



Centre releases Rs 171 crore to flood-hit J&K farmers

Under PM Modi, no farmer will be left alone in crisis: Union Agri Minister

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 07: In a major relief initiative for farmers affected by recent floods and landslides in Jammu & Kashmir, the Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, on Monday released the 21st installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme in advance.

The installment, amounting to Rs 171 crore, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), was transferred directly to the bank accounts of 8.55 lakh farmers, including 85,418 women beneficiaries, through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. With this, the cumulative assistance under PM-KISAN for farmers in



Jammu & Kashmir has reached Rs 4,052 crore.

The release function was held at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, and attended by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Agriculture Secretary Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, ICAR DG Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, and other senior officials. Jammu &

Kashmir Agriculture Minister Javed Ahmad Dar, along with officials and farmers from across the Union Territory, joined the event virtually.

Speaking on the occasion, Chouhan reiterated the Centre's unwavering commitment to the welfare of farmers and | [More on P6](#)

LG Sinha thanks PM Modi, Union Minister CM expresses gratitude to Centre, hails J&K Govt's 'consistent efforts'

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 07: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan for advance release of 21st instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi | [More on P6](#)



Unallocated CGS's quota

MoP allocates over 870 MW winter power for J&K, Ladakh

'966 MWs for Nov, 1056 MWs from Dec-25 to Feb-26'

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 07: With the onset of winters, Ministry of Power (MoP) has allocated over 870 Megawatts (MWs) of power for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from the from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations (CGSs) of northern region.

The official documents reveal that the MoP has ordered the concerned authorities to execute the share of 44 percent (877.42 MWs) un-allocated quota of CGSs to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with effect from October-01.

The news agency—Kashmir

News Observer (KNO) has learnt that the MoP in the allocation percentage for winter months for the year 2025-26 has said that of the total un-allocated quota of CGSs of northern region, Jammu and Kashmir is receiving 44 percent for the month of October-2025, 49 percent for November-2025, 54 percent till December-2025 to February-2026 and 44 percent for the month of March-2026 respectively.

"Central Electricity has revised allocation of power from un-allocated quota of CGSs of northern region keeping in view the change in the requirement of power of northern states with the onset of winter season and requested NRPC to implement the allocation, after accounting for | [More on P6](#)

Weather improves after two-day wet spell in J&K

Major highways, roads closed; MeT predicts dry climate till Oct 17

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Oct 07: The season's first snowfall was recorded at multiple places in Jammu and Kashmir on the second straight day on Tuesday, while the weather conditions improved from this afternoon amid the closure of all the major highways and roads in the region.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the maximum temperature continued to witness a dip today as well amid the season's first snowfall in Kokernag, Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Sadhna Top, Karnah, Sinthan Top, Pir Ki Gali and others.

The weather conditions



Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

improved from this afternoon, while the day temperature recorded a dip for the second consecutive day today.

As per the details, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a

maximum temperature of 16.1 degrees Celsius (9.4 degrees Celsius below normal), Qazigund, the gateway of Kashmir, recorded 15.4 degrees Celsius (8.7 degrees Celsius | [More on P6](#)

Coordinate with MLAs to accelerate dev: CM to officials

Asks Finance Dept to prepare constituency-wise data of works

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday called for close coordination with MLAs to expedite CDF works and ensure visible development outcomes on the ground. He underlined the importance of enhancing revenue realization and curtailing avoidable expenditure.

"Wherever possible we have to boost our revenues, we have to cut down on all unnecessary expenditure, but at the same time, the money that has been allocated must be spent efficiently in various schemes," he said while chairing a high-level



meeting here to review the utilization of CAPEX budget and execution of works under Constituency Development

Fund (CDF) for the financial year 2025-26 across various sectors and progress achieved by departments | [More on P6](#)

MLAs call on CM, discuss constituencies, initiatives

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 07: Several legislators on Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here at the Civil Secretariat and discussed developmental initiatives with him within their constituencies.

Sources privy to the development told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the legislators discussed the issues pertaining to the developmental works within their constituencies including those already under execution.

"The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. The demands of the public were put forth and also the discussion was held related to the works

already under execution," said one of the legislators, who met the Chief Minister today.

The Chief Minister assured them that all the genuine issues will be addressed.

Earlier, Office of the Chief Minister, J&K, in a post on X, also informed about the meeting with the legislators.

"Several Hon'ble MLAs met Chief Minister today to discuss developmental priorities in their constituencies. The Chief Minister assured all important issues will be addressed and advised them to monitor development works in their areas to ensure visible outcome," the post reads.

Moreover, the Chief Minister also chaired a high-level meeting | [More on P6](#)

India responded decisively after Pahalgam attack: President Murmu



Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 07: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said Operation Sindoor demonstrated the Indian Armed Forces' coordinated strength and strategic planning by dismantling terrorist infrastructure across the LoC, which she termed as India's consistent balance between peace and war preparedness.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the President was addressing the faculty and course members of the 65th National Defence College Course at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Referring to the cross-border operation launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, Murmu said that a tri-service response was executed in a

calibrated manner.

"This operation resulted in the dismantling of terror infrastructure across the Line of Control and further beyond, and showed the impact of working together across military branches," she said, adding that this level of coordination was made possible due to structural changes in defence administration.

The President referred to the creation of the Department of Military Affairs and the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff as its Secretary as part of the process. The ongoing formation of Integrated Theatre Commands and Integrated Battle Groups, she said, is part of a restructuring plan.

"India is in the process of building an armed force capable of | [More on P6](#)

Untimely snowfall: Govt begins crop damage assessment

Growers advised to ensure orchard drainage, avoid packing wet produce

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 07: The Horticulture Department, Kashmir, has begun assessing the extent of crop damage following the untimely snowfall and rains that lashed several parts of the Valley over the past few days, officials said on Tuesday.

Deputy Director of Horticulture, Kashmir, Javid Ahmad Bhat, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that field officers have been directed to carry out detailed surveys in their respective areas to evaluate the losses suffered by fruit growers, particularly apple cultivators,

as harvesting season is still underway in many regions.

"Assessment of crop damages, if any, is currently underway across various districts of Kashmir. Our officers have been instructed to visit affected orchards and compile detailed reports. We are taking every possible measure to ensure accurate estimation of losses," Bhat said.

He said that an advisory had already been issued to orchardists ahead of the recent weather forecast, urging them to pick their fruit before the expected rain and snow to minimise losses. "However, in many areas, apples were still hanging on trees | [More on P6](#)

2020 Transnational Narco-Terror Network Case

NIA chargesheets 8 more accused 'Drugs financed LeT terror outfit'

KNO

New Delhi, Oct 07: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday said that it has charge sheeted eight more accused in the 2020 transnational narco-terror network case involving smuggling of drugs from Pakistan through sea route into India via Gujarat.

In a statement to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) a NIA spokesman said, "The drugs were aimed at financing the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit."

He said, "In the 8th supplementary chargesheet filed in the Salaya drugs case RC-26/2020/NIA/DLI, NIA has conclusively established the

narco-terror conspiracy, masterminded by Italy-based Simranjit Singh Sandhu, Australia based Tanveer Bedi and India-based Ankush Kapoor. The chargesheet has been filed under various provisions of NDPS Act and UA (P) Act before

the NIA Special Court, Ahmedabad, based on extensive digital, technical, and documentary evidences." "Besides | [More on P6](#)



Alarming rise in suicides in J&K; unemployment, family distress major causes

Peerzada Ummer

Srinagar, Oct 07: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a worrying increase in suicides, recording a 13 per cent rise in one year, according to the latest report from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The report, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), reveals that 365 people ended their lives in 2023 compared to 323 in 2022. The data paints a grim picture of social and economic distress in the region, with unemployment emerging as the single

biggest cause.

The NCRB report shows that 178 unemployed individuals took their own lives in 2023, which accounts for 48 per cent of all suicides reported that year. Of these, 114 were men and 73 were women. In 2022, the figure was 84, including 58 men and 26 women. This indicates that the number of unemployed people taking their lives has more than doubled within a year.

The data also shows that men are facing greater pressure from joblessness, resulting in a higher suicide rate

among them.

Family problems were the second most common reason for suicide, causing 60 deaths in 2023. This includes 34 men and 26 women. Illness was another major factor, leading to 46 suicides, of which 29 were men. Mental health issues also saw a sharp increase, with 37 people taking their lives in 2023 compared to 19 in 2022. Of these, 26 were men.

The report also highlights a growing trend of suicides linked to love affairs. In 2023, 40 people, including 22 men and 18 women, died by



suicide due to failed relationships or emotional distress. In 2022, only 15 such cases were

recorded, including seven men and eight women. This represents a 166 per cent increase in

one year.

Financial distress continues to be a major contributor. Among the victims, 241 people had annual incomes below one lakh rupees. This included 120 men and 121 women. Another 108 people with incomes between one lakh and five lakh rupees also died by suicide, including 78 men and 30 women. These figures indicate that financial hardship cuts across income levels and remains a major cause of despair.

The NCRB report further reveals that hanging remains the most common method of

suicide, with 174 cases recorded in 2023. The second most frequent method was the consumption of poison, accounting for 120 deaths. The data also mentions the use of sleeping pills and other toxic substances in several cases.

According to experts, men tend to use more fatal methods when attempting suicide, which explains the higher rate of completed suicides among them. Women, on the other hand, attempt suicide more often but are less likely to succeed, they said.

Mental health | [More on P6](#)

Govt’s focus is every GMC functions efficiently: Sakeena

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 07: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday held a comprehensive review meeting to assess the overall performance, functioning, and infrastructure development of the Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) at Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, and Handwara.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; MD JKMSCL, Principals and Medical Superintendents of all GMCs, Director Finance/ Planning Health and Medical Education department, Chief Engineer R&B, South Kashmir/Central Kashmir/ North Kashmir, Chief Engineer Mechanical and other senior officers of the Health and Medical Education department.

During the review, the Minister took a detailed appraisal of academic performance, patient care services, manpower position, and the status of ongoing



infrastructure projects in all four institutions.

While reviewing performance and progress on ongoing infrastructure projects at GMCs, the Minister highlighted that GMCs are the backbone of the region's tertiary healthcare network and must deliver high-quality education and patient services while maintaining transparency and accountability in their functioning.

“These medical colleges are not only centres of academic excellence but also vital institutions for delivering accessible and affordable healthcare to the people. Our focus is on ensuring that every GMC

functions efficiently and provides modern facilities to patients and students alike”, Sakeena Itoo said.

Taking stock of ongoing infrastructure works at these institutions, the Minister directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite all pending works to ensure full operationalization of all hospital services at the earliest. She underlined the need for better coordination between the College Administrations and Public Works department (R&B) to remove bottlenecks delaying project completions.

The Minister also directed all executing agencies to ensure strict adherence to

quality parameters, safety standards, and project timelines. She instructed the department to regularly monitor progress and submit regular status reports.

While reviewing other aspects of these vital healthcare institutions, the Minister emphasized on the importance of human resource development, skill upgradation of medical and paramedical staff, and adoption of new technologies to improve healthcare delivery. She directed the officers to prioritize patient satisfaction, transparency in procurement and adherence to biomedical waste management norms.

CS reviews functioning of Mining Deptt Stresses on strict enforcement through IMSS

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review of the functioning of the Mining Department, with a special focus on the implementation and performance of the Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS), a technology-driven platform designed for real-time monitoring of mining operations across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Mining; Chairperson, Pollution Control Committee; Director, Geology & Mining, and other senior officers of the concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of leveraging the IMSS for ensuring transparency and curbing illegal mining activities across the UT.

He directed that every trigger or alert generated through the system must be followed up with concrete action on the ground. He stressed on fixing accountability in each case and taking strict legal action against delinquent officers or violators.

He further instructed that Deputy Commissioners be given access to the IMSS



platform to enable them to take prompt and effective action against illegal mining activities within their jurisdictions. He also called upon the Mining Department to regularly monitor field-level responses and furnish periodic performance briefs to his office regarding the outcomes achieved. The Chief Secretary commended the BISAG-N team for developing the IMSS and appreciated the live demonstration presented during the meeting, which showcased the system's capability to detect, locate, and address instances of illegal mining with high precision.

Reviewing the progress on identification and auction of mineral blocks, the Chief Secretary urged the Pollution Control Committee to provide a comprehensive checklist of clearances and requirements

so that all necessary formalities can be completed in one go, rather than in piecemeal fashion, which often causes unnecessary delays.

The meeting also took stock of the exploration and operationalization of both major and minor mineral blocks in J&K. The Chief Secretary underscored the need to expedite the process to enhance revenue generation. He also reviewed the progress of biogas exploration projects being undertaken in collaboration with ONGC across various parts of J&K.

Presenting an overview of departmental performance, Principal Secretary, Mining, Anil Kumar Singh, informed that so far 114 triggers have been generated through the IMSS, providing geo-spatial coordinates and satellite imagery of suspected illegal

mining sites. Of these, 29 triggers were physically verified by field officers, confirming unauthorized mining activities at 16 locations.

He further apprised that all such alerts are simultaneously shared with the Deputy Commissioners (DCs), Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), and District Mineral Officers (DMOs) concerned for immediate verification and action. The IMSS portal, he added, is being integrated with the e-Challan and e-Market platforms to improve its operational efficiency. In addition, the department is working to enhance the system with web-based vehicle tracking and on-spot e-challan capabilities to further strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

On the operational front, the meeting was informed that J&K currently has 48 limestone blocks and 235 minor mineral blocks, out of which 207 have been leased out and 98 are operational, with an expected revenue realization of about Rs220 Cr.

It was further revealed that 79 blocks are awaiting Environmental Clearance (EC), while 30 are at the Consent to Operate (CTO) stage.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e- NIT No. 95/2025-26 Dated 04-10-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on **Percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works: -
Call 1st

S. No.	Name of the Work	Block	Estimated / Adv. Cost (In lacs)	Cost of tender documents (In Rupees)	EMD (In %)	Class of Contractor	Time of completion	Major head
1.	RDDDC2526100100-(CO PARALLEL RWALL N LABKAD KULL NLO GH NABI SHEIKH AND OTHERS AT SANJIVATRO)	Kakapora	0.744	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
2.	RDDDC2526100132-(CO CULVERT NEAR HO AB REHMAN BHATAND OTHERS AT PUCHAL)	Kakapora	1.29	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
3.	RDDDC2526100141-(CO LANE FROM MAIN ROAD TO HO MOHD ASHRAF BHAT AND OTHERS BEO TILES AT QASIMABAD BWO TILES FROM PUCHAL RATNIPORA ROAD TO HO MOHD YASEEN ANDRABI AND OTHERS AT QASIMABAD)	Kakapora	0.699	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
4.	RDDDC2526100142-(CO DRAIN LINKROAD FROM MAIN ROAD TO HO SHOWKAT AHMAD DAR AND OTHERS AT KARAWA LAJOORA)	Kakapora	1.249	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
5.	RDDDC2526100143-(CO R WALL NEAR HOSPITAL AT KULLULO)	Kakapora	0.944	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
6.	RDDDC2526100150-(CO WATER CANNEL FROM LO NOOR MOHD BHAT TO ONWARDS AT RATNIPORA B)	Kakapora	0.999	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
7.	RDDDC2526100181-(CO R WALL ON PETHKHAH KUL NHO GH AHMAD HURRAH MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR MOHD SHAFI AND MUKHTAR AHMAD AT RATNIPORA B)	Kakapora	1	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
8.	RDDDC2526100338-(CONST OF CONCRETE YEN FROM LO KARIM DARTO ONWARDS AT LELHAR)	Kakapora	1.49	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
9.	RDDDC2526100355-(GRILLWORK OF MASJID USMANIA SANI AT KANDIZAL)	Kakapora	1.21	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
10.	RDDDC2526100190-(DEVELOPMENT OF ARIMBAGH SPRING AT BARAGAM)	Dadsara	1	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
11.	RDDDC2526100691 (C/O BOREWELL AT TANGBAL NEAR THE L/O MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT AND OTHERS AT RENZIPORA. RESHIPORA AWANTIPORA.	Awantipora	2.078	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
12.	RDDDC2526101084-(CO LANE FROM MAIN ROAD TO NAZIR WANI HAMID WANI MUZAFAR WANI WITH P BUND NEAR HO MOHD SHAQ MIR ALI MOHD MIR AND MOHD YOUNIS MIR AT ACHGOZA)	Achgoze	1.564	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI

13.	RDDDC2526101237-(CO LANE FROM HO MAQBOOL NAIK TO HO GH MOHD RATHER AT KADIPORA BLOK ACHGOZA)	Achgoze	1.718	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	PRI
14.	RDDDC2526100211-(DEVELOPMENT OF EID GAH AT DADSARA)	Dadsara	3.594	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	PRI
15.	RDDDC2526101069 (C/O 4 NO BOREWELL NEAR H/O MANZOOR AHMAD KUCHAY, 2 H/O FAROOQ AH DAR, 3 H/O MOHD MAQBOOL KUMAR (HSS) , 4 H/O M RAFIQ RESHI, MOHD AMIR & OTHERS AT LETHPORA B.AANTIPORA	Awantipora	4	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	PRI
16.	FINDC2526105328-(CONST OF FLOOD PROTECTION BUND ON PHURI KULL NEAR LO GH AHMAD MIR AND OTHERS AT RPORA)	Kakapora	4.999	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	DDC
17.	FINDC2526105332-(REPAIRMENT RAISING OF WATER CHANNEL WITH CULVERT NLO GH AHMAD MIR AND OTHERS AT RPORA AND ONE SIDE WALL NLO ABDUL GANI MIR AND OTHER AT RATNIPORA B)	Kakapora	2.498	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
18.	FINDC2526105339-(CONST. OF RWALL ON GRATE KULL NLO DAWOOD AHMAD KHAN AND OTHERS AT RESHI NAD NARWAH)	Kakapora	1.297	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
19.	FINDC2526105340-(CONST OF LANE FROM WANI MASJID TO HO BASHIR AHMAD BHAT AND OTHERS AT TRICH)	Kakapora	0.988	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
20.	FINDC2526105342-(RAISING OF RWALL ON BAED KULL NHO GH MOHD BHAT AND OTHERS AT MANDUNA)	Kakapora	1.099	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
21.	FINDC2526105348-(CONST OF RWALL ON BOTTOM OF NALLAH DUBJI FROM THE RESTAURANT OF GH AHMAD MIR TO MANZOOR NAWAZ AT BATWANI PAHOO)	Kakapora	2.098	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
22.	FINDC2526105433-(CONST OF FP BUND ON GRATE KULL FROM HO BILAL AHMAD SOFI TO LO GH AHMAD HAJAM)	Kakapora	1.300	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
23.	FINDC2526105434-(CONST OF FP BUND NEAR HO GH QADIR RATHER AND OTHERS AT KUNJIPORA)	Kakapora	1.6	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
24.	FINDC2526105436-(CONST OF EDGE WALL ON SIDE OF HO GH MOHD KUCHAY AND OTHERS AT GUND PEATH)	Kakapora	1.199	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
25.	FINDC2526105439-(CONST OF RWALL NHO OF JAVID AHMAD DAR AND OTHERS AT LAJOORA)	Kakapora	1.499	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
26.	FINDC2526105443-(CONST OF FP BUND ON LAR KULL NHO M MAQBOOL MIR AND OTHERS AT RPORA)	Kakapora	2.497	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
27.	FINDC2526105444-(CONST OF GATE ON GROUND OF MASJID IBRAHIM AT RPORA)	Kakapora	1.255	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
28.	FINDC2526105445-(CONST OF DRAIN WITH EDGE WALL NLO BASHIR AHMAD BHAT AND OTHERS AT RPORA)	Kakapora	0.8	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
29.	FINDC2526102452-(CONSTRUCTION OF P BUND AT TWO SPOTS NEAR HOUSE OF GH NABI WAGAY UMAR NISAR AND NEAR HOUSE OF GULZAR AHMAD KUMAR AT SAIMOOH)	Dadsara	1.985	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC

30.	FINDC2526105364-(CONST OF P BUND NEAR THE LAND OF BASHIR AHMAD LONE AND OTHERS AT PUTKHA AMIRABAD)	Dadsara	1.1	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
31.	FINDC2526100844-(CONSTRUCTION OF TUBEWELL AT NEW COLONY BEIGHPORA NEAR THE HO AB HAMID WANI AND OTHERS TOKUNA II AWANTIPORA)	Awantipora	0.898	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
32.	FINDC2526100891-(CONSTRUCTION OF TUBE WELL NEAR HO MOHD LATEEF BHAT AND OTHERS AT RESHIPORA AWANTIPORA)	Awantipora	0.898	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
33.	FINDC2526100902-(CONSTRUCTION OF TUBE WELL NEAR HO GH HASSAN DAR AND OTHERS AT KHANDPORA RESHIPORA AWANTIPORA)	Awantipora	0.898	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
34.	FINDC2526101001-(CO GHAT NHO SHABIR AHMAD KHAN AND CO TUBE WELL NLO NGHAT YASMEEN AT LETHPORA B AWANTIPORA)	Awantipora	1.34	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC

35.	FINDC2526101004-(INSTALLATION OF TUBE WELLS AT DIFFERENT SPOTS AT LETHPORAB AWANTIPORA 1.NELOFAR WO BILAL AHMAD KUCHAY 2. GOWHARAHMAD KUCHAY SO BASHIR AHMAD 3. SAJAD AH TELLI SI GH AHMAD DAR. 4.HASEENA WO GH RASOOL DAR 5. JAVID AH RESHI SO ABDUL HAMID RESHI 6. FIRDOS AH KUCHAY SO GH NABI 7. SHAHEENA WO ABDUL RASHID MAGRAY 8. RUBEENA WO SHABIR AHMAD SOFI 9. SHABIR AH KHAN SO NOOR MOHD 10. MANZOOR AH KHAN SO GH QADIR KHAN 11. MOHD SHAFI SOFI SO MOHD RAMZAN 12. SHUBI WO FAROOZ AH KHAN 13. GH MOHI UDDIN WANI SO MO)	Awantipora	16.102	800/=	2%	CEE/BEE	30 Days	DDC
36.	FINDC2526101005-(INSTALLATION OF 3 NO TUBE WELLS NLO 1. MOHD SHAFI RESHI SO AB KAMAL RESHI 2. SHOWKAT AHMAD RESHI SO MOHAMMAD RAMZAN RESHI 3.SUMIYA WO NISAR AHMAD RESHI AT LETHPORA BBAWANTIPORA)	Awantipora	3.716	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	DDC
37.	FINDC2526101006-(INSTALLATION OF TUBE WELLS AT DIFFERENT SPOTS AT LETHPORA A AWANTIPORA. 1. MANZOOR AHMAD DAR SO GH NABI. 2.2. GH HASSAN BHAT SO AB RAZAQ. 3. BILAL AH DAR SO AB SALAM. 4. ASHA WO GH RASOOL DAR.5. SABY WO IRFAN MIR. 6. MOHD ASHRAF BHAT SO GH MOHD. 7. NYIAZ AH LONE SO MOHD AKBAR 8. NUSRAT WO MOHD SHAFI TOKAR. 9. GULZAR AH MAGRAY SO JABAR MAGARY. 10.ZAREEFA WO MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT 11. MUSTAQ AHMAD DAR SO ABDUL AHAD DAR)	Awantipora	13.6246	600/=	2%	DEE/CEE/BEE	30 Days	DDC
38.	Construction of passenger shed at Naghal Gujer Basti, Gulshanpora	Aripal	2.99	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	TSP
39.	PLNDC2526100070-(FENCING AROUND QAZIMAIDAN GRAVEYARD AT DRABGAM (SHADIM))	Shadimarg	2.281	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	APDP
40.	Chain Link Fencing for the building constructed under SCA to TSP at Village Sangerwani	Achgoze	11.18	600/=	2%	DEE/CEE/BEE	30 Days	SCA to TSP
41.	FINDC2526101011-(INTALLATION OF TUBE WELL NHO RIFAT WO MOHD YAQOOB DAR AT GORIPORA AWANTIPORA)	Awantipora	0.588	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	DDC
42.	FINDC2526100017-(C/O Tubewell near H/o Fayaz Ahmad Najar S/o Mohd Ramzan Najar at Panzgam) AWANTIPORA	Awantipora	0.97	200/=	2%	DEE/Other	30 Days	BDC
43.	FINDC2526113349 construction installation of Borewell near the land of gowhar Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Majeed Bhat at Wazpora New Colony, Panzgam	Awantipora	0.978	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	CDF

Position of A/A: - 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 seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-10-2025
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	04-10-2025 from 06:55 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	15-10-2025 up to 06:55 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	16-10-2025 at 10:00 AM or any convenient day in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Pulwama
5.	Note: - Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bids opened. Incase The original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bids Opened for all responsive bidders Who have participated online, the Department shall take action as per Rules.	

Special Condition 01:
Only the eligible contractors of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process for works under District Capex with Advertised Cost 3.0 Lacs or below for District Capex works only. Bidders must upload any document viz residential certificate/ Adhar Card/ Ration Card/ Electricity Bill showing panchayat name, as residence proof that he/ she is residing the respective Panchayat Halqa (Applicable for DEE Class contractors in call 1st only).

SC02: - Contractors Strictly not eligible
The Bidders who had participated in 2023-24/2024-25 and has not completed the works within stipulated time frame/ who had left the work midway/ who had not started/taken up the works are strictly not eligible.

Any such participation may lead to cancellation of their bid and No claim shall be entertained in this regard.

ANNEXURE “A” BID SECURITY DECLARATION FORM

Date: _____ Tender Notice No: _____

To,
The Executive Engineer, REW Division Pulwama.
I/we undersigned declare that:
I/we understand that according to bidding conditions, bids must be supported by a Bid Securing Declaration.
I/we solemnly declare that I/we may be disqualified from bidding for any contract with you for a period of One (01) year from the date of issuance of this notification of e-Tender if I / We are in a breach of any obligation under the bid conditions, because I/We
1) Have withdrawn/ modified/ amended, impairs or derogates from the tender, my/ our Bid during the period of bid validity specified in the form of Bid or
2) Having been notified of the acceptance of our bid by the tender receiving authority during the period of bid validity if
a) I/we fail or refuse to execute the contract in accordance with the instructions of the Bidding.
b) I/we fail or refuse to furnish the Performance Security of 3%/5%.
3) I/we understand this Bid Securing Declaration shall cease to be valid if I/we are not the successful Bidder, upon the earlier of
(i) the receipt of your notification of the name of successful Bidder or (ii) Thirty Days after the expiration of the validity of bid.

Name, Signature of the Bidder: - S/o: -
R/o: -
Regd. Card No: -
Cell No: -
E-mail: -

ANNEXURE “B” FORMAT OF BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER LINKED WITH GSTIN

I, _____, hereby declare that the following bank account is linked to my GSTIN registration:

• Bank Account Number: _____

• GSTIN: _____

I confirm that the above-mentioned bank account is registered under my name and is actively linked to the GSTIN number provided. This declaration is made to affirm the linkage between my bank account and GSTIN registration for official and compliance purposes.
I undertake that the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any misrepresentation may lead to legal consequences as per applicable laws.

Name: _____
Registration No.: _____
Phone No.: _____ Signature of the bidder:

DIPK-6877/25
DATED: 07-10-2025

Xen/Rew/PU/3636-42
Dated: -04/10/2025

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
REW Division Pulwama

Apple growers squeezed by logistic challenges, low demand

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Oct 07: The sluggish demand for apples has resulted in the early filling of cold storage units across Kashmir, with growers lamenting that they are facing one of the toughest seasons in years due to weak market response, logistical challenges, and unseasonal fruit drop.

Growers said that with low demand for apples across major markets in India, they were forced to store their produce early. However, within just 15 days, most cold storage units in South and North Kashmir have reached nearly full capacity — well before the region's traditional peak season.

"Usually, cold storages start filling in October and it was ending in November as well and peak was remaining around 20 October bwhen the harvest reaches its peak, but this year everything happened early," said Ghulam Nabi Dar, an apple grower from Shopian. "Due to heavy fruit fall and poor demand, people started picking apples in advance to save what



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

they could. But the highway closure for almost a month made things worse — our fruit couldn't reach outside markets, and demand dropped sharply."

According to growers, the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway during crucial days of transportation not only delayed shipments but also discouraged traders from placing new orders. Many orchardists, fearing losses, rushed to book cold storage units in September itself — much earlier than usual and even hundreds of growers didn't get any space.

"Bookings were full even before the season started," said Abdul Rashid Bhat, a grower from Kulgam. "We had no choice but to store our produce, but the rush was unimaginable. Our apples remained in vehicles for more than 24 hours waiting to be unloaded at storage units." Cold storage owners admitted that they were overwhelmed by the unprecedented rush this year. "We tried to accommodate as many growers as possible, even by optimizing space and adjusting batch timings," said Manzoor Ahmad, owner of a cold storage unit in

Lassipora, Pulwama. "But we cannot go beyond our capacity — if we overload, the temperature control system will fail and it could damage the stored produce." He added that as of now, over 90 percent of cold storage space in the Valley has already been occupied, and the remaining will likely be filled within the next two to three days. Industry observers said that early filling of cold storages indicates a worrying trend for the apple economy of Kashmir, which has already been hit by falling prices and rising transportation and packaging costs.

"Farmers who haven't got any space are forced to sell apples at throwaway prices as they can't wait more in the hope of a better market," said Bashir Ahmad another fruit grower.

"The government must step in to stabilize the situation by facilitating market linkages and ensuring smooth transport on the highway."

"Apple is our backbone," "If this continues, thousands of families depending on this industry will be pushed to financial distress," they said—(KNO)

Snowfall brings hope of tourism revival



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

RAJA SYED RATHER

Ganderbal, Oct 07: The fresh snowfall at the picturesque tourist resort of Sonamarg has rekindled hopes among tourism stakeholders for a revival of winter tourism in the Valley.

The fresh spell of snow covered the upper reaches of Sonamarg and adjoining areas, bringing cheer to both locals and visitors. According to tourism players, the early snowfall is expected to attract more tourists in the coming weeks.

Riyaz Ahmad, a local tourism associate, expressed optimism and said, "This is October's first snowfall, and we are very excited about it. It's a positive sign for the tourism sector, which has been slow in recent months.

We hope this early snowfall will bring back tourists and get the season back on track."

The Meteorological Department had earlier predicted light to moderate snowfall in the higher reaches of Kashmir, with rain expected in the plains. The department also predicted more spells of precipitation in the coming days.

Tour operators in Sonamarg said inquiries have already started pouring in following the snowfall. "We have begun receiving calls from tourists eager to visit Sonamarg after seeing snow pictures online. It's a great start to the season," said Bilal Ahmad, a travel operator based in Ganderbal.

Local residents, too, are welcoming the snow. Gh Hassan,

a pony owner from Sonamarg, said, "For us, snow means work. When tourists come to see the snow, our livelihood improves. We are hopeful this year will be better."

Echoing similar sentiments, Naseema Begum, who runs a small tea stall near the main market, said, "In winter, tourists love to have kehwa after enjoying the snow. This snowfall has given us new hope after a dull summer."

Locals believe the snowfall will benefit everyone dependent on tourism — from hoteliers and ponywalas to shopkeepers. "When snow falls early, it brings life back to this place. We hope this winter brings good business for everyone," said Shah Adil, a local shopkeeper—(KNO)

BJP's MP takes jibe at CM Omar



WARIS FAYAZ

Kupwara, Oct 07: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Ghulam Ali Khatana Tuesday took a dig at Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, saying the National Conference (NC) leader is still "living in the pre-2019 era" and needs to realize that Jammu and Kashmir has entered a new political and media landscape.

Talking to reporters during his visit to north Kashmir's Kupwara district, Khatana said, "Omar Abdullah is living in the pre-2019 era, but he should know that this is the era of social media and electronic media. The time has gone when you could mislead people across the Valley with false narratives. It doesn't suit now."

He said Jammu and Kashmir presently has a "popular government" led by Omar Abdullah and therefore, he should "be among the people to address their miseries rather than indulging in political stunts."

Khatana stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is focused on addressing the issues that were left unresolved, adding that the party believes in engaging all stakeholders. "BJP listens to every stakeholder of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. During his visit, Khatana also interacted with local stakeholders to review ongoing developmental works and address public grievances—(KNO)

HC's mediation drive on litigations concludes

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 07: In a significant step towards promoting alternative dispute resolution and reducing the burden of pending litigations, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under the leadership of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh successfully conducted a mediation drive from 1st July, 2025 to 6th October, 2025.

The drive was launched pan India under the guidance of Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India & Executive Chairman

NALSA and Chairman MCPC who conceptualized the "Special Mediation Drive- Mediation 'For the Nation'" (90 days Mediation Drive to settle pending cases in all the Taluka Courts, District Courts and High Courts of India.

During this initiative, a total of 960 cases were taken up for mediation, of these 08 cases were settled through mutual agreement of parties, 206 unsettled cases and 646 cases are pending for final settlement due to awaited affirmation from the parties. These cases are expected to be finalized upon completion of all the required formalities.

The remaining cases were processed accordingly for further proceedings. The mediation drive witnessed active participation from litigants, advocates, mediators, with an utmost support from court officials and staff.

Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Chairman, Mediation & Conciliation, Committee expressed their gratitude to all the stakeholders for their valuable support and expressed hope for continuing such initiatives to enhance access to justice and disposal of pending cases through Mediation.

69th NSG

Manipur, MP Post Commanding wins on Day 02

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Oct 07: The 69th National School Games-2025 witnessed an exciting 2nd day of football matches across various venues in Srinagar on Tuesday.

The football fixtures delivered a mix of high-scoring victories and closely fought contests. At the TRC Synthetic Turf, Manipur secured a decisive 4-1 victory over Gujarat, with goals contributed by David, L. Seitam, Puni, and Borish. In a stunning display of offensive power at the Polo Ground, Madhya Pradesh registered an emphatic 10-0 win against Andhra Pradesh. Other matches saw competitive spirit across the city. IBSSO emerged victorious against Telangana with a 2-1 scoreline at the Green Valley Football Field, while Punjab secured a 2-0 win in their match held at the Kashmir University Field. The day was also marked

by two intensely competitive matches that ended in draws. The encounter between Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra at the Polo Ground concluded with a 1-1 scoreline, with both teams being awarded one point each. In an electrifying fixture, the teams from Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana battled to a tie, with each team also earning a point. Concluding the day's action at the TRC Synthetic Turf, CISCE delivered a powerful performance, defeating Puducherry 7-1. The win was spearheaded by a remarkable offensive duo, with Sayan and Jeevanth each scoring a hat-trick of three goals.

The organization of the sports extravaganza by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports has been commendable, ensuring a smooth and spirited start to this prestigious national sporting event. The matches will continue over the coming days—(KNO)

2 key Pulwama bridges in limbo

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Pulwama, Oct 07: Eighteen years after their foundation stones were laid, two vital bridges over the Jhelum River—Dogripora and Reshipora in South Kashmir's Pulwama district remain incomplete, leaving residents of over a dozen villages cut off and frustrated.

The Dogripora Bridge was sanctioned in 2006 and work began in 2008, while the Reshipora Bridge was taken up soon after. However, despite the passage of nearly two decades and multiple assurances from successive governments, both projects remain stuck midway, primarily due to lack of funds and delayed administrative approvals.

Every day, hundreds of locals including schoolchildren are forced to cross the river on risky wooden boats, a daily ordeal that becomes especially dangerous during rains or snow.

Locals fear that a tragedy similar to the Gandbal boat capsizing incident could unfold anytime if immediate action is not taken.

Shahid Ahmad, a resident of Dogripora, said that the incomplete bridge has made life miserable for residents of several adjoining villages.

"Many people have been injured while crossing the river. These bridges are lifelines that connect our villages to the national highway and the Panzgam Railway Station," he said. "Once completed, the Dogripora Bridge would drastically reduce travel time between Tral and



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Shahoora and bring economic activity to the area."

In Reshipora, villagers said they are compelled to take long detours of nearly 10 kilometres to reach the highway — a distance that would be just 500 metres if the bridge were operational. "It's not just inconvenience but daily suffering. During medical emergencies or bad weather, we feel completely cut off from the world," said Zameer Ahmad, a local from Reshipora.

He added that the absence of public transport in the area worsens the situation. "Children and elderly people take huge risks while crossing the river. We have been pleading for years, but nobody seems to care."

In May this year, the government sanctioned Rs 1529.47 lakh for the completion of

the Dogripora bridge, raising hopes among residents. However, despite the fresh approval, no physical work has resumed so far, leading to growing resentment among locals. "The bridge's foundation was laid during the PDP-Congress regime, and JKPC started work in 2008. About 70 percent of the structure was completed before work stopped abruptly. Since then, it stands like a monument of broken promises," said Shabir Ahmad Lone, a resident of Dogripora.

A senior official told KNO that both bridges are partially completed and work has been temporarily halted due to lack of funds. "The projects have not been abandoned. Revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the remaining work for Rs

1383.01 lakh for Reshipora has been prepared and are under process for revised administrative approval," the official said.

He added that the tendering process will begin once the approval is granted. "We understand the public concern, and efforts are on to restart the work as soon as possible," he said.

Meanwhile, the residents have renewed their appeal to the administration to prioritize completion of these long-pending bridges, which they say will transform healthcare access, education, and economic activity in the region.

"We have waited for 18 years. Our patience is wearing thin. The government must treat these bridges as essential projects, not forgotten files," they said—(KNO)

ToT for Police Officers conducted on NCL

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 07: Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for the officers of the rank of Sub Inspector (SI) to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) on New Criminal Laws (NCL) from 29th September to 4th October 2025, at the District Training Center (DTC), District Police Lines (DPL), Srinagar.

The program was organized by Police Headquarters (PHQ) in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), a police spokesman said in a statement.

The primary aim of the training was to enhance both the legal knowledge and instructional capabilities of Police officers, enabling them to serve as trainers in their respective jurisdictions. The training focused on the New Criminal Laws and their implications on investigation and prosecution.

More than 50 police officers, of ranks ranging from Sub-Inspector (SI) to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP), participated in the training. These officers represented various districts of the Kashmir Zone.

Moreover, subject-matter experts from BPR&D and resource persons of relevant fields from Kashmir

University, many reputed colleges of Srinagar and other units of Jammu & Kashmir Police conducted detailed sessions on a wide range of topics, including: Investigation Procedures under New Criminal Laws (NCL), FIR and Timelines as per NCL, Offences affecting the Human Body & Homicide Investigation, Offences Against Women and Children, Offences Against Public Tranquillity, Offences relating to Criminal Intimidation, Insult, Annoyance, and Defamation, Inquiry and Investigation Procedures, Use of Technology in Search and Seizure, Test Identification Parade & Police Accountability, Offences Against Property, Offences relating to Public Servants, Law of Arrest and Electronic Evidence, Types of Evidence and Admissibility, Dealing with Evasion: Bail, Violation to Trial in Absentia under BNS and BNSS, Strategies for Efficient Investigation, Confession and Statement Recording, Provisions relating to Bail and Bond, Role of Digital Forensics and Role of Forensic Science in Investigation and Trial etc.

These sessions provided in-depth insights into the procedural changes, legal provisions, and investigative strategies introduced under the new legal framework.

The training significantly enhanced the participants'

understanding of the New Criminal Laws and equipped them with the pedagogical skills required to disseminate this knowledge further within their respective units.

This cascading model is expected to ensure uniform understanding and effective implementation of the legal changes across the force.

The valedictory session was held at DTC, DPL Srinagar and was graced by Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravathy, IPS, SSP Srinagar, Manoj Pandita, AIG Trainings, PHQ and other senior officers of District Srinagar.

During the session, SSP Srinagar commended the participants and emphasized the importance of continuous professional development, especially in the face of rapidly evolving laws and technologies. He highlighted the role of trained officers as agents of change within the Police department.

This initiative reflects the J&K Police department's commitment to capacity building, legal preparedness, and adaptation to evolving legal frameworks. This event laid the foundation for a more legally informed, technologically equipped, and instructionally capable Police force, ready to navigate the complexities of modern policing under the New Criminal Laws—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Why ‘Know Your Artisan’ Matters For Kashmir’s Soul

The upcoming ‘Know Your Artisan’ campaign in Srinagar is a vital bridge connecting Kashmir’s rich heritage with its economic future. By bringing national award-winning artisans to public spaces along the Jhelum Riverfront and at historic landmarks, this initiative does something revolutionary: it puts a human face to the hands that create Kashmir’s legendary crafts. In an era of machine-made imitations and mass production, this campaign reminds us that authentic Pashmina shawls, walnut wood carvings, and papier-mâché

artefacts are stories woven in thread, carved in wood, and painted with patience. When visitors watch a master artisan transform raw materials into exquisite art, they don’t witness a process and understand the years of dedication, the cultural legacy, and the soul behind each piece. The timing couldn’t be more significant. With Srinagar enjoying its hard-earned status as a UNESCO Creative City and World Craft City, such initiatives strengthen Brand ‘Soulful Kashmir’ in the most authentic way possible, through direct engagement. The inclusion

of QR code education is particularly forward-thinking, empowering consumers to distinguish genuine Kashmiri craftsmanship from counterfeit products that undermine both artisans’ livelihoods and the region’s cultural identity. Equally important are the student interaction sessions. By inspiring the next generation to value and potentially pursue these traditional arts, we invest in both cultural preservation and future innovation. When young people see celebrated artisans receiving public recognition, they understand that craftsmanship is not a relic

of the past but a viable, respected profession. For tourists and residents alike, these events offer a rare opportunity to appreciate the living heritage that makes Kashmir unique. But beyond appreciation lies responsibility – to support authentic crafts, to understand their value, and to ensure that the hands that create beauty continue to thrive. The ‘Know Your Artisan’ campaign is a celebration, but it is also a crucial intervention. In preserving the storytellers, we preserve the story itself and secure the future of Kashmir’s cultural economy.

Leprosy In India: The Road To A Disease-Free Future

Press Information Bureau

Leprosy, or Hansen’s disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by bacteria *Mycobacterium leprae*. Infection can lead to involvement of the nerves, respiratory tract, skin, and eyes. Symptoms include discoloured skin patches, lack of ability to feel touch, pressure, pain, heat and cold, muscle weakness, non-healing ulcers, deformities particularly in hands, feet and face and inability to close eyes and poor vision. Leprosy is transmitted through droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contact with untreated cases. The disease is feared because it can lead to deformity; this is also the cause of the social stigma traditionally attached to the disease. Leprosy can be multi-bacillary or paucibacillary. While multibacillary leprosy shows a high density of bacilli on slit-skin smear examination, paucibacillary leprosy cases show only a few or no bacilli on slit-skin smear examination. The introduction of Multidrug Therapy (MDT) in 1983 in India revolutionized treatment of leprosy. MDT treatment has been provided free of cost to patients through WHO. Early diagnosis and treatment with MDT can prevent disabilities and deformities. Since the introduction of MDT, the incidence and prevalence of the disease has remarkably decreased. (World Health Organization [WHO], 2024).

The Situation in India Since Independence
Decennial population census of 1951 reported 13,74,000 and a prevalence rate of 38.1 per 10,000 population. GOI recognized leprosy as a national health problem, and launched the National Leprosy Control Program in 1954-55. The program gained momentum during the Fourth Five Year Plan period (1969-1974) after it was made a centrally sponsored program, thus receiving the necessary priority and funding. The program was expanded to cover additional populations in rural and urban areas at this time. To achieve this increased coverage, the involvement of NGOs was strengthened, and health education programs became a prominent component of the leprosy program. The government also encouraged the involvement of NGOs in SET (Survey Education and Treatment) activities in allotted areas through a scheme introduced in 1983. SET centers were set up in moderate/low endemic areas and urban leprosy centers in urban areas. These centers were staffed with one paramedical worker for a population of 25,000 called a sector, and there was one non-medical supervisor for every five paramedical workers. The paramedical worker conducted a house-to-house search for leprosy patients, “surveying” the entire population in a cycle of two years. Diagnosis followed cumbersome slit smear techniques, with treatment of confirmed cases lasting between 10 years and lifelong treatment.

The leprosy program provided free domiciliary treatment in endemic districts through specially trained staff in fixed leprosy control units; and in moderate to low endemic districts, through mobile leprosy treatment units. Cases were treated at monthly leprosy clinics held at a fixed point in the village. This led to improved compliance and provided an opportunity for counselling each patient. Patients were encouraged to come to the clinics with their families, and this helped address the issue of stigma. Educating communities to recognize the early signs and symptoms of leprosy was an integral part of the house-to-house visits made as part of SET activities. This was probably the origin of IEC in the program. India’s national leprosy control efforts began in 1955 with the National Leprosy Control Programme (NLCP) which was a vertical programme and relied on dapsone monotherapy as The monotherapy with Dapsone was started as domiciliary treatment for leprosy cases.

In 1982, the definitive cure for leprosy with Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) containing the bactericidal drug Rifampicin and bacteriostatic drug clofazimine besides dapsone was endorsed by WHO as the standard leprosy treatment regimen. In 1983 the introduction of MDT regimens marked the beginning of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP).

Reflecting Mahatma Gandhi’s commitment to those affected by leprosy, India’s public health efforts have focused not just on treatment but also on mainstreaming affected individuals into society. Early detection and free treatment are core strategies, as delayed care can cause permanent disability.
Efforts Toward Elimination

The NLEP is a centrally sponsored scheme under the National Health Mission (NHM). Funds are allocated to states and UTs based on state/UT specific Programme Implementation Plans, with a focus on local needs, priorities, and capacity. Introduction of MDT, strong political commitment, decentralized implementation, and a robust Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) strategy brought about tremendous success in leprosy control. In 1981 the leprosy prevalence rate that was 57.2 /10,000 was reduced to 44.8 by March 1984 and to 2.4 per 10,000 population by March 2004. The rate of Grade II deformity (visible deformities) among new patients in 1981 was 20 percent; and by 2004, it was only 1.5 percent.

The World Bank’s support through two projects (1993–2000 and 2001–2004) emphasized community participation and funded IEC innovations. Partnerships with NGOs, WHO, Danida, and media agencies like BBC WST and SOMAC: Lintas enhanced outreach and message quality. Special focus was placed on women, tribal populations, and urban poor, addressing barriers to access and stigma. Integration with the general health system expanded reach, with Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) playing key roles.

In March 2004, 17 states and 250 districts had achieved the goal of leprosy elimination (defined as a prevalence rate of less than one per 10,000 population) and 7 states were close to the goal. With determined campaigns to search for early leprosy cases, there has been a drastic reduction in the number of cases exhibiting these forms of the disease. The goal of bringing the deformity rate down to less than 2 percent by the end of the current World Bank supported project (2001-04) had been achieved. India as a whole achieved the goal of national elimination of leprosy by December 2005. India’s leprosy response under NLEP includes:

Free diagnosis, treatment with MDT all patients and post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) with single dose rifampicin (SDR) provided to healthy contacts of patients under NLEP. Triple drug for both Pauci (PB) and Multibacillary (MB) patients introduced in 2025.

Early Case Detection Campaigns-(i) Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC): Door-to-door surveys, especially in high-endemic areas (ii) Focused Leprosy Campaign: Targeted survey in villages and urban areas where a case of grade II disability or child case detected (iii) Special Plan for Hard-to-Reach areas and High-risk population (iv) Healthy Contact Examination of newly detected cases (v) Retrospective Contact Tracing and Examination for new cases detected in at least last five years (vi) ABSULE for low endemic area.

Disability Prevention, Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) and Welfare Support: Services include patient education and counselling for providing Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear, Self Care Kits, aids and appliances such as splints, crutches etc., effective management of ulcers and leprosy reactions, and reconstructive surgeries with compensation for loss of wages of 12,000.

Capacity Building: Training of service providers -medical officers, laboratory technicians, physiotherapists, health supervisors, health workers and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs).

Community Awareness to promote voluntary reporting and stop stigma and discrimination: Sparsh leprosy awareness campaign around Anti-Leprosy Day and IEC as part of LCDC campaign are carried out annually to reduce stigma and promote early diagnosis.

Abolishing Discriminatory Laws: NLEP is encouraging States and UTs towards abolishing all existing discriminatory laws against leprosy.

Enhanced Surveillance and Notification of leprosy:

(i) Leprosy notification by all health sectors introduced in 2025 – Government, Private, NGOs, medical colleges etc.

(ii) ASHA-Based Surveillance for Leprosy Suspects (ABSULS) has strengthened case finding at the grassroots level.

Digitalization of reporting systems-Digital reporting system Nikusth 2.0 introduced in 2023 for patient records and drug stock management.

Since 2015, constant efforts under NLEP have contributed to significant prevention of disability through early intervention and expanded surveillance mechanisms.

National Strategic Plan (NSP) and Roadmap for Leprosy 2023-2027

NLEP embarked upon developing a new strategy document to accelerate the efforts towards leprosy control and overcome the impact of the Covid pandemic. This Strategy is aligned with the Global Leprosy Strategy 2021-2030 and the WHO Roadmap for Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021-2030, aiming to achieve interruption of transmission of leprosy by 2030. The Strategy focuses on interruption of transmission and achieving zero indigenous cases by accelerating case detection activities in high endemic districts and sustaining a strong surveillance system in low endemic districts.

Strategies to be adopted are: (i) acceleration of new case detection by targeted approach; (ii) Intensified surveillance systems; (iii) digitalization; (iv) introduction of advanced tools and techniques for early diagnosis; (v) provide the immediate chemoprophylaxis to all contacts of cases forthwith; (vi) introduce a potential safe and effective vaccine; (vii) introduction of surveillance of anti-microbial resistance and adverse drug reactions; (viii) post treatment surveillance of treated cases and provide them care after cure; (ix) sustain leprosy expertise and move towards multi-disease service integration; (x) improved treatment outcomes by introduction of new treatment regimes; and (xi) widespread awareness with impactful behavioural change communication methods.

In addition, strengthening existing partnerships, adding more partners and repealing the existing discriminatory laws against leprosy is also required. The implementation of the National Strategic Plan and Roadmap for Leprosy 2023- 2027 for leprosy aims to achieve interruption of transmission at district level evidenced by zero occurrence of new child cases for at least five consecutive years. After achieving interruption of transmission, districts shall move on to achieve elimination of leprosy as a disease with zero new cases reported for at least three consecutive years. A follow up of those districts will be done side by side for verification.

A “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approach, along with digital surveillance tools, and strong institutional memory, are being employed for meeting the target.

Major Initiatives under NLEP

National Strategic Plan and Roadmap for Leprosy 2023-27: The strategy document and roadmap outline the strategic interventions and lay out a clear-cut roadmap to achieve the goal of interruption in transmission of leprosy by 2027.

Contact tracing is done and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is administered to the eligible contacts of index case in order to interrupt the chain of transmission.

Leprosy screening has been integrated with the activities of comprehensive primary health care under Ayushman Bharat Yojana for screening of people above 30 years of age.

Leprosy screening has been integrated with Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) for screening of children (0-18 years).

Various services are being provided under the programme for Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) i.e., reaction management, provision of Microcellular Rubber (MCR) footwear, Aids & Appliances, self-care kits etc.

Nikusth 2.0: A revamped web-based ICT portal for data recording, reporting, and monitoring of leprosy activities for further strengthening services related to diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of leprosy patients was launched on 30th January 2023 (National Anti-Leprosy Day) by Hon’ble Union Health Minister.

National Anti-Microbial Resistance Surveillance for Leprosy Guidelines were launched during National Anti-Leprosy Day 2023 for strengthening the surveillance of resistant leprosy cases.

National Framework for Integration of Mental Health Services for Leprosy patients and their families.

Revised classification of Leprosy & treatment regimen for PB & MB Cases in India as adopted by MoHFW, GOI is introduced by Central Leprosy Division on 17th January 2024 & shall be implemented in all States/UTs from 1st April 2025. This treatment Regimen for leprosy patients will mark significant step forward in our collective efforts to eradicate leprosy in India by 2027.

Implementation of tagging system for PVTGs within Nikusth 2.0 Portal for total of 17 states, as listed in Tribal Cell, which have been identified as having Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) within

their states under PM-JANMAN.

Issued directions from Ministry to all states and UTs on Notification of Leprosy.

Special monitoring framework for 121 Districts having Prevalence rate more than 1 per 10,000 population

Focused strategies for Districts having PR >1 , High child and Disabilities.

Key Achievements and Program Outcomes under NLEP

India achieved elimination status in March 2005 at the national level which means Prevalence Rate<1/10,000 population and sustained this till date. Since then, the programme is working towards achieving this goal at the sub national level.

As of March 2025, 31 States and 638 districts have achieved Prevalence Rate <1 per 10,000 population.

Over the years, India’s leprosy prevalence rate has reduced from 57.2 per 10,000 in 1981 and 0.69 per 10,000 in 2014–15 to 0.57 in 2024–25.

The new case detection rate has also dropped from 9.73 per 100,000 in 2014–15 to 7.0 per 100,000 in 2024–25.

Percentage of Child cases among new cases detected has gradually reduced from 9.04% in 2014-15 to 4.68% in 2024-25 indicating the programme efforts in reducing active transmission of leprosy in the community.

Grade 2 disability per million population has also shown a decline from 4.68 case per million population in 2014-15 to 1.88 cases in 2024-25 reflecting case finding efforts among potential hidden cases.

Preventive measure of Post Exposure Prophylaxis with single dose rifampicin (PEP-SDR) is administered to healthy contacts of leprosy cases. The percentage of eligible contacts administered has also increased from 71% in 2019-20 to 92% in 2024-25 in order to interrupt the chain of transmission.

Intensified case search activities like LCDC have been conducted two times a year in high endemic states to facilitate identification of cases at an early stage. In F.Y. 2024-25, a total of 27,428 new cases were confirmed through LCDC.

Enhanced integration with Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), and Ayushman Bharat ensures screening across all age groups.

State-wise NLEP Prevalence Rates per 10000 population as on March 2025

As of March 2025, the state-wise NLEP prevalence rates per 10,000 population vary across India. Andhra Pradesh has a prevalence rate of 0.46, while Nagaland has a lower rate of 0.11. Arunachal Pradesh reports a rate of 0.15, and Odisha’s rate is higher at 1.37. Assam has a prevalence rate of 0.26, Punjab is at 0.14, and Bihar has a rate of 0.85. Chhattisgarh shows a higher prevalence at 1.80, whereas Sikkim’s rate is 0.17. Goa has a prevalence rate of 0.45, Tamil Nadu reports 0.26, and Gujarat has 0.38. Telangana’s prevalence is 0.46, Haryana’s is 0.13, and Tripura’s is notably low at 0.02. Himachal Pradesh has a rate of 0.14, Uttar Pradesh 0.37, and Jharkhand stands at 1.46. Uttarakhand reports a prevalence of 0.22, Jammu & Kashmir 0.07, and West Bengal 0.46. Karnataka has a rate of 0.27, while the A & N Islands are at 0.19. Kerala’s prevalence is 0.11, Chandigarh has a significantly higher rate of 1.35, Madhya Pradesh reports 0.82, and Daman and Diu & Dadar Nagar Haveli (DD & DNH) have a rate of 0.63. Maharashtra’s prevalence rate is 1.12, Delhi reports 0.71, and Manipur has a very low rate of 0.05. Lakshadweep’s rate is 0.14, Meghalaya’s is 0.03, Ladakh’s is 0.33, Mizoram’s is 0.10, and Puducherry’s is 0.11.

International Recognition & Partnerships
India has collaborated with WHO for supply of free MDT drugs, technical support, independent programme evaluation, capacity building and programme monitoring and supervision. In the World Health Assembly Commitment (1991), India committed to the World Health Assembly’s goal of eliminating leprosy as a public health problem by the year 2000. Although the national goal was extended to 2005, India made significant progress, with 17 states and 250 districts achieving elimination by 2004.

WHO supported India’s Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaigns (MLECs), diagnostic protocol shifts, and Special Action Projects for hard-to-reach populations. It also piloted the COMBI (Communication for Behavioural Impact) strategy in Bihar.

India has actively participated in developing Global Leprosy Strategies and global technical guidance documents. India has been

part of the The Global Appeal since 2006 sharing an annual message to raise awareness and call for an end to the unjust discrimination that persons affected by leprosy continue to face. In the WHO India Country Co-operation Strategy under the umbrella of NTD control and elimination, leprosy remains a priority area for WHO’s technical support in India. This includes strengthening surveillance and case detection, supporting post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), reducing stigma and discrimination and enhancing access to treatment and rehabilitation. In the Weekly Epidemiological Report of Global Leprosy situation, 2006, India was dropped from the list of countries that had not achieved elimination of leprosy as a public health problem.

In 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) acknowledged India’s 2005 milestone of eliminating leprosy as a public health problem, underscoring the country’s progress in disease control. Additionally, India continues to collaborate actively with global partners, including the WHO, the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which offer both technical expertise and financial assistance to strengthen India’s leprosy elimination initiatives. ILEP and other partner NGOs: NLEP has also collaborated with ILEP organizations, Sasakawa Health Foundation, The World Bank, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL), Hind Kushth Nivaran Sangh and other NGO partners such as ALERT India, IAL, IADVL, BLP, Schieffelin Institute Karigiri, International Leprosy Union etc. in improving community awareness and quality diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative services. India’s efforts in combating leprosy have received significant international recognition and support.

Conclusion
India’s journey with leprosy control is a remarkable story of successful disease control. From a prevalence rate of 57.2 per 10,000 population and 39.19 lakh patients on treatment, India in 2025 has a prevalence rate of 0.57 and 0.82 lakh patients on treatment. This depicts a drop in prevalence rate of 99% and 98% drop in cases under treatment over a span of 44 years. There has been a decline of 37% in new case detection since March 2006 when the annual report confirmed a prevalence rate of less than 1 per 10,000 (0.84).

NLEP Programme demonstrates a public health success rooted in political will, commitment, sustained efforts for new case detection, free of cost and uninterrupted supply of MDT drugs, partner support, transition from a vertical to integrated service delivery strategy, timely adoption of global guidance, timely introduction of revised treatment regimens, post exposure prophylaxis, innovations, and expanding community engagement. However, elimination as a public health problem is not eradication. New cases of leprosy will continue to occur and the aim is to detect cases so early that development of disabilities is prevented and chain of transmission is interrupted leading to no new infections and no leprosy in children.

Recognizing this, the Government has been proactively addressing residual challenges through sustained surveillance, renewed awareness initiatives, and enhanced community outreach. Efforts are underway to revitalize training programs and improve early detection, especially in rural, tribal and underserved populations, ensuring that no case goes unreported or untreated.

With ongoing efforts to strengthen surveillance systems, expand community engagement, and integrate leprosy care into general health services, India is reinforcing its commitment to a leprosy-free future. Technological tools like Nikusth 2.0, combined with strong policy support, post exposure prophylaxis and increased community participation and self-reporting. NSP and Roadmap for Leprosy provides a comprehensive framework aligned with global goals to achieve interruption of transmission by 2030 through accelerated case detection, digital surveillance, improved treatment, preventive strategies, and strong partnerships, aiming ultimately for elimination of leprosy in India. As India approaches its goal of zero transmission, continued political will, adequate funding, and active public involvement will be key. With these in place, the country is well-positioned to achieve not just a medical milestone but a lasting humanitarian achievement.

Read full article on <https://www.pib.gov.in>

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DC Pulwama reviews Master Plan preparation for Awantipora Town

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Tuesday chaired a meeting here at administrative complex Pulwama to review and discuss the formulation of a GIS-based Master Plan for Awantipora Town.

The meeting aimed to take forward the vision of planned and sustainable urban development in the town through advanced and modern tools & technology and coordinated inter-departmental inputs.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the proposed villages to be included within the Master Plan, municipal boundaries of Awantipora, and the revenue villages associated with Tehsil Awantipora.

The DC directed all departments to provide updated records, maps, and data sets to



facilitate the preparation of a comprehensive GIS-based plan in coordination with the Town Planning Organisation and SPA experts. He stressed that the Master Plan should incorporate local requirements, natural features, and heritage aspects while maintaining environmental sustainability.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Town Planner

Kashmir; Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama; Tehsildars of Awantipora, Pampore and Kakapora; Executive Officer Municipal Committee Awantipora/Pampore; Block Development Officer Pampore/Awantipora; while representative from the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi also joined the meeting virtually.

Shopian admin organises grievance redressal camp



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 7: In a significant step towards ensuring responsive governance, the district administration Shopian organized a Grievance Redressal Camp at Zainapora Tuesday.

The camp, chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, senior citizens, youth, and village representatives.

During the interactive session, locals raised various issues, including infrastructure development, healthcare, education, irrigation, power supply, and welfare schemes.

DDC listened attentively to the grievances and issued on-the-spot directions to concerned officers for timely redressal.

Emphasizing the administration's commitment to efficient public service delivery and transparency, the DDC stated that such camps would be conducted across all blocks and tehsils to bridge the gap between the administration and the public.

Selection of Haj Trainers-2026 HCol invites online applications

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 07: Haj Committee of India, Mumbai vide its Circular No.12 dated 06-10-2025 has invited online applications from desirous eligible candidates for selection as Trainer for imparting Orientation / Training to the selected pilgrims of Haj-2026 (Hijri-1447). Accordingly, all

eligible interested persons are advised to go through the details of the said Circular and follow the instructions for submitting their applications online as Haj Trainer.

The Circular is available on Haj Committee of India official website (<http://www.hajcommittee.gov.in>). The last date for online applications is 20th October, 2025.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress of PM-TBMBA Calls for mission-mode approach to eliminate disease

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who also serves as Chairman of District Health Society, Tuesday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation status of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA) in the district.

At the outset, the Chief Medical Officer Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal presented the department's current strategies and action plans aimed at the elimination of Tuberculosis (TB) in the district. The DC issued a

series of critical directions to strengthen execution of the programme at the grassroots level.

He directed the Health Department to create institution-wise IDs and appoint dedicated nodal officers for each health institution to ensure close and continuous monitoring.

He further directed the compilation of updated TB patient data across the district within two weeks which shall be submitted to his office.

The DC stressed upon the need for a mission-mode approach and urged all field functionaries of the Health Department to work with

utmost dedication and urgency to achieve the targets of the national TB elimination programme.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; Chief Planning Officer Akhil Thakur; Assistant Director FCS&CA Shafqat Keen; AC Legal Metrology Anil Gupta; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal; Block Medical Officer Dr. Anil Sharma; Block Medical Officer Chatroo Dr. Saima Agoo; Block Medical Officer Dachan Dr. Sajjad Hussain along with other senior officers and concerned officials from various departments.

NRC Darbhanga, SKUAST-K sign MoU

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 7: A historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed Tuesday between the ICAR-National Research Centre for Makhana (ICAR-NRCM), Darbhanga, Bihar, and the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), marking a significant milestone to boost aquatic crop production, processing and value addition.

The MoU was formally signed by Director, ICAR-NRCM, Dr. Nachiket Kotwaliwale, and Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof.Nazir Ahmad Ganai, in the presence of DDG (Engg) ICAR New Delhi Dr SN Jha and various scientists of NRC for Makhana Darbhanga, CIPHET Ludhiana and SKUAST Kashmir.

The MoU opens avenues for joint research in diverse disciplines related to aquatic crops of nutritional, medicinal, and economic importance such as makhana, lotus, and water chestnut as well as other areas aligned with the mandates of



both institutions.

This strategic partnership aims to strengthen the research ecosystem by facilitating the exchange of students, faculty, and scholars for academic training, research, and capacity-building initiatives. The collaboration will enable the sharing of advanced research instrumentation facilities and scientific expertise between the

two institutions to enhance the quality and impact of ongoing and future research programs.

By combining ICAR-NRCM's national expertise in aquatic crop research and SKUAST-K's strong foundation in hill and mountain agriculture, this partnership seeks to promote innovation, sustainable agricultural development, and entrepreneurship in the

North-Western Himalayan region.

The alliance reflects a shared commitment to academic excellence, technological advancement, and the holistic One Health approach integrating plant, animal, human, and environmental health for ensuring food and nutritional security across the region and beyond.

DC Kathua reviews Diwali arrangements

KT News Desk

KATHUA, OCTOBER 07: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Tuesday chaired a meeting of officers of line departments to review the arrangements put in place for the smooth celebration of Diwali-the festival of lights. The meeting was held in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex.

The DC directed the JPDCL and Jal Shakti departments to ensure uninterrupted power and drinking water supply during the festive days. He instructed the Fire and Emergency Services Department to station fire tenders at identified locations to meet any eventuality, besides maintaining full readiness across the district.

The ADCs and SDMs were directed to ensure that the sale of firecrackers is carried out only by the licensed vendors, strictly at the identified locations and in accordance with laid down safety protocols.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the concerned departments to maintain strict vigil over quality and pricing of eatables, ensure proper sanitation and remove encroachments from market areas



and other busy localities. The Municipal authorities were instructed to conduct pre and post-Diwali cleanliness drives and regulate roadside vendors to prevent congestion in market places.

Emphasizing food safety, the DC called for intensified market checking drives to curb adulteration in milk, sweets and other food items and directed immediate action against erring traders. The Legal Metrology department was asked to intensify checking of weighing and measuring instruments while Police and Traffic authorities were directed to ensure smooth vehicular movement and security of vital installations.

For effective ground-level monitoring, a joint committee comprising the Assistant Director FCS&CA Kathua, Tehsildar Kathua, Assistant Controller Legal Metrology,

Food Safety Officer and TSO Kathua has been constituted to conduct market inspections, quality checks and monitor pricing of essential commodities during the festive season.

The ASP Kathua, Rahul Charak, informed the meeting that adequate police personnel will be deployed at all important locations and crowded areas to ensure a safe and secure environment during the celebrations.

Among others, ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, SDM Hiranagar, Executive Engineers of line departments, CEO Municipal Council Kathua, EO Municipal Committees Lakanpur and Parole, Assistant Director FCS&CA and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting. ADCs Billawar and Basohli along with SDM Bani participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

DDC Doda reviews progress under District Capex Budget 2025-26

KT News Desk

DODA, OCTOBER 07: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Harvinder Singh Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Mini Meeting Hall DC Office Complex to assess the progress made under District Capex Budget 2025-26.

During the meeting, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Manesh Kumar Manhas presented a detailed sector-wise overview of the ongoing and proposed works under the District Capex Budget. He informed the chair about the physical and financial progress achieved so far across different departments.

While reviewing the progress, the DDC Doda laid special emphasis on completing the ongoing works before mid-November 2025.

He also set a target of achieving 100% allotment of works by the end of this week, stressing timely tendering, allotment and execution in accordance with quality standards.

He further stressed on strengthening monitoring mechanism and coordination among departments for effective implementation of the developmental works. He directed the concerned officers to submit regular progress reports and ensure that all projects are aligned with the district's developmental priorities.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, SE Hydraulic Circle, ACD, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers PHE and R&B, AD Planning and officers from across the line departments.

DC finalizes action plan for anti-drug measures

KT News Desk

POONCH, OCTOBER 7: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Tuesday chaired a meeting to review and strengthen measures against drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district.

The meeting focused on assessing the current situation across subdivisions and tehsils with SDMs and Tehsildars presenting detailed reports on the prevalence of drug abuse, instances of peddling and steps taken so far to curb the menace. The Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over the rising trend and stressed the need for coordinated and intensified action.

The meeting was attended by SSP Shafket Hussain Bhat; ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik; PO ICDS Khalid Hussain Wafa; ACR Mohd Sayeed; SDMs; Principal GDC Mendhar Mohammad Azam; Prof. Shamim Bandy; Prof. Fateh Mohammad Bassi; CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan;



Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid; Tehsildar Mandi, Ashfaq Hussain, Tehsildar Mendhar Rahul Basotra and others.

The Education Department was instructed to intensify awareness campaigns in schools and colleges and monitor shops in the vicinity of educational institutions to prevent sale of any drug-related substances.

Tehsildars in coordination with police were directed to establish nakas (checkpoints) to detect drug users and peddlers. Simultaneously, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) was asked to launch a special drive for conducting substance abuse test for commercial vehicle drivers.

Other concerned officers were

tasked with reviewing CCTV footage from chemist shops and ensuring computerized billing to enhance transparency and detect any illegal activity.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) provided updates on the functioning of the district drug de-addiction centre and treatment status of individuals struggling with drug addiction.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shafket Hussain Bhat emphasized timely reporting of any suspicious activities or drug peddlers by officials for swift action. He also recommended the involvement of police personnel in morning school assemblies to educate students about the dangers of drug use.

DHSJ reviews functioning of health facilities in Jhajjar Kotli

KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 07: Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar visited JhajjarKotli Tuesday to review the functioning of local health facilities and assess the preparedness of medical teams catering tourists and local residents in the area.

The Director inspected the Health and Wellness Centre (HWC) at JhajjarKotli and interacted with the medical and paramedical staff. He reviewed the availability of essential drugs, diagnostic kits, and emergency services. The



Director emphasized maintaining round-the-clock emergency care, especially considering the tourist influx at JhajjarKotli.

The DHSJ also took stock of sanitation, waste management and drinking water facilities within and around the health centre premises. He directed

the staff to ensure a clean and patient-friendly environment and to strengthen preventive health measures against seasonal diseases.

While interacting with the staff and community members, the Director highlighted the importance of public health

awareness, safe food practices and immediate medical response in case of emergencies near water bodies or picnic spots.

He appreciated the dedication of the health staff and assured that all necessary support would be extended by the Directorate to upgrade facilities and ensure better healthcare delivery in the area.

"Our focus remains on improving access to quality healthcare even in recreational and rural zones like JhajjarKotli. Health preparedness at such spots is vital for both locals and tourists," the Director said.

RAJYA SABHA POLLS

J&K BJP leadership meets BL Santosh, submits shortlist of 7 probables

Parliamentary board to finalise candidate (s): Ashok Koul

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 07: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) met National General Secretary (Organisations) BL Santosh in New Delhi on Thursday evening to discuss potential candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that BJP J&K President Sat Sharma and General Secretary (Organisations) Ashok Koul met with BL Santosh to discuss the party's strategy and candidate selection. Tarun Chugh, BJP's National General Secretary and in-charge of J&K affairs, also attended the meeting.

During the discussions, the J&K leadership submitted a list seven shortlisted candidates to the party high command. The final decision on nominations will be taken by the BJP Parliamentary Board.

Speaking to KNO, Ashok Koul confirmed the meeting and submission of the candidate list.

“We met the BJP leadership and submitted a list of probable candidates. Now the party high command will take a final call on the matter,” he said.

Koul added that the Parliamentary Board will decide whether the party will contest all seats or fight only on a single seat.

The BJP is in a strong position to win one of the four seats scheduled for election on October 24. While the party may field candidates for the first two seats as a symbolic contest against the National Conference–Congress alliance, it is in a commanding position to secure one of the two remaining seats, for which a combined election will be held. (KNO)

Chief Secy for fast-tracking modernization of transport sector

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 07: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting of the Transport Department to assess its overall functioning, modernization initiatives, and measures aimed at enhancing road safety across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa; Transport Commissioner; Managing Director, J&K RTC; Director, Motor Garages; RTOs of Kashmir and Jammu, besides other senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on the early completion and operationalization of key infrastructure projects, including the Institute of Driver Training & Research (IDTR), Jammu, and the Inspection & Certification Centre (ICC), Samba, terming them as critical to modernizing transport services in the Union Territory.

He directed all implementing agencies to ensure mission-mode execution and time-bound completion of projects so as to improve public service delivery and efficiency.

Underscoring road safety as one of the department's top priorities, the Chief Secretary called for a comprehensive action plan to curb traffic violations and reduce road accidents. He reviewed enforcement measures such as



the cancellation of driving licences and Registration Certificates (RCs) and the seizure of vehicles belonging to repeat offenders.

He also took stock of the incidence of road accidents, fatalities, and the relief extended to victims under the Road Safety Fund, besides reviewing the pace of dispatch of driving licences to applicants, including clearance of pending backlogs.

Presenting a detailed overview of the department's initiatives, Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa, gave a comprehensive briefing on key projects and strategic reforms aimed at transforming J&K's transport infrastructure and governance.

It was informed that two major facilities like IDTR, Jammu and ICC, Samba are nearing completion. The IDTR has completed its academic, hostel, and workshop blocks along with all six state-of-the-art driving tracks. Maruti Suzuki India Limited has installed all automation equipment, and driving licence trials commenced on January 14, 2025,

with overall completion expected by October 30, 2025.

At ICC, Samba, civil and electrical works have been completed, while the inspection report from ICAD is expected by October 15, 2025. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) is in the process of tendering for the appointment of an operator for a two-year term, the meeting was informed.

It was further apprised that the work on two Automated Testing Stations (ATS) through J&K RTC is expected to commence by October 15, while a privately developed ATS is awaiting official notification.

As part of the department's technology-driven reforms, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has identified 92 locations across highways for the installation of electronic enforcement devices. The DPR will be forwarded to the IT Department for vetting by October 15, with tenders expected to be floated by November 10.

On the Vehicle Scrapping Policy, it was revealed that

the draft Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility Policy is in its final stage of formulation. Once notified, it will operationalize a

10 crore incentive fund on a First-Come, First-Served basis, facilitating the scrapping of around 3,500 government vehicles, potentially generating 170 crore in incentives within the government transport sector alone.

Reviewing the efforts to revive Inland Waterways (NW-49) on the River Jhelum, the Chief Secretary directed the department to adhere to firm timelines. Work on seven floating concrete jetties is scheduled to commence by October 15, 2025, while the installation of navigational aids and onshore development are to begin by October 31, with overall completion targeted for December 2025.

It was further given out that the department is going to float a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to operate a 20-passenger hybrid electric cruise/boat on a revenue-sharing basis with the government, as part of its broader initiative to promote sustainable mobility and tourism.

The meeting also reviewed progress on SRTC digitization and revenue enhancement, where the Corporation is projecting a sharp rise in gross revenue from 114 crore (2021–2024) to an estimated 240 crore for FY 2024–25, following fleet expansion and service upgrades.

CM's Advisor engages with film & entertainment industry leaders in Mumbai



KT NEWS DESK

Mumbai, Oct 07: Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani held a series of meetings with prominent film and entertainment industry leaders and stakeholders on the sidelines of FICCI Frames at Mumbai.

The Interactions centered around promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a premier destination for film shooting and developing a vibrant film ecosystem in J&K.

The Advisor highlighted the Government's commitment to facilitate film production in J&K and assured the filmmakers and industry representatives of all necessary support and assistance for shooting their projects in the region. He also invited them to explore the scenic and diverse locales of Jammu and Kashmir for their upcoming ventures.

Among those who met the Advisor included heads and senior representatives from the Producers Guild of India, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Motion Picture Association (America), Prasar Bharati, Indian Motion Picture Producers Association (IMPPA), and several other leading film bodies and production houses.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Centre releases

disaster-affected families in Jammu & Kashmir. “Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government stands shoulder to shoulder with every affected farmer and citizen. We will ensure that no one is left alone in this hour of crisis,” he said.

Highlighting the government's relief and rehabilitation measures, Chouhan announced that the Union Ministry of Rural Development has sanctioned Rs 85.62 crore under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Gramin) for the reconstruction of 5,100 damaged houses. Each beneficiary will receive support for house rebuilding, toilet construction, and additional financial aid under the MGNREGA scheme.

The Minister stated that the Centre has approved an increase in MGNREGA workdays from 100 to 150 days for affected families in Jammu & Kashmir, providing additional livelihood opportunities during the recovery phase.

Chouhan assured that the Union Government is fully prepared to assist in the revival of agricultural activities across affected regions, including support for seeds, fertilisers, and essential inputs. He also said that additional funds could be released under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) upon the Jammu & Kashmir Government's request.

On the issue of crop insurance, the Minister added that compensation to insured farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) will be disbursed promptly once the State Government submits its proposal, ensuring direct transfer of funds to farmers' accounts.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh also addressed the event and lauded the Agriculture Ministry for its swift and compassionate action. He said the relief measures reflect the Centre's “sensitivity and responsiveness” toward the people of Jammu & Kashmir during difficult times.

Jammu & Kashmir Agriculture Minister Javed Ahmad Dar thanked the Central Government for the timely intervention, stating that the release of funds under PM-KISAN and the additional assistance through PMAY-Gramin and MGNREGA would provide much-needed relief to thousands of affected farming families. (KNO)

LG Sinha thanks

(PM-KISAN) Scheme for the farmers of UT of Jammu Kashmir.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) wrote: “I am extremely grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri @Narendramodi Ji and Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri @ChouhanShivraj Ji for advance release of 21st instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme for the farmers of J&K UT.”

Meanwhile, Office of Chief Minister, J&K, Omar Abdullah (@CM_JnK) posts, wrote on X: “Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister @ChouhanShivraj for the release of over 170 crore under the 21st PM-KISAN instalment, benefiting more than 8.5 lakh farmers in Jammu & Kashmir. This release follows the consistent efforts of the J&K Government to ensure timely support for its farming community. Cabinet Minister @JavedDar_NC, along with his officers, attended the online function held in this regard.”

Pertinently, earlier the Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the 21st instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme in advance.

The instalment, amounting to Rs 171 crore, according to KNO, was transferred directly to the bank accounts of 8.55 lakh farmers, including 85,418 women beneficiaries, through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. (KNO)

India responded

integrated operations across domains,” Murmu said, adding that the current security context and geopolitical environment require responses that are dynamic and based on situational understanding.

The aim, she said, is to make the Armed Forces ready for challenges across traditional and emerging areas.

Speaking on the broader idea of security, Murmu said national interests shape the security framework of any country, but India's national interests are guided by values that have remained consistent.

“India has always viewed humanity as one collective group, referring to the phrase Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,” she said. “Peace and brotherhood are key principles, but being ready for confrontation when required is part of India's approach.”

Referring to the Mahabharata, President Murmu said the epic shows repeated efforts to avoid war. “But once conflict became unavoidable, Krishna told Arjuna to remove doubt and fight with resolve,” she said. “This approach reflects how peace and preparedness can exist together. (KNO)

Weather improves

below normal).

The details further reveal that the maximum temperature in Pahalgam settled at 12.1 degrees Celsius (10.3 degrees Celsius below normal) while Kupwara and Kokernag saw a maximum temperature of 15.4 degrees Celsius (11.4 degrees Celsius below normal and 13.2 degrees Celsius (10.6 degrees Celsius below normal) respectively.

In Jammu division, Banihal recorded a maximum temperature of 16.8 degrees Celsius (9.7 degrees Celsius below normal) while Jammu recorded 27.2 degrees Celsius (5.2 degrees Celsius below normal). In Bhaderwah, the temperature settled at 13.4 degrees Celsius (12.7 degrees Celsius below normal). Batote recorded 11.7 degrees Celsius (13.4 degrees Celsius below normal) & Katra recorded 24.0 degrees Celsius (5.1 degrees Celsius below normal).

Meanwhile, the local Meteorological department here informed that during the past 24 hours till today afternoon, Udhampur recorded a rainfall of 100.2 mm, Batote 98.2 mm, Doda 86 mm, Bhaderwah 77 mm, Banihal 75.8 mm, Qazigund 70 mm, Kokernag 68.9 mm, Ramban 68.5 mm, Pahalgam 52.6 mm respectively.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, in a detailed forecast, stated that a brief spell of light rain is expected at a few places in Jammu and Kashmir tomorrow (Wednesday).

Generally, dry weather is expected from October 9 to 17, he added.

Moreover, in its advisory, the farmers have been advised to resume all farm activities from Wednesday onwards.

It reads that there is a possibility of landslides and shooting stones at a few vulnerable places.

Nonetheless, all the major highways and roads remained closed for vehicular movement today as a precautionary measure.

Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri, Mughal Road, Pir Ki Gali and Bandipora-Gurez road have been closed by the authorities today as a precautionary measure.

The highways and roads are expected to be thrown open for vehicular movement by tomorrow, officials said. (KNO)

Untimely snowfall:

when the snowfall occurred. Despite our advisories, some growers could not complete the harvest due to time constraints or lack of manpower,” he added.

The official further advised growers to exercise caution while resuming harvesting. “They

should wait for weather improvement and allow the fruit and trees to dry properly. Packing wet apples can lead to spoilage during storage or transportation, resulting in economic losses,” he said.

Highlighting the importance of orchard management after rains, Bhat said growers must ensure proper drainage in their fields to prevent water stagnation, which can harm trees and lead to disease outbreaks. “Standing water can cause root rot and other fungal infections. Farmers must keep their drainage channels clear to avoid such problems,” he advised.

He also said that the department has been raising awareness among farmers about post-snowfall precautions and providing them with technical guidance to reduce potential losses. “Our focus is on helping them recover from the impact of this unseasonal weather and safeguard the remaining crop,” Bhat added.

The untimely snowfall occurred at a critical time when apple harvesting was in full swing, has left growers worried across parts of Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Kupwara, where apples were yet to be fully picked.

Meanwhile, officials assured that comprehensive loss reports will be shared with the administration soon to facilitate appropriate measures for affected growers. (KNO)

NIA chargesheets

Simranjit Singh, Australia-based Tanveer Singh Bedi and Ankush Kapoor, other accused persons named in the chargesheet are Pakistani national Tariq @ Bhajjaan, Gagandeep Singh Arora and three other accused persons-Tamanna Gupta, Sukhbir Singh @ Happy and Anwar Masih,” the spokesman said, adding, “The case relates to smuggling of 500 kilograms of heroin from Pakistan into Gujarat via the sea route and further transportation to Punjab. The proceeds from the sale of the drugs were used to fund the activities of LeT, the proscribed terrorist organization.”

“NIA's investigations have revealed that the narco-terror conspiracy was spread across many Indian states, including Gujarat, Delhi, Punjab and Chandigarh, with a footprint spanning several countries including Italy, Australia, UAE, Pakistan, Iran and Thailand,” he said.

“As per the investigations, Ankush Kapoor was a key mastermind in India and responsible for managing the on-ground activities of the narco-terror syndicate in Punjab. He coordinated logistics, storage and local distribution of the contraband, and actively facilitated funding to accused persons based both in India and abroad. Simranjit was the mastermind of the narco terror syndicate and responsible for organizing the illegal transportation, storage, processing of the illegal drug's and the terror funding,” the spokesman added.

“The investigations further revealed that Tariq @ Bhajjaan played a pivotal role in coordinating the smuggling of heroin through sea route from Pakistan to India, overseeing its transportation, facilitating its distribution in Punjab, and channelising the proceeds for financing LeT operatives.

Tanveer Bedi, the Australia based wanted accused was actively involved in both the smuggling and transfer of drug proceeds through international hawala channels to fund LeT's terror activities in India. The other accused Tamanna, Sukhbir Singh and Anwar Masih have been charged for their deliberate roles in the terror funding conspiracy. Further, one Gagandeep Singh Arora, a hawala operator who is currently absconding, has been chargesheeted for facilitating money laundering of huge amounts and illegal fund transfers to terror operatives,” he said.

“The ATS Gujarat had filed the original chargesheet and NIA had filed seven supplementary chargesheets earlier. A total of 26 accused have been arrested in the case so far while eight

accused persons are absconding. NIA is continuing with its investigation to track the absconders and destroy the syndicate as part of its efforts to eliminate the nexus between narcotics trafficking and terrorism,” the spokesman added. (KNO)

MLAs call on CM

here to review the utilization of CAPEX budget and execution of works under Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for the financial year 2025–26 across various sectors and progress achieved by departments in execution of works under UT capital outlay.

The Chief Minister reviewed department and district-wise progress under the CAPEX and CDF. He stressed the need for accelerated execution of projects and timely utilization of funds. He directed departments to ensure 100% uploading of works on the BEAMS portal and expedite administrative approvals & tendering process, particularly in view of the limited working season in the Kashmir division.

The Chief Minister asked the Finance Department to prepare constituency-wise data of works incorporated in the budget which were prioritized by MLAs and directed Districts to immediately upload CDF works on BEAMS, accord administrative approvals and begin early execution of works.

The Chief Minister emphasized close coordination with MLAs to expedite CDF works and ensure visible development outcomes on the ground. He also underlined the importance of enhancing revenue realization and curtailing avoidable expenditure. “Wherever possible we have to boost our revenues, we have to cut down on all unnecessary expenditure, but at the same time, the money that has been allocated must be spent efficiently in various schemes,” he observed. He directed the concerned ministers to conduct fortnightly reviews to push expenditure and improve funds utilization in their respective departments.

Meanwhile, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA from Pulwama, Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, in a post on X, criticised the government for not utilizing the developmental funds, saying that barely 10 per cent of the funds have been utilized since the Budget Session, held almost six months back.

“Six months after the Budget Session and a year since elections, the J&K Government has utilised barely 10% of developmental funds. What stops it from spending and delivering? With winter setting in, it'll soon be impossible to execute projects. Negligence has stalled progress—and today's @CM_JnK review is too little, too late,” Parra wrote.

Coordinate with

in execution of works under UT capital outlay.

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The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javid Ahmed Dar, and Satish Sharma. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretaries of Higher Education, Jal Shakti, Tourism, Agriculture Production, ACS to the Chief Minister, all Administrative Secretaries, Director General Budget, DG Expenditure Division-I, DG Accounts & Treasuries, DG Codes/Resources, and other senior officers were also present. Officers from other districts participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

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Earlier, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya gave a detailed presentation providing a comprehensive financial and developmental overview of Jammu and Kashmir as of October 7, 2025. He presented an evaluation of expenditure progress under the Union Territory (UT) and District CAPEX Budgets, sectoral allocations, revenue trends, fiscal challenges, and ongoing reform initiatives under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and the guidelines for execution of works and funds to be expended under Special Assistance for Capital Investment (SASCI) programme.

CM gave directions to ensure that the mandatory percentage of expenditure to be made under the SASCI scheme by the end of December 2025 and March 2026 is incurred so that the benefits under the scheme are not squandered. He asked the Ministers to review progress of projects under SASCI every two weeks.

District-wise progress was assessed and it was found that districts need to pay attention towards early execution of works on ground.

Chief Minister gave directions for ensuring visible impact on ground and complete the macadamization & black-topping of roads planned during the current financial year. He exhorted the departments to fill up the vacant posts in engineering departments immediately so that the execution of projects is not affected.

Chief Minister underlined the need to finalize reforms such as revision of mining royalties, establishment of scrapping facility for old vehicles, operationalizing electronic enforcement devices for road safety, modernization & digitization of land records, reforms linked to agriculture such as farmers registry linked to land records & digital crop survey, urban land reforms, fiscal reforms so that J&K Government is able avail funds to be allocated for achieving these milestones from the central government.

Chief Minister directed departments to ensure that funds available in Single Nodal Accounts are utilized well before the deadline as departments shift to SNA-Sparsh financial management system.

Concluding the review, the Chief Minister called for strict monitoring, accountability, and coordinated action among departments to ensure that developmental works translate into tangible improvements on the ground. He reiterated that timely execution, financial prudence, and effective reform implementation remain central to the government's developmental agenda.

Alarming rise in

professionals have called for an urgent need to strengthen counselling services, job opportunities, and awareness about mental well-being. (KNO)

MoP allocates

specific allocations with effect from 01.10.2025,” MoP said.

In addition, the MoP said that Jammu and Kashmir is receiving a specific allocation of 41 MW from RAPS-C and 36 MW (unallocated share of 15 percent from Uri – II) to J&K for winter months every year respectively.

Stating the bifurcation of remaining un-Allocated Pool of 1790.66 MW excluding RAPP-B, the MoP has said that Jammu and Kashmir is receiving 1056.49 MWs with effect from December-01 till 28-02-2026 or modified otherwise. (KNO)

India sourced military hardware worth Rs 1.20 lakh crore in 2024-25: Rajnath

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 07: India procured military hardware and weapons worth Rs 1,20,000 crore from domestic sources by end of 2024-25 as it is increasingly focusing on boosting self-reliance to confront national security challenges, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

In an address at an event, Singh said the government is fully aware of the changing dynamics of battle field, especially the importance of non-contact warfare such as use of drones, and preparing for it accordingly.

In this context, he underlined the importance of enhancing India's own defence industries to meet myriad security challenges.

"In 2021-22, our capital acquisition from domestic sources was around Rs 74,000 crore, but by the end of 2024-25, the capital acquisition from domestic sources has increased to approximately Rs 1,20,000 crore," he said.

"This change is not just about data, but also about mindset," he said. The defence minister said the Modi government has taken several policy initiatives in the last 10 years to encourage indigenous design, development, and manufacturing of



defence equipment in the country. Under these initiatives, the highest priority is now being given to domestic sourcing in procurement of military hardware, he noted.

"The government of India is fully aware of the changing nature of modern warfare. Today's warfare has become completely technology-oriented. We have seen a demonstration of this in Operation Sindoor as well," he said.

"In this, we observed that the importance of non-contact warfare, such as drones, anti-drone warfare, and air-defense systems,

has significantly increased," he said. Singh also listed goals in the defence sector to realise India's overall aim to become a developed country by 2047.

"First is that we must achieve a high degree of self-reliance in the critical defence capabilities. Second, we must become a prominent global exporter in the defence sector," he said.

"Third, to take India forward in cutting-edge technology sectors, we must achieve advancements in some new niche technologies," he said.

Modi proved how leadership can transform lives of crores: Shah



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 07: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that 'Karma Yogi' Narendra Modi took constitutional oath as Gujarat chief minister on this day 24 years ago, and during his long public service, he has proved that when the vision is 'Nation First' and the mission is 'Developed India', how leadership can bring transformation in the lives of crores of people.

After spearheading the BJP to victory in three consecutive Assembly polls in Gujarat as the chief minister, Modi has led the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as the prime minister since 2014, winning three successive national elections.

"Twenty-four years dedicated to the nation and public service! This day is very significant for the entire country, when a 'karma yogi' devoted to public service with

selfless spirit took the constitutional oath, considered people's problems as his own, and began resolving them, and these problems kept turning into history," Shah wrote on X in Hindi.

The home minister said that in these 24 years, be it transforming farmers, women, industry and education in Gujarat, or ensuring the nations' security, welfare of the poor, and the upliftment of all sections, including the backward, Dalit and tribal communities, as the prime minister, Modi has proven that when the vision is

'First' and the mission is 'Developed India', how a leadership can bring transformation in the lives of crores of people.

As an incumbent, Modi never faced an electoral defeat and holds the record as the longest head of a government among all prime ministers, including as chief minister for more than 12-and-a-half years.

Cough syrup deaths

PIL in SC seeks CBI probe, nationwide safety review

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 07: A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking inquiry and systemic reform in drug safety mechanisms in the wake of deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan allegedly due to consumption of toxic cough syrups. The PIL, filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari, seeks a court-monitored probe into the incidents and urges the constitution of a National Judicial Commission or Expert Committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge.

The PIL requests that all pending FIRs and investigations concerning the deaths of children caused by toxic cough syrups across states be transferred to the CBI. It seeks a probe under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge to ensure fairness and uniformity.

The petition contends that separate state-level investigations have led to fragmented accountability, enabling repeated lapses that allow hazardous formulations to reach the market. The petition comes amid reports from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, where several children allegedly died after consuming a particular kind of cough syrup.

The plea seeks court's direction to the Central government to constitute a national-level judicial or expert body to identify the regulatory failures that allowed substandard medicines to reach the market. It also urged the court to mandate toxicological testing of all suspect products through NABL-accredited laboratories before any further sale or export is permitted.

Punjab govt bans sale of Coldrif syrup after death of 14 children in MP



An order issued by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Punjab government, on Monday said it has come to the notice of this office that Coldrif syrup has been declared as not of standard quality by the government analyst, drugs testing laboratory, and FDA, Madhya Pradesh.

Chandigarh, Oct 07: The Punjab government has banned the sale, distribution and use of Coldrif cough syrup in the wake of 14 children dying in Madhya Pradesh, reportedly due to the consumption of the contaminated medicine.

An order issued by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Punjab government, on Monday said it has come to the notice of this office that Coldrif syrup has been declared as not of standard quality by the government analyst, drugs testing laboratory, and FDA, Madhya Pradesh.

The drug's batch number is SR-13, manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceutical, Bangalore Highways, Sun-guvarchatram (Mathura), Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu. The aforementioned drug formulation is reported to be adulterated, as it contains Diethylene Glycol (46.28 per cent w/v), which makes it injurious to health," the order said.

Considering the seriousness of the matter, as the said product has been observed to be linked to the recent deaths of children in the Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh, the

above-mentioned product is hereby completely prohibited for sale, distribution and utilisation in the state of Punjab with immediate effect in public interest," the Punjab FDA order said.

It also said that all retailers, distributors, registered medical practitioners and hospitals and healthcare institutions, etc., in Punjab shall not purchase, sell or utilise the said product.

If any stock of the drug is available in the state, the information may be provided to the FDA (drugs wing), the order said.

The deaths of children due to suspected renal failure were reported from Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh in a month. The cough syrup, manufactured in Tamil Nadu, was found to be dangerously adulterated with Diethylene Glycol (DEG), a highly poisonous substance.

The tragic deaths triggered a national health alert, leading to suspensions of officials in Madhya Pradesh, arrests, nationwide stock confiscations, and immediate, stringent changes to drug prescription guidelines in states like Kerala and Karnataka.

FM flags weaponisation of tech, bats for using it for global good

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 07: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday pitched for using technology for public good, while expressing her disappointment at "weaponising" the advancements at the global level.

The Finance Minister asserted India is a global fintech leader, which has set benchmarks in innovation, scale and inclusion. "...the simple motive is that it (technology) should be for the public good. And at no point of time it gets weaponised," she said, while speaking at the annual Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai. "It is important to constantly remind ourselves that technology cannot be in that sense truly mastered, but having obtained certain propriety, rights over some part of it, we should refrain from weaponising it," she added.

Ms. Sitharaman said we have "constantly" seen instances of inward looking attitudes along with technology advancements. The idea of "global progress itself gets questioned because of weaponising it", the FM added. She, however, did not elaborate further or offer any specific instances that led her make the remarks.

The comments come at a time when several countries have taken measures, resulting into restrictions in trade and innovations. The U.S., the world's largest economy and also a technology powerhouse, has made major



shifts in its trade policies.

At present, India is negotiating a trade agreement with the US, which has chosen to slap high tariffs on Indian goods and also steeply hiked fees for H1B visa. A bulk of the H1B visas are secured by Indian tech workers.

Foreign currency settlement system launched

At the event, Ms. Sitharaman launched the foreign currency settlement system in GIFT IFSC, which will facilitate seamless transactions on real-time basis, enhance liquidity management, and ensure compliance.

Currently foreign currency transactions usually get settled with a lag of 36 to 48 hours. Ms. Sitharaman said with the operationalisation of the foreign currency settlement system, GIFT City joins a select list of financial centres that include Hong Kong, Tokyo, Manila, and some other centres which have the

infrastructure to settle foreign currency transactions locally. Mr. Sitharaman further said fintech has democratised finance in India.

"India ranks third in fintech companies and does half of world's real-time digital transactions," she said, adding that the government's policy has been to play a role to nurture the fintech sector through a balanced approach. She emphasised the government's enabling approach towards business, technology and innovation.

"We'd like to remain in the fringes and watch. We like to remain in the fringes and help... we have to enable businesses and not interrupt in their progress," Ms. Sitharaman added. Ms. Sitharaman said, "Fintech in India has not merely digitised payments but has also democratised finance, empowering millions to save, invest, borrow and insure with transparency."

Delhi hospital corrects elderly woman's heart rhythm disorder with capsule-size pacemaker

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 07: A 66-year-old woman underwent a minimally invasive procedure in which a capsule-sized, wireless device was implanted in her heart to correct a cardiac rhythm disorder, with the hospital claiming it to be India's first such procedure for the condition.

The woman visited the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital after experiencing palpitations and imbalance for several months.

She was recently diagnosed with Sick Sinus Syndrome, a condition where the heart's natural pacemaker (sinus node) fails to maintain a regular rhythm, the hospital said in a statement.

She was advised to undergo pacemaker implantation, but was hesitant about conventional surgery and having a visible device. Dr Vanita Arora, Clinical Lead, Cardiac Electrophysiology, at the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, offered her a pioneering, transcatheter alternative -- the Atrial Aveir Leadless Pacemaker, a capsule-sized device which can be implanted in the right upper chamber of the heart without surgery.

The procedure was performed without any complications on Sunday, Dr Arora said. The patient has recovered well and



has already started walking. She will be discharged on Tuesday, she said.

The technology offers new hope to patients who require pacing support in the upper chamber for SND but are apprehensive about traditional surgery or carrying a visible device, Dr Arora said.

"By eliminating leads and surgical pockets, it provides a safer, transcatheter minimally invasive solution that preserves the natural motion of the heart. Our patient, who had been distressed with palpitations and dizziness for months, responded beautifully to the procedure and was able to walk within hours," she said.

"This marks India's first successful case of Atrial Aveir Leadless Pacemaker implantation, a breakthrough in transcatheter minimally invasive cardiac rhythm management," the statement said.

Cabinet approves 4 railway projects covering 18 districts in four states

PIB

New Delhi, Oct 07: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved four projects of Ministry of Railways with total cost of Rs 24,634 crore (approximately).

These projects include:

Wardha - Bhusawal - 3rd & 4th line - 314 kms (Maharashtra)

Gondia - Dongargarh - 4th line - 84 kms (Maharashtra & Chhattisgarh)

Vadodara - Ratlam - 3rd & 4th line - 259 kms (Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh)

Itarsi - Bhopal - Bina 4th line - 237 kms. (Madhya Pradesh)

The four projects covering 18 Districts across the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 894 Kms. The approved multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to approx. 3,633 villages, which are having a population of about 85.84 lakh and two Aspirational Districts (Vidisha and Rajnandgaon).

The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi's Vision of a New India which will make people of the region "Atmanirbhar" by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities.

The projects are planned on PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity & logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods, and services.

Project section also provides rail connectivity to prominent destinations such as Sanchi, Satpura Tiger Reserve, Rock shelter of Bhimbetka, Hazara falls, Nawegaon National Park etc. attracting tourists from across the country.

This is an essential route for transportation of commodities such as coal, container, cement, fly ash, food grain, steel, etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 78 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum). The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (28 Crore Litres) and lower CO2 emissions (139 Crore Kg) which is equivalent to plantation of Six Crore trees.

India-US in continuous dialogue for trade pact, says Goyal

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 07: India and the US are in continuous dialogue on the proposed bilateral trade agreement, and all possibilities are there to meet the November deadline for concluding the talks, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

On the possibility of the next round of trade negotiations in a physical mode, he said that every possibility exists, but with the US government currently in shutdown mode, it remains to be seen how, where, and when the next round of talks can take place.

"Aap sub jante hain ki USA me aaj-kal government shut down mode me hai, toh uske maddenazar dekhdna padega ki kaise baat-cheet ho sakti hai, kahan ho sakti hai, aur kab ho sakti hai (As you all know, the US government is currently in shutdown mode. So, keeping that in mind, we'll have to see how, where, and when the discussions can take place)," he told reporters here. The US government has stopped



working since midnight on October 1 as Congress failed to pass a funding bill. Theoretically, this means many government workers will not be paid for now, and services centres are closed. However, important operations, such as in the field of defence and social work, will continue to function.

Goyal is here for a one-day official visit. He is leading a business delegation and discussing ways to boost trade and investment ties between the two countries.

"We are in constant dialogue with the USA (on the

trade pact), and talks are on at various levels. We will give more information on this soon on how we are thinking to take it forward," he said.

When asked if the two sides are sticking to the November deadline to conclude the negotiations, he said: "There is every possibility".

Last month, the minister led an official delegation to New York for trade talks. After that meeting, India and the US decided to continue negotiations for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement.

From OpenAI to Meta, firms channel billions into AI infrastructure as demand booms

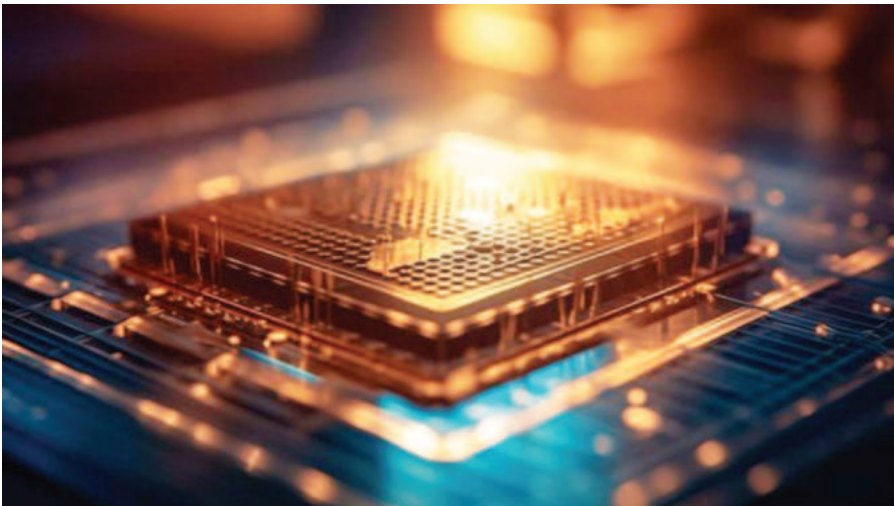
REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 07: AMD has agreed to supply artificial intelligence chips to OpenAI in a multi-year deal that would also give the ChatGPT creator the option to buy up to roughly 10% of the chipmaker, the latest in a dozen such investments and partnerships.

Larger chip rival Nvidia has also announced a plan to invest up to \$100 billion in OpenAI, as appetite for systems powering AI surge on expectations that enterprises will integrate the technology into their products and services. Here is a list of multi-billion dollar AI, cloud and chip deals signed recently:

Nvidia and OpenAI: Nvidia is set to invest up to \$100 billion in OpenAI and supply it with data center chips, in a deal giving the chipmaker a financial stake in OpenAI. OpenAI is already an important customer for Nvidia. Meta and CoreWeave: CoreWeave has signed a \$14 billion agreement with Meta to supply computing power to the Facebook parent.

Nvidia and Intel: Nvidia will invest \$5 billion in Intel, giving it roughly 4% of the



company after new shares are issued.

Oracle and Meta: Oracle is in talks with Meta for a multi-year cloud computing deal worth about \$20 billion, underscoring the social media giant's drive to secure faster

access to computing power.

Oracle and OpenAI: Oracle is reported to have signed one of the biggest cloud deals ever with OpenAI, under which the ChatGPT maker is expected to buy \$300 billion in

computing power from the company for about five years.

CoreWeave and Nvidia: CoreWeave signed a \$6.3 billion initial order with backer Nvidia, a deal that guarantees that the AI chipmaker will purchase any cloud capacity not sold to customers.

Nebius Group and Microsoft: Nebius Group will provide Microsoft with GPU infrastructure capacity in a deal worth \$17.4 billion over a five-year term.

Meta and Google: Google struck a six-year cloud computing deal with Meta Platforms worth more than \$10 billion, Reuters had reported in August.

Intel and Softbank Group: Intel is getting a \$2 billion capital injection from SoftBank Group, making the Japanese tech investor one of the top-10 shareholders of the troubled U.S. chipmaker.

Tesla and Samsung: Tesla signed a \$16.5 billion deal to source chips from Samsung Electronics, with the EV maker's CEO Elon Musk, saying that the South Korean tech giant's new chip factory in Texas would make Tesla's next-generation AI6 chip.

Meta and Scale AI: Meta took a 49% stake for about \$14.3 billion in Scale AI and brought in its 28-year-old CEO, Alexandr Wang, to play a prominent role in the tech giant's artificial intelligence strategy.

Google and Windsurf: Google hired several key staff members from AI code generation startup Windsurf and will pay \$2.4 billion in license fees as part of the deal to use some of Windsurf's technology under non-exclusive terms.

CoreWeave and OpenAI: CoreWeave signed a five-year contract worth \$11.9 billion with OpenAI in March, before the Nvidia-backed startup's IPO.

Stargate Data Centre Project: Stargate is a joint venture between SoftBank, OpenAI and Oracle to build data centers. The project was announced in January by U.S. President Donald Trump, who said that the companies would invest up to \$500 billion to fund infrastructure for artificial intelligence.

Amazon and Anthropic: Amazon.com pumped \$4 billion into OpenAI competitor Anthropic, doubling its investment in the firm known for its GenAI chatbot Claude.

Mike Atherton demands end to 'neatly arranged' Indo-Pak clashes in ICC events

PTI

London, Oct 07: Alleging that draws have been "neatly arranged" to ensure India-Pakistan clashes in ICC tournaments for "economic needs", former England captain Michael Atherton has called for a complete halt to cricket between the two bitter rivals as sport has become a "proxy for broader tensions and propaganda".

In a scathing column, Atherton cited the recent "antics" at the Asia Cup where the Indian team refused to shake hands with Pakistani players and the Asian Cricket Council's Pakistani head Mohsin Naqvi walked away with the winner's trophy after the Indians refused to accept it from him. "India and Pakistan have played each other in the group stage of every ICC event since 2013, which includes three 50-over World Cups, five T20 World Cups and three Champions Trophy," Atherton said.

"That is regardless of whether the initial stage has been a single round robin - part of the motivation for which is the inevitability of an India versus Pakistan fixture - or multi-group, when the draws have been neatly arranged to ensure the fixture goes ahead," he added. The tensions between the two countries are at an all-time high after the Pahalgam terror



attack in which 26 Indians were gunned down by Pakistan-backed terrorists leading to military action by India in May.

"Despite its scarcity (maybe, in part, because of its scarcity) it is a fixture that carries huge economic clout, one of the main reasons why the broadcast rights for ICC tournaments are worth so much - roughly USD 3 billion for the most recent rights cycle 2023-27," Atherton wrote in The Times, London.

"Due to the relative decline in the value of bilateral matches, ICC events have grown in frequency and importance, and so the India and Pakistan fixture is crucial to the balance sheets of those who would not otherwise have any skin in the game," he said.

Atherton said time is now right

to end the "tacitly supported arrangement" of ensuring that the two arch-foes clash at least once in ICC events. At the recent Asia Cup, the draw and schedule was such that the two sides faced each other every Sunday of the three-week tournament.

"If cricket was once the vehicle for diplomacy, it is now, clearly, a proxy for broader tensions and for propaganda. There is little justification, in any case, for a serious sport to arrange tournament fixtures to suit its economic needs and now that the rivalry is being exploited in other ways, there is even less justification for it.

"For the next broadcast rights cycle, the fixture draw before ICC events should be transparent and if the two teams do not

meet every time, so be it," Atherton said.

India and Pakistan do not engage bilaterally since the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. The Indian government, days before Asia Cup, came out with a policy to place a blanket ban on bilateral sports between the two countries even at neutral venues but exempted multi-lateral events to ensure that the country adheres to the Olympic Charter.

Atherton said the two countries are being deliberately drawn with each other to cash in on the tension that pulls in the crowd and viewership numbers crucial for good advertising revenue.

"This 'arrangement' has been tacitly supported within the game for a number of reasons. The most obvious is the inability of both teams, because of political tensions, to meet outside ICC events.

"Cricket on each other's territory was once the avenue through which both countries might talk, but gradually silence has descended. "ICC events are the only occasions, at present, when the fixture can go ahead and now this must be on neutral territory too - the cause of much debate in the most recent Champions Trophy, when India parked themselves in Dubai for an entire tournament nominally hosted by Pakistan," he pointed out.

Pope Leo to visit Turkiye, Lebanon in Nov in first trip abroad

REUTERS

Vatican City, Oct 07: Pope Leo will travel to Turkiye and Lebanon in late November, the Vatican announced on Tuesday, in the first visit outside Italy by the new leader of the 1.4-billion-member global Catholic Church.

Leo, the first US pope, will visit Turkiye from November 27-30 before heading to Lebanon from November 30 to December 2, where he is expected to speak about the plight of Christians in the Middle East and to make appeals for peace across the region.

Leo was elected by the world's Catholic cardinals on May 8 to replace the late Pope Francis, who had planned to visit both countries but was unable to go because of health issues.

The pope is expected to meet in Turkiye with Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual leader of the world's 260 million Orthodox Christians, for celebrations of the 1,700th anniversary of a major early Church council, which took place in Nicaea, now called Iznik.

"It is profoundly symbolical that Pope Leo ... will visit (the patriarch) on his first official journey," Rev. John Chryssavgis, an adviser to Bartholomew, told Reuters. "Pope Leo is doubtless



seeking to express and affirm his identity as a Christian in a world of many different creeds, where all people, regardless of religion and race, are called to live together in mutual understanding," said the priest. Traveling abroad has become a major part of the modern papacy, with popes seeking to meet local Catholics, spread the faith, and conduct international diplomacy.

A new pope's first travels are usually seen as an indication of

the issues the pontiff wants to highlight during his reign.

Leo had been expected for months to travel to Turkiye for his first trip abroad, but the additional visit to Lebanon only emerged in discussions in recent weeks.

Vatican officials say the pontiff wants to make appeals for peace and commemorate the 2020 chemical explosion at the Beirut port that killed 200 people and caused billions of dollars worth of damage.

Russia says intercepted 209 Ukrainian drones overnight

AFP

Moscow, Oct 07: Ukraine launched a major drone attack on Russia for the second day in a row, Moscow said Tuesday, reporting that it had intercepted 209 drones overnight and in the morning. The attack is Kyiv's second consecutive barrage on Russia as it steps up retaliatory strikes.

Most of the drones were shot down over the regions of Kursk, Nizhny Novgorod and Belgorod, Russia's defense ministry said in a statement.

The strikes hit an unidentified industry enterprise in the Nizhny Novgorod region, Governor Gleb Nikitin said.

Russian authorities did not report any injuries or deaths on Tuesday.

On Monday, Ukraine launched 251 drones toward Russia, and two people died in a rocket strike on the city of Belgorod around 30 kilometers (19 miles) from the Ukrainian border.

"One thousand people in four settlements remain without electricity," according to Belgorod's governor Vyacheslav Gladkov, adding that repair works were ongoing after the barrage. Kyiv is ramping up strikes on Russia's energy and oil infrastructure, in what it sees as a legitimate response to Moscow's daily attacks on Ukrainian cities, which have at times left millions without heating and power. Ukraine said Russia had launched 154 drones and missiles overnight Monday-Tuesday, around half of which were intercepted.

An unmanned aircraft hit rail-way and energy infrastructure in Ukraine's Poltava and Sumy regions, leaving more than 1,000 people without electricity.

IGPL board meets Union Sports Minister to discuss growth of golf in India



IANS

New Delhi, Oct 07: Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya met with the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) co-founder and Ambassador Yuvraj Singh and CEO Uttam Mundy at his office and praised the efforts being made to promote the sport across India.

IGPL, the country's first-ever franchise-based golf league, is set to debut in January 2026 and will feature six franchises. The tournament is being organised in partnership with the Indian Golf Union (IGU), the Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI), and the PGA of India. It will follow a city-based franchise format, welcoming both professional and amateur men and women golfers in team-based competitions.

The discussion centred on the growth of golf in India and how IGPL aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Khelo

Bharat Neeti,' a comprehensive framework designed to strengthen the sports ecosystem at every level.

The Sports Minister, during the conversation, also emphasised the importance of grassroots sports development and how franchise-based tournaments can help nurture the growth of future talent.

The IGPL stakeholders also showcased their desire to contribute to the government's grassroots initiatives while also contributing to PM Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat.'

On meeting with the sports minister, Yuvraj added, "His encouragement is a tremendous motivation for us to continue our mission of making golf more accessible and popular across India. This is a huge step forward for the sport, and we are committed to working together to nurture the next generation of golfers."

Movies

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER

INOX CINEMA SRINAGAR

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

SUNNY SANSKARI KI TULSI KUMARI (UA13+)
HINDI - 12:15 PM, 03:20 PM, 06:30 PM

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)
HINDI - 10:40 AM, 02:00 PM, 05:30 PM

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