a women's ICC event



PTI

Guwahati, Oct 01: The turnout of close to 23,000 fans in the India-Sri Lanka game of the Women's ODI World Cup here was the highest ever for a group stage fixture of any ICC women's event, the world body said on Wednesday.

The match fetched a turnout of 22,843 here on Tuesday, beating the previous best of 15,935 at the India versus Pakistan fixture at the Dubai International Stadium during the Women's T20 World Cup last year.

"The attendance of 22,843 spectators for the opening match of the ICC WCWC 2025 is the highest ever for a group stage fixture at any ICC women's event," the global body said in a press release.

India won the match by 59 runs

to make a strong start in the event that the team is hoping to win for the first time, riding on home advantage and good recent form.

The opening ceremony ahead of the game featured a musical tribute to Assam's singing icon, the late Zubeen Garg. Acclaimed musicians Papon, Joi Barua, and the renowned Shillong Chamber Choir delivered renditions of his most celebrated works, honouring his legacy in front of an emotional home crowd.

Shreya Ghoshal sang India's national anthem and Nuwadhika Kumari performed the Sri Lankan national anthem.

At the mid-innings interval, Ghoshal returned to the stage to perform the official tournament anthem, alongside a medley of her hit songs.

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HINDI - 10:00 AM, 12:55 PM, 03:50 PM, 07:30 PM

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)
HINDI - 06:45 PM

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