



This newspaper is the sister concern of news agency

www.kashmirthunder.in | epaper.kashmirthunder.in | twitter.com / kashmirthunder | facebook.com/kashmirthundernews | Regd. No. JKENG/2010/39938

J&K witnessed historic turnaround, from violence to vibrancy: LG Sinha

Says region has left behind dark era of terrorism, now on path of prosperity

Lauds J&K Police, security forces for making UT terror-free

Terms JKP crucial agent of socio-economic development

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: Lauding the concerted efforts of J&K Police and security forces to make the Union Territory terror-free, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir has left behind the dark chapter of terrorism and is steadily advancing on the path of peace, prosperity, and development.



Addressing the athletes participating in the 10th All India Police Judo Cluster here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Terrorism is now on its last legs and counting its final breaths."

He said, "I congratulate the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security forces for their unwavering dedication and exemplary service. Their concerted efforts have tightened the noose around the entire ecosystem of terrorism, dismantling terror

outfits and preventing infiltration attempts from across the Line of Control."

He stated that terrorism is now "on its last legs and counting its final breaths," adding that the prevailing peace and stability are the outcomes of the relentless

commitment of the security forces.

Drawing a comparison with the national security scenario, the Lt Governor said, "In 2013, 126 areas in the country were affected by Naxalism. Today, that number has been reduced to just five. Similarly, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a historic turnaround — from violence to vibrancy."

He said, "Intelligence-based kinetic operations and adopting a multifaceted approach to tackle internal security challenges have broken the back of the terror ecosystem."

The Lieutenant Governor hailed the J&K Police force in building a fear-free environment for citizens.

Praising the Jammu and Kashmir Police for their multifaceted role, LG Sinha said, "The J&K Police is not only fighting terrorism, maintaining | More on P6

In consultation with J&K govt on statehood restoration: Centre tells SC

Top court grants 4 weeks to Centre to reply on statehood demand

Centre says everyone in J&K happy, 99.99% people treat Govt their own govt

Petitioners say matter should go before 5-judge bench if Centre fails to decide



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that it is in consultation with the Jammu and Kashmir government over statehood restoration even as the top court granted four weeks time to the Union government to respond to petitioners' demand.

Hearing petitions on statehood restoration to Jammu and Kashmir, the Supreme Court, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), granted four weeks to the Centre to respond to Jammu and Kashmir's statehood demand.

The order was passed after Solicitor General, Tushar Mehta cited Pahalgam terror attack, stating that the incident must be considered before restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

The Solicitor General also informed the top court that

the central government is in consultation with state government on statehood restoration and that's the correct approach.

Earlier, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan appearing for petitioners said that Pahalgam attack happened "under the watch of central government". "There was a solemn undertaking that statehood will be restored. Now Pahalgam attack occurred under their (Centre's) watch," he said.

Advocate Sankaranarayanan also submitted that statehood was taken away in 2019 and we are now in 2025. "Now for reasons best known to them enough water has flown under the bridge and elections have also been held," he said.

Solicitor General Mehta interjected, stating, "I take objection. Under our govt watch. Who are they? Supreme court must rule on this." | More on P6

BSF on alert, watching border threats with AI, drones, says IG Anand

'We've integrated artificial intelligence, drone surveillance to strengthen border security'

SAJID RAINA

JAMMU, OCT 10: Inspector General (IG) of Border Security Force (BSF) for Jammu, Shashank Anand on Friday said that the security forces are alert on the border and are maintaining a tight vigil.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), talking to reporters at BSF Headquarters here, IG BSF said, "Cross-border activities remain under constant watch and we are prepared to counter any threat."

"We are closely monitoring all activities. Whenever we notice any suspicious movement we develop effective strategies with other agencies," the IG said.

He said the BSF remains vigilant and committed to preventing any attempt at infiltration or cross-border activity. "The enemy always tries to infiltrate, but we are vigilant and in close coordination with our sister agencies," he added.

On evolving threats and warfare methods, IG Anand said the BSF is adapting new technologies, including drone warfare and artificial intelligence.

"This 21st century has witnessed changes, and aerial routes such as drones are being used. AI is also being employed. BSF is not lagging behind; we are training our troops in drones for attack and defence purposes, and if there is any opportunity, we will use it," he said.



The IG BSF said that the challenges on the border change with seasons, especially during winter, and the force is prepared accordingly. "During winter season, our challenges are different, and we have formulated strategies to foil any infiltration attempt by the enemy. We are patrolling our borders," he said.

"After Operation Sindoor, we have accelerated the introduction of modern technology across defence and paramilitary forces," he said.

"A dedicated School of Drone Warfare has been set up at the BSF Academy in Gwalior, where troops are being trained to operate drone squadrons and drone commandos. We will be able to inflict damage on an adversary in ways they may not have even imagined," he said.

He also said the BSF has had drone capability for | More on P6



TOURISTS SOARING high above Srinagar's Boulevard, enjoying the thrill of paragliding with breathtaking views of the city and Dal Lake. Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Two missing Army paratroopers found dead in Kokernag forests

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

ANANTNAG, OCT 10: Two Army paratroopers who went missing five days ago during an operation in the Ahlan Gadole area of Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district have been found dead.

"The body of the second missing para commando was recovered by security forces today during the ongoing search operation in the dense forest area of Gadole in Kokernag," an official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The body of the first missing para commando was recovered from the same forest area yesterday. "On the intervening



night of October 6 and 7, an operational team in the Kishtwar Range encountered a severe snowstorm and whiteout conditions in the mountains of South Kashmir. Since then, two soldiers had gone out of communication," the Chinari Corps wrote on X on Wednesday.

"Intense search and rescue operations were launched but were hampered by adverse weather conditions," it added.

A massive combing operation was launched on Monday evening in the dense Gadole forest area to trace the missing commandos. | More on P6

NC announces candidates for Rajya Sabha polls

Choudhary Ramzan, Sajad Kichloo, Shammi Oberoi to contest elections



KNO SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, OCT 10: National Conference on Friday announced its candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls scheduled on October 24.

Addressing a news conference here, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), National Conference, General Secretary, Ali Muhammad Sagar named Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan (former minister), Sajad Ahmad Kichloo (former minister of state for Home) and Shammi Oberoi (Treasurer) of its candidate for the polls.

"They will nomination papers in the next few days," he said, adding that the names of candidates were finalised by

the party's core committee.

Ramzan, a senior National Conference leader from Handwara, has served as minister in NC-led governments. Sajad Kichloo, who hails from Kishtwar, was also a minister in Omar Abdullah-led government.

Shammi, a Sikh face of the party, is a trusted loyalist of Abdullah family.

Sagar said that they are currently in discussion with the National Conference for the fourth seat. "We have kept one seat open and the talks are on with Congress over it," he said.

The NC leader did not clarify whether they intend to leave one of the three 'safe' seats for the Congress or | More on P6

=== Mental Health Crisis Deepens In J&K ===

Around 2 lakh treated at IMHANS last year, over 2.7 lakh in GMC Anantnag in five years

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG, OCT 10: Amid a growing mental health crisis across Jammu and Kashmir, doctors say a significant number of people are beginning to come forward and seek treatment, marking a slow but positive shift in awareness and acceptance.

Official data from the Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), reveals that over 2.7 lakh patients with mental health issues have been

treated at the hospital in the past five years.

Similarly, the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), GMC Srinagar, has catered to around two lakh patients last year.

"As the only tertiary-level psychiatric hospital in the region, the IMHANS catered to around two lakh patients last year, including those seeking help for both general mental health problems and substance-use disorders," Dr Yasir Rather, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, IMHANS, said. "This



number itself reflects the growing demand for accessible, affordable, and stigma-free care."

He said this year's theme reminds us that mental health care must not be a privilege of

peace, but a necessity in times of crisis.

"In Kashmir, where people continue to face layers of uncertainty, recent war-like situations and natural disasters like floods and earthquakes, social stress, and mental health challenges are deeply woven into daily life," Dr Rather said. "We must work collectively to strengthen community-based mental health services, integrate psychological support into disaster and emergency response, and ensure that no individual, regardless of geography or background, is left

behind when it comes to care."

Dr Yasir added, "Let this day serve as a call to action: to make mental health services accessible in every setting, protect recovery as a human right, and build systems that stand firm even in crisis."

Doctors, however, warn that the magnitude of mental health problems remains deeply concerning, with depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and substance abuse being among the most common issues reported.

"Recognising the warning signs in people who have

suicidal thoughts and ensuring help through positive support networks is a moral responsibility for all of us," a senior psychiatrist said, stressing that early intervention can save lives.

He noted that drug abuse has emerged as one of the gravest social concerns, especially among youth. "The percentage of indulgence in drugs has seen a dangerous upsurge in recent years. Young people, in particular, are falling prey to various kinds of social evils — the most damaging being substance abuse, which | More on P6

CS for seamless fruit transportation from Kashmir

Directs for exploring rail freight link to major metro markets



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review the transportation and smooth movement of fruit consignments from the Valley to markets outside.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, Transport Department; IG Traffic; Transport Commissioner; Secretary in Agriculture Production Department; MD, HPMC; Regional Officer, NHAI; and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of the current status of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) and its restoration to full operational capacity. He specifically enquired about the movement of fruit-laden trucks from the Valley and the unhindered passage of other essential commodities coming from

outside towards Srinagar.

He further directed that no fruit truck should remain stranded on the highway and instructed the concerned departments to ensure safe and priority passage of these vehicles. He also reviewed the situation regarding vehicles stranded on both sides of the NH-44 and directed for their timely clearance.

While reviewing long-distance transportation options, the Chief Secretary advised the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, to explore the introduction of rail freight services for transporting horticultural produce to major markets such as Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru. He emphasized the need to engage with fruit growers in this regard and to coordinate with the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Jammu, to examine the feasibility of such a service.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, apprised the Chief Secretary of the availability

and adequacy of transport services for fruit growers, informing that sufficient trucks are presently available at reasonable rates and that growers are not facing any major logistical difficulties.

Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa, further informed the meeting that in case of any shortage of transport vehicles, the fleet of J&K SRTC trucks would be deployed to facilitate smooth evacuation of fruit from the Valley to outside markets, ensuring full assistance to the fruit growers.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the administration is fully committed to ensuring seamless transportation of horticultural produce, which forms a key pillar of the Valley's economy, and directed all concerned officers to maintain coordination and take proactive measures to ensure smooth transportation of this crop throughout the ongoing fruit season.

Comm Secy I&C inaugurates Buyer-Seller Meet

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 10: Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh Friday inaugurated a three days Buyer-Seller Meet at Budgam to promote traditional handicrafts and facilitate market linkages for local artisans and producers.

The Buyer-Seller meet is being organised by Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) and is sponsored by Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, under National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP) as part of on-going efforts to support and revitalize Jammu and Kashmir's rich handicraft heritage.

Managing Director, JKTPO, Sudershan Kumar; Director NIFT, General Manager JKTPO, AD Handicrafts, DCH and other senior officers of the district were



also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary highlighted that the Buyer-Seller Meet will serve as a key platform for local artisans to showcase their unique craftsmanship and build sustainable commercial relationships with buyers, thereby contributing to economic empowerment of the region's artisan community. He added that the event will facilitate interactions between artisans and buyers,



ensuring economic up-liftment for the artisan community and promotion of Jammu and Kashmir's rich art and culture.

Around 50 artisans from both regions participated in the event, showcasing a diverse range of Handmade GI-tagged products like Pashmina, Kani shawls, Sozni embroidery, Paper Mache, Chain Stitch, Basohli paintings, Crewelwork, and more. The event successfully attracted 40 national buying houses operating

across various international markets. Participating visitors had a unique opportunity to interact directly with the artisans and explore high-quality, handcrafted products celebrated for their distinctiveness and cultural heritage. The event will witness impressive business deals along with a high level of engagement among participants leading to meaningful interactions and productive business discussions. The overwhelming response to the event underscores the event's relevance and effectiveness in fostering connections among industry stakeholders.

In addition, the event is projected to generate an impressive number of business leads, further cementing its status as a high-impact platform for networking, lead generation, fostering business opportunities and strengthening the textile sector.

Haris Handoo assumes charge as Dir SKICC

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Special Secretary in Chief Minister's Secretariat, Haris Ahmad Handoo Friday assumed the charge of Director SKICC.

On the occasion, the Director was given a warm welcome by the SKICC staff.

The Director, after assumption of charge, held a brief interaction with the officers and other staff.

During the interaction, he highlighted that SKICC's stature as a premier destination for national and international events need to be maintained. He emphasized upon the officers and staff to work with utmost dedication for promotion of this place as a hub for conferences, cultural events, and

global collaborations that highlight the scenic and cultural richness of Jammu & Kashmir. "SKICC has always been a symbol of excellence and hospitality in the region", he said.

He assured the employees that all issues pertaining to functioning of



this vital institution will be resolved.

The employees assured full support to the new Director to carry on the legacy of this prestigious conference centre.

Capacity Building Programme held at Kupwara

KT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 10: The District Administration Kupwara, in coordination with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DDMRRR) Friday organized a one-day Capacity Building Programme under Community-Based Disaster Management at the ACD Complex, Kupwara.

The programme was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad, who also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Kupwara.

The event witnessed active participation from a range of stakeholders, including Deputy Secretary, DDMRRR, Snobar Jameel; Assistant Commissioner Development Kupwara, Muzaffar Ahmad, BDOs, Panchayat Secretaries; ICDS workers; and other concerned officials.

The primary objective of the programme was to strengthen the capacities of grassroots functionaries and local communities in effective disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation. Emphasis was laid on the importance of community engagement, coordination among departments, and proactive planning to minimize disaster-related risks.

Holistic support, vigilance key to TB eradication in Budgam: DC

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 10: A District TB Forum meeting was held Friday under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, to review and strengthen ongoing efforts under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan in the district.

The meeting was attended by CMO Budgam, STO Kashmir, DTO Budgam, other concerned officials as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, TB Champions, Nikshay Mitras, and all staff associated with the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). The DC took a comprehensive review of TB-related activities across the district.

The Chair was apprised about the progress achieved under

the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, identified existing gaps in diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up, and deliberated on strategies to enhance service delivery.

The DC Emphasised on improving case detection, treatment adherence, and patient support mechanisms, especially for MDR-TB patients.

He assured full administrative support for strengthening TB control measures in the district. He highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to TB management, including nutritional support, vocational rehabilitation, and social welfare for patients undergoing long-term treatment.

He commended the efforts of Nikshay Mitras for their active role in providing nutritional assistance and counselling to TB patients,



acknowledging their contribution to patient retention and treatment success. The DC stressed the need for accurate and timely reporting of TB-related data under the NTEP, underlining its critical role in monitoring progress and formulating effective interventions.

He instructed all officers to take necessary corrective measures to address gaps in outreach, treatment monitoring, and community

awareness.

The meeting further discussed measures to enhance treatment success rates, increase awareness about TB prevention, and ensure that vulnerable patients receive comprehensive support, including regular health check-ups, nutritional supplements, and access to government welfare schemes.

The DC maintained that the District administration is committed towards eradicating tuberculosis from Budgam by strengthening multi-sectoral coordination, engaging community stakeholders, and leveraging technology for effective monitoring.

He also highlighted that sustained administrative attention, combined with active community participation, is key to building a TB-free Budgam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Syed Firdoos Ahmad Gillani S/O Syed Mohd Fazil Gillani R/O Malikpora Verinag Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir am applying for the correction in my Date of Birth shown on my Aadhaar card. Instead of 06-02-1968, the actual DOB is 06-02-1966 as per the educational and official documents. Anyone having an objection shall report to the office of Municipal Committee Dooru-Verinag within seven-days of the date of publication of this notice dated 11-10-2025.

انتقال پر ملال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ غلام رسول میر ولد حاجی

سیف الدین میر ساکنہ بس سٹاپ سعد

کدل سرینگر مورخہ 9 اکتوبر 2025ء

بروز جمعرات کو اس دار فانی سے رحلت

کر گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس

نصیب کرے۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی

مورخہ 12 اکتوبر 2025ء بروز اتوار صبح 10.30 بجے اُن کے آبائی مقبرہ

واقع ملکہ کھانہ نزدیکی گوردوارہ انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران

9419059977

7006492947, 9622587842, 7006644119

نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کسی بھی طرح کے مشروبات

اور میوہ وغیرہ نہ لا۔



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION & FARMER'S WELFARE LALMANDI, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.

AUCTION NOTICE

Sealed Auction Notice is hereby called for auction of Leftover Grasses at Fodder Seed Production Station, Aru District Anantnag as per the details mentioned below. Interested parties are informed to quote the rates in respect of material to be auctioned on following terms and conditions. The bids should reach the office of Fodder Seed Production Station Aru, District Anantnag on 16.10.2025 (Thursday) till 12.30 PM in sealed envelop on prescribed format.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

- That the offered rates must be accompanied with a CDR of 5% of the minimum reserve price pledged to Accounts Officer Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir or cash deposit as mentioned below at the time of auction before the Auction Committee.
- That no tenderer is allowed to submit the tender below the minimum reserved rates, otherwise his cash deposit/CDR will be forfeited.
- That the interested party can inspect the material at Fodder Seed Production Station Aru, District Anantnag on any working day during the Office hours upto 16.10.2025.
- That the offered rates shall be opened on same date at 1.00 PM in the office chambers of Fodder Seed Production Station Aru, District Anantnag in presence of bidders who wish to be present.
- That the Auction Committee shall be at liberty to accept or reject the bid without assigning any reasons thereof.
- That the Successful bidders shall have to deposit 100% bid amount immediately after he/she is declared successful bidder.
- In case the successful bidder fails to make the payment in full within the stipulated time his/her earnest money shall be forfeited & award of bid will be given to second highest bidder on the rates offered by 1st highest bidder.
- That in case any dispute arise between the parties, the matter will be referred to Director Agriculture, Kashmir and his decision shall be binding on both the parties.
- The CDR's in respect of unsuccessful bidders will be released after three days duly applied by the bidder to Member Secretary Auction Committee (Accounts Officer).
- That the interested party can inspect the material at respective Areas as mentioned above on any working day during the office hours upto 15.10.2025.
- The successful bidder shall have to use the area without causing damage to other plantation/infrastructure of the farm area.

❖ The detail of the material to be auctioned is given as under:-

S.No	Name of the item to be auctioned	Quantity in Area	Minimum Reserve bid per Qtl	Cash deposit
01	Leftover green grasses of fodder crops at Aru	32 Ha	104000.00	5000.00

Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary (A.C.)
Directorate of Agriculture,
Kashmir.

No.Agr/Pur-sec/2025-26/dated 10.2025

DIPK-7042/25
DATED: 10-10-2025

World Mental Health Day

Experts call for action to break stigma, strengthen support

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar Oct 10: Every year, October 10 marks World Mental Health Day, a global observance dedicated to promoting awareness, understanding, and open dialogue around mental well-being.

This year's theme, "Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies", carries profound relevance as communities across the world grapple with wars, disasters, and humanitarian crises that continue to strain psychological resilience.

Mental health professionals say that constant exposure to trauma and uncertainty has created unprecedented emotional stress, particularly in regions facing conflict or prolonged emergencies.

Dr Mansoor Ahmad, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at GMC Anantnag, called for collective action: "It's time we all engage in



open mental health conversations and provide unwavering support to those in need of care. The burden of untreated mental illness is rising due

to stigma, poor infrastructure, and a lack of awareness."

He said it is highly opportune to the current global situation, as the world

news reports countless catastrophes and emergencies. Constant exposure to trauma, coupled with the pressure of extreme and challenging conditions, can place an immense burden on mental well-being, he added. Dr Ahmad said there are gaps in mental health infrastructure, including shortages of psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychiatric beds. He said surveys indicate that only 10-15% of those with mental disorders receive treatment.

"Stigma and negative perceptions about mental illness often prevent individuals from seeking help, which can disrupt daily life, especially amid frequent curfews, shutdowns, and restrictions affecting education and employment," he added.

Dr Mansoor said trauma cumulatively worsens over time because the conflict is long-term, and younger generations are born into this environment, with repeated exposure to trauma. "It's time we

all engage in indiscriminate mental health conversations and provide unwavering support to those in need of mental healthcare," he said.

Dr Nisar Ahmad Wani, Professor in the Higher Education Department, J&K, said: "Mental health is not just about the absence of illness; it's about finding balance, resilience, and peace in our daily lives. This year's theme encourages us to break the silence, create safe spaces for open conversations, and support one another. Asking for help is not a weakness; it's an act of courage."

He urged people to look out for each other, adding that simple acts of kindness and empathy can transform lives. "A kind word, a listening ear, or a simple check-in can make a world of difference to someone who is struggling," he added.

Dr Nizam-ud-Din Dar, a psychiatrist from JVC Bemina, called for

compassion, understanding, and prioritising mental well-being for all, including at the time of catastrophes and emergencies.

"Mental health is a fundamental aspect of our overall health, yet stigma and barriers still prevent many from seeking help. Today, let's commit to fostering a more supportive and accepting world where everyone feels safe to share their struggles and access the care they deserve," he said.

"Remember, mental health is a journey, not a destination. Together, we can break down barriers, spread awareness, and build a community rooted in empathy and resilience. Take care of your mind, just as you do your body," he added.

Experts called for scaling up mental health infrastructure, integrating counselling services into schools and workplaces, and launching targeted awareness campaigns—(KNO)

Sharp rise in tax collections Land revenue up by 87%

PEERZADA UMMER

Srinagar, Oct 10 : Jammu and Kashmir's own tax revenue has shown a strong rise over recent years, hinting at a steady improvement in the Union Territory's financial position. The stamp duty and registration fees are witnessing one of the sharpest increases, growing by 57 per cent from Rs 325.54 crore to Rs 512.02 crore. Land revenue has nearly doubled, rising by 87 per cent from Rs 60.57 crore to Rs 113.28 crore.

According to the official data, Jammu and Kashmir's total own tax revenue increased from Rs 8,876.99 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 11,707.28 crore in 2021-22. This has shown a growth of 31.88 per cent in a single year, hinting at higher collections across all tax segments. A senior finance department official told KNO that the increase is due to better compliance and stronger revenue administration. "Post-pandemic recovery has clearly revived trade, transport, and real estate activity. Further, the GST framework has matured in Jammu and Kashmir. With tighter enforcement and improved digital tracking, leakages have reduced significantly," he added.

The State Goods and Services



Tax (SGST) was the biggest contributor, rising from Rs 4,839.35 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 6,394.31 crore in 2021-22, an increase of over 32 per cent. State Excise collections went up from Rs 1,347.42 crore to Rs 1,782.79 crore, also a 32 per cent jump. Taxes on sales and trade climbed from Rs 1,495.61 crore to Rs 1,906.31 crore.

Stamp duty and registration fees saw one of the sharpest increases, growing by 57 per cent from Rs 325.54 crore to Rs 512.02 crore. Land revenue nearly doubled, rising by 87 per cent from Rs 60.57 crore to Rs 113.28 crore. Taxes on goods and passengers recorded the steepest jump, from Rs 0.90 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 5.73 crore in

2021-22, a 536 per cent increase.

A senior official at the department of finance here attributed this rise to better tax administration, post-COVID economic recovery, and stronger enforcement under the Goods and Services Tax regime.

"The government's focus on plugging gaps and digitising payments is showing results," he said, adding that more citizens are entering the formal tax net.

The data further reveals that the government has also received Rs 892.56 crore as GST compensation for revenue loss and Rs 3,845.49 crore as back-to-back loans from the Centre in lieu of GST compensation—(KNO)

Article 370 abrogated due to PDP's partnership with BJP: Advisor Wani



KNO

Srinagar, Oct 10: Senior National Conference leader and advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani on Friday said that had Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) not aligned with Bharatiya Janata Party in 2015, Article 370 and Art. 35A would not have been abrogated. "Talking to reporters Wani said that PDP has pushed Kashmiris into a state of suffering by aligning with BJP. "Those who pushed us into a state of suffering, and we have not been able to extricate ourselves from it," he said.

He said Dr. Farooq Abdullah has decided to spend most of the time in J&K.

"Dr. Sahab has decided to remain in Jammu and Kashmir. He believes his presence is more needed here, given the current political scenario. We need his experience and guidance," he said—(KNO)

Thousands throng Dastgeer Sahab shrines (RA) on Friday following



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KI)

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 10: The narrow streets of Khanyar in Srinagar and Sarai Bala turned deeply devotional on Friday as an ocean of devotees gathered to observe the Friday following Urs Mubarak of the revered saint, Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA), popularly known as Dastageer Sahib (RA).

From Khanyar Chowk to Sheeraz Chowk, the air reverberated with cries of devotion as men, women and children sat on prayer mats in front of the grand Dastageer Sahib Shrine, raising their hands in supplication.

Emotions ran high when the holy relic of the saint was displayed, with devotees breaking into tears, their voices trembling with faith and longing.

"I come here every year, but the moment the Moi-e-Muqqadas, (holy relic) is displayed, my heart trembles," said 65-year-old Ghulam Rasool, his eyes moist.

"It feels as if the saint himself is among us, blessing us all."

The scene was one of spiritual grandeur as homes near the shrine opened their doors and rooftops for people to catch a glimpse of the relic.

"The entire Khanyar was soaked in faith today," said a local resident, Fazil. He said, every corner echoed with prayers and people from every age group, from elderly men leaning on sticks to little children sitting on their parents' laps, were part of this ocean of devotion.

Similar situation was

witnessed in Sarai Balai area of Srinagar.

Meanwhile, the shrine's management committee had made elaborate arrangements for devotees, ensuring smooth movement and uninterrupted prayers. Volunteers distributed drinking water and tea among the gathering, as spiritual hymns and recitations filled the air.

Notably, as the relic was displayed, devotees wailed, some silently wiping tears, others openly crying, a moment that once again reflected Kashmir's timeless bond with Dastageer Sahib (RA).

"Faith brings us here," said Fatima, a young woman from Downtown. "No matter how busy life gets, this day pulls us to Khanyar. It is not just a tradition, but it is love, it is connection."—(KNO)

Train accident averted in Jammu

KNO

Jammu, Oct 10: The extraordinary presence of mind and alertness of Station Master Vijay Kumar, posted at Bhagala station in Jammu division of Northern Railway, cannot be praised enough. He saved an NMG freight train from an accident.

"According to the incident report, Station Master Vijay Kumar was on night duty on October 10, 2025. While on duty, at around 3:25 am, as an empty NMG freight train was passing through Bhagala station, the Station Master noticed smoke and sparks coming from the wheel of the 15th coach of the engine," a statement issued said.

Acting promptly, the Station Master signalled the train manager of the freight train with a red signal.

Meanwhile, the freight train was stopped after crossing the advance signal at kilometre 81/2 between Bhagala and Mukerian. With the help of the gateman posted at LC Gate No. 120, the carriage was checked. The technical problem was rectified and the spark was extinguished before the freight train was allowed to depart.

Divisional Railway Manager Jammu, Vivek Kumar, commended the Station Master's presence of mind and bravery and announced that he would be honored.

This incident demonstrates the vigilance and dedication of Indian Railways employees—(KNO)

Traffic snarl irks Chadoora commuters

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

Budgam, Oct 10 (KNO): Massive traffic congestion during peak hours at Chadoora town has left commuters and locals distressed, with residents urging the authorities to take immediate steps to resolve the long-pending issue.

Locals said that traffic jams have become a routine problem in Chadoora, particularly during evening hours. "It sometimes takes more than an hour to cover the short

stretch from Degree College Road to the Police Station or the hospital—a distance that would normally take just five minutes without traffic," a local said.

Residents said that despite repeated appeals, the issue continues to worsen each day, making it difficult for students, patients and daily commuters to reach their destinations on time. "Even ambulances often get stuck in traffic, putting patients' lives at risk," they added.

The locals blamed haphazard

parking, roadside encroachments and street vendors occupying parts of the main road as major contributors to the traffic chaos. "It's not just the administration's responsibility; drivers must also ensure they don't park vehicles carelessly, and vendors should avoid placing carts on the roadside," another resident said.

They appealed to the concerned authorities to devise a well-planned traffic management system to ensure smooth vehicular movement in the town—(KNO)

Police conduct raids on residences of terrorist aides

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 10: In its sustained efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and curb unlawful activities, Srinagar Police on Friday said to have conducted extensive raids at multiple locations across the city.

The searches were carried out at the residences of terrorist associates and overground workers (OGWs) affiliated with proscribed terrorist organizations, in connection with ongoing investigations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), a police spokesman said in a statement.

The coordinated search operations were conducted across various areas of Srinagar, targeting individuals involved in facilitating, aiding, or abetting terror-related activities, it reads.

Searches were carried out at the residences of

the following individuals: Najeeb Sakib Dar son of Mohd. Shafi Dar resident of Malabagh Ellahibagh, Owais Muneer Bhat son of Muneer Ahmed Bhat resident of Alamadar Colony Dangarpore, Elahibagh, Owais Ahmad Bhat son of Farooq Ahmad resident of Tiploo Mohalla Anchar, Danish Ayoub Badoo son of Mohd Ayoub Badoo resident of Sazgaripora Hawal, Umar Fayaz son of Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh resident of Ikhrapora, Zahid Rashid Ganie son of Abdul Rashid Ganie resident of Methan, Hashim Farooq son of Farooq Ahmad Dar resident of Ikhrapora, Rashid Lateef Bhat son of Mohd Lateef Bhat resident of Baghat Chowk Khalidabad, Arhaan Rasool Dar son of Ghulam Rasool Dar resident of Sazgaripora Hawal, Owais Manzoor Sofi son of Manzoor Ahmed Sofi resident of Dangarpore, Suhail Ahmed Mir son of Fateh

Mohammad Mir resident of Dangarpore, Muzaffar farooq Mir son of Farooq Ahmed Mir resident of Shazadpora Dangarpore, Imtiaz Ahmad Chikla son of Mohd Sideeq Chikla, resident of Asar colony Hazratbal, Umer Hameed Sheikh son of Abdul Hameed Sheikh Resident of Asar colony Hazratbal, Mohd Asif Bhat son of Gh Mohd Bhat resident of Jogiwani Lal Bazar, Mohammad Adil Lone son of Gh Mohd Lone resident of Laway Pora, Waseem Qadir Mir son of Ghulam Qadir Mir resident of Shazadpora Dangarpore, Uneeb Naseer son of Naseer Ahmed resident of Shazadpora Dangarpore (presently under PSA), Danish Qadir Mir son of Ghulam Qadir Mir residents of Shazadpora Dangarpore and Babar Suhail Sofi son of Mohd Yousf Sofi resident of Lawaypora.

The searches were

conducted in accordance with due legal procedure, in the presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses, and under the supervision of senior officers of J&K Police, the spokesman said.

The objective of these operations was to seize incriminating material such as documents, digital devices, and other evidence relevant to ongoing investigations. The raids also form part of a broader intelligence-gathering exercise aimed at pre-empting and disrupting any conspiratorial or terrorist activities threatening public peace and national security.

This decisive action underscores the commitment of Srinagar Police to identify and take firm legal action against all individuals involved in promoting or supporting terror-related and anti-national activities.—(KNO)

Shallabugh—Paribal link road in shambles Authorities begin restoration work

RAJA SYED RATHER

Ganderbal, Oct 10: The Shallabugh—Paribal link road in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district caved in, causing severe inconvenience to the residents of the area.

According to locals, the road suddenly caved in, disrupting traffic movement and cutting off easy access to nearby villages. Commuters and school-going children were particularly affected.

"This road is a lifeline for our village. Its damage has made it extremely difficult for us to reach schools, markets and hospitals," Abdul Rashid, a local resident said.

Another resident, Zahida Bano, expressed concern about safety. "There was no warning or sign of any damage. We fear further collapse if immediate repairs aren't carried out," she said.

Authorities from the concerned department arrived at the site soon after



the incident to assess the damage. Restoration work has begun, and the Jal Shakti Department is also on the ground to restore disrupted water supply lines in the affected area. Officials have urged residents to cooperate with the departments involved in the restoration process to ensure swift repair work—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Ensure Labour Rights And Welfare For Inclusive Growth

Labour rights have long been the backbone of any progressive society, ensuring that workers are protected, valued, and provided with opportunities for a dignified life. In Jammu and Kashmir, recent initiatives like the “Shramik Swasthya Utsav” underscore the importance of prioritising worker welfare and health, which are critical components of a robust labour rights framework. The event, organised by the Employees’ State Insurance Society (JKESIS), exemplifies a commendable effort to bridge gaps in health-care access for insured workers and their families. Such initiatives are vital in regions where economic activities

are intertwined with the well-being of the workforce. They serve as a reminder that economic development must go hand-in-hand with social security and health coverage, especially for the marginalised and informal sectors that often lack safety nets. Labour rights extend beyond mere legal protections; they encompass access to quality healthcare, fair wages, safe working conditions, and social security. Jammu and Kashmir’s focus on health awareness through community-driven programs demonstrates an understanding that a healthy workforce is a productive one. The provision of free medical check-ups, diagnostic tests, and occupational

health counselling not only alleviates immediate health concerns but also fosters a culture of preventive care. However, such initiatives must be sustained and expanded. Labour rights must be embedded within broader economic policies that promote job security, fair wages, and safe workplaces. In a region grappling with socio-political challenges, ensuring the welfare of workers can also contribute to social stability and economic resilience. The government and relevant stakeholders must ensure that workers in the unorganised sector, who often remain outside formal social security schemes, are integrated into these protective frameworks. This

inclusivity is essential for equitable growth and social justice. The emphasis on health and welfare initiatives like the Swasthya Utsav reflects a positive shift towards recognising workers as vital contributors to society’s development. Upholding labour rights in Jammu and Kashmir requires continuous effort, policy reinforcement, and community engagement. When workers are protected and empowered, the entire society benefits, paving the way for sustainable and inclusive progress. It is a collective responsibility to ensure that labour rights are not just theoretical ideals but living realities for every worker in the region.

Curbing Cyber Frauds In Digital India

I dream of a Digital India where cyber security becomes an integral part of our national security: Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Key Takeaways

- Over 86% of households are now connected to the internet.
- Cybersecurity incidents in India rose from 10.29 lakh in 2022 to 22.68 lakh in 2024.
- Union Budget 2025-2026 allocated ₹782 crore for cybersecurity projects.
- Over 9.42 lakh SIM cards and 2,63,348 IMEI linked to cyber frauds have been blocked.
- A dedicated helpline 1930 offers immediate cybersecurity assistance.

Press Information Bureau

India’s cyberspace is busier than ever, carrying crores of transactions and interactions every day. Over 86% of households are now connected to the internet, reflecting the remarkable progress under the Digital India initiative. The expanding digital landscape has enabled citizens to access digital services at their fingertips. At the same time, it has also widened the attack surface for cyber frauds, making cybersecurity a national priority.

Cyber frauds refer to deceptive activities carried out through digital platforms such as unauthorized access, data theft, or online scams, which are often intended to cause financial loss to victims.

The surge in cybersecurity incidents from 10.29 lakh in 2022 to 22.68 lakh in 2024 reflects the growing scale and complexity of digital threats in India. At the same time, the financial toll is becoming more pronounced, with cyber frauds amounting to 36.45 lakh reported on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) as of 28 February 2025. While the numbers point to increasing challenges, they also highlight remarkable progress in the nation’s detection and reporting mechanisms.

Tracing Cyber Fraud Patterns

The evolving landscape of cyber frauds shows that frauds are not confined to a single method but take diverse forms, often adapting to new technologies and user behaviour. Mapping these patterns is crucial to enable preventive measures. The staggering financial impact across the world is underscoring fraudsters’ global reach and the involvement of organized crime, often linked to fraud factories in Southeast Asia.[6]

Emerging Cyber Threats

Techniques like spoofing, where criminals act like trusted sources, are showing up in multiple fraud reports. Likewise, cases of deepfakes leveraging AI (Artificial Intelligence) and phishing, where individuals are lured into revealing sensitive information through deceptive emails or messages, are also on the rise[7]— amplifying the overall impact of scams. [8]

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India’s most preferred digital payment mode, has also been targeted by fraudsters using compromised mobile numbers. To address this issue, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FFRI), which classifies suspicious numbers as Medium, High, or Very High-risk.[9]

Illicit digital ventures have also emerged in the form of online betting apps, luring users into depositing funds in their online wallet to play such games with fake promises of large returns, generating over 400 crores in criminal proceeds.[10]

Strengthening India’s fight against cyber frauds, the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 was passed on 21st August 2025. This legislation is designed to encourage e-sports and social online games while imposing a complete ban on online money gaming, including their promotion, advertisements, and financial transactions.[11]

India’s Cybersecurity Framework

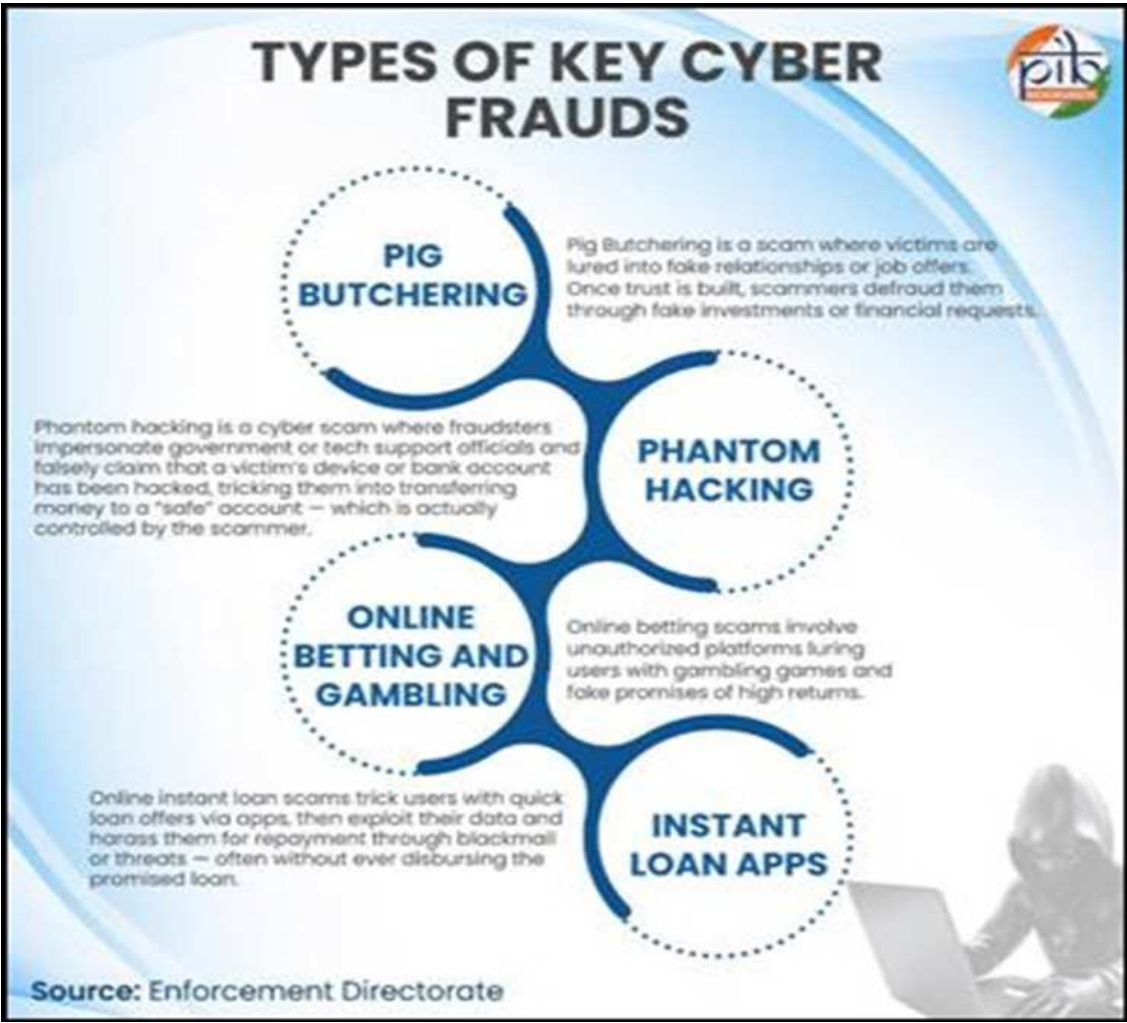
The Government of India has implemented strong defence mechanisms aimed at safeguarding its vast online community. Indians are increasingly integrating the internet into their daily lives, relying on it for essential needs such as business transactions, education, financial activities, and accessing government services digitally. Over 1,05,796 police officers are now registered on the CyTrain portal, with more than 82,704 certificates issued, equipping frontline personnel with essential cybercrime investigation skills.[12]

Cyber Laws Securing Cyber Space

Recognizing the critical importance of a secure digital environment, India’s Cybersecurity framework is underpinned by key legislations, notably:

Information Technology Act, 2000 serves as the bedrock of India’s cyber law framework. It addresses offences like identity theft, impersonation, cheating by personation through computer resources, and dissemination of obscene or harmful material. These provisions are vital in prosecuting fraudsters who exploit digital platforms for financial gain, while also empowering authorities to block malicious websites and fraudulent applications.

Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ensure accountability of social media intermediaries, digital platforms, and online marketplaces. It addresses emerging misuse of technologies, including AI and mandate the removal of unlawful content



from platforms.

Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023: requires that all personal data be handled lawfully and with user consent, making India’s digital landscape safer and more accountable for everyone. The Act places strict obligations on data fiduciaries to ensure security safeguards, thereby reducing the risks of unauthorised access or misuse.[13] So far, more than 9.42 lakh SIM cards and 2,63,348 IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) linked to fraudulent activities have been blocked. [14]

Responding to Cyber Incidents

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is the national agency for responding to cybersecurity incidents. It monitors cyber threats, detect vulnerabilities, and issue necessary advisories. Upon identification of incidents such as data breaches, phishing campaigns, or malware intrusions, CERT-In disseminates alerts and prescribes remedial measures to affected organisations. This proactive mechanism ensures timely containment of risks and enhances resilience across government, industry, and critical service providers. As of March 2025, CERT-In facilitated 109 cybersecurity mock drills, engaging 1,438 organizations from different states and sectors to assess cyber readiness and build resilience.[16]

Protecting Critical Infrastructure

National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIIPC), designated under Section 70A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, is the national nodal agency for the protection of critical information infrastructure in India. It works in close coordination with stakeholders in sectors such as banking, telecom, power, and transportation, which are vital to national security and public safety. Through continuous monitoring, risk assessment, and issuance of sector-specific guidelines, NCIIIPC strengthens defensive capabilities and mitigates threats that could otherwise compromise essential services.

Strengthening Law Enforcement Capacity

The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), established under the Ministry of Home Affairs, provides a comprehensive framework to enable Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to deal with cybercrimes in an organised and coordinated manner. It supports capacity-building through specialised training programmes, research, and development of technical tools. It also facilitates real-time information sharing and coordinated investigations, enabling effective action against cybercriminal networks, including those engaged in financial frauds and other organised cyber offences.[17] So far, I4C has proactively blocked 3,962 Skype IDs and 83,668 WhatsApp accounts linked to cyber frauds.[18]

Cybersecurity Initiatives: Governance in Action

In an effort to bolster India’s cyber defences, the Union Budget 2025 has allocated 782 crore for cybersecurity projects. This significant move highlights government’s heightened focus on cyber threats that pose risk to the national security.[19] Through the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS), financial institutions have been able to save more than 5,489 crore in over 17.82 lakh complaints.[20]

National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal

To strengthen citizen participation in the fight against cybercrime, the Government has operationalised the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in). The portal enables citizens to report complaints relating to various categories of cybercrime, with a special focus on

offences targeting women and children. A dedicated cyber-crime helpline number 1930 provides immediate assistance to victims of online financial frauds by facilitating prompt reporting and, where possible, freezing of fraudulent transactions. Together, these initiatives serve as an accessible and responsive grievance redressal mechanism for citizens.[21]

National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)

NM-ICPS plays a pivotal role in combating cyber frauds by promoting advanced research and innovation in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, etc. By supporting the development of tools, platforms, and methodologies for threat detection, the mission strengthens India’s ability to identify and prevent cyber frauds targeting individuals, businesses, and critical infrastructure. Collaboration between academic institutions, industry, and government under NM-ICPS also accelerates solutions to emerging and sophisticated cyber threats, including financial frauds, phishing, and identity-based crimes.[22]

Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC) Scheme

The CCPWC scheme addresses cyber frauds targeting vulnerable sections, particularly women and children. With financial support of 132.93 crore, the scheme has established cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories across 33 States and Union Territories. These laboratories have trained over 24,600 personnel in cybercrime investigation, digital forensics, and preventive measures. Through enhanced awareness, early detection, and rapid response capabilities, CCPWC strengthens the capacity of law enforcement to prevent online frauds, scams, and exploitation of women and children, ensuring a safer digital environment.[23]

Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP)

To strengthen preparedness against cyber-attacks and cyber-terrorism, the Government has initiated CCMP for all government bodies. The plan serves as a strategic framework to ensure coordinated recovery from any cyber crisis. So far, 205 workshops have been conducted across the country to build capacity and awareness under this framework.[24]

Samanvaya Platform

The Samanvaya Platform strengthens cyber fraud investigations by providing analytics-based interstate linkages of criminals and crimes. Its ‘Pratibimb’ module maps locations of criminals and crime infrastructure, giving officers actionable visibility. So far, it has led to the arrest of 12,987 accused, 1,51,984 criminal linkages, and 70,584 cyber investigation assistance requests, helping dismantle organised cyber fraud networks efficiently.[25]

Sahyog Portal

Sahyog Portal provides a centralized platform for addressing unlawful online content. It enables the automated issuance of removal notices to intermediaries, ensuring swift action against harmful material circulating in cyberspace. It brings together all authorised agencies across India onto a single interface, thereby strengthening the government’s ability to respond effectively to unlawful content in a timely manner.[26]

Cybersecurity Exercises

The Bharat National Cybersecurity Exercise 2025 was conducted from 21st July to 01st August, reaffirming India’s commitment to strengthening its cyber resilience. The exercise brought together over 600 participants, including cybersecurity professionals, regulators, and policymakers. The highlight of this exercise was STRATEX, a simulated national cyber breach designed to test real-time inter-agency

coordination and decision-making.[27]

Cybersecurity in focus at India Mobile Congress 2025

At the 9th India Mobile Congress, Cybersecurity will be one of the key focus areas, highlighting India’s efforts to protect digital networks and emerging technologies from cyber threats. IMC 2025, themed “Innovate to Transform” will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from October 8–11 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.

IMC 2025 will feature six global summits, including the Cybersecurity Summit and Bharat 6G Symposium, highlighting India’s growing leadership in next-generation digital technologies. Key focus areas include 6G, cybersecurity, satellite communications, AI, IoT, and telecom manufacturing. The event is expected to draw over 1.5 lakh visitors, 7,000+ international delegates, 400+ exhibitors, and showcase more than 1,600 cutting-edge use cases. With 100+ sessions and 800+ speakers, IMC 2025 will serve as a premier platform for global collaboration and innovation.

As India celebrates its rapid 5G rollout, with 1.2 billion mobile subscribers and 970 million internet users, the focus on secure, inclusive, and scalable digital ecosystems reinforces the country’s position as a global hub for trusted and transformative digital infrastructure.

Forward Path: Cyber Awareness

To strengthen public awareness on cyber-crimes, the Government has taken a multi-platform outreach strategy. The Government has launched citizen-centric outreach campaigns through radio, newspapers, and metro announcements, to caution people about cyber frauds.

The National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) has been set up by CERT-In to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats.

Engaging the public by conducting Cyber Safety and Security Awareness Weeks through MyGov platform.

A Handbook for Adolescents and Students is published to guide young people on cyber safety and security. Use of social media to spread cyber awareness and safe practices to prevent cybercrime. [28]

Conclusion

India is at the crossroads of digital transformation and cyber threats, where it has become both an iron pillar of progress and a magnet for cyber fraudsters. Realising the vision of Digital India, the government’s multi-layered cyber response team is facilitating fraud prevention and disrupting thousands of scam operations. Advanced forensics, big data analytics, and indigenous tools have bolstered national cyber resilience. Yet, securing India’s cyberspace is a shared responsibility where the government and citizens must act together in this combat against cyber frauds.

References

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2132330>

Ministry of Electronics & IT
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2154268>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2115416>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2051934>

Ministry of Home Affairs
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2112244>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2146786>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2152495>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseSelfFramePage.aspx?PRID=2110359>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2101613>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2158408>

Ministry of Communications
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2153524>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130249>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2175355>

Ministry of Women and Child Development
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2085609>

PIB Backgrounders
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?Noteld=155075&ModuleId=3>

World Economic Forum
<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2024/04/cybercrime-target-sectors-cybersecurity-news/>

National Security Council Secretariat
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2151613>

Enforcement Directorate (ED) Annual Reports 2024-2025
https://enforcementdirectorate.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-05/Annual_Report_24-25.pdf

India Budget
<https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/eb/vol1.pdf>

National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)
<https://nmicps.gov.in/#mission>

Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)
<https://i4c.mha.gov.in/cyber-crime-categories.aspx>

Open Government Data Platform (OGD) India
<https://www.data.gov.in/resource/stateut-wise-details-statistics-national-cyber-crime-reporting-portal-ncrp-related-cyber>

Address delays, remove bottlenecks: Sakeena

■ Reviews performance, functioning of SED, HED

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo chaired a high level meeting at Civil Secretariat here Friday to review the performance, functioning and progress of various ongoing projects of School Education and Higher Education Departments across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shantmanu; Secretary School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director General School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Director School Education Jammu, Mission Director, RUSA, Special Secretaries of Higher Education and School Education departments, Director Finance/Director Planning of Higher Education and School Education departments, Director Colleges, Chief Engineer PWD of Central Kashmir/South Kashmir/North Kashmir/Jammu/Chenab/Pir Panjal zones, Chief Education Officers of all districts and other concerned officers of both departments.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena took a comprehensive evaluation of key developmental initiatives, infrastructure projects, and academic reforms being implemented across J&K in both Higher Education and School Education departments. While reviewing the status of ongoing projects in Higher Education department



under various schemes like Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), and CAPEX budget initiatives, the Minister emphasized on the timely execution of all ongoing works, particularly those related to infrastructure development, digital learning facilities, teacher training programs, and curriculum enhancement.

She directed the officers of executing agencies that college construction projects need to be completed within stipulated deadlines without compromising on quality. She called for

stringent monitoring and field-level inspections to address delays and remove bottlenecks in project implementation.

"Our government is committed to strengthening the educational ecosystem in J&K. Every project, whether in a remote village or an urban hub, must translate into tangible outcomes for students and teachers. Timeliness and accountability are non-negotiable", Minister Sakeena asserted.

The Minister further asked the Director Colleges to maintain close coordination with Chief Engineers so that the projects which require minor works are completed by the

end of this month. Taking stock of faculty positions in colleges, the Minister called upon the officers of Higher Education department to look out for the feasibility of increasing remuneration in favour of Academic arrangement teachers so that more persons are attracted to it till vacancies are filled on regular basis. She also directed the officers to create posts for all newly established degree colleges for better educational outcomes.

The Minister also underlined the need for research-oriented learning, industry linkages, and innovation-driven curriculum reforms. She urged college heads to encourage student-led projects, entrepreneurship cells, and collaborations with reputed institutions to enhance employability and practical learning outcomes.

Similarly, while reviewing the school education department, Minister Sakeena spoke on the importance of digital transformation in school education, directing the concerned officers to expedite the installation of smart classrooms, ICT labs and e-content access facilities to bridge the learning gap, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. Reiterating the government's commitment to inclusive and equitable education, Minister Sakeena said that special attention is being given to educational infrastructure in remote, border and tribal areas, to ensure every child in J&K has access to quality learning opportunities.

The Minister further called upon all the CEOs to utilise funds under

Samagra Shiksha efficiently so that required infrastructure can be created. She further directed the CEOs to monitor projects in their respective districts on a regular basis and maintain coordination with project executing agencies for their early completion.

Taking stock of Human Resource issues, the Minister asked the officers of School Education department to appoint a Nodal Officer in each district for maintaining coordination with ACB for timely obtaining of Vigilance Clearance certificates in favour of employees. She also directed the CEOs to submit report cards on a monthly basis to respective HoDs highlighting progress of ongoing projects and other achievements in every aspect of this vital sector. She also gave directions for early finalisation of proposals for de-freezing of teacher posts for a timely recruitment process.

Highlighting that students in Government schools are equally talented as that of Private schools, the Minister called upon the officers to create awareness among students, especially in far flung areas, regarding JKSS and NIOS admissions so that they can qualify the 12th level exams in other modes also.

The Minister also called for enhanced coordination between School and Higher Education departments to ensure seamless academic progression and policy alignment from the foundational to advanced levels of learning.

Govt committed to citizen-centric governance: Advisor Wani



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani Friday met a series of public and departmental delegations at the Raabita Office and listened to their issues and demands pertaining to various sectors.

Delegations representing the power, handicrafts, handloom, floriculture, and education sectors apprised the Advisor of their respective concerns related to public infrastructure, employee welfare, and service matters. Issues of general public importance

were also raised during the interactions.

The Advisor gave a patient hearing to all delegations and assured that the genuine issues projected will be examined and addressed in coordination with the concerned departments.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to transparent and responsive governance, the Advisor said that regular public interactions are an essential part of the administration's efforts to ensure accountability and deliver services effectively at the grassroots level.

JKTPO organises 4th export awareness drive in Udhampur



KT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 10: Continuing its 2025 series of Export Awareness Workshops, the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, organized the 4th Export Awareness cum E-Commerce Onboarding Drive in District Udhampur on Friday.

The workshop was held with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), District Administration Udhampur, Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), HDFC Bank and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

The event aimed to sensitize and support MSMEs, artisans, entrepreneurs, and farmers about export potential, government incentives, and e-commerce integration. Experts conducted interactive sessions on export benefits, IEC registration, India Business and Trade Portals, credit and risk insurance, logistics, and digital market access for local products.

Prem Singh, Additional DC, Udhampur inaugurated the workshop and emphasized the district's export potential under the ODOP-DEH initiative, highlighting products like Pickle, Tourism and Garlic. She underlined the importance of capacity building, quality enhancement and market-oriented skill development to strengthen Udhampur's

export ecosystem.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 130 participants, including local artisans, MSME representatives, entrepreneurs and farmers. With this, the series has so far seen strong participation -110 in Samba, 100 in Jammu and 90 in Kathua- reflecting the growing interest of local producers in exploring export opportunities and digital commerce integration.

Representatives from DGFT, APEDA, FIEO, HDFC Bank and GeM provided guidance on export opportunities and support. DGFT highlighted schemes like EPCG, MEIS, SEIS and Advance Authorization, along with IEC registration. APEDA spoke on export standards, product registration and branding support, while FIEO promoted the India Business Portal for global visibility, credit support and trade updates. ECGC explained credit risk insurance protecting exporters from defaults and political risks and HDFC Bank outlined export finance, working capital solutions and digital banking tools. GeM demonstrated vendor onboarding, encouraging entrepreneurs to leverage the platform for nationwide exposure, transparent procurement and timely payments.

This workshop is part of JKTPO's ongoing efforts under the District as Export Hub (DEH) and One District One Product (ODOP) initiatives to boost district-level exports, strengthen market linkages and integrate local producers into global value chains.

Centres like CIRI mark shift from brain drain to brain gain: Secy H&ME

Visits KU's CIRI, applauds advanced research, infrastructure



KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, October 10: Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah (IAS), Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department, J&K, visited the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI) at the University of Kashmir (KU) and praised the cutting-edge research, human resource, and state-of-the-art infrastructure developed at the centre.

Dr. Shah was accompanied by Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan; Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal; Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal and Dean, GMC Srinagar, and various other senior officials.

During his visit to the centre Dr Shah interacted with faculty members and

“Centres like CIRI mark a shift from brain drain to brain gain. They are enabling scientists trained abroad to return and contribute their expertise to local research and innovation,”

researchers and was briefed by Dr. Altaf Bhat, Coordinator CIRI KU, about the ongoing biomedical research and its societal relevance.

Dr. Shah commended the University's initiative in building a competitive interdisciplinary research centre and emphasized the need for collaboration between CIRI and medical institutes to address regional biomedical

challenges.

"Centres like CIRI mark a shift from brain drain to brain gain. They are enabling scientists trained abroad to return and contribute their expertise to local research and innovation," Dr. Shah noted.

Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan said that CIRI has created opportunities for overseas-trained scientists and

researchers to return to the valley and join ongoing national efforts in science and technology.

Registrar KU Prof. Naseer Iqbal added that the University was among the first in the country to adopt a policy supporting the national brain gain mission. He said this approach has helped CIRI attract talent from abroad and build stronger research capacity at home.

Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal and Dean, GMC Srinagar, highlighted the importance of joint projects between CIRI and medical colleges to study health issues relevant to the region.

The visit ended with an understanding to strengthen institutional links and expand biomedical research partnerships across J&K.

World Sight Day Govt. ANMT School Doda hosts awareness event

KT NEWS DESK

DODA, OCTOBER 10: World Sight Day 2025 was observed at Government ANMT School Doda under the theme "Love Your Eyes." The event was held under the banner of the District Blindness Control Society Doda.

Block Medical Officer Ghat Dr. Abdul Gafoor was the Resource person for the awareness event. He delivered an insightful lecture covering various aspects of eye care, causes of preventable blindness and the importance of regular eye check-ups. He emphasized that timely screening, early detection and proper eye care practices can prevent nearly 80% of visual impairments,

urging everyone to make eye health a personal priority and spread awareness at the community level.

Among the attendees were Rishi Pandita (Head Phst), Mohd Shafi Attu (Health Educator), Mohd Saleem Banday (Sr. Assistant), Saima Kousar (Sister Tutor) and Azhar Iqbal Butt.

Earlier, the event began with a welcome address by Faizan A. Trambo, who highlighted the significance of observing World Sight Day and the importance of eye health awareness in the community.

The overall coordination and management of the programme were handled by Dealing Assistant NPCB&VI Mohammad Umar.

Mission YUVA DC hands over sanction letters to 65 aspiring entrepreneurs

KT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 10: The district administration Ramban, in collaboration with J&K Bank, Friday distributed loan sanction letters under Mission YUVA among 65 eligible beneficiaries.

The letters were formally handed over by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan along with ADC Varunjeet

Singh Charak, Cluster Head J&K Bank Sanjay Kumar Belowo, AD Employment Amit Kumar during a brief function.

Senior officers of the District Administration and functionaries of J&K Bank and stakeholders attended the function.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the sponsoring departments and Jammu & Kashmir Bank for effectively

implementing Mission YUVA and achieving its core objectives in the district.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner described Mission YUVA as a transformative initiative for tackling unemployment by equipping youth with access to finance, skills and livelihood opportunities. He urged the beneficiaries to utilize the loans judiciously and establish

sustainable ventures with sincerity and discipline.

Representatives from J&K Bank reaffirmed their commitment to supporting youth under the scheme by ensuring smooth loan processing and timely disbursement. They also stressed the importance of financial discipline and timely repayment to ensure the continued success of the programme.

World Mental Health Day observed at GMC Doda

KT NEWS DESK

DODA, OCTOBER 10: Government Medical College (GMC) Doda organised awareness activities to observe World Mental Health Day in line with this year's theme – "Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies."

The event was organised by the Department of Community Medicine to highlight the importance of ensuring access to mental health services, particularly during crises and emergencies.

The programme was held under

the guidance of the Medical College Principal Dr. Rakesh Bahl and under the supervision of Head of Department Community Medicine Dr. Suresh K. Kotwal.

Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine Dr. Walied K Balwan addressed the gathering and shared valuable insights on various aspects of mental health encountered in day-to-day life. He discussed the psychological impact of stressful situations and emphasised the importance of resilience, empathy and timely support.

The session was hosted by Senior

Resident, Department of Community Medicine Dr. Imran Zaffer, who briefly introduced the theme and highlighted the objectives of the observance.

The MBBS pre-final year students, Sarosh and Mitali delivered an informative presentation on mental health, focusing on coping mechanisms and the significance of accessible services. A poster presentation was also organised, where students creatively depicted themes related to mental health awareness and the role of healthcare professionals in supporting affected individuals.

Dr Singla chairs Study Group's meet on Establishment of IT Park in J&K

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCT 10: Secretary, Information Technology (IT) Department, Dr Piyush Singla chaired the meeting of Study Group constituted for establishment of IT Park in Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here on Friday. The meeting was held to review and deliberate upon the preliminary report prepared for setting up a world-class IT Park in the UT.

During the meeting, members held detailed deliberations on the proposed framework and implementation strategy.

The group decided that the preliminary report shall be revisited in light of the observations and directions issued during the

deliberations, and updated accordingly by the Study Group to incorporate all relevant suggestions and refinements.

The meeting further decided that the proposed IT Park shall be developed under the aegis of IIT Jammu, with the report to be structured in two phases; Phase I: Development under the Higher Educational Institution (HEI) Model, and Phase II: Expansion through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) / Private Investment Model.

The group also decided that the incentive framework for the IT Park shall be aligned with the notified Industrial Policy of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure uniformity and ease of implementation.



It was also decided that the final report, incorporating all suggestions and

recommendations, shall be submitted to the Government for consideration which will

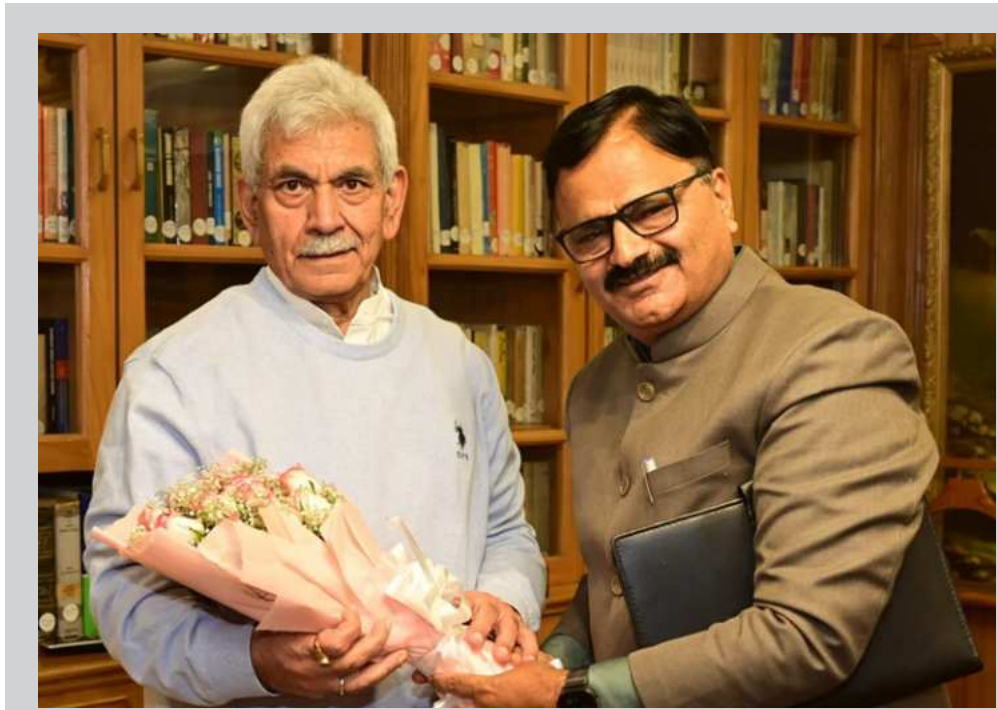
include an overview tracing the evolution of the IT/ITeS ecosystem in J&K, details of

incubatee funds available with various Administrative departments, and recommendations for creation of a Unified Portal to consolidate incubatee funding opportunities across States and Union Territories, drawing upon national models like the DoT's Telecom Incubation Fund.

During the meeting, Dr. Singla directed that the Planning department shall provide authentic, validated, and up-to-date data from credible sources like YUVA Report, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative indicators to support evidence-based planning. He emphasized that data validation points must be clearly defined and cross-verified across all departments to maintain accuracy and consistency.

The Secretary also directed the IT department to initiate Skill Outreach Programmes aimed at enhancing employability and preparing the youth for opportunities in the IT/ITeS sector in collaboration with higher educational institutions and Skill Development department.

CEO, J&KeGA, Mahima Madan; Director General (E&S), Ather Hussain Qadri; Director General, Planning; Showkat Mahmood Malik, Special Secretary, Information Technology Department; Prof. M.T. Arvind and Prof. Anurag Misra from IIT Jammu; Professor from IIM Jammu and Senior Consultant, SEMT, besides other officers and members of the Study Group also attended the meeting.



Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs Departments called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday

SpiceJet unveils fleet expansion plan Inducts two Boeing 737s and Airbus A340

PTI

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Friday said it has received and added three new aircraft, an Airbus A340 wide-body and two Boeing 737s, to its operational fleet.

SpiceJet said the expansion of its fleet will cater to the surging demand for air travel this holiday season.

A total of 20 aircraft will be joining the airline's operational fleet between October and November, and will be operated under a damp lease model, it noted.

The airline, however, did not specify the leasing duration.

These new planes will join operations between October 10 and 11, it said, adding that the airline will also unground four planes by mid-December, further boosting capacity.

Ajay Singh-promoted airline, on three occasions earlier, announced signing aircraft leasing deals, each time for 10 aircraft. But it has added only one till September 30 this year.

The airline now has 21 operational aircraft in its fleet as of October 10, compared to 18 at the end of

September 30 last year, according to aircraft fleet tracking website Planesspotter.com.

"This is just the beginning of a large-scale expansion that will re-define SpiceJet's operations this winter. With every new induction, we are strengthening our operational capabilities, opening new routes," said Singh, who is the chairman and Managing Director of the carrier.

"Our fleet expansion reflects the robust travel demand we are witnessing and our readiness to meet it with confidence."

Kabul to send diplomats to India

PTI

NEW DELHI, OCT 10: Kabul will soon send its diplomats to India as part of "step-by-step" efforts to improve bilateral relations, Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said on Friday even as he asserted the Taliban will not allow anyone to use Afghan soil against other countries.

Muttaqi, who landed in New Delhi on Thursday on a six-day trip, is the first senior Taliban minister to visit India after the group seized power four years back. India has not yet recognised the Taliban set up.

In an interaction with a small group of journalists, after holding wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the Afghan foreign minister invited Indian businesses to invest in his country's mining, minerals and energy sectors.

Muttaqi also pitched for India and Afghanistan joining hands to remove obstacles for development of the Chabahar port in Iran in view of the Trump administration bringing it under sanctions.

The Afghan foreign minister's visit to India assumed greater significance as it came at a time when both India and Afghanistan are having frosty relations with Pakistan over a range of issues including cross-border terrorism.

Muttaqi said Kabul will soon send its diplomats to New Delhi.

"The foreign minister (S Jaishankar) said you can send diplomats to New Delhi now. When we go back, we will select people and send them," he said.

In his meeting with Muttaqi, Jaishankar announced the upgrading of India's technical mission in Kabul to the status of an embassy.

Asked if the Taliban regime will appoint an ambassador, Muttaqi said: "We will now send diplomats and



gradually the contacts will increase." Till now, the Afghan missions in India have officials who were largely appointed by the previous Ashraf Ghani government.

To a question on whether the Indian government will hand over the Afghan embassy premises in New Delhi to the Taliban regime, the foreign minister shot back: "It is with Afghanistan; it belongs to us."

Muttaqi said the ties between India and Afghanistan are witnessing steady progress in the last four years.

"This is my first visit to India and it was decided that India will upgrade its technical mission in Kabul to a diplomatic mission and our diplomats will come to New Delhi. Gradually, the goal is to take things to normal," he said.

The Afghan foreign minister said his country will not allow its territory to be used to "threaten or harm others" and asserted that there is no presence of any terror group including Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Afghanistan.

"Not even one inch of soil is controlled by anyone other than the Islamic Emirate. These groups and tanzeems are not present in Afghanistan, they have left Afghanistan in these four years. We finished those against whom we

conducted operations," he said.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has proven over the course of the last four years that its territory will not be allowed to be used against others," Muttaqi said.

There have been concerns in New Delhi over the possibility of use of Afghan territory by terrorist groups to launch attacks.

Against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump asking the Taliban to hand over the strategic Bagram airbase to US forces, Muttaqi said Kabul will not accept any foreign military presence in the country.

"Afghanistan has a long history of safeguarding its independence and sovereignty and combating occupations. Afghanistan will not allow military interventions or military presence of anyone," he said.

Muttaqi also criticised Pakistan's approach towards Afghanistan while responding to a question on reports of explosions in Kabul on Thursday night.

The foreign minister said Pakistan had a hand in an attack in the border areas and that it was yet to be ascertained how the explosion took place in Kabul.

"Afghanistan is an independent country in this region and when peace has come there, why are others troubled? Afghan people too have rights. The peace, benefits and

progress of the last four years should be strengthened," he said.

"Just as we want good relations with India, we want good ties with Pakistan. But these relations can only be built from both sides, it can't be done by one side," he said.

The visiting minister said India and Afghanistan should work together to address hurdles in development of the Chabahar port.

"Both Afghanistan and India should try to remove all problems and obstacles in this route, because there are some restrictions on this path from America," he said.

"Afghanistan and India should jointly talk with America and also talk among ourselves and derive the maximum benefits from this route, this is the need for both countries and we understand this need because trade between Afghanistan and India last year was more than USD 1 billion," he said.

"If routes are closed, trade will not decrease, not increase, and we should open all routes, including the Wagah land border," he said.

Muttaqi also pitched for trade between India and Afghanistan through the Wagah border transit point.

"The Wagah route is the shortest for Afghanistan and trade was conducted through this route in the past. Pakistan and India should not close this route because economic, human and trade issues should not be mixed with political issues," he said.

"This is the right and the need of the people, this is a route for trade and should not be closed because Wagah is close (to Afghanistan) and it is cheaper to transport goods between Afghanistan and India through this route," he said.

"It is our request to both countries that this route should be opened for starting and increasing trade," he added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K witnessed historic

law and order, and protecting citizens, but is also a crucial agent of socio-economic development. It has ensured peace and a stable environment for industrial growth and the overall progress of the Union Territory."

The Lt Governor lauded the police force for organizing sports tournaments and civic action programmes across the region, particularly in South Kashmir, to engage the youth positively and strengthen community ties.

"Sports keep the society united. It acts as a binding force that breaks barriers and promotes harmony. Every sports tournament sends a positive message, reflecting India's unity in diversity," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor spoke about the transformative power of sports in uniting people and strengthening communities. He said sports foster a sense of collective identity, camaraderie, courage, character building, peace, equality and friendship, which contribute to the region's social harmony.

He called upon the youth to develop qualities like compassion and courage, and dedicate their potential and talents in service to the nation.

"Sports is the universal language of unity and it promotes inclusivity and mutual respect. The sports events like All India Police Judo Cluster serves as a vibrant platform to celebrate Unity in Diversity and showcase India's rich cultural and social heritage," he said.

Reiterating the government's commitment to sustaining peace and accelerating growth, the Lt Governor said the Union Territory is witnessing a new era marked by economic opportunities, youth empowerment, and social cohesion.

More than 2,000 athletes are participating in the championship comprising Judo, Wushu, Pencak Silat, Taekwondo and Karate, hosted by Jammu Kashmir Police.

DGP, Nalin Prabhat; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; ADGP

Armed, Anand Jain; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration; representatives of various sports associations; prominent sports personalities, and youth in large numbers were present on the occasion. (KNO)

In consultation with

He also said that not only water much blood had also flown. "Elections took place peacefully and factors such as Pahalgam incident must be considered before granting statehood," he submitted.

Another advocate for petitioners stated that there was an undertaking given to the Court that the statehood will be restored. "If the undertaking is not honoured, what is to be done?," he asked.

Advocate Sankaranarayanan told the top court that the matter should now go before a five-judge bench if the Centre is not deciding on statehood promise.

SG Mehta asserted that Centre is in consultation with state government and that is the correct approach. "Jammu and Kashmir region has progressed, everyone is happy. 99.99 percent of the people there treat Government of India as their own government. So all that they are saying must be taken with a pinch of salt," he said.

The Supreme Court recorded, "Learned SG Mehta states that elections to the Jammu and Kashmir assembly were held in peaceful manner and elected government was put in place. It is stated that there has been substantial progress in J&K but says that certain incidents including Pahalgam attack have taken place and all will have to be taken into consideration before a final call. It is stated Centre and state are in consultation. Learned SG seeks more time to respond. Four weeks time granted."

The petitioners are seeking immediate restoration of statehood and implementation of directions passed by a constitutional bench of the Supreme Court in December 2023.

A bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai is hearing the plea. On August 14, the top court had given two months time to the Centre to file its response. So far, Centre has not filed any response.

On December 11, 2023, a Constitution Bench of Supreme Court had upheld abrogation of article 370 but directed Central government to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir "as soon as possible".

Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of special status under article 370 on August 5, 2019, and bifurcated into two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Since then Centre has repeatedly assured people of Jammu and Kashmir that statehood will be restored "at an appropriate time" (KNO)

NC announces

offer them a 'risky' seat where the BJP holds an advantage.

Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani said they will soon finalise candidates for Budgam and Nagrota by-polls.

"Since the date of filing of nomination papers for RS polls is on Monday, we finalised candidates today. The Parliamentary board will sit again and announce candidates for two candidates," he said.

In the Rajya Sabha polls, the National Conference-led alliance is poised to win three seats, while the BJP holds an advantageous position for the fourth.

The competition would be between BJP and the alliance candidate on the fourth seat. While the alliance has 24 second preference votes, the BJP has 28 votes. (KNO)

BSF on alert, watching

some time, but now it is moving toward next-level warfare. "BSF personnel and officers are being trained on how to integrate modern technology into 21st-century warfare," he said.

As part of BSF's Diamond Jubilee

celebrations, IG Anand announced a full marathon in Jammu on November 9, 2025. "For the first time in Jammu, we are organising a full marathon," he said.

The event aims to promote health, fitness, and identify sporting talent in the Union Territory. "It will nurture talent and inspire healthier lifestyles," he said. (KNO)

Two missing Army

The Army had pressed drones, UAVs, and helicopters into service during the search. "Chinar Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of Bravehearts Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh and Lance Naik Sujay Ghosh, who laid down their lives while conducting relentless counter-terror operations in the Kishtwar Range of Kokernag, battling extreme weather conditions. Their courage and dedication will forever inspire us. Chinar Warriors salute the valour and sacrifice of the Bravehearts. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved families and are committed to their well-being," the Chinar Corps said in a post on X on Friday.

With the recovery of both bodies, the search and rescue operation concluded in the area. (KNO)

Around 2 lakh treated

destroys both purpose and potential. It's time to act — now or never," he added.

Health professionals suggest several simple yet effective steps to maintain emotional well-being. "Engage in at least one physical activity daily, as it helps release endorphins that elevate mood. Seek help from mental health professionals when needed. Avoid negative coping mechanisms such as smoking, self-harm, or social isolation. Also, set emotional and occupational boundaries to prevent burnout," doctors advised.

They added that mental illnesses are closely linked to multiple social and

behavioural issues, including suicidal tendencies. "Drug addiction remains a major social menace that needs urgent and compassionate redressal," another expert said.

Experts attribute the higher prevalence of mental health issues in J&K to a combination of turmoil, prolonged stress, and vulnerability due to social and political factors. "The stigma surrounding mental disorders, lack of awareness, and delayed treatment-seeking behaviour make the situation worse. We need a joint, sustained effort to change this," a mental health specialist observed.

Doctors called for creating supportive living conditions and promoting early childhood development as long-term measures to improve community mental health. "Interventions such as preschool psychosocial programs, nutritional support, and early emotional care can lay strong foundations for a healthier society," they said.

Strengthening primary healthcare systems to handle mental health disorders is equally crucial. "Mental health treatment should be available at the grassroots level with affordable diagnostic tests and low-cost therapies," the experts suggested.

They also called for a soft and empathetic approach towards drug addicts, understanding their struggles and addressing root causes rather than solely resorting to punishment.

Doctors further warned that rapid urbanisation, migration, and climate change are emerging as significant stressors. "Economic and social vulnerabilities increase the risk of depression, anxiety, and alcohol use. Displacements caused by extreme weather events and climate-related distress can have long-term mental health impacts on communities," they said.

Experts agreed that a multi-dimensional approach involving families, schools, community leaders, and healthcare institutions is essential to reverse the rising trend of mental health disorders in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

EC may roll out all-India SIR in phases beginning with states where polls due next year

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 10: The Election Commission is likely to roll out pan-India special intensive revision of voters' list in phases beginning with a group of states, including those where assembly polls are due next year, officials said.

At the same time, it will not hold the electoral roll cleanup exercise in states where local body elections are taking place or are due, as the grass roots poll machinery is busy with it and may not be able to focus on SIR, they said.

Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are due in 2026.

Besides these five states, SIR could be held in a few other states in the first phase.

The voters' list cleanup exercise has concluded in Bihar where the final list with nearly 7.42 crore names was published on September 30.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Monday said work is



in progress to launch SIR of electoral rolls in all states and a final decision on its rollout will be taken by the Election Commission. Responding to a question at a press conference to announce the Bihar assembly polls, CEC Kumar had said the EC had announced its plan for a pan-India SIR while rolling out Bihar SIR on June 24.

The work is on and the three commissioners will meet to decide on dates for various states to launch

their respective SIRs, he said.

According to officials, the EC top brass had asked the state chief electoral officers (CEOs) at a conference here earlier this month to be ready for SIR roll out in the next 10 to 15 days. But for the sake of greater clarity, September 30 deadline was set for them to be ready for the electoral roll cleanup exercise. The CEOs have been told to keep ready the electoral rolls of their states published after the last SIR.

Several CEOs have already put the

voter list published after their last SIR on their websites.

The website of the Delhi CEO has the 2008 voter list when the last intensive revision took place in the national capital.

In Uttarakhand, the last SIR took place in 2006, and that year's electoral roll is now on the state CEO website.

The last SIR in states will serve as the cut-off date, just as the 2003 voter list of Bihar was used by the EC for intensive revision.

Most states had the last SIR of the voter list between 2002 and 2004. Most of the states have nearly completed mapping of current electors with the voters according to the last SIR in the state or Union Territory (UT). The primary aim of the SIR is to weed out foreign illegal migrants by checking their place of birth.

The move assumes significance in the wake of a crackdown in various states on illegal foreign migrants, including from Bangladesh and Myanmar.

SC refuses to entertain plea seeking guidelines on suspension, blocking of social media accounts

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 10: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking pan-India guidelines for governing social media intermediaries with respect to suspension and blocking of accounts.

The apex court allowed the two petitioners to withdraw the plea and told them that they were free to seek any other remedy available in law before an appropriate forum. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was told by the counsel appearing for the petitioners that their WhatsApp, which they used to communicate with the customers, was blocked.

"There are other communication applications, you can use that," the bench observed and asked why WhatsApp of the petitioners was blocked.

The petitioners' counsel said no reason was given to them. "What is your fundamental right to have access to WhatsApp?" the bench. It asked the petitioners why they approached the apex court directly with a petition under Article 32 of the Constitution.

The counsel said the petitioners, who have a clinic and a polydiagnostic centre, were communicating with their clients through WhatsApp and had been using the messaging platform for the last 10-12 years. The bench observed that recently an indigenous messaging app has been



created and the petitioners may use that for communicating with their clients.

It added that the petitioners may approach the high court with their grievances.

The counsel referred to the prayer made in the plea and said the petitioners have sought pan-India guidelines "for governing the social media intermediaries with respect to suspension and blocking of account, ensuring due process, transparency and proportionality".

The counsel asked how could their WhatsApp be blocked without giving them any opportunity to respond.

"Is WhatsApp or the intermediary, a state?" the bench asked.

When the counsel said "it is not", the bench observed that even a writ petition might not be maintainable before the high court.

The bench observed that the petitioners may file a civil suit.

Space sector will propel India towards realising dream of Viksit Bharat 2047: Shukla

PTI

Panaji, Oct 10: IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to reach the International Space Station (ISS), on Friday said space sector is a "very big powerful engine" that will propel India towards realising the dream of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

Shukla, who scripted history by becoming the first Indian to set foot on the ISS as part of an 18-day Axiom-4 mission earlier this year, was talking to PTI after virtually addressing the students of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) board from North Goa.

"I think I am very confident that space is going to be a very big powerful engine that is going to propel India towards the Viksit Bharat 2047 dream. I am very excited to be a part of it," he said.

"I am confident that all the momentum that we have been able to create is going to get higher at every step with missions like Gaganyaan, Bharatiya Antariksh Station as well as



eventually landing on the moon by 2040," he added.

Gaganyaan is India's first human space-flight programme, while Bharatiya Antariksh Station is its planned orbital space station. Both the missions are led by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Shukla said space projects are not small dreams but are extremely complex missions that India is going to undertake.

"We try to achieve such complex missions and develop the entire ecosystem to enable such

missions to happen," he said.

Space will be an important sector for India to achieve its dream of Viksit Bharat 2047, according to him.

Responding to a question about his experience of travelling to the ISS, Shukla said it was fascinating. "It is a very different experience. You prepare for it, but when you go, you actually travel, you know it is different," he said.

Shukla said his space flight has been a great learning experience in terms of technical information and science.

'World's largest oil, gas companies involved in under 1.5 pc renewable energy projects'

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 10: The world's largest oil and gas producers could be involved in under 1.5 per cent of renewable energy projects globally, a new study has found.

Researchers from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, looked at 250 of the largest oil and gas producers -- accounting for 88 per cent of the world's hydrocarbon output -- and their stake in 3,166 wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal projects.

"We find that the largest 250 oil and gas companies only own about 1.42 per cent of the global renewable energy capacity in operation," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Nature Sustainability.

Results also showed that only a fifth of the 250 companies analysed own a renewable energy project in operation, with renewable energy representing a mere 0.1 per cent of their primary energy extraction.

The study looked at the largest oil and gas producers in the 'Global Oil and Gas Exit List' of Urgewald, a Germany-based non-profit environmental and human rights organisation.

"Oil and gas companies' renewable deployment is anecdotal at best. Their contribution to the fight against the climate crisis should be judged solely by how



much fossil fuel they leave in the ground," lead author Marcel Llavero-Pasquina, a researcher at the university, said.

A shift towards renewable sources of energy, including solar and wind, is said to be crucial for slashing greenhouse gas emissions -- primary driver of climate change.

The study's findings raise concerns for institutions and organisations that continue engaging with fossil fuel companies under the assumption that they are key players in the energy transition, the researchers said.

"After decades of empty words, it is time for governments, universities and public institutions to recognise that the fossil fuel industry will always be part of the problem, not the solution to the climate crisis," Llavero-Pasquina said.

"Oil and gas companies should not have a seat at the table where the future of climate and energy policy is decided," the lead author added.

Suniel Shetty moves HC against misuse of his photos on social media



PTI

Mumbai, Oct 10: Actor Suniel Shetty has moved the Bombay High Court seeking protection of his personality rights, claiming that several social media pages and websites were using his photographs to promote their business without any authorisation.

The actor, in an interim application, sought the court to order all such websites to immediately remove his photographs and restrain them from using the same in future. A Bench of Justice Arif Doctor on Friday briefly heard Mr. Shetty's counsel Birendra Saraf and reserved its order on the plea. Mr. Saraf pointed out that fake images of Mr. Shetty and his grandchild were on some websites. The plea claimed that the actor's photos were being used commercially without any authorisation.

Mr. Saraf submitted that the website of a real estate agency and a gambling site have displayed the actor's photo even though he is not associated with them.

The actor, in the plea, claimed that he had a right over his personality and photos, and passing them off without authority was damaging his reputation.

YouTube launches next phase of monetisation to boost Indian creator economy

IANs

New Delhi, Oct 10: To give a further boost to India's rapidly growing creator economy, YouTube on Friday announced fueling the next phase of monetisation for the creator economy by expanding the YouTube Shopping experience with the addition of new merchants-Nykaa and Purple as new partners alongside Flipkart and Myntra.

With shopping-related watch time growing more than 250 per cent year over year on the platform, Google's own video streaming company is scaling the YouTube Shopping affiliate program.

"This expansion is built on a highly engaged audience base: Over 200 million logged-in users in India had shopping-related searches on YouTube," the company said.

According to YouTube, this expansion will kick in along with new creator tools and brand partnership programs, which will further solidify its position as a key destination

for creators, building sustainable businesses.

The development will also allow advertisers to expedite brand-building and high-intent traffic.

"The next era of video commerce is already being defined by India's vibrant creator economy on YouTube. We are scaling content-driven shopping from a successful program to a complete monetisation ecosystem," said Gunjan Soni, Managing Director, India, YouTube.

By empowering our creators with new tools, offering new engaging formats to our viewers and deepening and forging new partnerships with top merchants, we are cementing YouTube's role as the leading platform for the next generation of shopping experiences, Soni added.

Addition of new merchants will support the beauty and lifestyle segment, with 89 per cent of beauty shoppers in India, according to the company, feel YouTube helps them make confident purchase decisions.

Can a vegetarian diet increase uric acid levels? Here's what science says and how to fix it

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Oct 10: Vegetarian diet is now more popular than ever, due to its long list of health benefits, such as a lowered risk of heart disease, diabetes and also certain types of cancer, you name it and a veg diet is the key! A diet full of veggies, legumes is also thought by many to regulate uric acid and prevent gout, an excruciating form of arthritis due to the accumulation of uric acid crystals in the joints. But, the question here is, do vegetarian diets actually increase the levels of uric acid in the body? Or is it just a myth! The answer is not a simple yes or no, and there is emerging research that tells us how different vegetarian foods influence uric acid and what individuals must keep in mind.

What is uric acid
Uric acid is a byproduct that forms as the body metabolises purines, chemicals found in some foods and naturally in the body. In normal circumstances, uric acid dissolves in the blood, travels through the kidneys, and is passed in the urine. When uric acid formation outpaces excretion, or when the kidneys are damaged, uric acid builds up in the blood, known as hyperuricemia.



When uric acid levels in the body increases, they start to crystallise and precipitate, with the tissues and joint, leading to bodily inflammation, that is the underlying cause of several chronic diseases. Apart from gout, excess uric acid has also been associated with kidney stones and cardiovascular disease risk.

Increased levels of uric acid and a veg diet, what's the link

Scientists at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) published a report that summarized the impact of vegetarian diet on serum uric acid levels. The study has established that a lacto-vegetarian diet, food plans consisting of dairy foods and plant foods, is linked with decreased serum



uric acid levels and lower risk of hyperuricemia and gout. This is mainly because the overall purine content of plant-based foods is lower than foods based on animals like seafood and red meat, which are well-documented stimuli for excessive uric acid.

The Hidden risks within a vegetarian diet

While these diets confer these advantages, vegetarian diets are not necessarily purine-free. Plant foods contain some plant foods like soy products, beans, mushrooms, cauliflower, spinach, and some sea vegetables which are of moderate purine content. Eating very large amounts of these will lead to excess uric acid levels, especially in those with a genetic predisposition or underlying

kidney disease.

An exemplary case study in the International Journal of Clinical Biochemistry and Research documents this complication. It documented a middle-aged gentleman, after embracing a vegetarian diet that was high in purine-rich foods such as cauliflower, mushrooms, and beans, who was diagnosed with acute gouty arthritis. This took place in the absence of a previous history of gout, diabetes, or other common risk factors. His familial tendency predisposed him to overproduction of uric acid, although. The case reminds us that, despite vegetarianism, the choice of food does count, particularly in those who are at risk of hyperuricemia.

What vegetarians and those at risk need to remember

Moderation is the key: Consuming a variety of plant-based food items, but in moderation, such as avoiding high purine vegetables such as mushrooms, asparagus, spinach, and legumes if you have high uric acid or gout issues.

Consume dairy products: In case of lacto-vegetarian diet, intake of dairy may be helpful in reducing the level of uric acid.

Hydrate yourself: Intake of water keeps kidney function up

and aids in expulsion of uric acid from the body.

Avoid sugary drinks and alcohol: Sweetened drinks and alcohol, particularly beer, trigger uric acid production and increase gout.

What does it mean for people who are vegetarians

Vegetarian diets offer protection from high uric acid and gout over animal protein-rich diets. Yet, vegetarian foods are not all equal concerning purines, and some vegetables and fruits contain a high amount of purines and raise uric acid if consumed overboard. Those at risk need to be careful of food consumed and in what quantity.

As long as the diet is adopted with a balance, varied vegetarian content that is purine-poor, along with large fluid intakes, and in conjunction with lifestyle changes, healthy uric acid levels can be sustained and the development of gout and gout-related complications prevented. By being aware of these nuances, vegetarians are enabled to benefit from the health-contributing elements of their food choice while ensuring their joint as well as their renal health.

Disclaimer: Before adopting any advice, please consult a medical health professional.

Israeli Cabinet approves 'outline' of deal to release hostages held by Hamas

AP

Cairo, Oct 10: Israel's Cabinet early Friday approved President Donald Trump's plan for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the release of all the remaining hostages held by Hamas, a key step toward ending a ruinous two-year war that has destabilized the Middle East.

A brief statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the Cabinet approved the "outline" of a deal to release the hostages, without mentioning other aspects of the plan that are more controversial.

The broader ceasefire plan included many unanswered questions, such as whether and how Hamas will disarm and who will govern Gaza. But the sides appeared closer than they have been in months to ending a war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, reduced much of Gaza to rubble, brought famine to parts of the territory and left dozens of hostages, living and dead, in Gaza.

The war, which began with Hamas' deadly attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, has also triggered other conflicts in the region, sparked worldwide protests and led to allegations of genocide that Israel denies.

Some 1,200 people were killed in the Hamas-led assault, and 251 were taken hostage. In Israel's ensuing offensive, more than 67,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and nearly 170,000 wounded. In the



hours leading up to the Israeli Cabinet's vote, Israeli strikes continued. Explosions were seen Thursday in northern Gaza, and a strike on a building in Gaza City killed at least two people and left more than 40 trapped under rubble, according to the Palestinian Civil Defense. At least 11 dead Palestinians and another 49 who were wounded arrived at hospitals over the past 24 hours, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

An Israeli military official who spoke on the condition of anonymity in line with military guidelines said Israel was hitting targets that posed a threat to its troops as they reposition. Hamas blasted Israel over the strike, saying Netanyahu was trying to "shuffle the cards and confuse" efforts by mediators to end the war in Gaza.

A senior Hamas official and lead negotiator made a speech Thursday laying out what he says are the core elements of the ceasefire deal: Israel

releasing around 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, opening the border crossing with Egypt, allowing aid to flow and withdrawing from Gaza.

Khalil Al-Hayya said all women and children held in Israeli jails will also be freed. He did not offer details on the extent of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Al-Hayya said the Trump administration and mediators had given assurances that the war is over, and that Hamas and other Palestinian factions will now focus on achieving self-determination and establishing a Palestinian state.

"We declare today that we have reached an agreement to end the war and the aggression against our people," Al-Hayya said in a televised speech Thursday evening.

In other developments, US officials announced that they would send about 200 troops to Israel to help support and monitor the ceasefire deal as part of a broader,

international team. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not authorized for release.

Cautious celebrations In the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, reactions to the announcement of a ceasefire were relatively muted and often colored by grief.

"I am happy and unhappy. We have lost a lot of people and lost loved ones, friends and family. We lost our homes," said Mohammad Al-Farra. "Despite our happiness, we cannot help but think of what is to come. ... The areas we are going back to, or intending to return to, are uninhabitable."

In Tel Aviv, families of the remaining hostages popped champagne and cried tears of joy after Trump announced the deal.

In Jerusalem on Thursday, Sharon Canot celebrated with some others. "We are so excited this morning. We cried all morning," she said. "It's been two years that we are in horror."

Under the terms, Hamas intends to release all living hostages in a matter of days, while the Israeli military will begin a withdrawal from the majority of Gaza, people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of an agreement that has not fully been made public. Some 20 of the 48 hostages still in captivity are believed to be alive.

In a short video posted by US Commerce Secretary Howard

Lutnick, Trump was seen speaking by phone to a group of elated hostage families.

"They are all coming back on Monday," said Trump, who is expected to visit the region in the coming days.

Tom Fletcher, the UN humanitarian chief, told reporters Thursday that officials have 170,000 metric tons of medicine, aid and other supplies at ready for transport into Gaza when they are given a green light.

How the deal will unfold The deal, which was expected to be signed in Egypt, will include a list of prisoners to be released and maps for the first phase of an Israeli withdrawal to new positions in Gaza, according to two Egyptian officials briefed on the talks, a Hamas official and another official.

Israel will publish the list of the prisoners, and victims of their attacks will have 24 hours to lodge objections.

The withdrawal could start as soon as Thursday evening, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to be publicly named speaking about the negotiations. The hostage and prisoner releases are expected to begin Monday, the officials from Egypt and Hamas said, though the other official said they could occur as early as Sunday night.

Five border crossings would reopen, including the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, the Egyptian and Hamas officials said.

The Trump plan calls for Israel

to maintain an open-ended military presence inside Gaza, along its border with Israel. An international force, comprised largely of troops from Arab and Muslim countries, would be responsible for security inside Gaza. The US would lead a massive internationally funded reconstruction effort.

The plan also envisions an eventual role for the Palestinian Authority — something Netanyahu has long opposed. But it requires the authority, which administers parts of the West Bank, to undergo a sweeping reform program that could take years.

The Trump plan is even more vague about a future Palestinian state, which Netanyahu firmly rejects.

What comes next for Netanyahu The days ahead could be politically tricky for Netanyahu, who has been shadowed by an ongoing corruption trial as he navigated the Gaza war.

His grip on power has been largely contingent on the support of hardline, far-right coalition partners who have urged him to continue operations against Hamas until the group is eliminated.

But Trump on Thursday suggested Netanyahu's political standing has been bolstered by the ceasefire and hostage deal.

"He's much more popular today than he was five days ago," Trump said. "I can tell you right now, people shouldn't run against him. Five days ago, might not have been a bad idea."

Trump proposes barring Chinese airlines flying over Russia on US flights

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 10: The Trump administration on Thursday proposed banning Chinese airlines from flying over Russia on flights to and from the United States, saying the practice puts American carriers at a disadvantage.

US airlines have long criticized the decision to allow Chinese carriers to fly over Russia on some flights because it gives them the advantage of decreased flying time and burning less fuel.

The US Transportation Department said on Thursday in its proposed order "this imbalance has become a significant competitive factor." USDOT said it was proposing to bar Chinese overflights "to level this competitive disparity among US and Chinese air carriers."

The Chinese embassy in Washington did not have an immediate comment.

Russia has barred US airlines and other foreign carriers from flying over its airspace in retaliation for Washington banning Russian flights over the US in March 2022 after the country invaded Ukraine.

The decision could impact some US flights operated by Air China, China Eastern, Xiamen Airlines and China Southern.

Spain says 'committed to NATO' after Trump expulsion threat

AFP

Madrid, Oct 10: Spain hit back at Donald Trump on Friday after the US President suggested expelling the country from NATO for failing to meet his ramped-up defense spending target.

In June, the 32-nation military alliance agreed to massively boost defense spending to five percent of annual economic output over the next decade under pressure from Trump.

But Spain, which was NATO's lowest defense spender in relative terms last year, insisted it would not need to hit the headline figure. "We had one laggard, it was Spain," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Thursday.

"They have no excuse not to do this, but that's all right. Maybe you should throw them out of NATO, frankly."

Government sources said on Friday that "Spain is a committed and full member of NATO. And it meets its capacity targets as much as the United States."

Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has argued that Spain should meet its capacity objectives rather than fixed spending targets, including cybersecurity and the environment in his calculations.

Asia Cup trophy locked in ACC office, instruction from Naqvi not to move without his approval

PTI

Dubai, Oct 10: The Asia Cup trophy, which was not presented to the victorious Indian team after its refusal to accept it from Asian Cricket Council chief Mohsin Naqvi, has been locked away at the ACC's Dubai headquarters with "instructions that it should not be moved or handed over" without the Chairman's approval.

The trophy has been at the ACC office after Naqvi walked away with it from the presentation ceremony following the Indian team's refusal to accept it from him. India beat Pakistan in the Asia Cup final in Dubai on September 28.

Naqvi is also the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman and the Interior Minister of his country and India-Pakistan tensions have hit a peak after the Pahalagam terror attack. "As of today the trophy is still in ACC offices in Dubai with clear instructions from Naqvi that it should not be moved or handed over to anyone without his approval and in person presence," a source close



to Naqvi told PTI.

"Naqvi has given clear instructions that only he will hand over the trophy in person (whenever that happens) to the Indian team or BCCI," he added. The entire Asia Cup was overshadowed by Indo-Pak hostilities. The Indians refused to shake hands with the arch foes throughout the tournament and players from both sides mocked each other with politically

charged gestures.

Naqvi too made political statements on his social media pages.

The BCCI took strong exception to his act of walking away with the trophy and vowed to raise the matter in an ICC meeting next month. It is being widely speculated that a strong move to get Naqvi censured and even removed as Director in the ICC could be made.

Ranji Trophy opener against J&K

Thakur to lead Mumbai, Sarfaraz, Rahane included in squad



PTI

Mumbai, Oct 10: India all-rounder Shardul Thakur was on Friday appointed Mumbai captain while Sarfaraz Khan and Ajinkya Rahane also were included in their 16-member squad for their Ranji Trophy 2025-26 season opener against Jammu and Kashmir.

Thakur succeeds Rahane as Mumbai skipper after the former left his role ahead of the new season.

The 42-time champions Mumbai will take on Jammu and Kashmir in their first match of the Ranji season at Srinagar's Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium from October 15-18.

Mumbai, who had lost their last match to J&K in the previous season by five wickets here, are placed in Elite Group D along with Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Hyderabad, Rajasthan,

Chhattisgarh and Pondicherry. The squad includes India batter Sarfaraz who has been out of national reckoning from the Test side, as well as all-rounder Shivam Dube, who mostly features in T20s for the national team.

Musheer Khan, who had missed majority of the last domestic season 2024-25 after a car accident, finds his place back in the 16-member squad. Mumbai and Chennai Super Kings opener opener Ayush Mhatre, who has also captained India U-19 teams during their recent tours of England and Australia, has been named in the Mumbai squad.

The squad, however, is without Shreyas Iyer who has taken a break from red-ball cricket due back-related issues, and Prithvi Shaw, who has moved to Maharashtra after losing his spot during the last season.

María Corina Machado of Venezuela wins Nobel Peace Prize



AP

Stockholm, Oct 10: The former opposition presidential candidate in Venezuela was lauded for being a "key, unifying figure in a political opposition that was once deeply divided – an opposition that found common ground in the demand for free elections and representative government," said Jørgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel committee.

Experts say the committee typically focuses on the durability of peace, the promotion of international fraternity and the quiet work of institutions that strengthen those goals. There has been persistent speculation ahead of the announcement about the possibility of the prize going to

US President Donald Trump, fueled in part by the president himself, amplified by this week's approval of his plan for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. But longtime Nobel watchers say his chances remain remote despite various notable foreign policy interventions for which he has taken personal credit.

Groups cited as possible winners by the Peace Research Institute Oslo include Sudan's Emergency Response Rooms, a community-led network that has become the backbone of the country's humanitarian response to its civil war; the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court; and the Committee to Protect Journalists, a US-based group that promotes press freedom and compiles a list of journalists killed on duty. Last year's award went to Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of Japanese atomic bombing survivors who have worked for decades to maintain a taboo around the use of nuclear weapons.

The peace prize is the only one of the annual Nobel prizes to be awarded in Oslo, Norway. Four of the other prizes have already been awarded in the Swedish capital, Stockholm this week – in medicine on Monday, physics on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday.

MOVIES Schedule

Saturday, 11th October

TICKETS AT
www.bookmyshow.com
www.inoxmovies.com
Paytm, Inox App or
Directly from the booking
counter at the cinema.



CALL 95416 13868
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH TICKETS

INOX
SRINAGAR

INOX CINEMA
SHIVPORA SRINAGAR



KANTARA A LEGEND: CHAPTER 1 (UA16+)
TELEGU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 01:00 PM
HINDI - 11:00 AM, 02:30 PM, 06:00 PM



TRON: ARES (UA13+)
3D ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
10:30 AM, 07:00 PM
3D HINDI ATMOS - 04:25 PM



SUNNY SANSKARI KI TULSI KUMARI (UA13+)
HINDI - 02:10 PM



JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)
HINDI - 05:05 PM



SAIYAARA (UA16+)
HINDI - 11:10 AM