

## From Art 370 to Op Sindoor, Modi govt broke all walls of terrorism: Amit Shah

### HM says forces ensure terrorists don't find safe havens anywhere within or outside India

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 14: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that from the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir to Operation Sindoor, the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government broke all walls of terrorism.

Speaking at the 41st Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG) at its headquarters in Manesar, Shah, as per the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the government's approach follows a "zero tolerance" policy toward terrorism.

He mentioned amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), new definitions of terrorism in criminal laws, and bans on organisations such as the Popular Front of India (PFI) as part of this strategy.

Shah said that Operation Sindoor successfully destroyed



Pakistani terror bases, training camps, and launch sites. He added that in Operation Mahadev, Indian security forces conducted targeted operations to neutralise those responsible for the Pahalgalam attack, boosting public confidence in the armed forces.

The Home Minister said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government maintains a zero-tolerance approach toward terrorism. "The

campaign against terror has been broad and coordinated, from the abrogation of Article 370 to surgical strikes, air-strikes, and Operation Sindoor, aiming at dismantling the core of terrorist networks," he said.

"No matter where terrorists try to hide, they cannot find safe havens. Our forces are prepared to take action anywhere to respond to acts of terror," he added.

Shah said that since 2019, the government | [More on P6](#)

## India's response to Pahalgalam massacre was precise: Lt Gen Ghai

### 'IAF hit 11 Pakistani air bases'

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 14: Director General Military Operations (DGMO) and Army's Deputy Chief Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai on Tuesday said that India's military response to the April 22 Pahalgalam terror attack was measured, meticulously planned and carried out with precision.

Speaking at a function here, Lt Gen Ghai, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) described the Pahalgalam attack — in which 26 tourists were shot dead by terrorists — as a "sponsored" cross-Line of Control (LoC) strike in which terrorists singled out victims on the basis of community. "They asked for the community that they came from and shot them in cold blood in front of their families and loved ones," he said.

"There were immediate claimers; this was 'glory'. However, when the Kashmir Resistance Front initially claimed the attack, they



realised that matters had possibly gone beyond their control, and they immediately withdrew," Lt Gen Ghai added, underscoring that while a response was inevitable, the armed forces intentionally took time to plan and prioritise targets.

He said operations evolved between April 22 and the night of May 6-7, during which precautionary deployments were made along borders and multiple services and government agencies coordinated closely. "The final selection of targets was carried out from a large number of | [More on P6](#)

## 'Op Sindoor 2.0' will be stronger: Lt General Katiyar

Sajid Raina

Jammu, Oct 14: Warning Pakistan that 'Operation Sindoor 2.0' would be stronger than the first one, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command, Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar, on Tuesday said that if the neighbouring country refuses to mend its ways it can pay a very heavy price this time around.

Lieutenant General Katiyar while talking to reporters here, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Operation Sindoor 2.0 would be stronger than the first phase."

Pertinently, Operation Sindoor was launched after the April 22 Pahalgalam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead. The Indian armed forces attacked nine terror camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied | [More on P6](#)

## Two infiltrators killed in Kupwara, arms recovered



Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Oct 14: Two infiltrators were killed after security forces foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control in Machil sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Tuesday.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that based on specific intelligence input, a joint operation by the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police was launched in Machil sector on October 13.

Alert troops noticed suspicious movement near the LoC and challenged the infiltrators, who opened indiscriminate fire. In the ensuing gunfight, two terrorists were neutralized.

A large quantity of weapons and other war-like stores were recovered from the encounter site, officials added. (KNO)

## No one can dare raise their eyes towards our country: LG Sinha

Addresses Diamond Jubilee of India's victory over Pakistan in 1965 war

Says Op Sindoor showed we'll avenge every drop of blood

Terms ex-servicemen role models for youth

Pays tributes to Army martyrs

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 14: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday paid tribute to martyrs and felicitated ex-servicemen to mark commemoration of Diamond Jubilee of India's victory over Pakistan in 1965 war. The event was organised by Western Command and 26 Infantry Division in Jammu.

Addressing a mega rally of Ex-servicemen, the Lieutenant Governor said that 1965 war victory and recent Operation Sindoor was the result of the valour and sacrifice of soldiers of Indian armed forces which is considered among the strongest across the globe.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled the sacrifice of 1965 war heroes and paid homage to all the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice, defending the sovereignty and integrity of India.



He said the abode of soldiers, who are the first line of defence against terror country Pakistan is a sacred land. "Unwavering devotion to ex-servicemen is the fundamental foundation of my policies. Personally, for me the land of veterans is no less than a pilgrimage site. Our veterans have made immense contribution in economic growth, social transformation and the resurgence

of a glorious India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The LG recalled the valour of 26 Infantry Division during Operation Sindoor and army's selfless work in saving people's lives during recent natural calamities. "Operation Sindoor gave a message to the world that we will avenge every drop of Indian citizen's blood. No one can dare raise their eyes towards our country," the Lieutenant Governor

said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon ex-servicemen to contribute to society by applying their leadership skill and discipline in ongoing community service, and civic action programmes. "Our ex-servicemen are role models for the youth. They must guide the young generation on the righteous path and teach them the values of patriotism, discipline, and selfless service," he further said.

The Lt Governor urged all sections of society to honor the sacrifices and dedication of security forces' brave hearts. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that our veterans and the families of our martyrs live a dignified life, he said.

Lt Gen. Manoj Kumar Katiyar, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command; Lt Gen. Rajan Sharawat, GOC, 9 Corps; Maj Gen. | [More on P6](#)

## Coalition cracks widen in J&K

Congress submits 'scathing' report to high command against NC

over the past one year.

"The high command has been informed that the party leadership in Jammu and Kashmir is anguished over the backtracking of commitment by the National Conference leadership with senior leader Sonia Gandhi over Rajya Sabha polls," they said, adding that the high command has also been told there is mounting pressure on the PCC leadership to pull out from the government.

The report also contains details how the National Conference has turned a "deaf ear" to the party's suggestion of forming a coordination committee for the smooth functioning of the coalition.

It also accuses National Conference of sidelining Congress MLAs in decision-making process and governance.

Sources disclosed that Congress unit of J&K has also given its feedback to the party high command about voting in Rajya Sabha polls as well as the party's strategy in bye-elections.

"The high command will take a final call on the party's strategy for the Rajya Sabha polls as well as the by-elections for Budgam and Nagrota seats," | [More on P6](#)

## Non-participation in LS polls indirectly benefits BJP: CM Omar

Says NC, BJP in direct contest; urges voters to reject saffron party



Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Oct 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the National Conference (NC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are in a direct contest, warning that

non-participation in the elections would indirectly benefit the saffron party.

He urged all voters and opposition parties to actively participate to ensure the BJP's defeat.

Speaking to reporters here, the Chief Minister, | [More on P6](#)

## Tourism revival hasn't been easy, hopes on winter season now: CM

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Stating that the revival of tourism hasn't been a journey without challenges, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir hopes to rebuild tourism on snowfall to woo visitors. Addressing an event at a Srinagar hotel, CM Omar, per news agency— | [More on P6](#)

## National Executive Committee Meeting of FICCI

## J&K's agri sector requires focused attention: CM Omar

## Highlights UT's industrial, tourism potential

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the agriculture sector in Jammu and Kashmir holds immense potential and requires focused attention towards value addition to unlock full gamut of business opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while addressing the National Executive Committee Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce



and Industry (FICCI) held in Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by FICCI President Harsh Vardhan Agarwal, Senior Vice President Anant Goenka, Director General FICCI Jyoti Vij, Past President Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Chairman FICCI J&K Council Mushtaq A. Burza, and members of the National Executive Council.

Highlighting the immense potential of the agriculture sector, the Chief Minister said that most of the produce from Jammu and Kashmir leaves the region in its raw form, with very little processing or value addition being done locally.

"This opens significant opportunities for industrial growth, both on Jammu side and

Kashmir's side," he stated.

Citing the dairy sector as an example, CM Abdullah said that only about 4-5 percent of the J&K's dairy production is processed within Jammu & Kashmir, while the rest goes unprocessed into the market. He urged industry leaders to explore these areas for investment and growth.

Referring to the broader economic scenario, Omar said that the J&K has faced challenges due to recent natural calamities and the downturn in tourism following the Pahalgalam incident, but the administration remains optimistic about revival across sectors. "This is not a story of pessimism but of hope and optimism. We are | [More on P6](#)

## J&K Police's Diwali Mela

## LC calls for boosting UT's economy by empowering local entrepreneurs

'Vocal for Local' should be our mission to boost self-reliance'

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 14: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday urged the people to buy Swadeshi and products made by Self-help Groups and local artisans.

"Let us boost our local economy, empower local entrepreneurs, increase employment and strengthen the overall economic position of UT of Jammu Kashmir," he said



while inaugurating the J&K Police's Diwali Mela - 2025 at Gulshan Ground, Jammu. He also paid tributes to the

Bravehearts of J&K Police who devoted their lives in the service of the nation.

The Lieutenant | [More on P6](#)



# Need for time-bound execution of USOF programme: CS

## Reviews progress on mobile, internet connectivity in shadow areas

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday emphasized the need for coordinated and time-bound execution of the Union Government's Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) programme aimed at expanding mobile network and 4G connectivity in shadow areas of the Union Territory.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting convened to review the status of mobile tower installation and network coverage across the uncovered areas of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Secretary, Information Technology; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, Rural Development



Department; Chief General Manager, BSNL; and other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary directed both Divisional Commissioners to take weekly appraisals of the progress made on each identified site. He asked them to closely monitor the pace of tower construction, electricity provisioning, and

land-related issues, ensuring that every tower is made functional at the earliest.

He also reviewed the status of NoCs from the Forest Department for tower erection and laying of electricity networks and directed for early resolution of such matters through inter-departmental coordination.

The Chief Secretary instructed the IT

Department to act as the nodal agency for the programme, ensuring effective coordination among all stakeholder departments and timely removal of operational bottlenecks. Reviewing the extension of 4G network coverage under Bharat Net and Amended Bharat Net Programmes, the Chief Secretary observed that enhanced digital connectivity in these network shadow areas will significantly strengthen grassroots-level empowerment, governance delivery, and access to public services.

He urged BSNL, the implementing agency, to expedite tower installations and ensure early commissioning. The company was advised to flag any implementation hurdles with the IT Department for prompt redressal.

The Chief Secretary was informed that out of a total 847 identified sites, BSNL

has applied for electric connections at 744 sites, of which 505 sites have been energized. Additionally, 466 towers have been put on air, 98 more have been erected, and 95 others are ready for commissioning. Seven sites are off-grid and 19 are currently under execution.

BSNL representatives apprised the Chief Secretary that land issues persist at around 30 locations, for which he directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to resolve matters at the earliest to avoid project delays.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the 'Call Before U Dig' (CBuD) initiative, highlighting its importance in preventing avoidable damage to road infrastructure. He directed the PWD to enforce mandatory use of the app before any road excavation, maintain strict vigilance, and initiate legal action against violators.

It was informed that the portal currently has 40 registered agencies and 403 asset owners, with 176 unauthorized excavation instances recorded in the past.

The meeting was also apprised that 5G infrastructure mapping is underway, with around 1,58,126 assets including electric poles, traffic lights, bus terminals, and government buildings already mapped by H&UDD so far.

Regarding the Amended Bharat Net project, it was informed that 4,299 Gram Panchayats are targeted for coverage across the UT, providing high-speed internet connectivity to government institutions and the public.

Implemented by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the project has a three-year timeline, with 10% Gram Panchayats to be commissioned by December 2025 and 30% by June 2026.



UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR



# DEPARTMENT OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER BUDGAM

Contact us on email: -budgamdsho@gmail.com

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### STORE SECTION NOTICE

Subject: - Conduct of Draw of Lots for distribution of Artisans Tools.

All the applicants who have been found eligible for selection through draw of lots for receiving artisan tools are hereby informed that the draw of lots will be conducted on 15-10-2025 at District Sheep Husbandry Complex Budgam ( 11:00 AM ) under the Chairmanship of the undersigned, along with other members of the designated committee.

All eligible applicants are requested to participate in the draw of lots on the scheduled date, time, and venue.

No: - DSHOB/Store/2025-26/2434-39  
Dated: 11/10/2025

DIPK-7155/25  
DATED: 14-10-2025

Sd/- District  
Sheep Husbandry Officer  
Budgam

S.No of Main List	S.NO	District	Activity	Name of the Artisan	Relation Name	Residence	Craft	Contact No.	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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# CM Omar reviews development works progress in B'la

KT NEWS DESK

Baramulla, Oct 14: Continuing with his district review meetings to personally evaluate development initiatives in various districts, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited Baramulla Tuesday and chaired a high-level meeting to assess the district's progress in execution of works and implementation of various government schemes.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javed Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma, DDC Chairperson Safina Beig, legislators from Baramulla, Sopore, Pattan, Uri, and Wagoora-Kreeri, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, besides Heads of Departments and senior district officers.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, gave a presentation on sector-wise achievements



and ongoing projects, highlighting progress in key areas including power, health, education, rural development, agriculture and allied sectors, among others.

The Chief Minister was

apprised about the progress achieved in respect of utilization of funds under the District capex.

During his visit, the Chief Minister also through virtual mode e-inaugurated several developmental

projects completed at a total cost of 5.25 crore. Some of the major projects inaugurated were the construction of a 1x6.3 MVA Receiving Station at Kalantra (1.84 crore), a 33/11 KV 1x10 MVA Receiving Station at

Bharahampora, Rafiabad (2.73 crore) and development of footpaths along the National Highway from Post Office to Carriappa Park in Baramulla (0.67 crore) executed by the Urban Development Department.

The meeting also held detailed discussions on constituency-wise development priorities. The Chief Minister assured the public representatives that all genuine demands have been noted and will be considered on merit.

Issuing key directions, the Chief Minister instructed the identification of alternate land for the Industrial Estate and to facilitate the expansion of GMC Baramulla. He also directed to initiate the process for handing over TRC Salamabad to the Tourism Department, formulation of DPRs for the Drung Reservoir, multi-level car parking at Tangmarg, and completion of the Tangmarg Administrative Complex.

The Chief Minister further directed that joint exercise

be conducted by the Forest and R&B Departments for developing an alternate road to Gulmarg via Baba Reshi. He also emphasized the preparation of a DPR for the Administrative Complex, Baramulla, decongestion and expansion of the Fruit Mandi through coordinated efforts of the Horticulture and Housing Departments, and the creation of a district-level land bank to support future developmental projects.

Emphasizing youth empowerment, Omar Abdullah stressed on making Mission YUVA more vibrant, with J&K Bank playing a proactive role in promoting youth entrepreneurship.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reaffirmed the government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, underscoring the importance of inter-departmental coordination and time-bound execution of projects to maximize public benefits.

## Apple demand prices hike by 30%



JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Oct 14: After facing over a month of sluggish demand and falling prices, apple growers in Kashmir are finally witnessing some relief as rates have started to climb.

According to traders and farmers, the demand for Kashmiri apples has improved over the past week, pushing prices up by nearly 30 per cent.

Bashir Ahmad Basheer, president of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union, said the turnaround has brought a glimmer of hope to the community after weeks of distress.

"The rates have started going up as demand has increased in various markets outside Kashmir. We expect prices to improve further in the coming days, which could help growers recover at least part of the losses they suffered earlier," he said.

Basheer added that the government's "indifference" towards the crisis faced by orchardists has deepened their financial woes.

"A majority of the growers have already suffered heavy losses this season due to low demand, poor rates, highway closure, freight rise and other issues. Unfortunately, the government has so far failed to provide any compensation or relief," he said.

Local farmers echoed similar concerns, expressing cautious optimism about the current rise in rates but

warning that recovery may still take time.

Abdul Rashid, an apple grower from Shopian, said that the last month was "one of the worst" in recent years.

"We were forced to sell apples at throwaway prices. The rates were so low that they didn't even cover transport and packaging costs. Now, with the demand improving, we are hopeful the next few weeks will be better," he said.

Another grower, Mohammad Yousuf from Sopore, said many farmers had to delay sales in the hope of better prices. "Those who stored their apples are now in a better position as the market has started responding. If the demand continues to rise, it could bring some relief to us," he said.

Traders in the other fruit mandis also confirmed an uptick in market activity. They said demand from many Indian states has improved slightly due to festive season needs, leading to higher prices for A- and B-grade apples.

Experts believe the next few weeks will be crucial for the fruit market, as consistent demand could stabilise rates and help offset the losses growers incurred earlier in the season.

Meanwhile, farmers have reiterated their appeal to the government for compensation and support, saying the horticulture sector—one of the backbones of Kashmir's economy—needs urgent attention to prevent long-term distress.—(KNO)

## Dy CM calls for Indo-Pak dialogue

WARIS FAYAZ

Baramulla, Oct 14: Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Tuesday called for dialogue between India and Pakistan, saying engagement and talks are better alternatives to conflict.

"If India's team can play with Pakistan's team, and if Afghanistan's Minister can come here and hold talks, then what is the harm in talking to Pakistan? That's why I don't think that today is the era of war," Choudhary, told reporters in Baramulla.

Reacting to statements by the Western Army Commander on possible Pakistani aggression along the LoC, he said, "Those who comment on conflicts from afar should visit the border to witness the reality. What the general says is not new. This has been a common situation for us".

Choudhary said that J&K has faced repeated conflicts since 1947 and has undergone significant changes, including its transition from a state to a Union Territory. "So, there is nothing new for J&K. The people of J&K are brave and patriotic. They have always kept the flag high and stood behind our troops whenever there was a war," he said, adding that war is not the solution to any problem.

He warned that modern warfare is destructive for both countries and especially for civilians. "This war is not like the wars of the past. This is a war of technology. In



today's world, attacks can be launched from Pakistan and reach anywhere, while our forces can respond from Delhi or other locations to any corner of Pakistan. The poor people, who have nothing to do with these conflicts and do not even understand the full meaning of war, are the ones who suffer the most," he said.

As a border resident, Dy CM criticized sensationalized media coverage. "News can be good to increase TRP, but what about asking the poor person whose house was destroyed during Operation Sindoor? Many have still not received compensation. What about the children who were injured?"

He urged people to pray for peace, saying, "You should pray that there is no war. War is not a good thing and there should be no war".

On safety, he added that the Union Home Minister has assured individual bunkers for all border households. "Even today, MLAs of the border raised the issue of individual bunkers. While some bunkers exist, we only remember them when war comes," he said.—(KNO)

### RS Polls

## NC candidates meet Dr Farooq

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 14: National Conference (NC) candidates for Rajya Sabha on Tuesday met the party President, Dr Farooq Abdullah here at his Gupkar residence here to express gratitude and discuss the future strategies for the upcoming elections, slated to be held on October 24.

The four candidates, who submitted their nomination papers for Rajya Sabha elections yesterday and met the party president, include



Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Shammie Oberoi, Sajjad Kichloo and Imran Nabi Dar. Dar said that the candidates expressed their gratitude to the party president for their nomination and discussed the future strategies for the

elections.

"We are hopeful of securing all the four seats in the Rajya Sabha elections. Three seats are expected in NC's kitty already and we are hopeful that we will secure the fourth seat as well," he added. He added that they have already made an appeal to all the secular parties to cast their votes in NC's favour to give a message to BJP that they are not with them.

About the future course of action, Dar said that the party will also meet the secular parties

personally here to seek their support in the Rajya Sabha elections. "The meetings with the secular parties will begin soon," he added. Pertinently, seven candidates including four from NC and three from Bharatiya Janata Party have filed their nomination papers for Rajya Sabha elections, which is set to be held on October 24.

The Rajya Sabha elections are scheduled to be held to fill four seats that have remained vacant since February 2021.—(KNO)

## CM deny ticket to Congress at behest of BJP: Sajad Lone

PEERZADA UMMER

Srinagar, Oct 14: Peoples Conference (PC) Chairman Sajad Gani Lone on Tuesday announced that he will not vote for National Conference (NC) candidates in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. Lone accused the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir of aligning with the BJP and betraying Congress.

Lone said he recently saw a video clip in which the Chief Minister suggested that anyone not supporting the NC in the Rajya Sabha polls is effectively siding with the BJP. He criticized this stance, arguing that such rhetoric paints even Congress and others as BJP supporters, which he called "astounding".

Recalling past political events, Lone accused the NC, particularly Omar Abdullah, of misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the 2024 elections. "We lost the elections, and our expectations were shattered. How many times must we be blamed for the same thing?" he said, questioning the NC's repeated



accusations against others.

Lone challenged the Chief Minister to prove that the denial of a Rajya Sabha seat to Congress was not done on BJP's instructions. He claimed that the CM had traveled to Delhi under controversial circumstances in the past, notably before the abrogation of Article 370, and accused the NC of backstabbing Congress.

Highlighting Congress's consistent opposition to BJP, Lone said, "There is only one party that is truly anti-BJP and that is Congress. The NC has collaborated with BJP before, but Congress has never done so." He added that on the issue of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, only Congress could play a pivotal

role since BJP was unwilling.

Lone also criticized Omar Abdullah for damaging his party's credibility by allegedly burning bridges with Congress after receiving their support in the 2024 elections. "You must now prove you're not with BJP," Lone argued, adding that the recent actions of the NC only benefit the BJP.

Addressing his own position, Lone said he would never vote for the National Conference, either ideologically or practically. He also pointed out the hardships faced by ordinary Kashmiris under the current administration, citing the example of a worker whose ailing mother was denied a transfer.

Lone questioned the Chief Minister's leadership and motives, referencing Omar Abdullah's interactions with BJP leaders, time spent with BJP officials, and a history of aligning with them on key decisions. He challenged the NC to clarify its position and asked, "What could be better news for BJP than you denying Congress the seat?"—(KNO)

## AP to contest Nagrota, Budgam bye-polls: Bukhari

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar/Jammu, Oct 15: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday said that the party will contest the upcoming Assembly bye-elections from both Nagrota and Budgam constituencies.

Speaking to media persons after chairing a key meeting with provincial leaders at the party's Jammu office in Gandhi Nagar, Bukhari said the candidates' names will be finalised and announced after the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting in Srinagar.

"Our Jammu organisation has finalised the candidates. We will announce the names tomorrow. We are neither supporting anyone nor taking support from anyone," Bukhari said, adding that the Apni Party will

independently contest from both constituencies.

Taking a dig at the ruling National Conference (NC) government in Jammu and Kashmir and the BJP-led Central Government, Bukhari said both parties have failed to deliver on their promises.

"The people have lost faith as NC and BJP have failed to fulfil their commitments. There is no visible development, no electricity waiver, no social welfare schemes, no free 200 units of power, no release of jailed youth, and rising unemployment," he said.

Bukhari also alleged that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway closure for 17 days caused heavy losses to fruit growers in Kashmir, while BJP MLAs from Jammu "ignored the flood-affected people and failed to secure special relief packages for their voters." (KNO)

## Paintball fever grips valley

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 14: Wearing a safety vest and uniform while splattering colours across a mock battlezone, paintball is fast winning hearts in Kashmir.

Once known mainly for cricket and football, the valley is now witnessing a fresh wave of recreational excitement as paintball—the global combat sport born in the U.S. makes its entry in Srinagar's Rajbagh.

It all began with young entrepreneur Tajamul, who transformed the top floor of a building in Rajbagh into Kashmir's first and only indoor paintball arena. The game offers a taste of action long missing from the region's leisure scene.

"I wanted to bring something new to Kashmir, something that takes people away from their



Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

daily scrolling or online gaming and lets them enjoy in a safe, exciting way," Tajamul said while holding paintballs in his hand and briefing players about the game.

He said paintball is not just about shooting colours but about teamwork, bonding, and unforgettable moments. "Players gear up in two teams, helmets and protective safety vests before charging into friendly battles that

combine teamwork, adrenaline and thrill," he added.

It is worth mentioning that the sport, which originated in the 1980s in the United States, has become a global craze with arenas in cities like Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai. For Kashmir, where recreational infrastructure has long remained limited, the entry of paintball marks a refreshing shift. About the introduction of

this sport, Tajamul said he has been trying to bring this game to the valley since 2017. "We introduced paintball in Kashmir in 2017, and now, after so many years, we have started the arena in Rajbagh," he said.

"Families, kids, students, married couples and even office-goers are showing up to try their hand at the game, which has quickly turned into a popular activity," he added, noting that many say it is not just about fun but also about building fitness, bonding with your family, and staying active.

Tajamul further said the venture was not easy. "Bringing the gear, setting up a safe arena and convincing people that it's an all-season adventure—all of that took time. But once people tried it, they loved it," he said with a smile.—(KNO)

## SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sadness it is informed that Hafiza Banoo mother of Shabir Ahmad Khan, Resident of Lane 14 Mominabad Batamaloo Srinagar, departed for heavenly abode on 13 October 2025 (Monday) after a short illness. The congregational Fatiha Khwani for the deceased will be held on 15 October 2025 (Wednesday) at 9.30 a.m at graveyard Mominabad Near Court Complex Batamaloo Srinagar. All are requested to participate in the prayers meet.



Note: We request to all kindly not to bring any eatable items with them during visit.

**Bereaved : Shabir Ahmad Khan, Nazir Ahmad Khan, Zameer Ahmad Khan, Mukhtair Ahmad Khan, Mudasir Ahmad Khan, Tauseef Ahmad Khan**



## A Wake-Up Call For Digital Vigilance In Kashmir

The massive crackdown on the Robust Secure Network (RSN) platform in Ganderbal, with 4,500 accounts under investigation, exposes a disturbing trend of financial exploitation targeting vulnerable communities. This elaborate scheme, promising unrealistic returns through digital platforms, has ensnared thousands, particularly the youth, in a web of deception that now threatens both their financial security and legal standing. The modus operandi

reveals calculated manipulation: young individuals are being recruited to mislead elders into "investing" in non-existent insurance policies, while others are lured by promises of quick wealth. Such schemes prey on economic anxiety and digital illiteracy, exploiting trust within communities. The consequences extend beyond financial loss, as authorities rightly warn; such situations often culminate in personal tragedies, including suicides, when the house

of cards eventually collapses. This case underscores several urgent concerns. First, the need for enhanced financial literacy, particularly regarding digital investments. Second, the responsibility of families is to monitor the financial activities of younger members who might be either victims or perpetrators in such schemes. Third, the importance of verifying the legitimacy of any investment platform before committing funds. While the enforcement actions

by the Crime Branch and ED are commendable, prevention must be our primary strategy. Educational institutions, religious centres, and community organisations should collaborate with financial institutions to conduct awareness campaigns about identifying and avoiding fraudulent schemes. The administration's warning about potential PSA invocation indicates the seriousness with which they view this threat to public order and financial security.

However, lasting solutions lie in empowerment through education rather than solely through enforcement. With digital platforms becoming increasingly embedded in our daily lives, this case serves as a crucial reminder: if an investment opportunity appears too good to be true, it almost certainly is. Our collective vigilance, coupled with institutional accountability, can build stronger defences against those who would exploit hope for personal gain.

# Building Inclusive Workplaces: Empowering Women For A Viksit Bharat

### Press Information Bureau

#### Nari Shakti at the Heart of Viksit Bharat

Imagine a nation where every woman, from rural artisan to urban innovator, steps into the workforce not as a participant, but as a powerhouse driving economic transformation. This is the promise of Viksit Bharat, that envisions a developed India by 2047, centring women's economic inclusion and empowering them through education, skills, safety, and entrepreneurship to unleash Nari Shakti for national growth.

One of the key pillars of achieving Viksit Bharat is ensuring at least 70 percent workforce participation by women, making them equal stakeholders in India's growth story.

#### Advancing Women's Workforce Participation

India has witnessed a remarkable increase in the female workforce participation rate. Women employment rate nearly doubled between 2017-18 to 2023-24. Data from The Ministry of Labour and Employment states that female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24.

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for women aged 15 years and above rose from 22% in 2017-18 to 40.3% in 2023-24, LFPR increased from 23.3% to 41.7%.

More recently, Female WPR rose to 32.0% in August 2025 from 31.6% in July 2025 and 30.2% in June 2025 and Female LFPR increased to 33.7% in August 2025 from 33.3% in July 2025 and 32.0% in June 2025.

Besides, latest EPFO payroll data highlights a growing trend of formal employment among women. During 2024-25, 26.9 lakh net female subscribers were added to EPFO. In July 2025, ~2.80 lakh new female subscribers joined and the net female payroll addition stood at ~4.42 lakh, asserting today's more inclusive and diverse workforce.

#### India's Rise in Women's Workforce Participation Across BRICS

Over the past decade, India has recorded the most significant rise in women's labour force participation among the BRICS nations, according to World Bank Data. Between 2015 and 2024, India's female labour force participation rate has surged, with a growth of over 23%. In contrast, Brazil, China, and Russia experienced either stagnation or slight declines, while South Africa posted only modest gains.

This upward trajectory reflects India's rapid transformation in women's economic inclusion, driven by targeted policy initiatives that expand access to skills, credit, and formal employment.

The country's decade-long momentum positions it as a model of inclusive growth within BRICS, demonstrating that sustained policy focus can transform women's economic empowerment into a national growth driver.

#### Legal Framework for Women's Workplace Empowerment

Labour laws in India cover a wide range of provisions aimed at regulating employment and ensuring the protection and welfare of women workers. A summary of the key legal safeguards and entitlements for women employees is provided below:

##### Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amended 2017)

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, which provides maternity benefits to women employees, was amended in 2017 that extends maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks. In addition to granting maternity leave, the Act mandates that employers with 50 or more employees must establish and maintain a crèche within the workplace. This crèche is intended to cater to the needs of children, ensuring a convenient way for



working mothers to leave their children in a safe space during working hours. Now the act also includes provisions for surrogate mothers, aiming to support and promote women's participation in the workforce.

According to the BRICS Women's Development Report 2025, India stands out for its generous paid maternity leave provisions, offering 182 days—the second longest in the group, behind only Iran's 270 days. This exceeds durations in other BRICS nations, such as Brazil, South Africa, and Ethiopia (120 days each), Egypt and Indonesia (90 days each), and the UAE (60 days). The report emphasises India's position as a leader in fostering family-friendly workplaces to enhance women's retention and participation.

#### Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, plays a pivotal role in fostering a safe and secure working environment by actively preventing and addressing instances of sexual harassment in the workplace, indirectly enhancing women's participation in the workforce.

One of its key provisions is the mandatory creation of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) within organisations, which are responsible for addressing complaints related to sexual harassment and ensuring a fair and confidential redressal process.

The ICC comprises both internal and external members, including a presiding officer, representatives from among employees, and a member from a non-governmental organization or association committed to women's rights. The Act outlines the procedures and timeframes for the resolution of complaints, promoting a workplace culture that prioritises the dignity and well-being of women employees.

The POSH act also requires district administrations to constitute a Local Complaints Committee (LCC) in each district to focus on cases where the complaints are lodged against the employer themselves or in organisations with less than 10 employees where an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) is not constituted.

#### Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

This Act, is a significant legislation designed to eliminate gender-based wage discrimination and emphasises the principle of equal pay for equal work, ensuring women receive the same remuneration for

identical or similar work. The Act promotes fairness, non-discrimination, and equal opportunities for both male and female workers, fostering a more equitable work environment.

According to the BRICS Women's Development Report 2025, India ranks 120th globally in gender pay equity (2024 data), closely mirroring peers like Brazil (118th), Iran (114th), and South Africa (113th), while trailing behind China (14th) and UAE (10th). Note that the higher the ranking, the better the situation of equal pay for men and women. This positioning underscores India's progress in bridging pay gap.

#### Code on Social Security, 2020

This Code, strengthens protections for women by extending maternity, health, and social security benefits to all categories of workers, including those in the unorganised and platform sectors.

The Code also emphasises inclusivity across all sectors of employment under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, notably extending its benefits to plantation workers. This provision is particularly beneficial for women engaged in tea and coffee plantations, providing them with essential support and ensuring their well-being.

#### The Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code, 2020

This Code incorporates specific provisions to address the occupational safety, health, and welfare of workers including women. It emphasises a secure and healthy working environment, with attention to women's unique health needs and mandates free annual health checkups for all workers. This Code allows women to work night shifts with their consent, provided employers ensure their safety. It also requires employers to offer transportation for women working at night, reinforcing protection for female employees across work settings.

The law also mandates that employers ensure adequate safety measures for women in hazardous occupations and provide crèche facilities for children under the age of six in establishments with over fifty workers, as prescribed by the Government.

#### Workplace Inclusivity in Government Sector

The Government has undertaken various women-centric initiatives to promote inclusivity in the workplace, workplace

wellness and holistic wellbeing of female employees in Government service. These, measures, among other things include:

#### Empowering Women through Skills and Employment

A range of employment and skill development initiatives have been launched by the Government across Ministries to enhance women's participation in the workforce, equipping them with market-relevant skills, entrepreneurial opportunities, and pathways to economic independence.

Empowering women through skills and employment initiatives has been a key focus of the government, with various schemes launched across different ministries to enhance women's participation in the workforce. These initiatives aim to equip women with market-relevant skills, promote entrepreneurial opportunities, and pave pathways toward economic independence.

One such scheme is the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), managed by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). This program enables youth to undertake industry-relevant skill training, with approximately 45% of the candidates being women, thus fostering greater female participation in skill-based employment.

The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), overseen by the Ministry of Finance, focuses on funding micro-enterprises and small businesses that are often led by women. Notably, over 68% of the account holders under this scheme are women, contributing significantly to the growth of women-led enterprises across India.

Similarly, the Stand-Up India scheme aims to empower SC, ST, and women entrepreneurs, with over 2.01 lakh women-owned accounts as of March 2025. This initiative helps facilitate financial inclusion and entrepreneurial development among marginalized women.

The Start Up India program, managed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, supports innovation and startup growth nationwide. It has successfully fostered over 75,000 women-led startups, encouraging female entrepreneurs to contribute to the country's economic dynamism.

In the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, the WISE-KIRAN initiative by the Department of Science and Technology focuses on increasing women's participation at various career stages, promoting gender diversity in these critical sectors.

Finally, the NAVYA program—collaboratively managed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship—targets girls aged 16 to 18. It provides training in emerging sectors such as digital marketing and cybersecurity, along with modules on hygiene, conflict management, communication skills, workplace safety, and financial literacy, thereby supporting holistic development and employment readiness for young women.

#### Enabling Ecosystems for Working Women

##### SHe-Box (MWCD)

The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the SHe-Box portal, an online system designed to help in better implementation of various provisions of 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013' (SH Act). This Act mandates the appropriate Government to monitor its implementation and maintain data on the number of cases filed and disposed of.

The SHe-Box portal provides a publicly available centralised repository of information related to Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) constituted at various workplaces, whether in government or private sector, and also an end-to-end integrated complaint monitoring

system. It provides for designating a nodal officer for every workplace who is required to ensure updating of data/ information on a regular basis for real time monitoring of complaints.

##### Mission Shakti

The Ministry of Women and Child Development implemented 'Mission Shakti' on April 01, 2024 which aims at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment. The objective of this Mission is to provide to all women and girls including differently-abled, socially and economically marginalised and vulnerable groups, who are in need of care and protection, with short term and long-term services and information for their holistic development and empowerment.

The Mission Shakti has two verticals 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'.

##### Sambal (Safety & Security)

One Stop Centres (OSC): Provide integrated support to women facing violence through medical aid, legal assistance, psychological counselling, and shelter services under one roof.

Women Helpline (181-WHL): A 24/7 toll-free service connecting women to emergency response systems (police, fire, ambulance) and One Stop Centres.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP): Aims to ensure survival, protection, education and empowerment of the girl child.

Nari Adalat: Offers a community-level grievance redressal platform at Gram Panchayat level to address issues such as harassment, denial of rights, and petty disputes.

##### Samarthya (Empowerment & Rehabilitation)

Shakti Sadan: An Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home for women in distressful situations including trafficked women.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY): Provides financial compensation for loss of wages due to pregnancy and childbirth, now extended to the second child if it is a girl, promoting gender equity.

Sakhi Niwas: Ensures safe, affordable accommodation and day-care facilities for working and aspiring women.

Palna: Expands access to quality crèche facilities through Anganwadi centres, offering childcare for children under six in a safe, nurturing environment.

SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW): Bridges information gaps about government schemes, assists women in availing benefits, and acts as a project monitoring unit for Mission Shakti initiatives.

##### Conclusion

Over the last decade, India is witnessing an unprecedented transformation in women's workforce participation. With landmark reforms, expanding skill development, enhanced maternity and childcare benefits, and initiatives like Mission Shakti, the Government has created a strong foundation for inclusive and supportive workplaces.

The steady rise in women joining the labour force, the surge in women-led enterprises, and the mainstreaming of gender-sensitive policies signal a new era where Nari Shakti is powering the nation's growth. From village entrepreneurs to corporate leaders, women are increasingly shaping India's economic and social landscape.

As India moves towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat@2047, the empowerment of women at work is not just a priority—it is a defining force of national progress. By ensuring safe, equitable, and opportunity-rich workplaces, the country is unlocking the potential of half its population, laying the path for a stronger, more inclusive, and globally competitive India.



## J&K youth have key role in eradicating drug menace: Sakeena

### Flags off Red Run 2025 on HIV/AIDS awareness at Sgr

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday flagged off 5-KM Red Run 2025 from Foreshore Road here to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote healthy lifestyles.

The race was organised by Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) in collaboration with University of Kashmir to spread awareness regarding HIV/AIDS and breaking the stigma associated with the disease.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the importance of collective action in combating stigma and promoting awareness around HIV/AIDS. She lauded the efforts of JKACS in engaging the youth and educational institutions in health promotion initiatives.

The Minister further said that the Youth of J&K have pivotal role to play in eradicating drug menace, besides other fighting other societal issues and problems. She highlighted that the energy and excitement among the young participants reflected their strong commitment toward spreading awareness about HIV/



AIDS and breaking the stigma associated with the disease.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, Dr. Nilofer Khan and Project Director, JKACS, Dr. Jehangir Bakshi also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of continued youth engagement and community-driven awareness campaigns to achieve the vision of an AIDS-free J&K.

Pertinently, the Red Run 2025, a 5-kilometer awareness run commenced from the scenic Foreshore Road and concluded at the University of Kashmir witnessed enthusiastic

participation from over 500 students representing various colleges across the Srinagar District.

On the sidelines of the Run, a 2-kilometer Walkathon was also organized by JKACS in collaboration with the Dean Students Welfare, University of Kashmir, which saw the participation of more than 300 students from the University of Kashmir. The Walkathon served as a powerful symbol of unity, compassion, and shared responsibility in combating HIV/AIDS and promoting inclusivity.

The winners of the Red Run

were felicitated and awarded for their outstanding performances, celebrating both their athletic achievements and their commitment to the cause.

The Red Run 2025 and Walkathon stand as a testament to the power of collaboration between public institutions, academia, and the community to address pressing public health challenges. The event not only spotlighted the importance of physical well-being but also reinforced the urgent need for sustained HIV/AIDS awareness and preventive education efforts across Jammu & Kashmir.

## J&K participates in Tourism Ministers' Conference at Udaipur

Advisor Nasir led team represented J&K at conference



KT News Desk

UDAIPUR, OCTOBER 14: Jammu and Kashmir participated in two-day State and UT Tourism Ministers' Conference held at Udaipur on 14th and 15th of October, 2025.

The delegation of J&K was led by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani and included Dr. Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu; Waseem Raja, Joint Director Tourism Kashmir; and Arif Lone, Assistant Director Tourism Jammu.

The Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, delivered a presentation and highlighted the Tourism potential of J&K and the Government's commitment to developing Jammu & Kashmir

as a vibrant, all-season tourist destination.

The presentation highlighted key destinations of J&K Viz Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Gurez and 'Sukrala Devi - Shiv Khorir-Machail Mata & Sarthal Devi-Kheer Bhawani pilgrimage circuit' for development under the Budget Announcement Initiatives. The presentation focused on unlocking vast tourism potential through improved infrastructure, enhanced connectivity, and enriched visitor experiences, with an emphasis on promoting adventure, heritage, wellness, and spiritual tourism.

The conference brought together Tourism Ministers, Secretaries and senior

officials from across the country to deliberate on strategies for destination development in India.

The event was inaugurated by Union Minister of Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between the Centre and the States to strengthen the tourism ecosystem and enhance India's position as a premier global travel destination.

The conference served as a vital platform for sharing best practices, forging partnerships, and aligning State and UT tourism strategies with national priorities to boost tourism-led growth and employment generation across the country.

## DC Gbl chairs district level NCORD Committee meeting



KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Tuesday convened a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review and strengthen measures aimed to curb drug abuse in the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal was also present in the meeting.

At the outset, a detailed review was held on various aspects of drug prevention including identification of hot spots, follow up of cases registered under the NDPS Act, surveillance of educational institutions, and awareness campaigns under IEC and Nasha Mukta Panchayat initiatives besides destroying the channels/networks and sources of drug peddling.

Officers from Health, Drug Control, Education, Excise, Social Welfare, Tehsildars, BDOs and police besides others concerned briefed the chair regarding activities carried out by their respective departments to curb drug menace in the district.

The DC emphasized on strengthening inter-departmental coordination to track and apprehend those involved in drug trafficking, and promote community-level awareness efforts.

The DC laid strong emphasis on tracking suspected couriers, and directed to implement enhanced surveillance measures

across key transportation hubs to intercept the flow of illicit materials.

He directed officers from the Drug Control department to ensure sealing of medical establishments that fail to comply with installation of CBS and CCTV systems, and called for stringent action against drug peddlers. He also directed the Excise department to intensify drives on destruction of illicit crops.

The DC directed CMO for establishing a facility for drugs testing at the District Hospital. He also directed BDOs and Social Welfare department to enhance awareness under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan to sensitize the public about the ill effects of drug abuse.

DC directed Tehsildars to re-verify all 126 panchayats and submit a report within a week for declaration of Nasha Mukta Panchayats. He stressed to put curbs on sale and consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products around educational institutions and levy fines on those found guilty.

He also asked the Police and Revenue Department to work in close coordination with each other to identify drug peddlers and attach the properties obtained from proceeds if crime.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, CMO, all Tehsildars, all BDOs, representatives from Education, Excise, and Social Welfare, besides other officials from multiple departments.

stressed the concerned officers to ensure speedy and transparent disposal of all such cases to ensure families of the victims receive timely relief.

After thorough deliberation, several cases were cleared by the Committee and submitted to the General Administration Department for relief as per the laid down rules and procedures.

Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal; ADC Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, ACR and Tehsildars, besides, officers of BSF, CRPF and Army attended the meeting.

## CS terms PMGS to serve as a holistic planning tool

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a meeting of Administrative Secretaries to review the progress made on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) portal, with a special focus on uploading of thematic data layers to strengthen evidence-based planning across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for comprehensive and coordinated data integration on the portal. He directed all concerned departments to upload data layers pertaining to Mission YUVA and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), besides incorporating the digitized land bank created by the Forest Department, to enable inclusive and informed decision-making.

Underscoring the importance of leveraging the Gati Shakti platform for social sector interventions, Dulloo stressed on the mandatory inclusion of datasets related to education infrastructure, health indicators, employment statistics, drug hotspots, and disaster-prone areas. He said that consolidating such multi-sectoral information on a single digital platform would facilitate focused interventions and better resource planning.



The Chief Secretary also took stock of the Action Taken Report on his previous directions regarding the portal and reviewed progress made in transitioning from point data to polygon data for mapping departmental assets. He called upon departments such as Industries, Tourism, Power Development, Health, and Jal Shakti to expedite the transition and provide clear timelines for completion of the data uploads.

Highlighting the value of data-driven governance, Dulloo directed that relevant datasets be shared with research institutions to encourage analytical inputs and innovative solutions for improving developmental outcomes.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh gave a detailed presentation on the current status of the portal. He informed that all 28 mandatory data layers have been successfully uploaded by J&K, in addition to 608 supplementary

layers, with the onboarding of 40 departments and conduct of over 100 major and 120 minor training sessions to build departmental capacity.

Providing further insights, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Arun Manhas, highlighted several new features and initiatives incorporated into the portal to enhance its utility. These include the Unified Geospatial Interface, PMGS offshore integration, Knowledge Management System for sharing best practices, Decentralized Data Sharing Module, formulation of District Master Plans in Aspirational Districts, and the rollout of the LEAPS 2025 framework for effective monitoring and implementation.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts made so far and urged all departments to ensure real-time data updation and cross-sectoral linkages to make the PM Gati Shakti portal a comprehensive planning and monitoring tool for accelerated development across J&K.

## Rally kickstarts at GHSS Soibugh Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 14: As part of the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, a rally aimed at enhancing voter awareness and participation was Tuesday kickstarted from Government Higher Secondary School Soibugh, Budgam.

The event was organized under the overall supervision of the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, with enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and local residents.

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Budgam, Rifat Irfan Qadri, was the Chief Guest on the occasion and formally flagged off the rally.

Speaking at the event, she emphasized the significance of informed and ethical voting, underscoring the role of youth and first-time voters in strengthening democracy.

She urged students to act as ambassadors of voter awareness within their families and communities.

The rally, which witnessed the participation of a large number of students and teachers, passed through various routes of Soibugh area, raising slogans and carrying placards promoting 100% voter participation, ethical voting, and inclusive elections.

District Information Officer Budgam, Principal of GHSS Soibugh, teaching staff, students, and members of the local community also took part in the event, expressing their commitment to ensuring an informed, participative, and transparent electoral process in the district.

The rally concluded at the school premises with a brief interaction session where speakers reiterated that every vote counts and that active citizen participation is the cornerstone of a vibrant democracy.

## PCCF reviews biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism initiatives

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 14: Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Jammu and Kashmir, Suresh Kumar Gupta, conducted an extensive tour of Bandipora Forest Division to review biodiversity conservation efforts and assess the progress of eco-tourism initiatives being undertaken by the Forest Department.

During the visit, the PCCF was accompanied by Conservator of Forests, Srinagar Circle, Saurabh Sharma, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Bandipora, Waseem Farooq Mir, DCF, and Range Officers from Khuihama, Gurez, and Ajas Ranges.

At Kanzalwan Park in Gurez Range, Gupta interacted with members of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and local representatives. The interaction focused on implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, strengthening of BMCs, and enhancing community participation in biodiversity documentation and conservation.

The PCCF appreciated the proactive role of local communities and BMC members in protecting

their natural heritage. He emphasized the need to blend traditional ecological knowledge with scientific forest management for sustainable conservation outcomes.

Later, the PCCF along with senior officers visited the under-construction Habba Khatoon Park in Gurez, where he reviewed ongoing eco-tourism development works being executed by the Forest Department. The team inspected landscaping, fencing, and pathway construction works being carried out under the eco-tourism promotion initiative aimed at showcasing the natural beauty of Gurez Valley.

Gupta underlined the importance of developing eco-friendly tourism infrastructure that attracts visitors while ensuring livelihood generation for local communities through homestays, eco-guiding, and handicrafts, maintaining ecological balance at the same time.

Speaking on the occasion, Conservator of Forests, appreciated the efforts of Bandipora Forest Division in integrating biodiversity conservation, habitat restoration, and eco-development works, particularly in remote

areas like Gurez. He also emphasized convergence with other departments to promote nature-based tourism and improve community welfare.

DFO Bandipora briefed the visiting dignitaries about various ongoing initiatives, including eco-restoration of degraded forest areas, establishment of biodiversity parks, soil and moisture conservation works, plantation drives, and development of eco-tourism sites across the division. He reiterated the department's commitment to conserving ecological wealth while fostering sustainable livelihoods.

Range Officers of Khuihama, Gurez, and Ajas also presented updates on local conservation measures, community outreach programmes, and habitat improvement works underway in their respective ranges.

The PCCF lauded the dedication and commitment of the officers and field staff of Bandipora Forest Division. He urged them to continue their mission of preserving the rich biodiversity of Bandipora and promoting eco-tourism as a bridge between people and nature.



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 14: The Langate Forest Division Handwara of North Forest Circle Tuesday organized an environmental awareness programme and plantation drive at Poshnar Forest Magam to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Martyr Shaheed Gulam Nabi Sheikh, Forester.

The event served as a potent convergence of environmental advocacy and a solemn tribute to the dedication of the forest frontline personnel and was attended by Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore, Irfan Ali Shah, and Environmentalist, Rakshanda Vishwanath.

The event commenced with a profound two-minute silence observed in honor of the late Shaheed Gulam Nabi Sheikh.

On the occasion Rakshanda Vishwanath delivered a

powerful message on community involvement in environmental safeguarding. Following the session, she flagged off a Plastic Free Forest Campaign and swachhta drive rally.

Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore, in his address stressed upon the paramount importance of protecting forest resources and paying rich tribute to the sacrifice of the Martyr. He said, "Shaheed Gulam Nabi Sheikh laid down his life in the line of duty, a testament to the selfless courage and unwavering dedication of the Forest officers and officials who protect our forests.

Later, a plantation programme was carried out with Army Brigade Unit in Boniyar Range, Jhelum Valley Forest Division, Baramulla in collaboration with Forest Department and local forest fringe community.



# From crafts to confidence; SARAS Mela in Sgr empowers women entrepreneurs across India

## Self Help Group movement emerges as catalyst for social revolution: Secy RDD

SRINAGAR: The 10-day SARAS Mela 2025 concluded on Tuesday at Sher-e-Kashmir Park here with resounding success.

Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, present on the occasion, described the 10-day event as a resounding success celebrating India's unity in diversity while giving a strong boost to women entrepreneurship across the country.

While appreciating the enthusiastic participation and overwhelming public response, the Secretary said, "The SARAS Mela is not just a sale exhibition, it is a celebration of India's unity and diversity".

He informed that self-help groups (SHGs) from states as diverse as Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, and Jammu & Kashmir participated in the event, reflecting the national scale of the initiative.

"All Kerala products were sold



out. The stalls from Kishtwar are also empty, and even those from Uttar Pradesh have registered massive sales," he noted, adding that the commercial success was matched by the social impact of the event.

Highlighting the broader significance of the initiative, the Secretary termed the SHG movement as a 'catalyst for

social revolution'.

"The biggest benefit of this celebration is the exchange of ideas. SHGs from J&K learn best practices from their counterparts in other states and vice versa. This exchange strengthens the entire network of women entrepreneurs," he observed. He further said, "not only Lakhpati sisters, but millionaire

sisters have also emerged from this movement. This is not merely a programme; it is a revolution in women empowerment".

MD, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma said that the participants expressed immense satisfaction with their experience in Kashmir and lauded the warmth, hospitality, and cooperation extended by the local community.

She added that the SARAS Mela served as a powerful platform for financial independence and empowerment of SHG members supported under DAY-NRLM, representing states including Rajasthan, Lakshadweep, Haryana, Punjab, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, and Tripura, among others.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) from October 4 to 14, the SARAS Mela brought together the talent and creativity of over 150 rural women

entrepreneurs from 13 states, offering visitors a colourful display of crafts, culture, and cuisine, a true national tapestry in the heart of Srinagar.

During the event, the Secretary also visited over 60 stalls run by SHG participants from outside the Union Territory, each showcasing unique products that reflected the artistry and craftsmanship of their regions. The Mela concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where SHG members were awarded certificates for their outstanding contributions.

In the awards category, Kishtwar district secured first position for best sales, while Srinagar district bagged the top honour in the best food category.

The event reaffirmed Jammu and Kashmir's role as a hub of cultural and economic collaboration, with the SARAS Mela acting as a bridge connecting women entrepreneurs from across the nation.

## JKTAB Forum launched, Chaya appointed as Chairman

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 14: In a landmark development, Jammu and Kashmir's travel, tourism, hospitality and allied sectors have formally come together under a single platform – the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism and Allied Business Forum.

This initiative marks a new era of collaboration among leading associations, industry stakeholders, and seasoned professionals to collectively strengthen and promote tourism across the region, a statement issued to the news agency–Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads.

The forum announced its office bearers, managing committee members, and sub-committees. Mushtaq Chaya has been appointed as Chairman, supported by Mushtaq Burza as Vice chairman I and Gouhar Maqbool as Vice Chairman II. Wahid Malik will serve as Secretary General, with Manzoor Pakthoon as Joint Secretary.

The position of Treasurer has been assigned to Aqib Chaya, with Murad Kapra as Joint Treasurer. Publicity and media responsibilities will be handled by Javid Burza and Nasir Shah.

A notable feature of the forum's formation is the leadership of Tariq Gani, who has been appointed Convenor, and Sameer Bakto, appointed as Co-Convenor. They will play a central role in coordinating the forum's activities, facilitating communication among member associations, and ensuring the smooth execution of strategic initiatives aimed at promoting tourism and allied sectors across Jammu and Kashmir.

Advisors to the Committee: Following the Chairman, Jyotsna Suri (FICCI) and Omar Trambo (Khyber Hotels) will serve as key advisors, bringing their extensive expertise and insights from the national

and regional tourism and hospitality industry to guide the forum's initiatives.

Other advisors to the Chairman include Farooq Hafiz, supported by Co-Advisors Rouf Trambo IT and Digital Media will be overseen by Hussain Khan and Tanvir Shah.

The Special Executive Committee comprises distinguished members, including Jyotsna Suri (FICCI), Omar Trambo (Khyber Hotel), Altaf Gunna (Taj Hotel Srinagar), Dr. Imran (CCIK), Ibrahim Siah (TASK), Mr. Farooq Kuthoo (TAAK), representatives from KHBOA, Shafi Wangnoo (Ecotourism Society), Showkat Pakthoon (PLTOF), Nissar Mir (AKTO), Zahoor Karnai (TTIG), Manzoor Wangnoo (NTTA), Rouf Trambo (ATOK), Jaan Mohammad (UTTA), Shahid Bazaaz (TAFOK), Abdul Majeed (Hoteliers Club – Sonamarg Chapter), representatives from TAAI - JKC and IATO - JKC, Mir Anwar (ADTOI - JKC), Shamim Shah (TAFI - National MC), representatives from SKAL - JKC, Zahoor Trambo, Riyaz Panjra (JKHC Srinagar), Riyaz Shaded (JKHC Srinagar), Sheikh Maroof (JKHC Pahalgam), Junaid Rafiqi (JKHC Restaurant), Mubi Shaw (PTA), Haji Abdul Rashid (Tourist Taxi Association), Wali Muhammad (Shikara Association), Farhaan Kitab (General Trade), Sardar Narinder Singh, Fahad Zaroo, Sajid Makai, Saddam Zaroo, Manzoor Burza, Shafi Trambo, Musadiq Shah, representatives from JK Northern Travel Agents Association, Manzoor Shah, Akram SIA, Athar Yameen, Salman Shah, Peer Imtiyaz, Zahoor Malik, Nayeem Nazeer, and representatives from Jammu, Katra, Patnitop, Drass, Kargil, and Leh.

To ensure structured operations, the forum has formed several sub-committees, including the Travel and Tourism Subcommittee, Hospitality Subcommittee, Event Management Subcommittee,

## Govt panel recommends measures to achieve 100 GW nuclear capacity target

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: From legislative amendments to increasing uranium production in India, a government committee has made several recommendations to overcome the challenges facing the 100 GW nuclear capacity target by 2047.

These measures will not only attract private investment in nuclear space but also help with faster clearances required to set up such projects.

In February, Ministry of Power had constituted a committee to prepare a 'Road Map for Achieving the

goal of 100 GW of Nuclear Capacity by 2047'.

The committee has held several rounds of discussions on all aspects of the journey towards 100 GW by 2047 and identified several challenges facing the target and recommended measures needed to mitigate the same. The present nuclear installed capacity in the country is 8.88 GW.

The committee estimates that the incremental investment required to achieve 100 GW capacity based on anticipated capacity mix will be Rs 19 lakh crore.

Amendments to Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage

Act, 2010 (CLNDA) would be essential to bring much needed private capital and to ease risk perception of suppliers and potential investors.

The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 currently does not allow participation of private sector or even state governments in the nuclear projects. This, perhaps was considered necessary due to the need for stringent safety, security and safeguards in atomic power generation.

Further, suppliers and potential operators are apprehensive about some of the provision of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji Shrine on Tuesday. He prayed for peace and prosperity of J&K UT and well-being of one and all.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### From Art 370 to

has taken several steps to enhance national security. These include amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Investigation Agency Act, along with actions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act by the Enforcement Directorate to stop funding of terror groups, he said.

"For the first time, terrorism has been clearly defined under criminal law, addressing previous gaps. So far, more than 57 individuals and several organisations have been declared unlawful," Shah said.

The HM said the NSG's new hub is being established in Ayodhya, joining five existing hubs in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Jammu to respond to terror threats quickly. The commandos will operate around the clock, with special groups ready to respond to any sudden terror attacks, he added.

These actions, Shah said, have made India's security forces capable of dismantling terror networks inside and outside the country. "We have ensured that terrorists do not find safe havens anywhere, whether inside India or abroad," he said.

On the NSG's role, the Home Minister said the force has been operating for over four decades and remains critical in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

"The government will continue to strengthen security measures and maintain readiness to respond to any threats, ensuring the safety of the nation's citizens," he said. (KNO)

### India's response to

targets that we scrutinised," he said, noting a concurrent "harmonised and proactive information warfare campaign."

Describing the military escalation in early May, Lt Gen Ghai said drone activity intensified even after two DGMOs had addressed the situation, prompting the Indian Air Force to act. In precision strikes on the nights of May 9 and 10, he said, Indian forces struck 11 Pakistani air bases – damaging eight bases, three hangars and four radars – and destroyed several Pakistani air assets on the ground.

He also claimed the destruction of one C-130 class aircraft, one AEW (airborne early warning) platform, and "four to five fighter jets," with some assets also destroyed in the air.

"We now know that the world's longest ever ground-to-air kill was at 300 kilometres plus and five high-tech fighters," Lt Gen Ghai said, adding that the "impunity" with which the attacks were conducted by the perpetrators was a key factor prompting a strong response.

All figures and operational details were attributed by Lt Gen Ghai to India's operational account of the events. The DGMO emphasised that the deliberate timing and multi-service coordination of the response reflected the armed forces' flexibility and intent to deliver a carefully calibrated, effective retaliation.

The Army Deputy Chief while referring to the turmoil that prevailed in J&K for three decades, as per KNO, said, "Over 1,00,000 people, including around 60,000 minority families, had

to leave Jammu and Kashmir since 1990 due to threats and violence."

He said, "More than 15,000 civilians and 3,000 security personnel lost their lives in the region over the years." (KNO)

### 'Op Sindoor 2.0'

Kashmir (PoK). The skirmishes that followed continued for 4-days until Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) reached out to his counterpart in India and requested for a ceasefire.

In a strongly worded message, Lt Gen Katiyar said, "If Pakistan repeats what it did, then what we do next will be more than the last time. Operation Sindoor 2.0 has to be more powerful."

Lt Gen Katiyar said Pakistan follows a policy of causing harm through multiple smaller actions rather than open conflict. "It does not have the capacity to fight a war with us. It does not want to fight a war. Its actions are part of the policy of 'bleed India through a thousand cuts,'" he said.

Asked if similar attacks like the one in Pahalgam could happen again, he said, "Until there is a change in Pakistan's thinking, it will continue with these actions."

Earlier during his address at an ex-servicemen rally held to mark 60 years since the 1965 India-Pakistan War ceasefire, Lt Gen Katiyar, as per KNO, said that public support played a key role during Operation Sindoor. "We acted after our people were killed. The response was carried out with the support of the administration, ex-servicemen, and local people."

He said the army remains prepared to act again if needed. "Pakistan will try again. It has always tried to repeat Pahalgam-type attacks. The army is ready to respond. The action this time will be more than last time."

Referring to the 1965 war, Lt Gen Katiyar said that Pakistan had miscalculated the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. "They sent around 10,000 Razakars trained by their army. But they failed to understand the people here. The public supported the army. We were able to drive them back."

He said that the same level of support will be required if another response becomes necessary.

Lieutenant General Manoj Katiyar hailed Operation Sindoor, saying the Indian Army gave a befitting reply to Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack. "Terrorists killed our innocent people. Our befitting reply to Pakistan taught them a lesson."

He assured the public of the Indian Army's readiness to thwart future attacks by the neighbouring country. (KNO)

### Coalition cracks

they said, adding that the party high command would also take a call on the party's future course of action in J&K

The tension between ruling alliance partners erupted after National Conference refused to offer a 'safe' seat to Congress in Rajya Sabha polls. The latter refused to contest the 'riskier'

seat.

The Congress leadership claims that NC president Farooq Abdullah himself had assured a 'safe' seat to the party senior leader Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi. However, they claim, Omar Abdullah later denied of making any such offer to the party during his meeting with party MP and J&K incharge Syed Nasir Hussain. (KNO)

### Non-participation

as per the news agency – Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone's decision to stay out of the elections would favour the BJP. "You and I know who will benefit from this. I appeal to others not to stay out. Not voting for NC means helping the BJP", he said.

While addressing the ongoing political alignments within the INDIA bloc, Omar clarified that the alliance between NC and Congress remains intact. "We did not want to field our candidate in the fourth seat. Congress was expected to contest, as it would have given the best chance of success. But since the party chose not to fight, we had to put our candidate there," he said.

The CM stressed that all opposition parties, including the PDP and Congress, should coordinate to defeat the BJP. "Even though PDP is not our ally, we hope they do not stay out of the election and vote for our candidate. This is a direct contest between NC and BJP," he said.

On the upcoming elections, Abdullah said the party would campaign on its record and future plans. "We will tell people about the work done in the past year and what we intend to achieve in the next four years. We hope the people of Budgam and Nagrota will place their trust in the National Conference once again," he added.

The CM also praised the district administration for the effective use of CAPEX and centrally sponsored schemes and urged them to complete ongoing projects in October, November and December to prevent any lapse of funds before March 31.

On regional developments, Omar said, "What happens in Pakistan and Afghanistan will not affect Jammu and Kashmir directly." He, however, emphasised the importance of peace across the subcontinent. "If our neighbours are fine and relations are stable, we will also be fine," he said. (KNO)

### Tourism revival hasn't

Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that there is a clear slowdown in our economy post the middle of April this year and that will have a bearing on the government's ability to be able to spend as the year goes to a close.

He said that the manufacturing, tourism, handicrafts, handlooms, and unfortunately because of the recent heavy rains and floods both in Jammu and in Kashmir, agriculture and horticulture have also not remained unscathed.

"Our own internal assessment is that coupled with the recent changes in the GST rates, which will obviously impact our GST earnings,

we will have a hold on our GST earnings alone for anything in the range of 900 to 1000 crores this year. And for a state that anyway has a deficit financial position, 1000 crores is a lot of money to lose in terms of earnings in one year. But that said, this is not a situation of doom and gloom. It's not a story of pessimism. It's a story of hope. It's a story of optimism. It's a story of not looking backwards but looking forwards," he said.

The Chief Minister said that he along with his colleagues and friends in the tourism industry is working hard to put things back on track.

"It hasn't been easy. It hasn't been a journey without challenges. We had hoped that the revival would be a little quicker than it has turned out to be. The fact is that while summer was an entirely lost season, in fact even autumn hasn't been as promising as we had hoped. We had hoped to see a reasonably strong tourism growth, particularly from the east of India, centred around the Punjab holidays," he said.

He also said that his year has been difficult – first, because of the Pahalgam terror attack and then the India-Pakistan conflict. "Then, in July, August, and September, there were heavy losses due to rain and flash floods. The result is that the condition in Jammu and Kashmir is very bad. For tourism promotion, one of our teams is in Singapore. Southeast Asia is a very big market for tourism, and we are trying to capitalise on that. We are also promoting tourism in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Ahmedabad," he said.

"We draw a lot of our tourism from West Bengal and large groups from there, which unfortunately this year we didn't see in the numbers that we had hoped to. Now our next hope is for a decent winter season. We hear that this winter will be more extreme than past winters and that we can hope for more snow than perhaps in previous ones. If that's the case, then hopefully we will rebuild our tourism on the snow in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

While speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the FICCI National Executive Committee meeting in Srinagar, the Chief Minister said that he has no knowledge about senior party leader and MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi's decision to stay away from the National Conference's campaign for bypolls in Budgam.

Asked about Ruhullah's recent remark that he would not participate in the party's campaign for bypoll in Budgam, CM Omar said that he didn't know anything about him. (KNO)

### No one can dare

Mukesh Bhanwala, GoC, 26 Infantry Division; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.), President, J&K Ex-Services League; Brig. Gurmeet Singh Shan (Retd.), Director, Sainik Welfare, J&K; senior officials of Security forces, Police and Civil Administration; war veterans, ex-servicemen and veer naris were present.

### J&K's agri sector

working hard with all stakeholders to put the economy back on track," he said.

The Chief Minister informed that the government is simultaneously engaging with domestic and international tourism partners to attract visitors and revive the sector. "Jammu and Kashmir has always been the country's premier destination and we are determined to sustain that legacy," he added.

CM Omar also outlined the areas where the government is focusing on sustainable and competitive industrial growth, including agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, electronics, pharmaceuticals, packaging and cement. He said that new road-connectivity projects such as the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway will further enhance logistics and investment potential.

Reiterating the government's commitment to improving the ease of doing business, the CM invited FICCI's inputs on policy reforms to make J&K more investor-friendly. "We are keen to learn from best practices across the country. Reforms will be guided by feedback from the industry itself," he said.

The Chief Minister also called upon the corporate sector to support Jammu and Kashmir through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in youth-centric areas such as sports infrastructure, libraries and skill upgradation. He urged companies to partner with the government in upgrading Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and skill centres to create an employable local workforce.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the strong partnership between Jammu and Kashmir and FICCI and expressed hope that renewed engagement will yield tangible results for J&K's economic growth.

"This is a long-standing relationship and today's meeting marks another step towards strengthening cooperation and building new opportunities for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

### LC calls for boosting

Governor said this Diwali 'Vocal for Local' should be our mission to boost self-reliance and national pride. "All the families should buy handicrafts, handloom and other traditional products as a gift for Diwali. This will instil patriotism among people and support small businesses," he said.

The Mela organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police, in collaboration with the Police Wives Welfare Association (PWWA), features a wide range of attractions for the people. These include food and shopping stalls, public awareness programmes, Career counselling and educational stalls, live magic show, police band display, spectacular laser show, and fireworks.

DGP Nalin Prabhat; ADGP Headquarters, MK Sinha; ADGP Armed, Anand Jain; IGP Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; serving and retired officials of Police and civil administration, members of Police Wives Welfare Association and a large number of citizens attended the inaugural ceremony.



## WHO issues global alert on substandard Indian cough syrups after child deaths

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued an alert against three "substandard" oral cough syrups identified in India -- Coldrif, Respifresh TR and ReLife -- and urged national regulatory authorities worldwide to immediately notify if these are detected in their country.

It has also advised healthcare professionals to report the detection of these substandard products and any incident of adverse effects, or lack of expected effects to their national regulatory authorities or National Pharmacovigilance Centre.

The alert comes after at least 22 children, mostly under the age of five, have died due to suspected kidney failure after being administered Coldrif in Madhya Pradesh. Besides, at least three children have allegedly died in Rajasthan after consuming cough syrup in different districts of the state.

The WHO has further called for increased surveillance and diligence within the supply chains of countries



and regions likely to be affected by these substandard products.

"Increased surveillance of the informal/unregulated market is also advised," the alert issued on Monday said. The affected products are oral liquid medicines containing active ingredients commonly used to relieve symptoms of common cold, flu, or cough. According to the

alert, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) of India reported to WHO the presence of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) in at least three oral liquid medicines in October 8. This followed information identified by WHO on September 30 of localised clusters of acute illness and child fatalities in India.

The CDSCO informed WHO that

the contaminated products were reportedly consumed by the affected children and confirmed that relevant state authorities have ordered an immediate halt to production at implicated manufacturing sites and have suspended product authorisations. In addition, a recall of the contaminated products has been initiated by relevant state authorities.

The contaminated oral liquid medicines have been identified to be specific batches of Coldrif, Respifresh TR and ReLife, manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceutical, Rednex Pharmaceuticals, and Shape Pharma, the alert said.

The alert stated the CDSCO has informed WHO that none of the contaminated medicines have been exported from India and there is currently no evidence of illegal export.

"Nevertheless, WHO encourages National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to consider targeted market surveillance, with particular attention to informal and unregulated supply chains where products may circulate undetected. NRAs are also advised to carefully evaluate risks

associated with any oral liquid medicines originating from the same manufacturing sites-- particularly those produced since December 2024," the alert stated.

The products identified in this alert are considered substandard as they fail to meet their quality standards and their specifications. These contaminated products pose significant risks to patients and can cause severe and potentially life-threatening illness, the global health agency said. Diethylene glycol is toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal. The contaminated oral liquid medicines referenced in this alert are unsafe and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death. Toxic effects can include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache, altered mental state and acute kidney injury which may lead to death. To protect patients, it is essential to detect and remove these contaminated products from circulation, the alert said.

"Healthcare professionals

should report the detection of these substandard products and any incident of adverse effects, or lack of expected effects to their National Regulatory Authorities or National Pharmacovigilance Centre. The WHO advises increased surveillance and diligence within the supply chains of countries and regions likely to be affected by these substandard products. Increased surveillance of the informal/unregulated market is also advised.

National regulatory authorities and law enforcement authorities are advised to immediately notify the WHO if these products are detected in their country," the alert stated.

"If you are in possession of any of these products, WHO recommends that you do not use them. If you, or someone you know, has, or may have, used these products, or suffered an adverse event or unexpected side-effect after use, seek immediate medical advice from a health-care professional or contact a poisons control centre," it added.

## BJP releases list of 71 candidates for Bihar polls

Fields 2 Dy CMs, 6 ministers



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: The BJP on Tuesday released its first list of 71 candidates for the Bihar Assembly elections, fielding Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha from Tarapur and Lakhsarai seats, respectively, and six state ministers.

The list also includes nine women candidates, including sitting Minister

Renu Devi, who will seek re-election from the Bettiah Assembly constituency. Shreyasi Singh, a sitting MLA and Arjuna awardee, will contest from the Jamui seat, seeking another term.

Sitting ministers Mangal Pandey will contest from Siwan, Nitin Nabin from Bankipur, Nitish Mishra from Jhanyharpur, Krishna Kumar Mantoo from Amnour and Prem Kumar from Gaya Town.

## Why no CCTV cameras in interrogation room of police stations: SC asks Rajasthan govt



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Rajasthan government why no CCTV cameras are installed in the interrogation room of police stations. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed that interrogation room of a police station is the "main place" where CCTV cameras have to be there.

"As per your affidavit, there is no camera in the interrogation room which is the main place where cameras have to be there," the bench said. The top court said installing CCTV cameras would entail cost but "it is a question of human rights".

It also asked the state how it proposes to have an oversight mechanism.

The bench was hearing a suo motu matter concerning lack of functional CCTVs

in police stations.

On September 4, the apex court had taken suo motu cognisance of a media report which stated that 11 lives were lost in police custody in Rajasthan in the first eight months of 2025, of which seven incidents occurred in the Udaipur division.

The apex court had in 2018 ordered installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to check human rights abuses. During the hearing on Tuesday, the bench observed why cannot an agency be involved in the oversight process.

"The feed has to go to some centralised place or agency where there is an oversight," the bench said.

It also heard the submissions of senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, who was appointed as an amicus curiae to assist the court in a separate matter in which the top court had passed an order in December 2020.

## Google to invest \$15 bn in AI hub in Andhra; to partner Adani for India's largest data centre

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: Google will invest USD 15 billion over the next five years in setting up an AI hub in India, which will include the country's largest data centre in partnership with Adani Group.

The AI hub at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh will be Google's largest outside the US and will include 1-gigawatt data centre campus, new large-scale energy sources, and an expanded fiber-optic network, the tech super giant said.

"It's the largest AI hub that we are going to be investing in anywhere in the world outside of the US," Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian said at an event here to sign the formal agreement.

The announcement was made during Bharat AI Shakti, a Google-hosted event in New Delhi which served as a precursor to the upcoming India-AI Impact Summit 2026. The event saw attendance of Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, among others.

"Great to speak with India PM @narendramodi @OfficialINDIAai to share our plans for the first-ever Google AI hub in Visakhapatnam, a landmark development.

"This hub combines gigawatt-scale compute capacity, a new international subsea gateway, and large-scale energy infrastructure. Through it we will bring our industry-leading technology



to enterprises and users in India, accelerating AI innovation and driving growth across the country," Google CEO Sundar Pichai said in a post on X.

Separately, Adani Enterprises, the flagship firm of billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate said its joint venture company Adani-ConneX, and Google will develop India's largest AI data centre campus and new green energy infrastructure in Visakhapatnam.

Google's AI hub in Visakhapatnam is a multi-faceted investment of approximately USD 15 billion over five years (2026-2030), comprising gigawatt-scale data centre operations, supported by a robust subsea cable network and clean energy, to drive the most demanding AI workloads in India.

"It will be brought to life in close collaboration with ecosystem partners including AdaniConneX and

Airtel," the company said in a statement.

It however did not indicate the investment in the data centre.

The project will see co-investment in new transmission lines, clean energy generation and innovative energy storage systems in Andhra Pradesh, the firm said. "The Adani Group is proud to partner with Google on this historic project that will define the future of India's digital landscape," said Gautam Adani, Chairman of Adani Group. "This is more than just an investment in infrastructure. It is an investment in the soul of a rising nation."

To unlock India's massive potential in the AI age, "we are investing in the Google AI hub, which will provide the critical foundation to drive growth and enable businesses, researchers, and creators to build and scale with AI," Kurian said.

An analysis commissioned by Google suggests that the

AI hub is expected to generate at least USD 15 billion over five years (2026-2030) in American gross domestic product (GDP) because of new economic activity from increased cloud and AI adoption, as well as the American talent and resources involved in developing and operating the AI hub. Speaking at the event, Sitharaman said under the Modi regime, several policy enablers have been part of the governance since 2014.

Appreciating Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Naidu, Sitharaman said he in his earlier stints has shown what he can do to scale up digital infrastructure.

"So, I think, it is just the right place to land in and the right country to be in... it is one of those very interesting phases in the Indian history where policy is pushing ahead much before many of the parties in political arena are even ready to absorb," Sitharaman said.

## Haryana cop's death about respect of all Dalits: Rahul



PTI

Chandigarh, Oct 14: Haryana police officer Y Puran Kumar's death is not about the respect of one family but all Dalits, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Tuesday while asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to act immediately in the case.

Addressing reporters after meeting the family of the senior police officer who was found with a gunshot wound in his Chandigarh home last week, Gandhi said there was systematic discrimination against Kumar to demoralise him and damage his career.

"A wrong message is being sent out to Dalits... that no matter how successful you are, if you are Dalit, you can be oppressed

and crushed," the former Congress president said.

He said the Haryana chief minister has not fulfilled his commitment of a free and fair inquiry.

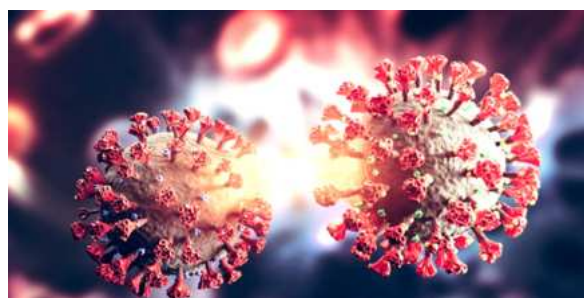
Gandhi said there was a lot of pressure on Kumar's family, particularly his two daughters.

His visit came amid stepped up attacks by the opposition against the Haryana government over Kumar's alleged suicide.

In an eight-page final note purportedly left behind by him, the 52-year-old accused eight senior IPS officers, including Haryana DGP Shatrueet Kapur and now transferred Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya, of "blatant caste-based discrimination, targeted mental harassment, public humiliation and atrocities".

Addressing reporters after meeting the family of the senior police officer who was found with a gunshot wound in his Chandigarh home last week, Gandhi said there was systematic discrimination against Kumar to demoralise him and damage his career.

## COVID-19 may alter offspring's brain dev, cause anxious behaviour, study in mice finds



of anxiety-like behaviours.

"We let male mice recover from SARS-CoV-2 infection for a few weeks before they mated with healthy females. We found that the resulting offspring showed more anxious behaviours compared to offspring from uninfected fathers," Elizabeth Kleeman, research officer and first author of the study

published in the journal Nature Communications, said.

All offsprings from COVID-19-affected fathers were seen to display increased anxiety-like behaviours.

"Using an established mouse-adapted SARS-CoV-2 preclinical model, we infected adult male mice with the virus, or performed a mock

control infection, and bred them with naive female mice four weeks later, when males were no longer infectious. Here we show that offspring of infected sires display increased anxiety-like behaviours," the authors wrote. Lead researcher Anthony Hannan said it is known that male mice exposed to adverse environmental and lifestyle factors, such as consuming a poor diet before mating, can change brain development and behaviour in offsprings.

"This is because the father's experiences can alter the information carried in sperm, including specific RNA molecules, which transmit instructions for offspring development," Hannan said.

Analysis of RNA gene material from infected fathers' sperm showed altered molecules, including those involved in regulating genes known to be important for brain development.

Female offspring mice also had significant changes in how specific genes in the brain's hippocampus region -- important for regulating emotional responses such as anxiety and stress -- behaved, the study found.

"These kinds of changes in the hippocampus, as well as other brain regions, may contribute to the increased anxiety we observed in offspring, via epigenetic inheritance and altered brain development," co-senior author Carolina Gubert

said. Epigenetics refers to the process by which a gene interacts with the environment to produce an observable behaviour.

Hannan said the study is the first of its kind, and added that if the results are verified in humans, millions of children and families worldwide could be impacted, "with major implications for public health".

"While more research is needed, particularly in the sperm and offspring of humans infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, these findings suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic could have long-lasting effects on future generations," the lead researcher said.



# India is a great country with good friend of mine at top, says Trump

PTI

Sharm El-Sheikh, Oct 14: US President Donald Trump on Monday praised India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi without naming him, saying "India is a great country with a good friend of mine at the top". Trump, addressing a summit of world leaders at this Egyptian city after a ceasefire reached in Gaza ending the Israel-Hamas war, said from the podium that he thinks "India and Pakistan will live very nicely together". "India is a great country with a very good friend of mine at the top and he's just done a fantastic job. I think Pakistan and India are going to live very nicely together," Trump said while looking at Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who was standing behind him, as he responded with a chuckle.

Earlier praising Sharif and his "favourite field marshal" Pakistan army chief Gen Asim Munir, Trump also invited the Pakistan prime minister to address the gathering. Sharif said peace has



been achieved in the Middle East after "untiring and relentless efforts" of President Trump. "Pakistan had nominated President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his outstanding (and) extraordinary contributions to first stop the war between India and Pakistan and then achieve a ceasefire along with his very wonderful team," he said. Sharif said he would like to nominate Trump again for the Nobel Peace Prize for "saving

millions of lives not only in South Asia but also in the Middle East". After missing out on the Nobel Peace Prize, Trump has claimed to have resolved eight wars, including the one between India and Pakistan, saying, he did not do this for the Nobel. Trump has been claiming to resolve seven conflicts till now, including the one between India and Pakistan. However, he has now increased that figure to eight after adding

the Israel-Gaza conflict. Since May 10, when Trump announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after a "long night" of talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim dozens of times that he "helped settle" the conflict between India and Pakistan. India has consistently maintained that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

## Trump to attend signing of Thailand-Cambodia 'peace deal'



AFP

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 14: US President Donald Trump will attend the ceremonial signing of a peace agreement between Thailand and Cambodia at an upcoming summit of Southeast Asian nations, the foreign minister of host Malaysia said Tuesday. Tensions between Thailand and Cambodia erupted in July into the deadliest military clashes in decades, killing more than 40 people and forcing around 300,000 to flee their homes.

The two sides agreed to a ceasefire — brokered in part by Trump — after five days of fighting, and have since repeatedly traded accusations of truce violations. Trump "is looking forward to witness the Thailand-Cambodia peace deal," Mohamad Hasan told reporters at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur. Mohamad said the US leader would visit Malaysia on October 26 to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in the Malaysian capital from October 26-28. He said Malaysia and the United States would serve as facilitators to "see a more extensive ceasefire deal" between Thailand and Cambodia, which will require "both sides to remove all land mines and withdraw their military machinery from their borders." "We hope that both parties can fulfil these conditions and during the ASEAN summit a declaration can be signed. "We can call it the Kuala Lumpur Declaration or the Kuala Lumpur Accord, we want to make sure that these two neighboring countries can come together to make peace and also implement their ceasefire," Mohamad added.

## UN says states willing to fund Gaza's \$70 billion rebuild



REUTERS

Ankara/Geneva, Oct 14: There are promising early indications from countries, including the United States as well as Arab and European states, about their willingness to contribute to the \$70 billion cost of rebuilding Gaza, a United Nations Development Programme official said on Tuesday. "We've had very good indications already," UNDP's Jaco Cilliers told reporters at a press conference in Geneva, without giving details. He estimated that the two-year Israel-Hamas war had generated at least 55 million tonnes of rubble. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan earlier said he will seek the support of Gulf states, the United States and Europe for the reconstruction of Gaza under the new ceasefire deal, and he believed project financing will be provided swiftly.

## ODI World Cup is still 2.5 years away, need to stay in present: Gambhir on Rohit, Kohli future

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are keen on playing the 2027 ODI World Cup but India head coach Gautam Gambhir was non-committal over the star duo's future on Tuesday, saying the ODI World Cup is still more than two years away and "it is important to stay in the present".



With Shubman Gill's appointment as the ODI skipper, the national selectors have already hit the transition button in ODI cricket and there is a lot of doubt over the future of the ageing stalwarts who will be 39 (Kohli) and 40 (Rohit) respectively in 2027. "The 50-over World Cup is still two and a half years away. It is very important to stay in the present. Obviously they are quality players. They are coming back. Their experience is going to be valuable in Australia. "Hopefully those two guys can have a successful tour, and more importantly, as a team we can have a successful series," Gambhir said when asked about the future of the two former skippers. It is believed that a lot will depend on how the duo plays in the nine ODIs in the next couple of months (3 vs Australia, 3 vs SA and 3 vs NZ).

when he wants to blood a player in the national team, Gambhir presented his checklist. "First and foremost, you look at talent. Then you look at the work ethic. You look at the characters in that dressing room, especially in red-ball cricket. "You look at what they bring on the table, apart from the amount of runs and wickets they do, I think how hungry they are. And if you've got all those attributes, you will definitely have a successful Test career." With so much of competition for slots, Gambhir feels that international cricket is an "insecure environment". "For me, giving them a longer run is very, very important because as we all know that international cricket is a very insecure environment because only 15 players can go on to represent the country and there are so many people waiting for their opportunity. "So make sure first you pick the right characters and then if you see that, try and give them a longer

run so that they themselves should be content and happy that they've got a longer run rather than just chopping and changing as well." Personally, Gambhir has an aversion towards the word "dropping" and he feels emotional when a worthy player misses out on a national team berth. "Sometimes it's difficult as a head coach and a team management where you will have to sometimes leave out players. I don't like using this word, dropping players because you don't drop players, you only select players." "When a player is left out, the least a coach can do is be empathetic and not ruthless." For Gambhir, the Test squad that went to England was superb in terms of its work ethic and ticked all the right boxes. "So for me, I think that is something which is exceptionally important and these guys have done their bit, especially on the England tour, the kind of work ethic they had shown. For me, that was a huge tick."

## 'No one has done Shubman any favour, he has earned right to be India skipper'

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 14: Shubman Gill has "already passed his toughest test as captain in England" and no one has done any favours by appointing him captain across two formats, head coach Gautam Gambhir couldn't stop waxing eloquent about the young skipper. As he turned 44 on Tuesday, the birthday boy couldn't have asked for a better present -- India's victory as the hosts completed a 2-0 clean sweep of West Indies' in Gill's first series at home as captain. When asked how as a coach is he managing the new skipper, Gambhir was prompt with his answer. "(By) just allowing him to be himself. I think no one has done him a favour by appointing him the Test captain or (the

one-day captain. I think he deserves every bit of it," Gambhir said. "I think he's worked hard. He has already passed his toughest test as captain -- that was in England, five Tests away from home in tough conditions against a quality team." Gambhir, right now, is focussed on the present and doesn't want to fret over whether India will play the 2027 World Test Championship final or not. "For me, I am not looking ahead at what is going to happen in the World Test Championship final in 2027. That is still a long, long way away. I think, staying in the present is very important. It was important for us to win this series at home. More importantly, I think we have got a very busy schedule. Hopefully, we can keep continuing from here."

## Zelensky to visit Washington seeking long-range weapons

AP

Kyiv, Oct 14: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he will travel to the United States this week for talks on the potential US provision of long-range weapons, a day after US President Donald Trump warned Russia he may send Kyiv long-range Tomahawk missiles. A meeting between Zelensky and Trump could take place as early as Friday, the Ukrainian president said, adding that he also would meet with defense and energy companies and members of Congress. "The main topics will be air defense and our long-range capabilities, to maintain pressure on Russia," Zelensky said. He spoke at a meeting with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas. He said he also would seek further US assistance to protect Ukraine's electricity and gas networks, which have faced relentless Russian bombardment. The US visit follows what Zelensky described as a "very productive" phone call with Trump on Sunday. Trump later warned Russia that he may send Ukraine long-range Tomahawk missiles if Moscow doesn't settle its war there soon. The missiles would allow Ukraine to strike deeper into Russian territory. Moscow has expressed "extreme concern" over the



US potentially providing Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin himself has previously suggested that the US supplying long-range missiles to Ukraine would seriously damage relations between Moscow and Washington. Zelensky will join a Ukrainian delegation already in the US for preliminary talks, led by Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko. Russia has stepped up attacks in recent weeks targeting electricity and gas infrastructure ahead of winter, in an effort to cripple Ukraine's power grid ahead of freezing temperatures to erode public morale. Ukraine's State Emergency Service said the worst attacks early Monday using

drones and missiles occurred around the Black Sea port of Odesa and in the northern Chernihiv region, where one person was killed. Kallas, the EU's top diplomat, pledged continued pressure on Moscow. She also expressed confidence that objections led by Hungary to a new Russia sanctions package would be overcome, even if the process drags on past a meeting of EU leaders next week. "On funding, the needs are enormous. We must help Ukraine defend itself so we don't later spend even more repairing destroyed infrastructure," Kallas said. "We are 27 member states, and 27 democracies, so debates take time ... I'm positive that, as before, we'll achieve a decision."

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HINDI - 02:10 PM, 07:15 PM

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)  
HINDI - 12:00 PM, 05:05 PM

KANTARA A LEGEND: CHAPTER 1 (UA16+)  
HINDI - 11:00 AM, 02:30 PM, 03:40 PM, 06:00 PM

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