



This newspaper is the sister concern of news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

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### J&K RAJYA SABHA ELECTIONS

## NC wins 3 seats, BJP unexpectedly clinches 1

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 24: In a closely watched political contest, the ruling National Conference (NC) secured three out of four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) pulled off a surprise victory by clinching the fourth seat.

According to results declared by the authorities, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), NC's Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan won the first seat by securing 58 votes, defeating BJP's Ali Muhammad Mir, who polled 28 votes. One vote was declared invalid, officials said.

The second seat was claimed by NC's Sajad Kichloo, who garnered 57 votes against 29 polled by BJP's Rakesh Kumar. Two votes were declared invalid in this round, according to election



Photo: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

officials.

In a dramatic twist, BJP's Sat Sharma and NC-backed Gurinder Singh Oberoi were declared winners on the third and fourth seats, respectively.

Sharma secured 32 votes, while Oberoi received 31. NC's Imran Nabi Dar, who was

expected to win the fourth seat, managed to secure only 21 votes—falling short despite the ruling alliance's numerical advantage.

In total, the ruling alliance had support of 58 after backing of Congress, PDP and independents. On the | [More on P6](#)

## Unprecedented cross voting in J&K's history How 7 MLAs ditched ruling alliance candidates

- 4 alliance MLAs voted in favour of BJP
- 2 'deliberate' cancellations help party pull off surprise victory
- No polling agent present for PDP MLAs
- Congress MLA Bhat casts vote without substitute agent

Umer Maqbool

Srinagar, Oct 24: In an outcome that has brought seven party-affiliated MLAs and independents in Jammu & Kashmir under scrutiny, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) managed to win the fourth Rajya Sabha seat due to

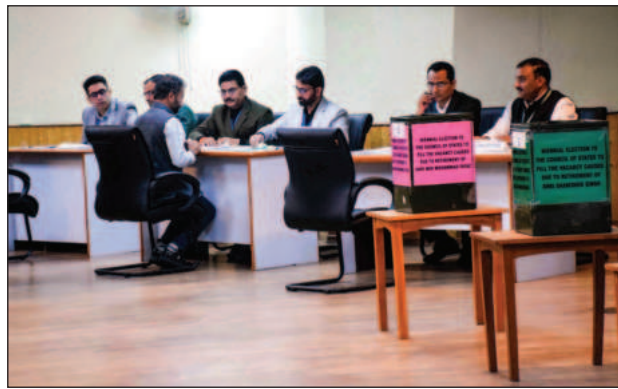


Photo: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

cross-voting by four MLAs and the 'deliberate' cancellation of votes by three others.

In a result keenly watched across Kashmir, BJP candidate Sat Pal Sharma secured 32 votes, four more than the official strength of the BJP—indicating that four MLAs from the ruling alliance or its supporters voted in his

favour. The second winner on the seat, Shammi Oberoi, polled 31 votes.

National Conference (NC) candidate Imran Nabi Dar, who had the assured support of 28 to 29 MLAs, managed to secure only 21 votes—seven to eight fewer than expected.

The NC's two candidates had the backing of 58

MLAs: 41 from NC, six from Congress, seven independents, three PDP MLAs, and one from CPI(M)—a tally sufficient to win both the third and fourth seats.

The cross-voting has put the spotlight on the role of authorised polling agents appointed by political parties to verify the votes of their MLAs.

As per rules, an elector (MLA) who is a member of a political party is required to show the marked ballot paper to the authorised agent of that party for verification before placing it in the ballot box.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that all political parties, except the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), had appointed authorised polling agents to verify the marked votes of their MLAs.

They also | [More on P6](#)

## Winners vow to serve people, become their voice in Parliament

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Oct 24: The victorious Rajya Sabha members on Friday vowed to become the voice of Jammu and Kashmir people in the Parliament.

Speaking to the media persons, senior National Conference leader, Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, who won the seat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "It is a great victory today as the MLAs from NC, Congress, PDP and independents voted in the favour of NC candidates."

Terming it as a win of NC President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Choudhary said that it is a rejection of the August 5, 2019 decision.

Another victorious NC candidate, Shami Oberoi said that he is happy that three seats were won by the NC. "It is unfortunate that we have lost the fourth seat. We will become the voice of J&K people in the Parliament," he said.

Another winner and senior NC leader Sajad Kichloo thanked Almighty Allah, the leadership of the party including party President, Dr Farooq Abdullah, Vice-President Omar Abdullah and all the 56 MLAs, who cast their votes in his favour.

"I would like to thank the people of Chenab, who stood behind me. The people have come from different parts of the Chenab and Jammu here to celebrate the win. It is a gift for the party | [More on P6](#)

## How LoP Sunil Sharma upset NC's RS poll strategy

Umer Maqbool

Srinagar, Oct 24: The ruling National Conference's meticulously crafted plan to sweep all four Rajya Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir was derailed by one man—BJP leader and Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma.

The 48-year-old Sharma, known for his quiet yet calculated political maneuvers, had been working behind the scenes for the past two weeks to secure the BJP's victory on the fourth seat. The odds were heavily stacked against the party, especially after the Congress, PDP, and all independent MLAs publicly declared their support for the National Conference earlier in the day.

With a clear numerical advantage, the NC-led alliance



Photo: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

was poised to win both the third and fourth seats. The BJP's chances appeared slim, particularly after independents Shabir Kulley and Sheikh Khurshheed announced their intention to vote for the ruling alliance to block the BJP.

However, cross-voting, intentional cancellation of votes by 7-8 MLAs helped the BJP clinch the fourth seat, sending its second-ever Member of Parliament to the Rajya Sabha from Jammu and Kashmir.

The NC's defeat on this seat is being viewed as a political embarrassment, marking its failure to replicate the success of the 2009 Rajya Sabha elections when it had secured both the third and fourth seats.

To understand how the BJP pulled off this unexpected win, this reporter spoke to at least 10 MLAs from various parties.

Their accounts point to Sharma's discreet and strategic maneuvering, which outwitted the NC's top leadership despite their intensive poll management efforts.

Described by colleagues as a shrewd | [More on P6](#)

NEP Conclave 2025 in Srinagar

## 'Design Your Degree' future of education, students: LG Sinha



Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 24: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday said that "Design Your Degree" programme, in line with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, is the future of education and students.

Addressing the inaugural session of NEP Conclave 2025 at Amar Singh College here, LG Sinha, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the programme should be implemented in all colleges and universities of Jammu and Kashmir. | [More on P6](#)

### Pashmina Artisan Awards Ceremony

Says their welfare remains a national priority

Urges people to buy local products to empower country's workforce

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 24: Calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the biggest brand ambassador of India's artisans, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday urged people to buy local products to empower the country's great workforce.

Addressing the Pashmina Artisan Awards Ceremony organised by "Pashmina Entrepreneurs Makers &

## PM Modi biggest brand ambassador of India's artisans: LG Sinha



Artisans Foundation" here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his consistent efforts over the last 11 years under the 'Vocal for Local'

initiative. "The PM himself is the biggest brand ambassador of India's artisans and has ensured that their welfare remains a national priority," he added. LG Sinha said the Prime Minister has honoured the spirit of Swadeshi and given new

strength to this noble sector. "We must remember that our artisans create masterpieces that are 'Made in India' and have vast market potential," he said, adding, "Every household in the country must buy a creative product made of master artisans of the UT."

He said, under the guidance of PM Modi, new schemes and policy interventions, coupled with the development of strong infrastructure, have ensured comprehensive support to young and master artisans and revived the UT's unique cultural and artistic heritage.

"I am confident the nation's growing middle class, which could make up over half the population by | [More on P6](#)

## CM Omar calls for smooth, well-coordinated Darbar Move

Directs depts to work in synergy

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements for the upcoming Darbar Move Session 2025-26, emphasizing on ensuring smooth, secure and well-coordinated shifting of offices from Srinagar to Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary (Estate) Shaleen Kabra, ACS to the Chief Minister



Dheeraj Gupta, ACS Power Development Department, Shailendra Kumar, Director General Fire & Emergency Services, several Administrative Secretaries, Inspector General of Police Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu and other senior officers and

Heads of Departments connected with Darbar Move.

At the outset, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD) M. Raju made a detailed presentation on the transport arrangements and logistical aspects of | [More on P6](#)

## Victims & perpetrators of terrorism cannot be equated: EAM Jaishankar

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 24: India on Friday cited Pakistan's attempts to protect at the UN Security Council the terror outfit that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack to point out that the global body's work has been "gridlocked" in the absence of urgent reforms.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also criticised those equating victims and perpetrators of terrorism in the name of global strategy, in an apparent reference to hyphenation of India and Pakistan in the



context of the dastardly terror strike.

Jaishankar was speaking at an event that celebrated the 80th anniversary of the United Nations (UN).

In his remarks, the external affairs minister said "all is not

well" with the UN as its debates have become "increasingly polarised" and its working "visibly gridlocked".

"Any meaningful reform is obstructed using the reform process itself," he said adding sustaining the UN even while seeking its re-invention is clearly a major challenge before the world.

"Few examples are more telling about the challenges facing the UN than its response to terrorism. When a sitting Security Council member openly protects the very organisation that claims | [More on P6](#)

Army Commanders' Conference

## Post Art-370 abrogation, J&K streets filled with hope instead of unrest: Rajnath Singh

Hails Army's pivotal role in establishing peace in UT

Reiterates 'Operation Sindoor' not over yet

KNO Monitoring Desk

Srinagar, Oct 24: Stating that post abrogation of Article 370 the streets of Jammu and Kashmir are filled with hope instead of unrest, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on



Friday lauded the army for playing a pivotal role in establishing

peace in the Union Territory. Speaking at the ongoing Army

Commanders' Conference in Jaisalmer, Rajnath Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "PM Modi's historical move to abrogate Article 370 integrated J&K with the rest of the country. Post-abrogation, the streets of the region are now filled with hope instead of unrest."

He said that people of J&K are confident about their future being secure. "They have become the masters of their own destiny as the decision-making lies in their own hands," Singh said. The Defence | [More on P6](#)



## Govt notifies instructions to curb rash driving of school buses

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: For safe and smooth operations of school buses and to allay concerns of incidents of road accidents involving school buses, the School Education department has issued necessary instructions to ensure safety of students.

A circular issued by School Education department in this regard reads, "all Heads of Institutions, both Government and Private, shall ensure that every school bus engaged for transportation of students is fully compliant with the rules prescribed by the Transport Department".

The circular further reads that it shall be ensured that one attendant is deployed in each school bus, in addition to the driver, to take proper care of students

during boarding, travel, and de-boarding, and to handle any emergency situation that may arise. "Every school bus shall be equipped with a first aid box, fire extinguisher, and emergency contact details. The drivers shall strictly adhere to the prescribed speed limits and operate the buses only on approved routes. Any instance of rash or negligent driving shall invite strict disciplinary and legal action. Heads of Institutions shall personally verify compliance and maintain records relating to drivers, attendants, vehicle fitness, and insurance particulars", the circular adds.

It further reads that the Chief Education Officers shall ensure proper monitoring of these instructions and in case of any default, strict legal action shall be initiated against the violators.

## DC Kupwara chairs DRAC meeting, approves 18 cases

KT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 24: In order to finalize various Rent Assessment Cases of the buildings under utilization of different Government Departments, a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse here.

As many as 21 rent cases of buildings presently used by various Government Departments in the district were put forth before the Committee for fixing of monthly rent. The Committee deliberated on all the rent assessment cases in detail and each case was examined thoroughly keeping in view various administrative and other requirements



and approved 18 cases.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner impressed upon the Officers to ensure that vacant government buildings are occupied for official purposes and rented accommodation remains the last option.

The meeting was attended by CPO Kupwara, CEO, Principal GPC, AD Food, CAHO, Executive Engineers of PWD and other concerned officers.

## Strengthen 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan': CS

Over 3.5 lakh people engaged in 7,000 awareness events by DIPR

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress and impact of the 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan', an intensive anti-drug awareness campaign spearheaded by the Information Department across the districts of the UT.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Police; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Information Department; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Divisional Commissioner Jammu/Kashmir; Inspector General, Crime; Secretary, Health; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Director, Information & PR; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir; and other senior officers.

Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for a sustained and community-driven awareness campaign involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and schools across J&K. He underscored the importance of capacity building at the grassroots level and directed that resource persons be trained through IMHANS, drawing participants from paramedical staff, school teachers, and members of Self Help Groups (SHGs). These trained individuals, he said, would serve as



counsellors in Primary Health Centres, schools, and rural communities to effectively combat substance abuse.

The Chief Secretary further instructed the Deputy Commissioners to identify suitable local resources in coordination with the concerned departments and asked the Health Department to design training modules for these counsellors. He further suggested that assistance from NITI Aayog could be sought to ensure quality training for the trainers and to strengthen the overall implementation framework.

The Chief Secretary also directed the concerned departments to carry out an audit of calls received on the anti-drug helpline numbers to assess the nature of assistance being provided to victims and their families.

He reviewed district-wise implementation of the Abhiyan, taking feedback from Deputy Commissioners on public response and progress

of planned activities. Stressing the importance of rehabilitation, he asked the districts to ensure continuous guidance and dignified reintegration of individuals recovering from substance abuse offering self employment opportunities and other guidance to such youth.

On this occasion the Commissioner Secretary, Information Department, M. Raju, gave a detailed presentation on the outreach and impact of the 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan', which aims to make Jammu and Kashmir a truly drug-free region. He informed that since the programme's launch on April 5 this year, the department has conducted a series of sustained IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaigns involving social icons, influencers, and youth role models. These initiatives included SMS campaigns, debates, competitions, podcasts, and infographics to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse, he added.

## DLSA Sgr holds meeting to strengthen juvenile justice system

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar organized a meeting of the Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief and under the supervision of Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Sajad-ur-Rehman.

The meeting was chaired by Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar and was attended by Associate Professor, National Law University Delhi, Dr. Tasneem Deo, and Technical Consultant (Juvenile Justice), Syed Mujtaba. Members of the Legal Services Unit for Children participated in the

session both physically and virtually.

In his address, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, emphasized the pivotal role of the Legal Services Authority in safeguarding the rights of children and ensuring that juvenile cases are dealt with in a sensitive and legally sound manner.

He highlighted the need for regular coordination between stakeholders, timely legal intervention, and awareness among parents and guardians to prevent re-offending and promote the rehabilitation of juveniles. He also appreciated the contribution of all members of the Legal Services Unit for Children for their continued efforts in advancing child-centric justice.

During the deliberations, Dr.

Tasneem Deo highlighted the importance of adopting effective and child-friendly approaches while dealing with cases involving juveniles. She stressed the significance of continuous capacity-building of legal aid counsels and greater inter-agency coordination for the effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice framework.

The members of the Legal Services Unit for Children actively interacted during the session and discussed various challenges faced while handling juvenile cases. They shared experiences and suggestions aimed at strengthening the delivery of legal aid and ensuring that the rights and welfare of children in conflict with law are effectively protected.

## JKLCMA, NaBFID sign MoU for Dal Lake's development

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: The J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA) Friday signed a MoU with National Bank for Financing and Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for providing technical consultancy services by the later for undertaking different projects for Dal Lake development.

Under the MoU, the NaBFID will provide technical consultancy services for installation of Ferris Wheel, High Jet Fountain and Musical Fountain in Dal Lake, Development of Theme/Amusement Park at Shalimar, Srinagar as well as any other project envisaged by J&K Government.

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: [rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in](mailto:rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in)  
NO: T-1/EEA/5757-61  
Dated: 23/10/2025

#### EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject:- 1. Construction of drain from OLD Masjid Sherif to New Jama Masjid Sherif Ratsuna Tral.

Reference:-

1. This office e-NIT NO.68/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/4841-51 Dated 30-09-2025

The critical dates for the above noted NITs are hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	29-10-2025 upto 4.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	30-10-2025 upto 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-  
Technical officer

DIPK-7466/25  
Dated: 24-10-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Awantipora.

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER SHOPIAN

Email: [dsoshopian-shdk@jk.gov.in](mailto:dsoshopian-shdk@jk.gov.in)  
Technical Section

Subject:- Conduct of programme-Buyer-Seller meet.

#### OFFICE ORDER

Regarding the subject captioned, the Department of Sheep Husbandry Shopian is going to conduct a programme titled "Buyer-Seller Meet" at District Sheep Husbandry Complex Shirmaal Shopian on 28th of October 2025 at 11:00 AM with the aim to promote wool for its effective processing and marketing. In this regard, all the interested sheep farmers, wool growers, wool sellers and buyers are cordially invited to participate in the mega event on the scheduled date, time and venue.

No.: DSH05/Tech/2025-26/1581-4 Dated: - 24-10-2025.

A District Sheep Husbandry Officer Shopian

DIPK-7481/25 Dated: 24-10-2025

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION PATTAN

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-Tender NIT No: 50 / R&B of 2025-26 / 2810-15 Dated: 23.10.2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Projecting Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Restoration of 1X4 Mtr Span Culvert at Kalsari Pattan.	7.91 lacs	300/-	15820/-	60 days	M&R 2025-26	CD	R&B

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 viewed/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-10-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24-10-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	24-10-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	30-10-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	31-10-2025 11:00 AM Office of The Executive Engineer RnB Division Pattan

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender inviting authority) Falling under the Competence of under sign.

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, as per PWD norms).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority). The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period for different nature of works i.e. for M&R works six months (6 months) Bituminous works Three Years (03 Years) and Building works Eighteen Months (18 months) etc as per Physical nature of work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority).

6. The earnest money/ Bid security in favor of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

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

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

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

iii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

9. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

i. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" option on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.

ii. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get' Digital Signature Certificate(DSC)' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

iii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

Computer operator/ Camp/ Draftsman/ Head Draftsman/ DIPK-7465/25  
No: R&B / Divn./2810-15 Dated:23-10-2025

Technical Officer /

DATED: 24-10-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Pattan

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION TANGMARG.

### FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (CIVIL WORKS)

Fresh NIT No: 90/ R&B of 2025-26

Dated: 24-10-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority	Tender call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11
1	Repair/ Renovation of Staff quarter near Jamia Masjid at Gulmarg.	1.50	200/-	3000/-	15 days	3452-Non-Plan	DEE	Gulmarg Dev. Authority	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2	Construction of Passenger Shed at Bus stand Haridshoor.	4.99	200/-	9980/-	20 days	CDF	DEE	District Dev. Commissioner Bara-mulla	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3	Improvement / Up-gradation of Staircase from Ferozpora to Toll Plaza Post Tangmarg at Ferozpora under CDS of Hon'ble MLA Gulmarg.	9.75	600/-	19500/-	20 days	CDF	D/C	District Dev. Commissioner Bara-mulla	2 <sup>nd</sup>

Position Of AAA: Accorded

Position of T.S: Accorded

Position of funds: Assured

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 viewed/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-10-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24-10-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	24-10-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	30-10-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	31-10-2025 11:00 AM

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender inviting authority).

2. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

3. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Tangmarg (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.

38. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form), NIT, GFR 2017 & JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

39. As per the Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated: 08-07-2025 issued by Finance Department of UT J&K "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder".

No: R&B / Divn./ Tang/5668-78  
Dated:24-10-2025

DIPK-7471/25  
DATED: 24-10-2025

sd/-  
Technical Officer

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Tangmarg.



## Pulwama: Wires of Worry

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Pulwama, Oct 24: The residents of Rakh and Zahid Bagh villages in south Kashmir's Pulwama district are living in constant fear due to the presence of dangerously low-hanging electric wires and decaying poles, some of which are precariously tied to trees.

The locals allege that despite repeated pleas to the Power Development Department (PDD), no substantial action has been taken to address the potentially life-threatening issue.

The residents said the situation has worsened over the past few years as the existing electric poles have either worn out or fallen. "We have been forced to tie wires to trees to keep electricity flowing. However, this makeshift arrangement has turned into a major safety hazard," said Ghulam Rasool Mir, a



resident of Rakh village.

He said the electric lines run dangerously close to rooftops and touch trees along

the roads.

"A small spark or short circuit can lead to a major tragedy," Mir said. "We have repeatedly

urged the concerned authorities to replace these dangling wires and decayed poles, but our pleas have gone unheard. Even during the Back to Village programmes, our demands were noted but never acted upon."

Residents said the low-tension (LT) wires in several areas are so close to the ground that people have to remain cautious while walking or driving, especially during the rainy season when the risk of electrocution increases.

"All LT wires in our village are tied to trees because there are no poles available. These wires are old, weak, and often get damaged. We fear that one day, a live wire might fall and cause a disaster," said Sameer Ahmad, a resident of Zahid Bagh.

The locals added that every time they raise the issue, they are assured of redressal, but

on the ground, no improvement is visible. "The administration needs to act before any untoward incident occurs. If anything happens, the PDD will be solely responsible," said another local.

The residents of both villages have appealed to the higher authorities to immediately provide new electric poles and insulated wires to avert any possible mishap.

An official of the Power Development Department admitted that the power infrastructure in these areas is outdated and requires urgent upgradation. "We are aware of the issue. The department has already taken steps to identify such vulnerable locations, and replacement of old poles and wires will be carried out in a phased manner," the official said—(KNO)

### RS Poll Results

## Joint celebrations outside Civil Secretariat

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 24: In a rare display of political camaraderie, workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and National Conference (NC) were seen celebrating face-to-face outside the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar on Friday late evening after the announcement of the Rajya Sabha election results.

At the gate of the Secretariat, celebrations turned frenzied as the results of all seats were declared. BJP supporters, after hearing of their unexpected win on the fourth seat, arrived and began dancing and shouting slogans in front of NC supporters.

Eyewitnesses present at the scene said that around 5 PM, supporters of the ruling National Conference started arriving at the Secretariat gate in Srinagar, holding party flags and raising slogans for their candidates.

They said the atmosphere turned tense as the results began coming out from the Secretariat, and with NC's victory on two seats declared, the crowd outside started shouting slogans of "Zoun Ho, Zoun Ho".

"As the results for the



remaining third and fourth seats were announced, and BJP's unexpected win over one seat was declared, party workers arrived in vehicles, dancing and chanting 'Modi, Modi', which electrified the atmosphere," eyewitnesses said, adding that within minutes, both parties' supporters, initially gathered in separate groups—broke into cheers almost simultaneously.

The eyewitnesses added that while NC supporters celebrated the victory of their three candidates, BJP workers erupted

in jubilation after their leader and UT President Sat Sharma secured an unexpected win on the fourth seat.

Soon, the festive atmosphere turned into a scene of flag-waving from both sides, with supporters of both parties seen shouting for their party and waving flags in front of the Civil Secretariat.

"Har Har Modi, Ghar Ghar Modi" echoed from one side, while "Zoun Ho Zoun Ho" resonated from the other, as the slogans and chants of NC and BJP supporters filled the air outside

the Secretariat in Srinagar.

Later, following the celebrations, BJP workers moved to the party headquarters in Jawahar Nagar, where Sat Sharma arrived along with senior party leaders, including Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma and several BJP MLAs, to continue the celebrations.

Meanwhile, from the National Conference side, Chief Minister and NC Vice President Omar Abdullah, along with other MLAs who had been present inside the Secretariat since morning, came out in their vehicles after winning three seats.

Eyewitnesses told KNO that the convoy of vehicles drove straight past the press gathered at the gate. They added that the mood of the Chief Minister and others appeared low after the BJP's victory on the fourth seat, which shook NC's dream of a clean sweep.

As per the official results, the National Conference bagged three Rajya Sabha seats, while the BJP secured one, marking a surprising twist in the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

## J&K's destiny changed post Art 370 abrogation: Rijiju

SAJID RAINA

Katra, Oct 24: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday said the development witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 was unprecedented and marked a turning point in the region's governance and infrastructure.

Speaking at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University during an event where Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed newly recruited candidates under the Rozgar Mela, Rijiju said that Jammu and Kashmir's "fate turned around" after the Modi government came to power and Article 370 was removed.

"I have been coming to Kashmir since my childhood. I came here in the 70s, 80s, 90s, and even after 2000. The development that has taken place in J&K after 2014 has never been seen before," Rijiju said.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir now has sports facilities, auditoriums, and training centres in every district. "When I was the Law Minister, court buildings



and the foundation of the High Court complex were built. I have worked in different departments and seen this transformation closely," he said.

The Union Minister added that after the removal of Article 370, the region's "destiny has opened up". He said the government's focus is now on sustaining peace and ensuring growth across all sectors. "J&K has to move forward with peace, and the world wants to see it. It is a beautiful place, and if there is peace and development, it will progress even more," he added.

Responding to a question

about Bihar, Rijiju said that PM Modi's visit to the state marks the beginning of a significant campaign. "The Prime Minister is starting his campaign from the birthplace of Karpoori Thakur, which will send a big message. The people of Bihar know that only under Modi ji's leadership can Bihar move to new heights," he said.

Regarding Tejashwi Yadav's political prospects, Rijiju said that democracy depends on public choice. "What will happen by making a face? The public has to accept it. This is democracy," he said.

## Free textbooks distribution to start by November end: BOSE

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 24: Ahead of new academic session, Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) Friday said that it will start distributing free textbooks upto 8th standard by the end of November.

The board also assured that all the deserving students will get their free textbooks by the first week of December.

Addressing a Press Conference here at Srinagar headquarters, Secretary BOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh acknowledged the delay in distributing free textbooks last year.

"It is a fact that the free textbooks couldn't be delivered to the students on time last year. There were several reasons for that like shifting of academic session and certain other things that were there beyond the control of BOSE," Sheikh said.

He said, "This year I assure that by the end of November, we will distribute the free textbooks to every nook and corner of Kashmir valley and by the first week of December, every student upto 8th standard will get their free textbooks."

About doing away with board exams for 11th standard, BOSE said that it has constituted a committee to see the pros and cons of the decision. "If it suits their academic interests, we will do that but if the committee is not satisfied with this



decision, we may not change it." "BOSE has to work hard in executing the decision of the government to shift back the academic session to November-December," he said.

The BOSE secretary further said that the academic calendar of the ensuing academic year got affected due to the bad weather conditions. "In this regard BOSE got many representations from almost all concerned stakeholders regarding the syllabi relaxation and the board committee accordingly announced syllabi relaxation of 15 percent for all annual regular board exams. The relaxation session is primarily for Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division," Sheikh said.

Stating the breakup of 15 percent relaxation, the BOSE secretary said that there are some papers with external exams and some are some without the external exams. "In those subjects having 100 marks, the student will have to attempt only 85 percent of the questions that will

be considered an attempt of 100 marks. Of those subject papers having only 80 percent marks, the students will have to attempt only 68 percent of questions. Similarly, for those question papers having only 70 marks, the student will have to attempt only 60 percent of marks and for those papers having only 50 percent of marks, the students will have to attempt 43 percent of marks," he said.

The BOSE secretary also said that nearly 95,000 students are enrolled to appear for 10th class exams and the board has made 994 exam centers for them, 760 centers for 82,000 students of 11th standard and 682 centers for 70,000 students of 12th class respectively.

"We have already notified the date sheet before the time. The exams of 10th standard will commence from November-03 followed by 11th standard from November-19 and for 12th standard, the exams will commence from November-08," he said—(KNO)

### Reasi Gets Vande Bharat connect from Oct 29

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

Jammu, Oct 24: The Northern Railway has decided to introduce a new halt for the Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express at Reasi railway station from October 29, 2025, in a move aimed at improving passenger convenience and responding to local demand.

Officials said that the train, numbered 26401-26402, will stop for two minutes at Reasi in both directions.

Until now, the semi-high-speed train only had a single stop between Katra and Srinagar — at Banihal.

The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6, 2025, became the first rail service to directly connect the Jammu region with the Kashmir Valley. Since its launch, it has been widely appreciated for its comfort, speed, and reliability.

Uchit Singh, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Northern Railway, said the decision was taken to cater to the growing number of passengers from Reasi district, which attracts thousands of devotees visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine and tourists coming to see the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge.

He said the new halt will boost connectivity and promote tourism in the region. Passengers have been advised to check the latest train schedule on the official railway website, 139, or through the NTES app before travelling—(KNO)

### BJP lawmakers express grief over colleague's wife demise

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 24: The Legislative Group of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Sushma Sharma, wife of legislator Chander Prakash Ganga, on Friday. In a condolence message, the party said her passing is a loss of a noble soul, remembered for her simplicity, kindness, and dedication to family and community. The BJP Legislative family extended its support and solidarity to Ganga and his family during this difficult time.

The message also included prayers for eternal peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to cope with the loss—(KNO)

## Youth find their sport calling, and medals follow

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Oct 24: Jammu and Kashmir's medal tally at both national and international events has improved in recent years, with the sports scene witnessing a steady growth as more youth take up sports as a serious career option.

Divisional Sports Officer, J&K Sports Council, Javid-Ur-Rehman said the change is the result of continuous efforts to identify and nurture young athletes across all districts.

"The J&K Sports Council has remained focused on nurturing the talent of students along with their academic needs. The results are evident. Our medal tally continues to rise at national and international levels",

he said. He said that the 6th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games will be held in Gulmarg, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently described as the winter sports capital of India in his Mann Ki Baat program. The event will bring together athletes from across the country to compete in various snow and ice sports. Javid said the dates will be announced soon.

Rehman said that earlier, sports activities in Jammu and Kashmir were largely limited to urban areas, but the government has extended its reach to rural and border regions. "The only gap was the lack of a platform. Over the past few years, sports infrastructure has been built in rural belts as well so that young talent

can emerge from every corner," he added.

At present, 55 sports associations are recognised by the J&K Sports Council, each working to promote a specific discipline and scout for new talent.

"Sport is not just leisure; it is a career-building path. What matters most is finding the right platform," the officer said.

"The youth of Jammu and Kashmir have immense talent, and it is our responsibility to provide them with opportunities," Javid said, encouraging young athletes to pursue sports with dedication.

The Khelo India Winter Games have already completed five successful editions, with Gulmarg becoming a consistent host for the event—(KNO)

### Police arrest 3 absconders in Ang, Bla

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 24: In a major success against absconding offenders, Police on Friday said to have arrested three long time absconders in Anantnag and Baramulla districts.

Police Station Aishmuqam have apprehended two individuals who had been evading arrest for more than ten years. The arrests mark the culmination of sustained efforts, reliable intelligence gathering, and dedicated follow-up by the J&K Police team, a police spokesman said in a statement.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Arif Ahmad Sheikh son of Suleiman Sheikh resident of Tagdi Nazirpora, Calcutta; wanted in FIR No. 39/2013 under sections 454, 380 RPC and Mohammad Shameem Sheikh, son of Minto Sheikh, resident of Kala Chowk, Tagdi Nazirpora, Calcutta; wanted in FIR No. 47/2013 under sections 454, 380 RPC, police said. "Both accused were

involved in separate burglary and theft cases registered in the year 2013 and had been absconding since 2014 to evade arrest. Acting on credible information and after meticulous technical and human surveillance, the police team successfully traced and arrested both absconders," police said.

In Baramulla, Police said to have apprehended Mohd Ashraf Wani son of Jalal-ud-Din Wani resident of Singhpora Pattan, who was wanted in connection with FIR No. 177/2016 under Sections 147, 148, 149, 336, 307, and 427 RPC registered at Police Station Pattan.

The accused had been evading arrest since 2016. After sustained efforts and meticulous tracking, he was apprehended and produced before the Court of JMFC Pattan, for further legal proceedings, police said.

Meanwhile, J&K Police reiterated their commitment to bringing absconders and offenders to justice to uphold the rule of law in the district—(KNO)



EDITORIAL

## Achieving TB-Free J&K Requires Collective Pledge

Tuberculosis, a preventable and curable disease, continues to affect thousands of families, making this focused administrative push both timely and essential. The high-level review of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, chaired by the Chief Secretary, is a commendable step in Jammu and Kashmir's public health journey. The CS's emphasis on early screening, end-to-end patient monitoring, and robust contact tracing outlines a clear, compassionate roadmap for a TB-free future. The progress reported is encouraging. Achieving 100% case notification and screening 92% of the vulnerable population demonstrates

what is possible with determined governance. The involvement of Deputy Commissioners and the directive for doctors to personally adopt patients signals a welcome shift from a systems-based approach to a people-centric one. Tuberculosis is as much a social challenge as it is a medical one; it thrives in conditions of poverty, malnutrition, and inadequate healthcare access. Therefore, a strategy that combines medical intervention with nutritional support and public engagement, exemplified by the network of over 6,700 Nikshay Mitras, is the only path to sustainable success. However, the real test lies in

execution at the grassroots. Strengthening the army of ASHA workers for home visits and counselling is crucial for ensuring treatment adherence, which is often the biggest hurdle in combating TB. The integration of patient records with digital platforms like the Sehat App will enhance transparency and enable real-time tracking, preventing patients from being lost to follow-up. To truly eliminate TB, we must also address its social determinants. This means intensifying efforts to improve nutrition, housing, and public awareness. The general public must be mobilised to destigmatise the disease, encouraging early

diagnosis and treatment without fear or shame. The administration's commitment is evident, but achieving a TB-free Jammu and Kashmir requires a collective pledge. It needs every citizen, community leader, and healthcare professional to become an ambassador for change. With sustained effort, technological integration, and unwavering compassion, Jammu and Kashmir can indeed become a model region, showing the nation how to turn the tide against a disease that has burdened humanity for too long. The battle is tough, but with a clear strategy and a united front, it is one we can win.

# Soaring Skies, Thriving Economy: India's Aviation Vision 2047

Govt's vision is to increase airports to 350-400 by 2047. Overall, India's aviation sector supports over 7.7 million jobs.

### Press Information Bureau

Connectivity is a bridge that transforms geography into opportunity. This is not just about the current time, but history tells how regional connectivity led to the growth of regions, trade and economic exchange, making growth inclusive and balanced. Even in the current time, connectivity plays an important role not just for the tourism and trade sectors but also for emergencies and reducing dependence on external markets. Among the many factors contributing to the growth of the domestic market, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) — a regional connectivity scheme launched on 21 October 2016 — has played a pivotal role in strengthening regional air connectivity. As UDAN completes nine years today, the scheme has evolved from a pilot initiative into a national success story, bridging distances and making air travel accessible to citizens across the country.

India's Aviation: Soaring Towards Inclusive Growth

In the last decade, India's skies have grown busier than ever. India has emerged as the world's third-largest domestic aviation market. The number of airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 163 in 2025. Meanwhile, as India celebrates hundred years of independence in 2047, the government's vision is to increase airports to 350-400 by then.

The aviation sector is also one of the fastest-growing sectors in India's economy, contributing through air transport services and indirectly through tourism, trade, logistics, and manufacturing.

According to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), investments in aviation have a strong ripple effect on the economy. For every rupee spent, the sector generates more than three times that value in economic activity and supports over six times as many jobs in connected industries.

Today, the sector supports over 7.7 million jobs indirectly, including 369,000 jobs directly, the demand for skilled

personnel—pilots, engineers, ground staff, and logistics professionals—is expected to rise sharply. With over 116 bilateral Air Service Agreements, India is deepening global connectivity as Indian carriers expand internationally, reinforcing the country's position as an aviation hub in Asia. Civil aviation is also driving FDI inflows, technology transfer, and Make in India initiatives in aircraft manufacturing, ground handling, and Maintenance, Repair, and Operations (MRO) services. Over the past decade, domestic air passenger traffic has grown 10-12% annually.

By 2040, the passenger traffic is expected to grow six-fold to around 1.1 billion. India's commercial airline fleet is predicted to grow from 400 in 2014 to around 2359 in March 2040. The total employment due to aviation sector in 2040 is expected to be around 25 million - emerging as a core engine of India's journey towards becoming a developed economy.

UDAN: Democratizing Air Travel for Every Citizen

From metro cities to mountain valleys, the Indian sky has become a map of new possibilities — connecting small towns, enabling tourism, and driving local economies. At the heart of this transformation lies the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme under Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), which has democratised air travel and reshaped India's regional connectivity landscape.

According to NITI Aayog, domestic travellers accounted for over 83% of total tourism spending in 2019, a figure expected to rise to nearly 89% by 2028. This shift shows how government initiatives like UDAN have bridged the infrastructure gap and made air travel accessible for millions, connecting remote regions and making air travel affordable and accessible.

This reflects the government's efforts to make air travel affordable and inclusive, supported by initiatives like UDAN. This transformation has also reshaped India's travel map. Once remote destinations— Kullu,

Darbhanga, Hubballi and Shillong—are now directly connected by air, boosting local economies and regional tourism.

The vision of UDAN emphasised the need to democratize air travel, a sentiment that ignited the vision for a more inclusive aviation sector. This commitment to the common man's dreams led to the birth of UDAN. UDAN Achievement:

RCS-UDAN Connecting India: The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN has operationalised 649 routes and connected 93 aerodromes (including 2 water aerodromes and 15 heliports) across the country, among which 12 airports/heliports in the North-East region. It has also integrated the Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands into the national aviation network.

Milestone Achieved: Over 1.56+ crore passengers have travelled on RCS-UDAN flights, and a total of 3.23 lakh RCS flights have been operated across regional routes nationwide. Around 4,300 crore in Viability Gap Funding (VGF) has been disbursed to make regional routes commercially sustainable for airlines.

Expanded UDAN: The scheme aims to increase regional connectivity to 120 new destinations across the country, catering to 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years. The scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational and North East region districts.

Affordable Food at Airports with UDAN Yatri Café: The UDAN Yatri Café initiative, launched at Kolkata and Chennai airports, provides affordable, quality meals (tea at 10, samosa at 20) — making air travel more inclusive and accessible to all.

Looking Ahead: Vision For 2047

As India moves toward its centenary of independence, the aviation sector is charting an ambitious growth path — from 163 airports in 2025 to over 350 by 2047, and passenger traffic expected to cross one billion. These numbers represents a shift toward cleaner fuels, digital airways, and inclusive mobility.

With 25 million jobs projected by 2047 and expanding opportunities in MRO, drone manufacturing, and pilot training, aviation will become a vital pillar of India's \$10 trillion economy.

Meanwhile, following initiatives in aviation sector are pivotal in achieving India's 2047 vision -- connecting remote regions, supporting livelihoods, and advancing sustainable growth.

Krishi UDAN: Launched in September 2020, Krishi UDAN enables faster transport of agricultural produce and perishables, especially to benefit the tribal and northeastern states. In convergence with the Operation Greens Scheme, it offers 50% freight subsidy, multimodal transport options, and coverage of horticulture and allied produce.

Lifeline UDAN: This special initiative was launched in March 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown, to ensure uninterrupted medical and essential supply deliveries. Over 588 flights carried 1,000 tons of cargo across 5.45 lakh km, focusing particularly on the North Eastern region, the Islands, and hilly terrains. Lifeline UDAN also supported setting up COVID labs, transporting medical teams, and responding to emergencies like the Vishakhapatnam gas leak.

Greenfield Airports Policy: The Greenfield Airports Policy provides a framework for building new airports on unused land through public-private partnerships to expand India's aviation infrastructure and decongest metro hubs.

Enhancing Travel Experience: To enhance the travel experience, reduce redundancy, and save time, the government has launched various initiative including Digi Yatra. Implemented from 2022 onwards, Digi Yatra enabled paperless, contactless processing of passengers using facial recognition technology. By March 2025, more than 52.2 million passengers had used this facility. Digi Yatra App is available on Android as well as iOS platforms and has been downloaded by over 12.1 million users so far.

Flight Training and Pilot Development: To meet the projected demand of 30,000–34,000 pilots in the next 10–15 years, government is expanding Flight Training Organizations (FTOs) and commercial pilot licensing. Promoting gender inclusion, with 13–18% women pilots, DGCA targets 25% female representation in all aviation roles by 2025.

Drone Rules 2021, Production-Linked Incentive (PLI): The Drone Rules, 2021, liberalized India's drone sector by simplifying regulations and enabling wider commercial use. Complementing this, the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, with Rs 34.79 crore disbursed in FY 24–25, has encouraged domestic manufacturing and reduced reliance on imports, boosting India's self-reliant drone ecosystem.

Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024: Legislative reform aimed at modernizing India's aviation sector by re-enacting the Aircraft Act, 1934, in alignment with contemporary needs and global standards. The new legislation fosters indigenous manufacturing under Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, aligning with international conventions like the Chicago Convention and ICAO, and streamlining regulatory processes, such as simplification of the issuance of licenses. The Act removes redundancies and provides provisions for appeals.

### Conclusion:

India's civil aviation sector has emerged as one of the fastest-growing sectors, making the country the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world. As country continues to record unprecedented rise in passenger traffic, expand regional connectivity, and modernise aviation frameworks, the efforts by the ministry enhance travel experiences for millions and bolster economic prosperity, strengthen national integration, and empower India to confidently soar towards its vision of becoming a developed nation—Viksit Bharat @2047.

# A Bit Too Lenient

The incident against Chief Justice B.R. Gavai exposes fragility in institutional respect and highlights the need for accountability beyond individual forgiveness

### P. John J. Kennedy

The Supreme Court's recent observation that the shoe-hurling incident against the chief justice of India, B.R. Gavai, should "die a natural death" is deeply concerning. It raises important questions about institutional accountability and public civility. The Bench cautioned against "raking it up", suggesting that further attention would only serve "publicity-hungry" motives. However, this judicial restraint has left many uneasy. The issue here is not just about a shoe being flung — it's about what that act and the response to it reveal about the moral and the institutional fault lines in our democracy.

The courtroom incident involving the lawyer, Rakesh Kishore, was not just an act of contempt. The act shocked the nation's conscience, exposing a growing culture of entitlement and incivility that corrodes public life. What makes this particular transgression even more disturbing is not only the act itself but also the reactions that followed from sections of the public and, more troublingly, from within the judiciary.

The lawyer who committed this shameful act has shown neither remorse nor restraint. Given his ideological leanings, that is perhaps unsurprising. After all, it's the same mindset that once rationalised violence against the Father of the Nation. The initial outrage was, of course, swift; the



prime minister spoke to the chief justice of India; civil society condemned the incident; and the media debated it. However, social media soon turned it into a spectacle. Some even celebrated the lawyer as a 'hero' who had stood up for his beliefs. In a disturbing echo, a similar act occurred in an Ahmedabad courtroom soon after. When civility collapses, imitation naturally follows.

What is disturbing is the apex court's decision to let the matter "die a natural death" despite the attorney-general's consent for contempt proceedings against the accused. The court's reasoning that action might

"fuel social media debates" seems dangerously misplaced. Should the highest court of the land decide whether to uphold the law based on fears of social media chatter? Is judicial restraint being mistaken for indifference? Why should a direct attack on the constitutional head of the judiciary be treated so casually? Will justice now depend on how things might trend online? Surely, the dignity of the court cannot be hostage to optics. The attorney-general's consent was not merely a formality; it was a recognition that the judiciary's authority must be upheld, clearly and publicly. Sidestepping that duty, however well-intentioned, risks eroding its moral credibility.

Let's remember that the attack was not on Justice Gavai as an individual but on the office he holds — the chief justice of India, the living symbol of judicial sovereignty. A courtroom is not a political arena; it is a sanctuary of justice. When a lawyer desecrates that sanctum, it becomes an assault on the very edifice of constitutional order. The institution may not be "affected", as the Bench observed, but silence is not strength. Restraint is certainly admirable, but seeming indifference is dangerous.

Justice Gavai himself has chosen magnanimity, preferring to rise above the insult. That shows personal grace and moral discipline. However, his individual virtue cannot substitute for institutional accountability. Forgiveness is a private virtue; justice is a

public duty. When the former replaces the latter, the foundation of institutional integrity weakens. The question is not whether the chief justice of India feels personally wronged but whether the dignity of the law itself has been wronged.

There's also a deeper — more uncomfortable — dimension to this episode. This concerns the intersection of caste, power, and prejudice. It cannot be ignored that Justice Gavai is a Dalit and that his rise to the top of the judiciary was widely seen as a milestone in India's democratic journey. For many, it symbolised genuine social progress. However, the contemptuous act against him and the derogatory remarks that accompanied it cannot be divorced entirely from caste-conditioned perceptions. Whether consciously or not, they reflect a persistent discomfort among those who struggle to accept authority in the hands of those who have long been excluded from it. This is not to say that the act was explicitly casteist in intent. It may have been ideological or political. But the very fact that it could be rationalised shows how deeply caste-inflected our public life remains. As B.R. Ambedkar warned, "In politics we will have equality, and in social and economic life we will have inequality. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions?" This incident has laid bare that contradiction between constitutional ideals and social instincts.

In Indian culture, throwing a shoe at a person is a powerful symbol of humiliation. Directed at a Dalit chief justice of India, the act becomes doubly charged — as both a personal insult and a collective affront. The judiciary's restraint, however noble, risks being read as hesitation as though constitutional civility is a weakness. In an age where aggression is mistaken for courage, moral courage must mean standing up for dignity and order. Ambedkar reminded us that democracy will endure only when constitutional morality is internalised — when respect for equality, reason, and human dignity becomes instinctive. What this episode shows is how fragile that morality still is.

Lawyers are supposed to be custodians of reason, not perpetrators of symbolic violence. Their failure to uphold that standard should trouble us all. Such a serious affront cannot simply "die a natural death". Silence would send the wrong message that such outrage can go unpunished if it's loud enough. Justice Gavai's composure must not become the judiciary's excuse for complacency. What's at stake here is not one man's dignity but the dignity of the Republic itself.

P. John J. Kennedy is a former professor and dean, Christ (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru

Source: The Telegraph India

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



# No tribal student will be deprived of education: Javed Rana

‘Rs 16.65 crores Post-Matric Scholarship for Tribal students sanctioned for FY 2025–26’

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved and released Rs 16.65 crore under the Post Matric Scholarship (Tribal) scheme for the financial year 2025–26.

The allocation includes Rs 14.99 crore as the central share and Rs 1.66 crore as the Union Territory (UT) share, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

The funds have been released through BEAMS via the SNA SPARSH platform, ensuring transparent, efficient, and timely transfer to beneficiaries.

This initiative reflects Omar Abdullah Government's strong commitment to empowering tribal youth through education



and reducing financial barriers to higher learning.

Announcing the release, Minister for Tribal Affairs,

Javed Ahmed Rana said that the enhanced allocation reinforces Government's resolve to mainstream tribal youth

by facilitating their access to higher education, professional training and skill development opportunities.

"The Omar Abdullah-led government remains steadfast in ensuring that no deserving tribal student is deprived of education due to financial hardship," the Minister said.

"This initiative embodies our unwavering commitment to equity, opportunity and social justice. With this allocation, we are strengthening the foundation for inclusive growth and empowerment."

He added that the Tribal Affairs Department is working to bridge educational disparities and provide comprehensive support for tribal students aspiring to excel academically and professionally.

Highlighting the importance

of accountability and efficiency, Rana said: "Our focus is not merely on fund allocation but on ensuring that every eligible student receives the scholarship amount on time, without procedural delays. We have issued clear directions to all concerned officers to expedite verification, processing, and direct benefit transfers through SPARSH."

The Minister expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, for its continued support and collaboration in implementing welfare schemes for the tribal population in Jammu and Kashmir

He reaffirmed that education is the cornerstone of empowerment and empowering tribal youth remains a central pillar of the government's inclusive development agenda.

## GOC 15 Corps calls on CS Discuss Civil–Military Coordination issues



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps, Lt. Gen. Prashant Srivastava, who oversees military operations in the Kashmir Valley, Friday called on Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo in his office chambers at the Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting focused on strengthening civil-military coordination to ensure seamless execution of various developmental and administrative initiatives aimed at enhancing public welfare and security in the region.

During the interaction, both sides held a comprehensive discussion on key issues requiring joint efforts between the civil administration and the security forces.

The deliberations covered aspects related to the smooth implementation of several decisions, and measures to further facilitate cooperation for

the larger good of the public.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the Army's continued support in maintaining peace, stability thereby facilitating development across the UT. He emphasized the importance of synergized efforts between civil agencies and the armed forces to address emerging challenges effectively and to ensure timely redressal of issues.

Lt. Gen. Prashant Srivastava reaffirmed the Army's commitment to working in close coordination with the Union Territory Administration to ensure that all initiatives are implemented in a time-bound and people-centric manner.

Both the Chief Secretary and the GOC reiterated their resolve to strengthen institutional mechanisms for coordination, ensuring that developmental and public welfare measures proceed smoothly in tandem with security imperatives across the UT.

## Kulgam holds “Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0” rally



KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 24: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan Friday flagged off "Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0" rally, organized by Chief Medical Officer, Kulgam, under the National Tobacco Control Programme. From mini secretariat Kulgam, CMO Kulgam, Dr Showkat Ahmad and other officers were also present.

A large number of ASHA workers, paramedical staff, and doctors from various blocks of the district participated in the rally, carrying placards raising

slogans to spread awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and urged the youth to adopt a healthy and tobacco-free lifestyle.

The rally passed through several markets in Kulgam town before culminating back at the Mini Secretariat, where participants reaffirmed their commitment to making the district tobacco-free.

Officials on the occasion emphasized the crucial role of community participation in curbing tobacco use and protecting future generations from its harmful impacts.

## DDMA & RDD organises training programmes

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 24: Training programme on Incident Response System (IRS) for disaster management capacity building and community based disaster management were Friday conducted here at Shopian jointly by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Shopian in association with the Department of Rural Development Shopian.

Expert from the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction conducted the online session on Incident Risk System for all IRS designated members of the district.

The training aimed to educate members about precautionary measures and response steps to be taken during natural calamities.

During the session, officers were sensitized about the importance of preparedness, timely response and coordination among departments to minimize the impact of disasters.



In a separate event organised by the Department of Rural Development for field functionaries and community members, the resource persons sensitised the gathering about different aspects of disaster management and relief and rehabilitation issues and the capacity building of communities for mitigating the impact of disasters.

The programme emphasized the role of field functionaries in effective disaster response and relief operations.

As part of the event, a practical demonstration

was also held by the Fire and Emergency Services Department, showcasing rescue operations, fire safety drills and first-aid response techniques.

The demonstration aimed to build confidence among the participants and equip them with basic skills to tackle emergency situations efficiently.

The training concluded with an interactive session where participants shared suggestions for improving disaster preparedness and response mechanisms at the district and block levels.

## KVK Shopian conducts mega outreach programme



KT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 24: In a stride towards agricultural empowerment of tribal communities, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian conducted one-day mega outreach programme in collaboration with NSP SKUAST-K under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) – AICRP on Seeds (Crops) here at Shopian Friday.

The initiative marked the formal introduction of SKUAST-K's most novel oats variety 'Shalimar Fodder Oats-1 (SFO-1)' to the tribal farmers of Shopian District, ensuring that the benefits of latest agri-technology reached across the district.

A record 30 quintals of SFO-1 seed, coupled with the scientific package of practices, were distributed among more than 150 tribal farmers, covering over 30 hectares (600 kanals) of land across the district.

The event drew wide appreciation for bringing cutting-edge research directly to the doorstep of the most remote farming communities.

Addressing the gathering, Director Extension SKUAST-K, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth appreciated the role of KVK Shopian and advised the farmers to go for horizontal area expansion of this novel variety which is highly productive in terms of seed and fodder.

She emphasized that the

green fodder can be used as per the requirement and rest of the fodder can be converted into more palatable ways like Silage preparation, green fodder, green and dry etc. and the seed shall be procured at reasonable costs from the farmers if interested on buy back policy by the University.

Principal Investigator NSP (Seeds), SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Gowhar Ali, highlighted that Shalimar Fodder Oats-1 (SFO-1) represents the university's latest innovation, a bio-fortified, disease-resistant and high-yielding variety significantly enhancing nutritional and economic security.

Speaking on the occasion, Head KVK Shopian, Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri reiterated SKUAST-K's commitment to preserving traditional crops while introducing University Released Varieties (URVs) to improve livelihood opportunities under natural and organic farming systems. He added that the impact assessment and monitoring of the technology adoption will continue to ensure long-term benefits for the tribal farming community.

The participating farmers expressed heartfelt gratitude to SKUAST-Kashmir and KVK Shopian for bridging the technology gap and bringing sustainable agricultural solutions to the farmers of District Shopian.

## Input distribution, awareness training programme held

KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 24: A mega Input Distribution-cum-Awareness Training Programme on "Efficient Production Technology for quality Seed Production" was organized under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP Project No. 1): Development of Seed and Seed Multiplication Chain in PPP mode by Dry Land Agriculture Research Station (DARS), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation of farmers of different villages of district Kulgam, who were provided with fodder oats seed of SKUAST-K released variety SFO-1.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor, DARS, Prof. Mehfuza Habib, highlighted the importance of on-farm seed multiplication for ensuring sustainable fodder availability. She underlined that cultivation of improved varieties has the potential to enhance productivity by 30–40%, thereby contributing significantly to fodder self-sufficiency in the region.

Moreover, she advised the farmers to follow the SKUAST K Package and Practices in Seed Production of Oats to ensure the seed availability at community level through clusters.

On the occasion farmers were encouraged to adopt the latest scientific cultivation practices to ensure year-round availability of quality fodder".

Zakir Khurshid Raina (AEO Kilam) in his address, stressed the need for adopting SKUAST-K varieties and strictly following the package of practices to achieve better yields and improve fodder security at the farm level. Further, he thrustured on quality Seed Production in the PPP mode to overcome the shortage of location specific varieties by adopting Seed Village Programmes of different crops.

After technical Sessions, fodder oats seed of SFO-1 variety were distributed among the farmers by the dignitaries.

## World Statistics Day 2025 celebrated at SKUAST-K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24: The Division of Agricultural Statistics, Faculty of Horticulture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), organized a special event to commemorate the 4th World Statistics Day 2025, observed globally under the theme "Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone."

The event was graced by Director Education, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Muhammad Altaf Bhat as the Chief Guest. In his address, Prof. Altaf Bhat emphasized the growing importance of statistics in evidence-based



decision-making, research, and agricultural innovation.

He highlighted that modern agricultural sciences increasingly rely on robust statistical methodologies to interpret complex data, generate reliable insights, and design sustainable development strategies.

Speaking on the

occasion, Head, Division of Agricultural Statistics, Prof. Imran Khan, underscored the global relevance of statistics in advancing scientific knowledge and promoting data-driven agricultural development.

Distinguished speakers including Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, former Director

## DC inaugurates 3-day MPV service camp at Ramban

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 24: As part of the Public Outreach Programme aimed at improving citizen services, the Regional Passport Office (RPO) Jammu, under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India Friday launched a three-day Mobile Passport Van Service Camp in the premises of the District Administrative Complex, Ramban.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan formally inaugurated the camp in the presence of Tehsildar Deep Kumar and Section Officer Sunil Kher and other officers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that residents of Ramban



district can avail of this facility by booking an appointment. The Deputy Commissioner advised the residents of the district to take full advantage of this unique opportunity to apply for their passports at their doorsteps. He said that such initiatives bring government services closer to the people especially those living in hilly

and remote areas.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed gratitude to the Regional Passport Office Jammu and the Ministry of External Affairs for organizing the Mobile Passport Van Service Camp in Ramban and appreciated their efforts in promoting citizen-friendly governance and doorstep service delivery.

## Shopian Court convicts 2 in sexual assault case

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 24: In a landmark judgment reinforcing the protection of children from sexual and gender-based violence, the Court of the Principal Sessions Judge Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary Friday convicted two individuals in a sensitive case involving the kidnapping and sexual assault of a minor girl.

After a full trial, the Court found Yawar Ahmad Sheikh, son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, resident of Khawajapora, guilty of offences under Section 363 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 4 of

the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, sentencing him to ten years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 30,000.

The co-accused, Mehraj Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Ghafar Dar, also of Khawajapora, was convicted under Section 363 IPC and Section 17 of the POCSO Act for abetment and sentenced to five years of rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 15,000.

The case, registered in December 2022 at Police Station Zainapora, pertained to the abduction of a 17-year-old girl. Following a thorough investigation and prosecution of evidence,

the Court held that both accused had forcibly taken the minor from her lawful guardianship, and the main accused had subjected her to sexual assault.

Delivering the verdict, the Court observed that the prosecution had proved the offences beyond reasonable doubt, underscoring that crimes against minors warrant the strictest possible response under law.

This judgment stands as a strong reaffirmation of the judiciary's unwavering commitment to safeguarding children's rights and ensuring that perpetrators of sexual offences face swift and decisive justice.



Chugh pays tributes to Pt. Premnath Dogra Vows to uphold his unifying ideology

KNO

Srinagar/Jammu, Oct 24: On the birth anniversary of the revered nationalist leader Pandit Premnath Dogra, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by its National General Secretary and Prabhari of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Tarun Chugh garlanded the portrait of Pt. Premnath Dogra, fondly remembered as Sher-e-Duggar at the party office in Srinagar.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, Dr. Shehnaz Ganai, Anwar Khan, and other senior party leaders also paid heartfelt tributes on the occasion, a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reads.

Chugh said, “Pt. Premnath Dogra was an institution of national integration and selfless service. His unwavering struggle for ‘Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan’ (One Constitution, One Flag, One Head) became the moral compass of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and continues to inspire the BJP today.”

He underlined that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A by the Narendra Modi government was the realization of Pt. Dogra's life-long dream and the ultimate tribute to his steadfast commitment to national unity. He said that Pt. Dogra's deep connect with the common people and his dedication to the upliftment of every section of society remain a guiding light for inclusive politics in Jammu & Kashmir.



“Pt. Premnath Dogra's legacy transcended regional divides and was rooted in the welfare of the last person in the queue. His vision remains the blueprint for the BJP's governance model in Jammu & Kashmir, a politics of unity, empowerment, and justice,” Chugh added.

Sat Sharma, in his message, described Pandit Prem Nath Dogra as a visionary leader who played a pivotal role in spearheading the Praja Parishad movement and the agitation for “Ek Pradhan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan,” which ultimately achieved success.

He said that Pandit Ji devoted his entire life with sincerity and dedication toward the complete integration of Jammu and

Kashmir with the rest of the nation. His long-cherished dream, Sharma said, has been realized under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ashok Koul stated that Pandit Ji exemplified a life of high moral values and strong conviction. He led the “Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan” movement with unwavering determination, resulting in the abolition of the separate post of Prime Minister in J&K.

In Jammu, MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, along with J&K BJP General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev Singh Billawaria and other senior party leaders, performed a Hawan and paid floral tributes to the statue of Pandit Prem Nath

Dogra at Dogra Chowk. Jugal Kishore Sharma highlighted the towering personality and accomplishments of Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, describing him as one of the greatest leaders of his era who led the historic Praja Parishad Movement for full integration of J&K with India.

Sanjita Dogra urged party workers to emulate the life and principles of Pandit Ji by serving the people and the nation with dedication and selflessness.

Baldev Singh Billawaria emphasized the enduring significance of Pandit Ji's ideology, which laid the foundation for the complete unification of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union. (KNO)

Northern Rly Jammu concludes e-auction for Rail Coach Restaurant at Mata Vaishno Devi Katra



KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 24: Northern Railway, Jammu Division successfully concluded another e-auction for the allotment of Rail Coach Restaurant at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Railway Station.

This auction was successfully concluded with a contract for a total of 40 lakh per year for a period of five years, resulting in a total contract of 2.36 crore for the next five years.

This successful bidding process is part of Indian Railways' continued commitment to promote transparency, efficiency, and ease of doing business through its e-auction platform.

Following this e-auction, the Rail Coach Restaurant

at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra will boost tourism. This coach restaurant will provide a new dining option for passengers and will also become a new attraction for the public. It will also be a major draw for devotees from other states visiting the Mata Mandir.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mr. Uchit Singhal, said at the e-auction, “This coach restaurant will enhance the passenger experience and highlight the Railways' commitment to creating a new attraction around the railway station.”

This will not only provide a new dining option for passengers but will also create employment opportunities in the area.

Reasi to get stop on Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express from Oct 29

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 24: To enhance the convenience of passengers in Jammu Division and to meet local demand, Train No. 26401-26402 Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express will stop at Reasi Railway Station from October 29, 2025.

Currently, this Vande Bharat semi-high-speed train stops only once between Katra and Srinagar – at Banihal.

To provide convenience to passengers, the Vande Bharat Express will stop at Reasi for two minutes in both directions.

The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6, 2025, marked a historic milestone as the first rail service connecting the Kashmir Valley with the Jammu region.

Since its launch, the service has received widespread praise for its speed, comfort, and reliability. The introduction of a stop at Reasi is seen as a response to the persistent calls from locals for improved regional connectivity.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Railways, Mr. Uchit Singhal, said, “The new stoppage aims to meet the growing passenger demand from Reasi district, which is a major religious and tourist destination due to its proximity to the Vaishno Devi shrine and the world's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Bridge.”

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

NC wins 3 seats

other hand, the BJP had support of only 28

MLAs. (KNO)

Unprecedented cross

revealed that Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, who was the party's authorised polling agent, cast his vote without a substitute agent present.

When contacted, Bhat said, “I was the chief polling agent, and I had to show my vote to myself.”

The cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha polls is expected to trigger a war of words between political parties and could become a major issue in Jammu and Kashmir's political landscape in the coming days.

Sources within the NC claimed that PDP MLAs were instructed to vote for Imran Nabi Dar instead of Shammii Oberoi. “They had agreed to it,” a senior NC leader disclosed.

Unlike independents, MLAs belonging to political parties are required to display their marked votes to authorised polling agents before depositing them in the ballot box. (KNO)

Winners vow to

and the people of Chenab,” he said, adding that after 1982, Chenab has got a voice in the parliament.

“I want to assure the people that I will serve the cause for which I have been sent to Rajya Sabha. We will strive hard to fight for the Statehood and special status restoration. We will work hard on these issues and expect that we will come up to the expectations of the party and the people,” he said.

BJP leader, Sat Sharma, who won the fourth seat unexpectedly, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP national President J PO Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for choosing him as the candidate.

“I would like to thank the voters for voting in my favour. I will serve the people, nation and the party,” he said, adding that he had talked to all the political parties and had sought votes from them. “I want to thank the four voters, who voted from me today,” he said. (KNO)

How LoP Sunil Sharma

politician, Sharma is known for maintaining cordial ties across party lines in Kashmir's political landscape.

“He has friends across the board, but he is a friend to none when it comes to organizational matters,” a senior BJP leader told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). “He began working on independents and party-affiliated MLAs early on and managed to secure their support.”

Sources familiar with Sharma's strategy revealed that he held a series of secret meetings with select independents and party-affiliated MLAs in Srinagar.

“He would hold late-night meetings with MLAs at locations including Airport Road, Hyderpora, and Gupkar to influence their voting in favor of the BJP. He knew his official residence at M-1, Church Lane would attract attention, so he chose other venues,” one source said.

Another source added that Sharma's actions outside the Assembly complex, in full media glare on the first day of the autumn session, were part of a calculated strategy to shape perceptions ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls.

“He was successful in his intent,” the source said. (KNO)

Design Your

“I believe that DYD program is the future of

education and students. It is beneficial at levels - be it school, college or university level,” LG Sinha said.

He said that the issues faced by the colleges in Jammu and Kashmir should also be discussed during the 2-day NEP conclave.

He said that there is a need to strengthen the teaching faculty at higher education level. “The teaching faculty in colleges has to be strong and courageous. We need to support them in sync with the goal and missions of NEP 2020.”

Speaking about the implementation of NEP 2020, LG Sinha also said that the schools, colleges and universities have done tremendous work so far in implementing it.

“The journey is still long and we have to make sure that we keep on working and implementing the holistic transformation of NEP 2020,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor applauded the efforts of all the stakeholders for speedy implementation of National Education Policy.

“Universities and Colleges in Jammu Kashmir are building an ecosystem that will be a catalyst for innovation and ground breaking research,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is building the movement around the vision of reforming and strengthening the higher education landscape for an uncertain world. “The Artificial Intelligence Age and traditional Indian ideals will make developed India's dream come true,” he added.

“Amalgamation of technological advancement and Indian ethos in higher educational institutions will address the future challenges and spur strong economic growth,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also mentioned that the National Education Policy aims to reduce inequality and expand opportunity in the higher educational institutions with the focus on a future-focused approach to equip youth with the capability of critical thinking and lifelong learning.

“Our higher educational institutions have embraced interdisciplinary and project-based learning and we are moving away from traditional, siloed subjects to break the barriers between the real-world and academic world. This will empower our youth, enhance skills and knowledge to ensure their professional growth,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also highlighted the need to establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that research projects are future-oriented, generating new ideas, and introducing new perspectives into society's knowledge flow.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman Higher Education Council J&K; Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Vice Chancellors of various universities, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, faculty and students attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

PM Modi biggest

2030, will create a strong domestic market for J&K's handmade products,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He expressed happiness over exemplary work of master artisans, young craftsmen, and entrepreneurs being recognised through the awards. “I extend my best wishes to the entire artisan community. I hope their businesses continue to grow, bringing prosperity and new opportunities,” he said.

The LG Sinha said that the event has brought together all stakeholders of the Pashmina industry on one platform. “I am confident that

future generations of artisans will draw inspiration from the quality and excellence demonstrated by our skilled craftsmen,” he added.

The LG said that several significant steps have been taken to rejuvenate the handicrafts and handloom sector. “I recall that in 2021, a new vision was introduced to showcase the talent of our master artisans in Jammu and Kashmir. Since then, several new schemes have been launched to connect them with wider markets,” he said.

Highlighting key achievements, he said that the GI tagging of J&K handicrafts has strengthened their presence in international markets. “In just two years, we have witnessed remarkable progress, with exports seeing a notable rise,” he said.

He shared that from 2022 to 2024, over 5,700 cooperative societies have become active – a testament to the hard work of the artisan community. “Credit card schemes and other welfare measures have also been introduced to empower artisans,” he added.

“Jammu and Kashmir, which once ranked 35th in the sector, has now risen to 17th position. In the last three years, remarkable progress has been achieved in handloom and handicraft development,” the LG said.

He also mentioned that Srinagar has been recognised as a Creative City and awarded the World Craft City status.

“Handicrafts are not just about production and marketing; they embody love, devotion, and cultural identity. I urge the Industries Department to ensure that our artisans receive fair prices for their craftsmanship,” he said.

The LG assured that the administration will continue to provide every possible support to artisans – from cluster capacity building to welfare initiatives – so that they can work without hardship and contribute to strengthening the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the craftsmanship and skills of the artisans, the Lieutenant Governor said, Jammu Kashmir is a repository of rich creative tradition, which manifests in its unique and ingenious handmade products. He also observed that various initiatives since 2020 have yielded significant results boosting UT's handicraft exports and positioning it as a unique player in the global crafts market.

“Let us honour and celebrate the products made by the gifted hands. These hands are not just weaving a product. They are weaving magic through every thread, through every intricate design and subtle shades,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He highlighted various initiatives taken by the government to strengthen the handicraft and handloom sector and to promote the export.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon all the stakeholder departments to ensure that artisans directly benefit from new GST reforms. He emphasised on increasing the visibility of Jammu Kashmir's beautiful art at major airports, shopping malls, and e-commerce sites in India and abroad, and to provide a recognition to the skilled hands behind the product.

“We must also promote cities and villages renowned for their artisans on the global craft map so that artisans and craftspeople who have been practicing these arts for decades can receive the due respect and recognition they deserve, the Lieutenant Governor said.

Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department; Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, former Chairperson KVIB; Mussarat Zia, Director Handicraft and Handloom Kashmir; Tariq Dar, President, Pashmeena Entrepreneurs Makers and Artisans (PEMA)

Foundation, and office bearers of PEMA Foundation, senior officials, members of business and trade associations artisans and craftspeople attended the felicitation ceremony. (KNO)

CM Omar calls

the Darbar move convey.

The Chief Minister directed the Managing Director JKRTC and Traffic Department to arrange additional buses and arrange down convoys for two consecutive days—November 1 and 2, 2025—to ensure safe and efficient movement of employees and equipments.

He emphasized meticulous coordination between departments for hassle-free transportation during the move.

Reviewing the security and traffic management plan along the National Highway and residential accommodation for move employees, the Chief Minister impressed upon the Police Department and other concerned agencies to ensure comprehensive security measures, especially in all residential areas where employees would be located.

The meeting was also informed that medical assistance will remain available along the movement route, with 19 doctors, 40 paramedics, and 10 ambulances each deployed in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions, besides seven ambulances kept on standby mode.

The Chief Minister directed the formation of a committee headed by ACS Estates, with members from GAD, ARI & Trainings, and Housing & Urban Development Department, to resolve accommodation-related issues and ensure readiness of residential quarters. He also instructed the Estates Department to establish a control room in Jammu to address any office accommodation concerns during the move period.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements of essential services, food, hospitality, and other key facilities. Divisional Commissioner Jammu was asked to examine traffic management within Jammu city and around major residential areas, and to identify locations along the convoy route for food and public convenience facilities, including washrooms, to cater to employees and officials during the move.

Further, the Chief Minister instructed the Estates Department to establish a dedicated control room for addressing accommodation and logistical issues, while the General Administration Department (GAD) shall set up the Winter Secretariat at Srinagar with minimal staff presence.

The Chief Minister directed the issuance of monthly rosters for Ministers and administrative secretaries to be stationed at the Winter Secretariat in Srinagar, beginning with the November roster.

The Chief Minister stressed that the Darbar Move, being a unique administrative tradition, demands flawless coordination, security, preparedness and public ease. He directed all departments to work in synergy to ensure that the 2025–26 session begins seamlessly in Jammu.

Victims & perpetrators

responsibility for the barbaric terror attack such as at Pahalgam, what does it do to the credibility of multilateralism,” Jaishankar asked.

Though Jaishankar didn't directly name Pakistan, it was abundantly clear from his remarks that he was referring to that country.

“Similarly, if victims and perpetrators of terrorism are equated in the name of global strategy, how much more cynical can the world get.

When self-proclaimed terrorists are shielded from the sanctioning process, what does it say for the sincerity of those involved,” he said.

Pakistan is currently a member of the UN Security Council. It was the chair of the top global body in the month of July.

The Council comprises 15 members, including five permanent members which are China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Ten non-permanent member nations are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. The presidency of the UNSC is held by each of the members in turn for one month.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group, had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack.

TRF found mention in a UNSC report in July for its role in the Pahalgam attack.

Pakistan had attempted to remove references to TRF in the UNSC press statement condemning the Pahalgam attack, according to officials.

In his remarks, Jaishankar suggested that the UN has failed to address pressing issues.

“If the maintenance of international peace and security has become lip service, the predicament of development and socio-economic progress is even more serious,” he said.

“The slowing down of the SDG Agenda 2030 is a significant metric to measure the distress of the Global South. There are many more, whether it is trade measures, supply chain dependence or political domination,” he said.

“Yet, on such a notable anniversary, we cannot abandon hope. However difficult, the commitment to multilateralism must remain strong. However flawed, the United Nations must be supported in this time of crisis,” Jaishankar added.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of goals set to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Post Art-370 abrogation

Minister said that Army has been a pillar of peace in Jammu and Kashmir and has played a crucial role in establishing peace in the region.

Describing Operation Sindoor as an embodiment of India's military prowess and national character, Singh said that it was a demonstration by the soldiers that their strength lies not only in weapons, but also in their ethical discipline and strategic clarity. “Operation Sindoor will go down in history as not just a military operation, but also a symbol of the nation's courage and restraint. The action taken by our forces against terrorists was in keeping with both policy precision and human dignity. The operation isn't over. Our mission for peace will continue as long as even a single terrorist mindset remains alive,” he said.

The Minister also noted that the action taken by the Indian Armed Forces against terrorists during Operation Sindoor reflected both policy precision and respect for human dignity.

He stated that the action has given rise to a new strategic thinking that India responds to any terrorist activity on its own terms. “This is New India's Defence Doctrine, which embodies both resolve and courage,” he said.

Referring to the recent de-escalation process in the eastern Ladakh areas of Demchok and Depsang following a series of talks between India and China on October 24, the Defence Minister said that the ongoing dialogue and de-escalation steps have demonstrated India's balanced and firm foreign policy. “Our policy is clear that there will be dialogue and our readiness on the border will remain intact,” he said. (KNO)



# Under Nitish, NDA will break all electoral records in Bihar: PM at Samastipur rally

PTI

Samastipur (Bihar): Oct 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that the "NDA under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar" will break all previous electoral records in the Bihar Assembly polls, while taking a swipe at the opposition INDIA bloc, which he said was led by "people out on bail".

Addressing his maiden election rally in the poll-bound state, the PM asked the crowds to switch on the lights of their mobile phones, and in a dig at the RJD, said, "When all people have access to such modern gadgets, there is no need for the lantern".

Showering praise on Nitish Kumar, who heads the JD(U) and seeks a fifth consecutive term in office, Modi alleged, "He came to power in 2005, but nearly a decade of his tenure was hampered by a hostile Congress-led UPA government at the Centre, which was constantly blackmailed by the RJD that it would withdraw support if cooperation was extended to the NDA government in Bihar."

The PM added, "The central assistance extended to Bihar in the last 11 years is three times what the state



had received from the previous government. The state has turned the corner. It is now exporting fish, a far cry from the days when it was dependent on other states for its own needs. Makhana, which is a famous produce of Bihar, has access to markets far and wide".

"Bihar is now an attractive investment destination. I foresee a future in which every district will be teeming with startups of local youths", the PM added.

"All this would not have been possible had there been 'jungle raj' in Bihar. Don't you remember that a former PM had said that of every rupee spent by the government, only 15 paise reached people. The money used to be devoured by a blood-stained hand (khooni panja)", said

Modi, in an obvious reference to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the poll symbol of Congress, the RJD's alliance partner.

"Bihar will keep the 'jungle raj' at bay and vote for good governance. 'Nayee raftar se chalega Bihar, phir jab aayegi NDA sarkar' (Bihar's growth will speed up once NDA returns to power), RJD and Congress indulged in scams, their leaders are out on bail, and now they are trying to steal the 'Jannayak' title of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur," Modi said.

"Bihar is the land of a genius like Aryabhata. Its people cannot repose their trust in the RJD-Congress combine, which had destroyed the rule of law. Kidnapping and extortion had flourished like a business. The worst

sufferers of 'jungle raj' were our mothers and sisters and those from the weaker sections", alleged Modi.

"Also, under the RJD rule, a dozen-and-a-half districts of Bihar were infested with Maoist insurgency. Hundreds of people were murdered, and people were afraid of stepping out of their homes. When I came to power in 2014, I pledged to bring Maoism to an end. With utmost humility and satisfaction, I can say that we have broken the spine of Maoism. Soon, the country will be free of the menace. This is Modi's guarantee", the PM said.

Modi also said, "In the last assembly polls in Gujarat, where the party has been in power for 30 years, all previous records were broken. Similar was the case in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Haryana. I am confident that in Bihar, too, under Nitish Kumar, the NDA will break all previous records," he said.

In an apparent dig at INDIA bloc chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav, who, along with father Lalu Prasad, the RJD president, is named in the land for jobs scam, the PM said, "The people of Bihar cannot repose their trust in people who are out on bail (zamaanat par chhute hue log)".

# India does not do trade deals with gun to our head: Goyal

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 24: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said India does not do trade agreements in hurry or with a "gun to our head". He said India is actively negotiating trade pacts with countries and regions, including the European Union (EU) and the US.

"We are in active dialogue with the EU. We are talking to the US, but we do not do deals in a hurry and we do not do deals with



deadlines or with a gun to our head," he said at Berlin Dialogue in Germany. The minister is in Berlin to participate in the dialogue. He added that a trade deal should be viewed with a long term perspective. India, he said, never takes

decisions in a rush or in the heat of the moment.

He added that India is looking at newer markets to deal with the high tariffs. Asked if India is getting a fair trade deal that is long term with conditions attached, Goyal said, "I do

not think India has ever decided who its friends will be based on any other considerations other than national interest... and somebody tells me you can't be friends with the EU, I won't accept that or somebody tell me tomorrow, I can't work with Kenya, it's not acceptable."

The decision to buy a particular product from a country is something that the entire world will have to take a call on, he said. These remarks assume significance as the US is putting pressure on India to stop buying crude oil from Russia.

# Andhra bus fire: Several perish in asleep, charred beyond recognition



PTI

Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh), Oct 24: For many passengers killed in a fire in the ill-fated private bus in this district on Friday, death struck without a warning.

Several passengers were fast asleep and died without even realizing what was happening when the Bengaluru-bound bus caught fire around 3 AM after an accident involving a motor bike, leaving 20 dead on the spot. Most victims were charred beyond recognition.

The blaze completely gutted the sleeper bus, reducing it to a metal skeleton.

There were some techies onboard when the accident happened and the survivors recalled the tense moments leading to their miraculous escape, even while suffering broken limbs and other minor injuries.

The private bus from Hyderabad to Bengaluru caught fire after colliding with a two-wheeler.

Only a few, jolted awake by the flames, managed to break the windows and escape through the emergency exit.

Nellore-based S Harika said she was asleep and "when I woke up I saw fire engulfing the bus which spread within seconds." "The rear door was broken by a passenger for escaping and we all jumped out from it and I suffered a minor injury on the forehead," she told PTI.

An IT employee, Harika is now under observation in a hospital. She stated her condition was fine.

Harika said that she works for an IT company in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and is a native of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh. She was travelling from

Hyderabad to Bengaluru for some personal work.

Surya, a survivor who lives in Hyderabad said that around 2:45 am the fire engulfed the bus. He said that he was heading to Bengaluru for a job interview at a top IT firm on Saturday. "My legs are fractured because I jumped from over 15 feet height. The doctor said I will be fine soon," he told PTI.

There were a couple of IT professionals with him on the bus, Surya added. "Me and Naveen (IT employee), one of the passengers that I had a conversation with, also jumped out from the bus and is now beside me in the hospital. I don't think I will be able to give an interview in this situation. The local authorities are arranging a vehicle for our way back home along with a police official to ensure safety," Surya said.

Some passengers escaped by breaking the nearest window and jumping out of the burning bus. "The loud noise woke me up instantly. There was a lot of smoke in the bus," a passenger who was undergoing treatment for minor injuries said.

According to Kurnool District Collector A Siri, a total of 41 people, including the driver, were in the bus. Of the 41 onboard, 21 have been traced. Those who escaped the accident are stable and out of danger, she said.

Many passengers could not escape the tragedy as it occurred during the night when they were asleep, she said. She said the bus door did not open immediately as some wires got cut which increased the severity of the tragedy.

Most of the passengers belonged to Hyderabad, Siri added.

# Be polite in dealing with honest taxpayers: FM tells GST officers

PTI

Ghaziabad, Oct 24: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said GST officers should be polite and empathetic in dealing with honest taxpayers and asked them to use technology for faster registration approvals and grievance redressal.

She also asked field formations to "proactively" undertake trade facilitation measures. "There is no iron wall between you and trader, there is thin air. You can understand where the difficulty is, rather than muddy it up any further," she said.

Speaking at the inauguration of the CGST building in Ghaziabad, the minister flagged the need for timely conclusion of any disciplinary proceedings against officers of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). This would send a clear message from the CBIC board that any misconduct, dereliction of duty or unethical behaviour by officers will not be tolerated.

She said the ultimate goal of tax administration is to make life easy for honest taxpayers and to do that GST officers should follow the laid down SoP and show greater empathy and courtesy.

"It is important that you remain polite. The next-generation GST is not just about rates, slabs, simplification. It should make the taxpayer feel different," she said, adding that politeness, however, should not be seen as a compromise on enforcement.

While advocating that honest taxpayers should be "honourably treated", Sitharaman also said that laid down SoP should be followed to bring the "bad sheep" to the books. "But don't look at everybody with suspicion," the minister said.

"I do not want comfort given to dishonest taxpayers in any way. You do not have to be subjective with them (dishonest taxpayers), there is a laid protocol, deal with them in that way...be polite and get your work done as per the SoP", she said.

The minister also nudged Goods and Services Tax (GST) officers to make use of technology to reduce the compliance burden on taxpayer seeking GST registration.

"Technology and risk-based parameters must do the heavy lifting and not the taxpayer. We do not want anybody from the field formation adding one little more burden or onus on the taxpayer. Technology should be used. You do smart inquiry into the situation and if necessary the taxpayer may be approached for something. But no shifting of onus on him saying give me more papers, give me this, give me that," she said. She also asked officers to map the recurring grievances in Central GST (CGST) zones and reach at the "root cause" of the problem. On the issue of disciplinary proceedings against departmental officers, Sitharaman said swift conclusion of such proceedings reinforces accountability within the organization. It also clears up the perception that public has that there is a level of indifference or protectionism which prevails among officers that weaken one's moral authority.

# Cloud seeding essential to tackle pollution: Delhi CM

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 24: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday said cloud seeding is essential for the national capital as it could play a key role in controlling rising pollution levels during the winter season.

Speaking about a successful test run of the experiment carried out on Thursday, Ms. Gupta said, "Cloud seeding is something that has never happened before. We want to carry out this trial over the city as it could help reduce air pollution. We believe this technology will be successful. It can be used to tackle environmental challenges in the future, especially those faced during the winter months," she added.

On Thursday night, Ms. Gupta said in a post on X that a successful trial of the project was conducted in the Burari area.

"For the first time in Delhi, preparations have been completed to induce artificial rain through cloud seeding, marking a significant technological milestone in the capital's fight against air pollution. Experts on Thursday successfully conducted a trial test in the Burari area," she wrote.

Officials said that during the trial, small amounts of silver iodide and sodium chloride — compounds used to induce artificial rain — were released from an aircraft.

However, there was limited



moisture in the air, less than 20%. Cloud seeding typically requires a moisture level of around 50%, which meant no rainfall occurred in the area. In its report on the test run, IIT-Kanpur said, "This flight served as a proving mission to assess the capabilities for cloud seeding, the readiness and endurance of the aircraft, the functionality of the seeding equipment and flares, and the coordination among all the agencies involved. There is no evidence of any precipitation, as the cloud cover was minimal and the moisture content was well below 15%," the report said, noting that specially-designed flares were used to release both silver iodide and sodium chloride.

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the flight served as a proving mission to assess the cloud-seeding system's capabilities, aircraft endurance, and

coordination among all the participating agencies.

The cloud-seeding project, jointly developed by IIT-Kanpur and Delhi government, aims to explore artificial rainfall as a method to reduce particulate pollution levels in the city during the post-Diwali smog season. Last month, Delhi Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT-Kanpur for five cloud-seeding trials, which are expected to be conducted in northwest Delhi.

The project, approved by multiple departments, including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), aims to explore whether artificial rain can be a viable solution to tackle rising pollution levels during the winter. Permission has been granted under Rule 26(2) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, allowing IIT-Kanpur's Department of Aerospace Engineering to conduct the activity using a Cessna 206-H aircraft (VT-ILT). The Delhi Cabinet had approved a proposal on May 7 to conduct five cloud-seeding trials at a total cost of ₹3.21 crore.

However, the exercise faced repeated delays owing to unfavourable weather conditions and the onset of southwest monsoon, with deadlines being pushed back from May-end and early June to August, September, and most recently, the second week of October.

# Avocado for younger, firmer skin: How daily consumption boosts elasticity & radiance

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Oct 24: Avocados are often celebrated for their nutritional benefits, but their impact on skin health is gaining attention. Packed with monounsaturated fats, carotenoids, and phenolic compounds, avocados support hydration, elasticity, and protection against oxidative stress. Incorporating avocado into your daily diet can nourish your skin from within, helping to maintain a youthful glow while supporting overall health.

A peer-reviewed pilot study published in the Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology found that women who consumed one avocado daily for eight weeks experienced measurable improvements in skin elasticity and firmness. This research suggests that dietary intake of avocado can have tangible benefits for skin structure, making it a simple, natural way to support youthful, radiant skin.

Why avocado benefits skin health

Avocados are rich in monounsaturated fatty acids, which help maintain the skin's lipid barrier, keeping it hydrated and supple. Carotenoids like lutein and zeaxanthin act as antioxidants, protecting the skin from free-radical damage caused by UV exposure and pollution. Phenolic compounds further reduce inflammation, helping to calm irritated or sensitive skin.

The combined effect of these nutrients improves skin elasticity, enhances firmness, and promotes a healthy, natural glow.

Regular avocado consumption also supports collagen synthesis, contributing to smoother, more resilient skin.

How the study proves avocado works In the pilot study, 39 women aged 27-73 were randomly assigned to eat one avocado daily or continue their usual diet for eight weeks. Researchers measured facial skin elasticity, firmness, pigmentation, sebum, and hydration using a cutometer. Results showed a significant increase in



elasticity and firmness among the avocado group compared to the control group. This study highlights that even modest dietary changes, one avocado a day, can produce visible improvements in skin structure, supporting long-term skin health from within.

Practical ways to include avocado in your diet

**Morning smoothie:** Blend half an avocado with banana, spinach, and almond milk for a nutrient-packed start to your day.

**Salad boost:** Add sliced avocado to

your salads for healthy fats and creaminess, improving absorption of other fat-soluble vitamins.

**Avocado toast:** Top whole-grain bread with mashed avocado, a sprinkle of seeds, and a dash of lemon for a quick, skin-friendly snack.

**Guacamole:** Make a fresh guacamole with lime, cilantro, and tomatoes, perfect for meals or dips while nourishing your skin.

Benefits you'll notice after using avocado

**Hydration:** Healthy fats in avocado help maintain skin moisture, reducing dryness and flakiness.

**Elasticity and firmness:** Regular intake improves skin structure and resilience.

**Natural glow:** Antioxidants combat oxidative stress, leaving the skin looking radiant.

**Calm and soothing:** Anti-inflammatory properties reduce redness and sensitivity.

Additional skin-friendly tips

Combine avocado with a balanced diet rich in vegetables, fruits, and lean proteins for maximum effect.

Stay hydrated to complement the internal benefits of avocado.

Protect your skin from excessive sun exposure to maintain elasticity and prevent premature aging.

Eating one avocado daily is a simple, natural strategy to improve skin elasticity, firmness, and radiance. Backed by peer-reviewed research, this delicious fruit not only nourishes your body but also helps maintain youthful, healthy-looking skin. Incorporate avocado into your meals and enjoy its multiple skin and health benefits.

Disclaimer: This article is for general informational purposes only and is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the guidance of a qualified healthcare provider regarding any medical condition or lifestyle change.



## All is not well in UN, decisions don't address global priorities, says EAM Jaishankar

IANIS

New Delhi, Oct 24: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said that 'all is not well' within the United Nations and that its decisions do not address global priorities. He pointed out how a UN Security Council member protected the terror group that claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

While launching a postage stamp to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the United Nations in New Delhi on Friday, EAM Jaishankar recalled the sacrifices of Indian UN peacekeepers and spoke about the recently hosted Chiefs of Army Staff conclave in the national capital, which witnessed participation from 30 troop-contributing countries.

He further said, "That said, we must also recognise that all is not well with the United Nations. Its decision-making neither reflects its membership nor addresses global priorities. Its debates have become increasingly polarised and its working visibly gridlocked."

Pointing out how a United Nations Security Council member shielded a terror group which claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack, EAM Jaishankar said, "Any meaningful reform is obstructed using the reform process itself. Now, financial constraints have emerged as an additional concern. How to sustain the UN even while seeking its reinvention is clearly a major challenge before all of us. Few examples are more telling about the challenges facing the UN than its response to terrorism. When a sitting security council member openly protects the very organisation that claims



responsibility for the barbaric terror attack, such as at Pahalgam, what does it do to the credibility of multilateralism?"

"Similarly, if victims and perpetrators of terrorism are equated in the name of global strategy, how much more cynical can the world get when self-proclaimed terrorists are shielded from the sanctioning process? What does it say about the sincerity of those involved? If the maintenance of international peace and security has become lip service, the predicament of development and socioeconomic progress is even more serious. The slowing down of the SDG Agenda 2030 is a significant metric to measure the distress of the global south," the EAM said.

"There are many more, whether it is trade measures, supply chain dependence or political domination. Yet, on such a notable anniversary, we cannot abandon hope; however difficult, the

commitment to multilateralism must remain strong. However flawed, the United Nations must be supported in this time of crisis. Our faith in international cooperation must be reiterated and indeed renewed. It is in that spirit that we all meet to mark this occasion and seek to build a better world," he said.

EAM Jaishankar noted that the conflicts have taken a toll on human lives. He expressed India's strong support for United Nations multilateralism.

"Even today, we are regrettably witnessing multiple major conflicts that not only take a great toll on human lives but also impact the well-being of the entire international community. The global south, in particular, has felt this pain even as the more developed have insulated themselves from consequences. An 80th anniversary is a significant milestone for any institution," he said.

## US 'frustrated' with Russia for lack of interest or action on peace deal

Says new sanctions appropriate, necessary

ANI

Washington, Oct 24: The imposition of new sanctions on Russian oil companies by the United States was "appropriate and necessary", a sign of the frustration over the slow progress being made on a potential Russia-Ukraine peace deal, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Thursday (local time).

"The president (Donald Trump) has always maintained that he would implement sanctions on Russia when he felt it was appropriate and necessary. And yesterday was that day. The president has also long expressed his frustration with Vladimir Putin (Russian President) and both sides of this war (Russia-Ukraine)", Leavitt said during a press briefing at the White House.

Criticising the lack of "interest or action" from the Russian side to move towards peace, Leavitt said that while a potential meeting between President Vladimir Putin and President Trump is "not completely off the table" the US would rather have a tangible positive outcome from a meeting.

"He's always said that in order to negotiate a good



peace deal, both sides need to be interested in it. He feels, unfortunately, that on the Russian side, as of late, he has not seen enough interest or action in moving the ball forward towards peace. A meeting between these two leaders (Trump and Putin) is not completely off the table. The president and the entire administration hope that it can happen again one day. But we want to make sure that there's a tangible positive outcome out of that meeting and that it's a good use of the president's time," Leavitt said.

Expressing the desire of President Trump to see action, not just talk, to move towards peace, Leavitt added that the US wants to ensure the now-postponed meeting between the two leaders is a good use of Trump's time.

"The president wants to make sure that a meeting between himself and President Putin will be a good use of his time... The president wants to see action, not just talk. The president is extremely motivated by the success of his Middle East peace deal to get things done. And he wants this war to end. He's been saying it for nine months now, since being in office. And he's grown increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress," the White House Press Secy said. Leavitt further mentioned that the newly imposed sanctions on two Russian oil companies are pretty "hefty", while repeating the claim that India, along with other countries like China, is scaling back purchases from Russia.

"If you read the sanctions

and look at them, they're pretty hefty. I saw some international news this morning that China is scaling back oil purchases from Russia. We know India has done the same at the president's request. The president has also pushed European countries, our allies, to stop buying Russian oil. So it's a full-court press for sure. We expect that these sanctions are going to harm, as the Secretary of the Treasury said yesterday," she said.

While the US has imposed sanctions on Russia's two largest oil companies, Rosneft and Lukoil, Moscow has called it an "unfriendly move" that would not help their relations with Washington. President Vladimir Putin said that the new restrictions would have little effect on Russia's economy, adding, "No self-respecting country ever does anything under pressure," according to Russia Today.

Putin accused the United States of repeatedly using sanctions to exert pressure, saying such tactics would fail. He also hinted that "certain people in the US administration" had pushed for restrictions on Russian oil exports, questioning whose interests they truly work for.

## Ranji Trophy: Ravindra Jadeja among India stars to watch in second round



IANIS

New Delhi, Oct 24: With the second round of the 2025/26 Ranji Trophy set to commence on Saturday, left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja is set to play for Saurashtra in their Elite Group B game at Rajkot, meaning he will be among the Indian team stars that fans can keep their eyes on for the next few days.

In the previous match at the venue, spinners accounted for 31 of the 35 wickets to fall in the drawn encounter at the Niranjan Shah Stadium, where Saurashtra earned three points courtesy of a first-innings lead. Jadeja was resting after playing in India's 2-0 home Test series win over the West Indies earlier this month and was not included in the squad for the ongoing ODI series in Australia.

At Saurashtra, he will rejoin fellow left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, who took a match haul of 10-203 against Karnataka. Jadeja's return is expected to enhance the bowling attack with more depth and experience as Saurashtra aim to build on their early momentum. Another major clash in the second round will see Bengal facing Gujarat at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, where Mohammed Shami, Akash Deep, and Abhimanyu Easwaran will be in action.

Shami, the veteran India pacer, had taken a match-winning seven-wicket haul in the win over Uttarakhand, and how he fares against a strong Gujarat bowling line-up will make for an interesting watch. The second round of the Ranji Trophy will feature 19 matches played across the country, in both Elite and Plate Divisions. Mumbai, fresh from an away victory against Jammu & Kashmir in Srinagar, will host Chhattisgarh in an Elite Group D match at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy BKC in Mumbai.

## Seoul calls on Trump, N Korea's Kim to meet on APEC sidelines

IANIS

Seoul, Oct 24: South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young on Friday called on the leaders of North Korea and the United States not to miss a golden opportunity for having dialogue on the occasion of next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gathering in South Korea.

US President Donald Trump's planned visit to South Korea on October 29-30 for the APEC gathering has spawned speculation that he may

seek a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un though the possibility of such a meeting appears low, Yonhap News Agency reported.

"The leaders of North Korea and the US should not miss this opportunity. They should make a decision," Chung told reporters, noting that if realized, the possible Kim-Trump meeting could pave the way for bringing peace to the Korean Peninsula.

He said it would be much more difficult for the North and the US to prepare for a meeting between their leaders in

terms of logistics if they miss a chance for talks in South Korea.

Trump met with Kim three times during his first term — two summit talks, in Singapore in June 2018 and in Hanoi in February 2019, and a brief meeting at the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom in June 2019.

Chung said there has been no confirmed information about contacts underway between the North and the US, but claimed there are "signs" of both sides apparently preparing for possible talks.

## Aussie allrounder Maxwell set to return for T20I series against India

PTI

Sydney, Oct 24: Charismatic Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is set to return for the T20I series against India after recovering from a fractured wrist, while young pacer Mahli Beardman is a surprise pick in the squad for the high-stakes clash beginning in Canberra on October 29.

The five-match T20I series, to be played after the ongoing ODIs, will see the 37-year-old Maxwell and Beardman available for selection for the last three games, while pace stalwart Josh Hazlewood and bowling allrounder Sean Abbott will be available for the first two and three games respectively.

Maxwell suffered a wrist fracture while bowling in the nets ahead of Australia's three-match T20I series in New Zealand in September.

Beardman is a notable pick for the series against India following the 20-year-old's commendable performance in the five List A games and two Big Bash matches he has played.

He was the star of the Australian U19 World Cup-winning side in 2024, bagging three wickets in the final. He also toured England with the senior ODI side last year but was not included in the playing XI.

Meanwhile, Australia have drafted pace bowling all-rounder Jack Edwards and left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann in the squad for the third and final ODI against India, scheduled to be played here on Saturday, while Marnus Labuschagne



has been released for Sheffield Shield duty.

Labuschagne was included in the ODI squad before the first match against India at Perth as tall pace bowling all-rounder Cameron Green had been ruled out with a low grade side soreness.

Labuschagne, though, didn't feature in the two ODI's Australia won to clinch the series. He will now return to Queensland for a Shield clash against NSW at the Gabba.

Wicketkeeper Josh Inglis is also expected to rejoin the ODI squad for the Sydney rubber.

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