

## Govt will not support any legislation benefitting land mafia: CM Omar

» Expresses hope for early snowfall to boost tourism » Invites people to Kashmir Marathon 2.0 » Says registration double compared to last year

Rehan Qayoom Mir/  
Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar/Ganderbal, Oct 28: Expressing hope for the early snowfall this year, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the government is putting efforts to promote the tourism sector in the region. He asserted that the government will not support any legislation that benefits the land mafia or those occupying land illegally.

Speaking to the media here about the second edition of the Kashmir Marathon, the Chief Minister said the event is set to be held on November 2, 2025, despite the chilly weather conditions. "So far, the registration has doubled compared to last year. Still, enough time is left; anyone who wants to



Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

participate in the event should book their tickets and join us in the event on Sunday," he said, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Omar said that Kashmir is the ideal destination for such an event, describing the Valley as the most beautiful and ideal

destination for the marathon.

The temperature will be challenging, he said, adding that the marathon is an evolving event, now entering its second edition. Such events, he said, promote tourism and help increase footfall in the Valley.

"These events have their own

significance. We are trying to promote tourism through this event and other events. Our efforts are on to give a boost to the tourism sector," he said, adding that amid the promotion, there is a need to improve the infrastructure as well.

The CM expressed hope for timely snowfall to boost winter tourism. He said the tourists are visiting Kashmir, though footfall is currently low, but added they are hopeful for an increase.

Earlier, speaking to the media in Ganderbal, the Chief Minister reacted to the decision to reject the land bill, saying the government will not support any legislation that benefits the land mafia or those occupying land illegally.

"I will not harm the people of Jammu and | More on P6

## Capital spending slows in J&K

» UT's liabilities pegged at Rs 6,500 cr  
» Own rev gen reaches Rs 10,984 cr in first two quarters

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday revealed that capital expenditure in the first two quarters of the ongoing financial year was lower compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

In a written reply to a question submitted by MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, as per news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Minister in-charge of Finance informed that capital expenditure during the first two quarters of 2025-26 stood at Rs 2574 crore, as against Rs 4,156 crore during the same



period in 2024-25.

As per the quarter-wise break-up, capital expenditure in the first quarter of 2025-26 was only Rs 280.73 crore and Rs 2,293 crore in the second quarter.

In 2024-25, capital expenditure stood at Rs 2,234 crore in the first quarter and Rs 1,922 crore in the second quarter.

The Minister, however, stated that capital expenditure was higher in the previous financial year due to the clearance of undischarged liabilities amounting to Rs

1,300 crore on account of works and procurements at the end of 2023-24.

"Capital expenditure in the first quarter of 2024-25 was on the higher side as the government cleared all such undischarged liabilities of 2023-24," the minister said.

The Minister informed that total liability of UT as on date is Rs 6500.65 crore which pertains to GP fund gratuity and other financial liabilities.

The Minister said the total own revenue generation up to the second | More on P6

## Assembly disallows two private member bills, 6 others withdrawn

Heated exchange of arguments between CM & Para  
KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday disallowed the introduction of two private member bills- one brought by PDP's Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra and another by BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia - while six other members withdrew their bills at the insistence of the government.

During the proceedings, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Chief Minister Omar Abdullah opposed the introduction of "The Jammu and Kashmir (Regularization and Recognition of Property Rights

of Residents in Public Lands) Bill, 2025," arguing that the government cannot legitimize illegality.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, stated that the government cannot grant ownership rights to individuals who are in illegal possession of land and have constructed houses on it.

"How is it possible to legalize state land for those who have illegally occupied it and built houses on it? How can such an act be justified? Nowhere is it stated in the bill that if someone has already occupied state land and constructed a house, it should be legalized. This bill seems to convey that one can simply occupy land, build a house, and get it registered in their name," Omar said.

He reiterated | More on P6

## Works under flood management Phase-II on Jhelum nearing completion: Govt

'73 old dewatering stations upgraded in Sgr'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday announced that works under Flood Management Phase-II along the Jhelum River in Srinagar are nearing completion, and the old dewatering stations have been upgraded.

Responding to a question by MLA Ali Mohammad Sagar, Jal Shakti Minister, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stated in a written reply that the flood mitigation works envisaged under Flood Management Phase-II in Srinagar have been initiated since 2023-24. These primarily include bank protection and reinforcement measures along the Jhelum River



at various vulnerable locations within the district.

The minister said, "The works under Flood Management Phase-II in the Srinagar stretch involve embankment and reinforcement,

with a total cost of Rs. 14.79 crore. These works are in the advanced stages of execution, with approximately 85% physical progress, and are nearing completion."

Regarding the financial progress for the current fiscal year, he said, "An amount of Rs. 711.49 lakh has been released under the SNA limit for the Comprehensive Flood Management Plan works on the Jhelum River and its tributaries Phase-II. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 493.79 lakh has been incurred."

The minister further informed that the Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) has reported significant flood mitigation efforts by the Srinagar Municipal | More on P6

## Govt lists Rs 160 cr flood-protection works in Kashmir

Says multiple Jhelum embankments strengthened

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that a series of flood-protection and anti-erosion measures are underway across the valley, particularly along the River Jhelum and its tributaries, with projects worth more than rupees 160 crore presently under execution under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP-II).

The information came in a written reply to Starred Assembly Question, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (MLA), who sought details of the government's plan to safeguard flood-prone areas such as Batwara,

Shivpora, Rajbagh, Basant Bagh, Sonwar, Kursoo Rajbagh and adjoining localities along the Jhelum.

In its response, the Jal Shakti Department, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the areas, including Lasjan, Ganderbal, Soitang, Wanihama, Padshahi Bagh, Kursoo Rajbagh, Shivpora, Sonwar, Batwara, Rajbagh and nearby belts are vulnerable to inundation during high discharge because of their low-lying topography.

The reply said several protective works have been executed through the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department in coordination with district administrations.

The works costing rupees 12.30 crore have been executed along the left and right banks of River Jhelum, | More on P6

## CM Abdullah unveils Kashmir Marathon merchandise

Invites runners, fitness enthusiasts to join on Nov 2

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday unveiled the official merchandise of Kashmir Marathon-2025 at the Royal Springs Golf Course. The merchandise - cap, medal, and racing kit specially designed for the participants of the event was displayed at a brief function with media and officers of tourism department present.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister extended an open invitation to all fitness enthusiasts to test their endurance and participate in the 2nd edition of the Kashmir Marathon-2025, scheduled to



be held on November 2.

Speaking after the launch, the Chief Minister said that an encouraging number of registrations have already been received for the event, including

a significant increase in foreign athlete participation, particularly for the full marathon category.

Highlighting Kashmir's unique appeal | More on P6

## Over 3.61 lakh educated unemployed youth registered in J&K

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that a total of 3,61,146 educated unemployed youth are registered across the Union Territory as of September 2025.

It says, with the Kashmir Division accounting for over 2.08 lakh and Jammu Division for over 1.52 lakh registrations.

According to official data placed before the House, as accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar district tops the list with 23,826 registered unemployed youth, followed by Anantnag (32,298), Pulwama (28,671), Kathua (26,798), and Kulgam (21,446).

The data says lowest number of registrations | More on P6

## J&K govt data again reveals huge imbalance in category certificates

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday disclosed a significant regional imbalance in the issuance of category certificates used to avail reservation benefits, marking the second such revelation this year.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the official data revealed in response to a question of MLA Pulwama Waheed-ur-Rehman, shows that the majority of certificates across various reserved categories over the past two years were issued in the Jammu region, with Kashmir

receiving a smaller share.

The data presented in the House highlighted that Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes, Economically Weaker Sections, Actual Line of Control, and other category certificates were predominantly issued in Jammu. Only the Residents of Backward Area (RBA) category showed a higher percentage of issuance in Kashmir.

According to data, out of Schedule Caste category certificates issued during the last two years -99.2 percent were issued in Jammu and 0.67 percent in Kashmir.

It revealed | More on P6

## Uproar in Assembly after Speaker rejects motion on disaster losses

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly witnessed uproarious scenes on Tuesday after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather rejected an adjournment motion brought by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta, seeking discussion on the impact of recent natural calamities.

As soon as proceedings began this morning, | More on P6

## Over 3.3 lakh category certificates issued in J&K in 2 years

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said that it has issued 3.3 lakh certificates under various social and economic categories in the last two years.

In a written reply to a question by Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, the government, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the highest number of certificates were | More on P6

## Govt sanctions Rs 795.72 cr plan for scientific waste disposal

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Housing and Urban Development Department has approved an Action Plan worth Rs 795.72 crore for the scientific disposal of solid and liquid waste in urban areas.

The plan, formulated under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), aims to ensure proper waste processing, protect the environment and maintain | More on P6

## J&K spends over Rs 500 cr to boost tourism infrastructure

Record 4 cr tourists visit in two years

Foreign tourist arrivals jump from 19,000 to 47,000

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department has spent more than Rs 500 crore over the past two years on the upgradation of tourism infrastructure and promotional activities, resulting in record tourist arrivals across the Union Territory.

Data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveals, Rs 253.75 crore were allocated in 2023-24 and Rs 268.42 crore in 2024-25 under

the Capex budget for tourism infrastructure.

However, no centrally sponsored scheme was implemented during the period.

The department allocated Rs 50.50 crore for advertisements and publicity, of which Rs 42.74 crore were utilized, the data revealed, in reply to MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah's query states.

Officials said the campaigns led to a major boost in tourist inflow and the emergence of several new destinations.

The government said that over 4 crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir in the past two years, an unprecedented figure considering the region's population of 1.3 crore. Foreign tourist arrivals also | More on P6

## Sainik School Manasbal has produced men of honour, says CM Omar

Reaffirms govt's support to strengthen institution

KT News Desk

Manasbal (Ganderbal), Oct 28: "Sainik School Manasbal has produced men of honour who have gone on to serve the nation with distinction - in the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the civil administration. There must be something truly special about this institution that so many of its alumni hold such prestigious positions," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Tuesday.

He was addressed the



Annual Day Function of Sainik School Manasbal, where he

reaffirmed his government's commitment to strengthening

quality education and infrastructure of the institution.

Extending his greetings to the staff, students, and dignitaries, the Chief Minister said it was a pleasure to revisit the school after a long time, recalling fond memories associated with it. He praised Sainik School Manasbal for its outstanding contribution to education, discipline, and character building, acknowledging it as one of the leading educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting | More on P6



## New fleet of buses arriving, border districts to be prioritised: Satish

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma Tuesday said that a new fleet of Buses is arriving and the government will deploy them as per the needs and requirements of people, besides border areas will be covered adequately.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Ajaz Ahmad Jan on SRTC Buses in the Legislative Assembly today.

He added that Border districts of Poonch and Rajouri will be prioritised as soon as the deployment of a new fleet of buses is done.

While replying to a question, the Minister informed that JKRTC plies bus services in the Haveli Constituency on the Jammu-Poonch and vice versa route continuously, adding that due to cross border shelling, the said service was discontinued for one week and the same service was restored immediately after one week.

He further informed that JKRTC provided two vehicles for Poonch Haveli constituency on 10.05.2025 for shifting



of affected people to safer zones. He added that JKRTC also plied bus services for shifting of stranded passengers to their home town Districts during the said period on the request of District Administration, Poonch.

The Minister also informed the house that during Operation Sindoor, 58 RTC Buses were deployed in several areas of J&K for shifting the stranded passengers coming back from other neighbouring

States. He informed that in Poonch 2 buses, Mendhar 1 bus, Rajouri 3 buses, Jammu 4 buses, Bishnah 5 buses, Akhnoor/Khour 11 buses, Srinagar 2 buses, Doda 14 buses, Kishtwar 4 buses, Paddar/Nagsani 1 bus and for Bhaderwah 4 buses were deployed during Operation Sindoor for facilitation of public.

Legislators, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Baldev Raj Sharma raised supplementary questions on the subject.

## CS reviews progress on end-to-end digitization of RRs

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of a landmark initiative aimed at digitizing and streamlining the process for framing, amending, and revising Recruitment Rules (RRs) across all government departments of Jammu and Kashmir.

The reform, conceived to enhance efficiency, transparency, and uniformity in the recruitment framework, is set to transform the way service rules are managed and approved. The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) PWD, Anil Kumar Singh, Commissioner Secretary ARI & Trainings, State Information Officer (NIC), and other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary directed that the digital portal underpinning this reform be made fully operational



by 10th November 2025. He stressed the need to integrate modules for conducting Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs), updating seniority lists, and completing all related formalities within the same platform to ensure end-to-end digitization. Anil Kumar Singh, while outlining the core vision of the initiative, informed that the reform revolves around the establishment of a Single Window System, a centralized digital platform serving as the common interface for all Recruitment Rule

proposals.

This unified system will replace the existing multi-tier approval mechanism involving several departments such as GAD, ARI & Trainings, Finance, Law, and the J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC). The move will ensure a standardized, transparent, and time-bound approval process.

It was reiterated that the reform's overarching objective is to replace multiple office channels with a single, unified platform for faster decision-making and accountability. Clearly defined timelines

and end-to-end digital workflows will help eliminate delays, ensuring prompt clearances and enhanced efficiency across departments.

Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili, informed that the adoption of standardized templates, checklists, and vetting parameters will bring uniformity and procedural consistency to all departments. She highlighted that real-time tracking features will enhance transparency and accountability, while automated compliance checks

will ensure strict adherence to government policies and established rules, thereby strengthening administrative governance.

The meeting was further informed that the digital framework of the system will include an integrated online portal and dashboard enabling departments to submit Recruitment Rule proposals through standardized digital forms using secure departmental logins.

The proposals will automatically route through an integrated workflow to stakeholder departments including Finance, Law, ARI & Trainings, and JKPS for seamless coordination and approvals. A centralized digital repository will maintain a comprehensive archive of all approved Recruitment Rules, amendments, and related notifications. The platform will feature real-time status tracking, automated SMS/email alerts, and an escalation matrix to promptly address delays.

## DC Sgr inspects works at Bone & Joint Hospital

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 28: To assess the progress of ongoing infrastructure upgradation works aimed at easing traffic congestion around the Bone and Joint Hospital, Barzulla, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday conducted an onsite inspection of the road expansion and macadamization works being executed along the Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B Tatheer Manzoor, Tehsildar South Sajjad, Medical Superintendent Bone & Joint Hospital Dr. Adil, Executive Engineer KPDC, and other concerned officers. On the occasion, the DC took stock of the ongoing

road upgradation measures along the Bund including macadamization works. He also took stock of the possible traffic decongestion measures in and around the hospital which included proposal of construction of ramps & small Link Road connecting the main road with the Parking facilities through the Bund side, and proper development of a new car parking facility for hospital staff and attendants aimed at decongesting the area and improving connectivity to ensure smooth vehicular movement, particularly for ambulances in and around the hospital.

The DC also took on ground assessment of the plan to develop an alternate entrance to the Hospital along with the development of dedicated tubes for easy movement of the ambulances & Doctors & patient traffic.

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**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL**

**PM SHRI GOVT. HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL RAMNAGRI SHOPIAN**

(UDISE CODE: 01151203801)

Mobile: 7006253229      Email: phss-ramnagri@jk.gov.in

**TENDER NOTICE**

**Sealed tenders are invited from reputed suppliers/authorized dealers for the supply of Chemicals and Specimens for the Science Laboratory of Government Higher Secondary School Ramnagri, Shopian for the academic session 2025-26.**

**A detailed list of items/specifications can be obtained from the school office during working hours on all working days.**

**The tenders, duly sealed and signed should reach the office of the undersigned within the 05 days of prescribed time. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.**

No: HSSR/Estt/25/425

DATED: 28/10/2025

Contact no: 8082786700

DIPK-7579/25  
DATED: 28-10-2025

**Principal Government  
Higher Secondary School Ramnagri, Shopian**

## DC Kulgam reviews progress of JSA Campaign-2025

KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, OCTOBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Tuesday chaired a review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Mini Secretariat to assess the targets achieved under the 'Catch the Rain' Campaign 2025, implemented through the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP).

The meeting reviewed key interventions including the construction of water harvesting tanks, gabion structures, irrigation khuls, plantations, and strengthening of Nallah bunds. The DC directed officials to expedite the pace of execution to ensure timely completion of all ongoing works.

Stressing the importance of inter-departmental coordination, the DC called for effective convergence with MGNREGA, besides active involvement of the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to enhance the overall impact and outreach of the programme.

The DC further instructed all concerned departments to scale up activities under the campaign and ensure that progress is regularly updated on the designated portal to facilitate effective monitoring and transparency.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, the DC emphasized that the 'Catch the Rain' Campaign plays a vital role in water conservation, groundwater recharge, and strengthening irrigation infrastructure, particularly in water-scarce areas of the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning Malik Suheel, ACD Bilal Kamgar, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and Flood Control, and district officers from Agriculture and allied departments.

### Vigilance Awareness Week 2025

## ACB holds awareness session at Bandipora

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 28: As part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 being observed from 27th October to 2nd November on the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility," the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday conducted an awareness session with officers and officials of the Health Department Bandipora at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The event was chaired by Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Dr. Ishfaq Naik, while a team from

key areas such as procurement of equipment, goods and services, observance of General Financial Rules, avoidance of post-facto approvals, and prevention of procurement at exorbitant rates.

Officers were also cautioned against prescription of specific brands for personal gains, unnecessary referrals and surgeries at private institutions, and irregularities in issuance of fitness and disability certificates or falsification of duty rosters.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ishfaq Naik expressed gratitude to the ACB for organ-



izing such a thought-provoking and informative session. He remarked that, "If everybody performs their duty sincerely and with good character, corruption will automatically vanish. Integrity and honesty must become the foundation of our professional conduct."

Among others, the event was attended by Medical Superintendent District Hospital Bandipora, Medical Officers, Para-Medical Staff, Clerical Staff, ASHA Workers, MLHPs from various health institutions across the district and other officials of the Health Department.

**UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Fresh NIT No- 118 of RnB-Sopore of 2025-2026 e-tendering DATED 28.10.2025(3rd call).

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	Cost of Tender Documents In Rupees	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Improvement of Balance portion of works to road along Nallah Pohru at Nowpora Kailan Sopore	7.18	300/-	14360/-	30 days	04.11.2025	DEE/CEE	3054 M&R	CE(R&B) K-NK/TS/157 of 2025-26 dttd: 30.9.2025

Project Authority: Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) North Kashmir  
Position of funds: Available

Position of TS: Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	27.10.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28.10.2025
3	Bid Submission start date	28.10.2025
4	Bid submission End date	03.11.2025 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	04.11.2025(12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

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

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period

3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided

Unbalanced Bid:- In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender receiving authority).

Unbalanced Bid:- In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender receiving authority) vide Principal Secretary to Government Finance department's circular issued under endorsement No: DF-Code/441/2021-02-158 dated" 8.8.2025.

a. Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

b. Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

c. The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

d. The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance security shall be taken only after approval of next higher authority.

The additional performance security shall be released only after successful completion of work.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority.

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

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

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

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, No: 7057-66  
Dated: 28.10.2025.

**DIPK-7566/25**  
**DATED: 28-10-2025**

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Sopore



From LA...

## 4-hour power cuts in high-loss areas: Govt

RIYAZ BHAT

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) Tuesday said that it is imposing curtailment of four hours in those areas having highest technical and commercial losses on local feeders.

The department also said that there were no power outages and unscheduled cuts were imposed in Kashmir valley during the last winter.

PDD Minister in a Legislative Assembly informed the house that "No unscheduled cuts were imposed in Kashmir valley during the last winter despite substantial increase in power demand on account of heating load at a time when the power availability from own generation sources remains limited."

About the power curtailment, PDD informed that that detailed schedules of power curtailment indicating, feeder-wise, the maximum curtailment



daily depending upon the loss level of the feeders were formulated and except for addressing urgent and accidental system requirements, no unscheduled distress curtailment was allowed or undertaken.

"From last winter, the linkage of curtailment to season on the basis of which the excessive curtailment in Jammu during summers and in Kashmir during winters was earlier justified, has been brought to an end," it reads.

It also said that the scheduled curtailment is limited to zero, 2 and 4 hours for essential, below 15 percent loss feeders, 15-40 percent loss feeders, and 40 percent

plus loss feeders, respectively, round the year for both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

"There can be no additional or distress cuts in Kashmir in winter and in Jammu in summer. Any additional distress cuts necessitated by limitations of power availability are to be imposed only in Jammu from October to March, and only in Kashmir from April to September," it reads.

The house was further informed that the department has put an end to the practice of increasing curtailment on account of increase in loss level. In such cases, disciplinary action for failure to bill and

recover the energy charges is taken against the officer in-charge, instead of increasing the curtailment hours.

"This has created the incentive for the officers in-charge of the sub-divisions to ensure that there's no slippage in billing and collection efficiencies. This is reflected in the improvement in the recovery of power dues," reads the reply of the PDD minister.

It also said that the improvement in power supply and reliability has been maintained by the PDD despite the demand during peak winter exceeding the allocation from the Central Generating Stations and J&K's own generation capacity.

"In certain situations, curtailment beyond scheduled hours might be necessitated by urgent and accidental system requirements, but such curtailment is reviewed and monitored by the administrative department on a regular basis to ensure that it is justified by the circumstances,"

## '81% of rural homes have tap water connection'

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that around 81 per cent of rural households across the Union Territory have been provided with tap water connections, while efforts are underway to ensure 100 per cent coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

In a written reply to a question tabled by MLA Sham Lal Sharma, the Jal Shakti Department shared that it has not failed to supply safe drinking water to any area of the UT.

It said that out of 19.26 lakh rural households, 15.63 lakh (81%) have tap water connections within their premises, while the remaining 3.63 lakh households have access to drinking water through Public Stand Posts (PSPs) installed under existing schemes.

To provide safe and adequate drinking water to all households through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), the department said 3,253 schemes were taken up under JJM at an estimated cost of rupees 13,344 crore. Of these, 1,480 schemes have been made functional, and 1,600 have achieved more than 50% physical progress. The remaining schemes are being completed in the extended



phase of JJM, subject to the release of funds by the Government of India and the UT administration.

The reply further mentions that 1,193 additional schemes are ongoing during the current financial year 2025-26, with budget estimates of rupees 946.43 crore under CAPEX/NAB-ARD, augmenting the mission's efforts to provide tap water to uncovered areas.

In addition to the JJM projects, the department maintains a fleet of 208 tankers to meet urgent demands arising from disruptions or shortages, particularly during the summer. The tanker services also act as an interim

arrangement in pockets yet to be saturated under JJM or other UT sector schemes.

As per district-wise data, the reply states that Srinagar and Ganderbal districts have achieved 100% tap water coverage, while Kupwara (27,159 households), Kathua (35,064), Rajouri (44,759), and Doda (26,757) remain among the districts with the highest number of uncovered rural households.

Overall, out of 19,25,734 rural households, 15,63,302 have been connected, leaving a balance of 3,62,432 households to be provided with tap water connections—(KNO)

## Trauma hospitals fully equipped in Jammu: Sakina Itoo

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Oct 28: All trauma hospitals in Jammu division have been fully equipped to handle emergencies as they arise, the government announced on Tuesday.

In response to a question by MLA Arvind Gupta, Health and Medical Education Department Minister Sakeena Itoo said there are four trauma hospitals in Jammu province: Trauma Centre Mahanpur (District Kathua), Trauma Centre Ramban (District Ramban), Trauma Centre Thatri (District Doda), and the newly sanctioned Trauma Centre at Jajjar Kotli (District Jammu), sanctioned via Government Order No. 690-JK(HME) of 2024 dated 11.10.2024.

"These institutions are equipped to handle emergencies as and when they occur," she added.

The facilities available at these trauma centres include a Minor Operation Theatre (OT), General Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) care, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Physiotherapy, X-Ray and Ultrasound diagnostic services, Clinical



Laboratory services, basic lifesaving equipment such as oxygen cylinders and masks, pharmacy and drug dispensing units, and 24x7 ambulance services (102/108).

To strengthen treatment facilities, especially in Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) and associated hospitals, the minister said the government has taken several steps, including the operationalisation of a new casualty block with 262 beds; fully functional 40 ICU beds and emergency ICUs equipped with high-end ventilators, monitors, oxygen supply, suction, and adequate medicines and consumables; deployment of specialised doctors

trained in ICU care from the department of Anaesthesia, available 24x7 in emergency; presence of ENT and Dental Surgery specialists around the clock to address facial trauma; a team of helpers, social workers, and volunteers always available in emergencies; adequate number of trolleys, wheelchairs, and spine boards ready in GMC and associated hospital emergency departments, and all high-end diagnostic facilities such as lab tests, digital X-rays, USG, ECG, CT Scan, etc., operational 24x7.

Additionally, a dedicated 12-bedded trauma ward with ICU facilities has been established and is functional in the Associated

Hospital, GMC Udhampur. Trauma patients are being treated by doctors from the Surgery, Anaesthesia, and Orthopaedics departments, as per their needs.

The government has also taken initiatives to further strengthen trauma care at GMC Kathua and associated hospitals, including the establishment of trauma units, augmentation of manpower, procurement of advanced life-saving equipment, and upgradation of emergency care infrastructure, Itoo said.

Facilities like emergency wards, operation theatres, ICUs, blood banks, ventilators, oxygen supply systems, and ambulance services are available at these hospitals, she said, adding that capacity-building and training programs for emergency and trauma personnel are regularly conducted.

Regarding faculty at GMCs, Minister Itoo clarified that there is no current proposal to increase the retirement age of faculty members to match neighbouring states like Punjab and Delhi, where most GMCs operate with 50% faculty. While there is a slight

staff shortage in government medical colleges, patient referrals outside Jammu & Kashmir are only made in exceptional cases where adequate diagnostic or treatment facilities are unavailable locally, she added.

The minister further said that a policy framework regulating private practice among government doctors is in place. As per Rule 4 of the J&K Government Doctors (Relaxation of Restrictions on Private Practice) Rules, 1998, government doctors are permitted to undertake private practice only beyond official duty hours and if they do not receive Non-Practising Allowance (NPA).

Engaging in private practice during duty hours is a violation of service conduct rules and can lead to disciplinary action, including departmental inquiry and potential suspension of medical registration, where applicable, she said, adding that the department continues to monitor compliance with these regulations through institutional oversight and administrative vigilance—(KNO)

## Govt rules out road widening of several roads



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government has clarified that there is currently no proposal to widen and upgrade key city roads, including Rawalpura-Rangreth, Rambagh-Chadoora, Natipora-Nowgam and the Barzulla-Srinagar International Airport stretches, citing major land and cost constraints.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Mushtaq Guroo, the Public Works (R&B) Department said that widening these roads would require "substantial land and structure acquisition" as they pass through densely built-up urban areas with limited right of way. "The widening proposal will involve significant cost implications, since acquisition of private land with many existing residential and commercial structures would be required," the reply stated. However, the government

informed that a flyover from Barzulla to Humhama has been proposed by the PWD (UT of J&K) as part of 'NH-444 alignment' and the proposal has already been submitted to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) for approval. "Once the alignment gets approved, the DPR for said flyover shall be taken up to decongest the said stretch and ensure hassle-free traffic movement on this vital road from Barzulla to Humhama International Airport," the department said.

The government also said the process of land acquisition for the flyover will begin once the project is sanctioned.

When asked whether any traffic volume study had been conducted on the Rambagh-Natipora and Rawalpura-Rangreth corridors and whether steps were being taken for footpaths or subways to ease pedestrian movement, the department responded: "No, Sir."—(KNO)

## J&K collects Rs 31 Cr as job test fees

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday revealed that Rs 31 crore has been collected as job test fees from students and it has no proposal to abolish it. In a written reply to a question posed by Peoples Conference MLA Sajad Gani Lone, the Minister in-charge of the General Administration Department (GAD)

informed the House that Rs 31,75,32,400 has been collected as application fees by the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission and the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board. The Minister stated that no proposal is currently under consideration to abolish job test fees.

"The application fee charged by recruiting agencies is meant to cover administrative and operational expenses incurred in conducting

examinations. These include costs related to advertisement, processing of applications, printing of examination materials, deployment of manpower, infrastructure, and technological arrangements required to ensure transparency and efficiency in the recruitment process," the Minister said.

He added that the fee structure remains reasonable and is on par with that charged by various government recruiting agencies

across the country.

In a post on X, formerly twitter, Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone slammed the government for breaking its promises. "In its election manifesto, JKNC promised to waive off application fees for recruitment agencies like SSRB, JKPS, and other institutions in J&K. I asked a question to find out whether that election promise had been fulfilled," Lone said.

He added that the Minister in-charge of GAD - who also happens to be the MLA from Ganderbal and the Chief Minister- informed the House that Rs 31 crore had been collected in fees since the government came to power in October last year.

"This Rs 31 crore reflects one of the many broken promises and a trail of lies and deceit," Lone said. "Please, for once, can they admit that they lied - and apologise?"—(KNO)

## Sakina Itoo counts promises fulfilled by Govt

PEERZADA UMMER

Srinagar, Oct 28: Education Minister and senior National Conference (NC) leader Sakina Itoo on Tuesday dismissed allegations that the NC-led government failed to fulfil its poll promises, calling such claims as "propaganda" spread by certain elements. Speaking to reporters at an event at Sainik School, Itoo asserted that the government is working steadily and courageously to meet its commitments. "Those who say this government has done nothing, I want to tell them that since this government was formed just a year ago, we have already fulfilled several promises from our manifesto," she said.

Highlighting the achievements, Itoo said, "We brought a resolution for the education sector, passed the 370 resolution, changed the academic session, increased old age and widow

pensions, and enhanced marriage assistance. All these were promises made to the people and we have delivered on them."

She also clarified that while the issue of the qualification gap was addressed before the elections, its implementation took place afterwards. "When we received complaints about the qualification bar, the Chief Minister removed it. We have also ensured the distribution of 10 kg of ration and provided free bus service for women, as promised in our manifesto," she added. Itoo assured that remaining promises will also be fulfilled within the government's current term. Addressing allegations of departmental discrimination, the Minister explained that previous regimes had derailed the education sector with flawed policies on transfers, appointments, rationalization, and infrastructure. "Ever since this government was formed, we have worked

hard to address these issues, bringing in rationalization, holding DPCs, and resolving promotion matters. We introduced the transfer policy across provinces and districts."

She acknowledged that some complaints were raised regarding the implementation of the transfer policy, prompting the department to form committees to review each case. "That is why the transfer policy could not progress further at that time," she said.

Itoo highlighted that under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, the government regularized hundreds of Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) in the education department. "So far, 860 positions in Jammu and 300 to 400 in Kashmir have been made permanent. Instead of appreciating this, calling it discrimination is completely wrong, and that is why I objected to it," she said—(KNO)

## Govt allocates Rs 49.57 Cr to civic bodies

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Oct 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government has allocated Rs 49.57 crore to ten Municipal Councils across the Kashmir province under the Capex Budget 2025-26. The funds have been distributed under three sectors, including Finance Commission (FC) grants, Urban Development and Drainage.

Details provided by the Housing and Urban Development Department reveal that the Anantnag Municipal Council received the highest allocation of Rs 800.92 lakh, including Rs 645.46 lakh as FC grants and Rs 155.46 lakh for urban development. Followed by Baramulla with Rs 763.37 lakh, comprising Rs 613.50 lakh as FC grants, Rs 28.87 lakh for urban development and Rs 121 lakh for drainage, while Sopore Municipal Council was sanctioned Rs 717.78 lakh, which

includes Rs 557.27 lakh under FC grants, Rs 58.65 lakh for urban development and Rs 101.86 lakh for drainage works.

Similarly, Bandipora Municipal Council received Rs 561.38 lakh, including Rs 520.28 lakh as FC grants and Rs 41.10 lakh for urban development. Kupwara Municipal Council was allocated Rs 372.91 lakh, with Rs 230 lakh under FC grants, Rs 52.91 lakh for development and Rs 90 lakh for drainage. Ganderbal Municipal Council was allocated Rs 365.54 lakh, which includes Rs 327.54 lakh as FC grants and Rs 38 lakh under urban development, while Budgam was sanctioned Rs 333.94 lakh, including Rs 193.94 lakh as FC grants, Rs 50 lakh for development and Rs 90 lakh for drainage.

Moreover, Kulgam Municipal Council was sanctioned Rs 527.24 lakh, including Rs 448.67 lakh under FC grants, Rs 52.57 lakh for urban development and Rs 26 lakh for drainage works.—(KNO)



## Why Skill-Based Education Is Kashmir’s Future

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent emphasis on moving beyond “bookish education” to skill-based learning marks a crucial shift in Jammu and Kashmir’s educational philosophy. In a rapidly evolving global economy, where degrees alone no longer guarantee employment, his advocacy for the “Design Your Degree” initiative represents a timely and transformative vision for the region's youth. For too long, our education system has prioritised theoretical knowledge over practical competence, creating a gap between academic qualifications and market needs. The result has

been a generation of graduates who are educated yet unemployable, holding certificates but lacking the skills demanded by industries. The Chief Minister's candid acknowledgement of this disconnect is both refreshing and necessary. The “Design Your Degree” programme is particularly promising. By allowing students to tailor their education to include vocational training, problem-solving modules, and industry-relevant skills, it empowers them to become architects of their own careers. This approach not only fosters innovation and critical thinking but also aligns education with real-world

challenges, whether in technology, agriculture, tourism, or handicrafts. In a region like Jammu and Kashmir, where unemployment remains a pressing concern, such an educational overhaul is not only beneficial but also essential. By integrating skill development into higher education, we can prepare students not merely to seek jobs but to create them. Entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and specialised trades can become accessible and viable career paths, reducing dependency on government employment and fostering economic self-reliance. Moreover, the flexibility of the four-year degree

programme - allowing students to exit after three years or pursue an honours track - ensures inclusivity and respects diverse aspirations. It recognises that not all learners have the same goals, and that both skilled professionals and academic researchers are vital to societal progress. The government's focus on education that blends theory with practice is a welcome step toward building a resilient, adaptable, and confident generation. It is time to redesign not just degrees, but futures to ensure that Kashmir's youth are not just educated, but empowered.

# Maritime India: From Vision 2030 To Amrit Kaal 2047

Press Information Bureau

Navigating India's Maritime Path

Across the oceans runs the current of India's economic strength. Nearly 95% of the country's trade by volume and around 70% by value still traverses the nation's maritime routes, highlighting the sea as the lifeblood of India's commerce. From crude oil and coal to electronics, textiles, and agricultural products, the vast majority of imports and exports flow through bustling ports, connecting India to markets around the world. With globalisation deepening supply chain interdependence and India emerging as a major manufacturing and energy hub, the efficiency of ports and shipping directly influences national competitiveness.

In a bold move to position itself as a global maritime powerhouse, India has set sail with the Maritime India Vision 2030 (MIV 2030), a transformative roadmap launched in 2021. With over 150 strategic initiatives, the vision seeks to modernise ports, expand shipping capacity, and strengthen inland waterways, while embedding sustainability and skill development at its core. More than a blueprint for cargo movement, MIV 2030 is a catalyst for trade, investment, and employment, charting India's course toward economic growth and global competitiveness.

### Central Themes of MIV 2030

The Maritime India Vision 2030 identifies ten pivotal themes that will shape India's journey toward becoming a global maritime powerhouse, positioning the nation at the forefront of the international landscape.

### India Maritime Week 2025: The Maritime Ambition in Motion

India Maritime Week 2025 (IMW 2025) is a landmark event in the global maritime calendar, taking place from 27th to 31st October 2025 at the NESCO Exhibition Centre, Mumbai. Bringing together key stakeholders from the shipping, port, and logistics communities, IMW 2025 will serve as a strategic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and business development. The event is expecting participation from over 100 countries and drawing more than 100,000 delegates, port operators, investors, innovators, and policymakers alike. The five-day programme will feature 500 exhibitors, thematic pavilions, technology demonstrations, and sessions spanning port-led development, shipbuilding clusters, and digital corridors.

### Charting a Decade of Maritime Transformation: 2014 to 2025

Charting a new course for economic growth, India's maritime sector is cruising ahead with record performance across ports, coastal shipping, and inland waterways. The sector's progress underscores its critical role in strengthening the nation.

### India's Ports Set New Benchmarks

India's ports sector has witnessed a transformative leap, with total port capacity nearly doubling from 1,400 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 2,762 MMTPA, reflecting major investments in modernisation and infrastructure.

Cargo handling volumes have grown impressively from 972 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) to 1,594 MMT, signaling robust growth in maritime trade and port efficiency with major ports handling approximately 855 million tonnes of cargo



in FY 2024-2025, an increase from 819 million tonnes in FY 2023-24.

Operational performance has improved significantly, as the average vessel turnaround time has been reduced from 93 hours to just 48 hours, enhancing overall productivity and global competitiveness.

The sector's financial strength has surged, with the net annual surplus rising sharply from 1,026 crore to 9,352 crore, underscoring improved revenue generation and cost management.

Efficiency indicators have also strengthened, with the operating ratio improving from 73% to 43%, marking a major step toward sustainable and profitable port operations.

### Indian Shipping Expands Fleet, Capacity, and Workforce

India's shipping sector has charted steady growth, with the number of Indian-flagged vessels rising from 1,205 to 1,549, reflecting the nation's expanding maritime presence.

The gross tonnage of the Indian fleet has increased from 10 million gross tonnes (MGT) to 13.52 MGT, underscoring a stronger and more capable shipping capacity.

Coastal shipping has gained significant momentum, with cargo movement nearly doubling from 87 million metric tonnes (MMT) to 165 MMT, reinforcing the shift toward efficient, low-cost, and eco-friendly transport modes.

### India's Inland Waterways Surge Ahead

In a landmark development for inland water transport sector, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (Iwai) reported a record cargo movement of 146 MMT in 2025, up from 18 MMT in 2014, an increase of around 710 percent.

The number of operational waterways has increased remarkably from 3 to 29, reflecting a major boost to India's inland transport network.

Iwai handed over the Haldia Multimodal Terminal (MMT) to IRC Natural

Resources, marking a major step in advancing inland waterway infrastructure and promoting multimodal logistics under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Built with World Bank's assistance, the West Bengal terminal has a capacity of 3.08 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).

Ferry and Ro-Pax (a ship that carries both vehicles and passengers) have also gained strong traction, carrying over 7.5 crore passengers in 2024-25, reflecting growing public adoption of water-based transport for safe and efficient travel.

In just a decade, India's seafarer workforce has surged from 1.25 lakh to over 3 lakh, now accounting for 12% of the global seafaring workforce, making the country one of the world's top three suppliers of trained seafarers and opening up vast opportunities in navigation, ship operations, logistics, and allied maritime industries at home and overseas.

### Financing the Waves: Support & Innovation

The MIV 2030 projects a total investment of INR 3-3.5 lakh crore across ports, shipping, and inland waterways. Backed by a recent landmark package of 69,725 crore to boost shipbuilding and revitalise the maritime ecosystem, India is charting a strategic course to leverage its vast coastline to anchor itself firmly on the global maritime map. The targeted allocations and strategic initiatives align seamlessly with the overall vision, translating its projected investments into actionable measures.

With a 25,000 crore corpus, the Maritime Development Fund (MDF) is set to provide long-term financing to expand India's shipping tonnage and shipbuilding capacity. Complementing this, the revamped Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) with an outlay of 24,736 crore, tackles domestic cost disadvantages and incentivises ship-breaking, while the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) drives greenfield clusters, yard expansions,

and risk coverage with 19,989 crores outlay. Adding to this, the 305 crore Indian Ship Technology Centre (ISTC) in Visakhapatnam will emerge as a national hub for ship design, R&D, engineering, and skill development.

Over 1,000 crore has been invested in the development of Inland Waterway Infrastructure across Northeast India, marking a significant push to enhance transportation and trade through the country's river networks. Of this investment, projects valued at around 300 crore have already been completed, and the remainder approaching completion, providing a boost to connectivity and regional commerce. The region is also set for a major tourism upgrade, with two luxury cruise ships currently being built at the Hooghly Cochin Shipyard in Howrah, Kolkata, at a combined investment of 250 crore. Slated for launch in 2027, the vessels will ply the Brahmaputra River, promising to transform Assam's river tourism landscape under the government's Cruise Bharat Mission.

Sagarmala Programme, a flagship initiative to transform India into a global maritime hub is a core pillar of the Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. The programme focuses on cutting logistics costs, enhancing trade efficiency, and creating employment through smarter, greener transport networks. Under its sphere, 840 projects worth 5.8 lakh crore are being implemented by 2035, with 272 projects worth 1.41 lakh crore completed and 217 projects worth 1.65 lakh crore in progress.

### Sailing into the Future

India's maritime sector is entering a decisive decade, with new laws, mega projects, and global investment ambitions shaping the Maritime India Vision 2030. With a strong focus on green technologies and digital innovation, India is preparing to not only meet its trade demands but also emerge as a maritime leader. Building onto this foundation is

the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, a long-term roadmap for India's maritime resurgence, with investments of nearly 80 lakh crore earmarked for ports, coastal shipping, inland waterways, shipbuilding, and green shipping initiatives. The government is driving sustainable maritime operations by setting up green corridors, introducing green hydrogen bunkering at major ports, and promoting the use of methanol-fueled vessels. Outlining more than 300 actionable initiatives it projects India's rise as one of the world's top maritime and shipbuilding powers by the centenary of independence.

The momentum of this vision has been carried forward through landmark initiatives that are reshaping India's maritime landscape. A historic milestone in this journey was achieved in September 2025 during the “Samudra Se Samridhi – Transforming India's Maritime Sector” event where 27 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged, unlocking investment potential of over 66,000 crore and paving the way for more than 1.5 lakh jobs. The agreements spanned port infrastructure, shipping, shipbuilding, sustainable mobility, finance, and heritage, reflecting India's integrated vision for becoming a global maritime and shipbuilding hub.

Notable projects included Greenfield Port at Bahuda in Odisha with 150 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity at an expected investment of around 21,500 crore, Water Metro Project in Patna using electric ferries valued at around 908 crore, and a strategic Vessel Owning Joint Venture Company between Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to reduce foreign fleet dependence and boost Indian-built ships. Alongside this, shipbuilding MoUs across five states, major shipyard investments, financing tie-ups, and a 266 crore lighthouse museum at the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat further reinforce India's vision to rank among the world's top shipbuilding nations by 2047.

Under the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA), eight significant maritime development projects have been launched recently, including construction of a dedicated cruise gate for international tourists, establishment of a 150-bed multi-speciality hospital under PPP mode with an investment of 107 crore, among others to enhance user experience and operational capacity. These developments exemplify the commitment to creating a future-ready maritime ecosystem that fosters trade, tourism, and economic resilience.

### From Vision to Voyage

India is turning its vast coastline into a canvas of possibilities. With Maritime India Vision 2030, the nation is not just building ports, it's building futures, empowering millions with jobs, skills, and sustainable growth. This is India's moment to rise as a global maritime leader, proving that vision, strategy, and determination can turn waves into pathways of prosperity. In shipping lanes that carry the world's oil and cargo, India is determined to secure its place not as a passenger, but as a navigator of the future. The Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 extends this journey further. From green ports and sustainable shipping to smart logistics and cultural heritage projects, India is aligning economic growth with environmental responsibility and global leadership. As the world looks to resilient supply chains and clean energy transitions, India's maritime sector is poised not just to serve national interests, but to shape the very currents of global trade in the decades to come.



# Drug de-addiction centres functional in J&K: Sakeena

## ‘Directed for fee regulation at rehabilitation centres’

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday said that all Drug De-addiction centres are fully functional in J&K and directed for fee regulation at all centres for affordable rehabilitation of victims.

The Minister made these remarks while replying to a question of Legislator, Surjeet Singh Salathia on Drug Addiction, in Legislative Assembly today.

She highlighted that the Health and Education departments along-with law enforcement agencies are playing an active role to fight the menace of drug abuse in society. She added that strict instructions have been issued to head of all educational institutions (colleges and schools) to install CCTVs in and around their campuses to check any kind of irregular activities.

The Minister also lauded the role of NGOs in dealing with this alarming situation across J&K, adding that their support



is must for combating this social evil.

While giving reply to the question, the Minister said

that 166 drug abuse cases have been reported in district Samba from the date of establishment of de-addiction centre at District Hospital Samba, with 114 Alcoholic and 62 Heroin & Cannabis affected, while as six patients have recovered till date. She added that the Government is taking concrete steps to curb this menace in the UT of J&K in general and Samba district in particular, like awareness Lectures and Educational Activities, Establishment of De-addiction Centre, Outreach Programs in Educational Institutions and Communities, Panchayat-Level Awareness Activities, Door-to-Door Survey and Identification as well as Camps in Hotspot Areas where a roster has been constituted for the organization of awareness and treatment camps in hotspot and other vulnerable areas. She added that these camps are led by psychiatrists and counsellors to provide both preventive education and initial treatment support.

The Minister also informed that Addiction Treatment Facility has been fully

established at District Hospital, Samba since February 2024 sponsored by NDDTC (AIIMS New Delhi) under MOSIE, presently working on OPD basis with services like OPD by Psychiatrist, Counselling Services and Substance Substitute therapy.

While commenting on the subject, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather advised the Minister to take suggestions from a scientific document prepared by political representatives of a party, as it outlines effective and detailed measures for combating this social evil.

The Minister informed the house that Government has already started working on this report, besides the topics related to Drug Addiction have already been made part of the curriculum.

Legislators, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi; Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani; Muzaffar Iqbal Khan; Pawan Gupta; Tanvir Ali Sadiq; Narinder Singh; Dr. Rameshwar Singh; Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri; Balwant Singh Mankotia, raised supplementary questions on the subject.

# Legislators withdraw their Bills following assurances by Govt

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Several legislators Tuesday withdrew their Private Members' Bills after assurances by the government that their concerns and suggestions would be duly considered and incorporated into future government policies.

The legislators who

withdrew their bills include Tanvir Sadiq, M Y Tarigami, Mir Saifullah, Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Altaf Ahmad Wani and Mubarik Gul.

Legislators Waheed Ur Rehman Para and Balwant Singh Mankotia pressed their Private Members Bills for introduction, however following the voice vote, the House didn't grant leave for introduction.

# Orientation programme held at GDC Budgam

## DC Budgam inspires students to pursue excellence with focus, discipline



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 28: The Institution Innovation Cell (IIC) and Career Counselling & Guidance Cell of Government Sheikh-ul-Alam Memorial Degree College, Budgam, in association with Exceptional IAS academy and in collaboration with district administration Budgam Tuesday organized an Orientation and Career Counselling Programme on Civil Services Examination.

The programme aimed to create awareness and provide guidance to students and faculty members from the host and allied colleges regarding various aspects of Civil Services preparation and opportunities.

The event commenced with the launch of the college magazine "Rooh" by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, along with Principal of the College, Dr. Amin Malik.

The highlight of the event was an inspirational address by DC Budgam, who shared valuable insights from his own experience in successfully clearing multiple competitive examinations including JKAS, IFS, and IAS.

The DC emphasised that focus, discipline, and self-motivation are the cornerstones of success in Civil Services. He advised aspirants to strengthen their fundamentals, stay consistent, and approach preparation with a clear strategy.

He also encouraged students to cultivate a habit of reading newspapers, staying informed about current affairs, and maintaining ethical integrity as future administrators.

"Success in competitive examinations is not about short-cuts but about sustained effort, clarity of purpose, and belief in

oneself," DC budgam remarked.

He further inspired students by highlighting how perseverance, sincerity, and time management can turn aspirations into achievements.

Principal Sheikh-ul-alam degree collage budgam, Dr. Amin Malik underscored that students' growing enthusiasm toward civil services marks a transition from personal development to nation-building. Drawing on Maslow's hierarchy of needs, he stated that a civil servant not only achieves self-fulfillment but also contributes meaningfully to societal progress.

Prof. Rukhsana Jabeen of Degree collage budgam in her welcome address shared motivational insights on achieving success, urging students to cultivate a clear vision and structured plan of action. She highlighted the importance of persistence, goal-setting, and self-belief in achieving excellence.

Later, the DC interacted extensively with the students, responding to their queries on exam preparation strategies, effective time management, and balancing academics with competitive exam study. His practical suggestions and personal anecdotes deeply motivated the participants.

Following the inaugural session, technical sessions were conducted by experts and recent qualifiers of UPSC and JKPCS Combined Competitive Examinations, who shared their preparation journeys, study techniques, and insights into the evolving patterns of competitive exams.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion, where students expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for the initiative, terming it both informative and inspiring.

# Chrysanthemum Garden at NMBG proud initiative of Floriculture Deptt



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: The Department of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Jammu & Kashmir, clarifies that the newly developed and inaugurated Chrysanthemum Garden at the Nehru Memorial Botanical Garden (NMBG), Srinagar has been entirely conceived, developed, and executed by this Department.

The department stated that some reports and social media posts suggesting collaboration with any other agency in the creation of the Chrysanthemum Garden are factually incorrect and misleading and no institutional collaboration, MoU, or joint execution has been undertaken with any agency for its development.

The Department's officers, its own technical team and field staff have carried out entire planning, design, plantation and landscaping work under its regular

development programme.

While the Department acknowledged and appreciated the contributions of other institutions or agencies towards the development of region's floriculture sector, it emphasized that due credit be given to the actual executing agency of Chrysanthemum Garden, the Department of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks for its vision and efforts in coming up with another great addition to floral landscape of Kashmir after Tulip Garden.

The Chrysanthemum Garden at NMBG stands as a proud initiative only of the Department of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, J&K and is aimed at enhancing public spaces and promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir during autumn season.

The Department reaffirmed its commitment to continue developing more such unique floral attractions under its own exclusive initiatives.

# Rs 1632 Cr Master Plan in pipeline for river Jhelum flood mitigation: Rana

## Says nearly Rs 15 Cr flood protection works undertaken in Sgr

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 28: Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmed Rana Tuesday said that the government has Rs 1632 Crore Master Plan is in the pipeline for river Jhelum flood mitigation.

The Minister informed this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad in the Legislative Assembly today.

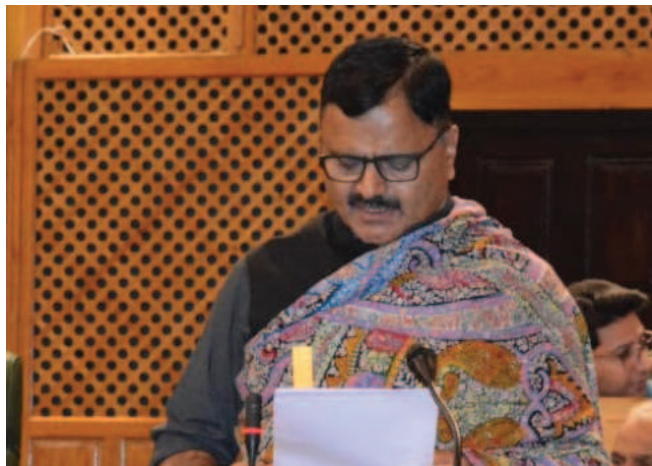
He said that a comprehensive flood mitigation plan including deep de-silting and increasing carrying capacity of river Jhelum and its flood spilling channels is in the pipeline to enhance flood mitigation measures in the Valley.

The Minister said that nearly Rs 15 crores flood protection works have been undertaken in Srinagar to mitigate flood risk.

He informed that as part of long-term and permanent flood protection measures, under PMDP Phase-II, various bank protection works have been undertaken at critical locations adjoining the above areas at a cost of Rs. 12.30 crores.

Furthermore, to mitigate the risk of overflow, raising of embankments in vulnerable stretches has been carried out at a cost of Rs 2.49 crores, thereby enhancing the overall flood resilience of the area.

The Minister stated that



the areas of Lasjan, Gandbal, Soiteng, Vethpara, Padshahi Bagh, Kursoo Rajbagh, Shivpora, Sonawar, Batwara, Rajbagh, Jawahar Nagar and adjoining localities are prone to flooding when the discharge exceeds approximately 40,000 cusecs, leading to overflow from the riverbanks.

He said that the habitations located on the left bank of River Jhelum exhibit relatively higher vulnerability due to their low-lying topography.

He said besides short-term measures to mitigate flood threats in these localities include the restoration of weak spots identified during safety audits of river embankments through temporary protection works such as the laying of filled

EC bags are also undertaken.

Additionally, as the flood season approaches, advance preparedness measures are undertaken by pre-positioning filled EC bags at vulnerable locations and keeping men and machinery under stage contracts in readiness to respond to any eventuality. These actions are executed in close coordination with the District Administration, DMRRR, and other line departments.

He further said that the flood threat can be minimized through structural and non-structural measures (Flood early warning and Flood plain zoning).

Supplementary were raised by Legislators including Tanvir Sadiq, Javid Riyaz Bedar, Hasnain Masoodi.

# Zero Hour: MLAs raise key public issues in Legislative Assembly

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28: Several members of the Legislative Assembly Tuesday raised pressing public issues of their respective constituencies during the Zero Hour in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, urging the Government to take prompt action.

MLAs Shakti Raj Parihar (Doda West), Advocate Vijay Gupta (Hiranagar), and Pawan Gupta (Udhampur West) urged the Education department to expedite the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) for teachers posted in far-flung areas of the Jammu division and immediately conduct Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) for teachers and lecturers awaiting elevation.

Responding to the concerns, Minister in-charge, Education Department, Sakeena Itoo informed the House that the matter is already under process and a committee has been constituted for carrying out ATD timely.

Raising the issue of harassment faced by tribal populations, MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone and MLA Kangan, Mian Mehar Ali urged the government to ensure that forest officials refrain from unnecessary interference and to safeguard the rights of forest-dwelling communities.

During this session MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat emphasized on the need to uphold the Business Rules of the House to maintain decorum and ensure smooth legislative proceedings.

MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju called the attention of the House towards the need for posting an Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) in the PHE Sub-Division of Ramban constituency to ensure smooth functioning of the department.

MLA Banihal, Sajad Shaheen drew attention to a recent fire incident in Banihal constituency and urged the government to provide adequate relief, rehabilitation, and compensation to the affected families.

MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir



Sethi expressed concern over rampant encroachments along the Tawi River and cautioned that such illegal constructions could face severe damage during future floods.

MLA Bhaderwah, Daleep Singh Parihar sought adequate funds for the restoration of flood-damaged infrastructure and relief measures for affected people in his constituency.

MLA Ramgarh, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal highlighted the plight of farmers who have been

allotted custodian land in Jammu but are yet to receive benefits under different government schemes. He urged the government to extend such benefits to these cultivators as well.

MLA Uri, Dr. Sajjad Shafi demanded a dedicated fire tender for Boniyar and sought rehabilitation support for the Darul Uloom institution recently damaged in a fire incident.

MLA Pampore, Justice(Retd) Hasnain Masoodi called for a detailed discussion on the

detention of MLA Mehraj Malik and sought urgent de-silting of river channels to prevent recurrent flooding in Pampore.

MLA Lolab, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone urged the administration to devise early snow-clearance plan for his constituency and establish a transformer bank to ensure uninterrupted power supply during winter months.

MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganai sought the introduction of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for B and C grade apple produce to protect the interests of fruit growers.

MLA RS Pora South, Narendra Singh Raina raised the issue of hardships faced by members of the ST-2 category in obtaining certificates in Jammu district and sought a streamlined process for them.

MLA Shangus-Anantnag East, Reyaz Ahmad Khan proposed making it mandatory for post-graduate doctors to serve in rural areas for a fixed tenure through a service bond mechanism to address rural healthcare gaps.

MLA Kupwara, Mir

Mohammad Fayaz sought one-time amnesty for economically weaker power consumers unable to clear their long-pending dues.

MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone requested the Speaker to consider suspending certain business rules to allow a detailed discussion on the arrest of MLA Mehraj Malik.

MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Ali Sadiq drew attention to the difficulties faced by residents of lake areas in Srinagar in obtaining permissions for building or renovating their houses and sought policy intervention to address the issue.

MLA Thannamandi, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan sought compensation for farmers whose crops were recently damaged in floods and also urged inclusion of his area's consumers under the proposed one-time power amnesty scheme.

MLA Dooru, Ghulam Ahmad Mir requested equitable time allocation for all members to effectively represent

their constituencies during Assembly proceedings.

MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta urged the government to ensure completion and optimal use of the infrastructure at the B&J Hospital, Jammu, besides improving civic amenities in his constituency.

MLA Khan Sahib, Saif-ud-Din Bhat called for sanctioning an additional degree college and establishment of a Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage facility to support the horticulture sector in his area.

MLA Akhnoor, Mohan Lal Bhagat sought sufficient funds for the restoration of flood-damaged infrastructure in his constituency and demanded a comprehensive flood mitigation plan to be implemented in the upcoming winter season to protect vulnerable areas there.

MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurez took this occasion to highlight the performance of the government during the past year and appreciated various developmental initiatives undertaken across the Union Territory.



# J&K Girls win Bronze at 18th Roll Ball National Championship 2025

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 29: Displaying exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination, the Jammu and Kashmir Girls Roll Ball Team clinched the bronze medal in the 18th Roll Ball National Championship 2025, held in Agra from October 25 to 28. The remarkable performance stands as a testament to the growing strength of girls' participation in sports across J&K and highlights the region's commitment to gender equality and empowerment through athletics.

Led by captain Qurat-ul-Ain, who scored 22 goals, the highest ever tally recorded by a J&K girls' team in a national event, the team showcased both confidence and consistency. Her outstanding effort also earned her a new bicycle from the federation as recognition for her remarkable performance.

In a hard-fought semi-final, J&K narrowly lost to Haryana by



2-1, before sealing third place overall in the U/14 category.

Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, congratulated the team for their outstanding display, saying, "Our girls have once again shown that perseverance and passion can overcome all odds. Their victory is a victory for every young girl in J&K who dreams to excel in sports. We are continuously

working to enhance sports facilities so that both boys and girls have equal opportunities to shine."

Yasha Mudgal, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, praised the team's spirited performance and emphasized the role of sports in empowering young women. "The success of our Roll Ball team reflects the immense

potential of our girls when given the right platform and support. Promoting gender equality in sports is central to our mission, and the government is committed to expanding facilities and opportunities for them across J&K," she said.

Expressing her delight, Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, remarked, "This medal is a proud moment for all of J&K. Our girls continue to set new benchmarks in national events. The Sports Council remains dedicated to nurturing talent, building inclusive infrastructure, and ensuring that sports become a channel of empowerment for every girl in J&K."

The dignitaries congratulated the players, coaches, and the J&K Roll Ball Association for their contribution to this achievement, reaffirming their commitment to supporting women in sports and strengthening grassroots programs that promote equality and participation.

# General Observer visits polling stations of 27-AC Budgam

Ensures readiness, compliance ahead of by-elections

KT News Desk

Budgam, Oct 28: As part of the ongoing preparations for the upcoming By-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam, the General Observer appointed by the Election Commission of India (ECI), Bhor Singh Yadav on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of various polling stations across the constituency to assess preparedness and ensure compliance with the Commission's directions.

During his visit, the General Observer inspected multiple polling stations including Government Boys Middle School Waterwani, Government Boys Middle School Dadina, Government Boys Middle School Labartal (East and West sides), Government High School Parisabad, Government Primary School Abadpora, Government Girls Middle



School Sholipora (East and West sides), Government Higher Secondary School Sholipora, Panchayat Ghar Sholipora, Government Girls Middle School Potlibagh, and Government Primary School Betabagh.

The General Observer reviewed essential arrangements at each polling station, such as availability of basic amenities, accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), lighting, sanitation facilities, communication networks, and security measures. He emphasized adherence to Election

Commission guidelines and directed officials to ensure a smooth, transparent, and voter-friendly polling process.

The General observer also interacted with the concerned sector and zonal officers, taking feedback on the readiness of polling teams, transportation plans, and contingency arrangements. He appreciated the efforts of the district administration and urged continued coordination between election, police, and other line departments to ensure free, fair, and peaceful conduct of elections.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Govt will not

Kashmir through my government. Any bill that benefits the common people will be supported, but those meant to help illegal occupants will not be passed," he said.

Asked about the government's decision despite PDP's support in the recently held Rajya Sabha elections, Omar said, "I am not ready to sell the land of Jammu and Kashmir for a seat in Rajya Sabha. The government will support any bill that is aimed at providing benefits to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Any bill to benefit the land mafia will not be passed by this government," he said.

Notably, the Chief Minister visited J&K Sainik School Manasbal to attend the Annual Day celebrations and interacted with reporters on the sidelines of the event.

On the occasion, he said the Sainik School Manasbal can be further improved, just like any other educational institution. "There is no institution which is perfect in itself. The school authorities, the education department, and we will sit together to make necessary decisions for a better future," he said.

Responding to questions regarding the absence of the School Principal, the Chief Minister said the matter has been taken up with Minister Sakina Itoo and Secretary School Education Sharma and that the issue will be resolved soon. (KNO)

### Capital spending

quarter of the current financial year is Rs 10,984 crore.

"As on 30th September, 2025, the tax revenue receipts of the Union Territory stand at Rs 6777 crore, while the non-tax revenue receipts amount to Rs 4207 crore. Thus, the total own revenue generation up to the second quarter of the current financial year is Rs 10984 crore," the minister said.

The minister said the fiscal position of J&K remains stable.

"The fiscal position of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir remains stable and within the prescribed fiscal parameters," the minister said.

The minister also informed that the overall liquidity position of the Union Territory is comfortable.

"The timely release of central grants, coupled with steady growth in own revenues and prudent cash and expenditure management by the Finance Department, has ensured that there are no liquidity constraints affecting either developmental or committed expenditures," the minister said.

He said the Government continues to make concerted efforts to strengthen the fiscal position by enhancing revenue mobilization, improving tax compliance, rationalizing user charges, and maintaining fiscal discipline across all spending departments. (KNO)

### Assembly disallows

that the government cannot grant ownership rights to individuals who have illegally occupied state land and constructed houses on it. Omar said the government cannot accept the bill and urged the member to withdraw it.

Parra, however, countered him, saying he was retreating from his legacy.

"He is forgetting that he is the grandson of Sheikh Abdullah - the leader we call Sher-e-Kashmir - who introduced the land-to-the-tiller reform. The biggest issue in Jammu and Kashmir after August 5, 2019, has been land. Before that, if someone lived illegally on state land, it was considered safe. But now, state land - which belongs to the people - has been turned into non-state land," he said.

"It is the legacy of Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah - the land-to-the-tiller reform. If you withdraw from it, you are abandoning your own politics, your own promises, and your own policies. Should we then accept the BJP's claim that this is 'land jihad'?" Parra asked.

Parra alleged that bulldozers were used against Muslims in Jammu.

Countering him, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah accused him of dragging religion, region, and politics into the issue.

"Let us assume that bulldozers were used against them due to political reasons. Even then, I wouldn't bring such a bill just to save them. A bill that is wrong is simply wrong. This is not a question of someone's relatives, nor is it about someone's religion. You are dragging

religion, region, and politics into this. You are throwing justice out the window," the Chief Minister said.

Later, the Speaker put the bill to a voice vote. Only two PDP members supported its introduction, while other members opposed it.

The House also opposed the introduction of a bill brought by BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia.

The legislators who withdrew their bills include Tanvir Sadiq, M Y Tarigami, Mir Saifullah, Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Altaf Ahmad Wani and Mubarik Gul. (KNO)

### Works under flood

Corporation (SMC), in coordination with other departments, to minimise the impact of frequent and intense floods that cause waterlogging.

The minister added, "Out of 104 dewatering stations across the city, 73 old stations have been upgraded—against an identified target of 80—under various projects such as AMRUT, JTFRP, and ADB-funded schemes. Additionally, two dewatering stations are being upgraded under Smart City and SASCI funding. The remaining stations were established after the 2014 floods through various schemes. These interventions have substantially enhanced the city's capacity to manage stormwater more effectively."

He further said that a major capacity-building effort was carried out under the Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP), Component III, which focused on restoring urban flood management infrastructure. "Under this component, 45 existing dewatering stations out of the 80 identified were upgraded, and procurement activities for urban flood mitigation were undertaken at a total cost of Rs. 141 crore, funded by the World Bank."

The SMC has augmented its mobile pumping infrastructure by adding 154 new pumping units to its existing fleet of 127 units, he added.

Regarding flood mitigation works along Nallamar, the minister said, "An ongoing project involves upgrading the Storm Water Noorbagh Dewatering Station, including laying a drainage shunt line, with a total cost of Rs 7.02 crore. This work has been underway since December 2024 and aims to upgrade the station's capacity from 22 Cusecs to 60 Cusecs, catering to the area from Rajouri Kadal (Chowk) to Noor Bagh (Cement Bridge). For the year 2025-26, Rs. 4.84 crore has been allocated for this project." (KNO)

### Govt lists Rs 160 cr

covering: Lasjan, Padshahi Bagh, Shivpora, Kursoo, Sonwar, Basant Bagh, Nishat and Pampore; Besides major vulnerable points such as Rajbagh, Batwara and Ganderbal.

These include construction of RCC toe-walls, crate-protection bunds, embankment strengthening and flood-protection bunds. The reply states, another Rs 2.49 crore has been allotted for similar works along tributaries of Jhelum, including Kanikadal, Rambagh, Batmaloo, Panthachowk and Rajbagh.

The department said embankment and anti-erosion works have been carried out at Lasjan Bridge-Noorbagh, Panthachowk-Barzulla and Pampore-Kakapora reaches.

The reply further outlines the Comprehensive Flood-Management Measures for Kashmir Valley (Post-2014 Floods) executed under the PMDP scheme.

Under Phase-I, flood-protection works worth rupees 399.29 crore have been completed, including: Top-protection and retaining walls from Kandizal to Sharifabad (543 m). Dredging of Jhelum at Sopore, Baramulla and Srinagar (100,000 cum). Strengthening embankments at Sharifabad and other nallahs. Re-sectioning of flood-spill channel at Sharifabad (147,177 cum), and construction of bridges and protective structures on the spill channel.

For Phase-II (Part A), the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stands at rupees 343.01 crore, with rupees 160.23 crore worth of works already tendered or allotted. Key components include: Bank-protection works on River Jhelum (Panjinara to Wullar Lake) — rupees 216.65 crore. Restoration of embankments & critical spots — rupees 25.61 crore. Strengthening & restoration of the Flood-Spill Channel (Nallah Amir Khan to Nallah Padshahi Bagh) — rupees 87.16 crore.

The department added that rupees 6.82

crore have already been spent on advance works in the Hokersar Wetland area.

The Jal Shakti Department, in its reply, said the valley's flood-management strategy combines structural interventions — embankment-strengthening, crate-protection and toe-wall construction — with non-structural initiatives such as flood-early-warning systems and flood-plain zoning.

"All flood-management projects are being monitored by the Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir, and executed in consultation with district administrations," the reply stated. (KNO)

### CM Abdullah unveils

for hosting such sporting events, the Chief Minister said, "Kashmir is the only place in the country that offers such scenic beauty and ideal weather conditions for a marathon." He added that runners will traverse some of the most iconic landmarks of Srinagar including Jhelum riverfront, Lal Chowk, Dalgate, and the scenic Dal Lake shore in the half marathon category, while full marathon participants will run further towards Hazratbal and Kashmir University.

The Chief Minister noted that runners will compete in temperatures ranging between 6-8°C, a rare advantage compared to other marathon destinations across the country in warm weather. He expressed confidence that the Kashmir Marathon is fast evolving into a premier sporting event and will soon stand alongside renowned marathons like the Delhi Marathon, which has been held for over two decades.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq, MD JKTCDC Shreya Singhal, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, Haris Ahmed Handoo, Joint Director Tourism Waseem Raja, Additional Secretary Tourism Owais Mushatq and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

### Over 3.61 lakh educated

was reported from Kishtwar (8,870) and Reasi (12,376) districts.

The figures show that among the total unemployed, 2,33,845 are male and 1,27,301 are female.

The government said that the Employment Department, under Mission Youth / Mission YUVA, is working to create 4.25 lakh job opportunities through the establishment of 1.37 lakh entrepreneurship units, focusing on promoting self-employment, startups, and skill development among the educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

They say district-level employment and counselling centres are also conducting Career Melas and Rozgar Melas to promote youth engagement, innovation, and livelihood awareness. (KNO)

### J&K govt data

that out of ST category certificates issued in Jammu and Kashmir, 87.2 percent were issued in Jammu and 12.7 percent in Kashmir.

The data also laid bare that 56.6 percent of OBC category certificates were issued in Jammu and 43.4 percent in Kashmir.

It was also revealed that 88.5 percent of EWS certificates were issued in Jammu and 11.4 percent in Kashmir.

According to the reply, 33.9 percent of certificates under the RBA category were issued in Jammu and 67.1 percent in Kashmir.

As per details, 85.2 percent of ALC category certificates were issued in Jammu and 14.7 percent in Kashmir.

In March this year, official data presented by the government in the Assembly had also revealed that Jammu was primarily benefiting from reservation across various categories. (KNO)

### Uproar in Assembly

as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Pawan Kumar Gupta, MLA Udhampur West, urged the Chair to suspend business and allow a debate on the recent calamities and other disasters in the region.

The Speaker ruled that the motion had been rejected in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Assembly.

He pointed out that the issue was already

scheduled for discussion the following day. "You may discuss it throughout the day tomorrow," the Speaker said.

A resolution submitted by Gupta on losses due to natural calamities has been listed in business of the House on Wednesday

The Speaker's ruling triggered protests from BJP members, who raised slogans such as "Jammu Ke Sath Insaf Karo" (Do justice with Jammu). In retaliation, National Conference (NC) legislators countered with chants of "Statehood Ko Wapas Karo" (Restore statehood).

The Speaker made repeated appeals for order as the House descended into chaos. Rising from his chair, the Speaker urged lawmakers to maintain decorum.

The intervention from Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma defused the standoff in the House. (KNO)

### Over 3.3 lakh category

issued in Jammu district, followed by Udhampur, Kathua, and Rajouri.

It said a total of 70,268 SC, 60,243 ST, 76,664 OBC, 21,386 EWS, 47,399 RBA, and 38,280 ALC certificates were issued across Jammu and Kashmir in the 2-year period.

It further said these certificates were distributed across all districts to ensure eligible individuals avail benefits of various government welfare schemes. (KNO)

### Govt sanctions

cleanliness.

The document, accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), states that the Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for dry waste processing have been approved at 78 sites, with 49 already sanctioned. For wet waste, 77 composting sites have been approved, while work on 50 has already started.

Two sites, one each under the Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations, have been approved for the processing of wet waste. In addition, bioremediation of 28.01 lakh metric tons of legacy waste has been sanctioned, with over 6.67 lakh metric tons already completed.

For sanitation improvement, 51 individual household toilets, 868 public toilets, 595 community toilet seats, 124 urinal seats and 375 aspirational toilet seats have been approved. Many of these are under construction.

Under the Used Water Management component, DPRs have been framed for 15 Urban Local Bodies worth Rs 227.73 crore.

The plan also includes cluster-based septage treatment for small towns at larger treatment plants, including Chunt-Kul STP, Doodhganga I & II, Samba, Katra, Charar-i-Sharief and Baramulla STPs, all at different implementation stages.

Door-to-door collection of solid waste is ongoing across all ULBs to ensure cleanliness, with emphasis on source segregation through public awareness drives.

In tourist towns, the Municipal Committee Pahalgam collects and lifts waste, which is treated at the Solid Waste Management Plant operated by the Pahalgam Development Authority at Sarbal. However, officials said the Pahalgam area still lacks a suitable site for its own MRF or SWM plant.

Similarly, the Municipal Committee Gulmarg and Tangmarg manage waste collection and disposal through the SWM Plant at Kunzer. The department added that Pahalgam's 2 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant is currently functional under the liquid waste management component.

Officials said coordination with district administrations is ongoing to identify and transfer more suitable sites to strengthen waste management systems across Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

### J&K spends over

saw a rise, from 19,000 in 2021-22 to 47,000 in 2022-23.

Officials said offbeat destinations such as Gurez, Bangus, Doodhpathri, Aitham and Basohli have gained popularity due to the department's promotional drives.

J&K has also emerged as a major film destination, hosting shoots for several high-profile movies and TV series including Leo and Dunki.

Bandipora's Dawar village was named India's "Best Tourist Village" by the Ministry of Tourism.

Outlook Traveler magazine also awarded Gurez as the "Best Offbeat Destination," while Lolab in Kupwara bagged gold in the offbeat category.

The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in collaboration with national sports associations, has expanded adventure tourism through water-based and aerial sports. White-water rafting, winter sports, paragliding, hot air ballooning, zip-lining and para-sailing are being promoted across the Union Territory. Six rafting routes in Jammu have already been notified.

Adventure events like rafting in Doda, winter sports in Jai Valley, and para-sailing in various lakes across Kashmir have become frequent attractions.

The department has launched extensive branding efforts through Air India, Air Asia, Vistara, Delhi Metro, social media, and radio campaigns, which have received strong public response.

Tourism authorities organized 103 major events in 2022-23, which rose to 107 in the following fiscal year. Prominent events included Asikini Bhaderkashi Utsav, Vibrant Bhaderwah Festival, Patnitop Winter Bonanza, Warwan Festival, and Basholi Utsav.

The department is also working to position J&K as the next golf destination. Golf tournaments have been organized at Jammu Tawi Golf Course and Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar in collaboration with PGTI and public sector undertakings.

Officials said sustained promotion and diversification of destinations have made tourism one of the fastest-growing sectors in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

### Sainik School Manasbal

the government's commitment to promoting quality education, Omar Abdullah, who is also the Chairman of the Governing Body of Sainik School Manasbal, said that in an era of growing competition — whether in colleges, civil services, or other examinations — it was imperative to provide the best possible facilities and infrastructure to students.

"We are committed to ensuring that schools like Sainik School Manasbal are equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure so that students can compete at the highest levels. We want to introduce new initiatives that will benefit the school and its students," he said.

The Chief Minister announced that the school's sports ground will be modernized with the installation of synthetic turf for football and athletic activities, adding that the government will continue to support the institution in all possible ways.

Praising the school's academic environment, Omar Abdullah said that Sainik School Manasbal embodies the spirit of discipline, dedication, and holistic education. "Here, teachers inspire students, and education extends beyond classrooms to shape responsible, confident citizens. This institution stands as a beacon of excellence and integrity," he said.

Calling upon students to prepare themselves for greater responsibilities, the Chief Minister said, "Let Sainik School Manasbal continue to be a symbol of excellence, discipline, and integrity — a place where the future of Jammu and Kashmir is shaped with courage and conviction."

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Education Sakina Itoo said that education has the power to change the world and transform societies. Remembering Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, the founder of Sainik School Manasbal, she said, "If we do not pay our tributes to him today, we do a great disservice to this nation. Institutions like Sainik School Manasbal must continue to provide quality education to children from all backgrounds, especially those from underprivileged sections."

Earlier, the Chief Minister took the salute at the March Past presented by the school cadets and witnessed an impressive cultural programme by the students. He also inaugurated an Art and Science Exhibition showcasing the creativity and innovation of young learners.

The event was attended by MLA Uri Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Secretary School Education Ram Niwas, Director General School Education Kashmir Dr. G. N. Itoo, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Poswal, Principal Sainik School Manasbal Manzoor Ahmed Najar, besides other officers, students, staff members and parents of the students.



# Society won't forgive us if we don't stand by doctors: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 28: The society will not forgive the judiciary if it doesn't take care of doctors and stand for them, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while reserving its judgment on a plea against non-inclusion of doctors and health workers who lost their lives battling Covid-19 at private clinics, dispensaries and non-recognised hospitals in insurance policies. A bench comprising Justices P S Narasimha and R Mahadevan said the government must ensure that insurance companies settle the valid claims, and added that the assumption that private doctors were working for profit making was not correct.

"You should compel the insurance company to pay if according to you the condition is met that they were on Covid response and they died because of COVID. Merely because they were not in government duty, the



assumption that they were making profits and then they were sitting is not correct," the bench observed orally.

The top court directed the Centre to provide relevant data and information regarding other similar or parallel schemes available apart from the Pradhan Mantri Insurance Scheme.

"Give the data to us and some information about other parallel schemes that are available apart from the Pradhan Mantri scheme. We will lay down the principle and on that basis claims can be made to the insurance company. It is for the insurance company to consider and pass orders on the basis

of our judgment," the bench observed.

The top court was hearing a plea by Pradeep Arora and others against a March 9, 2021, order of the Bombay high court, which held that private hospital staffers were not entitled to receive benefits under the insurance scheme unless their

services were requisitioned by the state or the central government.

A plea was filed in the high court by Kiran Bhaskar Surgade, who lost her husband -- who ran a private clinic in Thane -- to Covid-19 in 2020.

The insurance company rejected her claim under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) on the ground that her husband's clinic was not recognised as a Covid-19 hospital.

The PMGKP was announced in March 2020, and its coverage has been extended since then.

It was launched to provide a safety net to the health workers to ensure that in case of any adversity due to Covid-19, their families are taken care of.

An insurance cover of Rs 50 lakh is provided to the health workers under the PMGKP scheme, which has become a safety net for the dependents of the Covid warriors who lost their lives to the infection.

## SC upholds criminal case against law graduate over social media post on Babri Masjid



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Supreme Court has refused to quash a criminal case against a law graduate for making a social media post saying Babri Masjid will be rebuilt one day.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said it has seen the post and does not want to interfere with the criminal proceeding against petitioner Mohd Faiyyaz Mansuri.

Advocate Talha Abdul Rehman, appearing for the petitioner, contended that there was no vulgarity in the post and Mansuri only said Babri Masjid will be rebuilt like a mosque in Turkey.

He contended that it was another person who made the inflammatory post but he was not investigated.

Justice Kant told the counsel, "Don't invite any harsh comment from us."

Sensing the mood of the court, the counsel sought to withdraw the plea which the court allowed him to do so.

"After arguing the case for some time, counsel for the petitioner seeks and is permitted to withdraw this petition. The Special Leave Petition is, accordingly, dismissed as withdrawn. It goes without saying that all the defence plea that may be raised by the petitioner shall be considered by the trial court as per their own merit," the bench ordered on Monday.

Mansuri had challenged the order of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court refusing to quash the criminal case lodged against him.

He was booked in August, 2020 for making the post in which one other person made some disparaging remarks against gods of the Hindu community.

Taking note of the post, the district magistrate of Lakhimpur Kheri ordered his detention.

The detention order was subsequently set aside by the Allahabad High Court.

However, earlier this year, the trial court took cognisance of the charge sheet filed against him.

Mansuri again moved the high court for quashing of the criminal proceeding against him but the high court refused to quash it.

Aggrieved by the order, he approached the apex court.

## Govt announces Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar honouring scientific achievements

IANs

New Delhi, Oct 28: India's scientific community received a resounding tribute last week with the announcement of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) 2025 list, honouring 24 distinguished scientists and one pioneering research team for transformative contributions across diverse domains.

Building on the inaugural edition, the awards underscore the Union government's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' through Vigyan, a developed India powered by scientific temper and innovation.

At the apex stands the Vigyan Ratna, the nation's highest civilian honour in science and technology, instituted in 2023 and first conferred in 2024 upon Dr. Govindarajan Padmanabhan, the eminent biochemist whose decades-long work on the malaria parasite Plasmodium falciparum illuminated drug resistance mechanisms and inspired global anti-malarial strategies.

Conferred annually on National Space Day which is celebrated on August 23, it mirrors the prestige of the Bharat Ratna but is dedicated solely to lifetime scientific excellence.

Complementing this pinnacle are three other categories.

Eight senior researchers received the Vigyan Shri for sustained impact in fields ranging from quantum materials to sustainable agriculture.



Fourteen early- and mid-career innovators, all under 45, were named Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardees, a reimagining of the iconic SS Bhatnagar Prize to nurture India's next generation of scientific leaders.

The sole Vigyan Team award went to the CSIR Aroma Mission, a multi-institutional consortium that has revitalised aromatic crop cultivation across 60,000 hectares, empowering more than 50,000 farmers in 26 states with high-yielding lavender, rosemary, and lemongrass varieties, generating Rs 1,200 crore in rural revenue since 2017.

The 2025 cohort reflects India's widening scientific footprint. Among the Vigyan Shri recipients are a climate modeller whose AI-driven monsoon forecasts have reduced crop losses by 18 per cent in Odisha, and a materials scientist whose biodegradable polymer from agricultural waste is now scaling for medical implants.

The Yuva awardees include a 38-year-old astrophysicist decoding fast radio bursts at Pune's Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope and a

41-year-old biotechnologist engineering salt-tolerant rice strains already under field trials in coastal Tamil Nadu.

Launched in 2023 to replace 16 fragmented science awards, the RVP scheme streamlines recognition under a single, transparent framework.

Nominations are vetted by a 300-member search-cum-selection committee chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to Union government, Ajay Kumar Sood, ensuring peer-driven meritocracy.

Unlike earlier prizes, RVP carries no cash component, instead offering a sanad, citation, and a medal cast in panchdhatu, symbolising unity of five classical elements.

The awards will be presented by President Droupadi Murmu at a Rashtrapati Bhavan ceremony on National Science Day on February 28, 2026.

As India targets a \$1 trillion research economy by 2047, the RVP not only celebrates past breakthroughs but signals a national resolve to place science at the heart of development.

## India 4th largest renewable energy producer at 257 GW: Pralhad Joshi

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 28: Union minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday said India is the fourth-largest nation in the world in terms of renewable energy capacity, at 257 GW, a three-fold jump from 81 GW in 2014.

Addressing the 8th session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly, the union minister of new and renewable energy said India's solar capacity increased from 2.8 GW in 2014 to 128 GW today.

He said, "India is now the world's 4th-largest in RE capacity. Renewables in 2014 V/s Now: 81 GW - 257 GW." He informed that solar module manufacturing capacity increased from 2 GW in 2014 to 110 GW at present.

Similarly, the solar cells manufacturing increased from 'zero' to 27 GW.

He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India achieved the Nationally Determined Contribution target of 50 per cent capacity from non-fossil sources, five years ahead of the deadline.

India's renewable tariffs, be it solar, solar-plus-battery, and green ammonia, are among the lowest globally, he said, adding that this reflects India's ability to combine scale, with speed and skill to make clean energy affordable.

The International Energy



Agency projects that India will become the world's second-largest renewable market. The International Renewable Energy Agency calls India an energy transition powerhouse. And the Climate Change Performance Index continues to rank India among the top performers, he noted.

In fact, among the G20 countries, India is the only nation to have achieved its 2030 renewable energy targets as early as 2021. "We have consistently been at the forefront of global efforts to mitigate climate change", he said.

India now ranks third globally in growth in power generation capacity over the past five years.

For a nation with one of the lowest per capita emissions and one of the lowest per capita energy consumptions globally, India's commitment to a clean energy transition is

truly remarkable, he stated.

He highlighted that global solar energy has now exceeded 1,600 GW and accounts for nearly 40 per cent of total renewable generation.

"Yet the progress remains uneven. In sub-Saharan Africa and small island nations, millions still live without reliable electricity. Bridging this divide demands collective ambition and equitable finance", he said India invites all partners of the International Solar Alliance to join this mission to engage, energise, and empower a new global energy order, together, he stated. India is working on a USD 25 million contribution to the Africa Solar Facility under ISA to support investments in mini-grids and distributed renewables across Africa.

This reflects our belief in equitable growth within the Global South, he added.

## Cabinet approves ToR of 8th Pay Commission

Likely to come into effect from Jan 2026



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Cabinet on Tuesday approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the 8th Pay Commission, which is likely to be implemented from January 1, 2026.

The recommendations of the pay panel will benefit about 50 lakh central government employees and 69 lakh pensioners. The commission will comprise one

chairperson; one member (part time) and one member-secretary. It will make its recommendations within 18 months of the date of its constitution.

Story continues below this adThe panel, to be chaired by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, will submit an interim report to the government.

Asked about the date of implementation of the pay panel award, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The specific date will be decided once the interim report comes in... But, mostly it should be January 1, 2026." The Cabinet had in January 2025 accorded an in-principle approval for setting up of the 8th Pay Commission.

IIM (Bangalore) Professor Pulak Ghosh has been named as the part-time member, while Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Jain will be the Member Secretary.

## Coconut water for skin: How this natural drink hydrates, soothes and brightens your complexion

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Oct 28: That clear, slightly sweet liquid inside a green coconut isn't just a post-workout drink; it's fast becoming a favourite beauty ingredient, too. Coconut water is packed with amino acids, antioxidants, and natural electrolytes that help keep your skin hydrated and refreshed. Whether you drink it daily or use it in your skincare routine, its gentle, nutrient-rich composition supports smoother, softer, and more radiant skin.

A peer-reviewed study published in Applied Sciences found that young coconut juice helped improve skin structure and thickness in an ageing model, suggesting potential benefits for skin repair and hydration. While human studies are still limited, these findings support what many already swear by: that coconut water can be a natural, soothing ally for glowing skin.

Why coconut water benefits the skin Coconut water contains essential nutrients that nourish and protect the skin. It's rich in amino acids and cytokinins, which help maintain elasticity and reduce signs of ageing. The high potassium content aids in hydration, while its antioxidants help fight oxidative stress caused by pollution and sun exposure.

Drinking coconut water replenishes fluids and minerals, supporting skin hydration from within. Topically, it provides a cooling effect that can



calm irritation and inflammation. This makes it particularly useful for people with dry, sensitive, or acne-prone skin who want a lightweight, natural remedy that doesn't clog pores.

Drinking coconut water for healthier skin

Hydration plays a key role in maintaining your skin's moisture barrier, and coconut water does this beautifully. Unlike sugary beverages, it contains natural electrolytes, potassium, calcium, and magnesium, which help restore your body's fluid balance. This internal hydration often reflects outward in the form of smoother,

dewier skin.

You can enjoy one glass (around 250 ml) of fresh coconut water daily to help maintain this balance. Over time, consistent intake supports clearer skin, reduces dullness, and helps the body flush out toxins that contribute to breakouts. It's a simple habit that complements any skincare routine from the inside out.

Using coconut water topically on your skin

When applied directly, coconut water can serve as a natural toner or facial mist. It's lightweight and absorbs quickly, leaving your skin feeling refreshed

without greasiness. You can store fresh coconut water in a clean spray bottle and mist it on your face after cleansing. This helps restore pH balance and offers a gentle layer of hydration before applying your moisturiser.

For a nourishing face mask, mix two teaspoons of coconut water with a teaspoon of honey and a pinch of turmeric. Leave it on your face for 10 minutes before rinsing with cool water. The result is calm, hydrated skin with a subtle, natural glow.

Key benefits of coconut water for skin

Deep hydration: The electrolytes in coconut water help maintain your skin's moisture levels and prevent dryness. Regular use can make the skin look plumper and healthier.

Natural glow: With continued use, coconut water promotes a radiant complexion by balancing hydration and supporting the natural renewal process.

Anti-ageing support: The cytokinins and antioxidants in coconut water help combat free-radical damage that can lead to wrinkles and fine lines.

Soothes irritation: Coconut water has mild anti-inflammatory properties that can calm redness, sunburn, or acne-related irritation.

Gentle cleansing: Used as a toner, it removes residual dirt and helps minimise the appearance of pores without stripping the skin's

natural oils.

Precautions and expert tips for using coconut water

While coconut water is generally safe for all skin types, patch-test it before topical use to ensure there's no sensitivity. If you have very oily or acne-prone skin, use it as a toner rather than a leave-on mist. For drinking, always opt for fresh coconut water over packaged versions that may contain added sugars or preservatives.

If you have kidney issues or are on a low-potassium diet, consult your doctor before increasing your intake. For best skincare results, pair coconut water with a balanced diet, sunscreen, and a consistent moisturising routine.

Coconut water is one of those rare, natural remedies that benefits your body and your skin at the same time. It offers gentle hydration, a subtle glow, and nourishment without harsh chemicals. Whether you drink it daily or use it as part of your skincare routine, it's an easy, refreshing way to help your complexion look its best.

So the next time you sip on a fresh coconut, remember, you're not just quenching your thirst; you're feeding your skin too.

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



## Netanyahu says remains returned by Hamas are body parts of hostage previously retrieved in Gaza

AP

Tel Aviv, Oct 28: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday that the remains of a hostage returned by Hamas overnight are body parts of another hostage who was recovered in Gaza by Israeli troops almost two years ago — an announcement that will likely rattle the tenuous, U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement.

Under the truce, Hamas is expected to return all Israeli hostage remains as soon as possible. Netanyahu called the return of body parts a "clear violation" of the ceasefire agreement by the militant group. He said he will convene the heads of the military and defense establishment for an emergency discussion on Tuesday afternoon to weigh Israel's response.

Israeli media said his likely options include halting the entry of humanitarian aid to Gaza, expanding Israeli control of Gaza or carrying out airstrikes targeting Hamas leaders.

There are still 13 bodies of hostages in Gaza, and the slow recovery of those remains is posing a challenge to implementing the next stages of the ceasefire. Hamas has said it is struggling to locate the bodies amid the vast destruction in Gaza, while Israel has accused the militant group of purposely delaying their return.

During the two years of the Israel-Hamas war in the coastal territory, the Israeli military recovered the bodies of some 51 hostages.

The remains returned overnight have been



identified as belonging to Ofir Tzarfati, Netanyahu's office said. Tzarfati was kidnapped from the Nova music festival in the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas-led attack on Israel that started the war. Almost 400 people were killed at the festival alone and dozens were abducted. In all, the militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 hostages that day.

Tzarfati was killed in captivity and his body was retrieved by Israeli troops in November 2023. In March 2024, his family received additional remains for burial.

Tzarfati's family said in a statement that this is the third time "we have been forced to open Ofir's grave and rebury our son."

"Since then, we have lived with a wound that constantly reopens, between memory and longing, between bereavement and mission," it added and described the return of body parts as an "abhorrent manipulation."

Earlier Tuesday, Israeli authorities said they had killed three Palestinian militants early during an operation in the northern part of the occupied West

Bank, the latest action in Israel's stepped-up military activity in the territory since the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas attack.

Israeli police said the three men were shot as they came out of a cave near Jenin, a town in the northern West Bank known as a militant stronghold. The Israeli military said in a statement that the militants "took part in terror activity in Jenin," but gave no further details.

Two militants were shot and killed in the initial volley of gunfire. The third, who was wounded, was killed shortly after, according to the Israeli military.

An earlier statement said the Israeli military carried out an airstrike shortly afterward to destroy the cave. The army confirmed an airstrike in the area but gave no further details.

Hamas condemned the Jenin strike but did not identify the slain men as Hamas members.

Israel says its operations have cracked down on militants in the West Bank. But Palestinians and human rights groups say scores of uninvolved civilians have also been among the dead, while tens of thousands of

people have been displaced from their homes.

The ceasefire in Gaza has been holding since it began on Oct. 10. In exchange for the returned dead hostages, Israel has so far handed back to Gaza 195 Palestinian bodies, fewer than half of which have been identified.

On Monday, 41 unidentified bodies were buried in the Gaza city of Deir al-Balah and a funeral was held in Israel for the slain hostage Yossi Sharabi, whose remains were returned earlier this month.

Over the weekend, Egypt deployed a team of experts and heavy equipment to help search for the bodies of hostages still in Gaza. That work continued Monday in Khan Younis. The last 20 living hostages were returned to Israel when the ceasefire began, and in exchange Israel freed roughly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.

Most of those freed were seized in Gaza by Israeli troops during the two-year war and have been held without charge. Also among those released were 250 Palestinians sentenced to prison terms, most of them convicted for deadly attacks on Israelis dating back decades, according to Israel's Justice Ministry.

Over 68,500 Palestinians have died in the two-year war in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. The ministry maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts. Israel has disputed them without providing its own toll.

## No resolution as Afghanistan, Pakistan end peace talks in Istanbul

REUTERS

Istanbul, Oct 28: Talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Istanbul to broker a long-term truce have ended without a resolution, two sources familiar with the matter said on Tuesday, a blow for peace in the region after deadly clashes this month. The talks aimed to reach lasting peace between the South Asian neighbours after dozens were killed along their border in the worst such violence since the Taliban took power in Kabul in 2021.

Both agreed to a ceasefire brokered in Doha on October 19, but could not find common ground in a second round of talks mediated by Turkey and Qatar in Istanbul, Afghan and Pakistani sources briefed on the issue said, with each blaming the other for the failure.

A Pakistani security source said the Taliban had



been unwilling to commit to rein in the Pakistani Taliban, a separate militant group hostile to Pakistan that Islamabad says operates with impunity inside Afghanistan.

An Afghan source familiar with the talks said they had ended after "tense exchanges" over the issue, adding that the Afghan side said it no control over the Pakistani Taliban, which has launched attacks against Pakistani

troops in recent weeks.

The sources sought anonymity as they were not authorised to speak publicly.

Spokespersons for Afghanistan's Taliban government and defence ministry, and for Pakistan's army, defence and foreign ministries, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The October clashes began after Pakistani air strikes this month on Kabul, the

Afghan capital, among other locations, targeting the head of the Pakistani Taliban.

The Taliban responded with attacks on Pakistani military posts along the length of the 2,600-km (1,600 miles) border.

The breakdown in talks that have caught the attention of U.S. President Donald Trump, could strain the ceasefire between Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and nuclear-armed Pakistan.

On Saturday, Pakistan's defence minister said he believed Afghanistan wanted peace but that failure to reach an agreement in Istanbul would mean "open war".

Despite a ceasefire between Pakistan and the Taliban, weekend clashes killed five Pakistani soldiers and 25 Pakistani Taliban militants near the border with Afghanistan, the military said on Sunday.

## Musk launches Grokipedia to rival 'left-biased' Wikipedia

AFP

New York, Oct 28: Elon Musk's company xAI has launched Grokipedia to compete with online encyclopedia Wikipedia, which he has accused of ideological bias.

The site dubbed version 0.1 had more than 885,000 articles by Monday evening, compared to Wikipedia's more than seven million in English.

The launch came with the promise of a newer version 1.0, which Musk said would be "10X better" than the current live site, which he claimed is already "better than Wikipedia."

"The goal of Grok and Grokipedia. com is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We will never be perfect, but we shall nonetheless strive toward that goal," he said on X following the launch.

Grokipedia's release had been marked down for the end of September, but was delayed by the US entrepreneur to "purge out the propaganda," Musk said in a separate X post.

Musk has been a regular critic of Wikipedia. In 2024, he accused the site of being "controlled by far-left activists" and called for donations to the platform to cease.

In August, he said "Wikipedia cannot be used as a definitive source for Community Notes, as the editorial control there is extremely



left-biased."

The content of Grokipedia is generated by artificial intelligence (AI) and the generative AI assistant Grok.

A Grokipedia article dedicated to Musk states that the Tesla and SpaceX CEO has "influenced broader debates on technological progress, demographic decline, and institutional biases, often via X," amid what the page says are "criticisms from legacy media outlets that exhibit systemic left-leaning tilts in coverage."

Created in 2001, Wikipedia is a collaborative encyclopedia managed by volunteers, largely funded by donations, and whose pages can be written or edited by Internet users.

It claims a "neutral point of view" in its content.

AFP has reached out to Wikipedia for comment.

## Lahore ranks as world's most polluted city, data from private tech co shows

PTI

Lahore, Oct 28: Pakistan's Lahore city ranked as the world's most polluted city on Monday, the second such time in a week's time, with smog reaching hazardous levels way higher than WHO guidelines, a private tech company data showed. While the Punjab — with Lahore as its capital — does not have its own air quality index, the provincial government said it is actively implementing the Smog Emergency Plan, especially in Lahore. According to IQAir, Lahore's air quality index (AQI) rose to a hazardous level — 312, with its concentration of PM2.5, the most harmful particulate matter, reaching a staggering 190.5 micrograms per cubic meter.

"This level is over 25 times the World Health Organisation's (WHO) annual air quality guideline. The real-time station ranking for Lahore is painting an even more alarming picture, with several areas crossing into the 'hazardous' threshold," the IQAir said in a statement. On Monday at 10 pm, Lahore topped the global chart of major cities, surpassing other perennial pollution hotspots like Delhi (AQI 220) and Kolkata (AQI 170), the statement added.

PM2.5 concentrations in Lahore's air are multiple times above global safety thresholds, raising risks of respiratory and cardiovascular illness among other serious health issues, especially for children and the elderly.

## My motivation is to stay fit and be available for Indian team: Shami

PTI

Kolkata, Oct 28: Senior pacer Mohammed Shami on Tuesday said he is "fit" and "ready" for an India comeback, having backed up his desire to return with exceptional performances in the season's first two Ranji Trophy matches.

The Bengal speedster has made a strong claim for international comeback with a fiery spell that saw him take a match haul of eight wickets and propel his team to a 141-run win over Gujarat at Eden Gardens. "A lot of

hard work is there and I believe luck too plays a part. Every person wants to play for the country. So, I am ready for that (again)," Shami told reporters after his five-wicket haul in Gujarat's second innings.

"My motivation is to stay fit and be available for the Indian team at all times. In the ground, I will continue to perform and the rest is on the selectors' hands." He added, "It's a relief. Mentally, physically, it feels very good, because, you are coming back from such a difficult time (injury), and you stay on the ground after that."



## Shreyas Iyer out of ICU, stable after spleen injury during Ind vs Aus ODI

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 28: India's ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer, who suffered a ruptured spleen and rib cage injury during the third ODI against Australia, has been shifted out of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a Sydney hospital and is now in a stable condition, easing concerns over his health.

"He has been shifted out of ICU and may take a few more days before he is discharged from hospital in Sydney," a BCCI source privy to the development told PTI on condition of anonymity.

Iyer sustained a lower left rib cage injury while attempting a difficult running catch to dismiss Alex Carey off Harshit Rana's bowling. Though he initially walked off the field with assistance from the physio, his condition later deteriorated as his vital parameters dropped, prompting immediate hospitalization.

Subsequent tests revealed internal bleeding caused by a laceration in the spleen, following which he was admitted to the ICU for close monitoring.

"Now see, we are not doctors. When we saw from outside, when the catch was taken (by Shreyas), it looked like it was normal," said India T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav on the eve of the first T20I



against Australia in Canberra.

"But none of us were there, only those who were there can tell what actually happened. So they said after going inside it was felt you will have to pay good attention (to him). Then he was rushed to the specialist, and we were told about what happened."

"After that we talked to him, when he was talking normally, we felt that it is a little better now, because doctors and physios told us that it was an unfortunate incident, which happens rarely. But sometimes rare incidents happen to rare talent."

It is understood that BCCI's head

of medical services, Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala, in his communication to the board, commended the on-field medical staff for their swift and efficient response, which helped avert a potentially critical situation.

"God is with his side, he is recovering really well, doctors are supporting him, BCCI is in full support, he will recover soon and then we will take him home with us," Suryakumar said.

Meanwhile, sources indicated that Iyer's family members are expected to travel to Sydney soon to be by his side as he continues to recover.

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

THAMMA (UA16+)  
HINDI - 11:00 AM, 02:10 PM, 06:00 PM

KANTARA A LEGEND: CHAPTER 1 (UA16+)  
HINDI - 05:30 PM

EK DEEWANE KI DEEWANIYAT (A)  
HINDI - 11:30 AM, 02:40 PM, 03:30 PM, 06:40 PM

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