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PM Modi has worked to secure India, crushed terrorism: Amit Shah

Highlights decisions like Art-370 abrogation, surgical strikes, Op Sindoor

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 25: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that for 70 years, no one dared touch Article 370, but in 2019, Prime Minister Modi ended it and crushed terrorism from hideouts like no one had before.

Addressing rallies across Bihar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that for seven decades, no government attempted to amend Article 370, but in 2019, PM Modi revoked it and fully integrated Jammu and Kashmir into India.

Shah also discussed India's economic trajectory, saying that under Modi's leadership, the country rose from the 11th to the fourth-largest economy in the world, with a goal of



reaching third by 2027. "PM Modi has brought our country's economy from 11th place to fourth. We will move from fourth to third before 2027. He

has made our country safe," he said.

On security issues, the Home Minister listed major attacks after Modi took office, including

Uri, Pulwama, and Pahalgam. He said the government responded through surgical strikes, air strikes, and launched Operation Sindoor following the Pahalgam attack.

"Modi has worked to secure India. He has worked to make India prosperous," Shah said. He criticised previous governments for failing to act on security matters, citing political considerations, and said Modi's government took decisive steps to neutralise terrorists at their hideouts.

Turning to electoral matters, the HM addressed the special intensive revision of voter rolls in Bihar. He accused opposition parties of obstructing the process and said that all infiltrators would be traced and removed from the electoral lists.

Shah urged | [More on P6](#)

MP Ruhullah slams CM for not revealing MLAs involved in RS cross-voting

■ Says hiding their identity amounts to betrayal

■ Refuses to campaign in Budgam by-polls

Naveed Ul Haq

Srinagar, Oct 25: Member Parliament from Srinagar and senior National Conference leader Aga Ruhullah Mehdi said on Saturday that he will not campaign for his party in the upcoming Budgam by-polls, accusing the NC of failing both politically and administratively in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters, Mehdi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the recent controversy over alleged cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha elections has raised serious questions about transparency. He urged



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to reveal the names of those involved.

"I have absolutely no knowledge of who voted for whom or who engaged in cross-voting," Mehdi said. "From the Chief Minister's statement, it | [More on P6](#)

● **Those who betrayed us known to all: CM Omar**

Owais Gul

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the National Conference (NC) was "betrayed" in the Rajya Sabha elections and those involved are "known to all". Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood (Chrysanthemum Theme Garden) at the picturesque Botanical Garden in Srinagar, the CM, as per the | [More on P6](#)

Dr Farooq claims BJP offered deal on Rajya Sabha polls

NC chief denies allegations of 'gifting MLAs' for 4th seat

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 25: National Conference (NC) president, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Saturday claimed the party turned down the Bharatiya Janata Party's offer for a deal on the fourth seat of Rajya Sabha elections, held on Friday.

The NC chief, speaking to the media persons at the party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subah here, said, "The BJP approached us and asked to leave the fourth (Rajya Sabha) seat for them and contest only three seats."

However, the offer was rejected as the NC decided to contest all four seats, he added.

Responding to the allegations of giving 7 votes to the BJP, Dr Abdullah said, "If that is the case, then how was our



candidate able to get 21 votes?" he said, terming the allegations as propaganda and baseless.

Meanwhile, the NC chief thanked all parties, including the Congress, People's Democratic Party (PDP), Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) and other independents for supporting NC candidates in the Rajya Sabha elections yesterday.

"Yes, there was support from the PDP. I am thankful to Mehbooba Mufti," he said.

Three NC candidates won Rajya Sabha elections, while the BJP secured | [More on P6](#)

Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood

CM Omar inaugurates Kashmir's maiden Chrysanthemum theme garden

'Would enhance autumn experience for visitors'



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday inaugurated Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood (Chrysanthemum Theme Garden) at the picturesque Botanical Garden in

Srinagar, marking a new milestone in the Valley's tourism and floriculture landscape.

Developed at a cost of 1.869 crore, the Chrysanthemum Theme Garden spans over 100 kanals and is envisioned as a major

autumn attraction in Kashmir. With its vibrant blooms in shades of yellow, red, pink, and purple, the garden promises to infuse new color and charm into the Valley's tourism calendar during the autumn months. | [More on P6](#)

Terror Recruitment Case

CIK produces chargesheet against terrorist aide in special NIA court

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 25: In a major breakthrough against Pakistan-backed terror propaganda and recruitment networks operating through social media, Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) today produced a charge sheet against a terrorist aide before the special designated NIA court here.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a CIK spokesman said that the chargesheet was presented against the Aadil Ahmad Khan son of Ghulam Mohammad Khan (@Gull Khan), resident of Drien Qazigund, Anantnag in the court of Special Judge designated under NIA Act, Srinagar in Case FIR No. 07/2023 U/S 153-A, 505, 506 IPC, 13, 18, 18-B, 39 UAPA of Police Station CIK Srinagar.

"The case pertains to a terror recruitment module being clandestinely operated through social media platforms, with the objective of radicalizing and recruiting impressionable youth of Jammu and Kashmir into the ranks of proscribed terrorist organizations, particularly those sponsored and controlled from across the border in Pakistan," the spokesman said.

He said, "The investigation was initiated on the basis of credible information that unscrupulous individuals and entities based in Pakistan, in connivance with terrorist handlers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and other banned outfits, were using social media to lure Kashmiri youth and instigate them to wage war against the sovereignty and integrity of India."

"During the | [More on P6](#)

Bookish education alone won't help; time to upgrade skills: CM Omar

Says 'Design your degree' can be a game changer

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Oct 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the time to focus solely on bookish education has gone, calling upon the students to upgrade skills for a better future.

"Design your degree" can be a game changer, the Chief Minister said while speaking to the media persons after addressing the National Education Policy (NEP) Conclave at Amar Singh College.

The CM, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said they have started seeing benefits of the 'Design Your Degree' policy, which



allows the students to design their own degrees and courses. "We are now seeing innovative degrees emerging, skill upgradation and other related things that

will help students when they enter the job market," he said.

Omar added, "It will be a game changer. There was a time when we focused solely on bookish education. Now, a major change has come along with bookish education; the children are being given practical experiences and are being asked to solve problems. Their skills are being upgraded."

He said this kind of education will be very beneficial for students in the future, when they have to enter the job market. Otherwise, we often say, 'you have educated, but unemployed people'. We are trying to eliminate that

LG Sinha meets outstanding sportspersons of DPS Srinagar



Hails 'exceptional national, int'l achievements'

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday met the outstanding sportspersons of Delhi Public School Srinagar at Raj Bhawan. The Lieutenant Governor

commended the students for their exceptional achievements in both national and international sports competitions. He also conveyed his best wishes for their upcoming games and future endeavours.

The delegation of students includes Hurriyah Showkat, Samma and Mysha Bilal Kanth (Silver medalists at 3rd Junior Asian Pencak Silat Championship),

Govt working to shield conventional media amid rapid digitisation

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 25: The government has planned a series of initiatives to shield the conventional media from the disruptions expected due to rapid digitisation in the sector.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said the government plans to remove the regulatory overhang in the radio industry and Television Rating Point (TRP) reforms.

"The government is working to remove regulatory barriers wherever they exist," the minister said in an informal interaction with reporters here.

Vaishnaw said the ministry is exploring ways to improve the television rating system to ensure fair revenue to television channels from government advertisements.

"Television Rating Point (TRP) guidelines are being formulated. The first round of consultation is complete, feedback has been received, and a second consultation paper will be published soon," the minister said.

The government is also considering increasing the advertisement rates for print and television media.

Vaishnaw said the government is also working on the integration of the Registrar | [More on P6](#)

Meet Shopian's progressive farmer growing indoor, outdoor Saffron

Says production, quality improving every year

Jahangeer Ganaie

Shopian, Oct 25: In an inspiring example of innovation and dedication, a progressive farmer from South Kashmir's Shopian district has successfully cultivated both indoor and outdoor saffron, breaking traditional barriers and setting a new benchmark for sustainable farming practices in the region.

Haroon Rashid, 57, a resident of Vehil village in Shopian, has transformed his passion for farming into a model of

agricultural innovation. From growing vegetables and fruits on the rooftop of his house to cultivating the world's most precious spice indoors, Haroon's efforts are earning him recognition as a trendsetter among local growers.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Haroon said he began experimenting with rooftop farming a few years ago. "Initially, I started growing different kinds of vegetables, fruits and even medicinal plants on the slab of my two-storey house. The results were encouraging," he said.

"I have been now growing saffron both indoor and outdoor from last several last few



years and with each passing year, the quality of crop and results are getting better," he said

He credited the horticulture and agriculture departments for their consistent

guidance and technical support. "Whenever I faced any challenge, officials from these departments were always ready to help. Their motivation kept me going," he added.

He learned about indoor saffron farming a few years ago from experts at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Balpora, Shopian and the India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IIKSTC) Dusoo, Pampore. With their guidance, he decided to give it a try and the results exceeded expectations and he is further progressing with each year.

Haroon took a step further later and began cultivating outdoor saffron using hydroponic techniques, a method that allows plants to grow

without soil by using nutrient-rich water. "Both indoor and outdoor saffron have shown excellent results. This year, the yield and quality have improved even more compared to last year as every year gives you new experience," he said.

"Outdoor saffron, though grown on a smaller scale, has started flowering this year, while the indoor crop is already in full bloom. We are getting better yields with each passing season," Haroon added.

He believes indoor saffron cultivation could revolutionize the sector, especially in the wake of changing climatic conditions that have been affecting traditional saffron fields. "Indoor saffron eliminates all

weather-related risks. Even people without land can now grow saffron in their homes. It's a big opportunity for young entrepreneurs and small farmers," he said.

Haroon's success story, he says, is built on hard work, guidance and innovation. "Where there is a will, there is a way. Farmers should take full advantage of government schemes, seek advice from experts, and adopt new technologies. This is how we can become self-reliant and successful," he emphasized.

Agriculture officials also see immense potential in Haroon's approach. "Climate change has started impacting traditional saffron | [More on P6](#)

DC Sgr visits Shrine of Makhdoom Sahib, Sharika Devi Temple

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Saturday undertook a visit to the shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhoom(RA) and Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat to assess the plan of developmental and beautification works in and around these historic sites.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; Executive Engineers from R&B, Water Works Division, City Roads Division, and KPDCL, Tehsildar Khanyar and other concerned officers.

At the Makhdoom Sahib Shrine, the DC took note of the plan of development and beautification works aimed at improving public amenities and facilities for devotees.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely submission of the plan for upgradation and developmental works while maintaining the sanctity and heritage of the site.

The DC emphasized coordinated efforts among departments for smooth execution.

Later, the DC visited the Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat and reviewed the plan of beautification and upgradation, planned to be carried out at the site. He instructed the executing agencies to expedite the submission of the plan and ensure that quality standards are maintained, keeping in view the significance of the temple for devotees and visitors.

The DC further directed the Officers to carry out necessary landscaping and renovation works at both the religious places, besides improving basic facilities.

Kashmir Marathon Edition-II to promote tourism: CS Dulloo

Tourism Deptt gears up to make event a grand success

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements for the upcoming 2nd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, being organized by the Tourism Department on November 2, 2025, in Srinagar.

The meeting besides Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism was attended by Secretary, Health; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; DIG, Traffic; MD, JKTDC; Director, Tourism, Kashmir; SSP, Traffic, Srinagar; Commissioner, SMC, and other senior officers of concerned departments.

The Chief Secretary described the marquee event as a valuable opportunity to promote tourism and sports culture in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that the inaugural edition had received overwhelming response and set new benchmarks for sporting events in the region.

He observed that participation from runners across the nation and abroad would further reinforce Kashmir's image as a premier destination for leisure, adventure and sports tourism.

Emphasizing seamless coordination among all departments, Dulloo directed the concerned to ensure foolproof arrangements for visiting athletes and participants, covering aspects such as transportation,



accommodation, medical care, security, sanitation, and event management.

The Chief Secretary urged the Traffic Department to take all necessary measures to secure the marathon routes on the day of the event. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive traffic management plan, including appropriate diversions and issuance of advance travel advisories to ensure the safety and convenience of commuters.

He underscored the need to provide a memorable experience to all participants that reflects Kashmir's hospitality and growing capability in hosting large-scale international events.

During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish ChanderVerma informed that several renowned national and international athletes are expected to participate in this year's edition. He further noted that the event would also act as a platform to showcase local art, craft, and culture, with

dedicated stalls promoting Handicrafts and Handloom products from Jammu and Kashmir. Director, Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob, presented a detailed overview of the operational plan, covering aspects of participant registration, route management, volunteer deployment, and publicity campaigns.

He elaborated that the marathon will feature two main race categories: the Full Marathon (42 km) and Half Marathon (21 km) are open to both men and women like the first edition of this game here.

The routes will traverse Srinagar's most iconic and picturesque locations, including Dal Lake, Mughal Gardens, and Chinar-lined boulevards, offering runners an inspiring blend of athletic challenge and scenic beauty.

The meeting was apprised that the Full Marathon (42 km) will take participants through a captivating circuit showcasing the natural and cultural splendor of Srinagar,

while the Half Marathon (21 km) will provide runners an equally enriching experience that combines endurance with the Valley's breathtaking vistas.

Adding to the event's grandeur, the Kashmir Marathon 2025 features an impressive prize pool, with substantial rewards for winners in both Full and Half Marathon categories.

For the Full Marathon, the overall category prizes include Rs25,00,000 for 1st place, Rs20,00,000 for 2nd, Rs18,00,000 for 3rd, Rs15,00,000 for 4th, and Rs12,00,000 for 5th place. In the respective age-group categories (18-35 years, 36-50 years, and 50+ veterans), cash prizes of Rs1,00,000, Rs75,000, and Rs50,000 will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions respectively.

For the Half Marathon, the overall category winners will receive Rs15,00,000, Rs12,00,000, Rs9,00,000, Rs6,00,000, and Rs3,00,000 respectively for the top five positions, while age-group winners will receive Rs75,000, Rs50,000, and Rs25,000 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions respectively for both men and women participants.

With its generous rewards, stunning routes, and vibrant community participation, the Kashmir Marathon 2025 is poised to emerge as a flagship sporting event showcasing the region's spirit, hospitality, and tourism potential.

KASHMIR THUNDER



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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT,
J&K, SRINAGAR/ JAMMU
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Housing & Urban Development Department, J&K invites public suggestions and comments on the Draft Jammu and Kashmir Parking Policy, 2025 Draft Jammu and Kashmir Parking Rules, 2025 and Draft Transit Oriented Development Policy, 2025 to be submitted within 15 days hereof at hudd-ik@nic.in/shaqun.sharma76Pik.gov.in.

The draft documents are available on the Department's official website: <https://hudd.jk.gov.in>.

By the order of

Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
Housing & Urban Development Department.

Dated 22.10.25 DIPP-7526/25 DATED: 25-10-2025

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U.T)
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT
SHEEP HUSBANDRY
OFFICER PULWAMA

Technical section
NOTIFICATION

All the applicants who had applied for establishment of sheep /Goat units under scheme "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna" and infrastructure to welfare of Tribals in response to this office advertisement No. DSHOP /Tech ./2025 -26 /1131 Dated 08/08/2025 are hereby informed that selection of applicants be carried out through Draw of Lots in the office of District Sheep Husbandry office pulwama on 29/10/2025 at 11.30 AM & accordingly all the applicants are requested to attend this selection process at above mentioned date /Venue

No. DSHOP /Tech./ 2025 -26 /2675 -79
Dated : 23/10/2025

District sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama
DIPP-7517/25 DATED: 25-10-2025

Govt to balance environ conservation with sustainable dev: Rana

Visits Bandipora, interacts with public delegations

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 25: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Saturday visited Bandipora and interacted with dozens of delegations at Gujar and Bakerwal Boys (G&BB) Hostel here.

The Minister was accompanied by legislators Nazir Ahmad Khan, Nizamuddin Bhat and Hilal Akbar Lone along with senior officers of district administration during the visit. The aim of the visit was to get a firsthand account of the developmental concerns in the region so as to align government policies with the actual needs and priorities of the region.

The deputations representing local residents, students and community leaders



raised key issues pertaining to the region like youth unemployment, poor infrastructure & daily hardships.

During the meeting, delegations expressed the urgent need to upgrade the region's infrastructure and address other essential requirements. The representatives highlighted the importance of improving roads, transportation networks, healthcare services, educational institutions and communication

systems. They also stressed the need for better water supply, power distribution and sanitation facilities to enhance the overall quality of life and promote sustainable economic growth in the region.

Discussions also focused on Forest Rights Act implementation, cultural preservation and holistic upliftment in education and infrastructure.

Minister Rana gave a patient hearing to the

grievances and assured the delegations a dedicated review of their grievances, pledging comprehensive and time-bound measures for accelerated and inclusive development of the area.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to balancing environmental conservation with sustainable development, ensuring that all proposals and measures align with broader ecological and social objectives.

This outreach by the Forest Minister underscores a holistic and responsive governance approach, making it clear that infrastructure development, upgradation of facilities, tribal needs and employment will be central themes in Bandipora's development agenda moving forward.

DC Bla flags off rally under Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 25: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Saturday flagged off a rally from the Old Hospital complex Baramulla (CMO Office) under the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0, an initiative aimed at creating awareness against tobacco use among youth.

The campaign, being organized by the Chief Medical Officer Baramulla under the aegis of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and National Health Mission, seeks to prevent initiation of tobacco use among youth, promote cessation among users, and strengthen enforcement of tobacco control laws. Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Dr. A.G. Raina, District Health Officer, Dr. Bhajan Kour and other officials were present on the occasion.

Students of ANMT School and officials participated enthusiastically in the rally, raising slogans and holding placards to spread the message of a tobacco-free society. Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the need for collective efforts to discourage tobacco consumption and protect youth from its harmful effects. He appreciated the Health Department for organizing such awareness activities and urged continued community participation in the campaign.

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

Muthi Akhnoor Road , Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Cancellation of candidature and Debarment of candidate on account of resorting to unfair means regarding,

Order No: 320 -SSB of 2025

Dated:22-10-2025

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted OMR Based Examination for the post of J.E (Electrical), Power Development Department, advertised vide Notification No. 02 of 2025 Dated 27.02.2025 on 24.08.2025; and

Whereas, a candidate namely Mr. Suhail Ameen Mir, S/o Mohammad Amin Mir R/O 211 Aapri Bagh Khag Budgam, appeared in the said examination under Roll No. 2110225 at S. P. Higher Secondary School, M.A Road Srinagar;

Whereas, the said candidate has been found in possession of mobile phone and using it during the course of examination at S. P. Higher Secondary School, M.A Road Srinagar, as per the report of the Centre Superintendent and concerned Invigilator based on the CCTV footage; Whereas, notwithstanding the above, vide No. JKSSB COE0Exam (UT)/101/2023-03 (7363646) Dated 07010.2025, a show cause notice was issued to the said candidate to explain his position;

Whereas, the case was placed before the Unfair Means Committee constituted in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2022 under part XXX (67), and the committee, after considering the nature of the offence and evidence brought on record as well as the reply of the show cause notice submitted by the candidate, recommended as under:-

"The committee observed that the candidate has committed offence under section 64 (b) of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2022, Therefore, the committee recommends cancellation of the candidature for the said post, besides debarment for a period of 05 years for all examinations and selections conducted by JKSSB with effect from the date of incident."

Whereas, the recommendations of the Unfair Means Committee were placed before the Board in its 324th Meeting held on 14-10-2025, which accepted the recommendations of the Unfair Means Committee with some modification and decided as under:-

"To cancel the candidature of candidate i.e. Mr. Suhail Ameen Mir, S/o Mohammad Amin Mir R/O 211 Aapri Bagh Khag Budgam, for the post of JE (Electrical) advertised vide notification No. 02 of 2025 dated 27.02.2025.

To debar the candidate for a period of two (02) years from all examinations and selections conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) with effect from the date of incident".

Therefore, in view of the above and as per section 69 of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations,

2022, the candidature of candidate Mr. Suhail Ameen Mir, S/o Mohammad Amin Mir R/O 211 Aapri Bagh Khag Budgam, for the post of JE (Electrical) advertised vide notification No. 02 of 2025 dated 27.02.2025 is hereby cancelled. The candidate is further debarred from appearing in all the examinations and selections conducted by the Board (JKSSB) for a period of two (02) years from the date of examination to the said post i.e. 24.08.2025.

By Order.

No. JKSSB COE0Exam (UT)/101/2023-03 (7363646)

Dated:22.10.2025

DIPP-7503/25
DATED: 25-10-2025

(Reyaz Ahamd Malik) JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

VC JKLCMA inspects Dal-Nigeeen Lake

Reviews ongoing conservation measures

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: Vice Chairman J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Manzoor Ahmad Qadri conducted an extensive inspection of Dal-Nigeeen Lake, its navigational channels, and the internal hamlets to evaluate the various conservation measures being implemented by the Authority.

He was accompanied by Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer, Technical Officer to VC and other senior officers of the Authority.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman inspected the dewatering operations and other conservation efforts, including houseboat connectivity enhancements, ensuring that these interventions uphold both quality standards and the site's modern-day usability. The Vice Chairman also directed that the acquired land be clearly demarcated and developed into eco-friendly recreational spots.



Special emphasis was placed on controlling the sewage inflow from nearby hamlets to protect the lake's water quality. Additionally, he instructed that cleaning of navigational channels be prioritized to ensure smooth and safe movement through the

waterways. Such visits reflect the Authority's commitment to balancing heritage preservation, environmental conservation, and sustainable development, ensuring that Dal-Nigeeen Lake continues to thrive as both an ecological treasure and a hub of responsible tourism.

RS POLLS

NC gifted 7 MLAs to BJP: Sajad Lone

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 25: Peoples Conference Chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone on Saturday accused the National Conference (NC) of "killing merit" through its handling of reservations and alleged that Kashmiri candidates are being deliberately left out of government job opportunities.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Lone, who is also MLA from Handwara, said his party will soon launch a "full-fledged campaign" against the ongoing reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This government is out to kill merit. Open merit has been buried. We are going to start a ground-level registration drive against this policy," Lone said, warning that the system "is pushing Kashmir towards a major disaster."

He said his party will take to the streets if needed. "We will go door to door. If hunger strikes or mass protests are required, we will not hesitate. Enough is enough," he added.

Lone also launched a strong attack on the National Conference, accusing it of being "hand in glove" with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during the recent Rajya Sabha elections.

"These two or three extra votes had no room for that candidate number four," Lone said. "Even if there had been no cross-voting, that candidate would still have lost. All the cross-voting was done by the National Conference. They did it themselves."

He claimed seven NC members "directly gifted their votes to the BJP." "It was a fixed



match," Lone said. "This is the same party that accused others of being with the BJP. And today, they are sitting in BJP's lap." Lone said the NC's actions have exposed its claims of being an opposition force. "Our people must open their eyes and see how they were deceived. Even if BJP is not in power directly, their preferred party is ruling now," he said.

Criticising NC vice president Omar Abdullah, Lone said the Congress was deliberately denied a winnable Rajya Sabha seat. "They offered Congress a losing seat, number four. Omar Abdullah was asking, 'Why don't they contest for number four?' They wanted it this way," he said.

Lone argued that the Congress, as a national party, should have been given priority. "A national party carries a different weight on the national stage. Regional parties do not," he said.

He further accused the NC's past Rajya Sabha members of failing to deliver in Delhi. "None of them brought anything substantial back. They only went there to get small personal favors," Lone

said. Calling the NC's political approach "submissive before Delhi," Lone said, "For seventy years, this has been the story. They go to Delhi saying 'beat us but let us weep.' They ask Delhi to tighten the stick while pretending to resist here."

On the abrogation of Article 370, Lone alleged that "midnight meetings" between Delhi and NC leaders before August 5, 2019, were full of "betrayal after betrayal."

He urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to "wake up" and recognize what he described as "a long-standing political deception."

"The BJP ensures the victory of its own candidates through these same people. They abuse BJP during elections to fool voters, but they are working together behind the scenes," Lone said.

The Peoples Conference chief said he was "grateful to Allah" for staying away from what he termed "this entire corrupt process." "I thank Almighty Allah that I abstained from voting, otherwise today all fingers would have been pointed at me," he said—(KNO)

Legislators defy CM's 'divide' tactics: Sat Sharma



KNO

Jammu, Oct 25: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Pal Sharma, who secured the fourth Rajya Sabha seat in the Union Territory, Saturday said that the win came despite efforts by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to create a divide between the two regions.

Sharma returned from Kashmir to a reception by party workers and supporters at Jammu airport, followed by a procession to the Trikuta Nagar party office.

The BJP dismissed claims by People's Conference leader Sajad Gani Lone that the election was predetermined between the National Conference and the BJP.

Sharma defeated NC candidate Imran Nabi Dar by receiving 32 votes against Dar's 22 in the third notification. NC's Gurwinder Singh Oberoi also won a seat with 31 votes.

Sharma told reporters that the party did not offer anything to legislators but asked them to vote according to their conscience. He said that the BJP received four votes in this instance and expected more support in future elections from legislators acting similarly.

He said the seat was won from Kashmir despite opposition attempts to unite legislators against the BJP.

Sharma dedicated the win to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party workers and said the party would continue its work under the policy framework of inclusive development and effort.

Regarding Sajad Gani Lone's statement that seven NC votes were given to the BJP, Sharma said the accusation was irrelevant, questioning why Lone had not voted himself and pointing out that abstaining from voting was undemocratic—(KNO)

Fresh police batch of 453 graduates in Ladakh

RAJA SYED RATHER

Leh, Oct 25: A new chapter in the history of Ladakh Police was written on Saturday as 453 men and women recruits successfully completed their training and participated in the grand passing out parade held at the world's highest police training centre in Ladakh.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, who presided over the ceremony, congratulated the new constables and praised the efforts of the administration and Ladakh Police in shaping a disciplined and service-oriented force.

"It is a matter of pride and honour for the Ladakh administration and Ladakh Police as 453 men and women pass out today. This will strengthen Ladakh's force, and they are well prepared to serve in various administrative roles," the LG said.

He commended the

significant participation of women in the batch, calling it a reflection of changing times where women are taking the lead in every sector. "The personnel trained here in this terrain are equipped to serve anywhere in the world," he added.

The recruits underwent 10 months and 11 days of rigorous training, focusing on law enforcement, public interaction and national service.

Officials said the training has fully equipped them to work hand-in-hand with the administration and contribute effectively to maintaining peace and order across the Union Territory.

The passing out parade marks a milestone for Ladakh Police, symbolizing strength, unity, and the growing commitment of local youth—especially women—to public service and nation-building—(KNO)

Ticket checks ramp up, Rs 32 lakh recovered

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

Srinagar, Oct 25: The Jammu Railway Division of Indian Railways has collected over Rs 32 lakh in fines over the last ten days while taking action against 2,500 ticketless and irregular travellers.

A railway official said that to facilitate passengers and ensure comfortable travel, special ticket-checking drives are conducted periodically at all railway stations in the Jammu Division under the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal.

He said these drives play a crucial role in improving passenger convenience and increasing revenue.

During the festive season, ticket-checking drives were conducted daily in the division to provide better passenger convenience and prevent illegal travel.

On Friday, a team headed by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal, including Assistant Commercial Manager Manoj Meena, Chief Ticket Inspector Abdul Rashid,

and other ticket-checking staff, conducted extensive checks at stations and on trains, with special checks on both up and down trains.

In this campaign, fines of over Rs 7 lakh were collected in just one day, charging 1,200 passengers for travelling without tickets.

According to data from the last ten days of the festive season ticket-checking campaign, fines amounting to over Rs 32 lakh were collected from approximately 2,500 passengers travelling without tickets.

Regarding this successful campaign, Uchit Singhal said, "Our efforts to strengthen ticket checking during the festivals have yielded positive results. This has led to increased revenue and significantly improved the travel experience for genuine passengers."

He further said that the Jammu Division is newly formed, which has led to a shortage of ticketing staff. However, the division's ticket-checking staff has performed remarkably well—(KNO)

Will quit before supporting BJP, Dy CM draws line

RAJA SYED RATHER

Jammu, Oct 25: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday reiterated that the National Conference will never align with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), even if it means leaving the government.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Choudhary said that NC's recent electoral performance reflects the party's commitment to principles rather than power or monetary greed.

"We can leave the government, but we cannot align with the BJP. The National Conference had to win four seats, but we lost one because some



traitors betrayed our trust. We fought this election on principles and refused to buy or sell votes," he said.

Choudhary accused the BJP of engaging in "vote theft," claiming the party's unethical

practices were evident in the polls. "It was proven this time that BJP is a vote thief. They broke votes. If they had 28 votes, where did the rest come from? This question remains unanswered," he remarked.

He added that the NC stood by its moral high ground despite political pressures. "We didn't offer money or greed. We fought for the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Three seats we have won belong to the people, and our representatives will take their voice to Delhi," he said.

Choudhary also acknowledged the contribution and representation of the Sikh community, saying the National Conference has always given them due space in leadership roles. "The Sikh community has always been part of our leadership and institutions. We gave representation to leaders like Sardar Harbhan

Singh, Talwinder Singh Wazir, and now Shami Oberoi," he noted.

Clarifying speculation about NC's political alliances, Choudhary said, "If there was an alliance, we wouldn't have fielded our candidate in Nagrota. We supported Congress, but when they didn't contest, we had to field our candidate at the last moment. Still, our fight continues."

He emphasised that the party will contest the upcoming Nagrota election with full strength. "We will fight hard. We can leave the government, but not our principles. We will never join hands with BJP," he reaffirmed—(KNO)

IHPL-2025 kicks off at Bakshi Stadium

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 25: The much-awaited Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL) 2025 began with enthusiasm at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium on Saturday, marking a fan moment for cricket in Jammu and Kashmir as global stars and local players came together on one platform in the coming days.

The opening match witnessed a good start to the tournament, though the stands appeared thin, with the crowd expected to increase as the league progressed.

Despite limited attendance, the spirit of the game remained high as players showcased top-level performances on Kashmir's historic turf.

Moreover, Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma, who attended the inaugural ceremony, expressed pride in the region's sporting potential and extended a warm welcome to the teams and organizers.

"I congratulate and welcome you all. The organizers and players of the Indian Heaven Premier League have come to the land of Jammu and Kashmir carrying a message of love and friendship,"



Minister Sharma said.

The IHPL 2025 features a star-studded lineup, including West Indies legend Chris Gayle, New Zealand's Martin Guptill, Australia's Shaun Marsh, Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan, and West Indian spinner Garey Mathurin. J&K's own Parvez Rasool and Ishan Malhotra are also part of the tournament, adding local pride to the mix.

Similarly, the league will run from October 25 (today) to November 8

at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar. The event follows the massive success of previous leagues and other sports events, which have reignited professional cricket in the valley after four decades.

Notably, while the opening day missed a massive crowd turnout, organizers remain hopeful that fan attendance will grow in the coming days as excitement builds around the high-profile event—(KNO)

J&K a Cricket Talent Hub: Satish Sharma

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 25: Expressing pride in Jammu and Kashmir's sporting potential, Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma on Saturday extended a warm welcome to the organizers and players of the Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL) during its opening match at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

"I congratulate and welcome you all. The organizers and players of the Indian Heaven Premier League have come to the land of Jammu and Kashmir carrying a message of love and friendship," the Minister Sharma said while speaking on the sideline of league.

He added, "I assure you, we have immense talent here. Our people love cricket, and I thank and welcome you all for bringing this tournament to our Union Territory." He said, we have many IPL, local and international players and events like this provide great exposure to our youth.

The Minister further said such tournaments inspire the next generation of cricketers. "I believe more leagues, tournaments and events should be organized



across Jammu and Kashmir. I welcome you all once again—enjoy your time here, make friends and take back beautiful memories from this land of warmth and hospitality," he said adding, on behalf of our leader Omar Abdullah Sahib, I extend my greetings to everyone.

It is important to mention, the Indian Heaven Premier League, organized at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium, aims to promote cricketing talent across the Union Territory and foster sportsmanship and unity through the participation of players from different parts of India, and locals as well—(KNO)

League unites Kashmir youth, icons

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 25: As the Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL) commenced on Saturday, the Valley's known cricketers are all set to join the international players to enthral the spectators at Bakshi Stadium here.

Some of the valley based players, who have already made their name in the field of cricket, have a huge fan base in Kashmir.

Some of them have turned out to be a youth icon amongst the youngsters.

The prominent faces among the local cricketers include Nasir Baba, Sarshheel Abbas, Irfan Mir (Lara), Wajahat Hussain, Jahangir Lone, Wahid Teli, Parvaiz Rasool, Waseem Kachroo, Asim Bashir, Amir Sofi, Adil Reshi, Ishtiyak Robby, Aqib Mir, Omar Alam, Ishtiyak Rasool, Sahil Shafi and others. Many among them have already played at different platforms in the country and outside India as well.

"It is a proud moment not only for me but also for my family, who stood behind me like a rock and wanted to see me on new heights in the field of cricket," Nasir Baba, a cricket player from downtown, said.

Sarshheel, who plays for Gulmarg Royals, told KNO that the leagues in which the international players join them gives the local cricketers a boost in absence of the proper cricketing infrastructure. "We learn from them (International players). We want such leagues to continue in the future so that the local players get a boost and further develop their skills," Abbas said—(KNO)

INS VIKRANT

India's First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier And A Landmark In Naval Capability

Press Information Bureau

INS Vikrant, the nation's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC 1), stands as a proud statement of an aspirational and self-reliant India. Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), it is the largest warship ever constructed in the country. Commissioned into the Indian Navy by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 2 September 2022, INS Vikrant is a symbol of indigenous potential, indigenous resources, and indigenous skills.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, celebrated Diwali 2025 on-board the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant, honouring the dedication and courage of Indian Naval sailors and armed forces personnel. The visit continued his tradition of celebrating Diwali with troops deployed in forward and strategic areas, symbolising solidarity with those who safeguard the nation across all domains of warfare. The ship hosted the Prime Minister for an overnight sea sortie from 19 to 20 October 2025. The following activities were undertaken during the sortie:

- Day and night air power demonstration
- Anti-submarine rocket firing
- Night underway replenishment
- Close-range anti-air firing demonstration
- Steam past and fly past
- Cultural programme and Barakhana
- Address by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and interaction with the crew
- Witnessing yoga at sea and special forces demonstration

History and Development

INS Vikrant takes its name from India's first aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant (R11), which was decommissioned in 1997. The erstwhile INS Vikrant played a crucial role in the 1961 Goa Liberation Operation and the 1971 Indo-Pak War, earning a lasting place of pride in India's naval history. The current INS Vikrant, India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC 1), carries forward this legacy and represents a significant milestone in the country's naval self-reliance and shipbuilding capability.

Commencement of Construction: Keel of the ship was laid on February 2009 at Cochin Shipyard Limited, marking the formal start of its construction.

Launch and Trials: Launched in August 2013; maiden sea trials commenced in August 2021.

Design: Conceptualised and designed by the Indian Navy's in house Warship Design Bureau (WDB).

Commissioning: Commissioned on 2 September 2022 at Kochi, making India one of the few nations capable of indigenously designing and building aircraft carriers.

Indigenous Content: 76 percent of the ship is indigenously built, including around 30,000 tonnes of specialty steel supplied by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

Industry Participation: The project involved over 550 Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and sub-contractors, along with 100 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Employment Generation: Approximately 2,000 people were employed directly at Cochin Shipyard Limited and around 12,500 indirectly through associated industries and suppliers.

A symbol of self-reliance in defence, INS Vikrant is not just a warship. It is a testament to the hard work, talent, influence and commitment of India in the 21st century.

Capabilities and Specifications

INS Vikrant's technical and operational strengths are reflected in the following features:

The carrier is 262.5 metres long and 61.6 metres wide, with a displacement of approximately 45,000 tonnes.

It is powered by four gas turbines that together generate about 88 megawatts of power.

INS Vikrant can achieve a maximum designed speed of 28 knots.

The ship accommodates around 1,600 personnel, including women officers and sailors, and contains approximately 2,200 compartments.

It operates on the Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (STOVAR) system, which allows aircraft to take off using a ski-jump and land with the help of arrestor wires.

The carrier can host up to 30 aircraft, including MiG 29K fighter jets, MiG 29 KUB, Chetak, Kamov 31, MH 60R helicopters and Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH).

The ship generates enough electricity to



power nearly 5,000 households, with internal wiring long enough to stretch from Kochi to Kashi.

Achievements of INS Vikrant

Since its commissioning, INS Vikrant has solidified its role as a cornerstone of the nation's maritime strength. These accomplishments not only showcase the carrier's advanced capabilities but also reinforce India's commitment to the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision, fostering peace, stability, and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Maiden Sea Trials (4 August 2021): INS Vikrant embarked on its inaugural voyage from Kochi, validating propulsion, navigation, and weapon systems, and laying the foundation for full operational readiness.

First Landings of LCA (Navy) and MiG-29K (February 2023): The carrier achieved its maiden landings of indigenous LCA Navy and MiG-29K jets.

Night Landing Operations (May 2023): INS Vikrant conducted successful night landings, demonstrating readiness for complex missions under challenging conditions.

Final Operational Clearance (January–November 2024): Over 750 hours of flying operations, including day and night sorties by fighter aircraft and helicopters, validated the carrier's operational readiness.

MILAN 24: INS Vikrant participated in Milan 24 in February 2024, a biennial multi-lateral naval exercise hosted by Indian Navy, which witnessed the participation of over 36 ships, two submarines, 55 aircraft and senior leadership of 47 friendly foreign countries from six continents. The event reaffirmed main status as preferred security partner in the Indian Ocean region and consolidated Indian Navy structure as Combat Ready, Credible Cohesive and Future Ready force.

Presidential Visit and Operational Showcase (7 November 2024): The Hon'ble President of India witnessed take-offs, landings, missile demonstrations, and fleet maneuvers, underscoring INS Vikrant's role as a formidable symbol of maritime strength.

Exercise Varuna 2025 : INS Vikrant participated in Ex- Varuna 25 (IN-French Navy bilateral exercise), with carrier strike group Charles de Gaulle, in Mar 25. The advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare and Air Defence exercises were undertaken involving the IN Carrier Battle Group and the FFN CSG.

Operational Achievement (March 2025): During its Arabian Sea deployment, INS Vikrant, along with INS Deepak, was swiftly diverted to respond to an urgent situation involving the Panama-flagged bulk carrier MV Heilan Star. A Sea King helicopter from INS Vikrant carried out a challenging medical evacuation (MEDEVAC), winning three injured crew members from MV Heilan Star to INS Hansa, Goa.

Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 2025): Participated in India's largest biennial exercise across the Indian Ocean Region, involving 150+ warships, submarines, and aircraft, testing all domains of maritime warfare.

Exercise Konkan 2025: Conducted a bi-lateral exercise with the UK's Royal Navy off Mumbai from, covering air, surface, and sub-surface operations.

Operation Sindoor: Vikrant carrier battle group was at the core of Indian Navy's offensive deterrent posture during Op Sindoor. The Vikrant carrier battle group deployed in the northern Arabian sea, played a key role in strategy of compellence, thereby forcing Pakistan Navy to be in defensive posture and requesting for urgent ceasefire.

PM Day at Sea (October 2025): The ship hosted the Hon'ble Prime Minister for an overnight sea sortie from 19 to 20 October 2025, on the occasion of Diwali.

INS Vikrant: A Pillar of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

Beyond its strategic military capabilities, Vikrant has proven to be a formidable asset in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

Strategic Capabilities for HADR Operations

Vikrant is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure, making it a versatile platform for various operations. Its design incorporates a high degree of automation for machinery operations, ship navigation, and survivability, enhancing its efficiency during emergency deployments. One of Vikrant's notable features is its robust power generation system, capable of supplying electricity equivalent to that needed for 5,000 households, facilitating sustained operations in remote or disaster-affected areas. Additionally, the carrier's extensive aviation facilities enable it to serve as a mobile command centre, hospital, and supply hub during emergencies.

Alignment with India's Regional Strategy

INS Vikrant's role in HADR operations aligns with India's broader maritime strategy, particularly the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative. The Indian Navy has been at the forefront of providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief during calamities and contingencies. These actions have enhanced India's stature as the 'Preferred Security Partner' and 'First Responder' in the Indian Ocean Region.

Rescue Operation

Key Takeaways

- INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, was commissioned on 2 September 2022
- Comprising 76% indigenous content, including 30,000 tonnes of steel from SAIL, the project engaged 550+ OEMs, 100 MSMEs, generating 2,000 direct and 12,500 indirect jobs.
- Equipped with advanced automation, it operates an air wing of 30 aircraft, including MiG-29K, Kamov-31, MH-60R, MiG 29 KUB, Chetak and ALH.
- Demonstrated versatility in March 2025 by evacuating injured crew from MV Heilan Star, 230 nautical miles off West of Goa.
- It can generate electricity sufficient for 5,000 households.

Responding to a distress call from the Panama-flagged MV Heilan Star about 230 nautical miles west of Goa, a Sea King helicopter from INS Vikrant successfully airlifted three injured crew members to INS Hansa for medical care. The operation exemplified the Indian Navy's steadfast commitment to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) beyond national waters.

A Milestone in India's Maritime Self-Reliance

Since 2014, Indian shipyards have delivered over 40 indigenous warships and submarines to the Navy, with a new platform being inducted on average every 40 days. It is a true testimony to the country's zeal and fervor in pursuing capability build up towards enhanced maritime security. The development and operationalization of INS Vikrant mark a landmark chapter in the Indian Navy's journey toward self-reliance.

Indigenous Design and Construction

INS Vikrant was designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and constructed at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The ship has large number of indigenous equipment and machinery, involving major industrial houses in the country viz. BEL, BHEL, GRSE, Keltron, Kirloskar, Larsen & Toubro, Wartsila India etc. as well as over 100 MSMEs. The development and production of indigenous warship grade steel for the ship was through a partnership

between Navy, DRDO and Steel Authority of India (SAIL), which has enabled the country to become self-sufficient with respect to warship steel.

Enhancing Maritime Capabilities

In June 2023, the Indian Navy showcased its formidable maritime capabilities through a multi-carrier operation involving INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya, along with a diverse fleet of ships, submarines, and aircraft, demonstrating India's technological expertise in the maritime domain.

Strategic Procurement: Rafale-Marine Jets

In April 2025, India signed a 63,000 crore deal with France for the procurement of 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets, which are capable of operating from aircraft carriers. This acquisition includes pilot training, flight simulators, weapons, and long-term maintenance support, and features technology transfer to boost Indian defence manufacturing. The Rafale-Marine jets will enhance the air wings of both INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya, ensuring unparalleled combat readiness.

Commitment to Indigenous Shipbuilding

The Indian Navy's vision for a second indigenous aircraft carrier and plans to station INS Vikrant in Visakhapatnam to strengthen the Eastern Naval Command further underscore its commitment to self-reliance and regional security. With over 133 ships and submarines built and commissioned in India as of December 2024, the Indian Navy continues to be a key pillar supporting the growth of the Indian shipbuilding sector. As of December 2024, 63 out of the 64 warships planned to be inducted in the Navy, are being built in India. This includes the majestic INS Vikrant aircraft carrier and nuclear submarines like INS Arihant and INS Arighaat.

Conclusion

INS Vikrant stands as a lasting symbol of India's maritime resurgence, with the indigenously built carrier cutting through the ocean and showcasing the nation's military prowess. Beyond enhancing the Indian Navy's regional security role, Vikrant inspires future generations toward complete defence indigenization. As India strengthens its presence in the Indo-Pacific, the carrier also highlights the nation's ambition to become one of the world's top defence exporters. INS Vikrant has filled the country with a new confidence, and has created a new confidence in the country.

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

Forest personnel frontline defenders of biodiversity: Rana

Presides passing-out parade at FTS Bandipora

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 25: Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana Saturday presided over passing-out parade of 152 newly trained forest guards from the 71st and 73rd batches of the Forest Training School (FTS) Bandipora.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam-ud-din Bhat; MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan; MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta; Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani; Conservator of Forests, North Circle Irfan Ali Shah; along with other Senior officers of the Forest and other allied Departments were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Rana commended the dedication, discipline and endurance demonstrated by the recruits during their training period. He exhorted upon them to dedicate themselves towards protection of forest resources of Jammu & Kashmir.

He lauded the frontline staff for their dedication towards conserving forest resources and urged the new recruits to stay alert against fires and encroachments to safeguard J&K's green wealth.

He lauded the unwavering commitment of the forest personnel, describing them as the "frontline defenders" of Jammu and Kashmir's



invaluable forest wealth and biodiversity. "Our forests are not merely natural resources, they are lifelines that support water, climate stability, livelihoods and cultural identity. Safeguarding them is our moral and environmental responsibility," he remarked.

Reaffirming the Omar Abdullah Government's steadfast commitment to sustainable and people-centric governance, Rana highlighted a series of policy measures aimed at ensuring ecological security alongside social equity. He underscored ongoing reforms to empower tribal and forest-dependent communities through community forestry programs, green job initiatives and eco-friendly livelihood opportunities. "True conservation is achieved when the people

living closest to nature are active participants in its protection and beneficiaries of its prosperity," he added.

Minister Rana also appreciated the officers and trainers of the Forest Training School for maintaining high standards of instruction and instilling professionalism among the recruits. He assured that the government remains committed to strengthening human resource capacity in the Forest Department through enhanced training, technology adoption and infrastructure improvements.

The Minister also felicitated the best-performing trainees of the 71st, 72nd and 73rd Forest Guard Training Courses, appreciating their dedication, discipline and commitment to protecting the region's rich

forest resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Kumar Gupta said that the forest frontline staff plays an important role in forest protection and their sustainable management.

Later, Javed Rana also inaugurated a newly developed Forest Park and Eco-Restoration Site at Chandaji, Bandipora, an initiative aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and revitalizing degraded land through eco-friendly restoration practices.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam-ud-din Bhat; MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone; PCCF, Suresh Kumar Gupta and other district officers were present at the inaugural event.

After inaugurating the Eco-park, Minister Rana highlighted the innovative

transformation of a former dumping ground into a vibrant green space, terming it a 'win-win initiative in the fight against environmental degradation and climate change'.

He noted that the project exemplifies the government's commitment to responsible land management and circular use of natural resources.

The Minister emphasized that such initiatives not only contribute to ecological balance but also enhance the aesthetic and recreational value of the region.

He further observed that the new Forest Park is expected to emerge as a major tourist attraction for visitors en-route scenic Gurez Valley, providing much-needed boost to ecotourism and local livelihoods.

The Minister also appreciated the efforts of Forest Department officials, local stakeholders and community volunteers whose contributions made the project possible.

He urged citizens to take collective responsibility in preserving natural resources and supporting green initiatives that build climate resilience and long-term environmental health.

Pertinently, the eco-restoration site, created by repurposing soil from the erstwhile dumping area, now serves as a thriving green zone featuring native tree species, walking trails, way-side car parking facility and eco-awareness installations.

DC Kupwara inspects functioning of Fruit Mandi Handwara



KT News Desk

HANDWARA, OCTOBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, visited the Fruit Mandi Handwara to review its functioning and to take stock of issues faced by the traders operating in the Mandi.

During the visit, the DC held an interaction with members of the Fruit Mandi Association, led by its President Mohammad Amin, who apprised him of several concerns including the construction of a Kisan shed, a separate passage from the Bypass to the Mandi, and issues related to the hotline electricity supply.

He assured the traders that the administration is committed to addressing their grievances and will take necessary steps to upgrade infrastructure and facilities at the Fruit Mandi.

Suse emphasized that the Horticulture sector forms the backbone of Kupwara's economy, and district administration is focused on strengthening the horticulture sector and ensuring better support to fruit growers and traders.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi and Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan.

Dr. Farooq felicitates NC's newly elected RS Members

Urges them to champion J&K's interests

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 25: National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah Saturday felicitated the party's successful Rajya Sabha candidates Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo and Shammi Oberoi at the party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar.

Among those present on the occasion were senior party leaders, including Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the HCM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, Women's Wing State President Shameema Firdous, Hon'ble MLA's Salman Ali Sagar, Ahsan Pardesi, Mushtaq Guroo, Provincial President Kashmir Showkat Ahmad Mir, Convenor Minority Wing Sardar J.S. Azad, YNC President Kashmir Mir Mushtaq, besides functionaries of the Youth, Women's, Media, Social Media, and Minority Wings, and several



party legislators from Central and South Kashmir.

In his address, Dr. Farooq Abdullah congratulated the newly elected members and urged them to work with dedication and sincerity to highlight the issues concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the need to strengthen the party's ongoing efforts for the restoration of the abridged rights of the people and to uphold the region's political, economic, and constitutional interests.

"Our representatives in the Rajya Sabha must serve

as the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that their aspirations and concerns are heard and addressed at the national level," Dr. Abdullah said.

On the occasion, the newly elected members Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo and Shammi Oberoi expressed gratitude to the party leadership for reposing faith in them. They pledged to represent the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to further the party's mission of justice, development, and dignity.

Training programmes held at Anantnag

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 25: A Capacity Building Programme on Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) was organised by the District Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with Rural Development Department and State Disaster Response Force, Anantnag at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The event witnessed active participation from officers including Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), and DySP SDRF and officials of various departments including Health, Youth Services & Sports, Fire & Emergency Services, Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Power Development, Revenue, and Flood Control and volunteers.

The session focussed on enhancing community awareness and preparedness for effective disaster risk reduction and fostering response mechanisms at grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Development highlighted the importance of CBDM in



empowering local communities to play a proactive role in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response.

During the program, the significance of CBDM for micro planning based on community knowledge and available resources besides involving community members directly for faster response, better coordination with government agencies, self reliance and minimization of losses during disasters was elaborated.

The programme concluded with an interactive session and demonstrations about basic disaster response techniques, aimed at equipping participants with practical knowledge for efficient action during

emergencies.

Later, an Incident Response System (IRS) Training Programme was also organised for strengthening the district's disaster response and coordination mechanisms. It focused on familiarizing officers with the operational structure, planning process, and response protocols of IRS, preparing them to manage real-time disaster situations more efficiently.

Deputy Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, J&K, Snober Jamil joined the session virtually and briefed the participants about the Incident Response System framework.

DLSA Sgr organizes Special Lok Adalat

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: In accordance with the 2025 calendar of the J&K Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar Saturday.

The Lok Adalat, aimed at amicably resolving Cheque Bounce and Bank cases which was held under the direction of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum and under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, 03 benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat, wherein first bench was presided over by the Additional District Judge (Bank Cases), Kusoom Pandita and 1st Additional District & Sessions Judge Srinagar, Anjum Ara. The second bench was presided over



by Forest Magistrate Srinagar, Mohammad Ishthiyag Alam Baba and PT & E Magistrate Srinagar, Massarat Jabeen and the 3rd Bench was presided over by City Munisiff, Srinagar, Shayesta Nazir and 1st Addl. Munisiff Srinagar, Zirgham Hamid.

Overall 101 number of cases were taken up for settlement out of which 33 number of cases were amicably settled and Rs. 2,64,10,457 was awarded as settlement amount.

The Special Lok Adalat reflects the commitment of the DLSA Srinagar and J&K Legal Services Authority to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and ensure timely justice delivery.

DC Kupwara chairs NCORD meeting

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 25: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under Narco Coordination (NCORD) to review various measures put in place by different departments for curbing the drug abuse in the district.

ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, SDM Lolab, ACP Kupwara, Dy. SPs of Kupwara/ Handwara, MS GMC, Dy. CMO, DPEO, and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on the agenda points and the officers presented detailed progress on the work done as per task assigned in previous meetings.

The Deputy Commissioner impressed upon all officers to work in close coordination and intensify their efforts towards eradicating the drug menace from the district.

He directed the concerned officers for amplifying the anti drug awareness campaigns in all panchayats, schools and colleges.

It was decided that a list of government employees will be

prepared who shall undergo training on anti-drug awareness and counselling, enabling them to act as counsellors in Primary Health Centres, schools, and rural communities to effectively combat substance abuse.

The Assistant Drug Controller was directed to ensure regular inspections of all medical shops in all tehils of the district in co-ordination with Police and revenue authorities.

Highlighting the role of parents in safeguarding the future of their children, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized organizing monthly Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) in all government and private schools to discuss the menace of drug abuse along with other related issues.

Besides, detailed discussion was held on regular monitoring of hotspots, action taken in NDPS cases as well as functioning of Drug De-Addiction Centres.

It was further impressed upon the concerned officers to fast-track the process of declaring "Nasha Mukta Panchayats" to promote healthy competition and collective efforts among Panchayats in achieving the goal of a drug-free Kupwara district.

DLIC approves 202 Mission YUVA cases

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 25: The meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held Saturday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

The meeting aimed to review and approve applications received under the Mission YUVA initiative, designed to foster youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.

A total of 202 applications verified by the SBDU, were presented for consideration. Following a comprehensive evaluation based on eligibility, business viability and the applicant's socio-economic background, all applications were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under the Mission YUVA framework.

Addressing the committee, the DC emphasized the vital role

of self-employment in empowering youth, instructing all departments to ensure timely fund disbursement, robust monitoring and dedicated mentoring to guarantee the sustainability of the supported ventures.

During the meeting, the DC also underscored the importance of expanding outreach activities, organizing awareness camps and conducting mobile registration drives to ensure the benefits of Mission YUVA reach every eligible youth in the district.

"Mission YUVA is not just a scheme, it is a movement to promote innovation, self-reliance and employment generation," he stated.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; General Manager DIC, Shurjeel Naikoo; AD Employment, Lead District Manager, BDM NABARD, Advance Manager Cluster office JKB, District Officer JKEDI, EO and other concerned.

OSC conducts awareness programme

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 25: The One Stop Centre (OSC) Shopian, under the Department of Social Welfare Saturday organized an awareness programme at the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Girls' Library, Old DC Office, Shopian.

The initiative was aimed at sensitizing the girls regarding the range of services and assistance provided by the OSC and to enhance awareness about the Women Helpline 181.

During the session, the girls were apprised of various problems concerning blackmailing, women trafficking, domestic violence and other forms of

harassment. They were further briefed on the functioning of the Women Helpline 181 Control Room, including its role in providing immediate assistance and facilitating timely intervention in distress situations.

During the programme, the girls were encouraged to approach the One Stop Centre or contact the helpline in case of any such incidents requiring support, protection, or counselling.

Awareness pamphlets containing detailed information about OSC services and helpline facilities were distributed among all the girls to promote accessibility and strengthen awareness at the community level.

Annual Exams

J&K BOSE grants last opportunity to apply for 11th, 12th students

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (J&K BOSE), has issued extension- notification for online submission of Annual examination Forms for class 11th and 12th, Regular, 2025 for a period of 3 days beginning on October 27.

As per the notification(s) issued by the Joint Secretary, Examinations JD/ KD, the on-roll eligible students of Kashmir Division including winter zone areas of Jammu Division besides district Kargil can submit their examination forms in online mode from October 27 to 29 on payment of applicable fee of Rs 4230 excluding practical fee.

The Board has directed all concerned institutions to ensure timely submission of forms, advising students to carefully verify their particulars during punching of information on the designated portal in observance of timeline.

The notification(s) indicating fee structure are available on the official J&K BOSE website. www. jkbose.nic.in . The Board has urged parents and students to complete the process of submission of forms within the stipulated time frame to avail the final chance following which no form will be entertained, whatsoever.

Relevantly, the extension in notification has been granted following declaration of the results of classes 10 and 11.

Craft Meets Culture: Div Com launches ‘Know Your Artisan’ at iconic Ghanta Ghar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 25: Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday inaugurated the second edition of the “Know Your Artisan” series at the iconic Ghanta Ghar, Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

The event, organized by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir under the Soulful Kashmir campaign, witnessed enthusiastic participation from craft lovers, tourists and buyers alike.

Divisional Commissioner went around the stalls and interacted with National and UT Level Awardees representing the rich handicraft heritage of Kashmir, including Papier Mâché, Sozni, Kani Weaving, Walnut Wood Carving, Copperware, Namda, Kangri Making and Hand-Knotted Carpets.

Speaking on the occasion, Anshul Garg appreciated the Department’s efforts to highlight the artistry and skill of local craftsmen. He congratulated H&H for organizing the event and for their commendable initiative to showcase the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the region. He expressed his delight in meeting the talented artisans



who have kept traditional crafts alive through their dedication and skill.

He informed that extensive efforts are underway for certification and Geographical Indication (GI) tagging to address challenges posed by machine-made goods and to safeguard the authenticity of local crafts.

He further congratulated the department for its successful efforts in taking the crafts of Kashmir to every corner of the country and to international platforms.

He emphasized that the artisans of Kashmir form a vital part of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India—initiatives strongly advocated by the Prime Minister. The centuries-old cottage industry of Kashmir continues to thrive, with women playing a significant role, thereby contributing to women’s empowerment and socio-economic growth.

Highlighting various government schemes and initiatives such as the establishment of craft villages, he assured full support from the

administration for the promotion and preservation of traditional crafts.

He urged that the ongoing campaign be further strengthened to bring the “golden hands” behind Kashmir’s exquisite crafts into greater public focus.

“Know Your Artisan introduces a new set of famed artisans and provides them with a platform to promote their niche products,” he remarked.

As part of the event, 10 artisan stalls and dedicated ‘Try Your Hands’ corners were set up, offering visitors the opportunity to witness live demonstrations and participate in hands-on experiences.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner felicitated the participating artisans during an Award Ceremony, which was attended by Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussrat Islam, along with senior officers of the department.

“Know Your Artisan” series continues to serve as a unique bridge between artisans and admirers of Kashmiri handicrafts, reaffirming the region’s commitment to preserving and promoting its centuries-old artistic legacy.

Zonal Police Kashmir hosts conference on law enforcement, emerging security challenges



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 25: The Zonal Police Headquarters Kashmir on Saturday hosted a one-day zonal-level conference at the Police Control Room, Kashmir, in pursuance of the recommendations of the DGSP/IGSP Conference-2024.

The event aimed to institutionalize these recommendations and provide a platform for young officers to share innovative ideas and field perspectives on contemporary policing challenges.

The conference was chaired by the DGP J&K and attended by DGP Coordination PHQ, ADGP CID J&K, IGP Kashmir, IGP Security J&K, IGP Railway J&K, Range DIGs, DIG CID Kashmir,

DIG Armed Kashmir, DIG Crime J&K, SSP PCR Kashmir, all district SSsP, DPT J&K, and other senior officers.

Deliberations focused on key issues including crowd management, cyber patrolling, NDPS investigations, dark web crimes, prison radicalization, and emerging cyber threats. Officers discussed strategies to strengthen operational frameworks, enhance inter-agency coordination, and adopt proactive measures to counter evolving security challenges.

In his inaugural address, the DGP J&K emphasized that such conferences aim to empower young field officers to share their experiences and practical insights on policing challenges.

IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi

highlighted the need for adaptive, technology-driven, and community-oriented policing, stressing innovation, collaboration, and capacity-building as key to sustaining public trust and ensuring effective law enforcement.

Officers also shared best practices and perspectives on modern investigative and operational methodologies. Directions were issued for the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas across all police stations in the Kashmir Zone to promote unity and national integration.

The conference concluded with a collective resolve to strengthen coordination, expand capacity-building initiatives, and integrate advanced technologies into core policing functions.

KCCI delegation discusses tourism, trade with LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 25: A delegation of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), led by its President, Javid Ahmad Tenga, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The delegation comprised of newly elected office

bearers and executive committee members of KCCI put forth various issues related to the promotion of tourism, industries and trade-related activities in the region. They apprised the Lieutenant Governor of the various upcoming initiatives aimed at enhancing Kashmir’s

visibility as a preferred tourist destination. Meanwhile, G M Saroori, former Minister called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday. Irfan Manhas, Vice Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Shopian, also called on LG Sinha. He apprised him of various development issues of Shopian district.

Significant increase in revenue through ticket checking: Rly Jammu Division

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 25: To facilitate passengers and ensure comfortable travel, special ticket checking drives are conducted periodically at all railway stations in the Jammu Division under the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal.

These drives play a crucial role in improving passenger convenience and increasing revenue. During the festive season, ticket checking drives were conducted daily in the division to provide better passenger convenience and prevent illegal travel.

On October 24, 2025, a team



headed by Singhal, which included Assistant Commercial Manager, Manoj Meena, Chief Ticket Inspector, Abdul Rashid, and other ticket checking staff, conducted extensive checks at stations and trains, with special

checks on both up and down trains. In this campaign, fines of over 700,000 rupees were collected in just one day, charging 1,200 passengers for traveling without tickets.

Additional data from the last

ten days of the festive season ticket checking campaign, over 32 lakhs rupees were collected in fines from approximately 2,500 passengers traveling without tickets.

Regarding this successful campaign, Singhal said, “Our efforts to strengthen ticket checking during the festivals have yielded positive results. This has led to increased revenue and significantly improved travel experience for valid passengers.”

He added, “The Jammu Division is newly formed, which can lead to a shortage of ticketing staff. However, the division’s ticket checking staff has performed remarkably well.”

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PM Modi has worked

voters to support the NDA government, promising action against infiltrators. “Tell me, should the names of infiltrators be removed from the voter list or not? Form the NDA government again... I promise you that we will remove every single infiltrator from Bihar,” he said.

He also called out Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Manmohan Singh, as well as Lalu Prasad Yadav, for remaining silent on security matters and criticised Rahul Gandhi for shielding infiltrators through his “Ghuspetiya Bachao Yatra”.

The Home Minister said the Bihar Assembly elections would decide whether the state continues on the path of development or returns to misgovernance. “Under Modi, India strengthened national security through surgical strikes in 2016, air strikes in 2019, and Operation Sindoor in 2025,” he said. (KNO)

MP Ruhullah slams

became clear that he seems to know who did the cross-voting but does not want to reveal the names. This proves that he knows it happened. This is not a zaati dukaan (private shop) where names can be hidden. This is public property. Credibility is built on people’s trust and their votes.”

He added that if someone knows about cross-voting and chooses not to disclose it, it is “unacceptable.” “If there has been wrongdoing with people’s trust, it must be revealed so that citizens know who is innocent and who betrayed them. This is public information and people have the right to know,” he said.

Mehdi questioned when political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir would take what he called the “struggle for survival” seriously. “Fighting at the party level is fine, but for our collective survival, all like-minded people must come together,” he said.

He argued that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had given a “strong and clear mandate” to the National Conference in hopes that the party would represent them independently and end confusion and division. “Unfortunately, it has been a year since that mandate was given, and the party has failed to act according to that sentiment,” he said.

“If the party was not ready to fight this existential battle, then why did it make promises during the election campaign?” Mehdi asked. “Even with such a strong mandate, the party appears weak. The people of Jammu and Kashmir did not make you dependent on others. After the Assembly elections, there was no need to form new alliances. Yet, the same mistakes made before the elections are being repeated.”

He warned that people would start looking for alternatives. “This gaum is not dependent on the National Conference, Congress, or BJP. For their wujood ki ladai (fight for existence), they will always find new options,” he said.

Mehdi added that if the National Conference had respected the people’s mandate, no one would be asking why it was seeking support from others. “People trusted them, but that trust has not been honored,” he said. “No real fight has started.”

Asked about internal decisions attributed to him on social media, Mehdi said he often hears about decisions supposedly made in his name that he never took. “Sometimes I feel there must be another Ruhullah out there making decisions for me,” he said. “I have neither made such statements nor taken such decisions. My position remains what it was before the elections.”

He said he had asked his party for clarity on what message to take to voters. “Tell me what we have achieved politically in the past year based on the promises we made,” he said. “The party has no clear answer.”

Mehdi said he had earlier asked the party to resolve the reservation issue before filing nominations. “This issue affects our children and their future,” he said. “We should not be fighting our own children, the same children whose parents voted for us in difficult times.”

He criticized the government for threatening students who raised their voices. “We say we will not bow to pressure, but we were elected precisely to be under people’s pressure, to listen to them,” he said. “In a democracy, a leader who listens to people’s pressure grows stronger, while the one who shows arrogance perishes. That is dictatorship.”

“If a ruler refuses to come under public pressure, then what is the difference between him and an LG? A true democratic leader is one who listens to people’s genuine demands,” he said.

Mehdi said he had urged the government to show at least one “confidence-building measure,” such as resolving the reservation issue within three days, before the by-polls. “But that did not happen,” he said. “Instead, students received threats. If this is the response, what message should I take to the people?”

He also referred to the government’s changing stance on electricity meters. “A year ago, we said meters were zulm (oppression). Now, after becoming Chief Minister, we are telling people to use them,” he said. “There is no consistency in politics or governance. How can I go before the people and justify this?”

He said he would therefore stay away from the Budgam by-polls. “People are the real judges of their votes,” he added.

When asked whether he planned to float his

own party amid widening differences with the National Conference, Mehdi dismissed speculation. “Recently, I posted a simple tweet asking who in your community inspires you, gives you confidence, and motivates you,” he said. “I hope the people of Jammu and Kashmir will recognize and celebrate such honest and sincere individuals who still hold the public’s trust.”

“We must bring these forgotten but trustworthy people into public view,” he said. “We must celebrate those who are imaan-daar, Khuda-dost, and have integrity. That is the least we can do.” (KNO)

Those who

news agency – Kashmir News Observer (KNO), termed the RS polls outcome as “unfortunate” but chose not to name those responsible, saying their identities are “now widely recognised”.

He thanked the members, especially Congress, and others for voting in favour of the NC candidates. “I am satisfied that at least not even a single vote from our party was wasted,” he said.

Omar said those who participated in meetings and enjoyed hospitality with the BJP should have openly declared their support for that party. “Like MLA Handwara (Sajad Gani Lone), who opted to abstain as he didn’t want to harm the BJP, these members too should have openly supported that party,” he said.

The CM said that leaders who won the Rajya Sabha elections will raise their concerns in Parliament about issues such as statehood and special status. (KNO)

CIK produces chargesheet

investigation, three accused persons were earlier found involved and charge sheeted before They are: 1.Waseem Ahmad Sheikh, son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh of Kandoora Budgam, Junaid Ahmad Mir, son of late Abdul Jabbar Mir, R/o Tikkipora Lolab and Shabir Ahmad Gojri, son of Abdul Salam, R/o Darbagh Harwan Srinagar.”

He said, “Further investigation uncovered the active role of accused Aadil Ahmad Khan, who had been operating a dedicated online recruitment network through Facebook and Twitter, disseminating secessionist, anti-national, and pro-terror content. His online activities were aimed at glorifying terrorism, promoting violent extremism, and motivating youth to join proscribed terrorist organizations.”

“The investigation established that Aadil Ahmad Khan was actively aiding and abetting terrorist propaganda by sharing and amplifying digital content aligned with the agenda of Pakistan-based terror groups and their

offshoots/front organizations. His online radicalization efforts were coupled with ground-level facilitation of terror recruitment,” the spokesman said.

“The case is registered and being investigated by CIK with a focus on identifying and dismantling the wider online terror ecosystem, including handlers, sympathizers, and digital facilitators operating from within and outside the Union Territory,” he said, adding, “More arrests and disclosures are expected as the investigation progresses.”

“This action underscores the commitment of Counter Intelligence Kashmir and J&K Police to neutralize both physical and digital terror networks, and to safeguard the youth of the Valley from being exploited by Pakistan-sponsored propaganda machinery,” the spokesman said. (KNO)

CM Omar inaugurates

The Chief Minister cut the ceremonial ribbon and declared the garden open to the public, describing it as “a floral celebration that adds a new chapter to Kashmir’s tourism story.”

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister commended the efforts of the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens for its role in establishing the theme garden.

He noted that the initiative would “address the off-season gap in tourism and enhance the autumn experience for visitors.”

Omar Abdullah recalled that he had laid the foundation stone of Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood in November last year, drawing parallels with the success of the Tulip Garden. “Just as the Tulip Garden transformed the spring tourist season, the Chrysanthemum Garden will redefine autumn tourism in Kashmir,” he remarked.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also inaugurated an exhibition featuring a wide range of ornamental, lavender, and other floral varieties cultivated by local growers with departmental support. He interacted with the floriculturists and appreciated the dedication and craftsmanship of the gardeners and field staff whose efforts brought the blooms to life.

The event was attended by MLA Zaidal Tanveer Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture Zubair Ahmed, Secretary Culture, Director Floriculture Kashmir and other senior officials.

Dr Farooq claims

one seat unexpectedly by defeating the NC candidate.

Meanwhile, Dr Farooq said he had personally talked to the Congress High Command

regarding the seat sharing. “They informed their decision of not contesting the elections in the middle of the night,” he said.

On the installation of smart meters, Dr Abdullah said he doesn’t want to defend anything. “Wherefrom are you going to pay for everything? I have always said power is not free, even when I was Chief Minister in 1984. I have been repeatedly saying it. We have been spending hundreds of crores on roads and other things. If we have to save our identity and status, then we will have to make sacrifices,” he said. (KNO)

Bookish education

unemployment,” he said.

Asked about the cabinet expansion, the Chief Minister said, “I don’t know where you are hearing this from. Let the Budgam elections be held, then we will talk.”

Replying to a query on students’ interest in the fourth-year degree programme, Abdullah said the fourth year is for those who want to pursue research and get an honours degree. “Otherwise, you are free to finish your degree in the third year,” he said. (KNO)

LG Sinha meets

Zaid Ali (69th National School Games -Football), and winning team of Inter-DPS Football Tournament (Boys Open, Zone 1). They were accompanied by Ms. Monisha Khursheed, Vice-Principal and Shri Mudasir Bashir, Sports Secretary, Delhi Public School Srinagar.

Govt working

of Newspapers for India (RNI), Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), and Press Information Bureau (PIB) to improve coordination across media outreach and regulatory functions.

He said the PIB has intensified its outreach efforts, issuing backgrounders and research-based documents on key topics regularly.

He said a chatbot for fact-checking is being developed for verifying the authenticity of videos and online content.

Meet Shopian’s

cultivation. Earlier, saffron didn’t need irrigation, but now it does. Under such circumstances, indoor saffron can play a vital role in maintaining production and meeting market demand,” said an official from the agriculture department.

With every passing year, Haroon’s indoor and outdoor saffron fields are yielding better results—demonstrating that innovation, when combined with determination and proper guidance, can truly redefine Kashmir’s farming landscape. (KNO)

EC may roll out first phase of all-India SIR next week, beginning with 10-15 states

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 25: The Election Commission is likely to roll out the first of pan-India Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list next week beginning with "10 to 15 states", including those going to polls next year, officials said Saturday.

Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal will to polls in 2026 and they are amongst the states where the voters' list cleanup exercise will begin first.

The poll authority is likely to announce the first phase of SIR middle of next week, in which as many as "10 to 15 states" would be included, officials said.

The EC will not hold the electoral roll cleanup exercise in states where local body elections are taking place or are due, as the grassroots poll



machinery is busy with it and may not be able to focus on SIR, they said

The SIR in such states will be held in later phases.

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

Biahr will go to polls in two phases, on November 6 and

November 11, and the counting will take place on November 14.

The Commission has already held two conferences with state chief electoral officers (CEOs) to firm up the SIR rollout roadmap.

Several CEOs have already put the voter lists published after their last SIR on their websites.

The website of the Delhi CEO has the 2008 voter list when the last intensive revision took

place in the national capital.

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

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

Most states had the last SIR of the voter list between 2002 and 2004.

Most have nearly completed the mapping of current electors with the voters according to the last SIR held in their respective states or Union territories.

The primary aim of the SIR is to weed out foreign illegal migrants by checking their place of birth. The move assumes significance in the wake of a crackdown in various states on illegal migrants, including from Bangladesh and Myanmar.

LIC says made investments in Adani firms independently, after detailed due diligence

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 25: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Saturday said its investments in Adani group companies have been made independently and in accordance with its board-approved policies, following detailed due diligence.

"Department of Financial Services (in the Union Finance Ministry) or any other body does not have any role in such (investment) decisions," LIC said in a statement posted on X. India's largest insurer has, over the years, made investment decisions across companies based on fundamentals and detailed due diligence. Its investment value in India's top 500 companies has grown 10-fold since 2014 -- from Rs 1.56 lakh crore to Rs 15.6 lakh crore -- reflecting strong fund management.

"The investment decisions are taken by LIC independently as per Board-approved policies after detailed due diligence," LIC said.

"LIC has ensured the highest standards of due diligence and all its investment decisions have been undertaken in compliance with extant policies, provisions in the Acts and regulatory guidelines, in the best interest of all its stakeholders."

The statement was in response to a report in The Washington Post alleging



officials orchestrated a plan to steer LIC into investing in the Adani group earlier this year, when the ports-to-energy conglomerate was facing a debt pile and scrutiny in the US.

The report highlighted LIC's May 2025 investment of USD 570 million in Adani Ports & SEZ (APSEZ), which holds the highest 'AAA' credit rating in India. LIC said the Department of Financial Services or any other body does not have any role in its investment decisions, and the report carries statements "with the intentions to prejudice the well-settled decision-making process of LIC and also to tarnish the reputation and image of LIC and the strong financial sector foundations in India."

The insurer is not a small, single-purpose fund but India's

largest institutional investor with over Rs 41 lakh crore (over USD 500 billion) in assets. It invests across 351 publicly listed stocks (as of early 2025) spanning virtually every major business group and sector.

LIC also holds substantial government bonds and corporate debt. Its portfolio is highly diversified, spreading risk.

LIC's exposure to the Adani group is less than 2 per cent of the conglomerate's total debt, helmed by India's second-richest man, Gautam Adani.

Global investors like US' largest funds BlackRock, Apollo, Japan's largest banks Mizuho, MUFG, and Germany's second largest bank DZ Bank have also invested in Adani debt in recent months, reflecting global confidence in the group.

Facebook picks 30 pc in AI venture of Reliance

Two companies to invest Rs 855 crore

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 25: Meta Platforms, Inc's Facebook Overseas will hold 30 per cent interest in the AI venture floated by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, according to a regulatory filing.

Reliance will hold 70 per cent in Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd, the company said in the filing.

Reliance Intelligence, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd, and Facebook will jointly invest an initial Rs 855 crore in the venture.

In the filing, the company said Reliance Intelligence Ltd on October 24, 2025 incorporated Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd.

"REIL, incorporated in India as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Intelligence, will become the joint venture company as per the amended and restated joint venture agreement with Facebook Overseas, Inc. (Facebook), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Meta Platforms, Inc," it said.

REIL will develop, market and distribute enterprise AI services.

"In accordance with the JV Agreement, Reliance Intelligence will hold 70 per cent and Facebook will hold the balance 30 per cent in REIL," it said.

"Reliance Intelligence and Facebook have jointly committed an initial investment of Rs 855 crore."

No governmental or regulatory approvals were required for the incorporation of REIL.

SC to hear suo motu case pertaining to stray dogs tomorrow

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 25: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a suo motu case relating to stray dogs on October 27. The apex court had on August 22 expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the confines of Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and directed that all states and Union Territories be made parties in the matter. As per the cause list of October 27 uploaded on the top court's website, the matter will be heard by a three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria. Besides the suo motu case, four separate pleas related to the issue are also listed for hearing. In its order passed on August 22, the apex court had modified its earlier direction prohibiting the release of vaccinated stray dogs from pounds in Delhi-NCR, calling it "too harsh" and ordered the canines to be released post sterilisation and de-worming.

While pronouncing the order, the bench had said that all similar matters pending in high courts across the country would come to the top court for a "final national policy or decision" on the issue.

The bench had said municipal authorities would continue to comply with the August 11 directions to pick up stray dogs from all localities of Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad and Gurugram and immediately create dog shelters or pounds. It had said the August 11 direction prohibiting the release of the picked up stray dogs shall be kept in abeyance for the time being.

Bihar polls Tejashwi vows law to provide govt jobs to every family in 20 days

Every infiltrator to be deported to their countries: Shah

PTI

Khagaria, Oct 25: If the INDIA bloc is voted to power in Bihar, a law will be enacted within 20 days to provide government jobs to every family, and the recruitments would be completed in 20 months, the coalition's CM candidate Tejashwi Yadav said on Saturday.

Addressing an election rally in Khagaria district, Yadav said he was fighting the elections not just to form a government but to build the state.

"We need to make Bihar number one, for which there is a need to bring investment, promote education and ensure proper health facilities," he said.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday slammed the INDIA bloc for opposing the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar, and asserted that every infiltrator would be detected and deported



to their countries.

Addressing a public rally in Khagaria district, Shah said this Assembly election will decide

whether the 'jungle raaj' will return to Bihar or the state remains on the path of development. "Let Rahul Gandhi launch yatras to protect these infiltrators. It does not matter. He cannot protect infiltrators by taking out 'Ghuspetiya Bachao Yatra'. Every infiltrator would be detected, deleted (from the voters' list) and deported to their countries," Shah said. He

accused RJD supremo Lalu Prasad of concentrating only on the prosperity of his family.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and CM Nitish Kumar ji want overall development of Bihar, but Lalu Prasad wants 'vikas' (prosperity) of his family only. People don't want the return of 'jungle raj' in the state," Shah claimed.

He also claimed that there was a substantial decrease in the number of heinous crimes in Bihar during the NDA rule.

Gastroenterologist reveals how to stop heartburn naturally in 3 simple ways

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Oct 25: Heartburn occurs when stomach acid flows back into the esophagus due to a malfunctioning lower esophageal sphincter. Triggers include certain foods, overeating, and lifestyle factors. Gastroenterologist Dr. Joseph Salhab suggests natural relief methods: chewing gum to neutralize acid, diaphragmatic breathing to reduce abdominal pressure, and walking after meals to aid digestion.

A bunch of things can trigger heartburn. Eating spicy, greasy, or acidic foods is a big one, along with overeating or lying down right after a meal. Caffeine, alcohol, chocolate, and carbonated drinks can also relax that LES gate, making reflux more likely. Stress and lack of sleep don't help either—they can make your digestion slower and your stomach more sensitive.

Five Effective Ways to Detoxify Your Gut Health

Certain habits and conditions increase the risk, too. Smoking, being overweight, or carrying extra belly fat can put pressure on the stomach, pushing acid upward. Pregnancy hormones can do the same thing, which is why heartburn is common during pregnancy. Basically, heartburn is your body's way of waving a red flag: "Hey, something's irritating your esophagus!" The good news is that small changes in what you eat and how you move after meals can make a huge difference.



But, how to get relief from heartburn naturally? Recently gastroenterologist, Dr. Joseph Salhab shared on Instagram 3 simple ways to get rid of heartburn. He recommends the following:

Chew gum – boosts saliva, which helps neutralize acid and wash it back down. It also lightly stimulates your stomach and intestines to move, helping clear out food faster.

Foods that trigger heartburn Heartburn can feel like a fiery reminder that what you ate didn't sit well, and certain foods are notorious for causing it. Spicy foods are a big culprit—think curries, hot sauces, or anything loaded with chili. They can irritate your esophagus and relax the lower esophageal sphincter (LES), letting stomach acid sneak up.

Even everyday foods like onions, garlic, and peppermint can cause heartburn in sensitive people. Portion size matters too—overeating at one meal can easily overwhelm your stomach. Basically, if you notice that a certain food sparks that burning chest feeling, it's your body's way of saying, "Not today!" Keeping track of triggers and moderating portion sizes can make a huge difference in keeping heartburn at bay.

Gold records first weekly loss after nine-week surge

IANIS

New Delhi, Oct 25: Gold ended a nine-week winning streak this week, with a sharp correction as the market reassessed a rally that had pushed prices into overbought territory.

The price of 24-carat gold (10 grams) ended at Rs 1,22,419 on Friday, down from Rs 1,23,827 from its previous close, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA).

Spot gold fell 0.3 per cent to close at \$4,113.05 an ounce in New York, resulting in a weekly loss of approximately 3.3 per cent.

The price for 10 grams of bullion closed last week at Rs 1,30,874, and the price had been declining throughout the week. Analysts said that the pullback was sharp, but the yellow metal pared losses on Friday due to a weaker-than-expected U.S. inflation report, which bolstered expectations for further



monetary easing by the Federal Reserve. This development also led to a slight decline in bond yields and an increase in bullion prices. Traders anticipate two rate cuts before year-end, a scenario that bolstered gold prices.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING FRESH E-TENDERS

(4th call)

E-NIT No. 61/ET/R&B/CHADOORA/ 3910-19 DATED 24/10/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora invites e-tenders (**double cover system**) on percentage basis from Reputed Registered Architectural/ Structural Consultant firms for providing Architectural and structural Engineering Consultancy services for FY: 2025-26 (as and when required basis) for various bridges under the territorial jurisdiction of R&B Division Chadoora.

S.No	Name of Work	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Class of Contract	M.H of Account
1.	Design, Consultancy, Geotechnical Investigation and Preparation of DPR, Detailed Estimates, BOQ along with all Architectural Plans, Structural drawings for approval and Providing all working drawings i.e. architectural, structural and service drawings along with digital layout of plan, including vetting of Drawings from IIT/NIT/DIQC for FY: 2025-26 (as and when required basis) :- For construction of various bridges under the territorial jurisdiction of R&B Division Chadoora	300/-	15,000/-	Regd. Consultancy Firm	Contingencies

Position of Funds:-Available.

Table1: Critical Dates

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	31/10/2025 upto 4.00 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	31/10/2025 4.10 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given above.

Note: The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopies.

Any short fall found in the soft copies will lead to the rejection of BID.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No. OMNo. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 reproduced as under:-

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

b) The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing E-Challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan (Receipt).

1.1 Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ Receipt (Credited to M.H.0059 PWD)/ DD in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Inviting Authority) and Earnest Money/ Bid Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority) failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly.

Note: (The Date of Treasury Challan, earnest money must be between the bid submission start date and Bid Submission End date).

1.2 Bidders registered as Micro and Small Enterprise are exempted from depositing Earnest Money/Bid Security and Tender Document Fee. Proof of valid MSME registration certificate must be enclosed for availing these benefits. The bidders availing this benefit shall upload a copy of Bid Security Declaration Form as per Annexure A.

1.3 opening of bids.

No. 3910-19
DATED: 24/10/2025

DIPK-7524/25
DATED: 25-10-2025

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

US, China hold talks in Kuala Lumpur to avert trade war escalation

ANI

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 25: Top economic officials from the United States and China began talks in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday to prevent an escalation of their trade war, The Sun reported.

The discussions aim to ensure that a meeting occurs next week between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping. "These talks on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit will chart a path forward after Trump threatened new 100% tariffs on Chinese goods," The Sun added.

The threatened tariffs and other trade curbs would start on November 1 in retaliation for China's expanded export controls on rare earth magnets and minerals. Recent actions include an expanded US export blacklist covering thousands more Chinese firms.

"These developments have disrupted a delicate trade truce crafted by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng," The Sun reported. The officials had built this truce over four previous meetings since May.

China's top trade negotiator Li Chenggang is also participating in the current talks. A Reuters witness saw Li arriving



alongside He at Kuala Lumpur's Merdeka 118 tower, the second-tallest building in the world, The Sun reported.

The Malaysian government and both sides have provided few details about the meeting or any plans to brief the media about the outcomes. The three officials will try to pave the way for Trump and Xi to meet next Thursday at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea.

"This high-stakes conversation could revolve around interim relief on tariffs, technology controls and Chinese purchases of US soybeans," The Sun reported.

Minutes before the talks started, Trump said he would like to discuss farmers when he sits

down with Xi. He also stated, "I will bring up Taiwan during my Asian trip though I have no plans to visit there yet." Trump added he will likely raise the issue of releasing jailed Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai.

"Lai's case has become the most high-profile example of China's crackdown on rights and freedoms in the Asian financial hub," The Sun reported. Trump expressed optimism about the upcoming meeting as he departed the White House.

Josh Lipsky from the Atlantic Council said, "Officials must first find a way to mitigate their dispute over US technology export curbs and China's rare earths controls." He expressed uncertainty about China's willingness

to reverse its rare earth controls given their strategic importance.

Some announcements may fall to Trump, who is due to arrive in the Malaysian capital on Sunday. Scott Kennedy from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies highlighted the uncertainty surrounding the outcome. Kennedy noted, "Success would mean China's gambit paid off while failure would require preparation for escalated tensions."

The world's two largest economies seek to avoid a return to triple-digit tariff levels seen in April. China had responded to Trump's previous tariffs by cutting off rare earths supplies to US buyers.

Bessent and Greer's first meeting with He in May led to a 90-day truce that significantly reduced tariffs. "This truce brought US tariffs down to about 55% and Chinese tariffs to 30% while restarting magnet flows," The Sun reported.

The truce was extended in subsequent London and Stockholm talks and was due to expire on November 10. The delicate agreement frayed at the end of September when the US Commerce Department vastly expanded its export blacklist. The expansion automatically included firms more than 50% owned by companies already on the list,

banning US exports to thousands more Chinese firms.

China struck back with new global rare earth export controls on October 10. "These controls aim to prevent military use by requiring export licenses for products using Chinese rare earths or related technology," The Sun reported.

Bessent and Greer blasted China's move as a global supply chain power grab. The Trump administration is considering additional curbs on software-powered exports to China according to sources.

On Friday, the administration announced a new tariff probe into China's apparent failure to meet terms of the 2020 trade agreement. "This move could create additional legal authority for Trump to further increase tariffs on Chinese imports," The Sun reported. China committed to major purchase increases in the 2020 deal that halted their trade war during Trump's first term.

"The purchase targets for US farm products, manufactured goods, energy and services were never met. This situation could lead the US side to press Beijing to resume buying American soybeans," The Sun reported. China bought no US soybeans in September, heaping economic pain on farmers who represent a key Trump political constituency.

Virat Kohli becomes second-highest run-getter in ODIs



IANIS

New Delhi, Oct 25: Indian batting stalwart Virat Kohli on Saturday broke another record as he became the second-highest run-getter in the ODI format.

Kohli, who endured a subdued form in the first two ODIs against Australia, broke the shackles and announced his return on the international stage. The No.3 batter, who is famously known as 'Chase Master', hammered his 75th ODI fifty and also completed 2500 runs against Australia in the format.

During the course of his innings, Kohli surpassed Sri Lanka great Kumar Sangakkara's tally of 14,234 runs (in 404 ODIs) in his 293rd ODI innings.

The former India captain is now only behind legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar, who is sitting at the top of the table with a massive tally of 18,426 runs. However, Kohli boasts a better average than Tendulkar or any of the top 10 batters in

the list. He averages 57.69 in 305 ODIs played so far, while Tendulkar's average stood at 44.83 in his 463-match ODI career.

With Kohli at the fag end of his career and only playing in the 50-over format, it is likely that the Delhi batter will finish his ODI career as the second-highest run-getter behind his idol Tendulkar.

Coming to the match, Kohli made an unbeaten 74, including seven fours, and was involved in a 168-run match-winning partnership with opener Rohit Sharma, who smashed his 33rd ODI ton and 50th international century. The duo guided India to a nine-wicket consolation victory at Sydney Cricket Ground as Australia sealed the series 2-1. Rohit was named Player of the Match and Player of the Series as well for amassing 202 runs across three matches.

The two teams will now face each other in a five-match T20I series, commencing on October 29.

Trump says North Korea is 'sort of a nuclear power'



AFP

Aboard Air Force One, Oct 25: US President Donald Trump said Friday that North Korea was "sort of a nuclear power" as he left the United States for Asia on a trip that could include a meeting with Pyongyang's leader Kim Jong Un. Asked aboard Air Force One whether he was open to North Korea's demand to be recognized as a nuclear state as a precondition for dialogue with Washington, Trump replied: "Well, I think they are sort of a nuclear power."

"When you say they have to be recognized as a nuclear power, well, they got a lot of nuclear weapons, I'll say that."

Trump is expected in South Korea on Wednesday for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum. US media have previously reported officials from his administration have privately discussed setting up a meeting between Trump and North Korean leader Kim, who he last held talks with in 2019.

Trump has said he hopes to meet Kim again - possibly this year. Kim said last month he had "fond memories" of Trump and was open to talks if the United States dropped its "delusional" demand that Pyongyang give up its nuclear weapons. On Friday, South Korea's unification minister Chung Dong-young said he believed there was a "considerable" chance that Trump will meet Kim during his visit to the peninsula next week.

UN cybercrime treaty to be signed in Hanoi to tackle global offenses

REUTERS

Hanoi, Oct 25: A landmark UN cybercrime treaty, aimed at tackling offenses that cost the global economy trillions of dollars annually, is set to be signed in Vietnam's capital Hanoi by around 60 countries over the weekend. The convention, which will take effect after it is ratified by 40 nations, is expected to streamline international cooperation against cybercrime, but has been criticized by activists and tech companies over concerns of possible human rights abuses. "Cyberspace has become fertile ground for criminals...every day, sophisticated scams defraud families, steal livelihoods, and drain billions of dollars from our economies," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at the opening ceremony.

"The UN Cybercrime Convention is a powerful, legally binding instrument to strengthen our collective defenses against



cybercrime."

The convention targets a broad spectrum of offenses from phishing and ransomware to online trafficking and hate speech, the UN has said, citing estimates that cybercrime costs the global economy trillions of dollars each year.

Vietnam President Luong Cuong said the signing of the convention "not only marks the birth of a global legal instrument, but also affirms the enduring vitality of multilateralism, where countries overcome differences and are willing to shoulder responsibilities together for the common interests of peace, security, stability and development." Critics have warned

its vague definition of crime could enable abuse. The Cybersecurity Tech Accord, which includes Meta and Microsoft, has dubbed the pact a "surveillance treaty," saying it may facilitate data sharing among governments and criminalize ethical hackers who test systems for vulnerabilities.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which led the treaty negotiations, said the agreement includes provisions to protect human rights and promotes legitimate research activities.

The European Union, the United States and Canada sent diplomats and officials to sign the treaty in Hanoi. Vietnam's role as host has also stirred controversy. The US State Department recently flagged "significant human rights issues" in the country, including online censorship. Human Rights Watch says at least 40 people have been arrested this year, including for expressing dissent online.

Messi's Argentina match in India postponed to next FIFA window

IANIS

Kochi, Oct 25: Lionel Messi and his team Argentina's highly anticipated match in India has been postponed. Originally scheduled for November 17 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the game will now take place during FIFA's upcoming international match window, as announced on social media by Anto Augustine, managing director of Reporter Broadcasting Company, the sponsor of the friendly game.

Anto Augustine, a businessman from Kerala and Managing Director of Emaraj Group International, posted on Facebook explaining that the postponement was due to a delay in receiving permission from FIFA, the international football organisation. He indicated that the match in Kerala will be rescheduled for the next international window, and the new date will be announced shortly.

"Considering the delay in receiving FIFA's permission, after discussions with the Argentine Football Association (AFA), it has been decided to postpone the match from the November window," Augustine wrote.

Earlier, Spanish media outlet La Nacion, citing an official from the Argentine Football Association (AFA), reported that the three-time FIFA World Cup winners will not go to Kerala. The reason is that the Indian state did not meet the requirements to host the match, and also because of



"repeated breaches."

"We did everything possible to make it happen in November; a delegation even travelled to India to see the field, the hotel... but ultimately, India couldn't meet the requirements. Unfortunately, there were repeated breaches by India, and what we're going to do is reorganise the contract to find a new date," the AFA official said.

Since the announcement of

the friendly match involving the World champion Argentina by the Kerala Sports Minister, there has been considerable confusion. At one point, even the Minister stated that the match was cancelled, but in August, the AFA confirmed that their team would still be playing in Kochi. Recently, Argentine media reports suggested that the India match might not take place in November and could be postponed to March 2026.

INOX CINEMA
SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

Movies Watchlist
Sunday, 26th October

THAMMA (UA/6+)
HINDI - 11:30 AM, 03:20 PM, 05:00 PM, 06:30 PM

EK DEEWANE KI DEEWANIYAT (A)
HINDI - 10:50 AM, 12:00 PM, 01:45 PM, 03:00 PM, 06:00 PM

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