



J&K UT Foundation Day Celebrations

Elected J&K Govt has full powers, must stop using statehood issue as excuse for inaction: LG Sinha

» People should not be misled on different pretexts » Oct 31, 2019 transformed J&K; new generation has rejected violence » Protests against Pak, terrorists after Pahalgam terror attack sent clear message

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 31: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir's Union Territory status should not hinder the functioning of the elected government, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that it possesses full authority to govern and must stop using the statehood issue as an excuse for inaction.

Addressing the J&K UT Foundation Day celebrations at the SKICC here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Union Home Minister Amit Shah had made it clear in the Parliament that delimitation first, Assembly election



second and then the restoration of the statehood at an appropriate time." In an apparent reference

to J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, LG Sinha said, "Some people have some problems. When the assembly elections

were held, it was clear that the elections were taking place for the UT assembly. They (elected Government) cannot make the excuse that work cannot be done till statehood is restored."

He reiterated that the elected government has all the powers and people should not be "misled under the pretext of the absence of statehood."

He advised the elected government to use its powers for the betterment of the people of J&K.

Pertinently, Omar Abdullah after taking over as J&K Chief Minister last year has maintained that dual power system is not allowing his government to function properly. He has kept on reminding | [More on P6](#)

Strong governance, unity crushed roots of terrorism in Kashmir: PM Modi

Valley now free from chains of terrorism, separatism

Sardar Patel's dream of complete integration achieved

Aug 05 decision fulfils his long-awaited mission



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that strong governance and national unity had crushed the roots of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the region's complete integration after the abrogation of Article 370 reflected Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a united India.

He said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had wanted to fully integrate Jammu and Kashmir

with India, just as he did with other princely states, but that then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru did not allow it.

Addressing the gathering after the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas parade at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat on the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, Modi said Patel's goal was to bring every princely state under one flag and Constitution.

"Sardar Patel wanted to unite the entire Kashmir, just as he did with other princely

states. But Nehru ji stopped his wish from being fulfilled. Kashmir was divided, given a separate Constitution and a separate flag, and the nation suffered for decades because of Congress's mistake," he said.

He said Patel believed that instead of writing history, one should work hard to create it. "After 2014, the country has once again seen the extraordinary willpower inspired by Sardar Patel's vision. Today, Kashmir has broken the chains of Article 370 and has | [More on P6](#)

9-day autumn session ends

J&K Assembly adjourned sine die

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 31: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Friday adjourned the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly sine die.

The nine-day session, which was largely free of disruptions, saw the passage of five government bills.

According to details available with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the bills passed include the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Establishments (Licensing, Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the

Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Bill, 2025, and the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

As per details available with KNO, the Assembly Secretariat received a total of 732 questions from MLAs during the session. Of these, 682 were admitted, and 29 were taken up for discussion, with 73 supplementary questions raised by members.

During Zero Hour, legislators brought 97 issues to the attention of the government.

In terms of legislative initiatives by members, 14 new private bills were submitted, while 33 bills from previous sessions remained pending. On October 28, 41 private member bills were listed for introduction in the House. | [More on P6](#)

Art-370 gone, J&K now integrated with India: Amit Shah

'Aug 2019 decision brought UT under one flag, one Constitution, one nation'

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 31: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfilled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a unified India by abrogating Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, completing the mission that Patel had begun after Independence.

Speaking at the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations in Gujarat's Ekta Nagar, Shah said Sardar Patel had shown unparalleled determination in integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after 1947, a task many at the time thought was impossible.

"At that time, the entire world thought that it would be



impossible to unite these 562 princely states into one nation. However, within a short span of time, Sardar Patel accomplished the monumental task of integrating all 562 princely states, and the map of modern India that we see today is the

result of his vision and efforts," Shah said.

The Home Minister said Patel's diplomacy, courage, and administrative acumen transformed the fragmented political landscape into a unified country. | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar questions delay in restoring J&K statehood

Says post-Pahalgam situation would have never occurred under his govt's control on security

Owais Gul

Srinagar, Oct 31: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday questioned the delay in restoring statehood, saying the situation witnessed after the Pahalgam attack would never have occurred if security control had been under his government.

Addressing a gathering during the inauguration of Noor Jahan Bridge in Qamarwari area here, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that at present, shikaras, taxis, and houseboats are lying empty after the Pahalgam attack. "Who has control over security? I don't have the responsibility for security. If it had been in our hands, we would never



have allowed such a situation to occur," he said.

The Chief Minister further said that during his six years in office, there was not a single incident where tourists were targeted. "Our 26 guests have been killed in Pahalgam, and we are being asked to work. We know

how to work; you do your job," he said, apparently reacting to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's statement that the elected government has enough powers which should be utilised for public welfare.

He added that, at the very least, the promises made in

the Supreme Court (SC) and Parliament to the people of J&K should be fulfilled. "Why are they afraid of statehood? Why aren't they ready to step down? If people voted for that promise, then why is it being delayed? Except for a few recently elected MLAs, all parties, be it the NC, BJP, or PDP, sought votes on the promise of statehood. People were told that statehood would be restored after the elections, but now they are being asked to wait for the 'right time'. I will wait, but tell me, how will we know when the right time has come?" he said.

Omar added, "As Chief Minister, I should be informed of the goal set for the restoration of statehood | [More on P6](#)

Aspirational J&K UT was born on Oct 31, 2019: LG Manoj Sinha

Calls for following vision & ideals of Sardar Patel



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 31: "An aspirational J&K UT was born on 31st October 2019 and People's dream of peace and progress was fulfilled within a short span of time," Lieutenant

Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He said the historic milestones were achieved in infrastructure and other sectors. All forms of discrimination were eliminated and social justice and equality were established. | [More on P6](#)

'Work with dedication for Aatmanirbhar India'

KT News Desk

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administered Unity Pledge to the officers and staff of Raj Bhawan, on the occasion of 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas'. The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary. He has urged | [More on P6](#)

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

J&K Police lead from front

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 31: Dedicated the day to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) with great enthusiasm across all districts of the Valley, marking the 150th birth anniversary of the country's first Deputy Prime Minister.

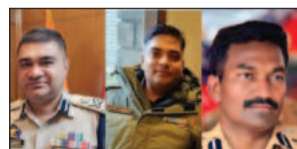
According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer as part of the nationwide celebrations, a series of events including Run for Unity, Ekta Pledge ceremonies, photo exhibitions, seminars and plantation drives were held in Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora, Kulgam, Kupwara. | [More on P6](#)

IGP Kmr, SSP Sgr among 19 cops get MHA award for avenging Pahalgam attack

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 31: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has conferred the "Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak" on 19 Jammu and Kashmir Police officers for their role in Operation Mahadev, the counter-terror operation launched in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), nineteen officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, including Inspector general of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vidhi Kumar Birdi, DIG Central Kashmir Pande Rajiv Omprakash, SSP Srinagar



G.V. Sundeeep Chakraborty, SPs Tanveer Ahmed Dar and Zoheb Tanveer, have been awarded for their role in Operation Mahadev.

Other recipients include DSPs Vikram Nag, Mubashir Naiz, and Shakir Hassan; Inspector Taseer Hamid; SIs Anchal Singh and Firoz Ahmad Dar; ASIs Basharat Rasool Shah and Mohammad Shafi; HCs Javed Ahmed and Sandeep Khujuria; SGCTs Varun Singh | [More on P6](#)

SKUAST should focus on AI-powered farming: LG

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 31: "We must sprint ahead in agriculture and allied sectors to fuel India's growth story," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday.

He said that to build a developed India, our prime objective should be to achieve a consistent 5% annual growth rate.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the need for cultivating change in agriculture education to ensure sustainable practices in future.

"Educational institutions like SKUAST should focus on AI-powered farming and diversification into high-value crops with strategic planning to boost productivity and income of farmers," the Lieutenant Governor said.



He was speaking at the SKUAST-Kashmir's 'Deeksharambh', a Student Induction Programme, titled as "Aneka Mein Ekta Diwas" held to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In his address, he also lauded the academic achievements of SKUAST-Kashmir and expressed his happiness over its overall ranking and attracting students from | [More on P6](#)

New timing for Kashmir schools

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 31: Director General School Education Kashmir G N Itoo Friday ordered change in school timing for all government and private schools from November-01.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Director General ordered that the schools falling in the Srinagar municipal limits shall function from 10am to 3pm. However the school falling outside the Srinagar municipal limits shall function from 10:30am to 3:30pm.

"It is ordered that new School timing both in respect of government as well as recognised Private Schools in the Kashmir Division with effect from November-01," it reads. (KNO)

CS stresses long term roadmap to elevate Higher Education

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday underscored the need for a comprehensive and futuristic roadmap to transform the higher education landscape in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the sector, he called upon the Higher Education Department to formulate a 5-10year strategic plan aimed at elevating the stature of higher education and aligning it with contemporary academic, technological, and market needs.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Director, Colleges; Managing Director, RUSA; and other senior officers of the department.

Emphasizing the importance of relevance and innovation, the Chief Secretary urged the Department to revise the curriculum to make it more skill-oriented, industry-driven, and aspirational in outlook.

He stressed redesigning



outdated courses and introducing new, market-driven programmes to ensure students are equipped for emerging employment opportunities. He observed that the purpose of higher education is to create a futuristic, employable generation rather than one that struggles for opportunities post-graduation. He directed the Department to seek guidance

from the Union Ministry of Education, NITI Aayog, and the Higher Education Council to strengthen policy alignment and institutional excellence.

The Chief Secretary also advised the Department to make human resource management a focal area of its reform strategy, ensuring that employees remain motivated, well-supported, and

adequately trained to deliver effectively under all circumstances. He maintained that building institutional capacity and nurturing a capable workforce are critical for achieving educational excellence.

Highlighting the Department's progress, the ACS, Higher Education, Shantmanu, informed that significant strides have been

made in infrastructure development, financial management, and student enrolment across the UT. He stated that the total enrolment in higher education institutions across J&K stands at 2,87,663 students, including 9,274 students in University of Jammu, 13,375 students in University of Kashmir, 1,98,392 students (UG + PG) enrolled in Government Degree

Colleges and 56,644 students in Private Colleges across J&K.

The Department also highlighted its pioneering efforts in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, making J&K one of the first UTs to adopt the 4-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) with 58 major programmes under the 3+1 Honours model. The FYUGP framework features multiple entry-exit options and the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), facilitating seamless mobility and credit transfers for students. It was informed that the Department is prioritizing infrastructure expansion and modernization through a substantial capital expenditure plan. Out of the approved Capex budget of Rs 500 Cr, an amount of Rs 270.61 Cr has been released so far, with Rs 80.68 Cr expenditure recorded on BEAMS.

Against the target of 160 works, 30 have been completed to date. Major ongoing projects include construction/upgradation of 50 classrooms, 39 multi-purpose halls, 22 hostel blocks, 22 science blocks/labs, 19 auditoriums, and

10 administrative blocks.

Moreover it was divulged that 18 libraries are being digitized and RFID-tagged, 18 playgrounds are under development or upgradation, 9 research hubs are in progress, and 3 new library blocks are under construction.

Providing details of central schemes, the Department reported strong financial performance and steady project completion under RUSA and PM-USHA. As of October 30, 2025, out of 74 institutional/project targets across all phases (RUSA 1, RUSA 2, and PM-USHA), 38 projects have been completed, the meeting was apprised.

Additionally it was given out that against a total outlay of Rs 713.48 Cr, cumulative expenditure stands at Rs 430.40 Cr, reflecting an excellent 94% utilisation against funds released by the Central and UT Governments (Rs 455.88 Cr).

To ensure timely completion of ongoing projects by March 2026, the Department has projected an additional requirement of Rs 251.92 Cr from the Government of India.

IWAI, J&K Govt sign MoU for dev of Sgr Water Metro

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop an Urban Water Transport System in Srinagar, modeled on the highly successful Kochi Water Metro.

On behalf of the J&K Government, the MoU was signed by the Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Kashmir, while the Chief Engineer (Transport & Logistics), IWAI, signed on behalf of the Authority. The MoU was formally presented to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in presence of Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, Secretary Transport Department Avny Lavasa and RTO Kashmir Qazi Irfan.

The MoU outlines a comprehensive framework for collaboration in developing and promoting an integrated, water-based urban transport network connecting key destinations along Dal Lake and River Jhelum. The initiative aims to ease traffic congestion, enhance intra-city connectivity, and promote sustainable, eco-friendly mobility within Srinagar.

Under the agreement, the J&K Government will provide administrative and logistical support, including necessary clearances, land acquisition, and the development of allied infrastructure. It will also ensure efficient first- and last-mile connectivity, integrating the Water Metro into the broader urban transport ecosystem of the Union Territory.

The IWAI will provide technical expertise and

guidance for the project, oversee maintenance of navigational channels and aids, and facilitate capacity-building programmes for inland water transport personnel. It will also ensure navigation safety and the adoption of modern operational systems.

The proposed 900 crore project envisions establishing water transport connectivity through electric-hybrid boats for local passenger movement — featuring five routes with ten terminals on Dal Lake and two routes with eight terminals on River Jhelum. This network will complement existing road infrastructure and offer an alternate, green mode of urban transit.

Both parties have agreed to work jointly to obtain statutory clearances and address environmental, forest, and local considerations related to project execution. The funding structure will be finalised through mutual consultation, while a detailed implementation roadmap will be prepared in the coming months.

This collaboration marks a major stride toward developing a reliable, efficient, and environmentally responsible public transport system in Srinagar. The project is expected to enhance urban mobility, boost tourism, and create new livelihood opportunities by introducing a modern, sustainable mode of transport.

A similar inland water transport model is also being explored for Jammu, reflecting the government's broader vision to harness the potential of the region's waterways for integrated urban transport development.

Legislators discuss peoples issues with Minister Rana



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: A delegation of several legislators Friday met Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, and apprised him of various issues of public importance pertaining to their respective constituencies.

The Legislators who called on the Minister included Sajjad Shafi Uri, Javaid Iqbal Choudhary, Zafar Ali Khatana, Salman Sagar and Shabir Ahmed Kullay.

During the meeting, the Legislators raised a number of issues concerning augmentation and strengthening of water supply infrastructure.

They highlighted the need for improvement of potable drinking water facilities and other related matters aimed at ensuring reliable and equitable water availability to the public.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the legislators and assured them that all genuine demands and developmental concerns would be addressed on priority. He directed Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers (SEs), and Executive Engineers (XEns) of Jal Shakti Department to maintain close liaison and regular coordination with the legislators for effective and timely redressal of public grievances.

Rana emphasized that Jal Shakti Department is

committed to ensuring sustainable and dependable water supply across all habitations of Jammu & Kashmir. He urged the officers to work in a mission mode to expedite ongoing projects and to adopt a proactive approach in resolving field-level challenges.

The Minister also appreciated the legislators for their conscientious efforts and continuous engagement in addressing the developmental aspirations of the people in their constituencies.

He encouraged them to continue their dedicated endeavours for the welfare and betterment of the public, assuring full cooperation and support from the Ministry.

Div Com, IGP Jammu flag off Unity March

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCTOBER 31: To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, Sardar @ 150 Unity March, a district-level Padyatra was organised Friday here from Gulshan Ground. The march was flagged off by Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar in the presence of IGP Bhim Sen Tuti, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas, DIG Shiv Kumar and ADC Ansuya Jamwal.

Director Mera Yuva Bharat, Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh Nisar Ahmed Butt was also present on the occasion.

The march passed through Gujjar Nagar Bridge and culminated at Hari Singh Park. Bands from the J&K Police and BSF along with NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, school students and officers and staff of the district administration participated in large numbers and pledged to uphold the unity and sovereignty of the nation.

Patriotic performances were presented by school students and artists from the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

CS administers 'Unity Pledge' to officers

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: On the eve of the 12th National Unity Day, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday administered the 'Unity Pledge' to officers and officials of the Civil Secretariat here. The ceremony, aimed at reaffirming the spirit of national integration and collective responsibility. The same was also attended virtually by employees stationed at the Jammu Secretariat through video conferencing.

During the solemn ceremony, the civil servants pledged to dedicate themselves to preserving the unity, integrity, and security of the nation, and to spread this message among fellow citizens. They also resolved to



contribute actively towards ensuring internal security and strengthening the spirit of national unity in their respective spheres of work.

Pertinently, National Unity Day is observed every year to commemorate the immense contribution of India's first Home Minister, Sardar

Vallabhbhai Patel, in the unification of the nation.

The day celebrates Patel's monumental efforts in integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after independence, thereby laying the foundation of a united and strong India.

OFFICE OF DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, BUDGAM

Helpline No: - 01951-25547

Order No: - 101A/ORD/DLSA/BDM/2025

Date: 15/09/2025

Subject:- Conduct of Interview/Interaction of Candidates for the Posts of Office Assistant, Data Entry Operator and Office Peon.

It is hereby, notified for the information of all concerned that the Interview/interaction of the candidates who have applied for various posts in the District Legal Services Authority, Budgam shall be conducted as per the following schedule:

. Office Assistant & Data Entry Operator: 03rd November, 2025 at 11:00 am

. Office Peon: 04th November, 2025 at 11:00 am

The interviews/interactions shall be held in the office of the District Legal Services Authority, District Court Complex, Budgam. All concerned candidates are directed to appear before the Selection committee on the scheduled date and time along with their original documents, testimonials, and relevant certificates for verification. The list of Eligible candidates is annexed herewith for reference.

Sd/-

Secretary

No: DLSA/BDM/2025/1590A-D

Dated:-15-09-2025

DIPK-7663/25

Dated: 31-10-2025

District Legal Services Authority

Budgam

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR

Near Petrol Pump Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar-190011

Public Notice

'M/s Kashmir Heritage Industries, Integrated Textile & Handicraft Park, Zakura Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No.: 01/003/09325/PMT/MSME dated 13.03.2020 for the activity of "Manufacturing of technical textile bags with additional products viz., manufacturing of PPE body suits including boot covers, surgical masks, aprons, bed spreads/pillow covers (all disposable)" as proprietorship concern of Shahnaz Gowhar D/o Mohammad Shaft Nahvi R/o Reyazat Teng Khanyar Srinagar with its location at Integrated Textile and Handicraft park Zakura Srinagar. Now, the promoter of the unit has approached this office for change of constitution by way of induction of partner namely Mr. Syed Afaq Qadri S/o Late Syed Bashir Ahmad Qadri R/o Riyazat Teng Khanyar Srinagar.

Any person having any objection with regard to the above mentioned change in favour of the unit. shall report to the Office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-

General Manager

District Industries Centre
Srinagar

DIPK-7660/25

Dated: 31-10-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

127-AD, Opposite Police Residential Qtrs. Gandhi Nagar Jammu 180004,

Kashmir Office: Suliman Complex Dalgate Srinagar 190001

Email. directorik.tad@ik.gov.in

Subject:- Extension of timeline for filling of online application and completion of verification process for the Pre-Matric & Post-Matric Scholarship for ST Students of J&K during the Academic Year 2025-26.

NOTICE

On the basis of representations received from the students, it is hereby notified for the information of all the concern that timeline for receipt and verification of online applications on National Scholarship Portal(NSP) for Pre-Matric(9th & 10th) and Post Matric scholarships for ST students of Jammu & Kashmir for the Academic Year 2025-26 called for vide Notice(s) issued under endorsement No: DTA/PMS/2025-26/2742- 2804 Dated: 14.08.2025 (post matric) read with corrigendum No: DTA/PMS/2025- 26/427-88 dated: 18.08.2025 and endorsement No: DTA/PMS/2025-26/489-502 Dated:19.08.2025(pre-matric) is further extended as per details indicated in the table given below;

S.no	Name of the Scheme	Last Date of Filing of online Application after extension	Last Date for Institution Verification after extension	Last Date for State/District Nodal Officer Verification after Extension
1	Pre-Matric Scholarship to ST Students for J&K	15th of Nov, 2025	25th of Nov, 2025	30th of Nov, 2025
2	Post-Matric Scholarship to ST Students for J&K	15th of Nov, 2025	25th of Nov, 2025	30th of Nov, 2025

No: DTA/Sch/PMS/2025/725-40-K

Dated: 30-10-2025

DIPK-7653/25

DATED: 31-10-2025

(Mohd Mumtaz Ali) JKAS

Director

Tribal Affairs J&K

CM Omar elected for governance, not just statehood: LoP Sharma

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, Oct 31: Leader of the Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Friday said that the restoration of Article 370 and 35-A will remain a dream for those seeking it, and that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should focus only on his demand for statehood.

Sharma while talking to the reporters said that as far as the restoration of statehood is concerned, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supports the demand. However, he added that those dreaming about the return of Article 370 and 35-A are chasing a mirage.

"Ask Omar sahib about his August 15 speech where he said they would go door to door to collect signatures. I was at that function. You keep talking about statehood and full statehood, we support it, but do not hide behind it. Where is the UT [set-up] stopping you from working? Look, a huge corruption scandal came out yesterday. If the UT setup allows you to do



corruption, what is stopping you from delivering good governance?" Sharma said.

Asked about the counter arguments made by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary regarding recent allegations of a multi-crore scam, Sharma said that Choudhary's statements lack logic.

"He alleges a 28-thousand-crore scam somewhere. You (Choudhary) are in the government, your department is with you. Bring out the files.

Show them to the people if you have the courage. If you are a minister, allow investigations. Yesterday, one scandal surfaced as an example. Investigate your own department. You have the Industries Department," Sharma said. He added that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was not elected only for the restoration of statehood but for ensuring good governance. "That is missing on the ground, and this is quite unfortunate," Sharma said—(KNO)

SC sets 12-week deadline for JKCA elections

SAJID RAINA

New Delhi, Oct 31: In a significant development, the Supreme Court has ordered that elections for the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) be held within 12 weeks under the supervision of former Chief Election Commissioner Achal Kumar Jyoti.

The direction was issued by a Bench led by the Chief Justice of India, along with Justice K. Vinod Chandran, while hearing a petition concerning the administration of the JKCA. Advocate Soayib Qureshi appeared before the Court on behalf of the petitioners in the case.

The case relates to a 2017 judgment of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, which had ordered that the JKCA be managed by a court-appointed administrator.

Later, in March 2021, the High Court's Division Bench modified that order, discontinuing the court-appointed administrator and directing the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to take over the JKCA's affairs until a new body was elected.

Following that direction, the BCCI had formed a committee and subcommittee to manage and supervise JKCA operations. The



committee also finalized a new constitution for the association, which is currently awaiting formal registration with the Registrar of Societies. During the hearing, all parties agreed that the election process should not be delayed further due to the pending registration of the constitution.

The court-appointed Amicus Curiae, Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, proposed that the election be conducted by former Chief Election Commissioner Achal Kumar Jyoti. He accepted the assignment and requested 12 weeks to complete the process.

Accepting the proposal, the

Supreme Court appointed Jyoti as the Election Officer for JKCA and directed the BCCI to provide him with the approved constitution, as filed before the Court. The Bench instructed that elections be conducted strictly in accordance with that constitution within 12 weeks, without waiting for formal registration.

The Court also addressed several connected matters concerning other state cricket associations. It approved amendments to the Bihar Cricket Association's constitution as suggested by the Amicus Curiae and directed their immediate

registration.

Additionally, the Court recorded submissions from the Andhra Pradesh and Vidarbha Cricket Associations, both of which have proposed constitutional amendments. It directed that copies of their proposals be examined by the Amicus Curiae, who has been asked to file a report within six weeks.

The matter was heard in the presence of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, Senior Advocates Sridhar Potaraju and Maninder Singh (Amicus Curiae), and other counsels representing the BCCI and state associations—(KNO)

LA Session

Uproar in assembly over viral videos

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 31: The Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Friday witnessed protests from legislators of the ruling National Conference (NC) against a news portal for circulating a video showing an MLA scrolling through social media during the House proceedings.

As soon as Question Hour began, MLA from Karnah Javid Mirchal demanded strict action against the portal, accusing it of defaming him.

"When I was asking a question about doctors, I opened Facebook for a few seconds. A video of that moment was captured and circulated on social media," Mirchal said.

Mirchal added that he couldn't sleep the entire night due to the online harassment he faced. "Action should be taken against these paid agents," he demanded.

Intervening in the matter, NC's Nazir Gurezi claimed that Mirchal was actually viewing business documents sent by the Assembly Secretariat. "His constituents are accusing him of wasting time in the Assembly on social media



instead of raising issues concerning his constituency," Gurezi said, adding that the party is moving a privilege motion against the portal in question.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather assured the protesting lawmakers that appropriate action would be taken.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary also called for strict action against social media pages that circulated reels featuring a conversation between him and Education Minister Sakina Ittoo.

"Sakina Ittoo was sitting with me. We were discussing something,

They captured a clip and made reels. This is an insult. We are respectable people. She tied a Rakhi on my wrist. Had she not been my sister, it wouldn't have been appropriate. They made vulgar reels," the Deputy CM said.

He said that the media, as the fourth pillar of democracy, should act responsibly.

"A strict warning should be issued, and those involved in making such reels should be debarred from covering the proceedings of the House," he said, adding that their social media accounts should be taken down—(KNO)

GMC Handwara construction extended until March 2026

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Oct 31: The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced that the deadline for establishing the GMC Handwara, along with the district referral hospital, has been extended until March 2026.

Responding to a question by MLA Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh, the Health and Medical Education Department Minister Sakeena Itoo said in a written reply that heavy flash floods in April 2024 damaged the original construction site for the Government Medical College (GMC) Maidan Chougul in Handwara, with water submerging the area up to 12 feet, which halted ongoing work.

"The sunset date for the establishment of GMC Handwara, along with the District Referral Hospital, has been extended till March 2026," she said. Regarding

the resumption of construction, Itoo said it depends on several factors, including meeting the requirements set by the National Medical Council (NMC), such as relocating GMC Handwara from Maidan Chougul. "This involves transferring the proposed 200 kanals of encumbrance-free land at the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, to the Health & Medical Education Department, obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Science and Technology Department, and assessing the technical feasibility from the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) North Kashmir, to ensure the land's suitability and stability," she said.

The minister said financial support is also needed beyond the original estimate of around Rs 70 crore, along with securing the remaining Central Share, which will be determined after March 31, 2026. This will enable

the Council of Ministers to consider a site change if necessary, she added.

Sakeena clarified that no funds allocated for GMC Handwara have been diverted to any other GMC project. "For the financial year 2025-26, an amount of Rs 164.48 lakh has been allocated for work activities such as the 'SITC of a 26-Passenger G+2 Lift including cables, servo, DLP, pit preparation, whitewashing, etc.' and 'Infrastructure strengthening of the associated hospital, Langate.' These works are targeted to be completed by March 31, 2026," she said.

Currently, OPD services, Ophthalmology, and Paediatrics are operational, the Health Minister said, adding, "Once the lift and other infrastructure works are completed, the feasibility of operationalising additional facilities will be reviewed."—(KNO)

67.4 lakh beneficiaries received free ration

WARIS FAYAZ

Srinagar, Oct 31: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday revealed that over 67 lakh beneficiaries have been provided free ration across the Union Territory since March 2025 under the Free Ration Scheme. However, no free gas cylinders were distributed during the same period, it said.

In response to a question by MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma said a total of 67,40,632 beneficiaries were covered under the scheme, including 29,76,027 in Jammu Division and 37,64,605 in Kashmir Division.

According to the district-wise breakup, Jammu recorded the highest number of beneficiaries in the division at 6,11,835, followed by Rajouri with 4,15,756 and Kathua with 3,72,672. In Kashmir Division, Baramulla topped the list with 5,78,106 beneficiaries, followed closely by Anantnag with 5,76,943 and Kupwara with 5,20,224.

The figures also show that Srinagar district had 5,09,787 beneficiaries, while the lowest number was recorded in Shopian with 1,63,533.

The government clarified that no free gas cylinders were issued to any beneficiary in Jammu and Kashmir during the said period—(KNO)

No proposal for KCC loan waiver

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Oct 31: The government on Thursday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that there is currently no proposal to waive Kissan Credit Card (KCC) loans for farmers affected by recent floods and highway blockades.

In a written reply to questions raised by two legislators, the Agriculture Production Department said that although farmers suffered heavy losses due to floods, horticulture damage, livestock loss and infrastructure impact, the administration has not considered a loan waiver.

"There is no proposal with the government for Kisan Credit Card loan waiver," the reply stated.

The government, however, confirmed that an assessment of agricultural and allied sector losses amounting to Rs 209.21 crore has been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration.

It added that Rs 643.93 lakh has already been disbursed as relief to affected farmers under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), including 465.74 lakh in Kashmir division and Rs 178.19 lakh in Jammu division.

To address crop loss claims, the department said Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) are being carried out, after which compensation will be directly credited to farmers' bank accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMF-BY) through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

The government assured that necessary assistance is being extended to farmers in accordance with existing relief guidelines—(KNO)

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Oct: The government on Friday said that major water bodies including Dal, Nigeen, Manasbal, Wular, Hokersar and other wetlands play a crucial role in the Valley's ecosystem, biodiversity and tourism, and are essential for maintaining environmental balance.

Responding to a question raised by Mubarak Gul in the Legislative Assembly, the Housing & Urban Development Department affirmed that these lakes hold immense ecological and economic value.

The government, however, rejected claims that despite the establishment of several dedicated authorities, proper monitoring and conservation efforts had not been achieved. It said multiple agencies including the J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority, Wildlife Protection Department and Wular Conservation and Management Authority are actively working to protect and revive the wetlands.

The government said significant steps have been taken to improve the health of Dal and Nigeen Lake, such as dredging and de-weeding operations, installation of sewage treatment systems, construction of sewer networks around lake areas, solid-waste removal drives, installation of trash barriers,

Dal, Nigeen wetlands vital for ecosystem



removal of lily pads and clearing of floating vegetation.

Rehabilitation of residents living inside lake areas, afforestation in catchment zones and soil-erosion control works have also been carried out, it said.

The authorities informed the House that specific interventions at Hokersar, Shalibagh and Haigam have restored water channels, created ring bunds and sluice gates to regulate water inflow and outflow, and cleared thick layers of vegetation to ensure better habitat conditions for migratory birds. At Wular Lake, GPS-based boundary demarcation has been completed and large portions of the critically silted lake have been dredged to increase water-holding capacity.

The government added that water quality monitoring is being undertaken at multiple designated sites, while tourist facilities such as walkways and jetties are being developed to promote responsible

eco-tourism.

To address challenges like untreated sewage, solid-waste dumping and invasive species such as water hyacinth in Dal Lake, the government said annual clearance drives are being conducted along with regular Swachhta campaigns and public-awareness programmes in collaboration with local bodies. A pre-feasibility study for a sewage treatment plant in Bandipora is underway to further strengthen protection measures.

The government informed that District Wetland Management Units headed by Deputy Commissioners have also been constituted with the mandate to prepare conservation plans, monitor wetlands, and ensure compliance with directives issued by the Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal. It said these units are actively demarcating wetlands, ground-truthing data and submitting regular reports to competent authorities.

'Land rights granted to displaced PoJK'

RAJA SYED RATHER

Srinagar, Oct 31: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday said that displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), who settled in the Union Territory decades ago, have been granted ownership rights over the land allotted to them.

In a written reply to a question by a legislator, the Revenue Department said that displaced persons of 1947, 1965, and 1971 have already received ownership rights under various government orders and acts. The department said the government has taken multiple steps over the years to regularize refugee colonies and confer proprietary rights, citing key decisions including Cabinet Order No. 578-C of 1954, the Agrarian Reforms Act of 1976, and orders issued in 1966 and 2024.

It said families were allotted evacuee land, state land, and residential quarters under prescribed rules, and the ceiling limits were revised in later years to benefit more families.

It also said recent orders issued in 2024 provide for the transfer of evacuee land and full proprietary rights to displaced persons, including West Pakistan Displaced Persons, who have maintained continuous recorded possession over their allotted land.

"Awareness camps are organized and case files of eligible beneficiaries are prepared on a fast-track basis and no one is denied such benefits," it said.

The department said that the administration is in the final phase of granting complete ownership rights to displaced families settled across J&K—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Long-Term Strategic Plans Are Needed To Transform J&K’s Education Sector

Jammu and Kashmir’s education sector needs a pivotal shift from mere infrastructure development to meaningful transformation. While the achievement of over 95% literacy in 15 districts is commendable, the administration’s focus on strengthening foundational learning and implementing long-term strategic plans is what will truly shape the region’s future. The focus must be on creating clear milestones for educational reforms. The real change requires systematic planning rather than piecemeal interventions. A push for

technological integration and a comprehensive five-year perspective plan addressing critical gaps in digital infrastructure, vocational training, and teacher development is needed for a holistic approach to education modernisation. Equally significant is the Education Minister’s call for focusing on early childhood education, which is the cornerstone of cognitive and emotional development. Her emphasis on play-based learning and trained, empathetic educators recognises that quality education begins not with standardised

testing, but with nurturing curiosity and creativity in young minds. The co-location of 619 Anganwadi centres with primary schools represents a practical step toward implementing the National Education Policy’s vision of seamless early childhood care. However, these initiatives must overcome significant challenges. The digital divide in remote areas, uneven teacher quality, and the need for contextually relevant vocational training require sustained attention. The success of these programmes will depend on effective implementation

at the grassroots level, adequate funding, and regular monitoring. While J&K positions itself as an emerging educational hub, this balanced approach of combining technological advancement with foundational learning principles could become a model for other regions. By investing in both infrastructure and human capital, the administration will not just build schools but futures. The true measure of success will be seen in the coming years, as these policies translate into improved learning outcomes and better life opportunities for J&K’s youth.

Building A Viksit Bharat With 6G

From 4G Self-Reliance To 6G Global Leadership

Press Information Bureau

The Government of India is steering the nation’s transition towards next-generation connectivity through a series of strategic initiatives aimed at advancing 6G technologies. Anchored in the principles of affordability, sustainability, and ubiquity, India’s 6G vision focuses on empowering society through indigenous innovation, advanced R&D, and global collaboration. With active participation from industry, academia, and research institutions, India is positioning itself as a global hub for future telecom technologies, aligned with the broader national goal of building a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

What is 6G?

6G, or sixth-generation wireless technology, will succeed 5G and make internet connections significantly faster and smoother. It will use higher radio frequencies than 5G, letting it handle vast data at once with almost no delay.

6G aims to send and receive information in just one microsecond, that’s 1,000 times faster than the response time of 5G. This means instant connections with almost zero lag, which will be useful for things like remote medical surgeries, smart robotics, and real-time gaming.

The 6G network will also improve features like advanced imaging, precise location tracking, and creating lifelike virtual experiences. When combined with artificial intelligence (AI), it will be smart enough to decide automatically where to store, process, and share data, making technology more efficient and responsive everywhere.

India’s 6G Vision: Positioning India as a Global Telecom Innovator

The Bharat 6G Vision manifesto aims to make India a leading supplier of advanced telecom technologies, aligned with Viksit Bharat objectives. The rapid rollout and domestic adoption of 5G is laying the foundation for India’s 6G vision, positioning the country as a global leader in future telecom innovation. 6G Vision is based on principles of affordability, sustainability, and ubiquity.

On March 22, 2023, the “Bharat 6G Vision” document was released, envisioning India as a frontline contributor in the design, development, and deployment of 6G technology by 2030. The Government has taken following initiatives to facilitate the development of 6G technology in the country:

Funding two testbeds namely 6G THz Testbed & Advance Optical Communication Testbed to promote R&D and innovation in the country.

Sanctioned 100 5G labs at academic institutions in FY 2023- 24, across India for capacity building & for building a 6G ready academic and start-up ecosystem in the country.

104 research proposals have been approved on 6G network ecosystems to promote research and innovation in line with global roadmap for 6G technology.

Bharat 6G Alliance

The Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) is an initiative of Indian industry, Telecom Service providers, academia, national research institutions, and standards organizations. Supported by the government and industry, it drives indigenous 6G research and development to create a self-reliant, globally competitive ecosystem for advanced communications technologies. With state-of-the-art labs and innovation focus on multi-chip modules, SoCs, and advanced IoT applications, India aims to lead the global 6G movement. B6GA is an industry-led body, facilitated by the government, providing a collaborative platform to technology stakeholders including public/private companies, academia, research institutions, and standard development organizations. Bharat 6G Alliance has constituted seven Working Groups on different domains of 6G like Spectrum, Technology, Applications, Green and Sustainability and use cases.

In a step towards redefining the future



of global communication, the Bharat 6G Alliance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with leading research alliances like the NextG Alliance (USA), 6G IA (Europe), 6G Flagship Oulu University (Finland) 6G Forum South Korea, XGMF Japan, NGMN Alliance, 5G ACIA, UKI FNI, UK TIN, European Space Agency (ESA) and 6G Brasil (Brazil) to collaborative research and standardization. It has MOU with TSDSI and NASSCOM to utilise national synergy. These MoUs with 6G research alliances will further enable development of secure and trusted telecommunication technology including resilient supply chains.

Bharat’s 6G Mission

India’s pursuit of 6G began with an ambitious vision to become a global leader in next-generation wireless communications. This vision has driven the emergence of a dynamic ecosystem of innovators, researchers, startups, and policymakers, all dedicated to advancing connectivity. As the mission progresses into its next phase, the focus is on scaling past achievements, deepening technological innovation, and ensuring that 6G not only benefits India but originates here. Through collaboration and shared purpose, India is paving the way for leadership in the global digital future.

Spotlight on India @ India Mobile Congress, 2025

The International 6G Symposium 2025, held during the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025, marked a significant milestone in India’s journey towards next-generation communication technologies. The event highlighted the nation’s growing strength in telecom innovation, indigenous R&D, and global digital leadership.

Advancing India’s Technological Self-Reliance

India’s Made-in-India 4G stack was showcased as a landmark achievement in the country’s drive toward technological self-reliance and export readiness. This indigenous development forms the foundation of the ‘India 6G Vision 2030’, aimed at creating future-ready, secure, and scalable telecom networks.

India’s 6G roadmap envisions the sector contributing nearly USD 1.2 trillion to the national GDP by 2035. The country is targeting 10% of global 6G patents, underscoring its emergence as a hub for innovation in telecom technologies. In parallel, the satellite communications market is projected to triple by 2033, strengthening India’s

space-linked connectivity ecosystem.

Focus on Collaboration and Inclusivity

The symposium called for greater international cooperation, indigenous R&D, and synergy between academia, industry, and governments to shape an inclusive and affordable global 6G framework. Emphasis was placed on building a swadeshi telecom ecosystem, supported by recent advances such as the nationwide rollout of one lakh indigenous 4G towers, a crucial step towards developing a resilient infrastructure for next-generation networks.

The guiding vision emphasized that India is moving beyond being a consumer of technology to becoming a co-creator and co-leader in the 6G revolution, shaping the future of communication for both domestic and global needs.

Key Announcements and Releases

The event featured several important outcomes aimed at accelerating India’s 6G readiness:

A Joint Declaration on 6G Principles was released on October 10, 2025.

The Bharat 6G Alliance signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): one with NASSCOM and another with the European Space Agency to promote collaborative research and innovation in 6G and allied technologies.

The Bharat 6G Alliance also unveiled four whitepapers, providing strategic direction for the sector:

Spectrum Roadmap for 6G in India
Powering Next-Gen Telecom
AI and Network Evolution to 5G
6G Architecture, Security and Exposure Framework for RF Sensing

Government Initiatives for a Future-Ready 6G Telecom Ecosystem

India is advancing towards a 6G-ready ecosystem through initiatives that boost innovation, collaboration, and skills in next-gen telecom. These efforts focus on indigenous research, industry-academia partnerships, and startup support to enable cutting-edge solutions.

100 5G Labs Across Academic Institutions: Building a 6G-Ready Innovation Ecosystem

To foster skills, research, and experimentation in advanced telecom technologies, the Government of India has established 100 5G labs across academic institutions nationwide. The key objectives include:

To build competencies and engagement in 5G technologies in students and academic fraternity.

To enable projects at UG and PG level for students using 5G environment.

To encourage academia-industry engagement to ideate and develop 5G use cases.

To provide local access to 5G test setup for Startups and MSMEs around the institution.

Making Indian academia & Startup ecosystem 6G ready.

Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF): Driving Indigenous R&D in Telecom
Launched on 1st October 2022, the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme aims to accelerate innovation and R&D in telecom, including 6G technologies.

Key highlights:

The Telecom Technology Development Fund Scheme has been notified for domestic companies and institutions involved in technology design, development, commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.

The scheme aims to fund Research and Development (R&D) and innovation in telecom technologies, fostering collaboration between academia, start-ups, MSMEs, research institutes, and industry to enhance the telecom ecosystem in India.

A total 115 projects related to 5G and 6G amounting to Rs. 310.6 Crores have been approved under TTDF scheme as of 30th September, 2025. The duration of these R&D projects ranges from 1 to 5 years. These projects are currently in the initial stages of development.

Bharat 6G Alliance: A Unified National Effort for Global 6G Leadership

To advance the Bharat 6G Vision, India launched the Bharat 6G Alliance, bringing together industry, academia, startups, research institutions, and standardization bodies. The alliance is focused on enabling indigenous innovation and driving global collaboration.

As of July 2025, the alliance comprises 80+ member organizations, including 30+ startups.

Signed multiple MoUs with international 6G alliances to foster global knowledge exchange and joint development

Aim to provide ubiquitous, intelligent, and secure connectivity for high-quality living experience for the world.

Aims to bridge rural-urban divides and enable global digital inclusion.

Ideation phase for proof-of-concept, followed by deployment of technology solutions for India and the global community.

Technology Innovation Hub at IIIT-B: Pioneering 6G-Ready Technologies

Under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), a Technology Innovation Hub has been established at IIIT Bangalore, with a focus on Advanced Communication Systems that will shape future 6G networks.

The hub is dedicated to Advanced Communication Systems, addressing both current and future national needs and international trends.

Development of Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces and O-RAN Massive MIMO to enhance coverage, capacity, and sensing.

Core focus areas include designing and developing technology building blocks for 5G-advanced (5G+) and 6G systems and networks.

Priority is given to indigenous research that leads to creation of intellectual property (IP), such as product IP for commercial applications.

Emphasis on generating patents (IPR) to drive product-based innovation and facilitate incorporation into upcoming 5G-advanced and 6G standards.

Together, these initiatives are shaping a secure, inclusive, and future-proof digital infrastructure that not only strengthens India’s leadership in the global 6G race but also promotes equitable access to information, connectivity, and services for all. By empowering startups, nurturing talent, and deepening global partnerships, India is laying the groundwork for a connected, self-reliant, and digitally inclusive future.

Conclusion

India’s pursuit of next-generation telecom technologies is guided by a vision of self-reliance, innovation, and global collaboration. The discussions and announcements at the International Bharat 6G Symposium 2025 reaffirmed the nation’s commitment to developing a secure, inclusive, and future-ready digital ecosystem. Through initiatives such as the Bharat 6G Alliance, the Telecom Technology Development Fund, and active partnerships with global research institutions, India is steadily transitioning from being a technology adopter to a technology creator and standard-setter.

These strategic initiatives not only strengthen the domestic telecom ecosystem but also position India as a key contributor to the global 6G framework. The continued emphasis on affordability, sustainability, and ubiquity will ensure that India’s technological progress benefits every section of society while supporting the country’s vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

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Rs 37.77 Cr funds allocated under Cities & Towns for 2025-26 FY: Dy CM

Says Rs 7.50 crore utilized on Mini Secretariat Rajouri

KT News Desk

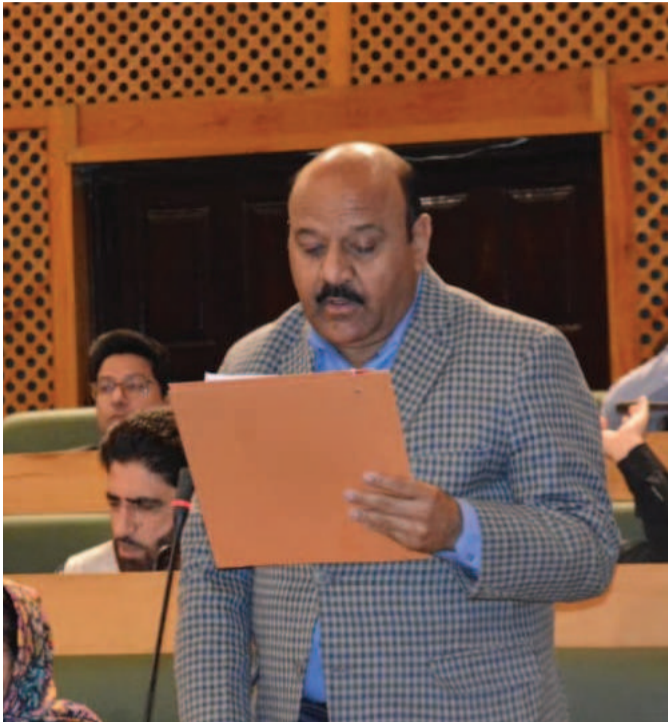
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: The Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Friday said that an amount of Rs 37.77 crore funds have been allocated for 277 works under Cities and Towns in Rajouri District for the year 2025-26.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by the Legislator Iftikhar Ahmad in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that the Mini Secretariat, Rajouri stands approved under the Special Task Force (STF) for the year 2011-12 for an amount of Rs. 10.00 crore, out of which Rs. 7.50 crore have been utilized.

He said that the sub structure work including the erection of columns has been completed at site. "However, matter shall be pursued with the district administration for settlement of the issue," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that an amount of Rs. 4942.16 lac has been for undertaking 53 projects under NABARD and UT Capex in Rajouri District, the areas covered are Kalakote- Sunderbani,



Nowshetra, Rajouri, Budhal and Surankote. Similarly under District Capex an amount of Rs. 8791 lac has been earmarked for Rajouri during the year 2025-26.

He said that the projects including Roads and bridges are

prioritized as per established norms, assessed field requirements, availability of resources, and recommendations received from MLAs and DDC Members to ensure equitable and need-based development across all areas.

Upgradation of degree colleges as per public requirements: Sakeena

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday said that the 52 newly sanctioned degree colleges are being made fully functional before any proposal will be taken for opening new degree colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister stated this while replying to a clubbed question of Legislators, Nizamuddin Bhat, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, Muzaffer Iqbal Khan, Choudhary Akram and Dr Rameshwar Singh regarding establishment of Degree Colleges, in Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister highlighted that the upgradation of degree colleges across Jammu and Kashmir will not be on any kind of political interference, rather it will be as per the requirements of the public. She also said that Health and Education sectors are very important sectors which reflect development of any society, adding that these sectors shouldn't be looked at with the prism of vote bank.

The Minister informed that for establishment of Degree College at Manjakote, State Level Empowered Standing Committee has been constituted earlier to examine the feasibility/ location and identify the un-served areas for establishment of Colleges. She added as per feasibility report submitted to the Administrative



Department the land measuring 72 Kanals 15 Marla in Village Lower Saroola, 9 Kanals in Village Lower Mangar (Nagar) and 56 Kanals custodian land at Talwad at village Dehri Dhara was made available for the establishment of college.

Regarding establishment of Degree College Arnia, the Minister said that the department of Higher Education is receiving demands from different sections of society including MLAs which are being evaluated as per feasibility parameters on the subject. She added that as per the feasibility report for opening of Degree College Arnia, Jammu is concerned, the existing GDC R.S. Pura and GDC Bishnah being approximately 17 Kms away, serve the educational needs of the area. She

also said that besides these, 7 Degree Colleges are operational in the Jammu District, and with the current enrollment patterns at GDC RS Pura and GDC Bishnah, the focus remains on enhancing the existing institutions. She further said that the establishment of new Degree College in the vicinity may be reassessed upon achieving optimum enrolment and operationalization capacity at GDC RS Pura and GDC Bishnah.

Regarding establishment of Degree College Lohai-Malhar, the Minister informed that the matter has been examined in the Department and it has been observed on the basis of feasibility report submitted by the committee constituted for the purpose, that it was decided to establish a Degree College at

Lohai Malhar in view of remote-ness/ topography of the area, as well as the distance from the nearest Degree College (i.e. 60 Kms from GDC Bani).

Regarding establishment of Degree College for Women in Bandipora, the Education Minister said that the existing Government Degree College, Bandipora presently caters to the higher educational needs of the region, with an enrolment of 497 female and 530 male students. She added that in addition to GDC Bandipora, there are further 7 Degree Colleges operational in the district, each reflecting an almost suitable enrolment of female students vis-à-vis their male counterparts.

The Education Minister further added that with the current enrolment patterns at GDC Bandipora and other colleges of the district, the focus remains on ensuring the delivery of quality education up to the required standards, and strengthening academic infrastructure.

Regarding Land for Degree College Surankote, the Minister informed that Tehsildar Surankote has identified State land measuring 66 kanals at village Kotlaha, for the construction of the Government Degree College for Women at Surankote, adding that the land has been transferred to Principal, Govt. Degree College, Surankote.

Speaker assures action against defaulter over misleading video

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: Legislative Assembly, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather Friday said that action will be taken against the defaulter in connection with the issue raised over a misleading video shared online involving MLA Javid Mirchal.

"I assure the House that appropriate action will be taken against the defaulter," the Speaker said.

The Speaker's remarks came after MLA Javid Mirchal raised the issue, clarifying that a video of him shared yesterday was misleading and taken out of context.

"The video was shared out of context. I couldn't sleep the entire night due to the harassment I faced online. I want strict action to be taken against those involved who tried to tarnish my reputation," he said as soon as the session began.

Mirchal was joined by other members in the House demanding strict action against the news outlet for spreading misinformation.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary speaking on the issue called for action against the news outlet responsible for circulating the misleading video.

He urged the media fraternity to act responsibly and



play a constructive role in disseminating factual information, emphasizing that the freedom of the press must be exercised with a sense of duty and accountability.

MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan demanded that a privilege motion be moved against the news portal for attempting to malign the image of a legislator. He said that such actions demean the dignity of the House and strict action be taken against the defaulter.

MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat said that callous and irresponsible media poses a serious threat to society, stressing that facts and ethics must form the foundation of journalism.

He urged media organizations to act responsibly and uphold professional integrity.

Rs 2.26 Cr WSS Gassu approved for supply of potable water: Rana

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmad Rana Friday said that the Rs. 2.26 Cr WSS Gassu has been approved for supply of potable water to residents of Hazratbal Constituency.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Legislator, Salman Sagar in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that there habitations including Tailbal, Khimber, Chandpora, Gasoo, Faquir Gujree, Chatarhama and adjoining areas of Hazratbal Constituency are being supplied drinking water supply facilities satisfactorily.

He said that these areas lie on the boundary of SMC and fall within the Ganderbal Division. However, during peak season, these areas are facing shortage of drinking water supply due to misuse of water by the inhabitants (online booster, watering gardens, washing vehicles and construction purposes etc). However, any shortage in supplies is addressed by deploying Water tankers.

Moreover, the area of Tailbal currently receives water from a 60,000-gallon Overhead Tank (OHT) sourced by a tube well. To enhance the



water supply to Tailbal and its adjoining areas and serve the growing demand in future, a new OHT is being constructed along with a dedicated bore well which is in the final stage of completion.

Further, he said that to augmentation the future demand, a new scheme under UT Capex titled WSS Gassu has been approved with an estimated cost of Rs. 226.32 lakhs and is under process of tendering.

Regarding the concerns of farmers confronting deficient irrigation facilities, the Minister said that the command areas are adequately connected through the existing gravity canal system of the Mavas Canal, which is fed from the Dachigam Nallah. During peak season or in case of deficient rains/ scarcity, additional irrigation requirements are being met through the Sind Extension

Canal drawing water from the Nallah Sind (Ganderbal), and further tail end areas are supplemented by three Lift Irrigation Stations, namely LIS Batpora A & B and LIS Tailbal.

The Minister said that adequate steps are being undertaken for strengthening critical and vulnerable spots along irrigation canals to ensure smooth and uninterrupted irrigation facilities. In this regard, various works are already being taken up during CFY 2025-26 under M&R, CDF, and UT Capex.

Adding the Minister said that additionally, under the UT Capex, a provision of Rs. 100.00 lac has been earmarked for the strengthening of SE Canal for further upgradation and augmentation of drinking and irrigation facilities.

Supplementaries were raised by Legislator Mubarak Gul and Tanvir Sadiq.

Secretary tables defection rules in Assembly

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita Friday laid on the Table of the House a copy of "The Members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Grounds of



Defection) Rules, 2025."

Govt elevates 2 SEs as In-Charge CEs

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered the placement of two Superintending Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department as In-charge Chief Engineers.

As per the orders issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, upon their elevation, Er. Vijay Singh Manhas has been posted as Director Technical, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency (JKERA), while Er. Rajeev Gupta has been posted as Chief Engineer, Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC).

The elevation of these officers forms part of a larger initiative undertaken by Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, soon after assuming charge of the Ministry.

The Minister has taken a proactive approach to address the long-pending issue of vacancies at higher levels within the Department.

Recognizing the critical need to strengthen the

administrative and technical leadership of the Jal Shakti Department, the Minister undertook a comprehensive review and examination exercise within the Ministry.

Subsequently, a proposal for relaxation of promotion rules was prepared and approved by the Council of Ministers, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Under this reform-oriented drive, all promotional posts in the Department have been filled within a span of ten months, marking a major step toward ensuring efficiency and accountability in the functioning of the Jal Shakti Department.

The promotion process has now been fully streamlined, paving the way for timely and merit-based career progression of engineers and other officers in the future.

The Department has expressed confidence that the appointment of Er. Manhas and Er. Gupta as In-charge Chief Engineers will bring renewed dynamism, professional excellence and stronger project execution capabilities to their respective organizations.

J&K Bank, Qul Hold awareness drive on HDP

KT News Desk

Sopore, Oct 31: In a key step toward modernizing Kashmir's horticulture sector, Qul, in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, organized a focused awareness drive in Sangrama and Handwara to educate farmers about High-Density Plantation (HDP) and the institutional financing available to support the transition.

The initiative brought together farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, and subject-matter experts to bridge the knowledge gap around scientific orchard development and long-term financial planning. The session aligns with Qul's mission of

building a science-led, sustainable, and farmer-centric horticultural ecosystem powered by biosciences, digital tools, and operational excellence.

Officials from J&K Bank highlighted the farmer-friendly provisions of the High-Density Apple Development Programme (HADP) and the broader High-Density Plantation Scheme. "The scheme provides both technical and financial support to farmers ready to modernize their orchards," a senior official mentioned. "Depending on the project, up to 75% of financing is available, with collateral-free loans up to 5 lakh for small and marginal farmers.

50% teaching posts being de-frozen: Sakeena Itoo

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: Minister for Health and Education Departments, Sakeena Itoo Friday said that the government is de-freezing 50 percent of teaching posts in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Legislator Javaid Iqbal in the Legislative Assembly today.

She said that the recruitment of teachers would address staff shortage in schools and facilitate better education to the students enrolled in government schools.

The Minister said that the government is taking massive infrastructure development of schools under SAMAGRA to provide adequate and basic facilities to the students in all schools.

"Elected representatives are consulted for prioritizing infrastructure development in their areas," the Minister said. Sharing details, the Minister said that there are a total 917

positions including Principals, Lecturers, ZEOs, Headmasters, Masters and Teachers in Budhal out of which 484 are in position and 433 positions are vacant.

She said that the 67 Government Schools in Budhal Constituency are functioning without their own buildings, out of which 33 Schools buildings are approved/sanctioned during the years 2024-25 & 2025-26 under Samagra Shiksha. The remaining buildings shall be proposed under the subsequent actions under Samagra Shiksha, UT/District Capex in a phased manner.

While as 115 number of school buildings in Budhal Constituency have been declared unsafe aftermath recent flash floods

Further, the Minister said that 26 teachers are posted in "Aspirational Block" Khawas in Budhal Constituency during recent ATD.

The Minister said that the overall PTR in Rajouri District is 15:1 and the PTR in Budhal

Constituency is 24:1, which is within the prescribed National norms of 30:1. He said the shortage of staff is being addressed through rationalization to maintain the PTR.

She said that the initiatives taken by the School Education Department to meet out the dearth of teaching/non-teaching staff in Budhal Constituency include Engagement of 32 CRCs, Engagement of 5 Subject Specific teachers, Regularization of 37 Contingent Paid workers as MTS, Posting of 02 Junior Assistants in ZEO Office Peeri and Rationalization of teaching staff is under process.

The Minister said that the Project "Tameer" conceived by District Administration Rajouri for construction of 100 school buildings sanctioned with convergence mode with MGNREGA in the Year 2015-16. Out of 100 buildings, 40 buildings fall in Budhal Constituency out of which 02 were completed.

'Govt filling vacancies'

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 31: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday said that the Government is focusing on strengthening existing infrastructure in schools and filling vacancies to cater the growing educational needs of students rather than opening new schools.

The Minister said this while replying to a clubbed question of Legislators, Mir Saifullah and Farooq Ahmad Shah on upgradation of schools in Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister informed the house that there is no such proposal with the Government for up-gradation of schools to their next higher level (Primary to Middle, Middle to High and High to Higher Secondary) as the School Education

CAG team commends PMTC’s innovative approach to training, development

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 31: The CAG team during the week-long tour visited several centres of PMTC KVIC Pampore at Ganderbal and Anantnag to assess their functioning.

During the tour, the team commended the PMTC’s Innovative Approach to Training and Development. They appreciated the efforts of KVIC team and said that such efforts must continue in the future also for giving opportunities to women folk for giving their life a right direction.

Principal PMTC, Anil Kumar Sharma briefed the team about the functioning of these centres. He informed that PMEGP (Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme) has been making waves in empowering entrepreneurs like Tawheeda. He added that PMEGP has emerged as a flagship



initiative supporting entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

Meanwhile, Principal of PMTC, KVIC Pampore, Anil Kumar Sharma, along with officials from the CAG Audit Team on Friday visited Shining Star, a successful beneficiary under the Prime Minister’s Employment

Generation Programme (PMGP). During the visit, the team interacted with trainees and obtained their feedback on the ongoing skill development initiatives.

The Principal PMTC lauded the organization for its exemplary contribution in empowering women through skill

development and gainful employment. The initiative stands as an inspiring example of women’s empowerment and self-reliance under the PMGP.

PMTC KVIC Pampore is organizing various trainings across J&K viz cutting and Tailoring, shawl embroidery etc for the women folk. This visit today in the training centre namely Shining Start was also applauded by CAG Team.

Giving glimpses of her entrepreneurial journey Tawheeda started her journey in the year 2021 by taking loan of Rs. 25 Lacs under PMEGP. Not only making herself self-employed, she is also having around 20 employees and giving wages Employment to hundreds of people mostly women folk thus giving surge to women empowerment. On the occasion, Principal PMTC Pampore assured her full support in her entrepreneurial journey.

Assembly session concludes with renewed commitment by legislators

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 31: The legislators on the concluding sitting of the ongoing Assembly session reflected on the proceedings, expressed satisfaction with the overall conduct of business and reaffirmed their commitment to public welfare.

Legislative Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather invited the Members of the House to share their views, in keeping with the customary tradition of addressing the House on the final day of each session.

Speaker expressed happiness over the proceedings and thanked the members for raising people’s issues effectively.

“I thank all the members of the House for playing their part in conducting the proceedings smoothly and for their constructive participation in legislative discussions,” Speaker said.

In her reflections on the session, Minister for Health, Education and Social Welfare,

Sakeena Itoo said that the Speaker was deserving of congratulations and thanked him for running the House in a non-partisan and objective manner to ensure a productive and fruitful session.

She thanked the opposition for playing its role effectively in holding the government accountable, adding that they deserve credit for their constructive participation.

She expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah for spending time in the House and responding to the Members’ queries.

Regarding the queries raised by MLAs about the replies, Minister said that all replies in the House were prepared after due consideration to ensure satisfactory responses.

MLA M.Y. Tarigami thanked all members and staff for making the session fruitful and productive, suggesting that future sessions be held for a longer duration to allow sufficient time for legislators to raise

issues of public importance.

MLA Nizamuddin Bhat emphasized the need to maintain the dignity of the House, noting that every member has made sincere efforts to fulfill their responsibilities.

MLA Surjit Singh Slathia extended gratitude to the Speaker for conducting the proceedings efficiently and giving every member an opportunity to participate. He acknowledged that while differences and heated exchanges are natural in debates, members must observe legislative decorum and avoid remarks that may hurt others’ sentiments.

MLA Mubarak Gul while expressing satisfaction over the productive session, said that MLAs were able to raise all important issues through Calling Attention Motions, Question Hour and Zero Hour. He urged that the concerns and suggestions discussed in the House should translate into concrete action, ensuring meaningful outcomes for the public.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Elected J&K Govt

the Centre about its promise of restoring J&K’s statehood.

OCTOBER 31, 2019 TRANSFORMED J&K
Describing October 31, 2019 as the day which ended fear, separatism and discrimination in Jammu and Kashmir and ushered peace, development and democratic participation, LG Sinha said, “Six years ago, under the leadership of PM Modi, history was made when for the first time, the laws framed by the Indian Parliament became applicable in J&K.”

“An aspirational J&K UT was born on 31st October 2019 and people’s dream of peace and progress was fulfilled within a short span of time. The historic milestones were achieved in infrastructure and other sectors. All forms of discrimination were eliminated and social justice and equality were established,” LG Sinha said, adding, “If we look back at the seven decades of history, many people made sacrifices to welcome this change. The foundation of this journey was laid by Sardar Patel,” the LG said, adding that people are well aware of those who once conspired to divide the region.

He said that even the President of India had no authority over an inch of land here. “A few individuals ruled while thousands lived deprived. Some had built artificial walls that kept our sisters away from their rights.”

LG Sinha said that with the abrogation of Article 370 and subsequent reforms, October 31 became the day when the walls of separatism began to crumble. “J&K Police and security forces have broken the backbone of terrorism. The era of fear is over. People now participate freely in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, strengthening democracy in the Union Territory,” he said.

NEW GENERATION HAS REJECTED VIOLENCE
The LG said that the new generation has rejected violence. “Stone pelting has become history. People are now coming out spontaneously in support of peace and progress,” he remarked.

Speaking on termination of government employees involved in terror activities, the Lieutenant Governor said that this process will continue till we completely wipe out the terror ecosystem from the governance system.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the people to stand united against the elements trying to disrupt the development process. He said attempts are being made to stall the speed of development and people must be united to see that development process continues unabated.

PROTESTS AGAINST PAK, TERRORISTS SENT A CLEAR MESSAGE

Referring to April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, LG Sinha said, “People of Kashmir by taking to streets and staging protests against Pakistan and the terrorists sponsored by it sent a clear message that they won’t tolerate barbarism and killings of innocents anymore.”

He said that terrorism survives only on ideology and public support. “When society withdraws that support, terrorism breathes its last and that process has already begun,” LG Sinha added.

The Lieutenant Governor said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dreams of Sardar Patel and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee are being fulfilled by all-round development of Jammu Kashmir.

He called for unity with a singular objective of inclusive development.

“We must follow the vision and ideals of Sardar Patel and work as a unified force for the shared goal of Atam-Nirbhar J&K and Viksit Bharat. We have made history in terms of all-round development and need to continue this journey as an unbreakable entity,” the Lieutenant Governor said, adding, “Since 2019, the aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir are linked to the aspirations of the country. We must work with dedication to transform our unity into widespread prosperity. This path will be guided by the vision of the 4 Ps: Peace, Progress, Prosperity, and People First.”

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a Photo Exhibition on “An Era of Transformative Governance in Jammu Kashmir”. Young achievers and budding entrepreneurs shared their success stories, and a documentary by the Department of Information and Public relations on ‘Viksit Jammu Kashmir’ was also showcased to mark the day.

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP)

in J&K Legislative Assembly; Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Wakf Board; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of Security Forces, Civil and Police Administration, Heads of educational institutions, youth and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present. (KNO)

Strong governance,

completely joined the mainstream,” he said. Modi said the developments in Jammu and Kashmir over the last few years reflected Patel’s dream of a united and strong India. “Today, even the leaders of Pakistan and terrorism have come to know of the true strength of India,” he said.

Referring to security operations, the PM said the whole world had witnessed India’s capability in “Operation Sindoor”. He said India had adopted a policy of decisive response to any threat. “Today, if anyone dares to raise an eye on India, India will enter their homes and act. Every time, India’s response is bigger and more decisive than before. This is a message for the enemies of India,” he said, adding that Patel never compromised on the country’s security and dignity.

The Prime Minister also spoke about the government’s actions against internal security threats. “In the last 11 years, India’s greatest success has been in breaking the back of the Naxalites and Maoists,” Modi said.

He recalled that before 2014, several parts of the country were effectively under the control of Naxalite groups. “The Constitution did not work in those areas, and the police administration could not function. The Naxalites and Maoists issued their own orders, did not allow roads to be built, and destroyed schools, colleges, and hospitals. The administration was helpless before them,” he said.

Modi said that after 2014, the government took steps to weaken the Naxalite movement and eliminate the support structure of “urban Naxalites”. “We put an end to the support of the urban Naxalites and Maoists,” he said.

The Prime Minister said that the efforts of the government over the last decade had ensured that the Constitution now applies in all regions of the country. He said that the work started by Patel had reached its logical conclusion, with Jammu and Kashmir becoming an integral part of the national mainstream.

National Unity Day is observed every year on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a key role in uniting more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after Independence. (KNO)

Art-370 gone,

“Some provinces were reluctant to integrate, but Sardar Patel addressed every issue with determination and foresight,” he said.

The HM said that Patel’s mission of complete integration remained unfinished because Jammu and Kashmir continued to have a separate Constitution and flag under Article 370. “Because of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir was not fully integrated into India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi accomplished the work of Sardar Patel by abrogating the Article, and now we have an ‘Akhand Bharat’ with us,” he said.

Shah said the decision to revoke Article 370 in August 2019 marked a historic milestone that realised Patel’s dream of one nation, one Constitution, and one flag. He said the integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the national mainstream has ensured equal rights and opportunities for all citizens in the region.

The Home Minister said the government’s policies in Jammu and Kashmir have brought stability and development that reflect the unity Patel envisioned. The people of the region are now equal participants in India’s democratic and constitutional framework, he said.

“Today, under Prime Minister Modi’s leadership, the entire country stands united, from Kutch to Kamrup and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. This unity is the true tribute to Sardar Patel,” Shah said.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, or National Unity Day, is observed every year on October 31 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a central role

in integrating princely states into the Indian Union after Independence. (KNO)

Jammu bags 72%

acres, a residential flat exceeding 1,000 sq ft, or residential plots larger than 100 sq yards in municipalities and 200 sq yards in non-notified areas. (KNO)

J&K Assembly

However, only eight were taken up, and all were either withdrawn by the movers or disallowed by the House. (KNO)

CM Omar questions

so that we can prepare ourselves and help people out of this situation, where employees are being terminated and residents are being evicted from their homes without any explanation.”

Reacting to the inauguration of the bridge in Qamarwari, the CM said his government remains committed to its promises and will fulfil them all. “We are not among those who give a clean chit to themselves; rather, I am among those who acknowledge shortcomings as well. Hopefully, my colleagues and I will work together to ensure the development of Srinagar,” he said.

The Chief Minister urged officials to assign a proper name to the bridge, as it currently has three names - Qamarwari Bridge, Noorbagh Bridge, and Noor Jahan Bridge, which is creating confusion. (KNO)

Aspirational J&K

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the Foundation Day of UT of J&K. Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor administered the Unity pledge and flagged off ‘Run for Unity’ to commemorate the birth anniversary of unifier of India, former Deputy Prime Minister and first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The Lieutenant Governor said that under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dreams of Sardar Patel and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee are being fulfilled by all-round development of Jammu Kashmir.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called for Unity with a singular objective of inclusive development.

“We must follow the vision and ideals of Sardar Patel and work as a unified force for the shared goal of Aatm-Nirbhar J&K and Viksit Bharat. We have made history in terms of all-round development and need to continue this journey as an unbreakable entity,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hon’ble Union Home Minister, Amit Shah have assured on statehood and made it clear that delimitation first, then assembly elections, and statehood at an appropriate time.

Speaking on termination of government employees involved in terror activities, the Lieutenant Governor said that this process will continue till we completely wipe out the terror ecosystem from the governance system.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the people to stand united against the elements trying to disrupt the development process. He said attempts are being made to stall the speed of development and people must be united to see that development process continues unabated.

He also called upon the public representatives and government officials to discharge their shared duties to ensuring peace, harmony and maintaining the momentum of J&K’s remarkable growth journey.

“Since 2019, the aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir are linked to the aspirations of the country. We must work with dedication to transform our unity into widespread prosperity. This path will be guided by the vision of the 4 Ps: Peace, Progress, Prosperity, and People First,” the Lieutenant Governor further said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a Photo Exhibition on “An Era of Transformative Governance in Jammu Kashmir”. Young achievers and budding entrepreneurs shared their success stories, and a documentary by Department of Information and Public relations on ‘Viksit Jammu Kashmir’ was also showcased to mark the day.

Shri Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly; Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Wakf

Board; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of Security Forces, Civil and Police Administration, Heads of educational institutions, youth and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

‘Work with

the people to work with dedication for an Aatmanirbhar and developed India.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said: “Administered the Unity Pledge to Raj Bhawan officers and staff and paid tributes to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary. Urged all to work with dedication for an Aatmanirbhar and developed India.”

J&K Police lead

Ganderbal, Budgam, Sopore, Handwara and Awantipora.

J&K Police observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with a series of events across the Union Territory to pay tributes to the architect of India’s unity and integrity.

As per details, the main function was held at Ghanta Ghar, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, where Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Armed, Anand Jain flagged off the Run for Unity, joined by IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi, DIG CKR Rajiv Pandey and SSP Srinagar.

Additionally, film actor Mukesh Rishi was the special guest, inspiring participants and spectators alike.

Speaking at the event, ADGP Jain, as per KNO, highlighted the enduring legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and urged all citizens and officers to emulate his principles of unity, discipline and dedication. “Rashtriya Ekta Diwas reminds us that the strength of India lies in its unity. Every member of J&K Police carries forward the message of peace, integrity and collective responsibility,” Jain said.

The event witnessed massive participation from officers, youth and civil society members. Alongside the unity run, Ekta Pledge ceremonies, photo exhibitions and plantation drives were held at all police units across Srinagar.

A large-scale tree plantation drive was carried out at District Police Lines (DPL), Police Stations and Police Posts under the “Ekta Vriksh” campaign, symbolising harmony between people and nature.

At District Police Lines Srinagar, a Photo Exhibition on the life and contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel drew enthusiastic participation from students.

As per KNO, SP Headquarters Shah Umar, DySP Headquarters Syed Sleet Shah and DySP DAR Mohd Rafee led the programme, which included lectures, interactive sessions, and awareness talks. Educational pamphlets and booklets on Patel’s life were distributed among schoolchildren.

UNITY RUNS AND PLEDGES ACROSS SOUTH KASHMIR

In Kulgam, DIG South Kashmir Range Javid Iqbal Mattoo and SSP Anayat Ali Chowdhary jointly flagged off the Run for Unity from Chaimulla to Navayug Tunnel alongside Brigadier Sudhir Kumar Singh and cricketer Parvez Rasool. Hundreds of youth, students and citizens participated with patriotic zeal.

In Anantnag, pledge-taking ceremonies, photo exhibitions and an Ekta Tree Plantation Drive were held across all sub-units. DIG South Kashmir Javid Iqbal Mattoo and SSP Amritpal Singh graced the main event at DPL Anantnag, where officers reaffirmed their commitment to integrity and peace.

In Shopian, a symbolic Ekta Vriksh campaign and Run for Unity were held under the supervision of SSP Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary-JKPS. The district also hosted a seminar on police-public trust and a Blood Donation Camp at PHC Imamsahib, inaugurated by DySP Chander Kant-JKPS.

In Pulwama, SSP Tanushree-IPS administered the National Unity Pledge at District Police Lines, where contingents of J&K Police, Armed Police and Home Guard participated in a ceremonial parade and march past. Similar events were held across all sub-units of the district.

CENTRAL KASHMIR

In Ganderbal, SSP Khaail Ahmad Poswal-JKPS flagged off a Mini-Marathon Run for Unity from Clock Tower to Gadoora Stadium. Contingents

of Police, CRPF, SSB and NCC joined the event. A ceremonial parade and Ekta Tree Plantation Drive at DPO Ganderbal marked the day’s conclusion.

In Budgam, a Run for Unity from Railway Station to T-Crossing saw over 300 students and youth participate. SSP Nikhil Borkar-IPS led the event, joined by senior officers. A photo exhibition highlighting Sardar Patel’s life and ideals was also organised.

NORTH KASHMIR

In Bandipora, the main run was flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner and SSP Bandipora, with students and CRPF personnel joining in. Pledge-taking ceremonies and awareness programmes on Patel’s life were held across police establishments.

In Baramulla, Ekta Pledge Ceremonies, Plantation Drives and a Joint March Past by Police, CRPF and civil volunteers showcased collective resolve to uphold unity, integrity and brotherhood.

In Kupwara, Sopore, Handwara and Awantipora, similar unity runs, tree plantation drives and seminars were held, reaffirming the message of peace, harmony and national cohesion.

Throughout the day, interactive sessions, cultural events and awareness programmes highlighted Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s contribution to national integration. Officers and citizens across J&K took the National Unity Pledge, committing to uphold peace, unity and integrity in the spirit of the Iron Man of India.

Notably, ADGP Armed Anand Jain commended the coordinated observance across the UT, noting that J&K Police has set a powerful example of discipline, patriotism and collective strength. “From Srinagar to Kupwara, every police officer and citizen who participated today embodied the values Sardar Patel stood for. Unity is our greatest strength, and J&K Police will continue to uphold that spirit in service of the nation,” he said. (KNO)

IGP Kmr, SSP Sgr

and Mehmood Khan; and constables Suhail Abbas and Basharat Qadir.

The officers were part of Operation Mahadev, a counter-terror mission launched three months after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

The operation led to the killing of three Pakistani terrorists Suleiman alias Asif, Jibrán, and Hamza Afghani.

Suleiman was identified as the key planner of the Pahalgam attack, while Jibrán was also involved in the 2024 Sonamarg Tunnel strike.

During the encounter, security forces recovered an M4 carbine, two AK rifles, and a large quantity of ammunition, marking a major success against cross-border terror networks. (KNO)

SKUAST should

across states and UTs.

“Today, it is 150th birth anniversary of Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and I am extremely happy that the presence of youth from every state from Arunachal to Andhra Pradesh, Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu to Telangana and Kerala to Karnataka in this campus has transformed it into a “Mini India”. The transformation at SKUAST-Kashmir in the last 3-4 years has brought about such a revolutionary change that a “mini-India” is visible in this campus today,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

“You are the inheritors of Sardar Patel’s vision. You are the ambassadors of unity. As we honour the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel today, let us also reaffirm our duty to continue strengthening our country. Let your education be not just about degrees but about making a difference in the lives of people,” the Lieutenant Governor told the students.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated social workers and prominent citizens for their contribution to the society. He also visited the Chrysanthemum Garden in the campus. The cultural performances by the students received special appreciation from the Lieutenant Governor.

Aftab Malik, Chairman, District Development Council Srinagar; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials; Head of Departments, faculty members, staff and students were present.

Stray dogs case

SC slams states for ‘no respect’ to orders, says chief secretaries must appear physically

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to exempt the chief secretaries of states and Union Territories from appearing before it physically on November 3 in the stray dogs case, saying there was "no respect" for the court's order.

The top court had directed the chief secretaries of all the states and UTs, except West Bengal and Telangana, to remain present before it on November 3 to explain why compliance affidavits were not filed despite the court's August 22 order.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta expressed displeasure over the non-compliance of its August 22 order and observed that by October 27, compliance affidavits were not filed by the states and UTs, except West Bengal, Telangana and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). The court had asked states and UTs about Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules Solicitor General Tushar Mehta mentioned the matter and urged the bench that the chief secretaries be allowed to appear before the court on November 3 virtually.

"This is that dog menace matter. Because of our default, your lordships were constrained to call the chief secretaries. The only request is, instead of coming physically, can they appear virtually," Mehta said.

Justice Nath said the chief secretaries would have to come physically in the court.

"It is very unfortunate that here the court is wasting time trying to deal with the problems which should have been addressed by the municipal corporations, by the state governments over the years," Justice Nath said.

He said Parliament has framed the rules (ABC) but no action was taken.

"And when we require them to come and file compliance



affidavit, they are just sleeping over it. No respect for the order of the court. Then alright, Let them come. We will deal with them," Justice Nath said.

The bench made clear that the chief secretaries would they have to appear in the court and explain as to why no compliance affidavits were filed by the states and UTs.

Mehta said the compliance affidavits were filed in the matter.

The bench said when the matter was taken up for hearing on October 27, compliance affidavits were filed only by West Bengal, Telangana and MCD.

"Let them (chief secretaries) come," the bench said.

While hearing the stray dogs matter on October 27, the top court had directed the chief secretaries to remain present before it on November 3 to explain why compliance affidavits were not filed despite the court's August 22 order.

The apex court had slammed the states and UTs, which had not filed their compliance affidavits in the stray dogs matter, and said continuous incidents were happening and the country was being "shown as down" in foreign nations.

On August 22, the apex court expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the confines

of Delhi-National Capital Region, and directed that all states and UTs be made parties in the matter.

It had directed the municipal authorities to file an affidavit of compliance with complete statistics of resources like dog pounds, veterinarians, dog-catching personnel, and specially-modified vehicles and cages available as on date for the purpose of compliance of the ABC Rules.

The bench had also impleaded the states and UTs in the matter while observing that application of ABC Rules was uniform all over India.

The apex court is hearing a suo motu case which was initiated on July 28 over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital.

On October 30, the top court refused to accept the Bihar government's request to exempt its chief secretary from appearing before it on November 3 due to assembly elections in the state.

"There is Election Commission which would take care. Don't worry. Let the chief secretary come," the bench had told the counsel appearing for Bihar.

Assembly elections in Bihar are scheduled on November 6 and 11 and votes will be counted on November 14.

15% of deaths in Delhi in 2023 linked to air pollution: Report

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 31: Air pollution remains the single largest health risk for people in Delhi, accounting for nearly 15 per cent of all deaths in 2023, according to an analysis of the latest Global Burden of Disease (GBD) data.

The analysis of the GBD 2023 data, released earlier this month, by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), found that exposure to ambient particulate matter pollution led to an estimated 17,188 deaths in Delhi in 2023.

This means one in every seven deaths in the city was linked to polluted air.

The Central Government, however, has maintained that there is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation between air pollution and deaths.

The GBD study is one of the world's most comprehensive research projects that measures how people die and what makes them sick, across all countries, age groups and causes.

Following air pollution, other major risk factors contributing



to deaths in Delhi in 2023 were high systolic blood pressure (14,874 deaths or 12.5 per cent), high fasting plasma glucose or diabetes (10,653 deaths or 9 per cent), high cholesterol (7,267 deaths or 6 per cent), and high body-mass index (6,698 deaths or 5.6 per cent).

Researchers at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), which analysed the latest GBD data, said that, despite year-to-year fluctuations, deaths attributable to particulate matter pollution have remained persistently high, often exceeding those

linked to hypertension or diabetes. "Air pollution is not just an environmental issue; it is a public health crisis that demands science-based action across polluting sectors to achieve real and measurable pollution reduction," said Manoj Kumar, analyst at CREA.

"Unless Delhi's air quality improves substantially, the health burden from pollution-related diseases, especially respiratory illnesses, heart disease, stroke and lung cancer will continue to rise," he added.

The data shows that deaths linked to air pollution rose from

15,786 in 2018 to 17,188 in 2023.

In the same period, deaths from high blood pressure increased from 13,604 to 14,874, while those from high fasting plasma glucose went up from 8,938 to 10,653.

CREA said Delhi's data serves as a reminder that effective air pollution control is one of the most powerful public health interventions available, capable of reducing disease burden, improving quality of life and adding years to life expectancy for millions of residents.

Replying to a question, Union Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh told the Rajya Sabha on July 24 this year that air pollution is "one of many contributing factors that can affect respiratory ailments and related diseases".

"Health is determined by several variables, including food habits, occupational exposure, socio-economic conditions, medical history, immunity, heredity and environmental factors," he said. The minister said that while air pollution is certainly a concern, isolating it as the sole cause of mortality is not scientifically accurate.

Below-normal max temps expected in most parts of India in Nov: IMD



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 31: Large parts of the country, including northwest, central and western India, are likely to experience below-normal maximum temperatures in November, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

However, above-normal minimum temperatures are expected across most regions, except for some areas in the northwest.

At an online press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that while below-normal maximum temperatures are forecast for most parts of the country in November, the western Himalayan region, the Himalayan foothills, much of northeast India, and

parts of the southern peninsula are likely to witness above-normal maximum temperatures.

"Above-normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, except some areas in northwest India, where normal to below-normal minimum temperatures are expected," he said.

Mohapatra said that weak La Nina conditions are prevailing over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

La Nina conditions are likely to persist through December 2025 to February 2026, with a transition to ENSO-neutral expected during January-March (55 per cent probability), he added.

The IMD chief said normal to above-normal rainfall is

likely over most parts of the country, except for some areas in northwest India and the southern peninsula, where below-normal rainfall is expected in November.

Earlier, the IMD had said that most regions are expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the October-December period, while parts of northwest India may see normal to below-normal showers.

India received 112.1 mm of rainfall in October, 49 per cent above normal and the second highest since 2001, Mohapatra said.

He attributed the high rainfall to the development of four low-pressure systems, two of which intensified into cyclonic storms, along with four Western Disturbances over north India.

Apple sets new sales milestone in India during Sep quarter

Driven by iPhone & retail expansion



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 31: iPhone-maker Apple hit an all-time revenue record in India during September quarter, extending its strong growth streak in the world's second largest smartphone market where the tech titan has been deepening retail footprint and local manufacturing.

Overall, the Cupertino-headquartered Apple posted quarterly revenue of USD 102.5 billion (eight per cent higher year-on-year), said the new iPhone 17 line up is resonating across the world, and gave a strong forecast for December quarter.

Apple expects the December quarter revenue to be the best ever for the company and the best ever for iPhone, CEO Tim Cook said during the Q4 fiscal year 2025 earnings call.

The company grew in the vast majority of markets it tracks and had September quarter revenue records in dozens of markets, including the US, Canada, Latin America, Western Europe, the Middle East, Japan, Korea, and South Asia.

"We also set a September quarter revenue record in emerging markets and an all-time revenue record in India," Cook said.

On the retail front, he said the company is heading into its busiest time of year with its "best-ever lineup".

"In the last few months, we've opened new stores in emerging markets like India and the UAE and new locations in the US and China," he said.

The India call-outs during Q4 FY2025 earnings come at a time when the tech titan has been deepening footprint in the country through new stores and local production.

Overall, the company posted a quarterly revenue of USD 102.5 billion, up eight per cent year-over-year.

"Today, Apple is very proud to report a September quarter revenue record of USD 102.5 billion, including a September quarter revenue record for iPhone and an all-time revenue record for services," according to Cook.

Apple's top boss added: "In September, we were thrilled to launch our best iPhone lineup ever, including iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Pro and Pro Max, and iPhone Air. In addition, we launched the fantastic AirPods Pro 3 and the all-new Apple Watch lineup." Combined with the recently announced MacBook Pro and iPad Pro with the powerhouse M5 chip, "we are excited to be sharing our most extraordinary lineup of products as we head into the holiday season", Cook pointed out.

Ex-Indian cricket captain Azharuddin sworn in as minister in Telangana

Thanks Congress leadership

PTI

Hyderabad, Oct 31: Former Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin was sworn in as a minister in Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy's cabinet on Friday.

In a simple function held at Raj Bhavan, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma administered the oaths to the former Indian skipper in the presence of important leaders, including the CM.

Talking to reporters

after the swearing-in ceremony, Azharuddin thanked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, senior party leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K C Venugopal for making him a minister.

"I am glad. I thank the high command. My supporters," he said.

With the inclusion of Azharuddin, the total strength of the cabinet rose to 16, with room

for two more. As per the Assembly strength, Telangana can have 18 ministers.

The former cricketer's appointment to the ministry is seen as a crucial step as the Congress party has been fighting tooth and nail in the Jubilee Hills bypoll, where over a lakh Muslim voters could play a decisive role.

The bypoll is necessitated due to the death of BRS MLA Maganti

Gopinath in June this year, following a heart attack. Azharuddin was nominated as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) under the Governor's quota by the Telangana government in August last week. However, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma is yet to clear the appointment.

Azharuddin unsuccessfully contested from the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency in the 2023 polls.

Best natural oils for winter skin care

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Oct 31: That first chill in the air, warm cups of tea, and cosy jumpers come with a downside: your skin starts to feel tight, flaky, and dry. Winter's low humidity and constant indoor heating strip away moisture, leaving the skin dull and stressed. Natural oils, rich in fatty acids and antioxidants, can help rebuild that lost balance. A peer-reviewed review published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences found that plant-based oils containing linoleic acid and vitamin E significantly improve hydration and support the skin barrier when applied topically.

In this article, we explore the best natural oils for winter skin care, why they work, and how to use them effectively for soft, radiant skin even in cold weather.

Coconut oil for deep nourishment in winter skin care

Coconut oil is a cold-weather classic. Its medium-chain fatty acids (like lauric acid) form a protective layer that prevents water loss, while its mild antibacterial properties help soothe dry, cracked areas. Apply it right after a warm shower to seal in moisture. For very dry hands and heels, use it overnight with cotton gloves or socks for an intense treatment. However, those with acne-prone skin may want to avoid it on the face, as it can feel a bit heavy and potentially clog pores.



Olive oil to strengthen and repair winter skin

Olive oil is another reliable ally for dry, winter-stressed skin. Rich in vitamin E and polyphenols, it helps neutralise oxidative stress caused by cold winds and low humidity. A light massage using warm olive oil improves blood circulation and leaves your skin feeling supple. Dermatologists suggest applying a few drops to damp skin to lock in hydration, or mixing it with your usual moisturiser for extra nourishment.

Almond oil for sensitive winter skin
Almond oil is gentle, lightweight, and perfect for those whose skin feels tight or irritated during cold months. It contains vitamins A and E, both known for supporting skin regeneration. The oil's

smooth texture absorbs easily without leaving a greasy residue, making it ideal for facial use. Warm a few drops between your palms and press it onto slightly damp skin at night. It soothes dryness while you sleep and gives your complexion a subtle glow by morning.

Argan oil for balancing hydration and glow

Extracted from Moroccan argan nuts, this oil is rich in essential fatty acids and antioxidants. It provides hydration without feeling heavy, which makes it a smart choice for combination or oily skin types during winter. Argan oil's lightweight texture allows it to sink in quickly, leaving skin soft and radiant. Add a drop to your foundation or daily moisturiser for an extra dewy finish that combats winter dullness.

Jojoba oil for restoring the natural skin barrier

Jojoba oil mimics the structure of the skin's natural sebum, helping to regulate oil production and reinforce the moisture barrier. It's an excellent option for those who experience both dryness and occasional breakouts in winter. Jojoba oil works beautifully as a facial oil or mixed into a lotion. Apply a few drops before bed, it calms the skin overnight, making it smoother and more balanced by morning.

Rosehip oil for rejuvenating dull winter skin

Rosehip oil is famous for its high levels of essential fatty acids, vitamin A precursors, and antioxidants. It brightens dull skin and helps reduce the appearance of pigmentation that can worsen during cold, sun-deprived months. The light texture makes it suitable for face and neck use. For best results, apply 2-3 drops before your night cream, allowing its nutrients to work while you sleep.

How to use natural oils effectively in winter skin care

Apply on damp skin: Always use oils on slightly damp skin to help them lock in moisture more effectively.

Layer smartly: If using a moisturiser, apply it first and then top it with a few drops of oil to seal everything in.

Use sparingly: A little goes a long way two to three drops are usually enough for the face.

Choose cold-pressed oils: These

retain more nutrients and antioxidants than refined versions.

Patch test new oils: Even natural ingredients can irritate sensitive individuals.

Why are natural oils essential for winter skin care

During winter, your skin's lipid layer weakens, and natural oils help rebuild it by supplying fatty acids, vitamins, and antioxidants. They don't just moisturise but also protect your skin from environmental damage. Unlike many chemical-based creams, natural oils absorb deeply and work harmoniously with your skin's own biology, providing both nourishment and balance.

The right natural oil can transform your winter skin routine from basic hydration to deep nourishment. Whether it's coconut for intense care, almond for sensitivity, or rosehip for glow, these oils bring nature's balance back to your skin. Apply them thoughtfully, choose pure and unrefined options, and your skin will thank you with softness, resilience, and radiance all season long.

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.

Xi invites Canada PM to China in first meet in 8 years

AFP

GYOENGJU: President Xi Jinping on Friday invited Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to China, in the first formal talks between the nations' leaders since 2017, before also holding first discussions with Japan's new premier.

Canada's relations with China are among the worst of any Western nation but both are at the sharp end of Donald Trump's tariff onslaught, even after Xi and the US leader's deal Thursday to dial back tensions.

"Recently, with the joint efforts of both sides, China-Canada relations have shown a recovery toward a trend of positive development," Xi told Carney as they met at an APEC summit in South Korea, inviting the Canadian to visit China.

"China is willing to work with Canada to bring China-Canada relations back to the right track," Xi added. "In recent years, we have not been as engaged," said Carney, accepting Xi's invitation.

The Canadian leader pointed to "constructive and pragmatic dialogue" as a route to addressing their "current issues."

He also cited dialogue as a way "to help build a more sustainable, inclusive international system."

Ties fell into a deep freeze in 2018 after the arrest of a senior Chinese telecom executive on a US warrant in Vancouver and China's retaliatory detention of two Canadians on espionage charges.

In July, Carney announced an additional 25 percent tariff on steel imports that contain steel melted and poured in China. Beijing



announced the following month it would impose a painful temporary customs duty of 75.8 percent on Canadian canola imports.

Canada is among the world's top producers of canola, an oilseed crop that is used to make cooking oil, animal meal and biodiesel fuel.

But Canada and China have both been heavily targeted by Trump's global trade onslaught.

Trump said on Thursday he would halve fentanyl-related tariffs on China to 10 percent while Xi agreed to keep rare earths flowing and boost imports of US soybeans.

But the average US tariff on Chinese imports remains at 47 percent, Trump said.

The US president on Saturday said he was hiking tariffs on Canadian goods by an additional 10 percent and terminated all trade talks.

This followed what Trump called a "fake" anti-tariff ad campaign

that featured the late ex-president Ronald Reagan. "(The) old world of steady expansion of rules-based liberalized trade and investment, a world on which so much of our nations' prosperity — very much Canada's included — (is based), that world is gone," Carney told the APEC gathering.

He also talked up Canada's potential as an "energy superpower" and major supplier of liquified natural gas (LNG) to Asia.

Japan Later Xi met Japan's first woman premier, Sanae Takaichi, for the first time since she was appointed this month. Chinese state media quoted Xi as saying that China was ready to work with Japan for constructive, stable bilateral ties that meet requirements of new era.

Takaichi is a regular visitor to the flashpoint Yasukuni shrine honoring Japan's war dead is seen as a China

hawk, although recently she has toned down her remarks.

But in her first policy address last Friday, she still declared that the military activities of China — and North Korea and Russia — "have become a grave concern."

She announced that Japan would be spending two percent of gross domestic product on defense this fiscal year — two years ahead of schedule — prompting criticism from China.

She is also a strong backer of Taiwan and backs security cooperation with the self-ruled island.

Japanese media said that Takaichi was expected to convey to Xi grave concerns over China's behavior, including around the disputed Senkaku Islands, known as the Diaoyu Islands by China.

She was also expected to press for the early release of Japanese citizens detained in China and request that the safety of Japanese expatriates in China be ensured, the reports said.

Her public comments at the start of the meeting focused only on reducing "concerns" and increasing "mutual understanding and cooperation." Japanese industry is also keen to ensure that supplies of rare earths from China — which have become a football in Xi's trade tussle with Trump — keep flowing.

"It could be a frosty get-to-know-you meeting as Xi Jinping has not sent a congratulatory message to Takaichi, wary of her reputation as a China hawk," Yee Kuang Heng, a professor at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Public Policy, told AFP.

"Overall though, stability is a shared priority," Heng said.

Israel returns remains of 30 more Palestinians to Gaza



AFP

Gaza City (Palestinian Territories), Oct 31: Israel has returned the bodies of 30 more Palestinians to Gaza as part of an ongoing exchange deal under a US-brokered ceasefire plan, a hospital said on Friday.

The Nasser Medical Complex in Khan

Younis said that "the bodies of 30 Palestinian prisoners were received from the Israeli side as part of the exchange deal."

Under the truce, Israel is to return 15 Palestinian remains for every deceased Israeli hostage returned by Hamas. Friday's transfer brings the number returned to Gaza to 225.

UN asks US to stop strikes on alleged drug boats



AFP

Geneva, Oct 31: The United Nations on Friday urged the United States to halt strikes on vessels in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific allegedly carrying drug traffickers, and to prevent "extrajudicial killings."

US strikes in the Caribbean and the Pacific in recent weeks have killed at least 62 people on boats that Washington claims were ferrying drugs. Family members and victims' governments have said some of them were fishermen.

UN rights chief Volker Turk said these people

had been killed "in circumstances that find no justification in international law." "These attacks — and their mounting human cost — are unacceptable," he said in a statement.

"The US must halt such attacks and take all measures necessary to prevent the extrajudicial killing of people aboard these boats, whatever the criminal conduct alleged against them."

President Donald Trump's administration has said in a notice to Congress that the United States is engaged in "armed conflict" with Latin American drug cartels, describing them as terrorist

groups as part of its justification for the strikes.

Tensions are mounting in the region with Trump saying he has authorized CIA operations in Venezuela, and that he is considering ground attacks against alleged drug cartels in the country.

"Countering the serious issue of illicit trafficking of drugs across international borders is — as has long been agreed among states — a law-enforcement matter, governed by the careful limits on lethal force set out in international human rights law," Turk said.

"Under international human rights law, the intentional use of lethal force is only permissible as a last resort against individuals who pose an imminent threat to life."

Turk stressed that "based on the very sparse information provided publicly by the US authorities, none of the individuals on the targeted boats appeared to pose an imminent threat to the lives of others or otherwise justified the use of lethal armed force against them under international law."

He called for "prompt, independent, and transparent investigations into these attacks."

Pakistan says next round of talks with Afghanistan to be held on Nov 6

PTI

Islamabad, Oct 31: Pakistan on Friday confirmed that the next round of talks with Afghanistan would be held on November 6 and expressed hope for a "positive outcome" from the dialogue.

Addressing his weekly press conference, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi also said that Pakistan does not wish to escalate tensions with the neighbouring country.

"Pakistan will continue to remain engaged in the mediation process and hopes for a positive outcome for the November 6 talks," he said.

The next round was scheduled after Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to continue a ceasefire that was agreed after a brief conflict earlier this month.

The first round of talks was held in Doha on October 18 and 19, followed by the second in Istanbul on October 25, which went for several days but ended without a breakthrough on the key issue of cross-border terrorism.

But efforts continued behind the curtains to salvage the process, with Turkiye playing a role in ending the stalemate and paving the way for the November 6 talks.

BCCI could raise Asia Cup trophy issue at next ICC meeting

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 31: The BCCI is hopeful that the Asia Cup winners trophy will reach its headquarters in Mumbai "within a day or two" but will take the matter to the ICC on November 4 if the impasse continues.

India defeated arch-rival Pakistan by five wickets in the final in Dubai to win the Asia Cup, but declined to accept the trophy from Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who also serves as ACC and PCB chairman. This was after India skipper Suryakumar Yadav refused to shake hands with his Pakistani counterpart due to the conflict between the two nations.

Naqvi has already conveyed that the trophy can be handed over to India but it will be presented by him.



More than a month after the triumph, the BCCI still awaits the official handover of the silverware.

"Yes, we are a little bit unhappy with the way the trophy has not been being given to us even after a month," BCCI joint secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI Video in an exclusive interaction.

"We are pursuing this matter, about 10 days ago also we

wrote a letter to the chairman of ACC, but there is no change in their stand.

"They are still keeping the trophy under their custody but we hope that the trophy will reach us in a day or two at the BCCI office in Mumbai," Saikia said if the trophy is not handed over soon, the BCCI will raise the issue at the upcoming ICC quarterly meeting in Dubai from November 4.

Hazlewood fires Australia to victory in 2nd T20

PTI

Melbourne, Oct 31: Josh Hazlewood clinically dismantled a famed Indian top-order with a probing spell to kill the contest as Australia cantered to a four-wicket victory in the second T20 International here on Friday. In front of a 82,438 strong crowd, India suffered one of its most embarrassing defeats with as many as nine batters failing to reach double digits in a total of 125 in 18.4 overs.

Only Abhishek Sharma, in the form of his life, stood tall amid ruins with a combative 37-ball-68. With Harshit Rana (35 off 33 balls) he added 56 to take the total past 100-run mark after pacer Hazlewood (3/13) left them reeling at 49 for 5.

Hazlewood bowled an incredible 15 dot balls in his four-over spell to break the backbone of Indian batting and killed the contest within 20 minutes of start.

In reply, skipper Mitchell Marsh blasted his way to 46 off 26 balls with hosts completing the chase in only 13.2 overs losing six wickets. Most batters fell primarily due to attempting audacious shots.

The only silver lining apart from Abhishek's innings was Varun Chakravarthy's spell (2/23 in 4 overs) and Jasprit Bumrah's (2/26 in 4 overs) pinpoint yorker to dismiss Matthew Short.

Most of the Indian batters found it tough to hit through the line due to extra bounce and the lengths that Australian pacers, especially Hazlewood hit during his spell



which he finished in one go.

While technique of a few batters lay exposed, the Indian team management wouldn't take the results to heart as the T20 World Cup will be played in Indian conditions where most of the deliveries will not rise above knee roll.

There will be minimal seam movement and wickets offering a bit of grip will help Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel way more.

But with three matches left in the series, Indian batters could take a leaf out of Abhishek's book after he burnished his credentials as world's numero uno T20 batter with some breathtaking strokes.

Abhishek played some outrageous shots on the off-side: slashes, check drives and lofted strokes, to race to a 23-ball half-century in his maiden appearance at the iconic

venue while others made a beeline towards the dugout.

His knock comprised of eight fours and two sixes.

What worked for Abhishek was his ability to use the crease and ride the bounce at the same time but in the back-10, he was left frustrated with the lower middle-order batters who could not rotate the strike.

He didn't get strike close to five overs as Rana faced bulk of the deliveries and later the likes of Shivam Dube and Kuldeep Yadav also consumed many balls.

At 110 for 8, Abhishek took it upon himself as he hooked Xavier Bartlett for a six and prior to that a boundary as the total reached 125.

Hazlewood, immaculate as ever, bowled the Test match length consistently in the 6-8m region, getting just the right amount of movement that had the top order in a tangle.

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