

9-day autumn session of J&K Assembly to begin today

» Obituary reference for 6 deceased MLAs listed in day-1 business » Opp to corner govt over election promises, reservation, statehood

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 22: The nine-day autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly is expected to be stormy, with opposition parties gearing up to corner the ruling National Conference (NC)-led government over a range of issues.

The session, comprising six sittings, will begin tomorrow with obituary references for six former legislators who passed away after the last budget session held in Jammu.

The proceedings are expected to be stormy, with the opposition expected to target the government over governance failures, unfulfilled



promises made in the NC's election manifesto, demands for statehood, and reservation-related concerns.

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

will demand accountability from the NC-led government for what he described as a "betrayal of electoral promises." "The government has failed to deliver on its commitments made during the elections—whether it is the promise of 200 free units of electricity, 12

LPG cylinders per household, or other assurances given to the people," Sharma said.

He further said that the BJP will question the government on its inability to create employment opportunities for the youth. "In the election, the government promised to create one lakh jobs for the youth, but they have done nothing. We will ask them what they have done for the youth in the past year," he added.

Meanwhile, smaller Kashmir-based opposition parties such as the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peoples Conference (PC), and Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) are expected to agitate over issues like statehood | [More on P6](#)

NC will win all 4 Rajya Sabha seats: CM Omar Abdullah

■ Says Cong cannot favour BJP's win

■ Asks LoP to stop issuing 'baseless' statements

■ Confirms Shami Oberoi met PDP Chief for support

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Oct 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday exuded hope that the National Conference (NC) would emerge victorious in all four seats in the Rajya Sabha elections, slated to be held on October 24. He also urged the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, to stop issuing baseless statements. On the sidelines of the joint



strategy meeting, the Chief Minister, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), told media persons that ahead of every Assembly session, a Legislature Party Meeting is conducted, and today, NC and other

independents held a meeting to devise a strategy.

"This session is different from others as elections for the Rajya Sabha are being held, and a

strategy was being prepared to secure victory in all the seats," he said, terming today's meeting as significant.

"I am thankful to Tarigami and other independents for attending the meeting. With the enthusiasm that can be seen among the NC MLAs and other independents, I am hopeful that NC will secure all four Rajya Sabha seats," he said.

Furthermore, | [More on P6](#)

Foundation for 'Op Sindoor' was laid in 2016 after Uri terror attack: Army Chief

'Situation was nothing new to me, had seen it before'



KNO Monitoring Desk

New Delhi, Oct 22: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday said that the foundation for 'Operation Sindoor' was laid down in 2016 soon after Pakistan sponsored terrorists attacked an Army camp near Line of Control (LoC) at Uri in North Kashmir's Baramulla District.

Speaking at the unveiling of "Civil Military Fusion as a Metric of National Power and Comprehensive Security" book and "Portraits of Valour: Timeless Military Art" coffee table book by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the Army Chief, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Higher command course always talks about 'why'. Three things which I picked up from him [Lt Gen Raj Shukla (Retd)] at that point in time...The second thing was the foundation for Operation Sindoor. At that time (in 2016) Uri had happened and he conducted a detailed discussion and various options, how should we go about this situation which comes in future."

Referring to 'Operation

Sindoor' that was launched to avenge April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead, the Army Chief said that when the situation was discussed with him it was nothing new as when the Uri attack had happened all the options were discussed to deal with the situations that could arise in future. "So, I must concede very frankly, when this situation came to me, it was a very normal thing for me because I had already seen this earlier."

Pertinently, earlier this month the Army Chief had issued a fierce warning to Pakistan. "If the neighbouring country continues to support terrorism it will lose its geographical presence. If Pakistan wants to retain its place on the map, it must stop state-sponsored terrorism," the Army Chief had said speaking at an Army post in Rajasthan's Anupgarh.

He had maintained that the Indian forces won't show any restraint this time, hinting that a second version of 'Operation Sindoor' wouldn't be far away if Islamabad refuses to med its ways.

"This time | [More on P6](#)



Celebrating the spirit of Diwali at Lal Chowk's historic Ghanta Ghar with lights, joy, and togetherness. Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Youth's energy, discipline reflect city's true spirit: SSP Sgr

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 22: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. Sandeep Chakravarty Wednesday said that Srinagar Police is committed to engaging the city's youth in positive and constructive activities to keep them away from the menace of drugs.

He said the youth's energy and discipline reflect the city's true spirit and strength.

Speaking at the grand finale of the Under-20 Football Tournament organized under the Civic Action Programme, SSP Dr. Chakravarty, according

to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Our focus is to connect young people with positive avenues like sports and education. Youth's energy, discipline and enthusiasm are the true identity of Srinagar."

He said the police will continue organizing such events to encourage young talent and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. "We will continue organizing such programs to further boost the enthusiasm and energy of our youth," the SSP added.

Notably, the final match, played between | [More on P6](#)

Police attach house linked to narcotics trade

KNO

Shopian, Oct 22: As part of on-going measures to curb narcotics-related activities, police in Shopian on Wednesday said to have attached a single-story residential house valued at Rs 15,44,523, with a plinth area of 1258 sq. ft. under Survey No. 498 min, belonging to Mukhtar Ahmad Naikoo, resident of Meemander Shopian.

The property has been found to be acquired using money obtained through the sale of illegal drugs and narcotics. The accused has been previously involved in



multiple NDPS cases, including FIR No. 41/2016 and FIR No. 27/2020 of Police Station Shopian, a | [More on P6](#)

Teenager dies while extracting sand in Bla

KNO

Baramulla, Oct 22: A 17-year-old boy died on Wednesday morning after being critically injured while extracting sand in the Singpora area of Pattan in Baramulla district, officials said.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the boy had suffered severe head injuries late last night while extracting sand.

He was rushed to JVC hospital, Bemina in critical condition, where doctors declared him dead early this morning.

He has been identified as Amjaad (17) of Singpora. Police have taken cognisance of the incident. (KNO)

Two absconders evading arrest for 5 years arrested: Police

KNO

Ganderbal, Oct 22: In a significant action against fugitives evading the law, police in Ganderbal on Wednesday said to have traced and arrested two absconders who were evading arrest for the last 05 years.

"The arrested individuals have been identified as Mohd Saleem Sheikh son of Mohmad Ramzan Sheikh and Rehana Begum w/o Mohd Saleem Sheikh, both residents of Panzipora Sopore, involved in Case FIR No. 47/2021 U/S 420, 34, 201/IPC," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The accused persons were apprehended by Police during a special operation and were produced today before the Court Addl. Special Mobile Magistrate Ganderbal for further legal proceedings, police said.

Meanwhile, Police reiterated its commitment to bring all absconders and offenders of law to justice and maintain peace, order, and accountability in the district. (KNO)

Govt proposes tighter rules for AI-content, deepfakes

Moots labelling, greater onus on platforms

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: The government on Wednesday proposed changes to IT rules, mandating the clear labelling of AI-generated content and increasing the accountability of large platforms like Facebook and YouTube for verifying and flagging synthetic information to curb user harm from deepfakes and misinformation. The IT Ministry noted that



deepfake audio, videos and synthetic media going viral on social platforms have demonstrated the potential of generative AI to create "convincing

falsehoods", where such content can be "weaponised" to spread misinformation, damage reputations, manipulate or influence elections, or commit

financial fraud.

The proposed amendments to IT rules provide a clear legal basis for labelling, traceability, and accountability related to synthetically-generated information.

Apart from clearly defining synthetically generated information, the draft amendment, on which comments from stakeholders have been sought by November 6, 2025, mandates labelling, visibility, and metadata embedding for synthetically generated or modified information to distinguish such content from authentic media.

The stricter rules would

increase the accountability of significant social media intermediaries (those with 50 lakh or more registered users) in verifying and flagging synthetic information through reasonable and appropriate technical measures.

The draft rules mandate platforms to label AI-generated content with prominent markers and identifiers, covering a minimum of 10 per cent of the visual display or the initial 10 per cent of the duration of an audio clip.

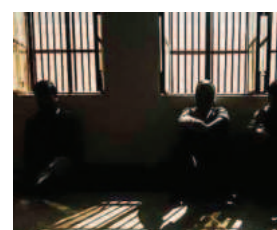
It requires significant social media platforms to obtain a user declaration on whether uploaded information | [More on P6](#)

Man gets 20 years of RI for raping minor in Udhampur

PTI

Jammu, Oct 22: A court in Jammu and Kashmir has sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor girl in Udhampur district and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on him.

Police secured the conviction of the accused in a sensitive POCSO case registered at Police Station Ramnagar in 2020 wherein the accused, Mohammad



Arshad alias Nikka, was charged with the sexual assault of a minor girl, a police spokesperson said.

Following an investigation, the | [More on P6](#)

IHPL: Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements

‘Adhere to online ticketing mechanism strictly’

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22: The first edition of T20 Indian Heaven Premier League shall commence from 25th October at Bakhshi Stadium featuring International, National and local players.

The high octane league will see the participation of eight teams for a fortnight while the stadium is expected to remain brimmed with the crowd coming from all across the J&K.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the mega sports event, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg today chaired a comprehensive meeting of officers from various departments to take first hand appraisal of the preparations to set the stage ready for IHPL.

While reviewing the arrangements for the itinerary of the players, Div Com directed organisers to keep security agencies informed about the arrival, accommodation and movement of all players. The meeting



was informed that around 25 thousand to 30 thousand spectators are expected to watch the matches directly in the stadium.

On the occasion, Div Com directed organisers to confine booking of maximum tickets through online mechanism only

to facilitate smooth crowd management.

He also directed police and security officers to deploy adequate personnel to assist crowd control in an organized manner.

Div Com also instructed organisers to strictly adhere to the timelines for entry of spectators and conclusion of daily matches while DC Srinagar was directed to depute magistrates to facilitate coordination among stakeholders.

Regarding drone coverage, Div Com instructed concerned agencies to approach the district administration for proper permission.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed concerned officers of Jal Shakti and PDD to ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water & electricity at the venue.

Garg urged SMC, Sports Council and event organizers to conduct a continuous cleanliness and sanitation drive to avoid littering around the venue.

He instructed IHPL Organisers

to strictly mention food items that shall be allowed into the stadium for match viewers.

To take care of any medical exigency, Div Com directed the Health Department to deploy ambulances fully equipped with features and medicine besides asking officers to prepare a roster for medical & paramedical staff for the deployment at the venue.

He also instructed for identification of parking places to avoid inconvenience to the public and ensure proper traffic management.

He also directed for stationing of fire tenders near the stadium to combat any eventuality of fire incident.

Besides DC Srinagar, the meeting was attended by officers from various departments including Sports Council, SMC, Information, Jal Shakti, PDD, Traffic, Police, Airport Authority, Tourism, Health, Fire Services and other concerned departments.

DM Bla for strict anti-drug measures

Chairs 21st NCORD meeting

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 22: District Magistrate (DM) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Wednesday chaired the 21st meeting of the Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Baramulla to review the district's ongoing efforts to curb drug abuse and strengthen enforcement under the NDPS Act.

During the meeting, the DM directed all law enforcement agencies to ensure strict implementation of NDPS laws and to intensify awareness programmes on the harmful effects of drug abuse, particularly among youth and students. He also emphasized taking strict action against persons found smoking in public places, especially around educational institutions.

The DM further instructed for 100% installation of CCTV cameras in all educational

institutions and identified hot-spots to enhance monitoring and surveillance.

He also directed the Police, Revenue, and Excise Departments to carry out joint drives for the destruction of bhang (cannabis) cultivation, ensuring close coordination for effective results.

While reviewing overall progress under NCORD, the DM stressed the importance of community participation, urging Public representatives, religious leaders, and educational institutions to actively support the administration's anti-drug initiatives.

The meeting was attended by ADC Sopore, ADC Baramulla, SDM Uri, SDM Pattan, ASP Baramulla and representatives from Excise, Education, Health, Social Welfare, and other concerned departments, who shared updates on ongoing anti-narcotic measures in the district.

VWC members of Zainapora flagged off to exposure visit

KT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 22: In a significant step towards promoting climate resilience and sustainable development, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed Wednesday flagged off an exposure visit of 29 Village Watershed Committees (VWCs) members of Zainapora area to Seer Hamdan, Anantnag, under the NABARD-supported Spring Shed development project initiative.

This visit aims to enhance the understanding of watershed management practices, sustainable livelihood models and natural resource conservation among VWC members with a focus on adapting to the challenges posed by climate change.

The visiting team from various Village Watershed Committees, will tour Seer Hamdan, a model Spring Shed area, in Anantnag to gain first-hand experience of successful interventions implemented there, including innovative approaches to water harvesting, soil conservation and agroforestry. These initiatives have not only improved the local ecosystem but also enhanced the community's resilience to climate-related stressors.

Speaking on the occasion, SDM Zainapora emphasized the importance of such initiatives in building local capacities and promoting community-led sustainable development, particularly in the context of climate change and appreciated NABARD for its continued support in rural development. He encouraged participants to replicate best practices in their respective areas tailoring them to the specific needs and challenges of their local environments.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Revenue, SDM office, NABARD representatives and members of various VWCs, all of whom are committed to working together to promote climate-resilient development in the region.

SWD Sgr organizes training programme

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Srinagar Wednesday organized a Training-cum-Sensitization Programme on various Welfare Schemes for Women, Senior Citizens, and Persons with Disabilities at the Conference Hall, ADR Centre, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar.

The programme was held with the Supervisors of Mission Poshan to enhance their understanding and capacity to disseminate information about different welfare initiatives among local communities.

The programme aimed to equip participants with detailed knowledge of various welfare schemes so they can effectively inform and assist community members in availing benefits, improving livelihoods, and



accessing their rights.

Speaking on the occasion, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Srinagar, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, highlighted the importance of organizing such programmes with frontline workers of Mission Poshan. He emphasized their pivotal role in reaching out to the

community and ensuring the successful implementation of welfare schemes at the local level.

During the programme, District Mission Coordinator, Ruqaya Ashraf, delivered a detailed presentation on various welfare schemes being implemented by the Department of Social

Welfare for different sections of society, including Women, Senior Citizens, and Persons with Disabilities.

Additionally, the District Mission Coordinator of SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women, Srinagar, gave a comprehensive overview of welfare and livelihood schemes from various departments, including Social Welfare, Mission Vatsalya, Labour, Mission Yuva, Mission Youth, JKEDI, J&K Women's Development Corporation, Agriculture, Sheep Husbandry, and Animal Husbandry.

The significance of organizing such Programmes is to improve access and awareness, to develop skills for self-sufficiency, to promote entrepreneurship, to handle administrative procedures, to address specific needs, to ensure quality and outcomes.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No:- 83/7085-94/2025-26/RnB/Bla Dated 18.10.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. on JKPWDOMS With J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works. The Contractors should mandatorily be registered on JKPWDOMS for making online payment to the agency as per Govt. Order No.: 186-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 08-05-2023:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest money. (In Rs.)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of comp-letion	Class of Cont-ractor	Major Head of Account	Project Authority	Position of AAA	Position of funds
1	Construction of Material Recovery Facility (Solid Waste Management) at MC Baramulla	213.78	427560/-	5500/-	18Months	AAY	SBM/ SWM	Director Urban Local Bodies (K)	Accorded (Order No DULBK/ Ping/2025-26/633 of 2025 Dt. 14-08-2025)	Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	18.10.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20.10.2025 to 10.11.2025 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	27.10.2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	10.11.2025 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	11.11.2025 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the name of work/ NIT No. in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG (between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award in the form of CDR/FDR/BG (The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP), strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Advertised Cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Baramulla.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process If:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 7085-94

DIPK-7353/25
DATED: 22.10.2025

Executive Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF(J.) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 6TH.

Subject: 1. Installation of Hand pumps at ST Basti Kawun Panchayat Mehmoodabad-B in District Anantnag.

2. Installation of Handpump at ST Basti Sabri Mohallah Shealnag Panchayat Mehmoodabad-B in District Anantnag.

3. Installation of Handpump at ST Basti Nagpatti Anderwan, Block Sagam in District Anantnag.

Reference:This office e-NIT No. 27-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./4370-80, dated: 05-08-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_283479_1,2 & 3.

Due to "No/Poor Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 14-10-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	27-10-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	28-10-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No:- JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./9685-94
Dated: 14-10-2025

DIPK-7373/25
DATED: 22.10.2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

Ladakh, MHA talks resume over long-standing demands

SAJID RAINA

New Delhi, Oct 22: After several months of a freeze in communication, dialogue between the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and representatives from Ladakh Union Territory resumed on Wednesday.

Reportedly, the discussions focused on four specific demands, including statehood for Ladakh, inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, implementation of reservation measures, and the removal of the National Security Act (NSA) imposed on climate activist Sonam Wangchuk.

The talks lasted close to two hours and included a nine-member delegation comprising leaders from the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), along with Ladakh's Member of Parliament Mohd Haneefa Jan.

This meeting marked a



renewed effort to find common ground after recent unrest in Leh and long-standing demands from the region's civil groups.

According to members present at the meeting, discussions were held on each point raised. On statehood and the Sixth Schedule, the delegation explained that Ladakh required greater control over its resources, land, and administrative mechanisms. They

also pointed to the need for stronger constitutional tools to protect employment and cultural practices. Reservation policies for local communities formed another part of the agenda.

Official sources said that the MHA is expected to examine various options and conduct follow-up discussions to shape a policy that includes representation across different social groups

in the region.

Member of the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), Sajjad Hussain Kargili, said their demand for the past six years has been the restoration of democracy in Ladakh, with statehood being the best solution.

He added that the issue could not be resolved in one or two meetings as it required a process, which was already underway.

"The discussions also covered the implementation of a reservation policy in Ladakh, the release of those detained in connection with the September 24 incident, including Sonam Wangchuk, and compensation for those who were killed or injured in the incident," Kargili said.

Member of Parliament (MP) Hanifa Jaan said the meeting between Ladakh's leadership and senior officials of the Union Home Ministry reflected a serious and sincere approach

towards resolving the region's long-pending issues.

"The discussions focused on demands related to statehood, inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, and constitutional safeguards, with all key points presented strongly before the Ministry," he said.

Jan noted that while a final decision could not be reached in a single sitting, the meeting marked an important step forward. He expressed hope that the ongoing process would lead to meaningful progress on the issues facing Ladakh.

The meeting follows an announcement by the MHA on October 17 that a judicial inquiry would be held into the September 24 violence in Leh. That incident, which broke out during a protest called by LAB, resulted in four deaths and several injuries. It also led to dozens being taken into custody, including Wangchuk—(KNO)

NEP made education simpler: Jitendra Singh

YOGESH

Jammu, Oct 22: Asserting that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has made education simpler, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that in PM Modi's regime there has been democratisation of opportunities.

While distributing free laptops among the top-performing female students of his constituency, Dr Singh said that the government led by PM Modi has introduced several dedicated schemes for women, and in the wake of Diwali, laptops could be the ideal gift for meritorious girl students.

"In the last 11 years, PM Modi has encouraged the education of girl students and introduced several dedicated schemes for them. In the Civil Services Exam, female students have consistently been the toppers. In 2014-15, 16 female students were toppers. Last year, two out of the first three toppers were females in the IAS exams. In Jammu and Kashmir, girls are becoming IAS from places



like Kishtwar and Rajouri," he said, adding, "After PM Modi came to power, there has been democratisation of opportunities, democratisation of information available for preparation. Those students who are dedicated do not need any coaching, as everything is available on laptops and mobiles. The National Education Policy has made education simpler."

Dr Jitendra Singh said, "Among the other schemes of PM Modi, in 2014, there used to be nearly 400 start-ups, but now it is 1 lakh 75,000. Nearly 50,000 to 60,000 start-ups are women-led. Women are leading projects in space, Aditya, Chandrayaan-3. In the Mudra scheme, no

gratuity or mortgage is required. Fifty four and half crore loan has been distributed in Mudra scheme, and 68 percent loans in that have been given to women."

Dr Singh said, "There is an aspirational surge in the youth, especially the women. On the occasion of Diwali, what better gift could there be for meritorious girl students. We have given this present to the topper girl students today. May they achieve their goals, and may we become a small means to that."

He stated that this is the same government that has extended maternity leave to six months and introduced mid-career schemes for women—(KNO)

Fire safety tightened for winter

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 22: The Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, has issued a circular instructing all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) across the valley to implement strict fire safety measures ahead of the winter season.

The move comes after repeated advisories failed to prevent recurring fire incidents, which have caused significant loss of life and property.

According to the circular, it has been observed with serious concern that, despite awareness campaigns, a substantial number of fire incidents continue to be reported across various districts of the Kashmir Division, particularly during the winter months.

The circular states that these incidents have resulted in significant loss of life and property, primarily due to electrical short circuits, improper handling of heating appliances, and unsafe storage of combustible materials.

"Accordingly, all Deputy Commissioners are hereby requested to undertake the following preventive, supervisory, and enforcement measures within their respective jurisdictions," it reads.

The circular adds that DCs should formulate and implement a comprehensive District-Level Winter Fire Safety Plan in coordination with the Fire & Emergency Services Department, Power Development Department (PDD), Public Health Engineering (PHE), Health Department, and Municipal & Panchayat authorities. The Department of Fire & Emergency Services shall designate one District-Level Nodal Officer for the purpose. Awareness Campaigns: Launch intensive public awareness drives through electronic, print, and social media platforms to sensitize residents about the safe handling of electrical and heating appliances, LPG usage, and fire prevention measures.

Inspection of Wiring and Electrical Load: Ensure that PDD teams conduct random inspections of residential and commercial wiring, with particular attention to high-risk areas prone to overloading, congested urban centers with wooden structures, and substandard electrical installations.

Fire Safety Audits: Direct Fire & Emergency Services to undertake fire safety audits of congested urban localities, government offices, hospitals, schools, markets, and residential clusters. Ensure that identified deficiencies are rectified within a fixed timeframe.

Combustible Storage Regulation: Take strict action against the improper storage of combustible materials, such as dry grass, firewood, and LPG cylinders, in congested localities or residential premises.

Hamam and Gas Heater Safety: Conduct awareness and inspection drives for hamams and LPG/gas heaters, particularly emphasizing the removal of LPG cylinders from bedrooms during night hours. Coordination with Local Bodies: Direct Municipal Committees, Panchayats, and Urban Local Bodies to ensure unobstructed fire lanes, accessible water points, and readiness of local fire hydrants throughout the winter months. Emergency Preparedness: Review district disaster management preparedness, including the availability of fire tenders, emergency water sources, and quick response teams, especially in snow-bound areas.—(KNO)

Iodised salt combats iodine deficiency: Doctors

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Oct 22: "There is a need for consuming iodised salt to prevent iodine deficiency - a silent but serious nutritional disorder that continues to affect millions across the globe," doctors in Kashmir said.

Although awareness about the use of iodised salt has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir, experts warn that lapses in its use can still lead to grave health complications, particularly among women and children. Dr Shabir Ahmad Dar from the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) said that iodine is a vital micronutrient required for the production of thyroid hormones, which regulate

metabolism, growth, and development.

"When the body does not get enough iodine, the thyroid gland enlarges in an attempt to capture more iodine from the bloodstream, leading to the formation of a goitre - a visible swelling in the neck," he said.

Dr Dar said that iodine deficiency is one of the leading causes of preventable brain damage in children. "In pregnant women, the deficiency can lead to miscarriages, stillbirths, and mental disability in newborns. Children born to iodine-deficient mothers often suffer from developmental delays, stunted growth, and lower IQ levels," he added.

Dr Bashir Ahmad Mir, a paediatrician, said

that despite significant progress under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP), there is still a need for continuous awareness and monitoring.

"The use of iodised salt is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent iodine deficiency. Every household must ensure that the salt they use is adequately iodised," he said.

Recent health surveys, including NFHS-5, have shown encouraging trends, with around 98 per cent of households reportedly using iodised salt. However, officials caution that proper storage and usage are equally important, as iodine can evaporate if the salt is exposed to moisture or heat for

prolonged periods.

Doctors said that preventive measures include the iodised salt for daily cooking and ensuring it is stored in an airtight container away from moisture and sunlight, educating communities about the importance of iodine in the diet, conducting regular health check-ups and awareness programs, especially in remote and rural areas and encouraging monitoring of iodine levels in commercially sold salt to ensure compliance with health standards.

They have urged the people to be vigilant and consistent in using iodised salt, stressing that the cost of prevention is negligible compared to the lifelong impact of iodine deficiency disorders.

IHPL 2025....

Global cricket stars to play in Srinagar



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 22: The Kashmir Valley is all set for a blockbuster cricket season as a wave of international and domestic cricket stars prepare to descend on Srinagar for the Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL)—2025, kicking off on October 25 at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

According to details, several big names from around the cricketing world have been confirmed for the inaugural edition of the IHPL.

The details reveal that among the marquee signings are West Indies legend Chris Gayle, New Zealand's explosive opener Martin Gush, Australian star Shaun Marsh, Bangladeshi all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and West Indian spinner Garey Mathurin.

Adding to the excitement, former West Indies opener Devon Smith and J&K's very own Parvez Rasool, along with Ishan Malhotra, are also set to feature in the

tournament, bringing a blend of international flair and local pride to the Valley.

As excitement builds ahead of the tournament, a series of video messages from international players have gone viral on social media. Details accessed by KNO reveal that global cricket stars expressed their enthusiasm for the 'Indian Heaven Premier League', sharing messages of anticipation and support for Kashmir's upcoming cricket spectacle.

Meanwhile, the upcoming tournament follows the tremendous success of the Legends League Cricket (LLC) 2024 matches held last year, where thousands of spectators filled Bakshi Stadium to witness international legends in action for the first time in four decades.

Notably, for fans, this marks yet another chance to see their heroes play at Kashmir soil, with turning the Valley into a true "Valley of Cricket."—(KNO)

Garbage disaster looms over Wullar Lake



SAJID RAINA

Bandipora, Oct 22: North Kashmir's Bandipora district is witnessing a growing environmental crisis as another shore of the famous Wullar Lake, located in the Puthshay area, is rapidly transforming into a dumping site.

This follows a similar situation at Zalwan, which locals termed the failure of local authorities to enforce effective solid waste management measures.

A visit to the site revealed heaps of foul-smelling garbage dumped along the lake's edge, causing significant inconvenience to residents and marred the beauty of the area, which is located near the proposed site for the fruit mandi.

The situation is aggravated by stray dogs scavenging through the waste, posing a safety risk to people passing by. "Many people have been bitten by these dogs in recent times," said Muhammad Amin, a

local resident. He recalled a time when the area was cleaner, with boats moored along the shore, but lamented how the place has deteriorated over the years. "The garbage has spread everywhere, and while the authorities are responsible, people's careless behaviour is also to blame," he added.

He also noted that the location's proximity to the Bandipora-Sopore road worsens the problem.

Adding to the environmental degradation, locals said that dead animals are frequently dumped here, further contaminating the area. Saleem Dar, another resident, expressed concern over the government's inaction despite multiple complaints. "The administration is spending large sums of money trying to clean the lake, but people keep polluting it," he said.

He warned that toxic substances from the waste could dissolve into

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

the water, posing a severe threat to the lake's ecosystem. Dar urged that proper scientific methods be adopted to manage and treat the waste effectively.

Locals also blamed the general public for contributing to the pollution. "If the people who live here don't protect Wullar Lake, who else will?" questioned a group of residents.

They called on the administration to impose strict penalties on those responsible for dumping waste, stressing that such action is crucial to prevent further damage to the lake. Residents said the Rural Development Department (RDD) has been involved in cleanup efforts for several weeks, but without public cooperation and stricter enforcement, these efforts are unlikely to bring lasting relief.

An official said that he will look into the matter—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Simplify Labour Registration For J&K's Construction Workers

The cumbersome process for registering construction workers in Jammu and Kashmir has become a barrier preventing thousands from accessing the welfare benefits they rightfully deserve. While the government has established welfare boards and schemes aimed at supporting this vulnerable workforce, the complex registration procedures have effectively excluded many genuine labourers from the social security net they helped build through their contributions. The construction industry forms the backbone of J&K's infrastructure

development, employing a substantial portion of our workforce. These workers endure harsh conditions to build our homes, roads, and institutions, yet when it comes to accessing their legal entitlements—whether educational assistance for their children, marriage support, or accident compensation—they face bureaucratic labyrinths that defeat the very purpose of welfare legislation. The current system requires urgent simplification. Registration should be made accessible through mobile units, common service centers, and labour union offices rather than confined

to distant government offices. The documentation requirements need rationalisation, recognising that many workers lack formal education or extensive paperwork. Decentralising the process by authorising medical officers at the district level to issue necessary certificates would save workers both time and resources. Equally important is ensuring that the welfare cess collected from construction projects actually reaches the intended beneficiaries. The pending files across districts regarding educational assistance, marriage support, and compensation

need immediate clearance through special drives. Extending application deadlines during holiday periods demonstrates the flexibility and empathy that should characterise all welfare administration. A streamlined registration system is a moral imperative. When workers can easily access their rights, we not only uphold their dignity but also strengthen the entire social fabric. The government must treat this as a priority, removing unnecessary hurdles and ensuring that those who build Jammu and Kashmir can also share in its prosperity.

SOAR Fostering AI-Driven Education And Skill Development

The Union Budget 2025-26 allocates ₹500 crore to establish a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for education, aimed at advancing AI-driven learning and innovation

Press Information Bureau

The global workforce is undergoing a profound transformation driven by advances in AI, machine learning, data science, and automation. As AI becomes embedded in industries such as healthcare, finance, education, manufacturing, and public services, there is an urgent need for broad-based AI literacy and specialised talent. The Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) program in India represents a strategic initiative by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to integrate artificial intelligence competencies into India's educational framework. This aligns with the government's goal to lead in global technological advancements. Launched in July 2025, this program coincides with the 10-year milestone of the Skill India Mission, which has empowered people through various skilling schemes since 2015, including expansions into emerging domains like AI under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0.

SOAR's Mission: Empowering the Future

Foster AI awareness: The SOAR initiative prioritises cultivating AI literacy among school students and educators. By introducing foundational AI concepts, such as machine learning (ML) basics and ethical AI use, the program aims to spark curiosity and aspiration among young learners, preparing them for a tech-driven future. For educators, SOAR provides specialised training to incorporate AI modules into existing curricula, ensuring effective delivery and alignment

with industry needs.

Support Economic Self-reliance: SOAR strategically supports India's vision of economic self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) by equipping youth with skills for high-demand sectors like IT, digital innovation, and AI-driven industries. The initiative aligns with national priorities under flagship schemes like PMKVY 4.0, which focuses on skilling for emerging technologies to enhance employability and entrepreneurship.

Build a Tech-driven India: SOAR's long-term vision is to position India as a global leader in AI by preparing its youth for AI-driven careers and entrepreneurial ventures. By fostering a robust ecosystem of AI-literate students and educators, the initiative aims to create a pipeline of skilled professionals for roles in AI development, data analytics, and tech innovation.

Artificial Intelligence: Transforming India's Education Landscape

Artificial Intelligence is revolutionising India's education sector by fostering innovation, enhancing digital literacy, and preparing students for a technology-driven future. In line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, AI is being seamlessly integrated into classrooms and skill development frameworks. Some of the key developments driving this transformation include:

AI in School Curriculum:

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

emphasises the inclusion of contemporary subjects like Artificial Intelligence (AI) in school curricula, at appropriate stages, to foster innovation and digital literacy among students. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already implemented AI as a subject in affiliated schools. Introduced in Class IX starting from the 2019-2020 academic session and extended to Class XI from the 2020-2021 session, it focuses on practical applications like skill development and personalised learning tools.

Establishment of Centre for Excellence in AI:

The Government of India is establishing a Centre for AI Excellence as a key initiative to advance AI adoption in education. The aim is to leverage AI for Indian languages, promoting critical thinking in classrooms, and transitioning from traditional teaching methods to technology-driven approaches like "from chalkboards to chipsets."

This centre will support broader national efforts to build AI infrastructure and human resources. This also includes recommendations for All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)-approved institutions to offer AI as an elective in various educational courses.

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) complement this by offering advanced AI-related courses, such as Deep Learning, Machine Learning, and Predictive Data Analytics.

Integration of AI and Digital Learning in Skill India Mission (SIM):

The Government of India is actively embedding AI and digital learning programs within the Skill India Mission (SIM) to prepare a future-ready workforce, with targeted initiatives under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) platform.

PMKVY 4.0: Launched in 2015 and focuses on short-term training, up-skilling, and recognition of prior learning by prioritising futuristic skills like Artificial Intelligence (AI).

NAPS: Since August 2016, the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS-2), currently in its second phase, supports apprenticeships

SOAR: Relevance and Expected Outcomes

Strategic Alignment with Skill India Mission: SOAR supports the Skill India Mission by providing targeted modules for students, equipping the youth with essential digital skills to enhance employability and productivity in AI-driven sectors.

Contribution to Viksit Bharat Vision: The program advances India's vision of a developed nation by 2047 through AI for All initiatives. This fosters a tech-savvy workforce that leverages AI to boost innovation and global competitiveness, as emphasised in national skill development strategies.

Promotion of Digital Inclusion: SOAR bridges the urban-rural digital divide by integrating AI training into accessible platforms like the Skill India Digital Hub. This ensures

equitable access to digital skills across government and private schools, thereby empowering marginalised communities.

AI-Aware Students and Trained Educators: SOAR aims to produce AI-aware students capable of ethical AI application and train educators across government and private schools in enhancing teaching methodologies and ensuring widespread adoption of AI in classrooms.

Boosting AI Career Interest and Narrowing Skill Gaps: The SOAR program is projected to increase youth interest in AI careers through hands-on skilling. It also narrows the urban-rural gap in digital competencies by providing inclusive training and enabling access to high-demand tech skills.

Conclusion

The Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) program marks a pivotal step toward positioning India as a global leader in AI-driven education and workforce development. By embedding AI literacy within school curricula and vocational training, SOAR not only equips students and educators with cutting-edge skills but also fosters a culture of innovation and ethical technology use. Through strategic partnerships and platforms like the Skill India Digital Hub, the program ensures accessibility across diverse socio-economic groups, empowering India's youth to drive technological and economic progress. As a cornerstone of the Viksit Bharat @ 2047 vision, SOAR lays the foundation for a digitally inclusive, competitive, and self-reliant India, ready to shape the future of global innovation.

Are We True To Our Constitution?

J S Rajput

The generation that saw independence witnessed India's transformation from food scarcity to surplus, from 400 million people to 1.4 billion, and from Gandhian simplicity to a politics often driven by privilege and power

It would be pretty interesting for the millennials, or the Generation Z, to interact with the octogenarians, born subjects of the British Empire, but who were fortunate enough to become citizens of free India, and are still active and alert! They learnt the basics of democracy in universities in the late fifties and early sixties of the last century!

These senior citizens have witnessed the great Indian demographic transition from 400 million to 1,400 million, and all of the natural consequences that followed it. They grew up in an environment full of the fragrance of the values and principles preached and practiced during the unique freedom struggle. They could recall how the Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri had to appeal to the nation to "miss a meal every week", as we were short of food grains!

Today, India feeds a hundred crore more, and is also an exporter of foodgrains! This select group of Indians is also, sadly enough, a witness to the erosion of the proudly treasured Gandhian values and democratic principles. It has quietly observed the emergence of an apolitical class, with varied party affiliations, falling prey to perks, privileges and pelf! To them, democracy is just winning elections, getting a position of power, and then using it unashamedly — exceptions apart — for the accumulation of riches. One of the funniest episodes that says it all is that of a former Chief Minister, who was unseated by the Court within forty-eight hours! When he found the environment congenial — I need not elaborate — he approached the



Court that he be declared a 'former Chief Minister'! The plea was, however, rejected. Numerous privileges are now legally available 'for life' to the 'ex-benefactors' of the people, in which all of the ex-CMs are included! These were awarded to themselves by the honourable lawmakers, aka, the elected representatives of the people!

One wonders how Mahatma Gandhi would have reacted to such a state of affairs! Think of an Indian delegation addressing the UN General Assembly on "Gandhian Values in Indian Democracy"! It could be led by veteran politician Sharad Pawar, and could comprise Lalu Prasad Yadav, Arvind Kejriwal, Ajit Pawar, A Raja, Partha Chatterji, Madhu Koda, great inheritors like Akhilesh Yadav, MK Stalin, Kanimozhi, Supriya Sule, Tejasvi Yadav, Misa Bharati, Ajay Chautala, and several others. Imagine their presentations on Peace, Non-Violence, Truth, social cohesion, service of man is the service of God! I am

sure some of them would certainly refer to Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Gulzari Lal Nanda, and certainly APJ Abdul Kalam! India's eternal strength is exemplified by the fact that this list still remains long! One is confident that none of the delegates would make any reference to their own meteoric economic rise, including the Swiss bank accounts, etc. When the elected representatives take the oath of allegiance and secrecy, one could just speculate regarding the stirring within! Often people observe the transition of solemn pledges into sheer hypocrisy!

The voter, who knows his five-yearly adulation, is by now well familiar with how the elected representative would get so busy with the matters of family and friends, preparation for the next elections, and preparing his own son or daughter as his successor, that there would be little time and space for the elector! The elector had indeed exercised his autonomy in 1977, when Indira Gandhi

was unseated, and within two years, the anger erupted again against the successor government that failed miserably in coming anywhere near the expectations of its electors. In fact, the return of Indira Gandhi — and Sanjay Gandhi, is indeed a great area of research for future researchers. It is said that the entire planning for the historic return was developed and executed by Sanjay Gandhi, who was the most hated person in 1977! There is so much to be learnt from the study of the Indian political scenario during that five-year period: from the imposition of Emergency in June 1975, to the return of Indira Gandhi to power in January 1980!

The voter was alert and executed his own choice. The only other occasion of that level was the 2014 general election, in which voting was not on party lines, but for a person who had proved that in spite of all possible odds, one who works for the people steals their hearts. One had the gracious privilege of interacting for over six decades with young persons, fellow teachers, researchers, and also educational administrators and policymakers. It is but natural to recall the days of unprecedented adulation and admiration for Pandit Nehru, who was the hero of the young of those days. The Chinese invasion shattered his aura, but there were others in the political arena whose honesty, integrity, commitment and purity in public life were reassuring to one and all. During the 1962 and 1965 attacks on India, one participated as a volunteer, mostly serving tea and snacks to the soldiers moving in special trains to their assigned destination. The ideological differences amongst the student wings in universities had coalesced into a dedicated national effort. Everyone was supporting the government, no one was asking for any proof on the claims made by the then government.

The demoralisation of 1962 was gloriously replaced by a newly found confidence

in 1965 and 1971. Everyone was proud of Indian defence forces, our admired heroes, but everyone was giving total credit to the leadership of Indira Gandhi, and this included her staunch detractors in the political arena. All that stands fully forgotten at this stage. Politicians do play their own games, depending upon being in power, or ousted from it. None need assume the authority to challenge the facts and figures presented to the nation by the Indian Army. It is a serious situation that reveals the presence of negative forces, being in collusion with the stooges of the notorious destabilising forces. Negativity, arising out of a bunch of frustrated politicians, is trying its best to overshadow the rising stature of the Indian nation. And this is not unexpected.

This apprehension was so succinctly foreseen by Dr Rajendra Prasad as the President of the Constituent Assembly in his speech delivered on November 26, 1949: "Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country will depend on the way in which the country is administered. That will depend upon the men who administer it. It is a trite saying that a country can have only the Government it deserves. If the people who are elected are capable, and men of character and integrity, they will be able to make the best even of a defective Constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country. After all, a constitution, like a machine, is a lifeless thing. It acquires life because of the men who control it and operate it. India needs today nothing more than a set of honest men who will have the interest of the country before them." India needs awakeners in every section of Indian society.

Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion, and religious amity
Source: The Pioneer

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

Govt accessible to needs of people: Rana

Civil Society delegation from Rajouri calls on Minister



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22: A delegation of civil society members from District Rajouri Wednesday called on Minister for Jal Shakti Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana at Civil Secretariat here, to raise key issues of public importance concerning the district.

During the meeting, Javed Rana patiently heard a wide range of public grievances and assured timely redressal through appropriate government channels.

He highlighted that Omar Abdullah led government remains accessible and responsive to the needs of people and our priority is to bring governance to the doorsteps of common

masses.

The civil society from Rajouri raised issues related to development, better health care, road infrastructure and service delivery.

The members demanded the operationalization of the Maternal & Child Hospital at Gujjar Mandi, Rajouri, emphasizing the need to improve healthcare services for residents. They highlighted that starting of hospital operations is necessary to ensure accessible, quality medical care for women and children to the Pir Panjal residents.

The delegation also highlighted the deteriorated condition of the Rajouri-Thanna Road, pointing out that the black-topped surface has significantly

worsened over time, causing daily hardships for commuters. They urged immediate action for its upgradation to ensure smooth and safe travel for the public.

Minister assured the delegation that the Government is fully aware of these issues and necessary directions have already been issued to the concerned officers for their early resolution.

The Minister also spoke to the Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri, to ensure prompt attention to these matters.

The Minister further assured the residents of improved facilities and better infrastructure in the district, reiterating the Government's commitment to public welfare and development initiatives in Rajouri.

BUDGAM BYPOLLS

‘Ensure smooth, transparent conduct of polls’

Observers review preparedness

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 22: General Observer, Bhor Singh Yadav; Expenditure Observer, Ravinder Kumar and Police Observer, Nachiketa Jha for 27-Assembly constituency Budgam held a joint meeting at the Conference hall here to take review of the preparedness for upcoming Bye-Assembly election 2025 to 27-AC Budgam of the district.

The observers took an extensive appraisal of Returning Officer to 27-AC Budgam and Assistant returning officers for arrangements made by them for smooth conduct of Bye-Assembly election to 27-AC Budgam.

They held a detailed discussion about enforcement of MCC, expenditure monitoring, security plan, transport and communication plan, besides functioning of VST, flying squads, training of poll staff, AMF at polling stations, and other measures undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the upcoming Bye-Assembly polls in 27-Assembly constituency Budgam.

On the occasion, the General Observers enjoined the officers to work with added zeal and unwavering dedication to uphold the sanctity of the election process and safeguard the democratic spirit.

They also urged them to



ensure strict enforcement of MCC and other guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure smooth, fair, and transparent conduct of polls in the district.

They stressed on proactive approach from all the stakeholders to encourage maximum voters so that enhanced voter turnout is registered during upcoming bye-elections in 27-AC Budgam of the District. They also stressed on completion of the EPIC distribution process in 27-AC Budgam.

The Expenditure Observer emphasised the need for co-ordination among various monitoring teams for effective expenditure overseeing and stressed the prompt reporting of any ECI violations concerning election expenditure booking.

He also underscored the efficient media monitoring

to contain any misuse of election expenditure by the contesting candidates in the district and underscored timely reporting and uploading of any seizures or violations as per ECI norms.

The Police Observer stressed on the officers to work with utmost coordination to ensure incident-free and smooth conduct of the polls in 27-AC Budgam.

Earlier, the DEO Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat apprised the observers regarding the preparations for the free, fair, and peaceful conduct of polls in 27-AC Budgam of the district.

He said that 173 polling stations had been set at designated 111 locations across 27-assembly constituency Budgam.

The DEO said that model polling stations had also been set up at various locations

in 27-AC Budgam to facilitate the voters on the polling day and welcome them to experience a festive-like environment.

He said that dedicated facilities for voters including clean drinking water and ramps for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are also meticulously arranged to enhance the voting experience.

Later, the observers visited the Control room, Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) at the DC office complex. They also inspected a strong room established at Boys Higher Secondary school Budgam.

The meeting was attended by the SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar; ADC Budgam, ASP Budgam, Returning Officer (RO) of 27-Assembly constituency Budgam, Dy. District Election Officer and all Nodal officers.

MD DJAY-S establishes help desks

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22: Mission Director, Deendayal Jan Aajeevika Yojana-Shehri (DJAY-S), has announced the commencement of the Enumeration and Socio-Economic Profiling survey of urban poor households in the cities of Srinagar and Jammu.

This crucial exercise is being undertaken under DJAY-S to identify and register eligible urban poor households for facilitating their access to various Centrally Sponsored Social Security Schemes.

The enumeration process is being carried out by dedicated field teams through door-to-door visits, covering all wards of Srinagar and Jammu Municipal Corporations to ensure comprehensive coverage of eligible beneficiaries. The collected data will be uploaded on the Convergence Portal of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA),

Government of India.

In order to assist and facilitate the urban poor, Help Desk's have been established at Srinagar city in the Office's of the Chief Executive Officer, Urban Development Agency Kashmir (UDAK), Habitat Centre, Bemina Srinagar (Contact Numbers: 7006444930, 7006956457) Email id djaysrinagar@gmail.com.

Similarly, Help Desk for Jammu city has been established at Jammu Urban Development Agency (JUDA), Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Chowk, Narwal Road, Jammu Contact Number (8825061185, 9697203858) Email id: helpdeskdjays@gmail.com.

The Mission Director has urged all eligible urban poor households to actively participate in the survey and make use of the Help Desks for any queries or support related to the enumeration process. The Help Desks will remain operational during office hours on all working days.

Dir Information condoles demise of Prem Nath Sharma

KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 22: Director Information & Public Relations, Nitish Rajora, has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Prem Nath Sharma, Editor of the Glimpses of Future, an English Daily.

In a heartfelt condolence message, the Director extended sympathies to the bereaved family and paid rich tributes to the late editor's invaluable contributions to the field of journalism.

Describing Sharma as a dedicated professional and a voice of integrity, the Director noted that

his journalistic work reflected a deep understanding of public concerns and a steadfast commitment to truth.

He further stated that the late editor's legacy would continue to inspire generations of media professionals. "His passing leaves an irreplaceable void in the journalistic fraternity," the Director remarked.

Meanwhile, the Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deepak Dubey also expressed his condolences on the sad demise of Prem Nath Sharma and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Orientation prog commences at SKUAST-K, Shalimar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22: A two-day orientation programme on professional development and office procedures for administrative staff commenced today at Vice Chancellor's Secretariat, Main Campus Shalimar, Srinagar.

The programme aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of non-teaching staff, enabling them to efficiently handle administrative tasks and contribute to the university's growth in Teaching, Research, Extension, and Innovation.

The orientation programme covers office procedures, communication skills, data management, confidentiality protocols, University Act and Statutes, J&K CSR/leave rules, and J&K Govt. Employees Conduct Rules 1971, besides soft skills and life lessons. Experts and senior administrators led sessions and interactive discussions.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, chaired the inaugural session as the Chief Guest and other officers attended include, Director Research, Dr. H.R. Naik;

Director Education, Prof. Altaf Ahmad Bhat; Registrar, and other senior officials of the University.

The Vice chancellor encouraged the initiative, emphasizing the crucial role of non-teaching staff in achieving SKUAST-K's goals and fostering excellence. He stressed leveraging AI-based technology to enhance office efficiency and productivity.

The programme promotes collaboration and professional growth, contributing to SKUAST-K's vision of excellence in agriculture and allied sciences.

J&K gears up for Nat'l Youth Festival 2026

Directorate of YSS to lead UT-Wide mobilisation

KT News Desk

Jammu Oct 22: The Directorate of Youth Services & Sports (YSS), J&K, has been designated as the nodal agency for registering participants from the UT for the prestigious National Youth Festival (NYT)- Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026.

The festival will feature competitive tracks in Cultural and Innovation, encompassing a wide array of events including Painting, Folk Song, Story Writing, Folk Dance, Poetry Writing, Innovation, and Declamation. This initiative aims to identify, celebrate, and empower the young talent of the nation, providing them with a national platform to showcase their abilities.

The selection process in

Jammu & Kashmir will be a rigorous two-tiered system, commencing with district-level competitions, followed by a UT-level selection round, both to be conducted by the Directorate of YSS J&K.

To ensure the seamless and widespread participation of youth across all 20 districts, the Director General of the Department of Youth Services & Sports, J&K, Anuradha Gupta, chaired a comprehensive virtual meeting with all District Youth Services & Sports Officers (DYSSOs) from her office chamber in Jammu.

The meeting was also attended by JD YSS Jammu, Deputy Director Activities, Accounts Officer, Assistant Director Kashmir, and other sectional heads of the Directorate, underscoring the

Department's collective commitment to the event's success.

Addressing the officers, DG YSS, Anuradha Gupta, emphasized the critical role of the DYSSOs in ensuring wide publicity for the registration process. She stressed the importance of reaching every corner of the UT to maximize registrations and participation.

"We must act as facilitators to empower our youth," stated DG YSS. "Our primary objective is to ensure that the maximum number of talented participants from Jammu & Kashmir get the opportunity to be a part of this grand national event. All DYSSOs are directed to proactively create and manage the registration events on the designated My Bharat portal (<https://mybharat.gov.in>) to streamline the process for our young aspirants."

Secy ITD reviews progress of projects under Capex Budget 2025-26

KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 22: Secretary, Information Technology Department (ITD), Dr. Piyush Singla Wednesday chaired a meeting of senior officers to discuss and review the physical and financial progress of different projects of the department under Capex Budget 2025-26 at Civil Secretariat here.

Chief Executive Officer, JKEGA; Special Secretary, ITD; Director Finance, ITD; Additional Secretary, ITD, Deputy Director (Planning), ITD; Head SeMT J&K; Incharge IT Cell; besides, other officers and officials attended the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, threadbare



discussions were held on various issues regarding the present status of current year projects under Capex Budget 2025-26 and shelf of projects for next year budget.

The meeting also discussed other issues pertaining to different projects like establishment of Centre of Excellence, upgradation of IT skills, new e-governance initiatives in UT of J&K, digitalization

of office Records development of IT Hub/Park at Jammu & Srinagar and others. Secretary IT emphasized upon the concerned officers to clear all bottlenecks for early completion of all ongoing projects of IT department. He also directed the officers to take proper workout on under process DPRs and other issues so that the works on the different projects could be completed

in time-bound manner.

During the meeting, Director Finance and other concerned officers briefed the Secretary and gave a power point presentation about the status of various projects, besides action taken on physical and financial status of Capex Budget 2025-26.

The meeting was also informed about present status of physical and financial progress of total number of ongoing and new projects including upgradation of State Data Centre, setting up of wired LAN for Civil Secretariat Jammu, setting up of dedicated 2Gbps internet Lease Line for both Secretariats at Jammu & Srinagar and setting up of MPLS for e-office.

Group of Reasi farmers arrive in Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 22: A group of farmers from District Reasi today visited the Directorate of Horticulture and Horticulture Museum, Jammu.

The Farmers are on a 3-day exposure-cum-training tour organised under MIDH.

The visit aims to impart awareness about the latest Horticulture practices and to raise demand for various components like financing, irrigation facilities, vermicompost units etc under HADP.

The visiting farmers are from Mahore and Arnas zones. Farmers expressed their



willingness to adopt high-density apple plantation and crop diversification. They also pitched for organizing exposure tours for women farmers, preferably outside J&K.

The topography and climate

of Mahore are similar to those of Kashmir and the farmers expressed their readiness to develop orchards on the Kashmir pattern. The Directorate of Horticulture assured the farmers of full support to meet their genuine demands.

Trump dials Modi, extends Diwali greetings



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: US President Donald Trump extended Diwali greetings in a phone call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said he expected that both India and the US continue to “illuminate” the world with hope and stand united against terrorism.

The phone conversation, initiated by the US president, came days after he claimed that PM Modi told him that India would stop buying Russian crude oil. Following Trump’s comments, India suggested that there was no such conversation.

“Thank you, President Trump, for your phone call and warm Diwali greetings. On this festival of lights, may our two great democracies continue to

illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terrorism in all its forms,” Modi said on X on Wednesday.

It was the third publicly known phone call between Modi and Trump since September 16, amid the continuing strain in India-US relations over Washington slapping 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, including a 25 per cent levy for New Delhi’s procurement of Russian oil.

On Tuesday night, Trump hosted a Diwali celebration that was attended by Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra and several prominent Indian-origin business leaders.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Trump repeated his claim that India will not buy crude oil from Russia.

The US president described PM Modi as a “great leader” and a “friend”, and also referred to his trade-focused diplomacy to de-escalate tensions between India and Pakistan.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe stress after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India.

India described the US action as “unfair, unjustified and unreasonable”.

Two weeks back, US Ambassador-designate Sergio Gor met PM Modi in New Delhi. Following the meeting, Gor said the US “values” its relationship with India. Gor also held talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

UN chief calls for ‘fight’ against climate disinformation

AFP

Geneva, Oct 22: UN chief Antonio Guterres on Wednesday called for a fight-back against climate disinformation ahead of next month’s COP30 summit after US President Donald Trump branded climate change the “greatest con job ever.”

Guterres issued a robust defense of “clear-eyed” climate science and data, without which, he said, the world would never have understood the emergence of the “dangerous and existential threat of climate change.”

“We must fight mis- and disinformation, online harassment, and greenwashing,” Guterres said at the UN’s World Meteorological Organization (WMO) weather and climate agency in Geneva.

“Scientists and researchers should never fear telling the truth.”

Guterres’s remarks will be

seen in some quarters as a riposte to Trump’s speech at the United Nations in New York last month, in which the Republican president championed fossil fuels and derided green technologies.

“Climate change — it’s the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world, in my opinion,” said Trump.

The “carbon footprint is a hoax made up by people with evil intentions,” he said.

“We’re getting rid of the falsely named renewables, by the way: they’re a joke, they don’t work, they’re too expensive,” he added, about his administration’s war on solar and wind power, bolstered by a new law that ends clean energy tax credits.

Planet on the ‘brink’

But Guterres insisted that in 2024, “almost all new power capacity came from renewables,” and investment was surging.

“Renewables are the cheapest, fastest and smartest source

of new power. They represent the only credible path to end the relentless destruction of our climate,” he insisted.

The WMO is marking its 75 anniversary this year, and is leading the charge for all countries to be covered by extreme weather early warning systems by 2027.

“Global warming is pushing our planet to the brink,” said Guterres.

“Every one of the last 10 years has been the hottest in history. Ocean heat is breaking records while decimating ecosystems. And no country is safe from fires, floods, storms and heatwaves.

“As always, the poorest and most vulnerable countries pay the highest price — particularly small island developing states and the least developed countries.”

The COP30 summit will be held in the Brazilian Amazon city of Belem from November 10-21.

Labelling of AI-generated a step toward ensuring authenticity in digital content: Experts

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: The proposed amendments to the IT Rules that would mandate clear labelling of AI-generated content and place greater onus on large social media platforms are a clear step toward ensuring authenticity in digital content, Mahesh Makhija, partner and technology consulting leader at EY India, said on Wednesday.

Labelling AI generated material and embedding non-removable identifiers will help users distinguish real content from synthetic, serving as the foundation for responsible AI adoption.

“...these measures will give businesses the confidence to innovate and scale AI responsibly. The next step should be to establish clear implementation standards and collaborative frameworks between government and industry, to ensure the rules are practical, scalable, and supportive of India’s AI leadership ambitions,” Makhija added.



According to Makhija, the proposed rules mark a clear step toward ensuring authenticity in digital content.

Akshay Garkel, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat, believes that the proposed amendment is a timely and necessary move, especially as deepfakes are getting worryingly convincing.

“It’s good to see the government and law enforcement taking the issue seriously and acting to curb this menace,” Garkel said.

The government on Wednesday proposed changes

in IT rules that would mandate clear labelling of AI-generated content and place greater accountability on large platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and others in verifying and flagging synthetic information — a move aimed at curbing user harm from deepfakes and misinformation.

The IT ministry noted that deepfake audio, videos and synthetic media going viral on social platforms have demonstrated the potential of generative AI to create “convincing falsehoods”, where such

content can be “weaponised” to spread misinformation, damage reputations, manipulate or influence elections, or commit financial fraud.

The proposed amendments to IT rules provide a clear legal basis for labelling, traceability, and accountability related to synthetically-generated information.

Apart from clearly defining synthetically generated information, the draft amendment — on which comments from stakeholders have been sought by November 6, 2025 — mandates labelling, visibility, and metadata embedding for synthetically generated or modified information to distinguish such content from authentic media.

The stricter rules would increase accountability of significant social media intermediaries (those with 50 lakh or more registered users) in verifying and flagging synthetic information through reasonable and appropriate technical measures.

Jammu court to hear tomorrow Mithun Manhas, others in complaint case

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 22: The Judicial Magistrate 1st Class (Sub Judge), Jammu, has issued summons to BCCI president Mithun Manhas and several other officials and media personnel to appear in court in connection with a complaint filed by retired Dy SP Sudershan Mehta.

The complaint, as per the court order has been filed under Sections 356, 45, and 61 of the BNS Act against Manhas, members of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), and some media editors.

The court notice, as per the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), issued on October 18, directs the ‘accused’ to appear in person or through legal representatives on November 24, 2025.

The list of accused includes Mithun Manhas, Anil Gupta (Retd Brig, Member Administration, JKCA), Majid Dar (Assistant Member, JKCA), and editors from The Northlines, The Kashmir Horizon, Brighter Kashmir, and The Indian News Service.

As per the court order, no cognizance can be taken without hearing the proposed accused and instructs that copies of the complaint and annexures be sent via registered post.

The case will be taken up for hearing on November 24, 2025. (KNO)

ICJ: Israel must allow UN relief agency to supply Gaza aid

AP

The Hague (Netherlands), Oct 22: The International Court of Justice said on Wednesday that Israel must allow the UN aid agency in Gaza, known as UNRWA, to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian territory.

The Hague-based court was asked last year by the UN General Assembly to determine Israel’s legal obligations after the country effectively banned the agency, the main provider of aid to Gaza, from operating there.

Israel “is under the obligation to agree to and facilitate relief schemes provided by the United Nations and its entities, including UNRWA,” ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa said.

The advisory opinion from the World Court comes as a fragile US-brokered Gaza ceasefire agreement, which took effect on Oct. 10, continues to hold.

Israel has denied it has violated international law, saying the court’s proceedings are biased, and the country didn’t attend hearings in April. However, Israel provided a 38-page written submission for the court to consider.

UNRWA ban

The UN aid agency in Gaza has been effectively banned from the territory since January. UNRWA has faced criticism from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right allies, who say

the group is deeply infiltrated by Hamas.

UNRWA rejects that claim, and the ICJ found that Israel hadn’t “substantiated the allegations,” Iwasawa said.

The court also held that the population of the Gaza Strip had been “inadequately supplied,” and that Israel was required to ensure “the basic needs of the local population” are met.

During the hearings in April, Palestinian Ambassador to the Netherlands Ammar Hijazi told the court that Israel was “starving, killing and displacing Palestinians while also targeting and blocking humanitarian organizations trying to save their lives.”

In its written submission, Israel argued that the court should reject the request from the UN General Assembly, because it was too similar to other advisory opinions and the judges lacked the fact-finding abilities to make a determination.

Advisory opinion

In an advisory opinion last year, the court said that Israel’s presence in the occupied Palestinian territories is unlawful and called on it to end, and for settlement construction to stop immediately. That ruling fueled moves for unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state.

Israel condemned the decision, saying it failed to address the country’s security concerns.

Two decades ago, the court ruled that Israel’s West Bank separation barrier was

“contrary to international law.” Israel boycotted those proceedings, saying they were politically motivated.

Advisory opinions carry significant legal weight, but are described as “nonbinding” as there are no direct penalties attached to ignoring them.

Wednesday opinion is separate from the ongoing proceedings initiated by South Africa, accusing Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. Israel rejects South Africa’s claim and accuses it of providing political cover for Hamas.

Arrest warrant for Netanyahu

Last year, another Hague-based tribunal, the International Criminal Court, issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his former defense minister, Yoav Gallant, alleging that the pair have used “starvation as a method of warfare” by restricting humanitarian aid and have intentionally targeted civilians — charges that Israeli officials strongly deny.

The advisory opinion from the ICJ noted that Israel “is not to use starvation of the civilian population as a method of warfare.”

The war in Gaza was triggered by Hamas’ surprise attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which left 1,200 people, mostly civilians, dead and 250 taken hostage. Israel’s retaliatory offensive in the Palestinian territory has killed more than 68,000 people, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

9-day autumn

restoration, reservation rationalisation, and other challenges confronting the region.

As previously reported, the Assembly Secretariat has disallowed a resolution submitted by Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone seeking the restoration of statehood, citing that the matter is sub judice.

The focal point of the session will be three government bills slated for introduction. The cabinet has already approved amendments to the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, and the Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017, along with the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Business Establishments Bill, 2025.

The Legislative Assembly Secretariat has received 450 questions, 13 private members’ bills, and 55 private members’ resolutions for the session. Additionally, 33 private members’ bills submitted during the last Assembly session remain pending and will be given priority on October 28-the day designated for private members’ business. However, many of these bills are unlikely to be introduced in the House.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee of the Assembly met today in the Speaker’s office to discuss the allocation of time for legislative business during the session. (KNO)

NC will win

the Chief Minister, while replying to a query about Congress’s non-participation in the meeting, said that they did not join as they had their own meeting. “Congress has always maintained that they will not allow the BJP to emerge victorious. Congress has its own system. There is a difference between their party and ours. They have to wait for the party high command’s decision, whereas we take decisions here,” he said.

“The Congress high command cannot be in favour of the BJP,” he said, referring to Congress’s participation in the Rajya Sabha elections. He added that although, at the local level, Congress was ready to contest the by-polls, the high command decided to leave the seat for NC, and therefore, the candidate was announced.

Regarding PDP’s support, the Chief Minister said, “Our leader, Shami Oberoi, met PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti today and requested, on behalf of the party, to support the NC candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections. Earlier, Dr. Farooq Abdullah also spoke with her. Although no decision has been made public by the party yet, they have promised us that a decision will be taken after internal discussions,” he said.

On the LoP’s statement, the Chief Minister said that he must clarify who made the offer to form a government with the BJP. “We have not made any such offer. We don’t hide anything. The LoP must stop issuing these baseless statements,” he added. (KNO)

Police attach

police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The attachment process was executed in the presence of a duly constituted police team, Executive Magistrate, Lambardar, and Chowkidar, ensuring full compliance with all legal protocols, police said.

Meanwhile, Police reiterated its commitment to enforcing the law against narcotics-related offences and appeals to the public to report any information regarding drug-related activities. (KNO)

Youth’s energy, discipline

Bemina and Nowgam, witnessed a thrilling

contest, with Team Bemina lifting the title. The SSP appreciated both teams for their discipline and sportsmanship, saying such enthusiasm reflects the brighter side of Srinagar’s youth. (KNO)

Foundation for ‘Op Sindoor’

we will not maintain the restraint that we had in Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will do something that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to retain its place in geography or not,” General Dwivedi had said

He had also asked the soldiers to stay prepared. “If God wills, you’ll get an opportunity soon. All the best.”

It may be recalled that ‘Operation Sindoor’ the mega military operation was undertaken by India to give a fitting reply in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. Nine terror camps were hit in Pakistan and PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) by Indian forces using long-range precision weapons on May 7, 2025.

The attack on terror camps led to skirmishes between the two countries for four days. A ceasefire followed on May 10 after the Pakistani commanders pleaded with their Indian counterparts to stop the offensive. (KNO)

Govt proposes

is synthetically generated, deploy reasonable and proportionate technical measures to verify such declarations, and ensure that AI-generated information is clearly labelled or accompanied by a notice indicating the same.

The draft rules further prohibit intermediaries from modifying, suppressing, or removing such labels or identifiers.

“In Parliament as well as many forums, there have been demands that something be done

about deepfakes, which are harming society... people using some prominent person’s image, which then affects their personal lives, and privacy...Steps we have taken aim to ensure that users get to know whether something is synthetic or real. It is important that users know what they are seeing,” IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, adding that mandatory labelling and visibility will enable clear distinctions between synthetic and authentic content.

Once rules are finalised, any compliance failure could mean loss of the safe harbour clause enjoyed by large platforms.

With the increasing availability of generative AI tools and the resulting proliferation of synthetically generated information (deepfakes), the potential for misuse of such technologies to cause user harm, spread misinformation, manipulate elections, or impersonate individuals has grown significantly, the IT Ministry said.

Accordingly, the IT Ministry has prepared draft amendments to the IT Rules, 2021, with an aim to strengthen due diligence obligations for intermediaries, particularly significant social media intermediaries (SSMIs), as well as for platforms that enable the creation or modification of synthetically-generated content.

The draft introduces a new clause defining synthetically generated content as information that is artificially or algorithmically created, generated, modified or altered using a computer resource in a manner that appears reasonably authentic or true.

A note by the IT Ministry said that globally, and in India, policymakers are increasingly concerned about fabricated or synthetic images, videos, and audio clips (deepfakes) that are indistinguishable from real content, and are being blatantly used to produce

non-consensual intimate or obscene imagery, mislead the public with fabricated political or news content, commit fraud or impersonation for financial gain.

The latest move assumes significance as India is among the top markets for global social media platforms, such as Facebook, WhatsApp and others.

A senior Meta official said last year that India has become the largest market for Meta AI usage. In August this year, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman had said that India, which is currently the second-largest market for the company, could soon become its largest globally.

Asked if the changed rules would also apply to content generated on OpenAI’s Sora or Gemini, sources said in many cases, videos are generated but not circulated, but the obligation is triggered when a video is posted for dissemination. The onus in such a case would be on intermediaries who are displaying the media to the public and users who are hosting media on the platforms.

Over the treatment of AI content on messaging platforms like WhatsApp, sources said that once it is brought to their notice, they will have to take steps to prevent its virality.

India has witnessed an alarming rise in AI-generated deepfakes, prompting court interventions. Most recent viral cases include misleading ads depicting Sadhguru’s fake arrest, which the Delhi High Court ordered US digital giant Google to remove.

Earlier this month, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan sued YouTube and Google in a lawsuit that seeks Rs 4 crore in damages over alleged AI deepfake videos.

Man gets 20 years

charge-sheet was submitted before the court of law, the spokesperson added.

Bihar Polls

Gehlot meets Lalu amidst seat-sharing row, says 'all issues will be ironed out'

PTI

Patna, Oct 22: Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday met RJD president Lalu Prasad, apparently with the mandate to defuse tensions with the ally, which has plunged the INDIA bloc into turmoil in poll-bound Bihar.

Emerging after the meeting, Gehlot said winning Bihar was "extremely important" for the opposition alliance, after having been drubbed in a crucial state like Maharashtra, but evaded a direct reply when asked whether the Congress was ready to declare the RJD supremo's son and their apparent Tejashwi Yadav as the chief ministerial candidate.

"Why do you want me to make such an announcement?" snapped the former Rajasthan CM when journalists asked him about the Congress' stand on



Yadav, who had recently urged the people to make Rahul Gandhi "the next prime minister".

Gehlot said, "You have seen the chemistry between Rahul and Tejashwi during the Voter Adhikar Yatra two months ago when the two leaders travelled across the state. They will take an appropriate decision at an appropriate time". Speculation

is rife that the Congress' reluctance to back Yadav, who has been campaigning for a "Tejashwi sarkar", has irked its larger regional ally. Of the 243 seats in the assembly, the RJD and Congress are contesting 143 and 61, respectively, but both parties are headed for a "friendly fight" in at least five constituencies. Congress candidates are also

up against the CPI, another alliance partner, in three other seats. However, Gehlot, who had upon arrival in the city told reporters at the airport "a friendly fight in five or ten seats was no big deal", said after meeting Prasad, "we hope things will be ironed out by the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers tomorrow".

However, five of these seats fall in the first phase, for which the deadline for withdrawal ended on Monday. Gehlot, who was accompanied by Krishna Allavar, the AICC Bihar in-charge, who is being blamed by a section of party leaders in the state for messing things up, insisted that the Congress was serious about the assembly polls in a state where it has ceased to be a major player.

"It is extremely important for us to win the polls. More so after the alliance of which Congress was a part lost Maharashtra. The Bihar polls will set the tone

for national politics. It is essential that the NDA, which has caused divisions in society and messed up the economy, gets a setback. The people of Bihar are wise enough to realise this," Gehlot said. When it was pointed out that the Mahagathbandhan, the name by which Congress, RJD and Left combine have been known since before the INDIA bloc came into existence, was yet to hold a joint press conference in the poll-bound state, Gehlot and Allavar said in unison, "It will take place tomorrow".

Gehlot alleged that "the turmoil in the NDA is, in fact, greater than it is in our camp. But the media does not highlight that because of bias in favour of the ruling coalition".

The 243-member Bihar Assembly will go to polls in two phases on November 6 and 11, with results set to be announced on November 14.

Prez Murmu's helicopter wheels sink into newly concreted landing pad



PTI

Pathanamthitta (Kerala), Oct 22: The wheels of the helicopter which carried President Droupadi Murmu for her Sabarimala visit got stuck in a depression in the newly concreted helipad at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium at Pramadam here when it landed on Wednesday morning.

After the President left for Pamba by road, visuals on TV channels showed several policemen and fire force personnel pushing the helicopter's wheels out of the small depressions created when it landed on the concrete. A senior police officer of the district said that the stadium was fixed as the location for landing the helicopter at the last moment and therefore, the

helipad was created there late on Tuesday.

The landing was originally planned at Nilackal near Pamba, but it was changed to Pramadam due to inclement weather. "The concrete had not set completely and therefore, it could not handle the helicopter's weight when it landed and depressions were formed where the wheels touched the ground," the officer said.

The President, who arrived in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday evening for a four-day official visit to the southern state, left for Pathanamthitta district, where the hill shrine is located, this morning. From Pramadam, Murmu is travelling to Pamba, the foothills of Sabarimala, via road.

INDIA bloc constituents to fight against each other in 8 seats

PTI

Patna, Oct 22: At least eight assembly seats in Bihar, where constituents of the INDIA bloc will fight against each other due to internal discord among the Congress, the RJD and the Left parties over seat-sharing arrangements. The assembly segments, where the opposition alliance partners will contest together, are Narkatiaganj, Vaishali, Rajapakar, Rosera, Bachhwara, Kahalgaoon, Biharsharif and Sikandara, RJD and Congress leaders said.

The Congress is contesting 61 seats, nine less than the number of constituencies in which the party had fought five years ago, while the RJD has nominated 143 candidates. The CPI is contesting nine constituencies,



while the CPI(M) is in the fray in four seats.

The CPI(ML) Liberation, which had the best strike rate in the 'Mahagathbandhan' in 2020, when it contested 19 seats and won 12, has fielded

candidates in 20 assembly segments this time.

Congress' Shaswat Kedar Pandey is contesting against RJD's Deepak Yadav in Narkatiaganj seat, while the fight is between Sanjeev Singh of the

Congress and Ajay Kumar Kushwaha of RJD in Vaishali.

Congress nominee Pratima Kumri is pitted against Mohit Paswan of CPI in Rajapakar, while Congress candidate Shiv Prakash Garib Das is contesting against Abdeslam Kumar Rai of CPI in Bachhwara seat.

The fight is between Omair Khan of Congress and Shiv Kumar Yadav of CPI in Biharsharif seat. The 243-member Bihar assembly will go to polls in two phases on November 6 and 11, with results set to be announced on November 14.

Commenting on the situation, RJD state unit spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwary told PTI, "I am again saying that alliance partners of the INDIA bloc must understand our compulsions. The RJD is the party

which contests only in Bihar and neighbouring states...we don't demand seats in southern or other states from our partners. As we are the biggest party, we deserve to contest the maximum number of seats in Bihar." He appealed to other constituents of the INDIA bloc to withdraw their candidates from the seats where the RJD has already fielded its nominees.

Reacting to it, Bihar Congress spokesperson Asit Tiwary told PTI, "We have always followed coalition 'dharma'...I must say that the RJD and the Left party fielded their candidates after the Congress had already announced the list of its nominees. We are quite hopeful that things will be sorted out in a day or two".

SC seeks Centre's assistance on PIL seeking nationwide ban on online gambling



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: The Supreme Court has sought the Centre's assistance on a plea seeking directions to prohibit online gambling and betting platforms that allegedly operate under the guise of social and e-sports games.

A Bench of justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan asked the counsel appearing for the petitioner to serve a copy of the PIL to the counsel for the central government.

"We request V.C. Bharti to look into the petition and assist us on the next date of hearing. List after two weeks," the Bench said in an order passed on Friday.

The Supreme Court was hearing a plea filed by think tank Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change (CASC) seeking directions to the Centre to prohibit online gambling and betting platforms that allegedly operate under the guise of social and e-sports games.

The plea has also sought directions to the RBI, NPCI, and UPI platforms to disallow any monetary transactions involving unregistered gaming applications.

It has sought tax recovery and investigation through Interpol, CBI, and ED against offshore gaming companies, which are estimated to owe over 2 lakh crore in unpaid taxes.

The plea has sought a direction to Union ministries of Electronics and Information Technology, Information and Broadcasting, Finance and Youth Affairs and Sports to do a harmonious interpretation of provisions of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, and laws made by state legislatures to prohibit online gambling and betting games operating in the guise of social and e-sports games. The Act lays down a comprehensive framework to promote safe digital recreation while prohibiting harmful practices linked to

online money games. The petition names six respondents, including four Union ministries and the two leading app store operators, Apple Inc. and Google India Pvt. Ltd.

The CASC has urged the Supreme Court to direct the government to clamp down on the proliferation of betting and gambling applications, which they claim are inflicting widespread social and economic harm across the country.

"Betting and gambling are regarded as unlawful activities in the majority of the states in India. Several cases are contested in high courts wherein affidavits were filed by the government and gaming platforms. Upon analysing the same, it is reported that more than 65 crore persons are playing such games, creating an annual business of more than Rs 1.8 lakh crores for these platforms in India," the PIL claimed.

"Around half of the Indian population is involved in playing online games, which are adversely impacting society, economy and national security. The devastating impact of online betting and gambling are endorsed in the objectives of the newly passed Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025. As per the IT Minister's speech in Parliament, the Bill was introduced to ensure the welfare of society and to prevent the serious evil that is creeping into society," the PIL said. The plea said this unchecked expansion of online gaming has created what they describe as a national crisis, affecting half of India's population and leading to financial ruin, mental health issues and even suicides. The plea has sought a nationwide prohibition on online gambling and betting platforms operating as esports or social games.

In one of the prayers, it has sought blocking orders under Section 69A of the IT Act against all unlawful betting sites and apps.

Morning drinks that help control high blood pressure: What's safe, what's not

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Oct 22: Mornings often set the rhythm for the entire day. For those managing high blood pressure, the first sip of the day can be more than just comforting — it can be therapeutic. Choosing the right morning drink can support heart function, improve circulation, and balance the body's stress response. But not every "healthy-looking" drink is heart-friendly. Some can quietly elevate blood pressure or stress the arteries. Let's dive deeper into what's safe, what's not, and what science has to say about it.

Warm water with lemon: gentle start for the arteries

A glass of warm water with lemon is one of the simplest ways to begin the day. The vitamin C in lemon acts as a natural antioxidant, helping reduce oxidative stress — one of the hidden triggers behind high blood pressure. According to a study published in NIH, regular intake of vitamin C-rich foods can slightly lower systolic blood pressure. The drink also helps maintain hydration, which is essential for blood vessel elasticity. However, it's important to ensure that the lemon water isn't too sour, as excess acidity might cause discomfort for those with sensitive stomachs.

Beetroot juice: nature's blood pressure regulator

Beetroot juice has earned its place as one of the most studied drinks for hypertension. Rich in dietary nitrates, it helps the body produce nitric oxide — a compound that relaxes blood vessels and promotes smooth blood flow. Freshly made beetroot juice (without added salt or sugar) can be a strong morning ally for those focusing on natural management of hypertension.



Coconut water: hydration with heart benefits

Tender coconut water is not just refreshing — it's loaded with potassium, a mineral that helps balance sodium levels in the body. Excess sodium is one of the key culprits behind high blood pressure. Drinking plain coconut water in moderation can help maintain electrolyte balance and support heart rhythm. However, packaged versions often contain added sugar or sodium — something that should be checked carefully before consumption.

Green tea: mild caffeine, major antioxidants

Green tea offers a light caffeine boost with a heavy dose of catechins — plant compounds linked to improved blood vessel function. A meta-analysis published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (2014) suggested that long-term green tea intake could modestly reduce blood pressure. Unlike black coffee, which may temporarily raise blood pressure due to its caffeine content, green tea's effect is milder and more balanced. For best results, it's advisable to brew it lightly instead of making it too strong.

Amla water or juice: Indian superfruit for heart health

Amla (Indian gooseberry) is a traditional gem with strong scientific backing. It contains high levels of vitamin C, polyphenols,

and flavonoids that protect the heart and blood vessels from oxidative damage. Having a small glass of amla water or diluted amla juice in the morning can support cardiovascular health naturally — but it should not be mixed with salt or sugar, as both can affect blood pressure control.

Drinks to avoid: hidden triggers in the morning cup

While some drinks help lower pressure, others can do the opposite. Strong coffee or energy drinks can cause temporary spikes in blood pressure due to caffeine overload. Packaged fruit juices, often marketed as "healthy," can contain high sugar levels, which may lead to insulin resistance and increased blood pressure over time. Salted buttermilk, though refreshing, is not advisable for those monitoring hypertension. Even herbal concoctions with liquorice root should be approached with caution, as glycyrrhizin (a compound in liquorice) can raise blood pressure significantly.

Every sip in the morning has a purpose. When chosen wisely, a simple drink can quietly strengthen the heart, calm the arteries, and bring stability to blood pressure. It's less about complex detoxes and more about mindful hydration — respecting what the body needs after a night's rest.

Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra conferred rank of Lt Colonel



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: Olympic gold medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was on Wednesday conferred with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh describing him as an "epitome" of perseverance, and national pride. Singh conferred the insignia of honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel to the star javelin thrower, serving in the Territorial Army, at a pipping ceremony in New Delhi that was also graced by Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi and many other senior officials of the force.

Chopra joined the Indian Army as a Naib Subedar on August 26, 2016 and was promoted to Subedar in 2021 and Subedar Major in 2022.

Born on December 24, 1997 in Khandra village in Haryana's Panipat, he created history by winning India's first-ever Olympic gold medal in athletics in the men's javelin throw competition at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. Chopra continued his stellar performance by winning a silver medal at the Paris Olympics in 2024 and a gold medal at the World

Athletics Championships in 2023.

He has also secured multiple gold medals at the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and Diamond League events. His personal best throw of 90.23 metres (2025) stands as a milestone in Indian sporting history. Interacting with Chopra and his family members, Defence Minister Singh described him as an "epitome of perseverance, patriotism and the Indian spirit of striving for excellence".

"Lt Col (Hony) Neeraj Chopra embodies the highest ideals of discipline, dedication and national pride, serving as an inspiration to generations within the sporting fraternity and the Armed Forces alike," Singh said. In recognition of his outstanding achievements and exemplary service to the nation, Lt Col (Hony) Chopra was granted an honorary commission in the Territorial Army by President Droupadi Murmu on April 16, the Defence Ministry said.

Chopra is also a recipient of many coveted awards, including Padma Shri, Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

Trump hosts Diwali celebration at White House, says US-India ties 'very good'

PTI

Washington, Oct 22: US President Donald Trump has lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India during a Diwali celebration at the White House, saying the two nations share a "very good relationship" and that the Indian leader wants to see the end of the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Trump also reiterated his claim that India will not be buying "too much" oil from Russia. The event held on Tuesday saw Trump hosting Indian-American business leaders and community figures in the Oval Office, lighting a traditional oil lamp, and extending warm greetings to the people of India and Indian-Americans. "I just spoke to your prime minister today. We had a great conversation. We talked about trade. We talked about a lot of things, but mostly the world of trade. He's very interested in that," he said, addressing the Indian-American community members gathered for the festivities.

Describing Modi as "a great person", Trump said he has become "a great friend of mine over the years". The president said he had also discussed India-Pakistan relations with the prime minister. "We did talk a little while ago about let's have no wars with Pakistan. The fact that trade was involved, I was able to talk about that. And we have no war with Pakistan and India. That was a very, very good thing,"



He said, Trump has been repeating his claim dozens of times that he "helped settle" the recent military conflict between India and Pakistan. India has consistently maintained that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan in May was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries. Later, during a media interaction, Trump reiterated his claim that India will not be buying "too much" oil from Russia.

The US and India are working together on "some great deals", he said in response to a question. "I love the people of India... I spoke to Prime Minister Modi today, as I mentioned before, and we just have a very good relationship... He is not going to buy much oil from Russia."

He wants to see the war end as much as I do. He wants to see the war end between Russia and Ukraine," Trump said. "And as you know, they're not going to be buying too much oil, so they've cut it way back, and they're continuing to cut it way back," he claimed. The US has been maintaining that India is helping Putin to finance the war through its purchase of Russian crude oil. The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe stress after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duty for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

Trump last week said that India is going to pay "massive tariffs" if it continues

to buy oil from Russia, while reiterating that he got assurance from Prime Minister Modi that New Delhi is going to halt its oil purchases from Moscow. India had said it is "broad-basing and diversifying" its sourcing of energy to meet market conditions, hours after Trump on Wednesday last week claimed that Modi assured him that New Delhi will stop procuring Russian crude oil.

Trump said he does not believe India made such remarks. During the event, Trump also praised Indian-American business leaders, noting their contributions to the US economy.

"The Indian American business leaders, the biggest in the world... Really, if you look at these companies, what they've done... they're the biggest in the world," he said, referencing

executives such as Adobe Inc CEO Shantanu Narayen, Micron Technology CEO Sanjay Mehrotra, and IBM CEO Arvind Krishna, among several other business leaders who joined Trump in the Diwali celebrations.

Earlier in his Diwali message, Trump reflected on the festival's symbolism.

"In a few moments, we'll light the diya as a symbol of faith in the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. During Diwali, revellers recall ancient stories of enemies defeated, obstacles removed, and captives freed.

"The glow of the diya flame reminds us to seek the path of wisdom and to work with diligence and to always give thanks for our many blessings," he said.

FBI director Kash Patel, who was also present at the event, said he is a first-generation Indian-American whose parents "lawfully immigrated" to the US.

"And under your leadership, so many more millions of Americans are living that dream," Patel said, addressing the US president. Meanwhile, Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra in a social media post said he was "deeply honoured" to join Trump at the White House to celebrate Diwali.

"Wished him on behalf of Prime Minister @narendramodi a Happy Diwali and thanked him for this beautiful gesture. Warm Diwali greetings to all celebrating, especially the vibrant 5 million-strong Indian diaspora in the US," he said.

Nepal celebrates New Year as per indigenous calendar

PTI

Kathmandu, Oct 22: The people of Nepal celebrated New Year's Day on Wednesday according to the indigenous Sambat calendar, with various programmes being organised on the occasion. The Nepal Sambat, an indigenous calendar, belongs to the Newar community, mainly from the Himalayan nation's capital, Kathmandu.

Vice President Ramsahay Prasad Yadav extended best wishes to all Nepalis at home and abroad on the occasion of the Nepal era New Year 1146.

In a message, he wished peace, prosperity and happiness, adding that Nepal Sambat has helped nurture tolerance, reconciliation and fraternity in the country.

Various programmes were organised on the occasion. Meanwhile, the



government announced that the Nepal Sambat date will be printed on Nepali banknotes starting this year.

Members of the Newar community also observed the Mha Puja or self-worship on the fourth day of the Deepawali festival, coinciding with the New Year. Mha Puja is linked to self-awareness, and is said to purify the mind and body before stepping into a new year.

The Nepal Sambat or calendar year was introduced by Shankhadhar Sakhwa, a trader from Kathmandu, by relieving the people of Nepal from debt during the reign of Lichchhavi King Raghavdev in 880 AD.

Recognising the contribution of Shankhadhar Sakhwa to the country and people, the government declared him a national luminary in November 1999.

Asia Cup trophy fiasco BCCI, PCB headed for showdown in next month's ICC meet

PTI

Karachi, Oct 22: The BCCI and Pakistan Cricket Board are headed for a showdown at next month's ICC meeting as PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi is not budging from his stance of personally handing over the Asia Cup trophy to India in his capacity as head of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

In the reply sent to the BCCI and other ACC member nations, Naqvi has insisted that he is willing to organise a ceremony on November 10 in Dubai, where a representative of the BCCI and any available Indian team player can take the trophy from him.

"The ACC trophy rightly belongs to the Indian cricket team and is being held in trust till such time that a BCCI office holder along with any available participating player can collect the same from the ACC President," Naqvi wrote in his reply.

"Such collection would of course be accompanied with much fanfare and coverage as there should be no deviation from established practices and no precedent should be set which undermines the spirit of the game we all love."

The ICC is headed by former BCCI secretary Jay Shah. Naqvi's reply came after the BCCI's fresh missive to the ACC on the Asia Cup trophy fiasco, which was backed by boards of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

The response clearly indicates the level of mistrust and tensions between the BCCI and PCB.

"...as regards the remainder of your letter, slanderous as it may be and digressing as it does from the same values you highlighted, the office of the ACC President will not indulge in petty politics that is aimed to



pacify select extremist groups," the reply further reads.

"The true state of affairs is that there was never any official communication shared with ACC office or the Tournament Director highlighting any position or concern of the BCCI with respect to prize distribution ceremony.

"It was only when the Ceremony was about to take place and distinguished guests had taken their place on the stage that the BCCI's representative conveyed that the Indian Cricket Team would not be receiving the Asia Cup Trophy and awards. Efforts were made to find a solution to the impasse which resulted in an inordinate delay."

"The ACC president waited along with the distinguished guests for approximately 40 minutes to ensure that the integrity of the presentation ceremony was preserved and was not adversely affected by politics, but in vain," the reply added.

A reliable source in the PCB said that the legal department of the board had already been instructed to prepare a dossier in case the BCCI officials move to have Naqvi censured at the ICC board meeting, an indication of which has already been given by the BCCI if the trophy fiasco is not resolved at the earliest.

BCCI invites bids for Women's Premier League official partner rights

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 22: The Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) has invited quotations from reputed entities to acquire the 'Official Partner Rights' for the Women's Premier League through a tender process.

The BCCI said the Request for Quotations (RFQ) provides detailed terms and conditions governing the submission and evaluation of bids.

"The RFQ will be made available on receipt of a non-refundable fee



of Rs 1,00,000 plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax," BCCI secretary Devjit Saikia stated in a

release.

The process has been set with specific timelines with the deadline

to purchase the RFQ is November 12.

Clarifications can be sought up to November 14, and the final submission of proposal documents is scheduled for November 21.

Interested parties are required to email payment details to rfq@bcci.tv as per the procedure outlined in the RFQ.

The BCCI stated that only quotations for product categories not listed as 'Blocked' or 'Prohibited' in the RFQ will be eligible.

Harbhajan, Pollard, Du Plessis, Chawla to feature in Abu Dhabi T10 2025

PTI

Abu Dhabi, Oct 22: Former India cricketers Harbhajan Singh, Sreesanth and Piyush Chawla, alongside West Indies' Kieron Pollard and South Africa's Faf du Plessis have confirmed for the Abu Dhabi T10 scheduled from November 18-30 at the Zayed Cricket Stadium here.

The ninth edition features five new teams -- Ajman Titans, Vista Riders, Royal Champs, Aspin Stallions, and Quetta Qavalry. -- joining last year's Delhi Bulls, Northern Warriors, and Deccan Gladiators to complete the eight-team line-up.

All the franchises have secured their respective squads with a combination of international cricketing stars and exciting young talent.

The Aspin Stallions have added former India spinner Harbhajan to their squad for the upcoming Abu Dhabi T10.

His experience and leadership will play a major role in guiding the team through their debut campaign at the competition.

With Harbhajan's spin, Sam Billings' smart batting, Tymal Mills' pace, and Andre Fletcher's explosive hitting, the Stallions have built a formidable team for the upcoming tournament.

The Ajman Titans have roped in India's World Cup-winning leg-spinner Chawla.

The franchise has also strengthened its batting lineup by bringing in Moeen Ali, Rilee Rossouw, and Alex Hales, adding both experience and firepower to the top order.

The Deccan Gladiators boast one of the most powerful



batting line-ups in Nicholas Pooran, Russell, and Marcus Stoinis to add to David Wiese's all-round experience.

The Delhi Bulls are coming in with a skilled squad for the Abu Dhabi T10, led by two of the most seasoned all-rounders in the shorter format -- Pollard and Sunil Narine. Adding more power, the Bulls have big guns like Tim David, Rovman Powell, and Phil Salt.

The Northern Warriors also

have an impressive lineup with Shimron Hetmyer, Trent Boult, Tabraiz Shamsi, and Dinesh Chandimal up their ranks.

Quetta Qavalry have built a well-rounded squad with stars like Liam Livingstone, Jason Holder, and Imran Tahir in their ranks. The Royal Champs have come into the contest with a strong lineup featuring experienced players like Jason Roy, Angelo Matthews, Shakib Al Hasan, and Chris Jordan.

Movies schedule

Thursday, 23rd October

THAMMA (UA16+)
HINDI - 10:45 AM, 12:10 PM, 01:50 PM, 05:40 PM

EK DEEWANE KI DEEWANIYAT (A)
HINDI - 11:30 AM, 02:35 PM, 03:30 PM, 05:00 PM, 06:30 PM

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