



Pakistan risks losing place on world map if it continues to sponsor terrorism: Army Chief

- » India fully prepared, no restraint this time unlike 'Op Sindoor 1.0'
- » Indian military struck 9 targets inside Pak; Army hit 7, Air Force 2
- » We identified targets to hit only terrorists
- » Border population no ordinary civilians, they are soldiers

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 03: Warning Pakistan that it risks losing place on the world map if it continues to sponsor terrorism, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday said that



India will not exercise the restraint it had shown during 'Operation Sindoor 1.0'.

In a sternly-worded address to soldiers at Anupgarh in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district, General Dwivedi, according to the news

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "India, as a country, is fully prepared this time. And this time, it will not show the restraint that it exhibited during Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will take a step forward and act

in a manner that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to remain on the world map or not."

Asking soldiers to remain prepared, the Army Chief said, "Keep yourselves fully prepared now, if god wants, the opportunity will come soon."

General Dwivedi said that 'Operation Sindoor' exposed terrorist hideouts deep inside Pakistan. "India has given evidence to the world. Had we not unearthed this proof, Pakistan would have hidden all of it," he said, adding, "Entire world stood with India when we launched Operation Sindoor to avenge April 22 Pahalgam terror."

He said the Indian military hit nine targets inside Pakistan, of which seven were hit by the Army and two by the Air Force.

"We had identified the targets because we only wanted to harm the | [More on P6](#)

OPERATION SINDOOR

Pak lost 12 military aircraft, including 4 to 5 F-16 jets: Air Chief Marshal

Terms neighbouring country's claims of destroying Indian jets as 'manohar kahaniyan'

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 03: Terming Pakistan claims about it destroying Indian jets during 'Operation Sindoor' as "manohar kahaniyan (fascinating tales)" Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh on Friday said that at least a dozen Pakistani military aircraft, including F-16 jets were destroyed or damaged in Indian strikes.

While talking to reporters here the Air Chief Marshal, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) outlined the extensive losses suffered by Pakistan during the strikes carried out by the Indian military to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead. "Indian strikes hit radars at least four places, command



and control centres at two places, runways of course damaged at two places, then three of their hangars in three different stations were damaged."

"We have signs of one C-130 class of aircraft...and at least one dozen military aircrafts, including 4 to 5 F-16 jets, because that place happened to be F-16 with whatever was under maintenance

at that time," he added.

The Air Force Chief Marshal said, "Along with that, one SAM system was destroyed. We have clear evidence of one long-range strike, which I talked about more than 300 km, which happened to be either an AEW&C or a SIGINT aircraft. Along with that, five high-tech fighters between F-16 and JF-17 | [More on P6](#)

J&K higher reaches receive season's first snowfall; light rains in plains

MeT predicts more wet spell till Oct 7

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Oct 03: Several higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday experienced the season's first snowfall, while plains, including Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, received light rainfall in the morning.

The season's first snowfall was recorded in Sinthan Top area of Kishtwar, Affarwat and Sunshine peaks of Gulmarg today.

The weatherman, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), has predicted a brief spell of light rain till tomorrow afternoon amid the

cloudy weather conditions. According to him, light to moderate rain, thunder and gusty winds are expected towards late evening.

Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, in a detailed forecast, has mentioned that the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy from October 5 to October 7, saying that intermittent spells of light to moderate rain, thunder, gusty winds are expected, while the higher reaches may experience light to moderate snow.

He said that heavy to very heavy rain is expected at a few places of | [More on P6](#)

Adverse weather conditions CM directs depts, districts to be prepared 'Weather advisory should help prepare better response'

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 03: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the preparedness of various departments in view of the weather advisory issued by the Meteorological Centre.

MET has forecast an active Western Disturbance likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir from October 4, bringing rain and snowfall to several areas.

The Chief Minister emphasized that all concerned departments must remain in a state of full readiness to minimize possible damage to fruit



crops, ensure uninterrupted supply of essential services and keep all major roads and highways functional during the weather disturbance.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Agriculture, Javid Ahmed Dar; Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer | [More on P6](#)

Court permission will decide MLA Malik's participation in Assembly: Speaker

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 03: J&K Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Friday said that the attendance of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Mehraj Malik in the upcoming session of the Assembly depends on whether the court grants him permission.

Speaking to reporters, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Speaker said his attendance depends on whether the court will grant him permission. "It depends on whether he gets permission or not. For that, I think he would

need to approach the court. If the government grants permission, he should come—it would be good," Rather said.

Malik was detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) last month by the J & K administration.

To a question about the show-cause notice served to PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, the Speaker said that his reply is currently being examined.

"He had issued a misleading statement. He(Para) has claimed that the Assembly secretariat had endorsed the PSA. We don't | [More on P6](#)

J&K Bank contributes Rs 4.10 cr to CM's Relief Fund for flood-hit families

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 03: Jammu and Kashmir Bank on Friday contributed an amount of 4 crore and 10 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures for the people affected by the recent floods in the Jammu and Kashmir.

The Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, along with members of the Board of Directors, handed over a cheque of 4.10 crore to Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here.

The Chief Minister appreciated the significant contribution of J&K Bank and extended gratitude to its management and employees.

He said such solidarity from institutions reflects the collective resolve to stand by the people in times of distress and will greatly help in easing the hardships of flood-affected families.

Thanking the Bank staff for their commitment, the Chief Minister remarked that J&K Bank has | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi's steps paved way for India to become self-reliant: Amit Shah

KNO Monitoring Desk

Srinagar, Oct 03: Stating that if the work done in the last 11 years had been undertaken after Independence then India would never have faced the problem of unemployment, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that the steps taken by Prime Minister Modi led regime have paved the way for the country to become self-reliant.

Addressing the 'Khadi Karigar Mahotsav' event at Rohtak, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Mahatma Gandhi had used khadi during the country's freedom movement to remove



poverty and make the country self-reliant."

Taking a dig at the Congress he said, "The Congress forgot khadi after Independence while PM Modi led dispensation revived it. They (Congress) did

not pay attention to Khadi and did nothing for its promotion."

Shah said, "The turnover of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has increased to Rs 1.70 lakh crore now from Rs 33,000 crore in 2014-15. Many companies in the country do not have such a big turnover."

He said the beginning made by Mahatma Gandhi on khadi transformed the lives of lakhs of weavers in the country.

The 'khadi mantra' given by Mahatma Gandhi gave momentum to the freedom movement, he noted. Shah said when Modi was Gujarat chief minister, he resolved to revive Khadi.

"Later, as | [More on P6](#)

Railway emerges most preferred choice for automobile transportation in Kashmir

KNO

Jammu, Oct 03: Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone by emerging as the most reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly option for automobile companies to transport their vehicles.

The first 25-vehicle NMGS rake carrying vehicles from M/s Maruti Suzuki departed from Manesar Gati Shakti Terminal, Delhi Division, on October 1, 2025, bound for Anantnag Goods Shed in the Kashmir Valley. It carried over 116 Maruti Suzuki passenger vehicles, including the Brezza, Dzire, Wagon R, and S-Presso. The train covered a distance of 850 kilometers in 45



hours and arrived at the newly opened Anantnag Railway Terminal in Jammu and Kashmir at 11:00 am on October 3, 2025. The total fare generated was approximately 9 lakh in revenue, a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO) reads.

Remarking on this significant achievement, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, stated that this marks a new chapter in the history of automobile transportation logistics in | [More on P6](#)

Use cough syrups in children hospitals rationally: Health Ministry advises States, UTs

Warns against use in children under 2 years, stresses non-drug measures first

KNO Correspondent

New Delhi, Oct 03: The Union Health Ministry has issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories on the rational use of cough syrups in the paediatric population, cautioning against their use in children under two years of age.

According to the advisory, a copy of which is in the possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), "Most acute cough-related illnesses in children are self-limiting and tend to resolve without medication.



It emphasizes that cough and cold syrups should not be prescribed or dispensed

to children below two years. For children under five years, their use is generally

not recommended, and for older children, administration should be based only on clinical evaluation under strict medical supervision."

The Health Ministry has stressed that, where required, cough syrups should be prescribed in the lowest effective dose and for the shortest duration possible, while avoiding multiple drug combinations.

Instead, the advisory recommends non-pharmacological measures—such as adequate hydration, rest, and supportive care—as the first line of treatment. | [More on P6](#)

Weather Advisory
Div Com reviews
preparedness, mitigation plan
Directs Deptts for operational
readiness, deployment of machinery

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 03: In view of the recent weather forecast predicting rain and snowfall from 5th to 7th October issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, convened an urgent meeting with officials from key departments to review preparedness and mitigation plan.

The meeting was attended by HoDs & representatives from R&B, MED, BEACON, NHIDCL, Urban Local Bodies, IMD, and the Horticulture & Marketing Planning Department.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner instructed concerned departments to ensure immediate deployment of personnel and machinery at critical locations to facilitate swift snow clearance.

He stressed the importance of completing the tendering process for the winter snow clearance plan by October 31, and directed the deployment of trained and experienced machinery operators to avoid damage to road infrastructure.

He urged use of High Molecular Weight Polyethylene plastic in snow plows to enhance efficiency and minimize road wear.

He laid focus on the timely restoration of road connectivity to remote and border areas, including the Mughal Road, which serves as a crucial link during winter months.

Meanwhile, Div Com also directed the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department to ensure advance stocking of ration, LPG, and petroleum products in remote border areas. Additionally, he emphasized the need for advance distribution of



October's ration to consumers and instructed that a 15-day buffer stock of LPG be maintained in the Kashmir Valley to prevent shortages.

Director of Horticulture Marketing & Planning was advised to encourage fruit growers and traders to utilize railway services for apple transportation, ensuring faster and more economical

movement.

To ensure coordinated and timely response to any weather-induced emergency, the Divisional Commissioner directed the immediate operationalization of the Divisional Control Room for better coordination and synergy among field departments.

Cleanliness drive under ‘Swachhata
Hi Seva’ campaign organized

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 03: District Judiciary Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar Friday organized a special cleanliness drive within the premises of the District Court Srinagar under the banner of the nationwide campaign “Swachhata Hi Seva”.

The initiative was undertaken as part of the nationwide efforts to spread the message of cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental consciousness, and to reaffirm building a clean and responsible society.

The programme not only focused on maintaining the sanctity of the court premises but also sought to inspire a culture of collective responsibility among those present, reminding all that the principles of justice are best upheld in an environment of discipline, orderliness, and



cleanliness.

The drive was held under the chairmanship

of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief and

was conducted under the supervision of Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman.

On this occasion, Tasleem Arief symbolically marked the importance of environmental protection by planting a sapling within the premises of the District Court Srinagar. The plantation ceremony was carried out in the presence of Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Chief Administrative Officer, District Court Srinagar, Rubina Akhter, officials, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar, and the dedicated safai karamcharis who play a vital role in ensuring cleanliness on a daily basis. The gathering of staff, and volunteers under one roof for such an initiative reflected a collective will to promote sustainable practices, cleanliness, and self-discipline thereby reinforcing the spirit of Swachhata Hi Seva.

Mission Vatsalya Scheme

DM approves sponsorship
support for 290 children

KT NEWS DESK

REASI, OCTOBER 3: In a significant step towards ensuring well-being of the children in need of care and protection, the Sponsorship and Foster Care Approval Committee (SFCAC) approved 290 cases under the sponsorship component of the Mission Vatsalya Scheme at its meeting chaired by District Magistrate Reasi, Nidhi Malik, here on Friday.

At the outset, District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Sachin Sharma presented a comprehensive briefing on the cases received under the scheme.

The Committee, headed by the District Magistrate, meticulously scrutinized all applications to ensure that eligible children receive the necessary financial and social support

while continuing to live within their community and cultural environment.

The District Magistrate reaffirmed the administration's commitment to create a safe and secure environment for vulnerable children, enabling them to grow and thrive without displacement from their families or communities.

The DM further emphasized that the approval of these cases stands as a testament to the administration's dedication to safeguarding children's rights and supporting their holistic development.

The meeting was attended by DCPO Sachin Sharma, the Chairperson of the Social Welfare Committee Reasi and other committee members, reflecting a strong collaborative effort to uplift and empower children through strategic welfare initiatives.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION PATTAN.
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
e-Tender NIT No: 40 /R&B of 2025-26/ 2500-2505 Dated: 30.09.2025
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/D oc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Projecting Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of Tile path from Masjid Sharief to H/O Nissar Ahmad Shah at Malpora, Ward 03 MC Pattan..	6.93 lacs	300/-	13860/-	45 days	MTMP ID (Savings)	C&D	Municipal Committee

Position Of AAA: Accorded
Position of T.S: Accorded
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-09-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30-09-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	30-09-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	14-10-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15-10-2025 11:00 AM Office of The Executive Engineer RnB Division Pattan

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender inviting authority) Falling under thee Competence of under sign.
3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money / Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/ Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, as per PWD norms).
4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority). The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period for different nature of works i.e. for M&R works six months (6 months) Bituminous works Three Years (03 Years) and Building works Eighteen Months (18 months) etc as per Physical nature of work.
5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority).
6. The earnest money/ Bid security in favor of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.
7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 day s from the date of opening of Technical bids
8. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
ii. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
iii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
9. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
i. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the “Downloads” option as well as from “Bidders Manual Kit” option on website www.jktenders.gov.in to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
ii. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get’ Digital Signature Certificate(DSC)’as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
iii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

Computer operator/ Camp/ Draftsman/ Head Draftsman/ Technical Officer / Executive Engineer
R&B Division Pattan

No: R&B / Divn./ 2500-2505 Dated:30.09.2025 DIPK-6739/25
DATED: 03-10-2025

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA
E-mail ID: xnmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in
Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender(Short-Term)

e-NIT No:	MHDH/TS/2025-26/eNIT/28
Date:	30/09/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on item wise basis from registered/reputed firms for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	AA	Technical Sanction
01.	Supply of Firewood for Snow Clearance Control Room Bumhama Pertaining to Mechanical and Hospitals Sub-division 1st Handwara.	2.00	200.00	4000.00	15 days	Accorded	Accorded

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01-10-2025 (1200hrs)
2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 03-10-2025 (1000hrs) in two covers up to 13-10-2025 (1400hrs).
3. Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 13-10-2025 (1600hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
5. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

No: - MHDH/TS/1277-84 Dated: - 30/09/2025 DIPK-6774/25 DATED: 03-10-2025 Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara

GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION BARAMULLA
Email: amitabhman.721013@jk.gov.in
Corrigendum No 01 for this office E NIT No: 22 of 2025-26 Dated: 09-09-2025
Tender ID No. 2025_IFC_287467
Sub: - Extension of dates
In view of inadequate response, the extension of dates in respect of this Office e-NIT No. 22 of 2025-26 work no. 01 (Fabrication, Providing, Installation and testing of MS gantry and various electrical and mechanical works to be carried out at Irrigation Scheme Hamipora of MISD Handwara.), 02 (Various electrical and mechanical works to be carried out at LIS Unisoo New of MISD Handwara.) and Work no. 03 (Various electrical and mechanical works to be carried out at LIS Gangbugh 2nd of MISD Handwara.) dated: 09-09-2025 having tender ID No. 2025_IFC_287467, the time extension is being given to ensure healthy competition competitive bidding as under: -

1. Tender Submission date Ends	=	09/10/2025 upto 06.55 pm.
2. Date of Opening	=	10/10/2025 at 01:00 pm, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla.

All other terms/ conditions and stipulations as contained in the eNIT shall remain unaltered/unmodified.

No. MIDB/CC-02/2133-37 DATED: 30/09/2025 DIPK-6736/25 DATED: 03-10-2025 Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division

JK Govt rolls out GST 2.0 reforms

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Oct 03: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has commenced the implementation of Next Generation GST Reforms 2.0, effective from September 22, 2025, aligning with the national tax rationalization drive and reinforcing its commitment to consumer welfare. The overhaul simplifies the GST framework by reducing multiple tax slabs to just two primary rates—5% for essentials and 18% for most other goods and services. These measures are poised to lower the cost burden on households, insurance, medicines, education, and key livelihood sectors.

To ensure efficient, transparent, and people-centric execution, the Government has adopted Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) across all key departments: State Taxes, Legal Metrology, Health & Medical Education, and Industries & Commerce. District and divisional enforcement teams will intensify market surveillance, verify accurate price revision, and provide direct citizen support through a network of GST Suvidha Kendras and sectoral helplines in every district.

The Suvidha Kendras are equipped to assist taxpayers in understanding



GST 2.0, filing returns, remapping HSN codes, and resolving grievances. A robust seven-step implementation protocol anchors the rollout:

Policy Communication: Issuance of clear advisories to industry and trade associations regarding rate reductions. Awareness & Capacity Building: Organisation of webinars, publication of brochures, radio and social media campaigns to broaden understanding. Monitoring & Documentation: Systematic collection of invoices and voluntary

price declarations to document compliance. Consumer Feedback Mechanism: Installation of feedback boxes, operation of helplines, and WhatsApp chatbots to facilitate citizen participation.

Enforcement & Inter-Departmental Coordination: On-ground inspections, joint anti-profiteering drives, and seamless inter-departmental actions.

Public Awareness Drives: Visual campaigns including banners and community activations highlighting

GST benefits. Review & Reporting: Routine reviews and performance reporting at DIC and Director levels to ensure sustained vigilance.

Legal Metrology officials are actively monitoring MRP revisions, enforcing transparent labeling, and imposing penalties for overpricing or label violations. The Health & Medical Education Department is engaged in widespread communication campaigns and conducting surprise inspections to guarantee that tax reductions on medicines and health services are fully passed on to patients. The Industries & Commerce Department—through engagement with businesses and a newly established consumer complaint portal—ensures industry compliance and quick redressal of consumer grievances.

Described as a "Festival Bonanza" for the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, GST 2.0 represents a historic stride towards price transparency, ease of doing business, and new opportunities for economic growth. The Government reiterates its commitment to rigorous oversight, open communication, and consumer protection, ensuring that the benefits of GST 2.0 rapidly reach every resident in the Union Territory.

Police in NKR arrest 155 in illegal mining crackdown

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Oct 03: Police across North Kashmir Range have intensified their crackdown on illegal mining, registering 129 FIRs, arresting 155 offenders and seizing 154 vehicles, in a major drive aimed at dismantling the sand mafia and safeguarding riverbeds.

The crackdown, officials said was spearheaded by the Range Police Headquarters Baramulla, comes amid growing concerns over rampant sand mining that has caused severe damage to riverbeds and fragile ecosystems.

Officials said the drive aims to put the so-called sand mafia under sustained pressure.

DIG North Kashmir Range emphasized that the campaign would continue with zero tolerance. "Illegal mining is a crime, not a career," he warned, saying offenders would face strict action under law.

Police further stressed that "No License, No Escape" would remain the guiding principle of the operation, making it clear that only those with valid permits would be allowed to extract minerals—(KNO)

23 vehicles seized for illegal transportation of minerals: Police KNO

Srinagar, Oct 03: In a continued drive against illegal mining, Police on Friday said to have seized 23 vehicles found transporting illegally extracted minerals in different areas of Pulwama, Ganderbal and Shopian.

In Pulwama, 02 tippers, bearing registration numbers JK08G-6301 and JK13E-0314, were seized by Police Post Rahmoo. Similarly, 04 more tippers bearing registration numbers JK13J-2378, JK01AN-8100, JK01AP-9093 and JK04B-8285 were seized by Police Station Pulwama, a police spokesman said in a statement.

Meanwhile in Ganderbal, Police said to have registered 03 FIR's, seized 09 tippers, 02 Tata Mobiles & 02 Tractors are involved in illegal mining activities, and accordingly apprehended accused persons in various cases/matters for their direct involvement in the crime. The seized vehicles, illegally loaded with minor minerals extracted from Nallah Sindh, Ganderbal, were intercepted within the jurisdiction of P/S Ganderbal, P/S Safapora P/S Gund and PP Nagbal. The registration numbers of the seized vehicles are JK05B-9529, JK01AF-0052, JK01T-1471, JK13C-8090, JK01J-9411, JK01J-9411, JK09C-5028, JK15C-0729, JK18-1190, JK01AX-1953, PB5AX-7298, JK16B-9334 and JK01R-7970.

In Shopian, 02 dumpers, bearing registration numbers JK13J-6277 and JK13D-7161, were seized by Police Post Turkwangam. Similarly, two more dumpers bearing registration numbers JK13K-1041 & JK13J-7755 were seized by Police Station Shopian, police said.

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant provisions of law have been registered in respective police stations and investigation initiated.

Meanwhile, J&K Police reiterated its firm commitment to curb illegal mining and safeguard natural resources of the district. "Citizens are urged to extend cooperation by reporting such unlawful activities. Confidentiality of informants will be ensured, and strict action shall be taken against violators as per law," police said—(KNO)

LPG shortage irks domestic consumers

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 03: The consumers in different parts of Srinagar here have complained of facing acute shortage of LPG, accusing the agencies of ignoring their plights.

Consumers from different parts of Srinagar and outskirts claimed that their bookings for the LPG cylinders have been kept on hold for a long time now.

"As we approach the concerned gas agencies, we are being told that there is a shortage of the supply," Irfan Ahmad, one of the consumers said. He said that they are facing such a situation from the last one month, adding that the booking has been done, but the agencies are clearly refusing the delivery due to the shortage of the supply.

"Those associated with the agencies to deliver the LPG cylinders at doorsteps have also switched off their phones, pushing the consumers to



suffer," Ahmad, who hails from Hyderpora, said.

The situation is no different in city areas like Chattabal where the people have raised concerns after the delivery for the LPG cylinders have come to a halt for unknown reasons.

The consumers demanded immediate redressal of their grievances and urged the administration to look into

the matter and ensure that the issue is resolved at an earliest.

The complaints have been received at a time when the weatherman here has predicted a wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir, forecasting the possibility of rains and snow till October 07, which according to the IMD advisory would hit the surface traffic as well—(KNO)

Minister Sharma for enhancing supply chain



KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Oct 03: In a decisive move to ensure uninterrupted access to essential commodities, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), IT, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today directed to enhance the supply chain of LPG cylinders, petrol, and diesel across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these directions while reviewing the stock position of essentials during meeting with officers of FCS&CA, legal metrology and representatives of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

Citing the critical need for seamless service delivery, especially in light of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) recent advisory warning of potential weather disruptions, Minister Sharma directed for strengthening the supply and distribution network including mandatory Doorstep Delivery of LPG Cylinders eliminating any inconvenience caused

by collection at distribution points. He further directed for reimbursement of delivery charges.

The Minister further directed FCS&CA department and OMCs to maintain sufficient stocks of LPG cylinders, petrol, and diesel to prevent shortages, with daily monitoring mechanisms in place.

Satish Sharma also directed for enhanced coordination between the department, OMCs, and transport authorities to streamline logistics and address supply chain bottlenecks effectively.

He also directed for setting up a dedicated 24/7 Control and Monitoring Cell at the Heads of Departments (HoDs) and State Logistics Coordinator (SLC) levels to address grievances related to adverse weather conditions and ensure rapid resolution.

The Minister emphasized the urgency of these measures, stating, "With the IMD's warning of possible disruptions due to adverse weather, ensuring buffer stocks and reliable delivery of essential fuels is non-negotiable. Any lapse in compliance will result in strict action against defaulters, including Oil Marketing Companies and responsible officials."

Satish Sharma further directed the officers to commence field inspections immediately in order to enforce compliance. He urged consumers to report any issues through the FCS&CA helpline or department's online portal.

Timely rains brighten outlook of saffron crop

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Oct 03: After a disappointing saffron season in 2024, when production dropped drastically due to lack of rainfall, Kashmir's saffron growers are finally hopeful of a revival this year.

Adequate showers during the crucial growth phase in September have raised expectations of a significantly better harvest in Pampore and its adjoining saffron belts.

Farmers said the crop is showing visible signs of recovery, with healthier bulbs and longer soil moisture retention.

"Last year was devastating; flowers hardly bloomed. But this season looks promising. If we get one more spell of rain, the yield may reach 80 per cent, which will be a blessing for us," said Abdul Majeed Wani, president of the Kashmir Saffron Growers Association.

Growers in Pampore, famously known as the "saffron town of Kashmir", share similar optimism as they said that plants look much healthier this year, and the bloom is likely to be stronger." Another



farmer, Ashiq Hussian from Chandhara, said, "Even if the production reaches 70-80 per cent, it will give us some relief after many bad seasons."

However, the optimism comes with underlying worries. Saffron cultivation in Kashmir has been steadily declining, with farmers struggling against climate change, reduced irrigation, and, most alarmingly, the smuggling of saffron corms — the very foundation of the crop.

Just two months ago, police and agriculture officials in Awantipora foiled a major attempt to smuggle 1.5 quintals of saffron corms outside the Valley.

Experts say such practices severely harm local farming by creating shortages during the planting season. "Saffron is not just

an economic crop but part of our cultural identity. If corm smuggling continues, our heritage is at stake," they said.

Government data reflects the challenges: production fell from 17.33 MT in 2021 to 14.87 MT in 2022, and marginally improved to 14.94 MT in 2023 and in 2024 it was just around 30 per cent of the normal production.

While initiatives under the National Mission on Saffron have helped rejuvenate some fields, experts caution that these gains are undermined when corms are illegally siphoned off.

They demanded intervention of the government to make irrigation facilities functional and take steps for the revival of this project—(KNO)

Proposed maternity hospital remains a distant for Pulwama residents

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Pulwama, Oct 03: More than seven years have passed since the government identified land for the construction of a 100-bed maternity hospital in Pulwama, but the project remains confined to papers, leaving residents disillusioned and women patients struggling for facilities.

According to officials, around 112 Kanals of land were identified at Sirnoo, on the outskirts of Pulwama town, for the hospital that was meant to address the growing healthcare needs of women in Pulwama and neighbouring Shopian districts. However, beyond the installation of a notice board at the site, no progress has been made.

"It was a long-pending demand of the people of Pulwama and Shopian to have a dedicated maternity hospital. Such a facility would have reduced referrals to Srinagar hospitals or MCH Anantnag, but it seems the project has been abandoned midway," a health official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Locals expressed strong resentment over the delay, saying they have been approaching authorities for years, but their pleas have gone unheard.

"After repeated representations, land at Sirnoo was finalised with assurances that work would start soon. But seven years down the line, there is no progress," said Jahangeer Ahmad, a resident of Pulwama.

He added that the absence of a dedicated maternity hospital forces women patients to travel either to Srinagar or private clinics,

leading to unnecessary delays and extra financial burden.

"Earlier, the government had proposed the hospital at Chandgam, but since it was too far from town, protests were held, and the current location at Sirnoo was identified. Yet, nothing has changed on the ground," he said.

Residents believe the hospital would not only save time and money but also ease the rush at Srinagar's Lal Dedi Hospital. "We request the higher authorities to intervene and ensure work begins without further delay so that locals can finally heave a sigh of relief," they said.

Even the District Development Council (DDC) Pulwama had passed a resolution in favour of constructing the maternity hospital, but the matter continues to linger.

Meanwhile, an official said that the proposal has been forwarded to higher authorities but has not received administrative approval yet. "The project is under active consideration of the government, and hopefully it will be approved soon," he maintained.

However, in a contradictory statement, the government recently told the Assembly that "there is no proposal before the government for the construction of a 100-bedded maternity hospital at Sirnoo, Pulwama".

This discrepancy has further deepened the uncertainty, leaving the much-needed project in limbo and the people of south Kashmir waiting for what they call "a basic necessity, not a luxury"—(KNO)

DM Jammu imposes restrictions around JKPS exam centers

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, OCT 03: In view of exams being conducted by Jammu and Kashmir Public service Commission (JKPSC) on October 07 and October 8, 2025 for recruitment of Assistant Professors, the District Magistrate Jammu has ordered imposition of restrictions around the notified centers established in the Jammu District.

"In exercise of the powers vested in me under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha

Sanhita (BNS), I, Dr. Rakesh Minhas (IAS), District Magistrate Jammu hereby impose restrictions on assembly of 5 or more persons within a radius of 100 meters of the notified examination centers. Entry shall be strictly prohibited from 08:00 AM to 06:00 PM (except authorized personnel) on 07.10.2025 and 08.10.2025.

Any person who contravenes this order shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provisions of Section-223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Sewa Parv, Swachhta Hi Seva concludes in Bandipora

KT NEWS DESK

Bandipora, Oct 03: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Bandipora district marked the conclusion of the two-week long Sewa Parv and Swachhta Hi Seva 2025, celebrated with enthusiasm and wide community participation.

Across the fortnight campaign, cleanliness drives, awareness campaigns, and cultural activities were organized, focusing on sanitation, plastic-free markets, conservation



of water bodies, and source segregation of waste. In Sumbal, drives were conducted at the Municipal Office,

Jhelum waterbodies, President Sumo Stand, and Main Bazar, along with awareness programmes by WUCMA

and a painting competition on waste segregation.

On the closing day, Safai Mitras and student volunteers were felicitated for their selfless contribution, reflecting the true spirit of Seva and Swachhta.

As part of the conclusion, Special Gram Sabhas were organized across all tribal Panchayats of Bandipora district, providing a platform for citizen participation and review of welfare schemes. At Kudara, Deputy Commissioner, Indu Kanwal Chib presided over a Gram Sabha under the Aadi

Karam Yogi Abhiyan, directly engaging with the public and reaffirming the administration's commitment to inclusive and responsive governance.

The fortnight-long campaign in Bandipora and across the nation echoed Gandhiji's ideals of dignity in labour, public participation, and collective responsibility.

With the spirit of "Swachhta is Seva, Seva is Swabhiman," Bandipora district continues its journey towards a cleaner, healthier, and more responsible society.

EDITORIAL

J&K's Remarkable Transformation

The latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, revealing zero cases of communal violence or sedition in Jammu and Kashmir during 2023, marks a historic milestone in the region's journey toward peace and normalcy. This achievement is a testament to the successful governance model implemented under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit

Shah, and executed with dedication by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. For decades, Jammu and Kashmir was synonymous with unrest, but today it stands as India's most communally harmonious region. This transformation reflects the administration's multi-pronged strategy, which includes strengthening security, promoting inter-community dialogue, and focusing on development and

employment. The absence of sedition cases further underscores growing public trust in democratic processes and rejection of divisive ideologies. While challenges remain, particularly concerning crimes against women and cybercrimes, the overall decline in IPC cases and high charge-sheeting rate demonstrate improving law enforcement efficiency. The administration's focus on grassroots

development, economic revival, and youth engagement has created an environment where stability is becoming the new norm. This peace dividend must now be leveraged to accelerate progress in education, healthcare, and job creation. The government's efforts to attract investment, boost tourism, and empower local communities are already showing results, but sustained commitment is

essential. Jammu and Kashmir's journey from turmoil to tranquillity offers a powerful lesson in resilient governance. It proves that with determined leadership, inclusive policies, and people's participation, even the most complex challenges can be overcome. This hard-earned peace deserves not just celebration, but preservation through continued dialogue, development, and justice for all.

UPSC At 100: Honouring A Legacy Of Trust, Excellence, And Integrity In Public Service

As India marks 75 years of independence, the UPSC celebrates a century of shaping merit, safeguarding fairness, and upholding the ideals of constitutional morality, paving the way for a future of transparent, inclusive governance

Dr Ajay Kumar

As India is celebrating 75th year of its Republic, a defining moment in the democratic journey, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) stands at a milestone, entering into its 100th year of establishment. The Public Service Commissions (PSCs) were envisioned by our forefathers as Constitutional bodies, guardian of meritocracy in civil services, who shoulder the immense task of governance in a diverse and the biggest democracy in the world. Accordingly UPSC was entrusted a pivotal role the areas of recruiting, promoting and disciplining officials of the Central Civil Services. The story of its evolution therefore, over the period of last one century, is not just an institutional chronicle, but a reflection of India's deep faith in fairness, trust and integrity.

The idea of an independent Commission to oversee recruitment into the higher civil services found its strongest voice way before the making of the Constitution, itself. The Lee Commission report (1924) stated "Wherever democratic institutions exist, experience has shown that to secure an efficient Civil Service it is essential to protect it so far as possible or personal influences and to give it that position of stability and security which is vital to its successful working as the impartial and efficient instrument by which Governments, of whatever political complexion, may give effect to their policies" Thereafter, leaders of the Constituent Assembly, too supported the idea of independent PSCs, arguing that while governments change, the machinery of administration should remain impartial, professional, and anchored in constitutional morality. It was argued with great conviction that recruitment into the civil services could not be left entirely to the discretion of the executive, for such an arrangement risked politicisation and erosion of public trust.

The founding fathers, therefore, enshrined in Part XIV of the Constitution, Articles 315 to 323, a special status for the Union and State PSCs. This was done to safeguard their independence and autonomy, and to ensure that recruitment, promotions and disciplinary matters would be free from fear or favour. It is a testament to their vision that the institution, has been standing tall, for its principles of Merit, Trust and Integrity.

Though open competitive examination for recruitment was introduced in 1850's, those examinations were held in London and conducted by the British Civil Service Commission. Competitive examination for Indian Civil Service preceded that for British Civil Service by many years. These overseas examinations put the Indian aspirants at a significant disadvantage. However, despite hardships, some Indians made their entry into the ICS and significantly contributed to India's freedom struggle movement. Satyendra Nath Tagore (1863) the first Indian to enter ICS, R C Dutt (1869), SurendraNath Banerjee (1869) and others were few early entrants. The persistent demand by Indian leadership for simultaneous examination in England and India fell on deaf ears of the rulers. Though the demographic balance titled after the World War I, civil services remained an instrument of colonial policy.

However the first mention of independent Public Service Commission in India, found its mention in the Government of India Act, 1919, which was then established in October 1926, as the Public Service Commission, following the



recommendations of the Lee Commission of 1924. Headed initially by Sir Ross Barker, the body had limited functions and was a cautious experiment under colonial rule. In 1935, it was reconstituted as the Federal Public Service Commission, a step forward in giving Indians a larger role in administration. With the birth of the Republic in 1950, it acquired its present constitutional status as the UPSC. This historical evolution reflects not just administrative continuity, but also the growing confidence in India's own democratic institutions. From conducting a small number of examinations in its early years, UPSC today manages a vast and varied portfolio ranging from the prestigious Civil Services Examination to specialised services such as Engineering, Forest, Medical and Statistical and other services. Its scope has expanded with the Republic itself, but its core mandate remains unchanged to recruit the finest talent for public service.

If the history of UPSC is its foundation, the principles of trust, integrity and fairness are its pillars. Over the decades, millions of aspirants have placed their faith in the Commission, assured that success or failure depends solely on their merit. This trust is not an accident. It has been built painstakingly through transparency in procedure, impartiality in evaluation, and an uncompromising stance against malpractice. The sanctity of examinations, from the setting of question papers to their secure conduct across the country, is guarded with utmost rigour. The confidentiality is at the core of its processes. This has led to what the institution is today, winning the heart and trust of the Nation. Integrity, meanwhile, has meant protecting the institution from political or external pressures, maintaining confidentiality, and ensuring that those who succeed are genuinely among the most competent. Fairness has meant providing equal opportunity to candidates from every background, urban or rural, privileged or underprivileged, fluent in English or not. In a country as diverse as ours,

where inequalities persist, the fact that UPSC examinations are regarded as a true "level playing field" is itself one of independent India's proudest achievements. This philosophy finds echo in the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita, where Lord Krishna says: "तस्मादसक्तः सततं कार्यं कर्म समाचरा असक्तो ह्याचरन्कर्म परमाप्नोति पुण्यम्।" (Tasmadsakt statam karyam karma Samachar. Asakto haracharkarm paramapnoti purushah.)" — or in other words without attachment, constantly perform your duty as it ought to be done; for by performing action without attachment, one attains the Supreme. The UPSC embodies this principle in spirit: it performs its duty with rigour and fairness, without attachment to outcomes.

The UPSC recruitment process has evolved with times. There have been changes in the examination patterns: the introduction of the Civil Services Preliminary Examination in 1979; the restructuring of the syllabi periodically; the introduction of an Ethics paper and the Civil Services Aptitude Test among others. Each of these reforms were brought in after lot of debate and deliberations, so that civil service officers selected are not only knowledgeable, but also equipped with the skills and integrity demanded by contemporary governance.

At the heart of UPSC's recruitment journey are the thousands of aspiring youngsters who come forward year after year, driven by dedication, perseverance, and a dream to serve the nation. Once dominated by a select few from elite urban centres, today the Civil Services Examination attracts candidates from nearly every district of India, including the remotest and most underprivileged regions. This extraordinary diversity reflects the true spirit of the 'Indian Dream'—the aspiration that talent, hard work, and commitment can open the doors of opportunity to all. UPSC salutes these courageous aspirants and remains committed to reaching every corner of the country, ensuring that every aspiring citizen has the chance to contribute to the

nation's service and progress.

UPSC takes immense pride in conducting world's biggest and most complex competitive examination—the Civil Service Examination, with remarkable precision and consistency year after year. Starting with nearly 10–12 lakh applicants for the preliminary exam, candidates for the mains exam have the option of choosing from among 48 subjects and writing their answers in English or any of the 22 languages recognized under the Constitution of India. UPSC then evaluates these multiple-subject candidates into a single merit-based ranking—a feat unique in scale and sophistication anywhere in the world. The logistics of the Civil Services examinations are truly extraordinary. The Preliminary examination is held across more than 2,500 venues nationwide. For the Mains examination, the task becomes an intricate challenge: ensuring that each candidate at different centres across the country receives the question paper for the subject they have chosen. This complexity is further compounded by the special arrangements made for differently-abled candidates, including the provision of scribes, while visually impaired candidates are provided question papers in larger fonts. After the exam, answer sheets are evaluated anonymously by top experts in the 48 disciplines, with proficiency in the language in which the answers are written. All of this is completed within a strict annual timeline, without disruption—even during events such as the COVID-19 pandemic or natural calamities. This seamless, time-bound orchestration typifies India—its ability to manage complexity and diversity with efficiency, fairness, and equity.

As we celebrate a century of UPSC, it is equally fitting to honour the unsung heroes behind its remarkable success—the paper-setters and evaluators who form the faceless backbone of the Commission. These are some of the finest academics and experts in the country, each a master in their own discipline, yet they serve

with quiet dedication, without seeking recognition or limelight. Their meticulous work, impartial judgment, and unwavering commitment to excellence have been the bedrock of UPSC's ability to conduct a fair, transparent, and robust selection process—one that has earned the trust of the nation and stood the test of time. I personally thank each one of them for their selfless service, which ensures that the dreams and aspirations of thousands of candidates are judged with fairness, rigor, and integrity.

Over the years what has remained constant for UPSC is the purpose: to select meritorious candidates who will serve India with dedication and punish fairly those who are found delinquent in their duties. Across decades, UPSC has given the nation civil servants who have administered districts during crises, managed the economy through reforms, overseen infrastructure and environmental challenges, and contributed in countless invisible ways to nation-building. Their work touches every Indian, even if the hand behind the service remains unseen. That continuity of purpose, to serve the people of India, as the 'Sevak', by selecting those most capable, is what defines the UPSC legacy. With Hon'ble Prime Minister as the 'Pradhan Sevak' the civil service is honoured to be the 'Sevaks' of the People of this country.

As the Commission enters its centenary year, this moment calls not just for celebration, but for reflection. The centenary is an opportunity to honour the past, celebrate the present, and put the vision for the next century. As India marches towards reclaiming old glory as a leading light of the world, the challenges emanating from global competition and technology advancements are disrupting existing models of governance. As an institution, UPSC will continuously strive and adapt to these changes to remain current and stay the beacon of fairness and opportunity in Indian democracy.

UPSC has already geared up and therefore, initiated many reforms. Our new online application portal, while facilitating ease of candidates application process, the newly introduced face recognition technology will ensure zero frauds in the exam process. Our reforms with exam, recruitment processes are in line with the changing needs of time. While we are looking for the selected candidates, we are also helping those participating in our process. The PRATIBHA Setu initiative, is facilitating employment opportunities for those who reach the final Personality Test stage but are unable to make it in the final list. PRATIBHA Setu has already benefited many. UPSC proposes use of AI, for its efficient and effective working, without compromising on the integrity of the processes and practices.

As Chairman along with my fellow members of the Commission, celebrating the Centenary year at UPSC, we all feel humbled and inspired, both, by the strength of our legacy and the faith reposed in the institution by the society at large. We reaffirm our resolve to uphold and carry forward this gold standard of integrity, fairness and excellence, ensuring that UPSC continues to serve the nation with the same trust and distinction in the years to come.

The author is the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The views and opinions expressed in this article are personal.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

Adopt people-friendly measures for senior citizens, PwDs: Sakeena

Reviews performance, functioning of Srinagar, Jammu CRCs

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 03: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday emphasized on the need to simplify procedures and adopt people-friendly measures for the benefit of Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a review meeting to review performance and functioning of Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Srinagar/Jammu at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare department, Sarmad Hafeez; Directors of Social Welfare Kashmir and Jammu, Director CRC Srinagar/Jammu, Executive Director State Rehabilitation Council J&K, Chairman & Managing Director Artificial Limbs Manufacturing



Corporation of India (ALIMCO), District Social Welfare Officers and other concerned officers. The outstation officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

Underscoring the importance of ease in access, the Minister directed the concerned departments to streamline the process of issuing disability certificates

and providing assistive devices so that the maximum number of beneficiaries can avail the schemes being implemented through CRC.

She further directed CRC authorities to organize awareness camps beyond district headquarters, ensuring that people in remote areas and far-flung areas are made aware of the

facilities and services available.

Stressing on the importance of quality assurance, Minister Sakeena instructed CRC and ALIMCO to conduct rigorous quality checks of all assistive equipment before distribution to beneficiaries.

The Minister also highlighted the challenges faced by people with disabilities in accessing

diagnostic centres operating from upper floors, urging departments to address these infrastructural barriers. She called upon the Social Welfare department to explore ways to support those unable to obtain or update their Aadhaar cards, so that they are not deprived of pensions and other welfare benefits.

On the issue of empowerment, the Minister advocated for extending loan facilities to persons with disabilities to help them become self-reliant and economically independent. "Government has to do more in this sector. The people need us, and it is our responsibility to reach their doorsteps with support, care and dignity," she said.

Earlier, representatives of CRC Srinagar & Jammu and ALIMCO gave detailed presentations on their functioning and achievements so far.

S P Srivastava takes charge as Dir Marketing, IndianOil

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Oct 03: Saumitra P Srivastava has assumed charge as Director (Marketing) at Indian Oil, bringing with him a distinguished career spanning over three decades within the Corporation.

An academic stalwart, Srivastava is a Civil Engineering Graduate from IIT Roorkee and holds an Executive MBA from SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, Mumbai.

His career has been instrumental in shaping key business segments, starting with an initial four-year tenure in the LPG business before transitioning to various key positions within the sales function.

He is an accomplished executive with extensive experience, specifically in downstream operations, marketing, and strategy. His leadership style is noted for being collaborative and result-oriented, underpinned by a consistent track record of success in driving business growth, increasing profitability, and enhancing customer satisfaction.

He successfully led major transformation projects, including the structured Non-Fuel Convenience Stores and the Dhruva - Retail Transformation project, along with several other technology

and digitalisation initiatives. His leadership experience also included serving as the Head of Retail Transformation group and the Retail Business Head for North & East, India. He demonstrated broad operational expertise, having headed Divisional offices in New Delhi and Mumbai and led sales for Western Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

He leveraged his deep operational knowledge while serving as the Head of State for Maharashtra & Goa, where he managed all major products and businesses. Immediately prior to his new appointment, he served as the Executive Director (Corporate Strategy), where he focused on strategic initiatives to enhance customer satisfaction and bring greater efficiency to overall operations.

In his new role, he will steer the strategic direction of IndianOil's vast, nationwide marketing infrastructure, ensuring sustained market leadership and customer service. His vision for the Marketing Division is focused on building a more agile, efficient, technologically advanced, and diversified ecosystem that remains deeply committed to customer-centricity while spearheading the nation's necessary transition toward sustainable and future-ready fuels.

Shopian admin organises Grievance Redressal Camp

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 03: The District Administration Shopian Friday organised a Grievance Redressal Camp at Kaprin, aimed to bring governance to the doorstep of people and ensure prompt redressal of their grievances.

The camp, presided over by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, sought to take necessary steps for timely redressal to ensure a prompt response and resolution of public concerns.

At the outset, a pledge ceremony was held wherein the participants reaffirmed their commitment to curbing the drugs and eradicating it from the Shopian district, enabling the younger generation to realise their true potential.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC stated that the camp is being observed in Kaprin to promote participatory governance, transparency and service delivery at the grassroot level. He emphasised the role of such grievance redressal camps in strengthening trust between the general public and the administration.

The locals welcomed the initiative and expressed



appreciation for the administration's outreach, stating that such camps help in addressing long-pending issues without delay.

On the occasion, The BDO Kaprin, Tariq Ahmed, also briefed the gathering about various welfare schemes and urged people to avail the benefits to achieve self-reliance and an improved quality of life.

A large number of people from Kaprin and delegations from adjoining areas participated in the camp and got their demands redressed. These included the dilapidated road from Wangam to Mantribugh, the construction of the Dangam bridge, a shortage of staff at the GHSS in Kaprin, Ratnipora, Kashipora and Tikipora, poor road connectivity, drinking

water supply, healthcare, education, electricity, sanitation and other issues. Some demands and issues of public importance were also resolved on the spot.

Such grievance redressal camps are part of the District Administration's ongoing efforts to strengthen public outreach and provide citizens with a platform to raise their issues of public importance.

ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, Tehsildar, Shopian, Anjum Bashir, officers/officials from the Rural Development Department, civil society members and other concerned officials were present, who responded to public queries and grievances and assured prompt resolution within fixed timelines.

DC Bandipora visits Zalwan, reviews Waste Management Issues



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 03: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib Friday visited Zalwan area of Bandipora to review the issues related to waste management issues in the area.

During the visit, the DC interacted with officers of the Municipal Council Bandipora, Tehsildar Bandipora, officials from the Social Forestry Department, Pollution Control Committee, and local residents.

The discussions focused on addressing community concerns and ensuring scientific and sustainable management of solid waste in the area.

The DC assured the locals that their genuine issues will be addressed in a time-bound manner. She emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among all line departments and highlighted the importance of community participation in devising long-term, sustainable solutions for effective waste management and environmental protection.

Kulgam admin felicitates media persons on Seva Parv culmination



KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 03: The District Administration Kulgam Friday felicitated the media persons from various media houses on the culmination of Seva Parv campaign for providing extensive coverage of programmes and other campaigns across the district.

Addressing the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, Athar Aamir Khan appreciated the media's constructive role in highlighting developmental and welfare initiatives as well

as public issues.

He added that the media, as the fourth pillar of democracy, promotes transparency, accountability, and serves as a vital link between the administration and the people.

The DC added that the media has the power to create awareness, counter misinformation, and guide communities towards positive change. He assured full cooperation from the administration and urged media persons to continue reporting with fairness and responsibility.

Cooperative Deptt hosts one-day stakeholders meet at Jammu

Landmark MoUs signed to strengthen Cooperative sector in J&K

KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 03: The Cooperative department Friday hosted a One-Day Stakeholders Meet at Convention Centre here to resonate the true meaning of 'Sahakar Se Samridhi' (Prosperity Through Cooperation).

The meet was graced by Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Babila Rakwal as the Chief Guest.

Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, Mohammad Shafiq Chak; Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu, Bal Krishan; Joint Registrars, Jammu Division, officers from NABARD, IIM, NCDC, allied departments, IIM and Chairperson of UNATI, Agri Allied and Marketing Multistate Cooperative Society Limited were also present on the occasion.

The event also witnessed participation from representatives of three prominent Multi State Cooperative Societies like National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL), Bharatiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Ltd (BBSL) & National Cooperative Export Ltd (NCEL) AND -MD of Unati Agri Allied and Marketing Multistate Coop Society Limited



who joined for the signing of landmark Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with various agencies. This initiative is seen as a major step towards realizing the Union Government's vision for a robust cooperative ecosystem.

In her keynote address, the Commissioner Secretary stated that the successful signing of these MoUs is a true demonstration of our collective will. She also appreciated the Cooperative Department for facilitating the formation of Apex-level federations within such a short span of time.

The Commissioner Secretary further said that these federations, through their collaboration with the three Multistate

Cooperatives, will play a vital role in expanding business opportunities, strengthening value chains, and ensuring benefits reach farmers at the grass-roots level.

The formal exchange of MoUs, officiated by the Commissioner Secretary, marked the beginning of new cooperative alliance. The agreements were signed between the apex cooperative bodies of Kashmir and Jammu, represented by the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K, and the Additional Registrar, Jammu, along with officials from the three multistate cooperatives, BBSL, NCOL, & NCEL.

Also, an MOU was signed between Centre for Cooperative

Management, Jammu represented by its Principal, Preeti Sharma, Joint Registrar (Special) and FICCI FLO represented by its Chairperson, Aarti Choudhari. The MoU will facilitate women entrepreneurship, digital and financial literacy and exposure visits for the participants.

Earlier, the Commissioner Secretary also visited various stalls installed by FPOs, PACS, UNATI, Cooperatives etc. She enquired about the products exhibited during the program.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary also distributed the certificates among the young achievers and gave mementos to the representatives of NCEL, NCOL, BBSL and FICCI.

DC Poonch reviews progress of works in Mankote

KT News Desk

POONCH, OCTOBER 3: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Friday reviewed the ongoing developmental activities under the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) of the Government of India here at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of DC Office.

Focusing on Aspirational Block Mankote, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed key performance indicators across crucial sectors including health and nutrition, education, agriculture and allied services, basic infrastructure, sanitation, drinking water supply, tap water connectivity (Jal Jeevan Mission), housing under PMAY-G and social development.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized strict compliance with programme guidelines and called for timely data updates on the official Portal for transparency and real-time monitoring.

Special focus was laid on the education sector, with the directions to the Chief Education Officer to engage proactively with school heads on improving student

retention and transition rates.

The DC urged all line departments to bridge performance gaps with targeted and immediate interventions. He also highlighted the necessity of resource optimization and encouraged departments to make strategic investments aimed at the modernization and integrated development of the aspirational block.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Pankaj Magotra; Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal Zargar; Assistant Commissioner Development Shakeel Ahmed; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan; Chief Education Officer Mukhtar Ahmed; Chief Agriculture Officer, Yog Raj Salathia; XEN JPDCL Aftab Ahmed; XEN Jal Shakti, Lead District Manager (LDM) Banks; Deputy CEO, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Aspirational Block Programme Fellow, Ajaz Ahmed as well as concerned Assistant Executive Engineers (AEs), Junior Engineers (JEs), TSWO, Veterinary Assistant Surgeons (VAS) and other officials.

Induction programme for MBBS Freshers held

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 03: An Induction programme for Freshers Batch (2025-26) of MBBS students was hosted Friday on the makeshift campus of Government Medical College & Associate Hospital Udhampur.

The ceremony started with a welcome address by the Principal Prof. Dr. Parmod Kalsotra. Addressing the students of the new batch, the Principal highlighted various aspects of the MBBS course.

This was followed by White coat and Stethoscope adorning ceremony. Later, the students were administered Charak Shapath.

The ceremony was attended by the faculty members along with senior officers of the Administration, Accounts section and Establishment.

The induction ceremony also involved interaction with the parents of the students with the Principal facilitating two way feedback.

Earlier, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Parmod Kalsotra inaugurated the event with the lighting of ceremonial lamp in presence of Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sharma (MEU Coordinator), Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sadhu (HOD Anaesthesia), Dr. Gurmeet Kour (HOD PSM), Dr. Nishu Priya (HOD OBG), Dr. Lokesh Gupta (FA/CAO), Dr. Sanjeev Gupta (Medical Superintendent, AH GMC Udhampur) along with other faculty members.

Trump sets Hamas Sunday deadline to agree peace deal

AP

Deir Al-Balah, Gaza Strip, Oct 03: US President Donald Trump said Friday that Hamas must agree to a proposed peace deal by Sunday evening, threatening an even greater military onslaught nearly two years into the war sparked by the Oct. 7 attack into Israel.

Trump appears keen to deliver on pledges to end the war and return dozens of hostages ahead of the second anniversary of the attack on Tuesday. His peace plan has been accepted by Israel and welcomed internationally, but key mediators Egypt and Qatar, and at least one Hamas official, have said some elements need further negotiation, without elaborating.

"An Agreement must be reached with Hamas by Sunday Evening at SIX (6) P.M., Washington, D.C. time," Trump wrote Friday on social media. "Every Country has signed on! If this LAST CHANCE agreement is not reached, all HELL, like no one has ever seen before, will break out against Hamas. THERE WILL BE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ONE WAY OR THE OTHER."

Trump's plan would end the fighting and return hostages

Under the plan, which Trump unveiled earlier this week alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Hamas would immediately release the remaining 48 hostages



— around 20 of them believed to be alive. It would also give up power and disarm.

In return, Israel would halt its offensive and withdraw from much of the territory, release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and allow an influx of humanitarian aid and eventual reconstruction. Plans to relocate much of Gaza's population to other countries would be shelved.

The territory of some 2 million Palestinians would be placed under international governance, with Trump himself and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair overseeing it. The plan provides no path for eventual reunification with the Israeli-occupied West Bank in a

future Palestinian state.

A Hamas official told The Associated Press this week that some elements of the plan are unacceptable and need to be amended, without elaborating. Palestinians long for an end to the war, but many view this and previous US proposals as strongly favoring Israel.

US and Israel seek to pressure Hamas

Israel has sought to ramp up pressure on Hamas since ending an earlier ceasefire in March. It sealed the territory off from food, medicine and other goods for 2 1/2 months and has seized, flattened and largely depopulated large areas of the territory.

Experts determined that

Gaza City had slid into famine shortly before Israel launched a major offensive aimed at occupying it. An estimated 400,000 people have fled the city in recent weeks, but hundreds of thousands more have stayed behind.

Olga Cherevko, a spokesperson for the UN humanitarian office, said she saw several displaced families staying in the parking lot of Shifa Hospital during a visit on Thursday.

"They are not able to move south because they just cannot afford it," Cherevko told The Associated Press. "One of the families had three children and the woman was pregnant with her fourth. And there were many other vulnerable cases there, including elderly people and people with disabilities."

Trump wrote that most of Hamas' fighters are "surrounded and MILITARILY TRAPPED, just waiting for me to give the word, 'GO,' for their lives to be quickly extinguished. As for the rest, we know where and who you are, and you will be hunted down, and killed."

Most of Hamas' top leaders in Gaza and thousands of its fighters have already been killed, but it still has influence in areas not controlled by the Israeli military and launches sporadic attacks that have killed and wounded Israeli soldiers.

Hamas has held firm to its position that it will only release the remaining hostages

— its sole bargaining chip and potential human shields — in exchange for a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal. Netanyahu has rejected those terms, saying Hamas must surrender and disarm.

Second anniversary approaches

Thousands of Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, attacking army bases, farming communities and an outdoor music festival, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians. They abducted 251 others, most of them since released in ceasefires or other deals.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 66,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. It says women and children make up around half the dead.

The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government, and the UN and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

The offensive has displaced around 90 percent of Gaza's population, often multiple times, and left much of the territory uninhabitable.

Both the Biden and Trump administrations have tried to end the fighting and bring back the hostages while providing extensive military and diplomatic support to Israel.

Indian Americans donated over \$3 billion to US universities since 2008: Indiaspora

PTI

New York, Oct 03: Indian-Americans have donated over USD 3 billion to US universities since 2008, according to a new study that highlights the multi-generational multiplier effects of the diaspora community's contribution towards strengthening research, innovation and access to higher education across the US.

In a new research, leading nonprofit organisation Indiaspora said Thursday that Indian-Americans, many of whom credit their undergraduate and graduate experiences at US universities as the foundation of their professional success, are giving back in transformative ways.

"Through landmark donations to higher education institutions across the country, the Indian American community is not only honouring the institutions that shaped their lives but also ensuring future generations have access to the same opportunities for learning, innovation, and leadership development," Indiaspora said.

It noted that since 2008, Indian-Americans have donated over USD 3 billion to US universities, creating a powerful "fly-wheel effect" that strengthens the US educational ecosystem while reinforcing professional and cultural ties between India and America.

"By investing in universities, Indian American donors who value education are 'putting their money where their mouth is. They are also demonstrating a larger commitment to

America, supporting Americans of all races, ethnicities and backgrounds to thrive." Founder and Chairman of Indiaspora MR Rangaswami said.

The research also found that 78 percent of Indian-Americans hold a bachelor's degree or higher far exceeding the national average, and Indian students contribute nearly USD 10 billion annually to the US economy, supporting an estimated 93,000 American jobs.

It added that approximately 270,000 Indian students are currently enrolled in American universities.

"Through philanthropic donations to US-based educational institutions, Indian Americans are not only transforming lives today—they are building a meaningful legacy in and for this country and the world: one that multiplies across generations and ensures that American universities will continue to shape future leaders, foster innovation, and advance knowledge for the benefit of all," Executive Director of Indiaspora Sanjeev Josphura said.

The research noted that a vast majority of publicly known donations have gone towards medical and health sciences, engineering, and business education.

In addition to professional fields, USD 140 million has been directed toward cultural programming.

Endowments for South Asian, Hindu, and Indian studies symbolise the community's dedication to preserving their cultural heritage while enriching America's academic landscape, it said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Pakistan risks losing

terrorists. We had aimed to strike their bases. We have no complaints against ordinary Pakistani citizens, so long as their country does not sponsor terrorists. Because terrorists were being sponsored, those terrorist targets were hit," General Dwivedi said.

Referring to the people living near the international border, he said, "We consider the border population not as ordinary civilians but as soldiers. That means they stand shoulder to shoulder with us in the battle. This is crucial because the coming struggle is the nation's struggle, not just the Army's."

The Army chief said history bears witness that during the 1965 and 1971 wars, ordinary citizens stood shoulder to shoulder with the soldiers. "We would want them to join us in the days ahead as well. I want to thank them — their zeal boosts the morale of our soldiers," he said.

Earlier General Dwivedi visited forward areas including Bikaner Military Station to review the operational readiness of troops.

"During the visit he interacted with senior military leadership, veterans, civil dignitaries and soldiers, reiterating the Army's focus on modernisation, combat preparedness, strengthening technological capabilities and operational excellence," an Army statement said, as per KNO.

"The COAS felicitated veterans Lt Col Hem Singh Shekhawat (Retd), Lt Col Birbal Bishnoi (Retd), Risaldar Bhanwar Singh (Retd) and Hav Nakat Singh (Retd) for their valuable contributions towards nation building," it added.

"He also interacted with all ranks, emphasising the rapidly evolving nature of warfare and the Army's commitment to integrating UAS and counter-UAS technologies across the operational spectrum to enhance adaptability and preparedness against emerging threats," the statement said.

Addressing the formation, including veterans of Bikaner, the Chief Of Army Staff (COAS) commended the troops for their dedication, steadfast commitment to duty and effective multi-agency coordination, while operating in the demanding desert and semi-desert terrain. He highlighted the importance of technology absorption at all levels to sustain high operational readiness.

"The COAS further underscored that the current complex security environment demands seamless synergy between the Armed Forces, government agencies, industry, academia and society, adopting a Whole-of-Nation approach to defence preparedness. He also highlighted the significance of Military-Civil Fusion and lauded the contribution of veterans in strengthening India's defence preparedness and battlefield dominance," it added. (KNO)

Pak lost 12 military

class—this is what our system tells us." He said that during Operation Sindoor, the IAF's advanced long-range surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) prevented Pakistan from operating even within its own territory up to a certain range.

MOCKS ISLAMABAD'S CLAIM

While mocking Islamabad's claim that it had downed Indian jets Singh said, "If they think they downed our 15 jets, I hope they are convinced about it and they will cater for 15 less aircraft in my inventory when they come to fight again."

The IAF chief said India entered into conflict

with Pakistan in May this year with a clear goal and ended it quickly after achieving its objectives. "This should serve as a lesson for the world, as many other ongoing wars have no end in sight," he added.

"A clear directive, clear mandate was given to the Indian Armed Forces. It stands as a lesson which will go down in history that this is one war that was started with a very clear objective and it was terminated in a quick time without just prolonging it," he said.

"We are seeing what is happening in the world, the two wars that are going on, there's no talk about termination. But we could make them (Pakistan) reach a stage where they ask for a ceasefire, ask for termination of hostilities. And also, we took a call as a nation to terminate those hostilities because our own objectives were met. I think this is something that the world needs to learn from us," Singh said.

The Air Chief Marshal said, "Wars will not be like before. We need to be prepared for current and future challenges with an integrated approach involving all services and agencies."

"Self-reliance remains a central goal for the IAF. The Indian Air Force has placed orders for the LCA Mk1A, with development continuing on the LCA Mk2 and Indian Multi-Role Helicopter projects," he said.

The IAF Chief said that several radars and systems are also being developed domestically.

He also spoke about successful joint exercises with countries like the UAE, Egypt, France, and Singapore, with foreign commanders showing interest in continuing these drills.

Sharing details about the forthcoming 93rd Air Force Day that will feature a parade at Hindon Air Base on October 8 with full rehearsal on October 6, Singh said, "A special flypast will include a Mi-17 helicopter carrying the Operation Sindoor flag. Static displays will present Rafale and Su-30 MKI fighters, transport aircraft, the Akash missile system, radars, and other equipment."

"We're showcasing 18 innovations that reflect the IAF's drive for self-reliance and solutions-focused thinking. We've also played a key role in humanitarian operations across multiple Indian states this year," he added. (KNO)

CM directs depts

Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Principal Secretary Home and PWD; Secretary Education; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; all Deputy Commissioners; MD KPDCL; Chief Engineers of Irrigation & Flood Control, PHE, Project SAMPARK and BEACON; officers and representatives of NHAI, NHIDCL, and the Meteorological Centre J&K, among others. Outstation officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

Reviewing the arrangements, the Chief Minister directed the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to issue timely advisories to farmers and orchardists and ensure the smooth transportation of fruit to terminal markets, particularly during peak harvesting season.

He asked the Public Works Department and national highway agencies, including NHIDCL, NHAI, SAMPARK and BEACON, to keep adequate machinery on standby for snow and debris clearance at vulnerable spots to maintain

uninterrupted road connectivity.

Similarly, the Power Development and Jal Shakti Departments were instructed to deploy quick-response teams for immediate restoration of electricity and water supply in case of disruptions, while the Disaster Management Department was tasked with activating control rooms and maintaining close coordination with the district administrations to monitor the situation round-the-clock.

The Chief Minister also directed police and traffic authorities to regulate vehicular movement on highways and other vital roads, and to issue travel advisories as and when required for the safety of the general public.

Laying special focus on healthcare preparedness, Omar Abdullah instructed the Health Department to ensure availability of ambulances at vulnerable spots and to identify patients requiring urgent evacuation so that necessary steps could be taken without delay in the event of an emergency. The Information Department, he said, must ensure that timely updates and weather advisories are widely disseminated through all available channels so that people remain informed and can take precautionary measures in advance.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the stock position of ration, medicines, fuel and LPG.

He was informed that sufficient stocks are available till November and supplies are being replenished regularly. Such areas in Jammu division which usually get affected during adverse weather conditions have also been stocked adequately to avoid shortages.

To streamline snow and debris clearance, the Chief Minister directed that different roads be specifically assigned to designated agencies to avoid duplication of efforts and confusion. He called for unified control rooms to be established for better coordination, stressing that clearance operations should be undertaken in a continuous flow to ensure timely restoration of road connectivity.

Underscoring the importance of preparedness, the Chief Minister said: "The government's top priority is to remain fully prepared and responsive to any situation arising from the anticipated weather disturbance. Every department must work in close coordination to safeguard people, prevent loss to crops, and protect vital infrastructure."

J&K higher reaches

Jammu division and moderate to heavy rain over isolated places of Kashmir division on October 6.

The director further said that a brief spell of light rain is expected at a few places on October 8, adding that the weather would remain generally dry from October 9 to 14.

Earlier, an advisory was issued, which stated that under the influence of a strong western disturbance, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to receive a three-day wet spell from Saturday evening, while the higher reaches of the region are expected to experience the season's first snowfall.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a weather advisory, forecasting a strong western disturbance, expected to impact Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining areas from October 4 (Saturday).

The IMD warned that adverse weather conditions could lead to significant disruptions in surface transport, particularly along key routes such as the Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Leh National Highways, as well as other roads in

the middle and higher reaches.

There is also a possibility of moderate to severe thunderstorms and lightning, which may be accompanied by strong gusty winds at multiple locations.

The probable impacts also include the possibility of landslides, mudslides and shooting stones in vulnerable areas.

The advisory has urged farmers across the region to suspend all farming operations between October 5 and 7 to prevent potential damage to crops and equipment.

With heavy rainfall expected over a short duration, authorities anticipate a rise in water levels in rivers, local streams and nallas, which could lead to waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Moreover, the district administration Srinagar has issued an advisory, advising people living near the Left and Right Banks of the River Jhelum, including its tributaries and flood channels, as well as nallahs, to stay away from water bodies due to potential safety hazards.

The administration has specifically warned tourists, local Shikara Wallas and sand miners at Dal Lake and River Jhelum not to attempt crossing water bodies without verifying conditions.

For any emergencies, the public can contact the District Emergency Operation Centre Srinagar and the Police Control Room at the following numbers: DEOC Srinagar Landlines 0194-2457543, 0194-2483651, 0194-2457552 WhatsApp Helplines 9103998355, 9103998356 & 9103998357 Police Control Room Srinagar 0194-2477567.

The advisory, issued by the Additional Deputy Commissioner and CEO, DDMA Srinagar, emphasises that the public must adhere to instructions from district authorities to ensure their safety during the forecasted weather conditions.

Authorities, including the Municipal Corporation, Police, SDRF, Transport, PHE, Power Department, and emergency services, have been alerted and instructed to remain prepared.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the preparedness of various departments in view of the weather advisory issued by the Meteorological Centre.

The Chief Minister said all concerned departments must remain in a state of full readiness to minimise possible damage to fruit crops, ensure uninterrupted supply of essential services and keep all major roads and highways functional during the weather disturbance.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, convened an urgent meeting with officials from key departments to review preparedness and the mitigation plan.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner instructed concerned departments to ensure the immediate deployment of personnel and machinery at critical locations to facilitate swift snow clearance.

He stressed the importance of completing the tendering process for the winter snow clearance plan by October 31 and directed the deployment of trained and experienced machinery operators to avoid damage to road infrastructure. (KNO)

Court permission

have any role in approving PSA. The PSA is slapped by the district magistrate," he said.

Para was served show cause notice by the Assembly secretariat for his social media post

claiming that the Assembly secretariat had endorsed the detention of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

"Shameful surrender.Assembly Secretariat endorsing PSA against an elected MLA is a direct assault on democracy. J&K CM @OmarAbdullah must act, don't allow the institution of MLA, the last agency of the people, to be silenced. Today it's Mehraj, tomorrow it could be you," Para had said in a post on X, formerly twitter.

The Speaker said that they are in process of framing a provisional calendar for the upcoming session of the Assembly.

"I think it wouldn't have more than 5-7 sittings. This is a brief session. It depends on government business. We are getting information about government business within one or two days and will issue a provisional calendar," he said. (KNO)

J&K Bank contributes

always been at the forefront of supporting the community in testing times, and this gesture once again demonstrates its deep sense of responsibility towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

PM Modi's steps

Prime Minister, Modi, through his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, gave the message to the citizens to use Khadi. And see the result, Shah said referring to the turnover of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission now. A good system of khadi's marketing and packaging was made and people were inspired," he said.

When we wear khadi, it is not just a dress, but a feeling of 'swadeshi' and 'Atmanirbharta', Shah said. (KNO)

Railway emerges

Jammu and Kashmir. Other automobile companies will also join the project, benefiting both the railways and the automobile companies.

He explained that rail transport is safer because vehicles are transported in enclosed compartments, protecting them from theft, weather conditions, and road damage. Rail transport also reduces vehicle wear and tear compared to road travel.

Recalling recent achievements, Uchit Singhal said, "Since the opening of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link, the following commodities have been transported from the Kashmir Valley: Apples: 12,400.9 tons, Cement: 48,387 tons, Steel frames: 1,341 tons, Plastic goods: 716.1 tons." (KNO)

Use cough syrups

"All healthcare facilities and clinical establishments must ensure procurement and dispensing of cough syrup products manufactured under Good Manufacturing Practices and formulated with pharmaceutical-grade excipients," the advisory stated. It also directed state and district health authorities to sensitize doctors, pharmacists, and dispensers—both in public and private sectors—on rational prescribing practices.

Dr. Sunita Sharma, Director General of Health Services (DGHS) called for its immediate implementation and dissemination across government dispensaries, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), district hospitals, and medical institutions across the country.

The move comes amid growing concerns worldwide about the misuse of paediatric cough syrups and potential adverse effects, especially in very young children. (KNO)

Indian legal system governed by rule of law, not by rule of bulldozer: CJI Gavai

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 03: Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Friday said the Indian legal system is governed by rule of law and not by "rule of the bulldozer".

Delivering the inaugural Sir Maurice Rault Memorial Lecture 2025 in Mauritius on 'Rule of Law in the Largest Democracy', he referred to his own verdict deprecating 'bulldozer justice'.

Sir Maurice Rault, a noted jurist, was the Chief Justice of Mauritius from 1978 to 1982.

Highlighting the principle of rule of law and its expansive interpretation by the Supreme Court of India, Justice Gavai, who is on a three-day official visit to the island nation, said, "The judgment sent a clear message that the Indian legal system is governed by the rule of law, not by the rule of the bulldozer."

In the judgement in the 'bulldozer justice' case, the apex court held that demolition of houses of accused in response to alleged offenses bypasses legal processes, violates the rule of law and



infringes upon the fundamental right to shelter under Article 21.

"It was further held that the executive cannot assume the roles of judge, jury, and executioner simultaneously," the CJI said.

He delivered the lecture in the presence of President of Mauritius Dharameer Gokhool, Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and Chief Justice Rehana Mungly Gulbul among others.

In his address, the CJI referred to various landmark judgements of the apex court including the 1973 Kesavananda Bharati verdict that had brought the basic structure doctrine and clipped the powers of

Parliament to amend every bit of the Constitution.

"Over the past 75 years since the adoption of the Indian Constitution, the concept of the Rule of Law has evolved far beyond legal texts, permeating social, political, and constitutional discourse alike," he said.

The CJI referred to recent notable verdicts including the one which abolished the practice of instant triple talaq among Muslims.

He also highlighted the judgements in the case challenging the law on adultery and the electoral bond scheme.

"Taken together, these four judgments demonstrate how the Supreme Court has developed the rule of law as a substantive principle, using it to strike down laws that are manifestly arbitrary or unjust," he said.

Justice Gavai also emphasised the importance of the

standing in stark contrast to misgovernance and lawlessness, where institutions and public officials might otherwise evade accountability," he said. Referring to the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar, Justice Gavai said their vision demonstrated that in India "the Rule of Law is not a mere set of rules".

"It is an ethical and moral framework designed to uphold equality, protect human dignity, and guide governance in a diverse and complex society," he said.

The CJI referred to recent notable verdicts including the one which abolished the practice of instant triple talaq among Muslims.

He also highlighted the judgements in the case challenging the law on adultery and the electoral bond scheme.

"Taken together, these four judgments demonstrate how the Supreme Court has developed the rule of law as a substantive principle, using it to strike down laws that are manifestly arbitrary or unjust," he said.

Justice Gavai also emphasised the importance of the

judgement which held right to privacy as a fundamental right.

"This articulation underscores that, when understood as a core principle of constitutionalism, the rule of law operates on both procedural and substantive levels: it restrains arbitrary action by the State, guarantees equality before the law, and embeds democratic accountability across all branches and levels of governance," he said.

Justice Gavai said the principle has animated the legal discourse as the apex court repeatedly invoked the language of rule of law to both legitimise and explain its constitutional role, as well as the constitutional roles of other branches of the state.

"The rule of law is thus not a rigid doctrine but a conversation across generations, between judges and citizens, parliaments and peoples, nations and their histories. It is about how we govern ourselves in dignity, and how we resolve the inevitable conflicts of liberty and authority in a democratic society," he said.

RBI moots rationalising norms for setting up offices by foreign entities

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 03: The Reserve Bank on Friday proposed to rationalise norms for establishment of a branch or office in the country by entities resident outside India.

In this regard, the central bank has issued 'Draft Foreign Exchange Management (Establishment in India of a branch or office) Regulations, 2025'.

"The draft proposals offer greater operational freedom by shifting from prescriptive to a principle-based framework, which is expected to result in greater operational freedom," the RBI said. Further, the eligibility criteria for establishment of a place of business in India, are proposed to be relaxed, it added.

Regarding opening a branch or office in India, the draft said an Entity Resident Outside India (EROI) should submit an application in a specified form to a bank, who may grant approval as per these proposed regulations.

Post approval and



opening of an account for the branch or office, the bank would report establishment of such office to the Reserve Bank of India.

"The RBI shall allot a Unique Identification Number (UIN) to the branch or office on the basis of the data submitted by the designated bank," said the draft on which the RBI has sought stakeholders comments/feedback by October 24, 2025.

Further, an application for establishing a branch or office in India would require prior approval of Government of India if the EROI is a person resident in Pakistan, non-profit organisation, or is owned or controlled by the government of a foreign

country.

Prior government's permission would also be required if the applicant EROI is a person resident in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong or Macau, or Sri Lanka and is intending to establish a branch or office in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, North-East region and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The government's approval would also be required if the EROI's principal business falls in the sectors of defence, telecom, private security and information and broadcasting or in any other sector where foreign direct investment is either prohibited or is under the 'approval route'.

Kejriwal alleges 'BJP-Congress alliance' in Goa

Says state reeling under corruption, 'gundaraj'

PTI

Panaji, Oct 03: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Friday alleged a "BJP-Congress alliance" in Goa and said the two national outfits have subjected the coastal state to "corruption, violence and gundaraj" for the past 13 years.

In a post on X ahead of his three-day visit to Goa, the former Delhi CM accused the BJP government of presiding over illegal construction, unauthorised iron ore mining, frequent power cuts, unemployment, and a decline in tourism, a key source of revenue for the state.

"Goa has witnessed massive illegal construction, illegal mining, insane amount of corruption, violence, state-sponsored gundaraj (rule of goons), deteriorating law and order, high crime rate, potholed roads, crimes against women, frequent power cuts, massive



unemployment, a sharp decline in tourism and an assault on Goan culture," Kejriwal maintained.

Under the present administration, an average Goan is living under constant fear, claimed the bureaucrat-turned-politician, a former Congress ally.

Anyone who dares to speak against the government is "threatened or attacked" and life in Goa

has become a "daily torture" under the current dispensation, he alleged.

Kejriwal asserted that AAP leaders and volunteers were "courageously raising their voice on behalf of Goans against BJP-Congress alliance's gundaraj".

The AAP leader said during his three-day visit, he will meet party workers and leaders in the state, where the Opposition outfit has two MLAs.

Delhi govt officials must upgrade skills to serve people better: CM



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 03: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Friday said government officials must constantly upgrade themselves with the latest techniques and technology to work efficiently and address people's problems sensitively.

Addressing a two-day training programme for Tehsildars and Sub Registrars of the Revenue Department here, Gupta said training is an important part of life for officials as well as political leaders.

"There has not been any system of training of officials in the Delhi government. The Tehsildars and Sub Registrars will be able to serve people more efficiently after this training," she said.

The government has also issued directions for the training of senior officers, the chief minister said.

"It is imperative to equip officials with the latest systems and techniques for better governance and redressing public grievances," she emphasised.

Asserting that sensitivity is an important part of the training, Gupta urged officials to stay connected with people and resolve their problems.

Niti Aayog pitches for presumptive taxation scheme for foreign investors

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 03: The government think tank Niti Aayog on Friday suggested the introduction of a presumptive taxation scheme for foreign companies to provide certainty and simplicity.

The Aayog, in a working paper, said the optional presumptive taxation scheme would help resolve disputes concerning PE (permanent establishment), simplifying compliance and protecting revenue.

"The proposed presumptive taxation scheme is a proactive and pragmatic solution to a long-standing problem.

"It balances India's sovereign right to tax with the need to provide certainty and simplicity to



foreign investors," the working paper said.

The paper noted that despite India's inherent appeal and remarkable FDI growth, structural impediments such as ambiguous PE regulations introduce tax uncertainty and dampen investments.

"Codify PE and attribution principles into domestic law, aligned with global norms, while avoiding retrospective amendments.

"...by adopting a presumptive taxation scheme, India can transform its tax regime from a 'minefield' into a 'well-lit path', significantly improving its standing in global business indices," it said.

The presumptive taxation scheme works to provide relief to taxpayers from the tedious work of maintaining regular books of account under certain circumstances.

A company opting for this scheme can declare income at a prescribed rate; in lieu of that, it is relieved from maintaining books of accounts for audit by tax authorities.

The paper emphasised that this bold reform would align tax policy with the larger economic vision.

I-T dept imposes Rs 23 crore penalty on Adani Cement entity ACC

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 03: The Income Tax (I-T) department has imposed two separate fines on ACC Ltd, totalling Rs 23.07 crore, which will be contested by the Adani Group firm before the appellate authorities.

The I-T department has slapped a penalty of Rs 14.22 crore allegedly "for furnishing of inaccurate particulars of income" for Assessment Year 2015-16. The department has also levied a penalty

amounting to Rs 8.85 crore "for under-reporting of income" for Assessment Year 2018-19.

"The company will be contesting both orders by filing appeals before the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) within the prescribed timelines and, in parallel, will seek a stay on the penalty demands raised under the respective orders," ACC said in regulator filings on Thursday.

The company received these two demands on October 1, 2025, and said that these penalties will have no impact on financial activity.

Global study projects 51 lakh in India could be at risk of chikungunya every year in long-term

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 03: India could experience the biggest impacts of chikungunya in the long-term, potentially putting 51 lakh people at risk of the mosquito-borne infection every year, a global modelling study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health suggests.

Brazil and Indonesia might be the second and third most affected, with impacts due to the disease in India and Brazil accounting for 48 per cent of the global impact on healthcare systems and individuals, the findings show.

The study, led by researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, suggests chronic health impacts will be the biggest concern, with existing evidence suggesting around 50 per cent of the affected possibly grappling with a long-term disability. Around the world, more than 1.40 crore people every year could be at risk of chikungunya infection in the long term, the study estimated.

"The potential spread of vectors carrying viruses like chikungunya won't wait for us



to carry out years of research, so it's been extremely important to us that the model we're working on is shared and used in real time to help public health professionals manage current cases and prepare for the future," said co-author Sushant Sahasrabudhe, associate director general of innovation, initiatives, and enterprise development at the International Vaccine Institute, South Korea.

Chikungunya is a virus that spreads through bites of the 'Aedes aegypti' and 'Aedes albopictus' mosquitoes, more commonly known as yellow fever and tiger mosquitoes. Symptoms can include high fever and severe joint pain, and about 50 per cent of the patients are said to suffer from long-term joint pain and

disability.

While there are no specific treatments for the viral mosquito-borne infection, two preventive vaccines have been approved for use in certain countries, including the US.

The study is the first of its kind to predict chikungunya burden by combining existing data on chikungunya infections with factors that may influence the likelihood of infections, the authors said. Previous estimates that often looked at surveillance and outbreak reports could likely be an underestimate, they added.

Estimates presented in the study could be useful for prioritising regions and targeting vulnerable age groups -- children under 10, adults aged 80 and over -- for introducing


chikungunya vaccine, the team said.

They estimated "global chikungunya burden annually of 14.4 million (1.44 crore) infections" and "India and Brazil accounted for 48 per cent of the global burden".


"The chronic phase accounts for 54 per cent of chikungunya burden, with relatively higher burden among 40-60-year-old population, with mortality disproportionately affecting children under 10 and adults over 80," the team added.

Lead researcher Hyolim Kang, also a research fellow at Nagasaki University, "It's been widely thought that mosquitoes carrying chikungunya would be confined to subtropical or tropical continents, but our analysis has found that the risk extends way beyond these regions."

"Prevention of the spread of this disease is important for everyone. There are no specific antiviral therapies for chikungunya and treatment relies solely on supportive care. Not only are infections extremely painful, even the healthiest of people can be infected and left with life-long disability," Kang said.



भारत सरकार
GOVT. OF INDIA
पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय
Ministry of Earth Science
भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग
India Meteorological Department
मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र, श्रीनगर
Meteorological Centre, Rambagh, Srinagar



150
Years of Service to the Nation
१९५८-२०२५

The Divisional Commissioner,
Kashmir/Jammu

Dated 02-10-2025

WEATHER ADVISORY

An active western disturbance most likely to affect Jammu & Kashmir and adjoining areas from 04th October, 2025 .Under the influence of this system, widespread light to moderate rain /snow (at higher reaches) are expected in j&k from 05th October to 07th October, 2025 with peak activity during 05th night to 07th Morning .

The above system most likely to Cause moderate to heavy Snowfall over higher reaches (Anantnag -Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan pass, Shupayan, Phi Ki, Gali, Sonamarg - Zojila, Bandipora - Razdan pass, Gulmarg and Kupwara -Sadhna pass)and Light snow over middle reaches, Moderate to heavy rain over the plains of Kashmir and isolated Heavy to very heavy rain over Jammu division with thunderstorm/lightning/hailstorm/strong winds of the order 40-50 KMPH gusting to 60-70 KMPH .

Probable impacts:

1. Adverse weather activities may lead to disruption of surface transport including Jammu -Srinagar & Srinagar -Leh National Highway and other major roads of middle & higher reaches of J&K .
2. Possibility of moderate to severe thunderstorm/lightning accompanied with gusty winds at many places.
3. Chances of landslides mudslides & shooting Stones most likely over the vulnerable areas .
4. Farmers are advised to suspend all farm operations from 05th October to 07th October, 2025.
5. Rise in water level in rivers, local Streams & nallas and water logging in low lying areas .

Submitted for your Kind information and n/a.

DIPK-6786/25
DATED: 03-10-2025

M H.Mir (MET-B)
for Head
Met Centre Srinagar.

Protests worldwide condemn Israeli interception of Gaza flotilla

AFP

Paris, Oct 03: Protesters around the world Thursday rallied at Israel's interception of a flotilla carrying aid for Gaza's besieged Palestinians, urging greater sanctions in response.

From Europe to Australia and South America, demonstrators took to the streets to condemn the treatment of the Global Sumud Flotilla, which set sail from Barcelona last month to challenge Israel's blockade of Gaza, where the United Nations reports famine conditions after nearly two years of war.

Forty-one ships with more than 400 people aboard, including politicians and climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, were halted by the Israeli navy from Wednesday and prevented from reaching the coastal territory, an Israeli official said.

A boat carrying former Barcelona mayor Ada Colau was among those prevented from proceeding. Colau and her fellow activists, including Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela, face deportation by Israel.

Several hundred protesters also marched outside the Irish parliament in Dublin, where support for the Palestinian cause has often been compared to Ireland's centuries-long struggle against British colonial rule.

Miriam McNally, who said her daughter had set sail with the flotilla, was at the Dublin demonstration.

"I am worried sick for my daughter, but I am so proud of her and of what she's doing," McNally told AFP.

"She is standing up for humanity in the face of grave danger." Around 15,000



people marched through Barcelona in protest at Israel's actions, according to the municipal police force in Spain's second city, chanting slogans including "Gaza, you are not alone," "Boycott Israel" and "Freedom for Palestine."

Riot police beat back a portion of the protesters who attempted to climb over barriers with truncheons, forcing them to retreat, images broadcast on Spanish public television showed.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators protest in Barcelona, Spain, on Oct. 2, 2025 in solidarity with the Global Sumud Flotilla after ships were intercepted by the Israeli navy. (AP)

Around a thousand people marched in Paris's Place de la Republique, an AFP journalist saw, while in the port city of Marseille, in southern France, around a hundred pro-Palestinian protesters were arrested in the afternoon after attempting to

block access to offices of weapons maker Eurolinks, accused of selling military components to Israel.

Protests were also held in Berlin, The Hague, Tunis, Brasilia and Buenos Aires, according to AFP correspondents.

'Intolerable' In Italy, where the country's main unions have called a general strike for Friday in solidarity with the flotilla, thousands took to the streets to urge Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to defend the activists.

Besides Rome, where police said 10,000 people joined a march, other protests took place in cities including Milan, Torino, Florence and Bologna.

A day after a similar demonstration Wednesday evening, protesters in the capital gathered at the Colosseum and marched, slamming the far-right prime minister's support of Israel. "We are prepared to block

everything. The genocidal machine must stop immediately," demonstrators chanted.

In Turkiye, whose government is among the fiercest critics of Israel's offensive, a long column of demonstrators marched to the Israeli embassy in Istanbul, with banners including "Total embargo on the occupation."

"We demand the release of all members of the Sumud fleet and all prisoners, and as university students, we demand that all academic and economic ties with the genocidal Israeli state be terminated at our universities," 21-year-old student Elif Bozkurt told AFP.

Around 3,000 demonstrators also took to the front of the European Parliament building in Brussels, with one banner urging the EU to "break the siege" as smoke bombs and crackers were set off in the crowd. "The message is that each

boat must be protected," a protester named Isis told AFP.

A similar-sized crowd rallied in Geneva, according to an AFP journalist at the scene and Swiss broadcasters, with the mostly young protesters lighting a bonfire near the central station.

The protesters then headed to the Swiss city's Mont Blanc bridge, at the end of Lake Geneva, to be met by a line of police in riot gear, who pushed the demonstrators back after brief clashes.

Protesters take part in a rally in support of the Gaza flotilla boats, in Geneva, Switzerland, on Oct. 2, 2025. (Keystone via AP)In the Greek capital Athens, a throng of protesters set off fireworks and flares.

"The attack against the flotilla Sumud, it was a barbaric escalation from the Israeli apartheid state. They don't want to even open a passage for humanitarian help to Gaza," Petros Konstantinou, coordinator of Greece's World Against Racism and Fascism (KEERFA) group, told AFP.

Dozens also rallied in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, in front of the embassy of the United States, Israel's key ally.

"We are very upset... Upset, angry, disgusted because what they are doing is for humanity," said Illi Farhan, 43.

"They are just bringing in aid and baby food... This arrest is unjust."

Apple removes ICE tracking apps after pressure by Trump admin

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 03: Apple said on Thursday that it had removed ICEBlock, the most popular ICE-tracking app, and other similar apps from its App Store after it was contacted by President Donald Trump's administration.

The app alerts users to Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in their area. ICE has been a central part of Trump's hard-line immigration agenda and its agents have regularly raided and arrested migrants. The Justice Department says the app could increase the risk of assault on US agents.

"Based on information we've received from law enforcement about the safety risks associated with ICEBlock, we have removed it and similar apps from the App Store," Apple said in an emailed statement.

Since Trump took office, ICE has raided multiple facilities with immigrants who are in the US illegally. The agency has also arrested visa holders and



permanent US residents targeted by the Trump administration over pro-Palestinian advocacy. Rights advocates have raised concerns that rights to free speech and due process are often being infringed as the government pushes ahead with its deportation drive.

Fox Business first reported the app's removal on Thursday, citing a statement by US Attorney General Pam Bondi who said the Justice Department contacted Apple to pull the app on Thursday and that the company complied.

"ICEBlock is designed to put ICE agents at risk

just for doing their jobs, and violence against law enforcement is an intolerable red line that cannot be crossed," Bondi said in her statement to Fox Business.

Bondi and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem have previously warned Joshua Aaron, the Texas-based creator of ICEBlock, that he is "not protected" under the Constitution and that they are looking at prosecuting him.

Apple's actions may also lead to further scrutiny over the warm ties that tech firms have tried to build with the Trump administration during his second term.

Prince William hints at changes to British monarchy when he is King



PTI

London, Oct 03: Prince William has given his first indication of plans when he succeeds his father, King Charles III, as British monarch in a rare candid interview for a light-hearted international travel documentary. The 43-year-old Prince of Wales and heir to the British throne told Canadian actor Eugene Levy during filming at Windsor Castle for 'The Reluctant Traveller' that change was on his agenda.

In clips released to promote the show that airs this week, Levy asks William if the monarchy would be "shifting in a slightly different direction" when he assumes the role of King. "I think it's safe

to say that change is on my agenda," William replied.

"Change for good, and I embrace that and I enjoy that change. I don't fear it, that's the bit that excites me - the idea of being able to bring some change. Not overly radical change, but changes that I think need to happen," he said.

With reference to the hereditary nature of the monarchy, which will then pass on to his eldest son Prince George one day, he added: "I want to create a world in which my son is proud of what we do, in a world and a job that actually does impact people's lives for the better.

"That is caveated with, I hope we don't go back to some of the practices in the past that Harry and I grew up in. And I'll do everything I can to make sure we don't regress in that situation."

In another clip, the royal opens up about being "overwhelmed" by family issues, alluding to both his wife Kate and his father Charles being diagnosed with cancer last year as "the hardest year".

"Stuff to do with family overwhelms me, quite a bit. You know, worry or stress around the family side of things, that does overwhelm me quite a bit. But in terms of doing the job and things like that, I don't feel too overwhelmed by that. Not now anyway," he shared.

FIFA unveils Trionda, the official ball of the 2026 World Cup



AFP

New York, Oct 03: FIFA has unveiled the official match ball for the 2026 World Cup, combining high-tech refinements and design details celebrating the three co-host countries—the United States, Mexico and Canada.

The ball, called Trionda, was again designed by German manufacturer Adidas, provider of the official World Cup balls since the 1970 tournament.

"I am delighted and proud to present the Trionda," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said as the ball was revealed at an event in New York on Thursday.

The first World Cup organised by three countries, with 48 teams competing, inspired both the name and the design of the ball featuring red, blue and green colors.

Iconography from each host nation—maple leaves from Canada, the eagle from Mexico and stars from the United States also feature, with a triangle referring to the unity of the three countries.

Less visible are technological advancements that include deep seams designed to produce "optimal in-flight stability" and embossed icons that improve grip in wet or humid conditions.

A motion sensor chip will relay information on the ball's movement, sending data to the video assistant referee (VAR) system.

The unveiling marks another step in the countdown to the North American World Cup, which will be held June 11-July 19 next year.

FIFA has launched its online phased ticket sales procedures, with more than 4.5 million fans from 216 countries and territories entering the presale draw.

The tournament draw will be held in Washington on December 5.

Afghan FM Muttaqi to visit Russia next week

PTI

Moscow, Oct 03: Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi will visit Moscow next week to attend a meeting on Afghanistan reconciliation and regional cooperation, the Russian Foreign Ministry has said.

In a regular briefing on Thursday, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that Muttaqi will also hold bilateral talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on the sidelines of the event.

"The seventh meeting of the Moscow



Format consultations on Afghanistan will be held in Moscow on October 7, bringing together special representatives and senior officials from Afghanistan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan," she said.

She added that a delegation from Belarus has also been invited as a guest.

Zakharova said Afghanistan will be represented by Foreign Minister Muttaqi, who will hold a separate meeting with Foreign Minister Lavrov on the sidelines of the event. The meeting on

Afghanistan is to be inaugurated by Lavrov.

At the in-camera meeting, priority will be given to promoting Afghan national reconciliation and expanding practical cooperation between regional states and Kabul in the political, economic, counter-terrorism, and anti-drug fields.

A joint statement is likely to be adopted following the meeting, according to Zakharova.

Muttaqi, who has been granted a UN travel-ban waiver recently, is also scheduled to visit India next week, media reports said.

I've worked on enjoying grinding and getting 100s: KL Rahul

PTI

Ahmedabad, Oct 03: Only two Test hundreds at home in a career spanning over a decade may not sit well with many. But elegant India batter KL Rahul on Friday said he has been working hard to correct that anomaly. Rahul, who has had an excellent tour of England this summer, struck his 11th century on the second day of the opening Test against the West Indies -- his first at home since the ton against the same team in Chennai way back in 2016. "Not sure really," Rahul said at the end of day's play when asked why a batter of his calibre has got just two hundreds at home.

"But yeah, somehow I think the only thing that I've worked on in the last year or so has been maintaining my batting tempo. Just enjoying the phases that are not as exciting for me in my own head," he added.

Rahul said he has been working hard on running the singles and twos while playing



at home as the conditions often demand that, something he was not able to do in the past thus affecting his conversion rate.

"Obviously when you travel abroad and play seaming swinging conditions with extra bounce, there's a lot of challenge doing that. And when you come back home, when there's three spinners playing and the field's spread out, you really need to get your runs with singles. The boundaries don't come that easily.

"So yeah, that's something that I've worked on and needed to make that mental switch to enjoy doing that, enjoy grinding and getting 100s with singles and twos as well. So that's something

that I've worked on in the last year or so.

"And yeah, I think that's the only difference that I can see and probably that's what I wasn't doing that well previously when I played at home," Rahul said. While his knock has put India in a dominant position after Dhruv Jurel and Ravindra Jadeja also helped themselves to centuries, it was the conditions than challenged him more than the visiting bowlers.

Rahul is coming off a big hundred for India A against Australia recently, and that has certainly helped him in his preparation for the short two-match series against West Indies after the break post the tour of England.

SHOW TIMINGS

Latest Movie Releases

Saturday, 4th Oct



KANTARA A LEGEND: CHAPTER 1 (UA16+)
HINDI ATMOS - 11:00 AM, 02:30 PM, 06:00 PM
HINDI - 12:30 PM



JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)
HINDI - 04:00 PM, 06:45 PM



SUNNY SANSKARI KI TULSI KUMARI (UA13+)
HINDI - 10:00 AM, 12:55 PM, 03:50 PM, 07:30 PM

INOX
LIVE the MOVIE
SRINAGAR

INOX CINEMA
SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

TICKETS AT: Paytm, Inox App, or Directly from the booking counter at the cinema.

www.bookmyshow.com | www.inoxmovies.com



CALL 95416 13868
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS