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Era of degrees defining success coming to an end: LG Sinha

» Inaugurates DREAM School Project in Srinagar » Says future will belong to youth with skills, innovative thinking » Advises students to think big, dream big, cultivate patience

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 27: Asserting that the era where degrees alone defined success is coming to an end, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the future will belong to youth equipped with trans-disciplinary skills and innovative thinking.

Speaking at the inauguration of DREAM School Project at the prestigious Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) stressed on the importance of vocational education and the need to integrate practical skills with academic learning. "In the future, a degree won't help. It will be about trans-disciplinary skills. Vocational education is important for preparing our youth for real-world challenges," he said.



The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the Education Department is making sustained efforts to provide quality education and to nurture a scientific temper among students across Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the government's focus remains on transforming the education ecosystem to make it more inclusive, modern, and skill-oriented. "The Education Department is trying its best to provide quality education and develop scientific temper

among students. The future and destiny of Jammu and Kashmir lie in your hands," he said.

Urging the youth to aim high and think creatively, the LG said, "Your talent and creativity will decide J&K's destiny. Think big, dream big, develop courage to take risks, and cultivate patience. Set your role models—people from whom you draw your inspiration—and move forward with determination."

He also emphasized that the new generation must not shy

away from experimenting or exploring new areas of learning, as the world is changing rapidly and innovation is the key to progress.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his government's commitment to empower youth through education, skill development, and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

He said that with the right mindset, training, and exposure, the students of Jammu and Kashmir can | [More on P6](#)

India must stay prepared for war: Rajnath Singh

Says hostilities can erupt anytime

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 27: Terming faceoff with Pakistan post Pahalgam terror attack in May this year as a reminder that hostilities can erupt anytime, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that India must be prepared for potential war that can breakout without any prior warning.

Speaking at the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) Annual Session here, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The outcome of Operation Sindoor demonstrated the growing strength of India's indigenous defence ecosystem."

He said indigenous systems such as the Akash missile system, BrahMos cruise missile,



and AkashTeer Air Defence Control System played a key role during the operation. "We all saw how these systems and other home-grown platforms performed during Operation Sindoor. Their success has strengthened India's reputation not only in the region but also globally," Singh said.

The Defence Minister said that while the soldiers

executed the mission on the frontlines, it was equally the result of the efforts of engineers, scientists, and industry professionals working behind the scenes.

"The success of Operation Sindoor belongs not just to the soldiers who fought, but also to those who designed, developed, and produced the technology that made it possible," he | [More on P6](#)

Omar: No politics or regional bias in flood relief distribution

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday intervened during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, reiterating his government's stance on land allotment for the landless and the distribution of relief for recent damages across regions.

Responding to a query raised by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta on behalf of MLA Sham Lal Sharma, the Chief Minister said that the Government is not bringing any fresh policy as the existing framework adequately addresses the issue. "The Minister has already



given the correct answer. The question is not about the absence of a policy but whether there is a need for a fresh one. We are not introducing a new policy because there is no need for it," the Chief Minister stated. | [More on P6](#)

NC, BJP clash over vote theft claims in Assembly

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 27: The Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Monday witnessed uproarious scenes over cross-voting during the Rajya Sabha elections, as legislators from the National Conference and the BJP traded barbs and slogans.

During Question Hour, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of stealing four votes in the recent Rajya Sabha elections. "Yesterday, you stole four votes. If I reveal the secrets, no one will remain seated here. Let us allow a secret to remain a secret," Choudhary remarked.

Hope for J&K statehood is fading: CM Omar, laments delay by Centre

No secret understanding with BJP

Relation with Centre for govt functioning

Facing difficulties in UT

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Oct 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that delays in restoring statehood are diminishing hope among the people. He clarified that there is no understanding between the National Conference (NC) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), but his efforts are focused on maintaining relations with the central government to ensure proper governance.

Speaking to the media persons, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News



Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Observer (KNO), said he will not utter anything regarding resigning as the Chief

Minister, as mentioned by him in an interview yesterday. "The person | [More on P6](#)

Speaker rejects Lone's adjournment motion on reservation policy

Cites lack of recent occurrence, sub-judice status

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 27: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Monday rejected an adjournment motion brought by Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone to discuss the government's "failure" to rationalize the reservation policy.

After the Question Hour concluded, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Lone drew



the attention of the Chair to an adjournment motion he had

submitted, seeking a discussion on the government's failure to rationalize the existing reservation policy.

"I want to reiterate that reservation is a post-dated cheque. Please, don't brush it under the carpet," Lone urged.

As Lone pressed the issue, the Speaker ruled that the matter could not be discussed as it was neither of recent occurrence nor permissible due to its | [More on P6](#)

Speaker nominates panel of Chairmen

KT News Desk

The Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather on Monday

announced the panel of Chairmen for the ensuing Assembly session. The Speaker nominated MLA Eidgah, Mubarak Gul; | [More on P6](#)

FLOODS, CLOUDBURSTS

21,573 structures damaged in Jammu, 980 in Kashmir

152 lives lost, over Rs 5,400 lakh paid as compensation so far: Govt

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday revealed that recent floods, cloudbursts, and heavy rains caused widespread destruction across the Union Territory, resulting in loss of lives and extensive damage to both public and private property.

Responding to a question by MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, the Minister for Disaster Management, as per the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO), said that a total of 21,573 structures were damaged in Jammu division, while 980 structures were affected in Kashmir division during the recent weather-related disasters.

The government said that 152 people, including 151 in Jammu and one in Kashmir, lost their lives due to rain-related incidents, flash floods, and cloudbursts that affected several districts, especially in hilly and remote areas. Livestock and standing crops also suffered | [More on P6](#)

'Leadership, Loyalty, Unfulfilled Promises'

Storm erupts in NC as CM Omar, MP Ruhullah, Larmi lock horns

» Omar contrasts Mehdi & Altaf, calls difference 'earth and sky'

» Larmi advises Srinagar MP to resign, face people again

» Aga accuses party of abandoning election promises



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 27: While many had anticipated fireworks inside the Assembly on Monday,

the real storm erupted within the National Conference (NC) as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the party's outspoken MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, and senior

leader Majeed Larmi engaged in a heated war of words over leadership, loyalty, and unfulfilled promises.

With Ruhullah, who was the star campaigner for the National Conference during the 2024 elections, now distancing himself from the party over unfulfilled poll promises, the rift has deepened as leaders trade sharp barbs in public.

Omar Abdullah, speaking at a press conference earlier in the day, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) drew a clear distinction | [More on P6](#)

CIK foils online radicalisation plot, saves two boys from falling into terror trap

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 27: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) has foiled online radicalisation plot and has prevented two teenage boys from falling into the terror trap.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a CIK spokesman said, "Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) has once again demonstrated its exceptional professional competence, cyber intelligence skills, and social outreach capabilities by dismantling a digital radicalization network operating through multiple social media platforms."

"The timely operation not

only neutralized the propaganda machinery of a terrorist outfit but also safeguarded two impressionable young boys from being recruited into terrorism," he added.

"Acting on precise intelligence inputs and sustained cyber surveillance, CIK identified two radical social media handles 'faithful_warrior57' and 'Gurkboru.08' engaged in glorifying terrorism and circulating extremist narratives. These accounts were actively sharing propaganda material, including audio clips and digital content of known terrorists, designed to sow discord, promote secessionist sentiment, and attract vulnerable youth toward violent extremism," the

spokesman said.

The spokesman said that following detailed technical analysis, the operators of these accounts were identified as: Hashim Mashood Lone S/O Mashood Ahmad Lone R/O Khawjabagh, Maloora, aged about 17 years and Mohammad Hazik Ahanger S/O Farooq Ahmad Ahanger R/O Railway Colony, Nowgam, aged about 15 years.

"Both individuals were traced, apprehended for questioning and found to be juveniles. Digital forensic examination of Hashim's mobile device established him as the user of 'Gurkboru.08', and evidence revealed he was disseminating terror | [More on P6](#)

Cities and Towns
Govt allocates
Rs 505 Cr funds during
2025- 26 FY: Dy CM

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 27: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Monday informed that the Government has allocated Rs 50, 556.9 lacs funds under Cities and Towns (C&T) and Rs 3268. 29 lacs under Potholes scheme in J&K during 2025- 26 Financial year.

The Dy. CM was replying to a question raised by Legislator Javid Hassan Baig in the Legislative Assembly today.

While sharing the District wise details, the Dy. CM said that the government will ensure quality work is carried out across Jammu and Kashmir and strict action shall be taken against the concerned if quality is compromised.

He said that the formulation of plans and allocation of funds in respect of Roads and Buildings are undertaken by the Government in accordance with established norms and approved procedures. He said that the process is guided by the assessed requirements received from the field divisions and finalized keeping in view the availability of resources as well as the recommendations of the MLAs and District Development



Council (DDC) Members.

He said that the objective is to ensure judicious and need-based allocation of funds for the execution of developmental works and maintenance activities under various schemes of

the Department, so as to achieve balanced infrastructure development across all areas.

Supplementary were raised by Legislators including, R. S Pathania, S.S Slathia, Arvind Gupta and Pawan Kumar Gupta.

49 existing,
12 new WSSs functional
in Lolab AC: Rana

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that a total of 49 existing and 12 new water supply schemes are operational in the Lolab Constituency to provide drinking water to the population.

He was responding to the Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Lolab Qayser Jamshaid Lone, regarding shortage of potable drinking water in Lolab Constituency.

Responding to the motion, the Minister said that there is no acute shortage of potable water in the Lolab constituency.

He informed the house that 49 existing water supply schemes are operational in the Lolab Constituency catering to the needs of 50 villages. He said that additionally 22 new schemes have been taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission and CAPEX to ensure that each and every rural household in Lolab Constituency has a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) within its premises, capable of supplying drinking water in adequate quantity.

He said that out of 22 schemes, 12 are functional and 10 are at various stages of execution. These schemes continue to provide drinking water to the population and are maintained regularly to ensure functionality, he added.

The Minister said that the areas, viz; Lalpora, Khanbutho, Darmohalla, Potshai, Tikkipora, Sogam, Ganaie Mohalla and Lassipora



where schemes are not commissioned yet, also get drinking water supplies.

"In such areas, where the water supply schemes are yet to be completed and which face issues especially during dry spell, due to low service level or some uncovered pockets, as an interim arrangement, water is supplied by deployment of requisite number of water tankers," he added. The Minister informed the house that new schemes for these areas under various programmes are at different stages of execution, and once completed, sustainable access to clean drinking water as per the prescribed quality and quantity standards shall be ensured to these areas as well.

KASHMIR THUNDER

IS AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STALLS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information that I am applying for the electricity bill bearing consumer ID No 0201040001972 transfer name from Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Summer Bugh BK Pora Budam to Zubair Ahmad Bhat S/o Habib Ullah Bhat. If anybody has any objections may contact the concerned KPDCCL office within a week.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information that I am applying for the electricity bill bearing consumer ID No 0201040000799 transfer name from my father's name Mohammed Sultan Wani R/o Khonmoh Bangam to Kaisar Ahmad Wani. If anybody has any objections may contact the concerned KPDCCL office within a week.

Weather Vagaries
Rs 12.28 lakh disbursed as
compensation to farmers: Javid Dar
9 lakh apple boxes transported through rail till 23rd October

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that 12.28 lakh has been disbursed to the affected farmers as compensation for the losses caused by natural weather vagaries that struck various parts of Jammu and Kashmir during September 2025.

He stated that the total compensation amount calculated for eligible losses under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) norms stands at 152.37 lakh, out of which 12.28 lakh has already been disbursed.

Minister was responding to the Calling attention motion moved by MLA Hilal Akbar Lone regarding the steps taken by the government for providing compensation to the affected farmers, due to the recent blockade of national highway.

He also informed that despite the temporary disruption of road connectivity along National Highway-44 due to heavy rains and landslides, the government ensured transportation of apple produce from the Kashmir Valley to major markets outside the Union Territory.

"During the road-blocked period, 1,25,376 apple boxes worth 10.03 crore were dispatched by train from Budgam and Anantnag to Jammu and Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. Up to 23rd October 2025, approximately 14,000 metric tonnes (9 lakh boxes) have been transported from various Fruit and Vegetable markets of the Kashmir Valley to destinations outside Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory through rail services," the Minister said.

Regarding the damage caused to farmers by the recent floods and landslides, the minister said that



a comprehensive assessment was carried out by the department that revealed that the floods affected 431.091 hectares of crop area, with losses exceeding 33 percent across Jammu and Kashmir.

He further assured that the government remains committed to supporting the farming community and that all necessary measures are being taken in this regard.

He said that the J&K Government is set to implement a Re-structured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS). Under RWBCIS, Apple, Saffron, Mango, and Litchi crops have been notified to provide cover. The tendering process for selection of insurance company (out of the empanelled insurance companies notified by the GoI) to provide insurance cover to these horticulture crops is in process, he said.

Minister said that Kashmir, predominantly an agrarian economy, is the leading apple-producing region in India, contributing significantly to the national apple output. He said that the current apple production for the 2025 season is estimated at approximately 22.15 Lakh Metric Tonnes (MT).

Minister informed that out of the 22.15 Lakh MT production, it is the

normal trend that around 14.0 Lakh MT is exported to markets outside J&K, while the balance is consumed locally, stored in CA facilities, or lost due to natural perishability and handling losses.

"At the time of the road blockage, only 22,000 MT (about 1%) remained stranded on NH-44 during the period under reference, whereas a larger part of the produce would continue to move out in phases as per the seasonal pattern," he said.

Regarding the alternative measures taken for movement of horticulture produce during the period National Highway remained closed, he said that six-tyre trucks were permitted to use the Mughal Road.

Javid Dar further informed that the Department of Horticulture P&M established a control room at Qazigund for monitoring and coordination of truck movement.

He said that farmers and traders were encouraged to use railway parcel vans, defer harvesting until NH-44 restoration and CA stores were recommended for short-term preservation.

Regarding the disruption in the movement of fruits due to highway blockade, minister said the region's horticultural produce movement was affected due to prolonged closure of National Highway 44 (NH-44), due to natural vagaries resulting in washing of carriage-way of the national highway and landslides, which is the primary route for transporting fresh fruits and vegetables to national markets. Heavy rainfall and landslides during August and early September (26th & 27th August and 2nd & 3rd September 2025) led to extensive damage along NH-44, including washing of a road stretch and landslides at various locations, disrupting the supply chain and stranding significant quantities of apple produce.

CS administers integrity pledge as part of NVAW

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday administered the Integrity Pledge to officers and officials of the Civil Secretariat as part of the observance of National Vigilance Awareness Week (NVAW), 2025.

The nationwide campaign, announced by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), is being observed from 27th October to 2nd November 2025, coinciding with the

birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. This year's theme, "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility", underscores the importance of collective efforts in fostering integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration.

The observance officially commenced today at 11:00 AM with the administration of the Integrity Pledge by all public servants across government departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), autonomous bodies,

and other organizations throughout the country.

By taking the pledge, officers and officials reaffirmed their commitment to uphold ethical standards and promote a corruption-free environment in public service. The week-long activities under the Vigilance Awareness campaign aim to sensitize employees and citizens alike to the significance of honesty and integrity in governance.

As part of the observance, various awareness

programmes, workshops, seminars, and debates on ethical governance and preventive vigilance are scheduled to be organized across government departments and public institutions during the week.

These initiatives are intended to encourage proactive participation of all stakeholders in building a culture of transparency and accountability in the administration all over the country.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT YOUTH SERVICES & SPORTS PULWAMA

Sub - Tentative Seniority of Physical Education Teacher of District Pulwama-Inviting objections thereof

NOTICE

Whereas, the administrative department vide YSS-Adm/14/2022-02-YSS&S Dated:- 16-01-2025 advised to update the seniority list of Physical Education Teachers in terms of SRO-375 of J&K Decentralization & Recruitment Act 2010 issued by General Administration Department; and Whereas, the Directorate Youth Services & Sports, J&K vide order no. DG-YSS/Estt/455-79 Dated:- 09-04-2025, constituted District Level Committees headed by the concerned District Youth Services & Sports Officers and accordingly authorized these committees to prepare the District wise seniority of Physical Education Teachers as per rules in vogue and it was further ordered that the concerned Joint Directors Youth Services & Sports will examine the draft seniority lists and ensure that all the rules & regulations governing the formulation of seniority list are strictly adhered to. The final seniority lists shall be issued only after being vetted by the concerned Joint Directors YSS Jammu/ Kashmir; and Whereas, this office has already issued tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers vide notice no. DYSSO/Pul/Estt/590-92 Dated:- 16-05-2025 which was published in two leading newspapers for inviting objections, if any, from the stakeholders; and Whereas, the aggrieved Physical Education Teachers submitted their objections in this office within stipulated time. During the scrutiny of the objections, it was observed by the Committees concerned that the issuance of appointment orders of many PETs were delayed due to different administrative reasons viz; receipt of CID verifications, Clarification of documents, court cases etc. which has disrupted the actual seniority position assigned to them in terms of Rule 24 of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956;and Whereas, the matter was deliberated upon at a meeting convened by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports with both the Joint Directors and all the DYSSOs (and taking into consideration of various circulars and court judgements regarding formulation of seniority) it was observed that many Physical Education Teachers who figured higher in the selection list were appointed later and got placed in the tentative seniority lists below those who were lower in the merit to them. creating an anomalous situation which may lead to avoidable litigation. In view of that, it was unanimously decided that the concerned DYSSOs shall submit the service particulars of those PETs whose appointment orders were delayed due to different administrative reasons for grant of notional effect of Date of Appointment; and Whereas, a committee constituted vide DG-YSS/Estt/8276-87 Dated:- 04-09-2025 recommended the grant of notional effect to the aggrieved Physical Education Teachers to maintain the merit of SSRB selection list. Whereas. Directorate Youth Services & Sports J&K vide order no. DG-YSS/Estt/11056-11091 Dated:- 22-10-2025 has granted notional effect of appointment to those PETs whose appointment orders were delayed due to different administrative reasons; and In view of the above, issuance of tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers afresh is necessitated. Therefore, this office is once again issuing tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers of District Pulwama annexed herewith for inviting objections from the stakeholders within 21 days in this office. No representations/objections shall be entertained after the aforementioned period. The tentative seniority list is available on the office notice board, Directorate Official website and also on the concerned ZPEO notice boards etc.

NO. DYSSO/Pul/Estt/5090-5104
Dated: 25-10-2025

District Youth Services & Sports Officer Pulwama

DIPK-7546/25 DATED: 27-10-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER WORKS DIVISION SRINAGAR

HQ:-Kothibagh Srinagar
PHONE No.:- 0194-2477207,

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short Term E-NIT.No. 24/WWD/Sgr/Civil of2025-26 Dated 24.10.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&Ke-tenders are invited from Registered/Approved and valid Civil Class of Contractors/Agencies/Firmsregistered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the following works on 'Percentage Basis in Two Cover System':

Table-I

S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (InRs.)	Tender Doc. Fee (InRs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C	Class of Contractor	Tender Call
1	Laying of water supply pipes atTabardar Mohalla Khanyar	4.56	9,120/-	300/-	CDF	20 Days	D/C	1 st

Position of AAA:-Accorded
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in As per schedule of dates given below

Table (II)

01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	24.10.2025
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25.10.2025 10:00 A.M. To06.11.2025 04:00 P.M.
03	Bid Submission Start Date	25.10.2025 10:00 A.M.
04	Bid submission End Date	06.11.2025 Upto 04:00 P.M.
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	07.11.2025 at 2:00 P.M. in the office of the Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar

No:-WW/Sgr/CC/4540-52
Dated: 24.10.2025

DIPK-7534/25 DATED: 27-10-2025

Executive Engineer
Water Works Division Srinagar

IHPL-2025

Chris Gayle steals show

Stadium transformed into dance floor

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 27: The "Universe Boss", Chris Gayle brought Bakhshi Stadium alive on Monday evening as he stepped onto Kashmir's soil to bat for the ongoing Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL).

What began as a low-attendance afternoon, soon turned into a festive evening as the crowd swelled and music filled the stands, with Gayle's appearance.

Though the turnout was initially modest, with only a few hundred spectators occupying the stands, the atmosphere shifted dramatically when Gayle walked out to bat.

Within minutes, the crowd grew to an estimated 2,000-4,000 as fans poured in, waving sweaters, dancing and shouting his name. With the



music turning crazy, several were seen standing on seats and railings, phones raised high to capture the moment.

Eyewitnesses told KNO the league officials later decided to open the stadium gates to the public, allowing free entry in a bid to fill the stands and ensure the cricketers received

the reception he deserved, while the majority of stands remained empty a patch of stands got filled.

"The moment Chris Gayle stepped on the field, the ground erupted," said a local fan from Srinagar's old city. "We have only watched him on TV, but seeing him live in Kashmir feels unbelievable." As Gayle took

guard, chants of "Gayle! Gayle!" echoed through the air. Every short strike drew thunderous applause and when he hit a six, the "Universe Boss" spread his arms wide, acknowledging the cheering crowd, turning the IHPL into a full-blown celebration.

Meanwhile, on yesterday the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, who was present at the stadium, said Gayle's participation represents a major milestone for sports in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Chris Gayle playing for Pulwama Titans is a proud moment for all of us. It reflects how far sports in J&K has come, from struggling for participation a few years ago to attracting global icons today," Gul told KNO. She said leagues like IHPL are transforming into "community-owned movements" that engage youth positively and promote a healthy sports culture across districts.

"The inclusion of international stars like Gayle is not just about cricket, but it is about confidence,

aspiration and showing the world the new face of J&K through sports," she shared.

As the league process, with few matches held, the media present at the stadium expressed concern over poor arrangements. While the spectators cheered, media professionals covering the event expressed frustration over inadequate facilities.

Several journalists told KNO that the management seemed disorganized and failed to provide even basic amenities.

"We don't even have a power point or a water bottle. There is no press enclosure or seating arrangement. We are sitting on the marble floor," said a journalist, requesting anonymity.

He said the lack of coordination made it difficult to report smoothly, with no designated areas for cameras or interviews and even basic facilities for refreshment seemed out of reach for this league.

Notably, despite the glitches, the evening turned into a carnival once

Gayle took charge with the bat. Fans were seen dancing to the background music, waving sweaters in the cold autumn breeze and chanting his name in unison.

Children climbed railings to catch a glimpse of the cricket icon, while security personnel struggled to contain the wave of excitement sweeping through the stands.

"It was a moment to remember," said one of the spectators. "Gayle brought warmth to Srinagar's cold evening," he said.

It is important to mention, the match was played between Pulwama Titans and Patnitop Warriors, as part of the ongoing Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL). Notably, the high-energy encounter saw Patnitop Warriors post a total of 173 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. Chasing the target, Pulwama Titans batting legend Chris Gayle, who turned back the clock with his game, including seven boundaries and one six—(KNO)

From LA

Ministers should read before answering queries: LoP Sharma



Owais Gul

Srinagar, Oct 27: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday held the government, especially ministers, responsible for wrong questions and answers highlighted in the Question Hour Session today.

Speaking to the media persons, the LoP termed it as a "serious issue" saying, "The government is at the fault."

"The Ministers should have read what they have been served. They wake up in the morning and read these answers in the Assembly,"

he said. He also said that the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah couldn't understand the question raised by one of the BJP MLAs regarding the flood-hit families. "The Chief Minister mentioned the PMAY scheme which was launched by the Lieutenant Governor. The question, however, was whether there is any scheme for the flood-affected people," he said.

Sharma also said that during the question hour session, the MLAs get a chance to raise their grievances regarding their constituencies and expect that the government will listen to their pleas—(KNO)

Over 19,500 Ha forest land encroached

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Oct 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday revealed that over 19,501 hectares of forest land are under illegal occupation across the Union Territory as of September 30, 2025.

The Minister in charge of the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department, Javed Rana, informed that a total of 27,712 cases of encroachment have been identified in the Kashmir region alone, covering 5,891.49 hectares of forest land.

The data shared by the government in response to MLA Dr Narinder Singh Raina's query, shows that the highest number of encroachments were reported from the South Circle, including divisions such as Anantnag, Lidder, Shopian, Kulgam, and Awantipora, with 14,902 cases involving 3,268.05 hectares.

Among these divisions, Anantnag tops the list with 7,060 cases covering 1,535.035 hectares, followed by Shopian with 3,872 cases over 1,011.29 hectares, Lidder with 2,336 cases over 314.13 hectares, Kulgam with 1,096 cases across 279.19 hectares, and Awantipora with 560 cases involving 132.10 hectares.

The North Circle reported 6,492 cases covering 1,452.530 hectares. Specifically, Kehmil recorded 1,785 cases over 445.00 hectares, Kamraj



1,268 cases over 261.42 hectares, Langate 2,042 cases over 434.70 hectares, and JV Division 1,397 cases covering 311.41 hectares. In the Srinagar Circle, 6,318 encroachment cases were reported on 1,170.9134 hectares. Pir Panjal recorded 2,959 cases over 623.0939 hectares, Sindh 2,065 cases covering 377.8145 hectares, Bandipora 943 cases over 135.2125 hectares, and Tangmarg 351 cases over 34.7925 hectares. The Urban Division reported no encroachments.

Eviction drives conducted so far have reclaimed about 44.82 hectares of land from 230 cases across several divisions. The government said that multiple measures have been

initiated to recover the encroached land, including detailed boundary surveys, issuance of eviction notices under Section 79(A) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and regular eviction operations. Once recovered, the land is fenced, restored with indigenous species, and returned to its forest status to prevent re-encroachment.

The department has also intensified vigilance through joint operations by the Forest Protection Force and local territorial staff, the minister said. He added that modern technologies such as GPS and drone-based monitoring are being employed for better protection and mapping of forest land—(KNO)

Govt proposes ambulances for Zakura, Khimber

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 27: The Jammu and Kashmir government has projected the demand for ambulances at NTPHC Zakura and NTPHC Khimber under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) Yojana to improve emergency medical transport facilities in these areas, the Health and Medical Education Department has said. In a written reply to MLA Salman Sagar, the department said that while ambulances are presently not available at the two health centres, one ambulance each has been proposed under PMJVK to strengthen emergency response and referral services.

"In the interim, two ambulances from PHC Zadibal are being deployed as and when required to cater to the needs of NTPHC Zakura and NTPHC Khimber, ensuring no centre remains unattended during medical emergencies," the reply reads.

It added that one ambulance is already stationed at NTPHC Faqir Gujri to serve adjoining habitations, while a Critical Care Ambulance (108) has been stationed at Darbagh Harwan to cover the entire Block Hazratbal and Zone Harwan, including Harwan New Theed, Faqir Gujri and Mulnar.

The department said the arrangement ensures timely and efficient medical evacuation and patient transport during critical health emergencies—(KNO)

Govt preparing G+4 building, revised DPR for CD hospital

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 27: The revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of a G+4 building for the Chest Disease Hospital in Srinagar is currently being prepared, the Jammu and Kashmir government said on Monday. Once finalised, the next course of action will be initiated, it added.

Responding to a question by MLA Sheikh Mohammad Ahsan, the Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said the existing Government Chest Diseases Hospital operates in an old heritage building. However, the department prioritises maintaining the required standards of medical treatment and ensures necessary infrastructure is in place within available budget provisions under various schemes, she said.

The minister said that a DPR for the new G+4 building for the Chest Diseases Hospital, prepared by the Public Works (R&B) Department at a cost of Rs 1993.53 lakhs, has been received for administrative approval. However, upon review, the

DPR was found incomplete in some aspects, and clarifications have been sought, she said, adding that the revised DPR is awaited, and further action will be taken once it is received.

Regarding the establishment of new medical blocks, Itoo said that proposals for Kraigund and Qalamabad in Langate Constituency are under examination, considering norms, resource availability, and infrastructural feasibility.

While public demand is important, the creation of new health facilities requires a thorough assessment of demographic needs, existing coverage, administrative viability, and budgetary provisions, the Health Minister said. She said that no final decision has been made yet, but the matter remains under active consideration, with future steps to be guided by technical evaluations, interdepartmental consultations, and approvals.

Responding to a question by MLA Salman Sagar, Itoo informed that ambulance services are currently not available at NTPHC Zakoor and NTPHC Khimber.

Recognising the

importance of emergency medical transport, the minister said the government has already projected the need for one ambulance each for these centres under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK). Once approved, this will enhance emergency response and patient referral services, she said.

Meanwhile, two ambulances allocated to PHC Zadibal are being temporarily deployed to NTPHC Zakoor and NTPHC Khimber as needed, ensuring patients are transported during emergencies, the government said.

One ambulance is stationed at NTPHC Faqir Gujri to serve the nearby areas, providing timely medical evacuation, the minister said.

"A Critical Care Ambulance (108) is also stationed at Darbagh Harwan under the Zadibal area, catering to the entire Block Hazratbal and Zone Harwan, including Harwan New Theed, Faqir Gujri, and Mulnar, ensuring prompt medical assistance during critical emergencies," she added—(KNO)

RWBCIS in pipeline: Govt

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Oct 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has said that the process of tendering to provide insurance cover to fruits under the Re-structured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is currently underway, aimed at safeguarding the horticulture sector from weather-induced losses.

Replying to a question of MLA Pulwama Waheed Ur Rehman Para, Minister for Agriculture Javed Ahmad Dar, in a written reply, said that the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) was announced by the Government of J&K in the year 2019 for procurement of Apple fruit crop through Government of India's authorized Enterprise, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation



Ltd. (NAFED) to provide benefit to the farmers by facilitating the timely marketing of farm produce during Covid-19 pandemic

"Under Re-structured Weather Based Crop Insurance scheme (RWBCIS)- apple, saffron, mango and litchi crops have been notified to provide cover," the minister said. He added that the tendering process for the selection of an insurance company (out of the empanelled insurance companies notified by the Gol) to provide

Insurance cover to these Horticulture crops is in process," he said.

Dar said the department is providing assistance for the establishment of C.A Storage unit in the JKUT. "The estimated requirement for Controlled Atmosphere (CA) & storage is 6.00 LMT (30% of the annual production of fruit crops).

"Currently, Jammu and Kashmir has 2.92 LMT of capacity. The Department is contemplating increasing the C.A Storage capacity in the next five years. Apart from keeping sufficient funds in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), J&K Government is also providing top-up subsidy from UT Capex," he said. The minister said various initiatives are being undertaken to support this expansion, including awareness programs and seminars

in each district to inform youth about incentives for establishing CA infrastructure and post-harvest activities.

Most CA stores are located in the Industrial Growth Centres at Lassipora, Pulwama, and Aglar, Shopian, he said, adding that efforts are also underway with the Industries and Commerce Department to establish sector-specific industrial estates for horticulture and post-harvest management in other districts. Dar said the department has established two fruit and vegetable markets in Pulwama - at Prichoo and Pachhar Rajpora - which are operational. "Infrastructure upgrades are ongoing, with funds of Rs 1.28 crore and Rs 3.68 crore allocated for the improvement of these mandis under NABARD for the year 2025-26," he added—(KNO)

No plans of BPL, AAY beneficiaries re-verification: Govt

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 27: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said it does not propose to initiate a fresh re-verification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries, as the process is already being continuously carried out by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department.

In a written reply to MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir, the Power Development Department (PDD) clarified that no separate re-verification

drive is required to identify genuine power consumers under subsidized categories.

The department said that consumers registered under the BPL category continue to receive subsidized electricity tariffs in line with the tariff order issued by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for Jammu and Kashmir, upon production of a valid BPL certificate.

The reply further stated that load categorization and tariff rates are determined on the basis of the electrical load at consumer premises rather than ration card categories,

with JERC issuing subsidized rates for eligible sections.

On infrastructure development, the government clarified that underground power cabling in tourist destinations like Kokernag and Verinag "is not planned at present," and no such proposal is currently under consideration.

The PDD also said that uninterrupted power supply (zero curtailment) is being ensured for fully metered areas with feeder losses below 15 percent, subject to maintenance shutdowns and unavoidable technical constraints—(KNO)

‘Know Your Artisan’ A Vital Bridge To Preserve Kashmir’s Living Heritage

The inauguration of the second “Know Your Artisan” series at Srinagar’s iconic Ghanta Ghar is a strategic and empathetic intervention to preserve Kashmir’s living heritage. By bringing master artisans into direct conversation with the public, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, under the Soulful Kashmir campaign, is doing something revolutionary: it is replacing anonymity with recognition and commodification with connection. In an era where machine-made imitations threaten to eclipse centuries-old crafts, this

initiative serves as both shield and showcase. The live demonstrations of Sozni embroidery, Kani weaving, and walnut wood carving do not merely display products; they reveal the patience, skill, and stories woven into each piece. When visitors watch an artisan transform raw materials into art, they understand why authentic Kashmiri handicrafts deserve preservation and a premium. This awareness is the first step toward combating the counterfeit market that undermines both artisans’ livelihoods and the region’s cultural identity. The

government’s parallel focus on Geographical Indication (GI) tagging and certification is equally crucial. These legal safeguards, combined with public events, create a powerful ecosystem for protecting heritage. They assure buyers of authenticity while empowering artisans with the recognition they deserve. Highlighting the role of women artisans underscores how this sector drives not just cultural preservation but also gender empowerment and economic inclusion. Such initiatives align perfectly with the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat – a

self-reliant India built on the strength of its unique skills and traditions. By creating platforms where artisans can interact with patrons, the administration is not only boosting sales but also fostering a renewed sense of pride and relevance for these traditional arts. The “Know Your Artisan” series is a testament to a government that values culture as capital and artists as assets. This movement promises to weave a stronger future for Kashmir, where craft is not just a memory of the past, but a vibrant, viable pathway for generations to come.

22 Languages, Digitally Reimagined: Unlocking India’s Linguistic Future Through Technology

A language is simply not just a mode of communication, it is the soul of a civilization, it’s culture, it’s heritage: Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Press Information Bureau

India’s linguistic landscape is among the most diverse in the world, with 22 Scheduled Languages and hundreds of tribal and regional dialects spoken across its vast geography. As digital transformation accelerates, the need to embed this linguistic diversity into digital infrastructure has become critical. Technology is no longer just a medium of communication; it is the backbone of inclusion.

The Government of India is leveraging advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP), machine learning, and speech recognition to build intelligent, scalable language solutions. These initiatives aim to democratize access to digital services by enabling seamless communication, real-time translation, voice-enabled interfaces, and localized content delivery. By building a robust technological ecosystem that respects linguistic diversity, India is setting the foundation for an inclusive digital future where every citizen, regardless of their mother tongue, can participate fully in the digital economy and governance.

Key platforms driving linguistic inclusion

AI-driven language platforms and expansive digital repositories are reimagining how India’s languages are preserved, used, and evolved. Platforms like Bhashini and BharatGen offer multilingual support across governance, healthcare, and education. Initiatives like Adi-Vaani bring tribal languages into the digital fold. This integration ensures that India’s linguistic heritage is not only preserved but made functional and dynamic in the digital era.

Over the past decade, advances in artificial intelligence, natural language processing, and digital infrastructure have accelerated efforts to document, digitize, and revitalize India’s linguistic diversity. These technologies have enabled large-scale language data collection, automated translation, and speech recognition across hundreds of languages and dialects, many of which were previously underserved. This technological momentum has helped bridge communication gaps, promote inclusive governance, and empower communities by making digital content accessible in their native languages.

Adi-Vaani: AI for Tribal Language Inclusion

Founded in 2024, Adi-Vaani is India’s first AI-driven platform dedicated to the real-time translation and preservation of tribal languages. Designed to revolutionize communication through cutting-edge language technologies, Adi-Vaani combines the precision of artificial intelligence with human linguistic expertise to deliver seamless multilingual experiences.

At its core, Adi-Vaani leverages advanced speech recognition and natural language processing (NLP) to support languages such as Santali, Bhili, Mundari, and Gondi—many of which have traditionally relied on oral transmission and lacked sufficient digital representation. By enabling real-time translation between tribal languages and major Indian languages, the platform not only preserves these rich linguistic traditions but also makes them accessible for education, governance, and cultural documentation.

Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL)

The Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages (SPPEL), launched in 2013 by the Ministry of Education and implemented by the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, focuses on documenting and digitally archiving endangered Indian languages—particularly those spoken by fewer than 10,000 people.

It generates rich text, audio, and video datasets that serve both preservation and innovation, providing critical resources for AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) systems. Platforms like Sanchika, CIIL’s digital repository, support AI model training, machine translation, and the development of culturally rooted language technologies.

Sanchika: Digital Repository for Indian Languages

Managed by Central Institute of Indian Languages, Sanchika aggregates dictionaries, primers, storybooks, and multimedia resources for Scheduled and tribal languages. This centralized digital archive is a vital data source for training language models, developing



translation systems, and preserving cultural narratives.

The platform offers linguistically categorized digital resources including text, audio, and visual materials—that aid academic research, language education, and cultural documentation. These rich and diverse collections provide foundational datasets for emerging AI and natural language processing applications, enabling more inclusive and effective digital tools for low-resource tribal and regional languages.

BharatGen: AI Models for Indian Languages

BharatGen develops advanced text-to-text and text-to-speech translation models for all 22 Scheduled Languages. It leverages data from SPPEL and Sanchika to create multilingual AI systems that power applications in governance, education, and healthcare — ensuring that digital content is accessible in every major Indian language.

BharatGen’s multilingual AI systems are designed to enhance digital accessibility and inclusivity across sectors such as governance, education, and healthcare, enabling seamless communication and content delivery in India’s diverse linguistic landscape.

GeM and GeMAI: AI-Powered Multilingual Assistant for Government e-Marketplace

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is India’s digital platform for public procurement, launched on August 9, 2016, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. GeM streamlines the purchasing process for government departments and public sector entities, ensuring transparency and efficiency.

To enhance user accessibility and inclusivity, GeM has integrated GeMAI, an AI-powered multilingual assistant. GeMAI leverages advanced natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning to provide voice and text-based support across multiple Indian languages. This enables users to search, navigate, and complete transactions on the platform more easily, helping to overcome language barriers in government procurement.

Bhashini: AI-Driven Multilingual Translation for Inclusive India

Bhashini, under the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM), is a pioneering AI platform enabling real-time translation for 22 Scheduled Languages and tribal languages. It facilitates access to government services, digital content, and promotes digital inclusion through machine translation, speech recognition, and natural language understanding.

Key achievements:

Sansad Bhashini for AI-powered parliamentary debate translations and citizen engagement.

Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE) Scheme

The Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRI-ECE) scheme, under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, supports innovative research and documentation projects aimed at preserving tribal languages and cultures. As part of this initiative, the Ministry has backed the development of AI-based language translation tools capable of converting English/Hindi text and speech into tribal languages and vice versa.

These tools integrate machine learning, speech recognition, and natural language processing (NLP) to support real-time translation and digital preservation of endangered tribal languages. The project also emphasizes community involvement through collaboration with Tribal Research Institutes and language experts, ensuring linguistic accuracy and cultural sensitivity.

Digital Archives and Academic Efforts

Institutions like the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) collaborate with Bhashini by digitizing ancient manuscripts, folk literature, and oral traditions. These digital archives enrich AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) systems, supporting both preservation and state-of-the-art translation solutions—reinforcing the link between cultural heritage and modern technology.

Empowering Education Through AI-Driven Multilingual Platforms

Artificial Intelligence is transforming India’s education landscape by making learning more inclusive, accessible, and linguistically diverse. The integration of AI-based language technologies is driving the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes instruction in the learner’s home language, mother tongue, or regional language—at least up to Grade 5 and preferably till Grade 8 and beyond.

What is e-Kumbh portal?

e-KUMBH portal is an AICTE platform that provides free access to technical books and study materials in multiple Indian languages, supporting NEP 2020’s vision of education in the mother tongue.

At the institutional level, the AICTE’s Anuvadini app,

an indigenous AI-based multilingual translation tool, enables rapid translation of engineering, medical, law, undergraduate, postgraduate, and skill-development books into Indian languages. The translated content is hosted on the e-KUMBH portal, expanding access to technical knowledge in native tongues.

Complementing these AI-driven initiatives are long-standing national efforts such as the National Translation Mission (NTM)—which facilitates the translation of knowledge texts into Indian languages—and the National Mission on Manuscripts (NMM), which preserves and digitizes India’s ancient scholarly works. Together, they build a continuum between India’s linguistic heritage and its future-ready, AI-enabled education ecosystem.

Meanwhile, platforms such as SWAYAM provide the digital backbone for multilingual content delivery. As of mid-2025, over 5 crore learners have enrolled on SWAYAM, while the government has directed that all school and higher-education textbooks and study materials be made digitally available in Indian languages within the next three years.

Together with language-AI platforms such as Bhashini, these initiatives enable schools, ed-tech firms, and higher-education institutions to deliver localized learning materials, interactive tools, and teacher-aids in native languages—bridging linguistic divides, improving comprehension, and empowering every learner to access digital education in their mother tongue.

This emerging multilingual digital education framework not only strengthens educational inclusion but also reinforces India’s linguistic diversity—ensuring that the nation’s many languages remain living, functional media of instruction, knowledge, and innovation, rather than mere cultural relics.

Technology behind transformation

India’s multilingual digital ecosystem is powered by advanced AI and computational linguistics technologies designed specifically for its linguistic diversity. By harnessing cutting-edge innovations, these technologies not only preserve linguistic heritage but also enable seamless, real-time communication across diverse languages, fostering digital inclusion at scale.

Key components of this ecosystem include:

Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR): Converts diverse spoken Indian languages into accurate text, enabling voice-based applications, command interfaces, and real-time transcription services.

Text-to-Speech (TTS): Synthesizes natural, intelligible speech outputs in native languages, enhancing accessibility in digital assistants, educational tools, and government services.

Neural Machine Translation (NMT): Employs deep learning models to provide context-aware, real-time translations between multiple Indian languages, overcoming syntactic and semantic complexities.

Natural Language Understanding (NLU): Facilitates AI systems in interpreting user intent, sentiment, and context within native languages, improving conversational agents and user interaction.

Transformer-based Architectures (IndicBERT, mBART): These state-of-the-art models are pre-trained on massive multilingual Indian language corpora, enabling higher accuracy in language modeling, translation, and understanding tasks.

Corpus Development and Data Curation: Extensive datasets are compiled from digitized manuscripts, folklore, oral traditions, government records, and educational content, providing rich, representative data to train and fine-tune AI models for India’s varied linguistic landscape.

This technological backbone drives platforms like Bhashini, BharatGen, and Adi-Vaani, ensuring scalable, accurate, and inclusive language technologies tailored for India’s unique multilingual context.

Conclusion

India’s future in language preservation is powered by cutting-edge technology, integrating AI and digital archives to keep its rich linguistic heritage vibrant and accessible. Platforms like Bhashini, BharatGen, and Adi-Vaani, along with targeted initiatives such as SPPEL and TRI-ECE, empower citizens nationwide to engage with services in their native languages. This comprehensive approach not only safeguards India’s cultural diversity but also drives inclusive digital growth, positioning the country as a global leader in multilingual innovation.

Agri, allied sectors suffered Rs 209 Cr loss due to NH closure: Dar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 27: Minister for Agriculture Production department, Javid Ahmad Dar Monday informed the house that as per preliminary reports of the department around Rs 209 Crores loss has been reported due to recent closure of National Highway by landslides and flash floods in agriculture and allied sectors.

The Minister made these remarks while replying to a question raised by Legislator Waheed-Ur-Rehman Para in the legislative assembly today.

The Minister informed the house that under the Re-structured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), Apple, Saffron, Mango and Litchi crops have been notified to provide cover. He added that the tendering process for selection of Insurance company (out of the empanelled Insurance companies notified by the GoI) to provide Insurance cover to these Horticulture crops is in process.

Regarding CA storage, the Minister said that the department is providing assistance for establishment of C.A.



Storage units in the JKUT and the estimated requirement for Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage is 6.00 LMT, (30% of annual production of fruit crops). He added that currently, Jammu and Kashmir has 2.92 LMT of

capacity and the Department is contemplating to increase the C.A. Storage capacity in next five years through Centrally Sponsored Scheme Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) besides J&K

Government is also providing top-up subsidy from UT Capex

The Minister also informed that various initiatives are undertaken by the Government to support this expansion like Awareness/seminars are being conducted in each District to aware the youth about the incentives available for establishment of C.A. infrastructure and other post-harvest related activities. He added that as most CA stores are located in the Industrial Growth Centre at Lassipora, Pulwama, and the Industrial Estate at Aglar, Shopian, efforts are underway with the Industries and Commerce Department to establish sector-specific industrial estates for horticulture and post-harvest management in other districts.

Regarding the steps being taken for upgradation and improvement of Fruit Mandi at Pulwama and Rajpora, the Minister said that the Department has established two fruit and vegetable Markets in Pulwama district at Prichoo Pulwama and Pachhar Rajpora Pulwama, which have been made functional. He added that the basic infrastructure is available in these mandis,

however, up-gradation and improvement of the mandis is a continuous process for which funds to the tune of Rs 1.28 Cr and Rs 3.68 Cr respectively have been earmarked for up-gradation under NABARD for the Year 2025-26.

With respect to measures being taken to revive the Market Intervention Scheme and to use NAFED model to support apple growers, the Minister informed that the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) was announced by the Government of J&K in the year 2019 for procurement of Apple fruit crop through Government of India's authorized Enterprise, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) to provide benefit to the farmers by facilitating the timely marketing of farm produce during Covid-19 pandemic.

He also added that the possibility of establishing CA storage units in other districts apart from Pulwama is being explored to cater growing demands of horticulturists.

Legislators, M.Y Tarigami; Ghulam Mohidin Mir and Javid Riyaz Bedar raised supplementary questions on the subject.

Govt assures no shortage of food grains in Keran, Jamgund



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27: Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma Monday informed Legislative House that there is currently no shortage of food grains in the Keran and Jamgund areas of Kupwara.

He was responding to the Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Mir Saifullah.

While calling attention motion about the non-availability of food grains, Mir Saifullah said that the far flung areas of Keran and Jamgund remain closed for six months during the winter owing to heavy snowfall and face shortage of food grains.

Responding to the motion, Minister said that the government ensures advance release/dumping of food grains under all schemes for a period of 8 months i.e., from November to

June every session to the inaccessible areas i.e., main borders of Kupwara including Keran and Jamgund well before the onset of winter season/closure of roads.

Elaborating further, he said that in respect of Jamgund, against the requirement of 536.14 quintals of food grains for a period of 08 months, i.e., November 2025 to June 2026, 800.00 Qtls have already been transported and received at the respective locations, and 346.80 Qtls have already been dumped in advance," he said.

"In respect of Keran, against the requirement of 2774.43 Qtls of food grains for 08 months, i.e., November 2025 to June 2026, 800.00 Qtls have already been transported and received at the respective locations, and 346.80 Qtls have already been dumped in advance," he said.

He further said that the remaining quantity shall be ensured to be delivered/stocked by or before 31st of October 2025.

Govt taking pro-active steps to prevent Hepatitis A spread in Bandipora: Sakeena

KT News Desk

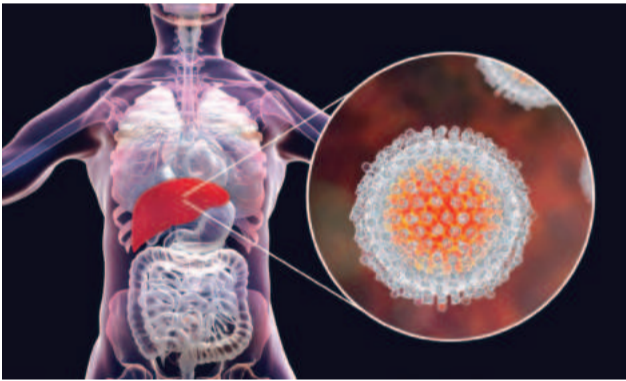
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that Health and Family Welfare has taken several prompt and comprehensive measures to control and prevent the spread of Hepatitis A in Arin block of Bandipora.

Responding to the calling attention motion moved by MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, minister said that the situation is being continuously monitored by the Health Department, in coordination with the District Administration and the Jal Shakti Department.

"A surveillance mechanism has been put in place to ensure timely reporting and response to any fresh case," she said.

She informed the House that after receiving the information of the infectious disease, the field teams and District Surveillance Unit Bandipora visited the affected areas, and it was found that the cases were sporadic in nature with a scattered pattern and no clustering of cases was established from any particular area.

The minister further said



that these areas are being monitored by the field teams and preventive measures were set in the form of extensive IEC activities at multiple levels coupled with microbiological water analysis.

She said that District Public Health Lab is completely functional at DH Bandipora and 166 Blood Samples were tested for Viral Hepatitis. She also said that 93 water samples were tested from the area of concern and the report was shared with the PHE Department for necessary action.

Minister further said that in coordination with the Jal Shakti Department, all local water sources have been inspected and samples taken for

quality testing.

"Public awareness drives have been launched to educate residents about maintaining personal hygiene, boiling drinking water, and avoiding open defecation," the minister said.

Minister further said that medical camps have been organized in the affected and adjoining villages to ensure early detection and treatment of new cases. "Adequate stock of medicines and diagnostic kits has been supplied to the local health institutions. Special emphasis has been laid on educating school children and community groups about preventive measures," She added.

Construction of new women's hostels under consideration: Sakeena



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 27: Minister for Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo Monday said that the construction of new Women's Hostels is under active consideration of the department, while the possibility for establishing Women's Hostel in district Kishtwar will be explored.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Shagun Parihar regarding Women's Hostels in the Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister informed the house that 12 Women's Hostels under the Higher Education department, with capacity of around 1200, are functional in various districts across Jammu and Kashmir. She also informed that 16 Girls Hostels are under construction in different colleges across Jammu and Kashmir. She added that several functional/under construction Girls Hostels are also established under the Skill Development department at various Polytechnic Colleges

in Jammu and Srinagar.

Further, the Minister informed that under the Social Welfare department, one Working Women Hostel is functional at Roop Nagar, Jammu with a capacity of 25 women, which includes dormitories, kitchen, library, washrooms, lawns, lobby, and daycare centre.

She also informed that the Department is in the process of establishing five newly approved Sakhi Niwas in the districts of Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Kathua, and Rajouri and suitable buildings have been identified and engagement of human resources is under process.

The Minister also added that the Health & Medical Education Department also provides hostel facilities through Nursing, Paramedical, and Girls Hostels for Medical Colleges, besides School Education Department also provides Hostel Facilities for Girls through KGBVs in various districts of J&K.

Rs 451.99 lacs incurred on lift irrigation scheme Peth Devsar: Rana



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 27: Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmad Rana Monday said that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the lift irrigation scheme Peth Devsar was prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 452.69 lacs under NABARD.

The Minister said that against this an expenditure of Rs. 451.99 lacs has been incurred till date. However, the scheme could not be commissioned as the cost of land has shot up from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 80.91 lakhs upon

the promulgation of Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, (LARR Act) 2013 since August, 2019.

The Minister said this while replying to a question by Legislator, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad in the Legislative Assembly today.

He further stated that the department is currently examining the modalities for covering the balance funds as per revised rates/ guidelines.

He added that subsequent steps will be taken based on the outcome of this examination and in accordance with the applicable financial rules.

LA Zero Hour

MLAs highlight several issues of public importance Speaker clarifies rules for accepting adjournment motions by members

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 27: During the Zero Hour of the ongoing session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Monday, Members from across party lines raised a range of public interest issues concerning their constituencies and the UT at large, seeking urgent attention and redressal from the Government.

Earlier Sajad Gani Lone, MLA Handwara, raised a procedural point over rejection of his adjournment motion regarding rationalization of reservations through a cabinet sub-committee. Responding, the Speaker clarified that Assembly Rules allow adjournment motions only on matters of recent occurrence and not on issues pending adjudication in courts.

Sajad Shaheen, MLA Banihal, demanded a one-hour discussion in the House over the arrest of MLA Doda, Mehraj Malik. In this regard, Nazir Ahmad Khan suggested the constitution of a committee to examine the legality of the PSA invoked against Malik. Supporting procedural clarity, RS Pathania, MLA Udhampur East, observed that imposition of PSA is the prerogative of the District Magistrate

and subject to judicial scrutiny.

Raising infrastructure-related issues, Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East, sought immediate restoration of the Bhagwati Nagar Bridge damaged during recent floods. Shakti Parihar, MLA Doda West, requested rehabilitation of families affected by land sinking in Kastigarh and restoration of the Ramgarh road. Pyarelal Sharma, MLA Inderwal, and Dr Rameshwar Singh, MLA Bani, also urged rehabilitation of flood-affected families and restoration of damaged roads and infrastructure.

S.S. Salathia, MLA Samba, highlighted the agitation of PHE Department daily wagers demanding regularization, noting that the ongoing strike was disrupting regular water supply. He further sought release of long-pending public deposits from the Jammu & Kashmir State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Ltd. (formerly CLDB). Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, MLA Pampore, requested deployment of water tankers in Pampore and Kakapora to ensure safe drinking water supply.

Several MLAs raised issues related to connectivity and road projects. Nizamuddin Bhat, MLA Bandipora, sought



early completion of the Sumbal-Bandipora-Gurez road. Sheikh Khurshed Ahmad, MLA Langate, flagged delays in CRF-funded road projects. Choudhary Mohammad Akram, MLA Surankot, urged completion of the Bafliar road, while Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir, MLA Rajpora, pressed for restoration of damaged bridges in his constituency. Mir Saifullah demanded DPR formulation for the proposed Keran tunnel to improve border connectivity.

On developmental fronts, Dr Bashir Ahmad Veeri, MLA Srigufwara-Bijbehara, demanded that the Jablipora Fruit Mandi be developed as per its original DPR to serve as an international

fruit terminal, besides seeking introduction of a Market Intervention Scheme for horticulturists. Rafiq Ahmad Naik, MLA Tral, and Abdul Majeed Bhat Larmi, MLA Anantnag West, both sought establishment of Cold Storage and CA stores in their respective areas to aid fruit growers.

Tourism-related issues were prominently raised by Dr. Shafi Ahmad wani MLA Beerwah, who sought reopening of closed tourist destinations including Doodhpathri, Yousmarg, Tosamaidan, and Drang, while Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, MLA Tangmarg, echoed similar concerns, calling for early restoration of tourism activities.

Several members also flagged matters concerning administrative outreach and education. Kuldeep Raj Dubey, MLA Reasi, demanded setting up of an SDM office at Pouni/Arnass for public convenience, while Pawan Gupta, MLA Udhampur, urged restoration of work on the upcoming GMC Udhampur, stalled due to relocation issues with the ITI. Baldev Raj Sharma, MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, pressed for speedy establishment of the IMS Katra project.

Social and humanitarian concerns were also voiced

during the Zero Hour. Shameem Firdous, MLA Habbakadal, sought the constitution of a committee comprising retired judges and senior police officers to review cases of Valley youth jailed in prisons outside J&K.

Dr Sajjad Shafi, MLA Uri, highlighted pending relief for families whose houses were damaged during Operation Sindoor, while Zafar Ali Khatana, MLA Kokernag, sought relief measures for nomadic families affected by floods.

Arjun Singh, MLA Ramban, brought to the notice of the House the kidnapping of a person belonging to his constituency in Niger and urged the Government to take up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs for his early repatriation.

Rafiq Ahmad Naik and Ifthikhar Choudhary, along with Saif-ud-Din Bhat, urged that Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works be taken up concurrently with ongoing departmental enquiries to avoid disruption in water supply schemes. Aijaz Ahmed Jan, MLA Poonch, called for early release of scholarships for tribal students, and Salman Sagar, MLA Hazratbal, demanded release of pending salaries of Khidmat Centre (CSC) operators.

Slathia lays report of House Committee on revision of salary, allowances of Legislators

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27: Chairman Surjeet Singh Slathia Monday laid on the Table of the House a copy of Report of the House Committee constituted to recommend revision in "Salary and Allowances of Members of Legislative Assembly of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Revision of Pensionary benefits to the Ex-legislators of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly."

The committee was constituted to examine the existing salary framework of lawmakers in the Union Territory and bring it in line with the



prevailing standards in other states and union territories.

The report is expected to outline the financial implications, justifications and recommendations for revising the pay structure of elected representatives.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Era of degrees

compete globally and play a pivotal role in shaping the Union Territory's bright future.

The Lieutenant Governor said that government schools will lead the future of India's learning reforms. "The Robotics Lab, STEM innovation centres, smart classrooms, advanced digital infrastructure, professional development for teachers, and holistic learning spaces will unlock the potential of every child," he said.

Pertinently, the project- Developing Resilient Education and Aspirational Mindsets (DREAM) is a collaboration between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the Faizal and Shabana Foundation that was initiated through an MoU in March 2023.

As per the MoU, the Faizal and Shabana Foundation has constructed the middle school block with state-of-the-art facilities such as Robotics and STEM Lab, ACs for all the rooms and a dedicated lunchroom with separate kitchen and a storeroom.

The DREAM School Project was committed by Faizal Kottikollon, Chairman of the UAE India Business Council-UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC), during a high-level UIBC-UC delegation visit to Srinagar in 2023. The project aimed to transform public education in Jammu Kashmir, builds on the success of the Nadakkavu School model in Kerala, which has been ranked among the top 3 best Government Day schools in India for the past five years.

The Lieutenant Governor said the project is a testament to our commitment to ensure global standard education to every child and a progressive environment for them to aspire and dream big.

The Lieutenant Governor said the "Dream school project" has helped bridge the distance between Kashmir and Kerala by bringing the two regions closer through education and innovation.

He stated that his goal is to ensure that every school in Jammu Kashmir becomes a hub of innovation, inclusion, and inspiration - nurturing the youth who will shape the nation's future.

"We are committed to foster a nurturing and empowering atmosphere that propels each student towards growth and excellence in the school, which will guarantee holistic development encompassing social, emotional, and intellectual growth for every student, moulding them into exemplary citizens of the future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the key initiatives taken by the UT Administration, under the guidance of PM Modi, aimed at equal access to education, promoting inclusivity, enhancing infrastructure, empowering youth, and aligning education with modern skill requirements and technological advancements.

"Our youth are our greatest strength, and their talent and potential will drive our vision for the future. Over the past few years, we have invested deeply in transforming our education ecosystem to make Jammu Kashmir an 'Oasis of Talent,'" the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also called upon the educational institutions and the teaching community to develop the education system that rewards creativity, curiosity, innovation, and critical thinking.

He stressed that this system must balance creativity with competition, where classroom tests are based on learning, originality, and experimentation, where creativity and individuality are valued more than marks and gold medals.

Faizal E. Kottikollon, Founder, Faizal and Shabana Foundation and Chairman, UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC); Shabana Faizal, Co-Founder, Faizal and Shabana Foundation; Ram Niwas Sharma, Secretary School Education Department; Dr. Aman Puri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Maj. Gen. Sharafuddin Sharaf (Retd.), Vice-Chairman, UIBC-UC; Sunjay Sudhir, former Indian Ambassador to UAE; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Ito; Director General, School Education, Kashmir; office bearers of Faizal and Shabana Foundation; Principal of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, teachers and students in large number attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

India must stay

said. "People working in research, innovation, and manufacturing are silent contributors to national defence."

Referring to the tensions that followed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Singh said India's response showed that the armed forces were prepared for any eventuality. However, he cautioned that the evolving global situation called for constant vigilance and self-reliance.

"After the Pahalgam attack, when Operation Sindoor was launched, a situation arose where war was knocking at our doors," Singh said. "Our forces are fully prepared to defend the nation in any circumstance, but the level of uncertainty in the world has increased. We must therefore move forward carefully, assessing every situation before taking action."

He said the nature of modern warfare is changing rapidly, with technology, drones, and cyber capabilities becoming central to national security. "To deal with these changes effectively, indigenisation is the only path forward," he said.

Pertinently, 'Operation Sindoor' was launched in May this year as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead. The operation involved precision strikes by the Indian Armed Forces

on multiple terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. (KNO)

Hope for J&K statehood

who conducted that interview also tried to ask me questions around this. I didn't answer them. If I didn't answer her, why do you think I will answer you?" he said.

Abdullah said he was hopeful for the restoration of statehood from the first day. "But the hope is fading with each passing day. Still, I am hopeful of its restoration. The more you make us wait, the less hopeful we will be. Only one year has passed. It would be better if we could have it during this hopefulness," he said.

The CM said the government wanted to talk about the restoration of statehood. However, the speaker didn't allow the discussion as the case is subjudice, he said. "I had no objection if any MLA tried to bring a resolution on statehood. The custodian of the house is the speaker, and only he can decide on the introduction of bills and resolutions."

"I know where I stand in the matter of statehood. I know that if a resolution of statehood comes before the House, then my colleagues and I will vote," he added.

Omar further said the government doesn't make decisions based on religion or area. "These are BJP members who have kept about 15% of the population of this country out of the government. Today, the BJP has not even one Muslim Member Parliament in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha," he said while replying to a query on compensation to the flood-hit people.

The Chief Minister said his government will decide to disburse relief to the people by looking at the loss, not the area or religion. He added that in the area which has suffered loss, the package will be requested from the Centre and distributed among the people.

On hurdles being faced under the Union Territory, Abdullah said that if there were no obstacles, he would not have asked for statehood. "It is obvious that issues are being raised. I have the responsibility, and I will have to answer the House. But the officer doesn't seem to be my choice. There are many other examples and many institutions that should be under the control of the elected government, which are not yet. There are two universities, Cultural Academy, SKIMS, Power Development Corporation. There are many things that should have been transferred to the elected government, which have not been done. With these obstacles, we are fighting that statehood should be returned to us so that all these rights are with us," he said.

About the Business Rules file, Omar said that there has been a conversation with the center for a few hours. "There have been one or two rounds of discussion. Some questions have been raised from there. But we are telling them that the business rules we have sent are completely under the J&K Reorganization Act. We have not tried to work against the Reorganization Act anywhere," he said.

Regarding MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone's statement calling Rajya Sabha elections a 'fixed match' between NC and BJP, the Chief Minister stated that the person who has not taken part in the elections should clarify what his helplessness was to help the BJP. "If he wanted to avoid match-fixing, at least he would have used his vote," he said, adding that the people of Handwara did not send him here to remain silent and play double roles. He should openly say whether he is with BJP or not.

"On the day when elections were announced, I had maintained that those who do not take part in this election or abstain are directly helping the BJP. The media had already announced the results, giving us three and the BJP the seat. But, on the ground, we fought and tried to win," he said.

Regarding the Rajya Sabha results, he said those who have made a deal of their faith should answer to Allah, adding that he would like them to come forward.

He also said that one of the independent MLAs had approached him and admitted that he made a mistake. "The MLA was not allowed to open the dummy voter slip and thus he voted in the wrong place," he added.

Omar said that on the last seat, four votes went in favour of the BJP, while three deliberately destroyed their votes because they didn't give a first preference; they directly wrote a second preference. Therefore, the BJP clearly made attempts to lure people. On what basis they were lured, whether they were induced or anything else, that only the BJP can answer," he said.

On the discussion over Mehraj Malik's detention, Abdullaah said the speaker has given his opinion. I agree that whatever Mehraj Malik did was not worthy of a PSA. If there is any action against him, then the Speaker can do it. He is a member of this House," he said, adding that a disciplinary committee can be formed to look into it, but using PSA against an elected member is completely wrong.

Abdullah said that there was no understanding with BJP. "The only party that is taking on the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir is the National Conference. We are the ones who took them on in the Rajya Sabha elections, nobody else. Congress could have fielded a candidate; they chose not to. In Nagrota, where is PDP's candidate? Congress also, at the last minute, told us they will not fight, so I had to scramble to find a candidate. Otherwise, we were ready to support Congress in Nagrota. We are not those people who have a secret

understanding," he added.

The CM said that his attempt is that the central government should maintain relations so that J&K government's work is done properly. "But the relationship between the government, the National Conference, and the BJP has a big difference. There is no relation between the National Conference and the BJP anywhere else. What will happen to my relationship with the central government is another thing," he said.

Omar said any by-election is a challenge for a government. "We are taking this by-election also as a challenge. This challenge is multiplied by the complexities of voter distribution in Budgam. It is also multiplied by some element of internal politics that is playing out. I am hopeful that the people of Budgam will make the right choice," he said. (KNO)

41 private member

Fayaz during the last budget session. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had actively campaigned in support of the bill submitted by Mir. A few other MLAs have also submitted similar bills.

The bill for regularisation of services of employees working on a contractual basis, including casual labourers and daily wagers, was submitted by National Conference's Mir Saifullah. His bill has been listed at serial number 3.

A similar bill, listed at serial number 20, was submitted by PDP's Waheed-ur-Rehman Para. (KNO)

NC, BJP clash over

His comments evoked a sharp response from BJP legislators, triggering a war of words between the two parties.

Amid the din in the House, NC legislators shouted "vote chor" (vote stealers) at their BJP counterparts.

Amid slogans and counter-slogans, Peoples Conference President and MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone accused both NC and BJP of collusion. "It was match-fixing," Lone alleged.

In an unprecedented instance of cross-voting, seven members who were expected to support National Conference candidates voted against the party—four by voting in favour of the BJP and three by intentionally canceling their votes. (KNO)

21,573 structures

significant losses, it added.

A total compensation of Rs. 5,246.47 lakhs has been paid for damages in Jammu division, while Rs. 1,914.44 lakh has been disbursed in Kashmir so far, the government said.

Relief efforts included organising relief and medical camps across the affected areas, providing shelter, food, and household essentials to flood-affected families, the minister said.

He said immediate restoration work was undertaken to restore power, water supply, and road connectivity to support rehabilitation.

The minister said that relief was provided to affected individuals and families as per the guidelines of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

He said rehabilitation and restoration of public infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, have been initiated in accordance with SDRF norms. (KNO)

CIK foils online

content under the direct guidance of an online handler. Investigations further disclosed that he had been using encrypted communication tools and VPNs to sustain covert interaction with cross-border handlers," the spokesman said, adding, "Subsequent inquiry traced the online handler operating under the alias 'Saqib' (real name Ahmad Salar), a Pakistan-based propagandist linked to The Resistance Front (TRF). Salar was orchestrating a sophisticated online indoctrination effort, exploiting social media to manipulate vulnerable youth through ideological grooming, false promises and glorification of terrorist activities

The second juvenile, he said, 'Hazik', operating the handle 'faithful_warrior57', was similarly influenced by the same handler. Digital traces revealed instructions, emotional manipulation, and ideological conditioning intended to draw both minors deeper into extremist networks.

"Through meticulous coordination, superior cyber analytics, and swift operational execution, CIK successfully disrupted the network, effectively preventing the recruitment of two juveniles and thwarting an emerging radicalization threat that could have endangered community safety," the spokesman said, adding, "Recognizing the social dimension of this threat, CIK held joint counselling sessions involving the families of juveniles, community elders, and local religious scholars." "These sessions aimed to help the youth and their guardians understand the grave repercussions of radicalization and the importance of responsible digital engagement. The initiative underscored CIK's compassionate approach combining operational excellence with social responsibility and strengthened community co-operation against extremist exploitation," the spokesman added.

The spokesman said that the CIK appeals to parents, educators, and religious leaders across Jammu and Kashmir to remain vigilant, guide the youth responsibly, and report any suspicious online activity promoting extremist narratives.

The unit reiterates its steadfast

commitment to protecting young minds from radical influences, preserving peace, and upholding the collective security of the region, he added. (KNO)

Storm erupts

between two of his party's parliamentarians Mian Altaf Ahmad and Aga Ruhullah Mehdi.

Omar praised Mian Altaf as a seasoned and respected leader whose counsel he valued deeply. He recalled how both his father and Mian Altaf often advised him to measure his words carefully, a suggestion he said, he admired.

"I have great respect for Mian Sahib. My father always tells me to think before I speak, and Mian Sahib says the same. In that way, they are alike," Omar said.

But when asked to comment on MP Ruhullah, Omar drew a sharp contrast, saying that there was a "difference between the earth and the sky" between the two leaders.

He refused to elaborate further, dismissing the question abruptly. "I will not speak about him," he said, his tone firm enough to leave little doubt about his displeasure.

Omar also responded to reports that Ruhullah had refused to join the Budgam bypoll campaign, saying that the party has enough leaders to carry on its political outreach. "No one is being forced to campaign," he said. "We have plenty of people willing to go out and work. Whoever wants to stay away can do so."

Hours later, NC legislator Majeed Larmi added fuel to the fire. Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Larmi, as per KNO, took direct aim at Ruhullah's criticism of the Chief Minister, suggesting that if the MP truly believed the government has failed, he should resign from his seat and face the people again.

"If he says the Chief Minister has done nothing, then let him resign and contest again," Larmi said. "He won on the party's ticket. If he thinks the leadership failed, he should have the courage to go back to the voters."Larmi said every representative has a right to speak for their people but argued that public criticism of the leadership was damaging to the party's unity.

He pointed out that many decisions affecting daily life, including the installation of smart meters, were taken under the Lieutenant Governor's administration, not by the elected government. "The order for smart meters came from the LG government, not ours. When our government has full control, we will deal with it differently," he added.

He also suggested that major policy decisions could only be made once statehood was restored. "When there is no money and no administrative power in the state's hands, how can anyone promise miracles?" he asked.

By afternoon, it was Ruhullah's turn to respond and he did not hold back.

Speaking at another media interaction, the MP Ruhullah rejected any notion of personal rivalry, saying his concern was about the direction the party had taken since coming to power.

"If the National Conference wants to make this personal, I'm ready to fight," Ruhullah said.

"There is no time for personal fights. The real fight is for Kashmir's existence," he said. "We promised people a battle for their dignity and the restoration of their rights. Where has that fight gone?"

Ruhullah accused the leadership of abandoning key poll promises made during the 2024 elections, including the restoration of Article 370 and the creation of one lakh jobs. "Only 20,000 have been given. Can anyone tell me where the rest are? Can anyone give me their address?" he asked.

He also raised concerns about detained youth in Kashmir, saying thousands remain behind bars without trial. "These are the same people who voted for us. What have we done for them?"

Rejecting any focus on himself, Ruhullah said his remarks were driven by accountability, not ego. "Ruhullah is not important. What matters is the trust people placed in us and the promises we made," he said. "If someone wants to make it about ego, they can. But I won't." (KNO)

Speaker rejects

sub-judice status.

Citing Sub-Rule 3 of Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, the Speaker explained that an adjournment motion can only be brought on matters of recent occurrence.

"The adjournment motion should concern a matter of recent occurrence. This is not such a matter. You had also raised this issue during the budget session. A sub-committee has been formed to examine the issue," the Speaker said.

He further pointed out, as per Sub-Rule 7 of Rule 58, an adjournment motion cannot be admitted if the matter is pending before a court of law.

"This matter is sub-judice," the Speaker added.

According to the notice for the adjournment motion submitted by Lone, the business of the House should have been suspended to discuss the government's failure to rationalize the existing reservation policy.

"The existing policy has severely curtailed the competitive space available to Kashmiris in public employment, promotions, and professional education. In December last year, the government constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to examine public grievances concerning the revised reservation policy. However,

despite the lapse of ten months, the committee's report has neither been made public nor have its recommendations been implemented," the notice reads. (KNO)

Speaker nominates

MLA Central Shalteng, Tariq Hameed Karra and MLA, Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma as Chairmen.

Omar: No politics

Elaborating on the Government's initiative for the landless, Omar Abdullah said, "We have already announced that five marlas of land will be provided to landless families for construction of houses. The necessary paperwork is underway. For residents, the land will be allotted on a lease basis."

Addressing concerns over regional parity in relief measures, the Chief Minister strongly refuted any suggestion of discrimination.

"Our policy is not to seek relief for one region while ignoring another. This was never our intention," he emphasized.

The Chief Minister said that teams from the Government of India, including the Home Minister and Agriculture Minister, visited the affected areas to assess the damage alongside local authorities.

"After a joint assessment, it was observed that Jammu division has suffered comparatively more damage than Kashmir. Accordingly, we have prepared a relief package which is being submitted to the Government of India for approval," Omar Abdullah informed the House.

He assured that once the package is approved, the distribution of relief funds will begin without any bias or favoritism.

"There will be no politics, no religion, and no regional discrimination in the distribution of relief. Where there is loss, there must be compensation," the Chief Minister asserted.

Earlier, Minister Social Welfare Department, Sakeena Itoo said that the Government has not formulated any fresh rehabilitation policy for the recent flood victims.

However, a proposal regarding the allotment of State land measuring 05 Marla in favour of each land less family affected due to Natural Calamities (i.e. Floods, Landslide, cloudbursts, earthquakes) on lease basis for residential purposes only is under consideration.

CM tables J&K

and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Bill has already been published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette," the Chief Minister said while introducing the Bill.

Subsequently, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, placed the Bill before the House for consideration.

‘Gurez emerging

Tourism portfolio, said that during the current financial year 2025–26, the works are being executed in coordination with the District Administration, Bandipora involving identification and transfer of land for the purpose.

The Chief Minister further confirmed that Gurez Valley was conferred the prestigious "Best Off-Beat Destination in India (Gold)" award in 2022, in recognition of its pristine natural beauty, unique landscape, and sustainable tourism initiatives. He stated that the award highlights Gurez Valley's immense tourism potential and its growing recognition as one of the country's most preferred offbeat travel destinations.

Replying to a question by MLA Gurez for an exclusive scheme for the emerging off-beat destinations, CM added that the Tourism Department has already identified Gurez as a potential offbeat destination, and as and when a dedicated scheme is launched by the Government of India, the Department will recommend Gurez for inclusion and development under that programme.

Replying to a supplementary question by MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan, the Chief Minister said, "There is no helicopter service for tourism purposes at present. The existing helicopter service operates primarily for locals and patients as the area remains cut off during the winter season."

He, however, noted that the administration is open to private participation in tourism-related aviation services.

"If any private player intends to start helicopter services for tourists in Gurez, we will extend full support. Although no such proposal is presently under consideration, the government can examine and explore it if one comes forward," he added.

Regarding the proposal for a Light and Sound Show in Gurez, the Chief Minister said the idea is being explored.

"It has been suggested to host it on Habba Khatoon Mountain. We will assess its technical and logistical viability, and if possible, we can do it," he stated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) MUZAFFAR AHMED BANDAY to (New name) MUZAFFAR AHMAD BANDAY. known as (New Name) MUZAFFAR AHMAD BANDAY. In future I will be If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Join Run for Unity: PM Modi

‘Honour Sardar Patel's vision of united India’



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urged citizens to join the Run for Unity on October 31 to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of united India.

"Join the Run for Unity on 31st October and celebrate the spirit of togetherness! Let's honour Sardar Patel's vision of a united India," Modi said in a post on X.

Patel, born on October 31, 1875, was a freedom fighter and independent India's first home minister and

deputy prime minister. He played a key role in the integration of over 500 princely states in the Union of India after Independence.

Patel's birth anniversary is also celebrated as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

The prime minister will lead the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas parade near Kevadia in Gujarat on October 31.

In his Mann ki Baat radio address on Sunday, the prime minister had said that this October 31 was special as it marked Sardar Patel's 150th Jayanti. Run for Unity programs will be organised across the country to celebrate Sardar Patel's birth anniversary.

Delhi to bar entry of non-BS-VI compliant vehicles registered outside city

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 27: All commercial goods vehicles registered outside Delhi that are not BS-VI compliant will be prohibited from entering the national capital from November 1, in line with the CAQM's directions.

The BS-VI compliant vehicles meet stricter emission standards are expected to curtail pollution.

A public notice issued by the transport department said BS-IV commercial goods vehicles will be permitted to enter Delhi only for a limited period, up to October 31, 2026, as a transitional measure.

There will, however, be no

restrictions on the entry of commercial goods vehicles registered in Delhi, BS-VI compliant diesel vehicles, BS-IV compliant diesel vehicles till October 31, 2026, or those running on CNG, LNG, or electricity.

The notice added that restrictions under various stages of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on commercial goods vehicles will continue to apply during the period a particular stage is in force.

In a meeting held on October 17, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) approved a sweeping ban on the entry of polluting commercial vehicles into Delhi from November 1, amid the city's pollution woes.

Chief Justice BR Gavai recommends Justice Surya Kant as next CJI

ANI

New Delhi, Oct 27: Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai has recommended the name of Justice Surya Kant as his successor, marking the formal initiation of the process to appoint the next Chief Justice of India. Justice Gavai is set to demit office on November 23, 2025, upon attaining the age of 65.

The Union Ministry of Law and Justice had recently written to Chief Justice Gavai, seeking his recommendation for the next CJI, in line with established procedure.

The appointment of the Chief Justice of India is governed by the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) — a document that



sets out the framework for the appointment, transfer, and elevation of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.

According to the MoP,

the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, considered fit to hold the office, is recommended as the next Chief Justice. Following this convention, Justice Surya

Kant, the senior-most judge after Justice Gavai, has been recommended for the top judicial post.

Upon formal appointment by the President,

Justice Kant will assume charge as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on November 24, 2025, and will serve a tenure of nearly 15 months, until February 9, 2027.

Born on February 10, 1962, Justice Surya Kant has had a distinguished judicial and legal career.

Before his elevation to the Supreme Court, he served as the Advocate General of Haryana and was designated a Senior Advocate at a young age.

Currently, Justice Kant holds key institutional roles — he serves as the Visitor of the National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi, and is the ex officio Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) India.

CJI Gavai refuses to proceed against advocate who hurled shoe towards him

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Supreme Court on Monday said it is not inclined to initiate contempt action against a lawyer who had hurled a shoe towards Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, noting that the CJI himself refused to proceed against him.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joydip Bagchi said shouting slogans in court and hurling shoes are clear cases of contempt of court but it all depends on the judge concerned under the law whether to proceed or not.

"Issuing contempt notice will only give undue importance to the lawyer who had hurled shoe at the CJI



and would increase the shelf life of the incident," the bench said, adding the incident should be allowed to die its own natural death.

The bench was hearing a plea of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) seeking contempt action against 71-years-old

advocate Rakesh Kishore, who hurled the shoe towards the CJI on October 6 during court proceedings.

The top court said it will consider laying down guidelines to prevent such incidents.

It asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to collate details of incidents like shoe throwing incidents in different courts. On October 16, the top court said the right to speech and expression cannot be exercised at the cost of others' dignity and integrity as it cautioned about the dangers of "unregulated" social media, saying incidents like the recent hurling of shoe towards the CJI are nothing but "money-spinning ventures".

On October 6, in a shocking security breach, Kishore hurled a shoe towards the CJI in his courtroom which prompted the Bar Council of India to suspend his license with immediate effect.

The CJI, who remained unfazed during and after the unprecedented incident during the court proceedings, asked the court officials and the security personnel present inside the courtroom to "just ignore" it and to let off the errant lawyer with a warning.

The incident has sparked widespread condemnation across different sections of society with Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking to the CJI.

SC summons CSs of all states, UTs over affidavits in stray dogs case

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the chief secretaries of states and Union Territories, other than West Bengal and Telangana, to appear before it on November 3 to explain why compliance affidavits were not filed in the stray dogs case.

A three-judge special bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria noted that only the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and states of West Bengal and Telangana have filed their compliance affidavits in pursuance to the apex court's August 22 order. The bench slammed the other states and UTs for not filing the compliance affidavits, saying its August 22 contained everything. The bench was hearing a suo motu case relating to stray dogs.

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.

Jaishankar meets US state secy Rubio in Kuala Lumpur for trade talks

ANI

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 27: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Kuala Lumpur, where the two leaders discussed a wide range of issues, including bilateral relations, regional developments, and global challenges. In a post shared on social media platform X, Jaishankar said, "Glad to meet @SecRubio this morning in Kuala Lumpur. Appreciated the discussion on our bilateral ties as well as regional and global issues."

The high-level interaction between the two leaders comes at a time when trade negotiations between India and the United States are ongoing, adding diplomatic weight to the broader economic dialogue between the two nations.

Last week, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal asserted that India would not enter into any trade agreement "in haste" or accept conditions from partner nations that could limit its "trading choices." His comments reflected New Delhi's cautious approach even as discussions with Washington continue to advance.

He noted that trade



agreements extend beyond "tariffs or market access" and are centred on building "trust, long-term ties, and creating sustainable frameworks for global business cooperation." This perspective underscores India's intention to ensure that any future deal with the US aligns with its long-term economic goals.

Goyal emphasised that New Delhi would continue to adopt a cautious and balanced stance. Referring indirectly to discussions with Washington, he said, "In a very short-term context, it's not about what is going to happen in the next six months. It's not just about being able to sell steel to America."

He further stated that India's trade strategy is guided by a long-term perspective

rather than short-term goals, adding, "Trade deals are for a longer duration. It's not only about tariffs, it's also about trust and a relationship. Trade deals are also about businesses."

In line with this approach, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal on Friday said that trade negotiations between India and the US are "progressing well," with both sides "converging" on most points, indicating that a mutually advantageous agreement may be close.

"I think we are very close," Agrawal said, referring to the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on February 13.

Delhi to bar entry of non-BS-VI compliant vehicles registered outside city



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 27: All commercial goods vehicles registered outside Delhi that are not BS-VI compliant will be prohibited from entering the national capital from November 1, in line with the CAQM's directions.

The BS-VI compliant vehicles meet stricter emission standards are expected to curtail pollution.

A public notice issued by the transport department said BS-IV commercial goods vehicles will be permitted to enter Delhi only for a limited period, up to October 31, 2026, as a transitional measure.

There will, however, be no restrictions on the

entry of commercial goods vehicles registered in Delhi, BS-VI compliant diesel vehicles, BS-IV compliant diesel vehicles till October 31, 2026, or those running on CNG, LNG, or electricity.

The notice added that restrictions under various stages of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on commercial goods vehicles will continue to apply during the period a particular stage is in force.

In a meeting held on October 17, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) approved a sweeping ban on the entry of polluting commercial vehicles into Delhi from November 1, amid the city's pollution woes.

Over 500 global brands from 40 nations to participate in Didac India 2025

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 27: More than 500 global brands from 40 countries are expected to participate in the 15th edition of the education and skills sector exhibition and conference, Didac India 2025, to be held in the national capital from November 18-20, 2025, organisers said on Monday.

The three-day event, billed as Asia's largest and India's only exhibition and conference for the education and skills sector, will bring together education leaders, policymakers, innovators, global brands and industry pioneers, organiser Messe Stuttgart said in a statement.

Gaurav Sood, CEO & Managing Director, Messe Stuttgart India, said, "Didac India has consistently played a pivotal role in transforming the educational landscape in India. The



15th edition promises to be our most impactful yet, setting new benchmarks for the sector."

Messe Stuttgart is organising the event in partnership with the India Didactics Association (IDA).

The edition will witness the launch of the co-located event DIDAC Skills, Asia's first-ever exhibition and conference dedicated to future skills, workforce readiness and vocational excellence, according to the statement. The co-located events will be held from 18-20 November 2025, at Yashobhoomi (India International

Convention & Expo Centre), Delhi.

It stated that with over 500 global brands, 40,000-plus education stakeholders and participation from more than 40 countries, Didac India 2025 and DIDAC Skills will be the largest gathering of education and skills leaders witnessed in Asia, it added.

Aditya Gupta, CEO, India Didactics Association, said, "The launch of DIDAC Skills elevates our vision, creating Asia's largest and most integrated platform where education and employability converge to showcase the Future of Learning and Work."

Doctor warns: These medications, including one for high BP, can drop sodium levels, make you feel weak

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Oct 27: When people think of sodium, they usually think of salt, and the advice to "cut down on it." While too much sodium can raise your blood pressure and harm your heart, too little can also be risky. Your body actually needs a small amount of sodium to function properly. It helps balance fluids, supports nerve function, and keeps your muscles, including your heart, working the way they should.

When sodium levels drop too low, a condition called hyponatremia can occur. This can happen if you drink too much water without enough

electrolytes, sweat excessively during workouts, or have certain health conditions that affect how your body handles sodium. Common symptoms include headaches, nausea, confusion, muscle cramps, and fatigue. In more serious cases, it can even lead to seizures or coma — especially if sodium levels fall suddenly.

5 Simple ways to bring down high BP

Older adults, athletes, and people taking certain medications (like diuretics for high blood pressure) are more likely to experience low sodium. It's also common in people who are ill and can't keep food or fluids down.

The key is balance. Cutting down on processed

foods is great since they're often loaded with sodium, but your body still needs some salt, especially if you're active or sweating a lot.

Eating a balanced diet with natural sources of sodium, like eggs, dairy, and lean meats, helps maintain healthy levels.

Another important risk factor for low sodium is medication. Recently, Dr Sudhir Kumar, popularly known as hyderabaddoctor, has shared about medications.

Thiazide Diuretics (e.g., Hydrochlorothiazide, Indapamide)

Commonly used for high blood pressure.

They increase sodium loss through urine,



especially in elderly patients, leading to fatigue, confusion, or even seizures if sodium drops too low. SSRIs (e.g., Sertraline, Escitalopram)

Used for depression and anxiety.

These can increase the release of ADH (anti-diuretic hormone), causing water retention and dilution of sodium; more likely in older adults or those on other diuretics.

Carbamazepine or Oxcarbazepine

An anti-seizure and mood-stabilizing drug. It enhances ADH action, leading to SIADH (Syndrome of Inappropriate Antidiuretic Hormone secretion), a classic cause of chronic hyponatremia.

"Tip: If you're on these medicines and feel unusually tired, dizzy, or confused—get your blood sodium checked," Dr Kumar warns.

US has reached a 'substantial framework' with China to avert tariffs: US Treasury Secretary

IAS

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 27: US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has said that he believes the US has reached a framework agreement with China to avoid imposing an additional 100 per cent tariff on Chinese imports.

"I think we've reached a substantial framework for the two leaders who will meet next Thursday... that tariffs will be averted," Bessent said on Sunday to ABC News from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where President Donald Trump arrived on Saturday for a weeklong Asia diplomacy tour. Trump is expected to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in South Korea later this week.

Earlier, Chinese International Trade Representative Li Chenggang said the US and China had reached "preliminary consensus" on trade issues during discussions in Malaysia, according to Chinese media.

Bessent did not provide details about the framework but said on NBC News that he anticipates the US would get "some kind of deferral" on rare-earth export controls. The minerals have been



central to trade tensions between the top global economies.

Bessent said the framework sets up Trump and Xi "to have a very productive meeting," adding, "I think it will be fantastic for US citizens, for US farmers, and for our country in general."

Bessent indicated that an escalation in tariffs on China is "effectively off the table" following what he described as "very good" trade talks with his Chinese counterparts. President

Trump had threatened an additional 100 per cent tariff on China from November 1 over Beijing's efforts to impose export controls on critical rare earths, ratcheting up tensions between the US and China.

Asked about the status of those tariffs, Bessent told CBS News on Sunday that tariff threat has "gone away" after two days of talks in Malaysia.

"We had a very good two-day meeting. I would believe that the

— so it would be an extra 100 per cent from where we are now, and I believe that that is effectively off the table."

He added, "I would expect that the threat of the 100 per cent has gone away, as has the threat of the immediate imposition of the Chinese initiating a worldwide export control regime."

US and Chinese trade negotiators reached a "basic consensus" on how to address their "respective concerns," Chinese state media said on Sunday, following talks between the two sides over the weekend in Kuala Lumpur.

A delegation led by Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met with US officials including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jameson Greer for the talks, which come days ahead of a highly anticipated meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump.

The two leaders are expected to meet on the sidelines of the APEC summit in South Korea, though Beijing, unlike Washington, has yet to confirm the meeting. Earlier on Sunday, Bessent said the two sides had "set

the stage for the leaders' meeting" with a "very successful framework for the leaders to discuss." "The two sides engaged in candid, in-depth, and constructive exchanges and consultations on major economic and trade issues of mutual concern," the Chinese state media readout said.

It listed out those issues as including US penalties on China's maritime logistics and shipbuilding industry, reciprocal tariffs, fentanyl tariffs, agricultural trade, and export controls — a sweeping set of frictions that have set the world's two largest economies at loggerheads.

"Two sides reached a basic consensus on arrangements to address each other's concerns. Both sides agreed to further finalise the specific details and fulfil their respective domestic approval processes," the readout said. Trade and tech tensions between the world's two biggest economies have heightened in recent weeks after the US expanded its export blacklist, hitting China's access to American high-tech, while China ramped up its own export controls on rare earth minerals.

Hopeful of QUAD meeting early next year: Australian PM



PTI

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 27: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese hoped that the QUAD alliance will meet in the first quarter of next year, describing the four-nation bloc as an "important forum".

India was set to host the leaders of Australia, the US and Japan for a summit this year, but that now appears unlikely amid political upheavals in Japan and some strain in India-US ties.

Speaking during a press conference on Sunday on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit here, Albanese said, "The Quad is an important forum and an important vehicle for us to engage Australia, the United States, Japan and India."

"I'm hopeful that there will be a meeting in the first quarter, I would hope, of next year," he said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to host the Quad meeting. Responding to a question about the QUAD's

future and its meeting this year, the Australian prime minister said it was a "busy summit season", with US President Donald Trump having a "busy period".

Trump is on a three-nation Asia visit. He was in Malaysia for the ASEAN summit, from where he left for Japan. From there, he will travel to South Korea, where he is set to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

Earlier in August, media reports claimed that Trump "no longer has plans" to visit India this year for the Quad summit, detailing how relations between the American leader and Prime Minister Modi "unravelling".

The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, including a 25 per cent levy for New Delhi's procurement of Russian oil.

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

UN chief calls for end to 'deplorable' violence in Myanmar

REUTERS

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 27: Myanmar's military rulers must put an end to the "deplorable" violence inflicted on the population since 2021 and find a "credible path" back to civilian government, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday.

Speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur, Guterres said the military takeover had not only "piled calamity upon calamity" on Myanmar but also threatened regional stability.

"I reiterate my call for an immediate end to the violence, a genuine commitment to inclusive dialogue and a credible path back to civilian rule," he said.

Since the 2021 coup against the democratically elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar has been locked in turmoil, with an armed rebellion seizing control of large swathes of territory.

The military government says it intends to return



Myanmar to democratic rule via a general election at the end of this year, even as the civil war rages, but the credibility of the vote has been questioned and the junta's critics expect it to stay in power through proxies.

Opposition parties have been dissolved for failing to register, rebel groups and a shadow government have refused to join the political fold and junta chief Min Aung Hlaing has admitted that a vote cannot be held nationwide. "The way forward must lead to a restoration of democratic institutions anchored in the rule of law and human rights," Guterres said. Asked about the election, he said: "I don't think anybody believes that those elections will be free and fair."

Suryas batting form doesn't concern me: Gambhir backs T20I captain

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 27: India's head coach Gautam Gambhir is not perturbed by T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav's poor form as "failures are inevitable" when the team is focussed on playing an ultra-aggressive brand of cricket.

While India won the Asia Cup tournament last month in the UAE under his captaincy, Suryakumar's own form with the bat left a lot to be desired as he managed just 72 runs in seven innings.

However, he has now found backing from the team's head coach.

"Honestly, Surya's batting form doesn't concern me because we have committed to an ultra-aggressive template in our dressing room. When you embrace this philosophy, failures are inevitable," Gambhir said during a discussion on JioHotstar.

"It would be easy for Surya to score 40 runs



off 30 balls and avoid criticism, but we have collectively decided that it's acceptable to fail while pursuing this approach," he added.

Even as Surya was struggling with the willow, the likes of Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma lit up the tournament with their explosive batting.

Gambhir said the focus is not on individuals but on the team as a whole. "Currently, Abhishek Sharma is in good form and has maintained it throughout the Asia Cup. When Surya finds his rhythm, he will shoulder the responsibility accordingly."

"In T20 cricket, our focus isn't on individual

essence, it's about freedom and expression. Your off-field personality reflects on the field and in the dressing room, and Surya has maintained this atmosphere brilliantly over the past 1.5 years," Gambhir said.

"From our first conversation, we agreed: we will not fear losing. I don't aim to be the most successful coach; I want us to be the most fearless team," the head coach said.

Gambhir admitted that his players are bound to make mistakes as they seek to become a fearless outfit.

"In big games like the Asia Cup final, I told the players it's okay to drop a catch, play a bad shot, or bowl a poor delivery. Human beings make mistakes. Only the opinions of those in the dressing room matter."

"Surya and I consistently agree: we will never fear mistakes. The bigger the game, the more fearless and aggressive we must be.

Afghan women return to int'l stage in FIFA tournament



REUTERS

London, Oct 27: An Afghan women's refugee team lost 6-1 to Chad in a FIFA-organised tournament in Morocco on Sunday. But for the players the match itself represented a victory after being denied the chance to play the sport they love back home.

Women's sport has been banned in Afghanistan since the Taliban government took over in 2021, prompting players to flee the country fearing persecution.

Prior to the Taliban's takeover, Afghanistan had 25 women players under contract, most of whom now live in Australia.

The women's national team last played an international match in 2021, losing 5-0 to

Qatar, but in May world football's governing body approved the creation of an Afghan women's refugee team, with Pauline Hamill named as coach.

The team chose "Afghan Women United" as its official name following consultations with FIFA ahead of its loss to Chad, its first match of the four-team FIFA Unites: Women's Series tournament, which also features Tunisia and Libya.

"That's all we wanted all these years after trying so hard to get what we truly deserve as a woman. Our right to play and to represent our country," captain Fatima Haidari said in the lead-up to the match.

"We are profoundly grateful that FIFA gave us this opportunity and this privilege to represent

what women are capable of."

Afghan Women United opened the scoring through Melbourne-based striker Manozh Noori's penalty on Sunday, sparking wild celebrations among her team mates and on the sidelines.

But Chad, which played its first match in 2019 and competed in qualifying for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics, recovered quickly and went on to record the comfortable win in Berrechid, 40km from Casablanca.

Afghan Women United's next game is against Tunisia on Wednesday before it takes on Libya on Saturday.

The tournament was scheduled to be held in the United Arab Emirates but was moved to Morocco last week.

INOX CINEMA
SHIVPORA SRINAGAR

Movies Schedule
Tuesday, 28th October

<p>JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+) HINDI - 12:00 PM</p>	<p>THAMMA (UA16+) HINDI - 11:00 AM, 02:10 PM, 06:00 PM</p>
<p>KANTARA A LEGEND: CHAPTER 1 (UA16+) HINDI - 05:30 PM</p>	<p>EK DEEWANA KI DEEWANIYAT (A) HINDI - 11:30 AM, 02:40 PM, 05:30 PM, 06:40 PM</p>

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