

Home Minister Amit Shah to chair high-level J&K security review meeting today

» LG Manoj Sinha, Chief Secy, security top brass to attend » Meet likely to focus on anti-terror ops, infiltration control, winter readiness

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 08: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level meeting in New Delhi on Thursday to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Duloo, top officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau, Army, paramilitary forces, including CRPF and BSF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police are expected to attend the meeting.

The meeting chaired by the Home Minister, sources said,



Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

“will hold discussions on counter infiltration, anti-terror operations, winter preparedness and steps needed to enhance synergy between security

agencies.”
Pertinently, the Union Home Minister during his visit to Jammu last month chaired a comprehensive security review

meeting and reiterated the Central Government's unwavering zero-tolerance policy against terrorism under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shah had directed all security agencies to maintain high vigil and operate in a coordinated manner to completely eradicate terrorism from the Union Territory.

Shah had praised the UT administration and security forces for their exemplary efforts in ensuring the peaceful and successful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra 2025.

It may be recalled that in the last week of September, Lieutenant | [More on P6](#)

‘Op Sindoor’ exhibited how air power can influence military outcomes: Air Chief Marshal

- Hindon Air Base
■ hosts IAF's 93rd Foundation Day
- President Murmu, PM Modi extend greetings
- Service Chiefs pay tributes to soldiers
- Platforms that forced Pak to seek ceasefire showcased



in shaping military outcomes in just a few days,” he added.

Pertinently, “Operation Sindoor,” launched in May 2025 following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, targeted nine terrorist camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the skirmishes that followed led to Pakistan vital military installations and air bases suffering massive damages.

Singh said the mission was a result of “meticulous planning, disciplined training and determined execution,” adding that the operation reaffirmed the offensive role of air power in national security.

He said the use of indigenously developed platforms and weapons played a key role in the operation. “The outstanding performance of the indigenously developed and integrated weapons which delivered | [More on P6](#)

Base, the Air Chief Marshal, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “Disciplined operations, empowered leadership, and indigenous technology enabled rapid, high-impact action across the Line of Control (LoC).”

“Our performance in Operation Sindoor fills us with professional pride. We proved to the world how air power can be effectively used

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 08 (KNO): Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Wednesday said that ‘Operation Sindoor’ demonstrated how air power, when applied with precision and planning, can influence military outcomes in a short span of time.

Addressing air warriors at the 93rd Indian Air Force Day celebrations at Hindon Air

Two soldiers go missing in Kokernag forests, searches on

Umairsar Gull Ganie

Anantnag, Oct 08: Two Army soldiers have gone missing in the Ahlan Gadole forest belt of Kokernag area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, prompting a massive search operation by security forces.

Official sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the two soldiers went missing on Monday evening during an operation in the dense forests of Ahlan Gadole. “Contact with them could not be established since last evening,” they said.

“The missing soldiers were part of a small operational team that was carrying out searches following specific inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area,” sources said, adding, “A sudden change in weather

conditions disrupted the operation, and during that time, two soldiers went missing.”

The area has recently witnessed snowfall, and the thick foliage and rough terrain are making the search operation difficult.

Sources said additional Army personnel have been deployed, and every corner of the forest is being combed. “Choppers and drones have been pressed into service to trace the missing soldiers,” they said.

Meanwhile, the Army said that two soldiers have gone missing after a severe snowstorm in the Gadole forest area of Kokernag in Anantnag.

In a post on X, the Army's Chinara Corps wrote, “On the intervening night of 6/7 Oct, an operational team on the Kishtwar range | [More on P6](#)

100-120 terrorists believed to be near LoC launch pads, says IG BSF Kmr

‘Security forces on high alert to prevent infiltration’

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 08: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday said approximately 100 to 120 terrorists are currently stationed across the Line of Control (LoC) and may attempt infiltration before winter sets in.

“Two months are still left before harsh winters. Terrorists can try infiltration during this period. Our intelligence agencies are analysing their activities and we are taking countermeasures from our side,” Inspector General (IG) BSF Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav said.

Speaking to the media after unveiling a statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the BSF Sector Headquarters in Pantha Chowk, Srinagar, Yadav said



the security along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir remains tight, with constant monitoring and countermeasures in place to prevent any infiltration attempts by terrorists stationed across the border.

The IG BSF, Ashok Yadav, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said

troops are maintaining high alert and are equipped with modern surveillance systems to detect and neutralise any infiltration attempts.

“We remain alert along the border and act on every alert. We receive frequent intelligence about attempted infiltrations and keep the area under domination to ensure infiltration does not succeed,” he said.

He said any infiltration attempt is being responded to with force. “With our modernised forces, if any attempt is made, we will neutralise it,” he added.

The IG BSF said there has been no major terrorist infiltration so far this year, and all attempts have been foiled. The BSF, along with the Army, is conducting continuous area domination | [More on P6](#)

SIA searches 8 locations across Kashmir

Case linked to terrorist sleeper cell module

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 08: In continuation of its unrelenting efforts to crackdown the sleeper cell module, the State Investigation Agency carried out extensive searches at eight locations across seven districts in the Kashmir valley today.

In a statement, issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said that the searches were conducted as part of an ongoing investigation of case FIR No.

“01/2025 of Police Station CI/ SIA Kashmir. The case is related to the sleeper cell module operating in the Valley at the behest of terrorist commanders of proscribed terrorist organisations

of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. The module is used for spreading secessionist propaganda thereby radicalising and recruiting the youth into the terror fold,” reads the statement.

It reads that today's search operation was conducted simultaneously across 7 districts in north, central and south Kashmir. “During raids, substantial incriminating materials have been seized, and the suspects have been rounded up for further questioning,” it reads.

It added that preliminary investigation has clearly brought out the active engagement of these entities in a terrorist conspiracy aimed at propagating and furthering anti-India narratives aimed not only at challenging the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India but also at inciting disaffection, public disorder, and communal hatred. | [More on P6](#)

LoP Sharma challenges CM over BJP option claim

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 08: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma on Wednesday challenged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to name any BJP leader who ‘offered’ to form a government with the National Conference, if there is any truth to his claims that he had the option of forming a government with the party.

Addressing a news conference, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sharma demanded that the Chief Minister identify the BJP leader who made such an offer, if there is even an iota of truth in his claims.

“Omar Abdullah is claiming everywhere that he had two options in 2024: either to form a government or to run it alone. I don't know in which dream



the BJP offered an alliance to his party. I say this with full responsibility—if any BJP leader made such an offer, he should prove it and reveal it. He is resorting to concocted stories, claiming he had the option to form a government. The BJP's doors were shut to him then,

and they remain shut now,” Sharma said.

He added that Omar Abdullah should either prove the BJP offered him an alliance or apologise for making misleading statements.

“On one hand, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is creating hatred against the BJP in Kashmir, while on the other, he is meeting our leaders and offering bouquets and shawls to them in Delhi,” Sharma said, adding that Abdullah's statements reek of political indecency.

Referring to Omar Abdullah's recent statement, Sharma said it is not in his nature to push others aside to advance his career.

“I come from a poor family—a very poor family. I began my political career as a booth-level worker. I have lost elections and I have | [More on P6](#)

‘Don't raise finger on my leader’: Dy CM hits back at LoP

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary on Tuesday strongly reacted to remarks made by Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma, who accused Omar Abdullah of seeking statehood to consolidate power and target innocent civilians in Kashmir.

Talking to media persons at Seerbagh Shalina, Chaudhary, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, “Ask the LoP why he didn't stop | [More on P6](#)

Budgam, Nagrota by-polls

BJP election panel to meet today to discuss candidates

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 08: The Bharatiya Janata Party's election committee will meet on Thursday to discuss the upcoming by-elections for the Nagrota and Budgam assembly segments, sources disclosed.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the party's election committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow to deliberate on probable candidates for the Budgam and Nagrota constituencies, which are set to go to polls on November 11.

The meeting will be

attended by BJP state president Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, MP Jugal Kishore, General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul, and other members of the committee.

Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, and party's national general secretary and in-charge for Jammu & Kashmir, Tarun Chugh, will also attend the meeting.

The committee is expected to discuss potential candidates for both seats and submit its recommendations to the party high command, which will finalize the names. | [More on P6](#)

Chenab Valley's hazardous roads worsen after floods

Peerzada Ummer

Srinagar, Oct 08: The roads in the Chenab Valley have become increasingly hazardous, claiming lives and damaging infrastructure with each passing day. After the recent torrential rains and floods, the region's fragile road network has suffered severe damage, while funds for restoration remain stuck awaiting government approval.

In the mountainous district of Doda, the condition of link roads has worsened dramatically.

Commuters, who spoke to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), describe travelling on these dilapidated routes as sheer torment.

Although the government has launched | [More on P6](#)

20 years on, earthquake memories still haunt Kashmir's border villages

Residents say natural disasters can't be stopped, but suffering was unimaginable

Sajid Raina

Karnah, Oct 08 Ghulam Nabi Khan, now 80, still lives in a house rebuilt with government aid, but the pain from that day has never left him.

On this day 20 years ago, the Karnah Valley in north Kashmir's Kupwara district faced a devastating earthquake, claiming over 150 lives, destroying thousands of homes, livestock, and vital infrastructure, and leaving deep scars on the mountains and fields.

“It's been 20 years since the

deadly earthquake devastated and shook the Karnah Valley, yet people here still carry fresh memories of that day,” Khan recalled while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said people lost their loved ones in the tragedy, and the pain that kept us awake for months still haunts us to this day.

“We were busy in the fields when the earth started shaking violently. I ran back home to find the roof collapsing like a deck of cards. My two grandsons were playing inside. They



never came out alive. I still see their faces when I close my eyes,” he recalled.

Today, Khan tends a small orchard near his home. “I work every day, but the silence at home reminds me of what I lost,” he said, adding, “It was a natural disaster; no one could have stopped it, but we suffered beyond anything imaginable.”

Locals said that villages like Tangdhar, Tithwal, and other border areas were among the worst hit.

Almost all the ‘kachcha’

houses made of mud and brick collapsed, especially in low-lying areas where over 90% of structures were destroyed.

Even army installations, bridges, and culverts were severely damaged. Roads, including the crucial Karnah-Tangdhar route, were blocked by landslides, isolating the valley for days.

Fatima Begum, 68, was a widow even before the earthquake, but lost her son and many neighbours in the disaster.

“I was fetching water from the spring when the

earth trembled. By the time I reached home, everything had fallen: the walls, the roof, and my son trapped inside.”

For days, she searched through the debris alongside others, hoping for a miracle that never came. Now, Fatima lives with her daughter in Tangdhar.

Zubeeda, 35, was newly married and full of hope in 2005. “We had just finished building our mud house when the quake struck at dawn. The walls shook, and then everything fell around us. I held my husband's hand | [More on P6](#)

Govt committed to sustainable development across J&K: Javid Dar
Inaugurates International Geospatial Conference at IUST



KT NEWS DESK

AWANTIPORA, OCTOBER 08: Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperatives, Javid Ahmad Dar, Wednesday inaugurated the International Conference on "Mapping the Future of Sustainable Landscapes: Geospatial Innovation for People, Places and Practices" at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) here.

The two day Conference organized by IUST in collaboration with the International Society for

Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) brings together global experts, academicians and policymakers to deliberate on the role of geospatial technologies in advancing sustainable development.

In his inaugural address, the Minister emphasized that the conference holds great relevance for the agriculture and horticulture sectors of Jammu & Kashmir, where geospatial innovations can help enhance productivity, resource management, and ecosystem conservation. He reiterated the J&K Government's

commitment to sustainable and technology-driven development, underscoring that science, innovation, and community participation must work together to address emerging environmental challenges.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo in his address highlighted IUST's contributions to geospatial research and innovation and announced the establishment of a new incubator to develop a student-led "Kashmir Satellite" under the National 75 Student Satellite Mission.

CS reviews progress on digitization, modernization of land records
Calls for timely completion of exercise to ensure transparency, efficiency

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 08: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday reviewed the progress of the ongoing Digitization and Modernization of Land Records project in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that although the exercise is complex and arduous, it remains vital for ensuring transparency, accurate land ownership records, efficient planning, and improved agricultural practices across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Revenue, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Director, Survey & Land Records; Inspector General, Registration; CEO, State Health Agency and other senior officers, while all Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of completing the digitization process with utmost accuracy, observing that a significant proportion of land-related disputes stem from discrepancies in land records. He directed the



concerned officers to ensure regular monitoring and evaluation of the progress being achieved and to accomplish the modernization process in every respect within the next six to seven months.

Taking a detailed review of the current status, Dulloo instructed the Director, Land Records, to issue clear guidelines to all Deputy Commissioners regarding the procedure for recreation of missing musavis (cadastral maps) in certain villages. He asked that necessary support be extended to districts to ensure completion of this process within two months, so that the subsequent course of action for remaining

villages can be determined thereafter.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress under key components of the land records modernization programme, including digitization of Jamabandis (Record of Rights), geo-referencing of cadastral maps, sub-parcelization of survey numbers, end-to-end digitization of registrations, modernization of record rooms, computerization of revenue courts, implementation of NAKSHA in Urban Local Bodies, and the SVAMITVA scheme in rural areas for property card distribution.

Presenting an overview of the achievements, the

Secretary, Revenue informed that data entry of Jamabandis is being carried out in 4519 villages out of 6857, with around 600 villages already completed. He added that a backlog mutation module has been developed to update the Records of Rights (RoR) and Jamabandis to the year 2025, and a proof of concept (PoC) of the same has been successfully completed in five villages.

It was further informed that parcel attribute updation under the PM Gati Shakti initiative is progressing satisfactorily and is expected to be completed within a month. Out of 6217 geo-referenced maps received by BISAG-N, 4240 have been returned and ground-truthed, while parcel attribution has been completed for 3489 villages using QGIS/ARC GIS tools.

Regarding computerization of the registration process, the meeting was informed that the system is expected to become fully paperless within the next two weeks, with legacy data dating back to 1990 also being digitized in

collaboration with the judicial courts.

Under the SVAMITVA Scheme, it was given out that 52,265 property cards have already been distributed across 1,200 villages, while drone surveys stand almost complete, with work on Map 1.0 and Map 2.0 currently underway.

It was also informed that the NAKSHA scheme is being implemented on a pilot basis in four Urban Local Bodies of Bishnah, Katra, Pattan, and Awantipora out of which Bishnah is nearing completion, with drone surveys pending in the remaining three municipalities.

Reiterating the government's commitment to bring about a paradigm shift in land governance, the Chief Secretary directed the Revenue Department to maintain momentum and ensure seamless integration of all modules under the Digital Land Records Modernization Programme (DLRMP) for enhanced public service delivery and reduction in land disputes.

J&K BOSE notifies Date-sheet for Class 11, 12
Students to avail 15% relaxation in syllabus

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 08: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (J&K BOSE) has notified the date-sheets for 11th and 12th classes Annual/Regular, 2025 (Oct- Nov Session), scheduling the examinations from November 19 and November 8 respectively.

In all, over 1,52,000 students of class 11th (81,000) and 12th (71,000) from Kashmir Division and winter zone areas of Jammu Division including students from District Kargil are taking up the exam in the forthcoming session restored by the Government back to October- November.

As per the Date- sheet, the exams will commence on November 8 for class 12th and November 19 for class 11th and are likely to conclude by the second week of December.

In consideration of the disruptions in the academic calendar caused due to torrential rains/ cloudbursts and floods, the J&K BOSE has decided to grant 15% concession for these classes also making an attempt of 85% marks equivalent to 100%.

The J&K BOSE has urged students to prepare seriously for the examinations while reiterating its commitment to conduct the exams in observance of high standards of transparency and fairness.

The BOSE has exhorted invigilatory staff to be completely professional while discharging their duties in order to safeguard the purity and integrity of exams and requested district administration, police and SED to extend cordial support in smooth, fair and orderly conduct of the examinations. All students, parents and stakeholders are advised to check the date sheets of both the classes on JKBOSE website www.jkbose.nic.in to avoid being misled by fake and faulty interpretation of the concession criterion.

Div Com chairs high-level meeting
Reviews progress of Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 08: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of the Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme – Zone III of Greater Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC); Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Chief Engineer, KPD-CL; Superintending Engineer, UEED; along with officers from R&B, NBCC, and the Revenue Department.

During the meeting, officials from NBCC presented a detailed status report on the project. It was informed that Trunk Sewer Line is 99% complete, Lateral Sewer Line is 100% completed, 60 MLD STP is 98% complete, Household connections have been fully achieved and 60 MLD Infall Pump Station is 100% complete.

It was directed that trial runs

of the completed system shall be started on 16th October 2025, which would cover 2 out of the 3 zones of the city being taken up under the Project targeting a coverage of over 13000 households in all.

The meeting also discussed key challenges affecting the project, including the relocation of shops, realignment of PHE lines, and shifting of 11KV and 33KV power lines.

Emphasizing timely completion, the Divisional Commissioner called for swift resolution of all outstanding issues, including those hindering household connectivity. He also instructed the concerned departments to explore suitable land for the relocation of shops, which is essential for linking Sector-I to the main sewerage network.

The Div Com directed all executing agencies to ensure that the entire segment of the project is commissioned as per the scheduled timeline.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING FRESH TENDERS
E-NIT No. 55 of 2025-26/3557-66 dated 07 /10/2025/
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, fresh e-tenders (double cover system) are invited from reputed Regd. Architectural /Structural Consultant firms for providing Architectural and Structural Engineering Consultancy services in respect of following works:-

| S.No | Name of Work | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees) | Earnest Money (In Rupees) | Class of Contract | M.H of Account |
|------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Design, Consultancy, Geotechnical Investigation and Preparation of DPR, Detailed Estimates, BOQ along with all Architectural, Structural drawings for approval and providing all working drawings i.e. architectural, structural and service drawings along with digital layout of plan, etc. including vetting of Drawings from IIT/NIT/DIQC: For various Buildings & Roads under the territorial jurisdiction of R&B Division Chadoora. | 300/- | 10,000/- | Regd. Consultancy Firm | Contingencies |

Project Authority: PW(R&B) Division Chadoora
Zof Funds:-Available.
Tablet:

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|----|--|--|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 07/10/2025 |
| 2. | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 07/10//2025 |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date | 07/10/2025 |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date | 16/10/2025 upto 05.00 PM. |
| 5. | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids | 17/10/2025 at 10.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora |

2. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given above.
Note: The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopies.
Any short fall found in the soft copies will lead to the rejection of BID.
As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No. OMNo. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 reproduced as under:-
A) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1stLowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
B) The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing E-Challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan (Receipt).
2.1 Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Credited to M.H.0059 PWD)/DD in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Inviting Authority) and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority) failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly.
Note: (The Date of Treasury Challan, earnest money must be between the bid submission start date and Bid Submission End date).
2.1(a) Bidders registered as Micro and Small Enterprise are exempted from depositing Earnest Money/ Bid Security and Tender Document Fee. Proof of valid MSME registration certificate must be enclosed for availing these benefits. The bidders availing this benefit shall upload a copy of Bid Security Declaration Form as per Annexure A.
2.2 The 1stlowest Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit for an amount of Rs. 15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand and only) in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days after opening of Bids which shall be released after successful completion of work.
2.3 The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer, PW(R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority).
2.4 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

No. 3557-66
DATED: 07/10/2025

DIPK-6940/25
DATED: 08-10-2025

Executive Engineer,
PW (R&B) Division Chadoora.

DC Baramulla convenes DLSCC Meeting
Fresh cases recommended for compassionate appointment under SRO-43

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Wednesday convened a meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee (DLSCC) at the DC Office Baramulla to review 31 cases filed under SRO-43 by the next of kin (NoKs) of militancy-affected victims.

The meeting was aimed at ensuring the timely and transparent disposal of compassionate appointment cases and extending due support to the families affected by militancy



in the district.

After detailed scrutiny, 10 cases were approved, 11 sent for reverification, and 10 cases were rejected during the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized

the need for speedy and transparent processing of such cases to ensure that victim families receive timely relief. He directed the concerned officers to expedite verification and documentation of

the remaining cases and ensure their disposal in a time-bound manner.

The Committee also recommended fresh cases of eligible individuals from Baramulla district to the Government for consideration of compassionate appointments under SRO-43, in line with the laid down norms and procedures.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla Gurinderpal Singh, Superintendent of Police Sopore, senior officers from the Army, BSF, CRPF, and other concerned departments and agencies.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/Zam Zam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar www.jkssb.nic.in
Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the various posts for which the OMR based written examination was held on 15-06-2025 –Supplementary Document Verification thereof.

NOTIFICATION

All such candidates who are falling under consideration zone and were called for Document Verification for the following posts, vide Notification No. JKSSB-COE-EXAM(UT)/23/2025-03 (7699962) dated: 24-09-2025 and JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/23/2025-03 (7699962) dated: 26-092025, but could not appear before the Document Verification Committee(s) on 29-09-2025 & 30-09-2025, due to various reasons, are hereby given last and final opportunity to appear before the Document Verification Committee on 13-10-2025 (Monday) from 11 AM to 04.30 PM at JKSSB, Central Office, Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu (Jammu Centre Based Candidates) and at JKSSB, Central Office, Zam Zam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar (Kashmir Centre Based Candidates), falling which no further claims in this regard shall be entertained at any stage.

| S. No | Name of the Post | Advertisement No | Item No |
|-------|------------------------|------------------|---------|
| 1 | Cameraman | 07 of 2020 | 240 |
| 2 | Printing Down Operator | 05 of 2020 | 174 |
| 3 | Statistical Assistant | 05 of 2022 | 196 |
| 4 | Junior Microbiologist | 04 of 2022 | 82 |
| 5 | Junior Microbiologist | | 83 |
| 6 | Driver | | 01 |

Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
Controller of Examination J&K Services Selection Board

No.: JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/23/2025⁰³ (7699962)
Dated: 07-10-2025

DIPK-6968/25
DATED: 08-10-2025

‘PDP to introduce anti-eviction Bill in LA Session’

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 08: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief and former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said that her party will introduce the ‘anti-Eviction Bill - The J&K Land Rights & Regularisation Bill, 2025’ in the upcoming Legislative Assembly Session in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking with reporters, Mehbooba Mufti urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take a strong stand for the livelihood of locals and asked him to fulfill the promises of his party.

She said that post 2019; there has been a persistent sense of land and job insecurities among the locals in Jammu and Kashmir. “Since we have an elected government now, it must take a stand against these insecurities,” she said.

The PDP Chief added that taking over hotels at prime tourist destinations and

bulldozing schools, houses and shops is a matter of great concern.

She also said that earlier, PDP MLA Waheed Parra had tabled a proposal for the protection of land and jobs in Jammu and Kashmir. “Today again, I am proposing a bill for the protection of land and hotels. I urge the Chief Minister either to consider the bill or come up with the solution that eases problems faced by the locals,” she said.

The PDP Chief also criticized the government for not doing the works as promised under his control. “It is injustice if the Chief Minister does not perform the duties that fall under his control. He has promised of 200 free units of electricity, regularization of daily wagers, 12 cylinders for consumers, 1 lakh jobs to the youth and stopping the installation of smart meters doesn’t have any role of Lieutenant Governor,” she said—(KNO)

BOSE announces date sheet for 11th, 12th classes

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 08: Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Wednesday issued an annual regular examination date sheet for 11th and 12th classes.

The annual regular exams for 11th standard will commence from November-19 till December-13.

JKBOSE further said that the exams for 12th standard will commence from November-08 till December-03.

Earlier, JKBOSE notified the date-sheet for annual regular exams of Class 10th (Oct-Nov session), scheduling the examination from November 3 from 11 am to 2 pm. Pertinently, BOSE had announced syllabus relaxation of 15 percent for 10th, 11th and 12th standard examination.

Director Academics of BOSE in a notification said that the decision was taken upon the recommendations received from the DSEK and DSEJ and

pleas received from other stakeholders regarding reduction in syllabus due to delayed commencement of academic session this year coupled with disruptions in academic calendar due to heat wave, torrential rains, cloudbursts and floods.

“As approved by the competent authority, it is notified that the prospective eligible students appearing in class 10th, 11th and 12th in the ensuing annual regular, 2025 examination in Kashmir Division and winter zone areas of Jammu Division including UT of Ladakh, shall attempt 85 percent marks which will correspond to 100 percent marks, availing thus 15 percent relaxation in syllabus,” reads the notification.

BOSE has exhorted invigilator staff to be completely professional while discharging their duties in order to safeguard the purity and integrity of exams and requested school education department to extend cordial support in smooth and fair conduct of the examination—(KNO)

Statehood is our right: Sakeena Itoo

Says we are not begging for it



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 08: Jammu and Kashmir Health and Education Minister Sakeena Itoo Wednesday said that statehood is the right of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters at GMC Srinagar, Minister Itoo said that they are demanding their rights, not begging for it.

Responding to the remarks of LoP Sunil Sharma, Itoo further said that he doesn’t know what sort of statement he is giving. “I think he made the same remarks during the elections.” On being asked about

medical seats, she said they had proposed 190 more seats for Jammu and Kashmir and the Centre accepted it, which is an achievement.

Pertinently, Itoo addressed the White Coat (apron) wearing ceremony of the new MBBS batch at Government Medical College Srinagar and formally welcomed the students.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Principal GMC Srinagar, faculty members of the college and a large number of students were present on the occasion. Addressing

the gathering, Minister Sakeena congratulated the fresh batch of students for securing admission to one of the oldest and most reputed medical institutions of J&K. She underlined that pursuing medicine is not merely an academic journey but a lifelong commitment to serve humanity with compassion, integrity, and professionalism.

“The medical profession is built on trust and empathy. As future doctors, your duty extends beyond treating diseases”, she stated.

The Minister urged the students to blend scientific excellence with ethical responsibility, reminding them that medicine is both an art and a science. Highlighting the government’s continued focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure and medical education, the Minister noted that GMC Srinagar has played a pivotal role in shaping the healthcare landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. She assured full government support for ongoing projects aimed at upgrading teaching, research, and hospital facilities—(KNO)

Core panel to finalise by-polls candidates: Javid Dar

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 08: Senior National Conference leader and for Agriculture, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperatives, Javid Ahmad Dar on Wednesday said that the discussion with Congress is going on and the party’s core committee will finalise the candidates for the upcoming by-election.

The Minister was replying to a query on finalising the candidature for the Budgam Assembly seat.

Speaking with reporters Javid Dar said that the election date for by-polls was announced a few days ago only. “It takes time to follow the procedures and other things and it is too early to say anything in this regard”.

“I believe the discussion with the Congress is going on and NC’s core committee will take a final call to choose candidates,” he said.

By-election to Budgam and Nagrota Assembly seats will be held on November 11, while counting of votes will take place on November 14.

Pertinently, Dar inaugurated the International Conference on “Mapping the Future of Sustainable Landscapes: Geospatial Innovation for People, Places and Practices” at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) here.

The two day Conference organized by IUST in collaboration with the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) brings together



global experts, academicians and policymakers to deliberate on the role of geospatial technologies in advancing sustainable development.

In his inaugural address, the Minister emphasized that the conference holds great relevance for the agriculture and horticulture sectors of Jammu & Kashmir, where geospatial innovations can help enhance productivity, resource management, and ecosystem conservation.

He reiterated the J&K Government’s commitment to sustainable and technology-driven development, underscoring that science, innovation, and community participation must work together to address emerging environmental challenges—(KNO)

RS Polls..... Candidate to be decided after Rahul Gandhi’s return: Karra

MUBASHIR ALAM WANI

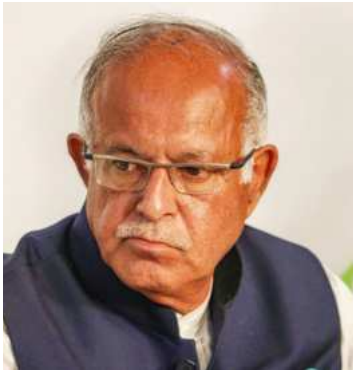
Srinagar, Oct 08: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hameed Karra on Wednesday said deliberations on the party’s Rajya Sabha nominee will only begin once Rahul Gandhi returns from abroad, stressing that the final decision rests with the central leadership and not the state unit.

Karra dismissed speculation around potential Congress candidates, saying, “no formal discussion has taken place” either within the party or with alliance partner National Conference.

He said the reports that there are consultations going on for nominations of RS seats were “purely speculative”.

“Until Rahul Ji and the central leadership take a call on this, it’s just narrative-building. Everybody has a right to claim candidature, but finally it is the high command that decides,” Karra said.

The JKPCC Chief also made it clear



that even on Assembly by-polls, the state leadership’s opinion may be sought, but the call will eventually be taken by the Congress high command.

He added that any consensus formula on candidate selection with the NC “is yet to be discussed”.

Karra, while underlining that Congress was not rigid about names, also took a swipe at media-driven speculation. “Much of what is being said is just TRP-driven build-up,” he said—(KNO)

Secy health inspires new MBBS batch

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Oct 08: Secretary Health and Medical Education, Jammu and Kashmir, Syed Abid Rasheed on Wednesday addressed the newly admitted MBBS batch at the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, delivering an inspiring message centered on dedication, compassion, discipline and lifelong learning in the medical profession.

Sharing a personal anecdote from his student life, Syed Abid said, “To motivate myself, I used to come and stand outside the gate of GMC Srinagar and tell myself that one day I will enter this institution as a doctor. Though I was eventually sent to Chennai, not getting GMC Srinagar remained one of my biggest regrets. So, I feel happy, proud and blessed to be part of this institution.”

Calling the beginning of medical education a “monumental and transformative journey,” he told the students that the profession comes



with immense responsibility. “You will face challenges and deal with human life, fighting death and disease every single day. But this will also be the most satisfying and beautiful journey of your life,” he said.

Emphasizing the core values that define the medical

field, the Secretary said that empathy, compassion, and continuous learning are the pillars of good medical practice. “The medical profession is not like any other. You must feel the pain of others, show compassion, and most importantly, never stop learning. Lifelong learning is what makes a great doctor,” he remarked.

Urging students to uphold academic excellence and professional competence, he noted, “You might be a great singer, dancer, or debater, but patients do not need any of those skills. They need a competent and knowledgeable doctor. What the mind does not know, the eyes do not see.”

Syed Abid advised the new batch to remain focused, disciplined, and dedicated to their studies. “As doctors, your core value system from today onwards must revolve around study, study, and more study. That is what will make you capable of serving humanity with skill and compassion,” he said—(KNO)

Div Com reviews winter preparedness measures

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 08: In view of the upcoming winter season, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Wednesday chaired a meeting with Deputy Commissioners and Heads of Departments to review the preparedness for the forthcoming cold months.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Directors of FCS&CA, ULB, and IMD, Commissioner SMC, Chief Engineers of KPDC, KPCL, PHE, R&B, PMGSY, and officers from Horticulture, BRO, NH, NHIDCL, and other concerned departments.

Div Com conducted a detailed review of snow clearance strategies of key departments including MED, BRO, PMGSY, SMC, ULB, and R&B. He emphasized prioritizing snow clearance on roads leading to vital installations and habitations, ensuring minimal disruption to public movement and essential services.

He also reviewed buffer stocking of ration, LPG, petroleum products, and distribution transformers besides functioning of water supply schemes, lift stations, and deployment of water tankers.

On the occasion, Div Com instructed Deputy Commissioners to ensure seamless coordination among departments to avoid service disruptions. He called for advance vetting of road stretches to be cleared by respective agencies and stressed the need to



complete tendering and contractor allotments by October-end.

The departments were directed to map manpower and machinery to ensure timely snow clearance.

KPDC was directed to enhance workshop capacity to reduce transformer repair time besides maintain adequate buffer stock of transformers, poles, and wires. He called for distribution of sufficient transformer oil to all districts to prevent shortages. Also, both KPDC and KPCL were instructed to expedite tree branch cutting to prevent power line damage. Director Health Services was instructed to ensure availability of medical staff in all health institutions and to provide 4x4 ambulances to districts and

operation of 108 emergency services. He instructed DCs to identify and map critical patients, elderly individuals, and pregnant women for early evacuation or transfer to safer locations for treatment. Moreover, he directed for deployment of Gynaecologists and Paediatricians to Gurez on a rotational basis.

Regarding Fuel Supplies, he directed agencies to ensure 20 days’ buffer stock of LPG by November 20 besides augmentation of buffer stocks of petrol and diesel.

Div Com enjoined Dir FCS&CA to ensure availability adequate Buffer stock of ration at distribution places and dumping of stocks in remote and high-altitude areas.

Taking note of increased fire

incidents during winters, Div Com directed public awareness campaigns on safe use of electrical appliances and stressed on stationing of fire tenders at critical locations for rapid response.

While reviewing the availability of satellite phones for Nodal Officers and emergency teams, he called for effective usage of communication system.

He also directed BSNL officers to expedite installation of telecom towers in uncovered areas to ensure uninterrupted connectivity.

Moreover, he advised use of telecom services for dissemination of advisories to the general public, particularly farmers.

Div Com directed DC Ganderbal to ensure continuous operation of Sonmarg Tunnel for winter tourism. SMC and other civic agencies were instructed to ensure prompt snow clearance in city and timely dewatering of low-lying zones.

To streamline coordination, the OSD to Div Com was appointed as the Divisional Level Nodal Officer, while other departments were instructed to appoint their respective nodal officers for information sharing and response.

The Divisional Commissioner reiterated the need for proactive planning, inter-agency coordination, and efficient execution to mitigate public inconvenience and ensure smooth functioning of essential services during the winter season.

BRO restores connectivity to Turtuk



RAJA SYED RATHER

Ladakh, Oct 08: In a remarkable display of speed and efficiency, Project Vijayak of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has restored vital road connectivity to Turtuk and Sub Sector Haneef after the collapse of a 110-foot Double-Single Bailey Bridge at Skaru.

The bridge collapsed following the passage of an overloaded dumper, disrupting movement on a crucial route that serves as a lifeline for residents and security forces in the region. Acting immediately, the 54 RCC team under Project Vijayak constructed an upstream diversion to ensure temporary connectivity, allowing traffic to resume within just a few hours.

Demonstrating technical excellence, the

BRO team successfully retrieved the collapsed bridge without losing any components.

A new 110-foot Bailey Bridge was launched at the same location and made operational for traffic by 7 PM the same day.

A senior BRO official said the rapid restoration reflects the organisation’s dedication to maintaining uninterrupted connectivity in Ladakh’s difficult and strategically important terrain. Local residents also expressed gratitude to BRO for their swift action, noting that such timely efforts ensure vital links remain open even under challenging conditions.

The operation once again highlights the commitment and professionalism of Project Vijayak in serving the nation’s border regions with exceptional efficiency and resilience—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

A Relief That Reaches The Roots

The advance release of Rs 171 crore to 8.55 lakh flood-affected farmers in Jammu & Kashmir is a powerful statement of solidarity from the Central government toward those who feed the nation. This installment of the PM-KISAN scheme, facilitated under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership and executed by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, demonstrates a governance model that is both compassionate and responsive. For farming communities devastated by recent floods and landslides, this direct benefit

transfer is a critical lifeline. It enables them to purchase seeds, repair damaged fields, and sustain their families during this precarious period. The additional support of Rs 85.62 crore for housing reconstruction under PMAY-Gramin, along with increased MGNREGA workdays, reflects a holistic approach to rehabilitation that addresses both immediate needs and long-term recovery. The proactive role of the J&K administration, led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in coordinating with

the Centre has been instrumental in ensuring that assistance reaches beneficiaries swiftly and transparently. Their collaborative efforts highlight a shared commitment to farmer welfare, transcending political lines in the service of the public good. This initiative also highlights the success of direct benefit transfers in reducing leakages and ensuring that assistance reaches those who need it most. By empowering farmers, including over 85,000 women, with financial autonomy, the government is restoring dignity and agency. Such

sustained support will be crucial in revitalising the agrarian economy. The assurance of prompt compensation under crop insurance schemes and continued central backing offers hope and stability to farmers facing an uncertain future. In moments of crisis, true leadership is measured by its capacity to care. Through this decisive action, the Central and J&K governments have shown that when it comes to farmer welfare, they stand united, proving once again that no one will be left behind in India’s journey toward progress.

=== Viksit Panchayats for Viksit Bharat ===

People’s Plan Campaign: Strengthening Grassroot Governance, Fostering Inclusive Growth

Press Information Bureau

The Gram Panchayat, as the basic unit of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system, holds a central role in rural governance and development. This system was institutionalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, with the objective of strengthening participatory democracy in rural areas. Gram (village) Panchayats not only provide essential services and development at the local level but also play a role in conflict resolution, community meetings, and promoting social well-being.

Development of Panchayats are therefore vital for building a strong foundation for Viksit Bharat.

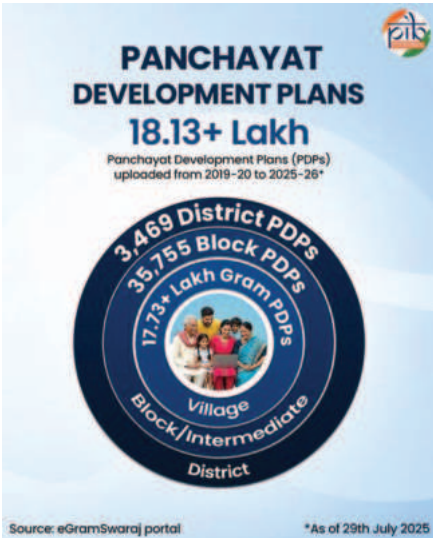
Article 243G of the Constitution recognizes Panchayats as institutions of local self-government and entrusts them with the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice. Being the closest tier of government to the people, Gram Panchayats are responsible for addressing the needs of marginalized groups and ensuring effective delivery of basic services.

Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)

Gram Panchayats have been mandated for the preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) for economic development and social justice utilizing the resources available to them. The GPDP planning process has to be comprehensive based on participatory process and Panchayats have a significant role to play in the effective and efficient implementation of schemes.

A well-structured and inclusive planning process lies at the heart of Panchayat functioning. The Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) is expected to reflect the needs and priorities of the community, align them with available resources, and be prepared in a fair, transparent and participatory manner.

For effective implementation of schemes on subjects of national importance, Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs) must be comprehensive and participatory.



These plans cover the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. While Gram Panchayats prepare GPDPs, Block Panchayats prepare Block Panchayat Development Plans (BPDPs), and District Panchayats prepare District Panchayat Development Plans (DPDPs).

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are responsible for delivering services such as water supply, sanitation, roads, drainage, street lighting, health, education, and nutrition at the village level. The 29 subjects of the Eleventh Schedule (To read all the 29 subjects and 73rd Amendment of Panchayati Raj in India, visit @ <https://secforuts.mha.gov.in/73rd-amendment-of-panchayati-raj-in-india/>) also align closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thus positioning PRLs as key actors in achieving SDGs through localization.

To carry the SDG agenda to the grassroots, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has adopted a thematic approach, which groups the 17 SDGs into nine broad themes. This approach enables Panchayats to prepare development plans under a 'whole of government and whole of society' framework.

Since 2018, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have

also been engaged in preparing Village Prosperity and Resilience Plans (VPRPs), further supporting holistic development and resilience at the village level.

People's Plan Campaign: Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas

To enhance people's participation in preparing Panchayat Development Plans, the People's Plan Campaign (PPC) was launched on 2nd October 2018 under the theme "Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas". Encouraged by the positive outcomes of Gram Sabhas, stakeholder engagement, and participatory planning, the Campaign has since been conducted annually in a mission mode with active involvement of Elected Representatives, frontline workers, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and other local stakeholders.

Objective

The People's Plan Campaign is guided by the objective of preparing participatory, comprehensive and convergent development plans – GPDPs, BPDPs and DPDPs – at Gram Panchayat, Intermediate (Block) Panchayat and District Panchayat levels across the country in a time-bound manner. Structured Gram Sabha meetings are organized with active participation of community members and presentations by frontline workers of all related line departments. The campaign seeks to achieve effective localization of SDGs by integrating the nine thematic approaches of LSDGs into Panchayat Development Plans and by incorporating Village Prosperity and Resilience Plans (VPRPs) prepared by Self-Help Group federations. It also promotes gender-responsive governance through the active involvement of Women Elected Representatives (WERs), SHGs and women community members in the planning process. Further, transparency and accountability are strengthened by conducting public information campaigns and disclosing details of schemes, finances and programmes in Gram Panchayat offices and

on public information boards.

People's Plan Campaign 2025–26

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2025–26: "Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas" Abhiyaan on 2nd October 2025 across all States and Union Territories, thereby initiating the nationwide process for preparing Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs) for the Financial Year 2026–27.

In the run-up to the launch, extensive preparations were carried out. The Ministry had virtual interactions with State Governments, Union Territories, and State Institutes of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PRs), to finalize strategies and ensure smooth coordination. To promote convergence and grassroots-level participation, the Ministry is working along with 20 Line Ministries/Departments of the Government of India to direct their respective State/UT counterparts to actively participate in the campaign, particularly through special Gram Sabha meetings. Furthermore, States and UTs has been instructed to appoint nodal officers, train facilitators, finalize schedules for Gram Sabhas, and prominently display Public Information Boards. The Special Gram Sabhas convened on 2nd October 2025 marked the formal launch of the campaign across the country.

The PPC 2025–26 is designed to strengthen participatory, transparent, and accountable local governance. Under this initiative, Gram Sabhas are tasked with reviewing earlier Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) using digital platforms such as eGramSwaraj, Meri Panchayat App, and Panchayat NIRNAY. They are expected to assess progress on works, identify delays, and prioritize unfinished projects, especially those linked with unspent Central Finance Commission grants. The planning process will be guided by the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI), while tools like SabhaSaar will be encouraged to make deliberations more effective. Efforts will also focus on improving Panchayats' Own Source

Revenue (OSR) and ensuring deeper community involvement in decision-making.

A special emphasis of the campaign is on tribal empowerment, with focused activities under the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyaan. By ensuring the active participation of Panchayat representatives, line department officials, community members, Self Help Groups (SHGs), and frontline workers, the campaign aims to further deepen transparency, convergence, and accountability in grassroots planning. It is expected to pave the way for stronger service delivery mechanisms, inclusive development, and improved outcomes for rural communities across India.

Achievement

Since its launch in 2018, the People's Plan Campaign has helped Panchayats prepare evidence-based and inclusive development plans that reflect local needs while aligning with national priorities.

As per data available on the eGramSwaraj Portal, more than 18.13 lakh Panchayat Development Plans have been uploaded from 2019–20 to 2025–26 (as on 29th July 2025). These include:

Over 17.73 lakh Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs)
35,755 Block Panchayat Development Plans (BPDPs)
3,469 District Panchayat Development Plans (DPDPs)

Conclusion

The People's Plan Campaign has emerged as a transformative initiative for strengthening grassroots democracy and ensuring inclusive development. By bringing communities, elected representatives and institutions together in preparing Panchayat Development Plans, the Campaign is deepening transparency, convergence and accountability. With active participation of citizens and a strong focus on localization of SDGs, PPC is paving the way for more responsive, empowered and self-reliant Panchayats, contributing to the larger vision of Viksit Bharat.

Making It Alone: How Solitude Can Spark Creativity

How does solitude bolster imagination, unlock ingenuity, and foster inspiration?

Robert Coplan

Psychologists Christopher Long and James Averill once described the long-standing connection between solitude and creativity as “so ubiquitous that it has become almost a cliché: the scientist alone in a laboratory, the writer in a cabin in the woods, or the painter in a bare studio”. But how does solitude bolster imagination, unlock ingenuity, and foster inspiration? According to psychological research, here are five ways that solitude really can spark creativity.

1. The Shower Effect

If you do your best thinking in the shower, you are not alone. The most common locations where people have sudden insights (“aha!” moments) include in the shower, during transport, and while exercising. Although you may not always engage in these activities alone, these experiences all typically offer a break from the constant information stream we are exposed to when socially engaging with others. Solitude offers a respite from this input and lets our mind start to wander. Such free thinking seems to stimulate the areas of our brain known as the default mode network, which fosters cognitive flexibility (i.e., thinking outside the box). In short, if you are stuck on something, let your ideas incubate by taking a break (or a shower or a drive or a walk)!

2. Look Forward to Daydreams

A meandering mind can be a gateway to creativity. But sometimes our thoughts can wander off to bad places – and ruminating



(repeatedly thinking negative thoughts) can make us feel sad and anxious. To help with this, try to look forward instead of looking back. Florence Ruby and colleagues found that mind wandering about the past and focused on others was more likely to put people in a worse mood. In contrast, daydreaming about the future and with a focus on oneself was found to increase positive mood. Letting your mind wander when you are alone can open up new avenues of thoughts and help you solve problems. However, it is also important to be mindful of your mind wandering. For some people, daydreams can morph into daymares.

3. Playing the Right Solo

Are there specific things we can do to get our creative juices flowing when alone?

According to research by Benjamin Baird, you need to find the “sweet spot” between boring and demanding. Participants were asked to list unusual uses for common objects as a test of their creativity, but under different conditions. The results were striking. People who took a break and engaged in a mildly demanding task (labelling odd vs. even numbers on a screen) produced more new ideas than those who engaged in more demanding tasks, did nothing during the break, or who did not have a break at all. Doing something – but something that is not overly demanding – appears to be most helpful in terms of allowing the brain to solve problems. Why? Because during these ‘not too demanding’ tasks, your mind is free to wander, and it goes places that basically

help you connect the dots in your head.

4. Let it Flow, Let it Flow, Let it Flow

Another phenomenon also linked with creativity is flow. This influential concept was conceived of by psychologist Mihalyi Csikszentmihalyi as an “optimal experience” (i.e., being in the zone). Flow is a state of being deeply absorbed in a specific activity, feeling confident and un-self-conscious, and losing track of yourself and your surroundings. Most often described among elite athletes, states of flow have also been documented among writers, artists, outdoor adventures, and gamers. Although some have argued that solitude is necessary to achieve true states of flow, such experiences do also occur in social contexts. However, personality seems to matter here. Liu and Csikszentmihalyi found that participants who were more extroverted reported more frequent flow during social activities, whereas introverts were more likely to experience flow while in solitude. Nevertheless, Csikszentmihalyi noted many other benefits of solitude and offered this advice near the end of this paper, “interacting with others can be a good source of an enjoyable life, but one has to learn to enjoy solitude as well to complete some of life tasks that demand absolute concentration.”

5. Getting Your Balance

Although solitude provides unique opportunities, we cannot discount the roles of collaboration and discussion in the creative process. As with many things in life, the best option is a balanced one. Runa Korde and Paul

Paulus found that people who alternated between solitary and groups brainstorming sessions generated more new ideas than those who either just brainstormed alone or just brainstormed with a group. In some phases of the creative process, periods of solitude will be helpful to fully develop our ideas, engage in intense research, or allow for mind wandering to encourage new avenues of thinking. However, it is also important to be exposed to others’ perspectives, bounce ideas off others, and seek their feedback. There is a good lesson here. Sociable people tend to seek out more collaborative settings, whereas those who prefer being alone retreat to solitude to pursue creative endeavors. However, it seems as though both contexts provide unique benefits for this process.

So, what can we take away from all of this? Solitude is a great incubator for ideas. To help get unstuck with a problem, take a break and spend some time alone. Choose a solo activity that will let your mind wander; ideally, something that is just the right amount between ‘not too boring’ and ‘not too engaging’. And to further help with the creative process, alternate between episodes of being alone and time with others. This “balanced” approach will not only spark creativity, but also bolster your general well-being.

Robert Coplan, Ph.D., is a psychologist who studies the costs and benefits of solitude across the lifespan and is the author of The Joy of Solitude. He is a Chancellor's Professor at Carleton University.

Source: Psychology Today

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

Health sector directly linked to well-being of people: Sakeena

Reviews progress on recruitments in key departments



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 08: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday reviewed the on-going process of recruitments in the Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education departments, emphasizing the need for expediting appointments to ensure better service delivery at the grassroots level.

Chairing a review meeting with senior officers of Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB), the Minister underlined the importance of strengthening key public service sectors, particularly health, which continues to play a critical role in community welfare. She expressed concern over the delay in filling vacant posts and directed that all procedural

bottlenecks be addressed on priority to ensure timely recruitment.

“The health sector is directly linked to the well-being of our people. Timely filling of medical, paramedical, and support staff positions is essential for improving patient care and reducing the workload on existing employees,” Minister Sakeena maintained.

The Minister also took stock of vacancies in the Education department, stressing that schools, especially in rural and far-flung areas, must not suffer due to staff shortages. She called for a transparent and merit-based recruitment process to ensure deserving candidates are given fair opportunities.

The Minister urged the concerned authorities to maintain coordination between recruiting agencies and departments

to avoid unnecessary delays. She reiterated her commitment to ensuring that both the health and education sectors receive focused attention, noting that these are the pillars of a progressive and inclusive society.

“The youth of Jammu and Kashmir are our strength. Creating employment opportunities through timely and transparent recruitment will not only strengthen institutions but also restore faith in governance,” the Minister stated.

While reviewing status of recruitments in Social Welfare department, Sakeena Itoo underscored the need for regular monitoring and inter-departmental coordination to avoid procedural delays. She called upon officials to submit detailed status reports on vacancies, selection progress, and appointment timelines to ensure continuous oversight.

Nanda reviews progress of development works in Forest sector

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 08: Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology, and Environment, Sheetal Nanda, Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on on-going development works being executed across the Union Territory in the Forest and allied sectors.

The meeting focused on initiatives under various schemes including CAPEX, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and Green India Mission (GIM).

During the detailed review many issues were discussed threadbare including District-wise physical and financial achievements for the year 2024-25 and 2025-26 under various Centrally sponsored schemes. Also discussion was held on the funds received, expenditure incurred, utilization certificates submitted under CSSs/Cs (2024-25). She also reviewed the Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) approved and funds received for the year 2025-26 as well as work-wise physical and financial progress under UT CAPEX budget (2025-26).Updated progress in respect of budget announcements for the year 2025-26 were also discussed. Latest status of approved projects under Special Assistance to States for



Capital Investment (SASCI) was also reviewed.

Commissioner Secretary exhorted officers to ensure that all schemes, especially the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, are implemented in letter and spirit. She laid stress on intensifying plantation drives and expediting financial bookings especially under CAPEX Budget throughout the districts.

The Commissioner Secretary issued strict directives for the timely execution and quality delivery of all departmental projects. She directed various departments under the Forest umbrella to ensure a minimum of 70% of all planned works, including infrastructure upgrades, afforestation and other conservation efforts are completed by December 2025.

The Commissioner Secretary directed that winter plantation activities must commence immediately in temperate zones

of UT. She underlined that this initiative will cover degraded forest areas, urban green spaces and community lands.

Implementing agencies were urged to immediately expedite the installation of Boundary Pillars (BPs) for forest land demarcation as well as in wetlands across UT, to ensure legal protection and clarity of forest boundaries.

Recognizing the potential of Ecotourism in promoting sustainable livelihoods, the Commissioner Secretary instructed that all pending Nagar Van (Urban Forest) projects must be finalized and made operational by December 2025. She added that these projects aim to create accessible green spaces in urban areas, fostering community engagement and biodiversity conservation.

The Commissioner Secretary also underscored the need for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and

proactive field-level execution. Departments were also encouraged to maintain transparency, adopt modern monitoring tools, and actively engage local communities in plantation and conservation efforts.

The Commissioner Secretary reiterated the government's commitment to ecological preservation, sustainable development, and climate resilience through community-driven forestry initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & Head of Forest Force (HoFF); Sarvesh Rai, Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K; Vasu Yadav, Chairman Pollution Control Committee; Sandeep Kujur, Director Social Forestry J&K along with all Chief Conservators of Forests (CCFs), Director Finance (Forest), Conservators of Forests (CFs), Regional Directors (RDs), and Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) of both the regions.

CS condoles demise of Lateef Ahmad

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 8: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo expressed profound grief over the demise of Lateef Ahmad, an orderly serving in his office.

In his condolence message, the Chief Secretary recalled Lateef Ahmad as a very humble, and dedicated employee who performed his duties with utmost honesty and commitment. He said that Lateef's demise is a

personal loss to the Secretariat fraternity and offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, praying for the forbearance of this colossal loss and eternal peace to the departed soul.

The officers and staff of the Chief Secretary's office also expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Lateef Ahmad and extended sympathy and support to his family during this difficult time.

DC Bla holds Block Diwas at Wagoora

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 08: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Wednesday presided over a Block Diwas at Wagoora, an initiative aimed at bringing governance closer to the people and providing a platform for citizens to directly present their grievances and developmental concerns.

During the programme, residents and Public representatives highlighted several pressing issues, including the need for improved water supply, uninterrupted power supply, better road connectivity, and enhanced school infrastructure, along with other local development concerns.

The DC listened to the issues patiently, ensuring that every concern raised was carefully noted. Several issues were resolved on the spot, reflecting the administration's proactive

approach to citizen grievances. Following the hearing, the DC directed the concerned officers to take immediate and time-bound action on all pending issues, emphasizing the importance of efficiency, accountability, and responsiveness in public service delivery.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said, “Block Diwas is an important initiative to strengthen the interface between the administration and the people. It allows citizens to directly present their concerns and helps us ensure that developmental schemes and services reach every part of the block. Our aim is to address issues promptly and ensure that governance truly reaches the doorstep of every citizen.”

Earlier, the DC inspected various stalls installed by different departments, aimed at creating awareness among the public regarding welfare schemes and benefits available to them.

DLSA Budgam launches awareness drive on welfare schemes

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 08: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam launched Campaign under which several Programmes, drives, door to door campaigns, one to one interactions etc. were conducted in various areas of District Budgam in order to sensitize people about the various benefits and welfare schemes available for the widows.

A team of Para Legal Volunteers (PLV) was deputed for the said Campaign which was conducted in view of NHRC advisory on protection of human rights of widows.

The programme was conducted under the leadership of Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Arun Palli, and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar and was conducted under the directions of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum; Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, O.P. Bhagat. The Campaign was launched under the active guidance of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The primary objective of the campaign was to sensitize people about the various benefits and schemes available to widows, ensuring that they are made aware of and subsequently they can avail themselves of the welfare measures



and legal aid provided for their support and empowerment.

The PLVs of DLSA Budgam conducted door-to-door awareness campaigns, one to one interaction Sessions with the widows in need and several other community awareness drives were conducted by the deputed PLV's of district Budgam across the length and breadth of the district to inform the general public about the widow welfare schemes available in Jammu and Kashmir.

PLVs imparted awareness regarding prominent schemes for widows in the Union Territory which including Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension

Scheme (IGNWPS) which Provides financial assistance to eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) widows aged 40 years and above, Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) which is a state-sponsored initiative providing financial aid to widows and women in distress, AASRA Scheme which offers insurance coverage to destitute and underprivileged women and State Rehabilitation Council's Schemes which Provides pensions to widows of militancy victims.

DLSA Budgam is committed that human rights of all human beings particularly widows are protected and promoted.

Traffic Management System

Div Com Jammu reviews implementation of actionable points

KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 08: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar Wednesday discussed and reviewed the actionable points to be implemented by the Traffic department, Jammu Municipal Corporation, District Administration and other authorities for improvement of Traffic management in Jammu City.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Transport Commissioner, SSP Traffic, Chief Engineer PWD(R&B) Jammu and Superintendent Engineer Jammu Development Authority.

The meeting discussed various actionable points for comprehensive improvement of the traffic management system in the city. JMC was directed to demarcate dedicated parking zones with the yellow line and tender their operations with the condition that fixed rates are prominently displayed.

Traffic department was

directed to put in extra efforts for enforcement of traffic rules and regulations, particularly restricting unauthorized road side parking, parking outside Banquet Halls and along one way roads.

The Chief Engineer PWD was asked for speedy repair and reconstruction of damaged approach road leading to the fourth Tawi Bridge at Bhagwati Nagar to make both of its tubes functional at the earliest.

The Deputy Commissioner Jammu was directed to closely monitor implementation of all the actionable points for further improvement of traffic management in coordination with stakeholder agencies.

The Divisional Commissioner further asked the stakeholder departments to focus on meticulous planning and implementation of actionable points in terms of road widening, dedicated parking spots, rotary development and other significant interventions for smooth and hassle-free movement of traffic in the city.

DM Poonch reviews security scenario in border areas

KT News Desk

POONCH, OCTOBER 8: District Magistrate Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Wednesday chaired a crucial meeting of the District Level Standing Committee (DLSC) on Effective Border Management.

The meeting, held in the Conference Hall of Dak Bungalow, Poonch, was convened to review the existing security arrangements and accelerate infrastructure development in areas close to the Line of Control (LoC) with the aim to strengthen coordination between the security forces and the civilian population residing in border areas.

Speaking at the meeting, the DM conducted a comprehensive review of the status of border bunkers, power supply scenario, water supply and civic amenities.

He stressed on electrification of left out villages, if any, provision of solar lighting and the development of PMAY houses and other essential facilities in border areas. The officers from the Army, BSF and other paramilitary and intelligence

agencies briefed the District Magistrate on the prevailing security scenario along the LoC.

Additionally, the Committee discussed the rising concern of drug abuse in the district. Security agencies and civil functionaries gave a brief on the strategies being implemented to curb the drug menace.

The meeting also took stock of the pace of bunker construction in the vulnerable border belts and explored ways to resolve the bottlenecks in the implementation of critical security-related infrastructure.

Among others present in the meeting included SSP Poonch Shafket Hussain Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal Zargar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohammad Sayeed; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Mohammad Parvaiz; Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid; Tehsildar Mandi, Ashfaq Hussain, Executive Engineers, AD FCS&CA, along with representatives from the Army, BSF and other security and intelligence agencies.

Mission YUVA

Saloni approves 202 loan assistance cases

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 08: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee under the mission YUVA scheme.

The meeting was convened to evaluate, screen and approve applications under various categories, including the Nano and MSME sectors and to review the overall progress of the scheme's implementation in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Deputy Director Employment



Mohinder Sharma, representatives from the banking sector and other concerned officers.

After detailed scrutiny and discussion, the Committee approved 202 cases for financial assistance under Mission YUVA.

While reviewing the implementation progress, the DC emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of implementation through coordinated efforts among all line departments. She

directed the concerned officers to expedite the processes of approval, sanctioning and disbursement of loan cases.

The DC further instructed officers to speed up the preparation of DPRs, clear all pending cases and organize special camps for on-spot sanctioning and disbursement of loans.

LDM was directed to ensure prompt processing and timely disbursement of sanctioned loan cases.

DC Poonch chairs DLSCC meeting, reviews SRO-43 cases

KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 08: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee in his office chamber to review POK Shelling victim cases and militancy related cases under SRO-43.

The meeting was attended by Commander 120, 10 and 93 infantry brigade c/o 56 APO, Commander 6 sector R.R S/o APO, Senior Superintendent of Police, Shafaket Hussain Bhat, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohammad Sayeed, Headquarter Assistant to DC Palti Verma and

officers from the CID and security agencies. During the meeting, ADC Poonch provided a detailed briefing to the Chair regarding the current status of each case. After a comprehensive discussion and evaluation, the Committee approved several eligible cases under SRO-43.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for timely disposal of SRO-43 cases, noting that it plays a crucial role in reinforcing the trust of the affected families in the government machinery. The DC also directed the concerned departments to maintain a proactive approach and ensure that all necessary formalities and verifications are completed well in time for SRO-43 cases.

CS reviews functioning of BOPEE and Board of Technical Education

Directs development of e-counselling module within 15 days

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 08: Chief Secretary, Atal Dooloo on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) and the Board of Technical Education (BoTE).

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the National Informatics Centre (NIC), J&K, to develop a comprehensive module for online counselling and admissions for BOPEE within the next 15 days, aimed at ensuring a seamless and transparent admission process for students across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Commissioner Secretary, CAD, Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Secretary, Revenue, Secretary, School Education; Secretary, Law; Chairperson, J&K BOPEE; Secretary, Technical Education; and other senior officers concerned.

While taking a detailed appraisal of the ongoing admission and examination processes, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to make all academic and admission activities strictly time-bound and schedule-driven. He called for advance notification of examination and counselling calendars and their strict adherence under all circumstances.

The Chief Secretary also directed that every effort be



made to ensure that no seat remains vacant in professional and technical courses offered across government and private institutions. He asked the concerned officers to conduct a course-wise assessment of available and filled seats and take immediate corrective measures where vacancies persist.

He further instructed the concerned departments to re-design and restructure courses with consistently low student uptake, observing that infrastructure and manpower created in both government and private institutions should not remain underutilized due to lack of enrolment.

The Chief Secretary also directed BOPEE to upgrade seats of candidates in line with merit, particularly in those courses where intake capacity has been recently enhanced.

Chairperson, J&K BOPEE, Prof. Minu Mahajan, informed the meeting that the Board had this year introduced on-line counselling and admission

processes for the convenience of students. She further stated that examination centres have been established even at the sub-divisional level instead of being confined to central cities, thereby improving accessibility for rural candidates.

Prof. Mahajan also presented detailed course-wise data of filled and vacant seats in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including MBBS, MDS, MD Ayurveda, M.Sc Nursing, M.Sc Technology, BDS, B.Sc Nursing, Post Basic Nursing, B.Tech, B.E, BAMS, BUMS, B.Pharmacy, B.Sc Paramedical, B.Ed, and various diploma courses.

Regarding the functioning of the Board of Technical Education (BoTE), Secretary, BoTE, Suket Gupta, apprised the meeting that the Board manages admissions, examinations, certifications, and migrations for technical institutions including Government and Private Polytechnics and ITIs across J&K.

He informed that 3,535

seats are available across 21 courses offered by Government Polytechnics, while 3,989 candidates appeared from ITIs this year with a pass percentage of 86% in SCVT courses. The overall pass percentage for Polytechnic courses stood at 90% in 2025, with around 20,000 students appearing in examinations conducted annually by the Board.

It was further informed that all services of the J&K Board of Technical Education have now been fully digitized and integrated with national platforms such as UMANG and e-UNNAT, ensuring ease of access and transparency in service delivery.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts made by both BOPEE and BoTE in improving transparency, efficiency, and outreach of their processes, while reiterating the Government's commitment to leveraging technology to enhance student experience and optimize institutional resources across Jammu and Kashmir.

Delegations call on LG Manoj Sinha

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 08: A delegation of J&K Apni Party from Poonch led by Shah Mohammad Tantray, former MLA and senior Vice President Jammu Province called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday.

Subsequently, J&K Apni Party leaders from Rajouri including Arun Sharma, Coordinator; Syed Manzoor Bukhari, District President Rajouri and Raqeeq Ahmad Khan, Spokesperson also called on the Lieutenant Governor. The members of the delegations apprised the Lieutenant Governor of various development issues of Poonch



and Rajouri Districts.

Mohammad Iqbal Ahanger, former President, Municipal Committee Dooru-Verinag called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He

was accompanied by Omar Kakroo, former President, Municipal Council, Baramulla, and Advocate Altaf Ganderbali, former President, Municipal Council Ganderbal.

Sharma unveils vision for connected, Cyber-Secure J&K at India Mobile Congress 2025

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 08: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma on Wednesday said that Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing a "new digital dawn" where technology is empowering every citizen, transforming governance, and securing the digital future.

The Minister was speaking at India Mobile Congress and Round table conference of the State IT Ministers, which was inaugurated by Union Minister for Information Technology, Jyotiradiya Scindia

Minister Sharma said that ongoing initiatives are not just about expanding telecom infrastructure but about building an inclusive, connected,

and secure Jammu & Kashmir. "Digital connectivity today is not a privilege but a necessity, it carries education to a student in Kupwara, healthcare to a patient in Poonch and opportunities to an artisan in Anantnag," the minister maintained.

Highlighting the digital transformation under the Amended BharatNet Project, the Minister informed that high-speed Optical Fibre Cable is being laid to connect 4,299 Gram Panchayats and 2,574 villages.

He said BSNL will extend Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections to 2,234 Government Schools and 1,138 Public Health Centres across rural areas, enabling e-learning and telemedicine facilities.

Satish Sharma said that new mobile towers are also being established in remote and border areas to eliminate digital

isolation. The Minister added that preparations for the 5G rollout in key urban centres are underway, which will accelerate entrepreneurship, innovation, and smart governance.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to digital safety, Satish Sharma said, "As we connect every home, we must also secure every byte of data and every citizen's trust." He informed that Jammu & Kashmir's Cyber Security Policy 2022, developed in coordination with MeitY and MHA, provides a strong framework for cyber resilience.

Referring to initiatives during 2024, the minister said that the Cyber Police recovered over

4.7 crore for victims of online fraud through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Port while hundreds of cases were successfully resolved.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Home Minister Amit Shah

Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the Unified Headquarters (UHQ) meeting in Srinagar and discussed the situation across J&K with the security top brass.

"Threadbare discussions were held on counter infiltration and counter terrorism operations during the meeting."

"War against terrorism is not over yet. Kinetic and non-kinetic operations must continue. We must maintain the momentum and take stringent action against terrorism and its entire ecosystem," LG Sinha had told the officers, during the meeting. (KNO)

'Op Sindoor' exhibited

precise and devastating blows deep inside enemy territory vindicates our faith in home-grown capabilities," he said.

According to him, India's long-range missile systems and integrated air defence architecture also restricted enemy movement during the operation. "Our robust air defence architecture and offensive employment of long-range surface to air missile systems limited the adversary's ability to operate and ensured safety of our vital assets," he said.

Singh said there is a growing culture of accountability and readiness across the force. "I can see that there is an increased culture of accountability, safety and security among air warriors. This is directly reflected in our reduced incidents and accidents."

He noted that leadership within the force is driving this momentum. "At all levels, leaders are leading from the front, demonstrating vision and empathy. They are ensuring that every individual is empowered with the necessary training and is motivated."

HINDON AIR BASE HOSTS IAF'S 93RD FOUNDATION DAY

Meanwhile, Hindon air base at Ghaziabad hosted IAF's 93rd Foundation Day showcasing India's aerial strength and operational readiness with display of fighter jets such as the Rafale, Sukhoi Su-30MKI, and MiG-29. The IAF parade also highlighted the achievements of Operation Sindoor.

Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh inspected the parade and took the salute at the parade held at Hindon Air Base as part of the Air Force Day celebrations.

Earlier, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi paid tribute to the soldiers at the National War Memorial on the occasion of 93rd Air Force Day.

CDS, along with the chiefs of the Indian Air Force, Army and Navy, laid wreaths at the National War Memorial.

PARADE HIGHLIGHTS ACHIEVEMENTS OF 'OPERATION SINDOOR'

This year's parade was held at Hindon Air Base, one of India's largest and most strategic airbases. The Air Force Day parades were previously held in Chennai in 2024 and Prayagraj in 2023.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) highlighted the achievements of Operation Sindoor during the Air Force Day celebrations. It demonstrated the force's operational strength, growing technological capabilities, and humanitarian role that it has played over the years.

This year, the static display line-up also included platforms that played a part in forcing Islamabad to retreat and seek a ceasefire after its Director General of Military Operations

(DGMO) dialed his Indian counterpart.

The display featured fighter jets such as the Rafale, Sukhoi Su-30MKI, and MiG-29, along with India's indigenous Netra AEW&C, the C-17 Globemaster III, the indigenous Akash Surface-to-Air Missile System, the C-130J Hercules, Apache attack helicopters fitted with Longbow radar, and the Advanced Light Helicopter. An S-band Rohini radar will also be part of the display.

The recently retired MiG-21 Bison was also a part of the display as a tribute to its over six decades of service to the IAF.

PRESIDENT MURMU, PM MODI EXTEND GREETINGS

President Droupadi Murmu extended greetings to Air Force personnel, veterans, and their families on the occasion of the 93rd Air Force Day. In a post on X, Droupadi Murmu said, "Warm greetings to all air warriors, veterans and their families on Air Force Day! The Indian Air Force has always demonstrated courage, commitment, and excellence. Our Air warriors protect our skies and serve the nation with tireless dedication during disasters and humanitarian missions."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also greeted Air Force personnel on Air Force Day and said they have played a vital role in safeguarding Indian skies during the most challenging situations. Modi said, "Greetings to all the courageous Air Warriors and their families on Air Force Day. The Indian Air Force epitomises bravery, discipline and precision. They have played a vital role in safeguarding our skies, including during the most challenging situations." (KNO)

Two soldiers go

confronted a severe snowstorm and white-out conditions in the mountains of South Kashmir. Since then, two soldiers have gone out of communication. Intense search and rescue operations have been launched but are being hampered due to prevailing adverse weather conditions."

The Ahlan Gadole area has witnessed major encounters in the past. In September 2023, Army Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Aashish Donchak, and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Humayun Muzamil were killed in a gunfight in the same forests. In another encounter last year, two soldiers and a civilian were also killed. (KNO)

100-120 terrorists

and surveillance along the LoC, he said. "BSF personnel are always on alert with the Army on the LoC. We have many intelligence inputs that terrorists are ready across the LoC at launching pads for infiltration," he said.

The IG said the BSF and other security forces are using the latest technology to monitor border areas and prevent infiltration. "Through our modern surveillance and latest technology, we are dominating the borders to neutralise any threat. So far this year, every infiltration attempt was neutralised," he said.

The security agencies, he said, remain focused on the areas considered vulnerable before snowfall, as visibility and movement across the LoC become difficult during winter.

"Our operations will continue in coordination with other forces to ensure the safety and security of the region," Yadav added. (KNO)

SIA searches

"Searches highlight the continued and

unrelenting efforts of the State Investigating Agency to ensure that the whole of the module is dismantled & with aim to strike at roots of the terror ecosystem," it reads. (KNO)

LoP Sharma challenges

won elections. But I have never trampled anyone in my life to advance my career. I have been entrusted with this responsibility because of my commitment. I have never shoved anyone aside, nor am I in a race to compete with others," he said.

He accused Omar Abdullah's family of having a tradition of sidelining others for personal advancement.

"You were born into Farooq Abdullah's family and went to Mumbai to study at the Chief Minister's residence there. You returned and shoved aside a long list of leaders who had dedicated their lives to the National Conference. They were pushed aside, and you were crowned. This is how you trample others to build your career. You didn't work hard, nor did you struggle. The only criterion was that you were the prince of the Abdullah family and the son of Farooq Abdullah," Sharma said.

He questioned whether Omar Abdullah's demand for statehood was intended to harm innocent Kashmiri civilians.

He accused Abdullah of harming civilians during his tenure as Chief Minister.

"I want to remind Kashmiris that if we turn back the pages of history, we will find many fabricated stories told in the name of terrorism. Many people would narrate how they were innocent and killed during Omar Abdullah's tenure under the guise of counter-terrorism. Do you want statehood to kill innocent Kashmiris? You didn't eliminate terrorists-you targeted civilians, enforced shutdowns, and closed schools," Sharma said.

He said that Omar Abdullah harmed civilians and failed to protect people during his rule as Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Wasn't statehood with National Conference governments between 2008 to 2014 and 1996 to 2008? Wasn't it with your governments that were in power till 1989 and 1982?" Sharma asked.

He further said that Kashmiris do not want a statehood where political rivals of the National Conference are booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA), and parents live in fear for the safety of their school-going children.

Coming down heavily on the National Conference, Sharma accused the party of introducing the PSA and pellet guns.

"You were the ones who introduced pellet guns; you were the ones who imposed the PSA. If we compare the figures, the highest number of innocent civilians were killed during your tenure," he said.

Sharma praised the Government of India for eliminating terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir without harming civilians.

"Nobody can raise a finger at the Ministry of Home Affairs for harming civilians. The biggest achievement of the MHA is that not a single local youth joined terrorism. It shows that the youth of Kashmir have accepted the policies of the Government of India and want to voice their concerns within a democratic setup," he said.

He accused Omar Abdullah of misleading and hoodwinking the public in the name of statehood to cover up governance failures.

"If you listen to Omar Abdullah's

speeches-whether on August 15, at public functions, or in institutions-he consistently tries to hoodwink the people of Jammu and Kashmir by claiming they lack power," Sharma added.

Countering Omar Abdullah's claims, Sharma said the Lieutenant Governor had approved 97 decisions of the Council of Ministers over the past year.

"Tell me, which file has not been approved by the LG? Which pro-people decisions have been held back? Is it about 200 units of free electricity, 12 LPG cylinders, 10 kilograms of ration, or one lakh jobs?" he asked.

Sharma further accused Abdullah of misleading the public regarding the appointment of the Advocate General and the Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR).

"I have come to know that the file is pending with the CM's office," he said, adding that the Chief Minister is sitting on files related to the appointment of the Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education and the promotion of engineers. (KNO)

'Don't raise finger

the Machail Mata Yatra when there was a weather high alert and people were killed there. It was his Padder constituency. Why didn't he stop the Yatra? Don't raise a finger on my leader. Come and debate with me."

The Deputy CM questioned Sharma's silence over key issues affecting Jammu: "What do you want to show? You are not standing with the people of the Jammu division, who gave you 28 seats. Today, Jammu is suffering due to floods. Bridges and houses have collapsed, roads are damaged, and crops and apples are destroyed. Why don't you speak about that? Did you give any compensation to the affected people?"

Chaudhary further added, "Why don't you speak about unemployed farmers? Why didn't you resolve the issue of daily wagers in the last 11 years? Why don't you speak for Jammu? It's all drama. The LoP is a leader of reels, not of the ground. NC leaders are among the people, in panchayats, and constantly engaging with them."

On the upcoming by-elections, the Deputy CM said the National Conference is fully prepared and confident of victory. "We are ready for Budgam and Nagrota by-elections and will win both seats," he said.

Accusing the BJP of "political drama," Chaudhary said, "If they truly sympathised with Jammu and Kashmir, they wouldn't have scrapped statehood or reduced us to a Union Territory. Give us statehood back."

Responding to the BJP's criticism of the NC's manifesto, which includes promises of free electricity, 12 gas cylinders, and employment opportunities, he said, "Did the unemployed youth take birth in the last one year? This unemployment crisis has been created over the past 11 years by the BJP, PDP, and six years of LG administration."

Chaudhary added, "We are not selected or appointed, but elected by the hearts of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We have promised statehood, and we will fulfil that promise. The LG should show sympathy towards the people. Unemployed youth deserve opportunities. And if Omar Abdullah wants to deliver, give us the statehood back so that we can work for our people." (KNO)

BJP election panel

The BJP is likely to field Devyani Rana, daughter of Devinder Singh Rana, who won the Nagrota seat by a record margin of 30,472

votes. The seat became vacant following Rana's demise.

As already reported, party leaders met the national general secretary (Organisation) in New Delhi and submitted a panel of seven candidates for the Rajya Sabha polls scheduled for November 24. (KNO)

Chenab Valley's

several road reconstruction projects under schemes like PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and R&B (Roads and Buildings Department), many stretches have been left incomplete after excavation. As a result, large rocks and debris continue to accumulate on these unfinished roads, making even light rainfall enough to block vehicular movement.

Residents told KNO that the roads were already in poor shape before the rains. Now, with contractors and departments abandoning work midway, the situation has turned alarming, they said.

The recent downpour has washed away entire patches of link roads, pushing them to the verge of collapse. Frequent landslides and rockfalls have become a daily occurrence along roads. In several areas, the ground beneath the roads has begun to slip, leaving cracks and deep fissures.

"The condition of the roads is miserable. Every time it rains, we get trapped. Vehicles can't move, and landslides continue to block the road. It feels like we are cut off from the rest of the world," said a resident from Thaki.

Even on dry days, danger looms large.

On Wednesday morning, a tragic accident occurred when a Bolero vehicle travelling from Bangla Bharat to Doda was hit by a falling rock near Baswal.

Witnesses said the boulder came crashing down from the hillside, crushing the vehicle. As locals rushed to rescue the injured, smaller rocks and soil began tumbling down, injuring several others. The continuous sliding of debris made the rescue operation perilous.

Officials confirm the crisis.

A senior PWD Officer told KNO that the recent rains have caused extensive damage to link roads, leaving them on the edge of destruction. "Our priority is to restore connectivity," he said. "But we need funds for permanent repairs. A proposal has already been sent to higher authorities for approval, and we are awaiting their response. Once funds are sanctioned, restoration work will begin immediately." (KNO)

20 years on, earthquake

tightly as we escaped, but our home was gone," she said.

Since then, Zubeeda has become a community volunteer, helping women rebuild livelihoods after disasters. "I want young women to be empowered to face such hardships, to not lose hope like we almost did," she said.

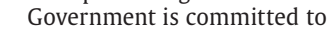
Mushtaq Ahmad, now 28, was only eight when the earthquake destroyed his school. "I remember the classroom shaking, the dust, and the cries of friends trapped beneath fallen beams. Some didn't make it," he said.

Ahmad recalled that as a child, he thought it was the end of the world, as everything around him shook violently and buildings collapsed to the ground.

Almost 1,700 families in Karnah were forced into temporary shelters after the quake, surviving without electricity, water, or communication for days. Roads were blocked by landslides, isolating the valley. (KNO)

PTI

"I think no power on earth can stop India from becoming a developed and prosperous nation when we celebrate 100 years of independence. And this cannot happen without the adoption of technology, without the digital world keeping abreast with what is happening in the world, without our trade partnerships increasing across the world. And



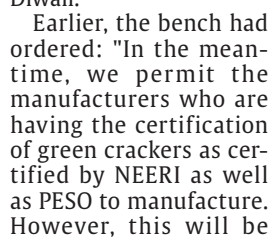
The data will be released next week.

PTI

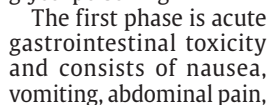
The EC has also issued directives to the Bihar chief secretary related to the removal of defacement from government, public and private property; misuse of official vehicles or government accommodation by any political party, candidate or any other person connected with the elections; and ban on the issuance of advertisements at the cost of the public exchequer.

PTI

On Wednesday, a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran was to consider the issues including the report of the Centre. The law officer, representing



The bench issued the conditional order permitting certified manufacturers to produce 'green' crackers till the plea is heard again on October 8. The top court was hearing a batch of petitions filed by firecracker manufacturers seeking relaxation of ban and permission to sell 'green' crackers.

TOI HEALTH

glycol. After the first death was reported on September 2, the toll has tragically climbed to 20 children, with multiple others suffering from kidney failure.

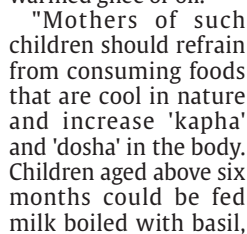
PTI

12 per cent of the total segment and is growing very fast. By 2027-28, the right policy framework for electric cars would also be in place, Gupta said. With four models in India, three sedans and one

Gupta said the aim of the company is to maintain the market share and retain the number seven position as a car manufacturing company in the country.

PTI

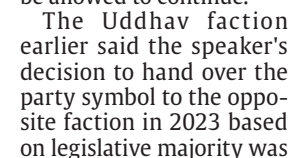
The advisory mentioned that cough syrups are generally not recommended for children aged below five years. For those aged above five years, any administration



Additionally, children can be given Sitopaladi powder and Talishadi powder mixed with honey, or prescribed medicines like Vasavaleha and Agastya Haritaki. All these medicines are completely safe and effective for children, he added.

PTI

"We will hear all the parties on November 12 and if need arises, we can



Challenging the orders
passed by the speaker in

The speaker's ruling further cemented Shinde's position as the then-chief minister, 18 months after he led a rebellion against Thackeray, and added to his political heft in the ruling coalition, which also comprised the BJP and the NCP (Ajit Pawar group) ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

Dated: 07-10-2025

No:Div-KRLP/2664-78

2. Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora (tender inviting authority). Treasury Challan must be written boldly and clearly with Name of Work, Name of the Contractor along with Contact No., Nit no and Serial No of Work on NIT(if any).

ly and clearly, with re-

DIPK-6945/25
DATED: 08-10-2025

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Executive Engineer
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Over 850 hikers, guides stranded in Mt Everest blizzard rescued

PTI

Beijing, Oct 08: Over 850 hikers, guides and porters who were stranded for three days in a severe blizzard on the Tibetan slopes of Mount Everest have been evacuated by hundreds of villagers and rescue teams, according to Chinese official media.

All the hikers and local service personnel trapped by heavy snowfall in Dingri County at Xigaze City in southwest Tibet Autonomous Region have reached safety, the local government said late Tuesday night.

A total of 580 hikers and over 300 personnel, including local guides and yak herders, have safely reached Qudeng Township and nearby areas, where officials are arranging their return journeys, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Xinhua had earlier reported on Monday that one hiker was killed in the snowstorm, which caught more than 1,000 holiday trekkers off guard on the Tibetan side of



Mount Everest. Thousands of holidaymakers had flocked to Tibet during the eight-day holiday in China from October 1 to celebrate the National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival. The blizzard, which began

on Saturday, brought heavy snow that crushed tents and buried trails, making descent extremely difficult for the hikers, most of whom were Chinese nationals. News of the rescue efforts reached

the mainland slowly due to the remoteness of the area, causing anxiety among the relatives of the stranded trekkers. State-run broadcaster CCTV reported on Wednesday that a dozen more hikers, assisted by rescue personnel from Tingri county, had reached a rendezvous point on their descent.

On Sunday, Shigatse city officials announced on the social media platform, Weibo, that Tingri county authorities had mobilised teams to contact and help stranded trekkers at the base camp to ensure their safety. October, typically known for mild temperatures and clear skies, is considered the peak climbing season for Mount Everest and the surrounding regions. However, the sudden blizzard caught even experienced mountaineers off guard, local media said.

The National Business Daily quoted climbers as saying the blizzard began

on Friday evening and continued through Saturday.

According to the media outlet based in the southwestern city of Chengdu, climbers' tents were crushed and snow accumulated to a depth of over a metre at the base camp, cutting off all descent routes. The trekkers' camps were in the remote Gama Valley, which is home to the largest and one of the best-preserved primeval forests in the Everest area, located between Tingri and Dinggye counties. The route to the eastern side of Mount Everest from Gama Valley involves a 40-km trek and relies solely on yaks and mules for supplies, taking about 10 days for a round trip.

While the northern slope of Everest, accessible by road, is the more popular hiking route, another commercial route lies on the southern slope in Nepal.

Extreme weather has also battered Nepal since last week, with 60 people killed in landslides and flash floods triggered by torrential rain,

Pope Leo tells US bishops to address Trump's immigration crackdown



REUTERS

Vatican City, Oct 08: Pope Leo told US bishops visiting him at the Vatican on Wednesday that they should firmly address how immigrants are being treated by President Donald Trump's hardline policies, attendees said, in the latest push by the pontiff on the issue.

Leo, the first US pope, was handed dozens of letters from immigrants describing their fears of deportation under the Trump administration's policies during the meeting, which included bishops and social workers from the US-Mexico border.

"Our Holy Father ... is very personally concerned about these matters," El



Paso Bishop Mark Seitz, who took part in the meeting, told Reuters. "He expressed his desire that the US Bishops' Conference would speak strongly on this issue."

"It means a lot to all of us to know of his personal desire that we continue to speak out," said Seitz.

The Vatican did not immediately comment on the pope's meeting.

Elected in May to replace the late Pope Francis, Leo has shown a much more reserved style than his predecessor, who frequently criticized the Trump administration and often spoke in surprise, off-the-cuff remarks.

But Leo has been ramping up his criticism in

recent weeks.

The pope questioned on September 30 whether the Trump administration's anti-immigration policies were in line with the Catholic Church's pro-life teachings, in comments that drew heated backlash from some prominent conservative Catholics.

The White House has said Trump was elected based on his many promises, including to deport criminal illegal aliens.

One of the letters given to the pope on Wednesday, shared with Reuters, described a family with two members who did not have legal permission to stay in the US and who were afraid to leave the house for fear of deportation.

"I believe the Pope should speak out openly against the raids and the unfair treatment the community is experiencing," read the letter, written in Spanish.

Leo also met privately with a group of about 100 American Catholics involved in ministry with migrants on Tuesday evening, thanking them for their work.

EU 'must respond' to Russia's 'hybrid warfare': Ursula von der Leyen

AFP

Strasbourg, Oct 08: EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday said Europe must ramp up its defenses to deter Russia's "hybrid warfare," after a catalogue of air incursions, cyberattacks and damage to undersea cables. "These incidents are calculated to linger in the twilight of deniability. This is not random harassment. It is a coherent and escalating campaign," the European Commission head said in a speech to EU lawmakers.

"Two incidents are coincidence, but three, five, 10 — this is a deliberate and targeted grey zone campaign against Europe, and Europe must respond," she said.

EU countries Poland, Estonia and Romania have recently been rattled by Russian air incursions, while unidentified drones have been spotted in Denmark, Germany and Belgium. European countries have already increased defense spending to post-Cold War highs in the face of Moscow's war in Ukraine and doubts over US support under President Donald Trump.

Now the EU is seeking to hammer out plans for joint projects that could be built by the 27-nation bloc — including a "wall" of anti-drone defenses. "We must not only react. We must deter because if we



hesitate to act, the grey zone will only expand," von der Leyen said.

"The founding mission of the European Union is to preserve peace, and today that means having the capacity to deter aggression and provocation."

EU leaders will seek at a summit in Brussels later this month to agree on a "road map" aimed at getting the bloc ready to ward off threats from Russia in the coming years.

"This will not only set common objectives, but also very concrete milestones and timelines on the way to 2030 because we all know only what gets measured gets really done," von der Leyen said.

The commission president insisted that tackling "Russia's hybrid war" requires "a completely new mindset for all of us." "The choice before us is very simple. We either can shy away and watch Russian threats escalate, or we meet them with unity, deterrence and resolve," von der Leyen said.

'Cummins out of Ashes opener in Perth, likely to miss full series'

IANS

Perth, Oct 08: Australia captain Pat Cummins is expected to miss the Ashes opener in Perth with a possibility that he may miss the entire Test series against England as the scans revealed his back stress problem had not yet healed.

Cummins had been battling back soreness since featuring during Australia's tour of the Caribbean in July and recent scans confirmed a lumbar bone stress to the affected area. According to Sydney Morning Herald report, Cummins is no chance for the opener in Perth, starting on November 21, and may even miss all five Tests, leaving Steve Smith as the likely stand-in skipper to face England.

The 32-year-old pacer Cummins had the update scan last



week to clarify his progress ahead of the Test summer and was told that while the stress "hot spot" was healing, it has not yet cleared up enough for him to bowl, the report added.

The loss of Cummins with a back stress injury is a massive blow to Australia's chances of retaining the Ashes urn that Australia have held since 2018.

In Cummins absence, fellow

quick Scott Boland looks his most likely replacement, with experienced trio Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon almost certain to feature. Last month, the Aussie Test captain had put a loose timeline on his return to the bowling crease. I'd imagine I'd want to be bowling at minimum a month out, maybe six weeks," Cummins had said.

Israel's Gaza aid flotilla intervention act of piracy: Turkiye

REUTERS

Ankara, Oct 08: Turkiye on Wednesday slammed an intervention by Israeli forces against a flotilla attempting to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza as an act of piracy and a violation of international law.

Turkiye's foreign ministry said the intervention against the Freedom Flotilla, including

Turkish nationals and lawmakers, showed that the "genocidal" Israeli government targeted all peaceful measures and heightened tensions in the region while damaging peace efforts.

It added in its statement that all initiatives were being taken for Turkish citizens held by Israel to be freed and returned to Turkiye, and that it was coordinating with other countries regarding their citizens too.

AIFF approves balance sheet, reports Rs 18.45 crore surplus for FY

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 08: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Tuesday passed its audited balance sheet for the financial year up to March 31, 2025 during its executive committee meeting here and claimed that it has a surplus of Rs 18.45 crore during the period.

KPMG India Services LLP, which has been appointed to oversee the process of monetizing the AIFF's commercial properties, including the Indian Super League rights, following a request from the 13 ISL clubs, also made a presentation to the executive committee on the tender process.

"Yes, the AIFF has a surplus of Rs 18.45 crore in the balance sheet of the period up to March 31, 2025 which was passed today," a top AIFF



official told PTI. However, the AIFF officials were not forthcoming when asked if a majority of the executive committee members would have to resign from their positions or lose their posts in the state units if the national federation adopts its draft Constitution during the Special General Meeting (SGM) on Sunday.

There is speculation that the AIFF may make a mention to

the Supreme Court to review the addition of Article 25.3 (c) in the draft constitution but no official was willing to speak on the matter.

The Supreme Court on September 19 approved the draft constitution of the AIFF prepared by former apex court judge L Nageswara Rao with certain modifications, and directed the football body to adopt it within four weeks in a general body meeting.

of alleged enforced disappearances."

The UNCED report comes a day after the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on Monday (October 6, 2025) adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Sri Lanka for two more years. The report also pointed out that of the 16,966 cases received by the OMP, only 23 had been traced so far, raising questions about the effectiveness of the institution established to address long-standing demands for truth and justice by families of the disappeared.

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