



Indian Army neutralised terrorists in their homeland: Amit Shah

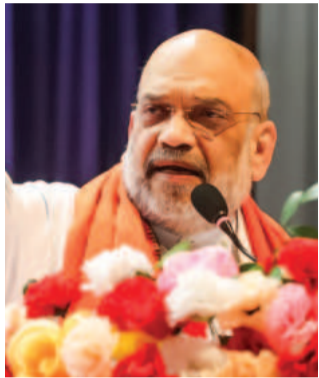
‘Pakistan, its terrorists will pay heavy price if they repeat any mistake’

KNO Monitoring Desk

Srinagar, Nov 04: Reiterating that the Indian Army neutralised terrorists in their homeland, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday warned Pakistan and the terrorists sponsored by it of dire consequences if they repeat the mistake of attacking India again.

Addressing an election rally at Darbhanga's Jale constituency in Bihar, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "If Pakistan sponsored terrorists repeat any mistake again they will get goli ka jawab goley se (they will face cannons for bullets)."

Shah said that the cannons to be used against terrorists will



be 'made-in-Bihar.'

Referring to April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, that left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, Shah said, "Terrorists from Pakistan attacked our citizens in Pahalgam. They wiped off Sindoor from the

foreheads of our mothers and sisters. PM Modi avenged it by launching Operation Sindoor within 20 days. The Indian Army neutralised the terrorists on Pakistani land."

"Unlike the previous Congress regime, the government under PM Modi's leadership is committed to the safety and security of the nation," he said.

Shah said the government has delivered multiple countermeasures to cross-border terrorism, citing the surgical strikes, air strikes, and the recent Operation Sindoor. "In the past, terrorists would strike India and slip away unpunished. Now, under PM Modi's leadership, India responds inside Pakistan | [More on P6](#)



A family plucks saffron flowers at a field in Pampore Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

‘Cabinet expansion’: Congress rules out joining council of ministers

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 04: Amid indications of a cabinet expansion in Jammu & Kashmir, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Tariq Hamid Karra on Tuesday reiterated that the party will not join the council of ministers until the restoration of statehood.

Speaking to reporters, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Karra said that Congress will not join the cabinet. "We have a principled stand that as long as Jammu and Kashmir doesn't get statehood, we will not be part of the cabinet," Karra said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had last month stated that he is actively considering a cabinet

expansion and added that more ministers would be inducted once the Jammu and Kashmir by-elections conclude.

Asked about his views on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's statement that reservation would be set as per the Supreme Court directive, the PCC chief advocated for proportionate representation of different communities based on their population.

"The best solution has been prescribed by Rahul Gandhi, who has said that a community should get representation according to its population. That is the best solution," he said.

On Monday, CM Omar had said that the government will comply with the Supreme Court's ruling | [More on P6](#)

August calamity tested resilience of J&K farmers: LG Manoj Sinha

» Says youth must preserve cultural heritage for rapid economic growth

» Addresses annual Jhiri Mela, pays tributes to Baba Jitto, Bua Kauri

Yogesh

Jammu, Nov 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that the natural calamity which struck Jammu and Kashmir in August this year posed a tough test for the farming community, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured timely relief by announcing financial assistance in October, well before Diwali.

Pertinently, J&K, especially the Jammu region, witnessed massive cloudbursts and flash floods 2 months ago which led to loss of many lives and damage to the property. Farmers were the worst hit as they lost their crops and livestock.



Speaking at the inauguration of annual Jhiri Mela at Marh Sub-Division here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) lauded the resilience and

determination of J&K's farmers, describing them as the backbone of the region's economy.

"Their unwavering spirit in the face of adversity is a lesson for all of us. | [More on P6](#)

India on way to become third largest economy: FM Sitharaman

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 04: India today stands out as a fast-growing economy and will soon be the third-largest in the world, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday.

Addressing students at the Delhi School of Economics here, she said, India stands distinctly on its feet because of its economic strength.

"What is making us literally stand out is the fast movement from the tenth largest economy in 2014 to fifth and the fourth, and now sooner, probably to the third," she said.

She further said that the government has been able to pull 25 million people out of



multi-dimensional poverty.

As regards the banking sector, Sitharaman said the balance sheets of public sector banks have improved significantly compared to the twin balance sheet problem they faced 7-8 years ago.

She exuded confidence that the | [More on P6](#)

Gulmarg, other parts receive light snowfall, rains lash plains

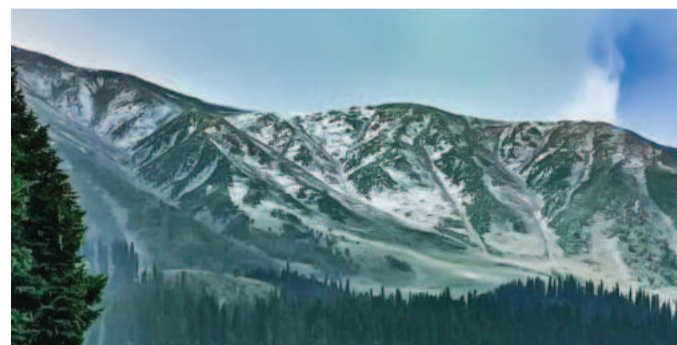
MeT predicts wet spell today, dry weather afterwards

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Nov 04: The higher reaches of Kashmir, including Gulmarg and Sonamarg, received light snowfall on Tuesday while the gusty winds continued at multiple places, including Srinagar, with the weatherman predicting more rains and snow till tomorrow.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), multiple areas across Kashmir, including Gurez Valley, Razdan Top, Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Farkin Top and Doodhpathri, experienced light snowfall this afternoon.

The gusty winds, however,



continued for almost an hour in the afternoon today at several places, including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. In the evening hours, Srinagar and other parts of the

valley were lashed by the rains, bringing the temperature further down in Kashmir.

As per the forecast issued on Monday, Director Meteorological (MeT) | [More on P6](#)

LG, CM greet people on Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 04: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, which is being celebrated on Wednesday.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of the Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, I extend my greetings and good wishes to all. Guru Nanak Dev ji's life and message of equality, love, brotherhood, compassion and truthfulness is an inspiration for all humanity. Guru Nanak Dev Ji taught us to lead a virtuous and noble life. His Prakash Parv is an occasion

to rededicate ourselves to the task of creating a just, fair and humane society and practice the revered Guru's noble teachings in our daily lives. Let us take a pledge to work with dedication and commitment to root out any divisive tendencies in our society and uphold the universal values of peace and harmony."

Chief Minister Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended warm greetings to the Sikh community and the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti.

In his message, the CM said that the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji—rooted in compassion, equality, and selfless | [More on P6](#)

VC SKUAST-J discusses academic issues with LG



KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 04: Dr B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday and briefed him on the ongoing restoration and rehabilitation works being

undertaken at the University following the floods that occurred on August 26, 2025, causing significant damage to infrastructure.

The Vice Chancellor also briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the various academic, research, | [More on P6](#)

World will overshoot 1.5C climate goal, UN says

REUTERS

SAO PAULO, Nov 4 (Reuters) - The world has failed to meet its main climate change target of limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and will likely breach this threshold in the next decade, the United Nations' Environment Programme said on Tuesday.

The annual Emissions Gap report said because of countries' slow action to reduce planet-heating greenhouse gas emissions, it was now clear that the world would exceed the core target of the 2015 Paris Agreement - at least temporarily.

"This will be difficult to reverse - requiring faster and bigger additional reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to



minimize overshoot," UNEP said. "WE CAN NO LONGER TOTALLY AVOID IT"

Lead report author Anne Olhoff said deep emissions cuts now could delay when the

overshoot happens, "but we can no longer totally avoid it".

The 2015 Paris Agreement commits countries to limit the global average temperature rise to 2°C above pre-industrial

levels, and to aim for 1.5°C.

Yet governments' latest pledges to cut emissions in future, if met, would see the world face 2.3-2.5°C of warming, UNEP said.

That's around 0.3°C less warming than the U.N.'s projection a year ago - indicating that new emissions-cutting plans announced this year by countries including top CO2 emitter China have failed to substantially close the gap.

China pledged in September to cut emissions by 7-10% from their peak by 2035. Analysts note the country tends to set modest targets and exceed them.

FINDINGS ADD PRESSURE TO COP30 CLIMATE SUMMIT

The findings add pressure to the U.N.'s COP30 climate summit this | [More on P6](#)

Five IITs, DU, IISc among top 100 institutes in Asia: QS University Rankings

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 04: Five Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and Delhi University, have figured in Asia's top 100 institutions, according to the QS University Rankings announced on Tuesday (November 4, 2025).

IIT-Delhi, IIT-Madras, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Kanpur and IIT-Kharagpur figured in the list of top 100 Asian institutes.

"Seven Indian institutions rank in the top 100 in QS World University Asia rankings, 20 in the top 200 and 66 in the top 500," London based QS said in a statement.



It said compared to last year's rankings, 36 Indian institutes improved, 16 remained the same and 105 dropped. "The expansion of the rankings is associated with the greater

volatility observed in this year's results."

"Overall, 41 Indian institutions appear in the top 80th percentile of universities. India ranks best in | [More on P6](#)

DC Bla distributes sanction letters, seeds

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Monday presided over Block Diwas at Boniyar Bardian aimed at strengthening public outreach and ensuring prompt grievance redressal at the grassroots level.

During the programme, The DC inspected stalls set up by various departments showcasing their schemes and services. On the occasion, the DC distributed sanction letters, certificates, and seeds among beneficiaries of various government schemes, encouraging them to avail benefits for sustainable livelihood and development. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of a large gathering of locals from Boniyar and adjoining areas. They raised several developmental issues and demands of public importance.

The grievances projected by the locals mainly included the demand for community bunkers for Halqa Madanan, repair and replacement of electric poles, transformers and wires, completion of Banali–Gulmarg road, upgradation of school infrastructure and addressing shortage of staff in educational institutions. Locals also demanded upgradation of Middle School Madanan, completion of Trikanjan–Salasn road, repair of Government School building at Darkujan, provision of an ambulance for the area, timely disbursement of KCC loans, establishment of a firewood depot, and settlement of compensation issues related to certain PMGSY road projects.

Further, the people of Trikanjan highlighted the shortage of medical staff and machinery at the local hospital, seeking immediate intervention to improve healthcare facilities. Locals also demanded installation of an ATM machine in the area, upon which the DC on the spot directed the Lead District Manager for immediate redressal. Responding to public issues, DC Baramulla gave a patient hearing and assured that all genuine demands will be addressed in a time-bound manner. He informed that nine community bunkers have already been sanctioned for the concerned villages to ensure safety and protection of residents in vulnerable areas.

On the issue of establishment of ATM and KCC loan disbursement, the DC directed the Lead District Manager for prompt action. Regarding the Banali–Gulmarg road, the DC informed that the work will commence very soon on the project.

CS reviews progress on key NHLML infra projects in J&K



KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 4: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of major infrastructure projects being executed by the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting primarily focused on the status of ropeway projects under the Parvatmala Scheme, the Inter Modal Station (IMS) at Katra, and the Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Jammu, all of which are pivotal for enhancing connectivity, logistics efficiency, and tourism infrastructure in the region.

The meeting was attended by ACS, PWD; CEO, NHLML; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD); Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce (I&C); Divisional Commissioner Jammu/Kashmir; Director General, Budget; Director, Industries Jammu; representatives from NHLML, and other senior officers.

Reviewing the progress of ropeway projects, the Chief Secretary underlined that the UT administration is prioritizing improved connectivity to key tourist destinations through sustainable transport solutions. The meeting was informed

that bids have been invited by NHLML for the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for seven priority Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, with bid submission scheduled for November 2025. These ropeway projects includes Sonmarg–Thajwas, Dodhpathri–Diskhal, Bhaderwah–Seojhdar, Baltal–Amarnath, Pahalgam–Amarnath, Nasri Tunnel–Sanasar, Shankaracharya ropeway project

The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of timely DPR finalization, stating that these projects hold immense potential for promoting tourism and providing last-mile connectivity to major pilgrimage and scenic destinations.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress of the Inter Modal Station (IMS) at Katra, a flagship project of strategic importance for pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. The project aims to provide seamless integration of various modes of transport to enhance passenger convenience and travel efficiency. The meeting discussed the financial model of the project, covering both Phase-I and the comprehensive development plan, and the ongoing consultations between NHLML, H&UDD, and the Finance Department to finalize the modalities.

The Chief Secretary called for accelerated action to resolve all pending financial and administrative issues to ensure timely

commencement of the project.

Reviewing the status of the MMLP Jammu, the Chief Secretary stressed the need to expedite the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the project to facilitate the start of DPR-related works, including topographical and geo-technical surveys and demand assessment.

It was informed that a financial model based on normative costing has been submitted by NHLML to the Industries & Commerce Department, which is presently under examination for its viability and implementation framework.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned authorities to ensure early finalization of land availability to enable NHLML to initiate on-ground activities without delay.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to fast-tracking transformative infrastructure projects in the UT, the Chief Secretary directed all concerned departments to maintain close coordination with NHLML and ensure time-bound grounding and execution of all works.

He further stressed that these projects are of socio-economic importance, significantly contributing to improved connectivity, tourism, and logistics development in Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Kulgam holds Teachers' interaction, feedback session

KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, held a Teachers' Interaction and Feedback Session under the ongoing 'Classes of Joy' initiative, an effort jointly undertaken by the district administration and the Pratham Foundation, being implemented across all 458 government primary and middle schools in the district.

The session was organized to review the implementation, progress, and learning outcomes of the initiative, and to obtain valuable feedback from teachers and field-level education officers to further strengthen the programme.

During the session, teachers shared their on-ground experiences, observations, and suggestions regarding the Classes of Joy initiative, which aims to create joyful learning environments and enhance student engagement in schools.

The DC chaired the session,



emphasizing the importance of effective implementation through TRAL (Teaching at the Right Level) to bridge learning gaps.

He stressed that every classroom should be a space of curiosity, creativity, and joy where children can learn, express, and grow.

He also instructed all concerned to ensure zero learning gaps and to make every classroom child-centered, inclusive, and interactive. Deliberations included discussions on innovative teaching practices,

strategies to promote student participation, and measures to further improve learning outcomes.

The DC lauded the efforts of teachers and field staff in implementing the initiative and encouraged their continued dedication to creating environments where every child can thrive academically and creatively.

The session was attended by officers from the Education Department, teachers, and other key stakeholders involved in the programme.

DEPARTMENT HEALTH AND MEDICAL EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE BARAMULLA
PROCUREMENT SECTION

Phone No: 01952-238139 e-mail: Berjinalaroonajk.gov.in
Subject: Repairing of mobile/ fixed gas heaters.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, in view of urgency and as a part of winter preparedness Action Plan, for smooth functioning of the GMC Baramulla and Associated Hospital, sealed tenders affixed by revenue stamps of Rs.10 are invited from registered/authorized dealers for repairing of mobile/ fixed gas heaters as per the details given below;

S. No.	Name of the item	Quantity to be repaired
1.	Cozi flame Fixed gas Heaters	27 (Site Inspection)
2.	Mobile Gas Heaters	Site Inspection

The estimates/tenders in sealed envelope addressed to Procurement Office, GMC Baramulla shall reach to this office within 03 days from the date of publication.

Quotations shall be opened on the 07-11-2025 at 2:00 pm in the office of the undersigned.

Other Terms and Conditions

- Details of the work can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
- Price is F.O.R destination basis with no scope of escalation.
- Rates are inclusive of all taxes.
- Successful bidder shall complete the repairing work within 03 days after allotment of work order.
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject or accept any quotation without assigning any reason.

Principal Dean Govt. Medical College Baramulla

No: GMCB/97/2025-04
Dated: 04-11-2025 CC No. 7786239

DIPK-7774/25
DATED: 04-11-2025

CCFK visits Kamraj Forest Division Kupwara

KT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 04: Chief Conservator Forests (CCF) Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani, Tuesday visited the Kamraj Forest Division Kupwara to review ongoing forest protection measures and developmental works in the area.

The visit commenced with a review meeting at the office of the Deputy Director, Headquarters Natnussa, which was attended by the DFO Kamraj, Deputy

Directors Natnussa, Langate, and Kehmil, along with Range Officers of North Lolab, Matchil, Kupwara, and Sopore.

During the meeting, the CCF took stock of the various measures being undertaken for forest conservation in Kupwara, with a particular focus on the Sogam and Chandigam areas of Lolab Valley. He emphasized the need to intensify field vigilance to curb illegal exploitation of forest resources and ensure

that forest offence cases are promptly acted upon and taken to their logical conclusion.

As part of his visit, the CCF inaugurated the Winter Plantation Drive in the district by planting a Deodar sapling in Compartment 18/S/L, marking the commencement of the winter afforestation season.

The event witnessed active participation of school children and members of the local community, reflecting

growing public involvement in forest conservation efforts.

The CCF also inspected the Forest Nursery at Chandigam, where he issued on-spot directions to raise tall seedlings of diverse species for promoting urban and roadside plantations. He also instructed officers to ensure timely supply of plantable stock for field plantations, thereby creating space for new nursery targets for the current year.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-MAIL ID: XENMHD-HANDWARA@JK.GOV.IN

Tender Notice Inviting Tender (Short Term)

e-NIT No:	MHDH/TS/2025-26/eNIT/38
Date:	03/11/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from original equipment manufacturers or their authorized representatives / experienced firms for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimate d Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Administrativ e Approval/TS
01.	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of 700 LPH Double Stage RO Plant for dialysis Unit at Associated District Hospital Handwara.	38.89	1100.00	77800.00	60days	Accorded

- Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 03/11/205 (1800hrs)
- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 04-11-2025 (1000hrs) onwards in two covers upto 13/11/2025 (1600hrs).
- Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 14-11-2025 (1400hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

DIPK-7765/25
DATED: 04-11-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

PIN: 191201, PHONE: 0194-2416246, EMAIL: exenifcdganderbal@ifckashmir.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No: 27 of 2025-26 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Aggregate Percentage Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S.No.	Name of Work	AAA	Advertisement Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Improvements to Baba Canal	३ ६ ६	19.06	1000	57,200/-	90 Days	BEE/ CEE	MH 4702 UT CAPEX

Total Number of Work is 01. (One Work)

Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	04-11-2025 03:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	04-11-2025 03:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	04-11-2025 03:00 P.M
04	Bid submission Date End	10-11-2025 04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	11-11-2025 11:00 A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 11.11.2025 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.

4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.

5) All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/ FDR/ TDR/ BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.

6) The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/ forged/ fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bidder which shall include but not limited to:

A) Debarment of the bidder for at least two years.

B) encashment of the Earnest money deposit.

C) criminal proceedings.

D) Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.

7) The earnest money shall be forfeited if: -

a) Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

c) The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security and additional performance security within the prescribed time frame.

d) The bidder is found to have violated the code of integrity.

8) Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual form the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaints bid submission process.

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

c) The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in above at Serial No. 1.

e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary Documents.

Note: Scan all the documents on 300 dpi with black and white option.

NO: IFCD/GBL/ 6735-6784
Dated: 04.11.2025

DIPK-7761/25
DATED: 04-11-2025

(Er. Iftikhar Nadeem Mattoo)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control
Division Ganderbal

Senior journalist Tariq Bhat passes away, tributes pour in

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 04: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, National Conference (NC) chief Dr Farooq Abdullah, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Molvi Umar Farooq and the media fraternity on Tuesday expressed grief and shock over the demise of a senior journalist and J&K Bureau Head of The Week magazine, Tariq Ahmad Bhat.

Bhat passed away on Tuesday morning after suffering a massive cardiac attack. He was 54 and left behind a wife and three little children.

A large number of people, especially journalists, participated in the funeral of the senior journalist.

A team of KNO and the daily Kashmir Thunder, led by Editor-in-Chief Nasir Azam Khan, participated in the funeral prayers and met the family, expressing solidarity with them.

Meanwhile, as soon as the news of his demise spread, several political leaders, including the Chief Minister, expressed grief.

"Chief Minister has expressed

deep sorrow on the passing of Tariq Ahmad Bhat, J&K Bureau Head of The Week, who left for his heavenly abode following a cardiac arrest. He prayed for strength to the bereaved family in this difficult time," Office of Chief Minister, J&K in a post on X, said.

The CM said Tariq's contribution to journalism in J&K will always be remembered, the post reads.

National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah, in a condolence message, described Tariq Ahmad Bhat as a respected and principled journalist, whose work reflected integrity, dedication and commitment to truth. He said his insightful reporting earned him great respect within the media fraternity and among the public.

Dr Abdullah prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and conveyed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family.

PDP in its post on X quoted the party chief Mehbooba Mufti as expressing shock over his sudden demise. "PDP President & Former J&K CM @MehboobaMufti expresses her shock over the sudden demise of



senior journalist Tariq Bhat sahab & condoled his passing. Remembering him as a respected voice who captured J&K's nuances with depth & sincerity, she prayed for his magfirat and for strength to his family, friends & colleagues to bear this irreparable loss," JKDPDP wrote.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, in a post on X, expressed shock over the demise. He described Bhat as one of

the respected journalists of Jammu and Kashmir. "Shocked and deeply saddened by the sudden demise of senior journalist Tariq Ahmad Bhat. Tariq was among the most respected journalists of Jammu and Kashmir, known for his integrity and commitment to truthful reporting. Throughout his career, he remained a voice of accuracy and impartiality, upholding the highest standards of journalism even in difficult and trying circumstances. His dedication to the pursuit of truth earned him the respect of colleagues and readers alike," he said.

Mirwaiz expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, colleagues, and friends. "I pray to Almighty Allah to grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul and patience and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss," the post reads.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President, Tariq Hameed Karra, also expressed profound grief over the demise.

In a condolence message, JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra described the sudden passing of

Tariq Bhat heart heart-wrenching and shocking & said the sudden demise of Bhat has left him speechless. "I have no words to express my grief. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family. I express my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and relatives of the deceased," Karra said.

Bhat was a veteran journalist; he will always be remembered for his professional ethics, transparency and honesty, the JKPCC President added. He prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul.

PDP MLA from Pulwama, Waheed Parra also expressed grief. "Still can't believe Tariq Bhat Sahab is gone. A dear friend and a man of truth, humility, and compassion. Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. May Almighty bless his soul with magfirah and grant him a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous. My heartfelt prayers for his family," Parra wrote.

Apni Party president, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari wrote: "Saddened to hear that veteran journalist Tariq Ahmad Bhat passed away this morning due to a cardiac arrest. Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi

raji'un. His untimely demise at such a young age is truly heartbreaking. May Almighty Allah grant his soul eternal peace and give strength to his family to bear this irreparable loss. My heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones."

Meanwhile, the Kashmir Video Journalists Association (KVJA) expressed deep sorrow over the demise.

The Association said Tariq Ahmad Bhat was widely admired for his affable, cheerful, and sociable nature. "He exemplified integrity, professionalism, and a strong sense of duty throughout his career, carrying out his responsibilities with unwavering dedication and sincerity," it added.

The KVJA members paid tributes to the departed journalist, acknowledging that his absence will be deeply felt and his contributions long remembered. It prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. "May Almighty grant them strength and patience to bear this irreparable loss," the Association said—(KNO)

3 MW hydropower plant to serve 3,500 households

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

Deesu, Nov 04: Construction work on a 3-megawatt hydropower project is underway in the Dessu Daksum area of Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Once completed, the project is expected to generate power for around 3,000 to 3,500 households.

The construction company has already completed the laying of approximately 800 metres of the pipeline required for the project, and the remaining 400 metres are expected to be completed within the next two to three weeks.

After construction, the project will operate round the clock in three shifts, providing employment to 30 to 35 workers per shift.

Ghulam Hassan Dekka, a local, said, "We have been working here for some time. This power project will benefit the local population a lot because this is a poor and far-flung area."

Dekka said there is no harm from this project. "Many labourers are working here. Such projects are the need of the hour," he added. Another local said



Representational Image

they had to face a lot of difficulties during winter and power curtailment, and now they are expecting 24-hour electricity. "Electricity is important in this modern era. The water bodies should be used for these projects, and after generating electricity, the same water can be used again," he said.

Junaid Mohammad Makroo, Managing Director, Kashmir Valley Energy Private Limited, told KNO, "This is a 3 megawatt power project which we have taken from the Jammu & Kashmir Energy

Development Agency (JAKEDA), and with overload capacity, it will function up to 3.6 megawatt. We have already laid around 800 metres of pipeline, and the remaining 400 metres will be completed within the next 2 to 3 weeks." He said that at present, around 150 local workers are engaged in this project. "Once construction is completed and the plant reaches the commissioning and operational phase, around 30 to 35 people will work in each shift, and the plant will operate in three shifts round the clock,"

Makroo said

The MD said the major benefit of this project is electricity generation for the government, and equally important is the employment it provides. "Local people working with us will learn new skills and will be able to enhance their capabilities for future opportunities as well," he said. "Labour here is mostly local; only specialised skilled labour has been hired from outside where necessary."

Makroo added, "This project becomes a national asset. Such projects usually operate under the

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, 'Build-Operate-Transfer' (BOT), where a private entity builds and operates the project for a fixed term, after which it is handed over to the government."

The Managing Director said they have received full support from the government, whether it is No Objection Certificates, allotments, or coordination with security forces and departments. "This hydro project will generate electricity sufficient for around 3,000 to 3,500 households annually," he said, adding that hydropower is clean energy, and unlike thermal power projects, it does not pollute the atmosphere and does not rely on coal.

"During construction, there are challenges and hard work involved, but we expect that within one and a half months, subject to weather, the project will be in the commissioning phase," the MD said. "Government norms allow 36 months, but we are close to completing this project in just 17 months, almost a year ahead of schedule due to day-and-night efforts."—(KNO)

JK records nearly 2,900 dengue cases

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Nov 04: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a rise in dengue infections this year, with close to 2,900 confirmed cases reported so far, officials said on Tuesday.

Health experts have once again appealed to the public to follow precautionary measures to curb the spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

As per official figures, available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), 2,867 dengue cases have been registered across the Union Territory to date. Jammu continues to remain the worst hit with 1,209 cases, followed by Kathua with 772, Udhampur 399, and Samba 160. Other districts reporting cases include Reasi (59), Rajouri (62), Poonch (26), Doda (58), Ramban (41) and Kishtwar (12). Twenty-eight cases have been detected in the Kashmir division while 41 cases were reported from outside J&K.

Officials said 24,141 tests have been carried out this year. "Only 48 patients needed hospitalization and nine of them are still undergoing treatment," an official told KNO, adding that one resident of J&K lost his life at DMC Ludhiana due to dengue-related complications.

The official stressed that



there is no dedicated vaccine or specific antiviral therapy available for dengue at present. "The only way to control dengue is to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. People must keep their surroundings clean and ensure there is no stagnant water."

Health experts said dengue continues to pose a serious public health threat.

"Aedes aegypti mosquitoes breed even in small collections of clean water — like pots, tubs, tyres, lids, buckets or bottles. Every household needs to check such spots regularly," doctors said. They advised people to use mosquito repellents, wear full-sleeved clothing and keep water storage containers covered.

Doctors further said that dengue mosquitoes tend to bite early morning and during late afternoon hours, therefore people are advised to use mosquito nets or window screens even during daytime rest. Common symptoms include high fever, severe

headache, pain behind eyes, intense body and joint aches, vomiting, nausea and rashes.

"Severe dengue can show red-flag symptoms like continuous vomiting, stomach pain, gum or nose bleeding, blood in stools or vomit, sudden fatigue or restlessness. Such cases need urgent hospitalization," they warned.

Dengue cases have fluctuated in the region over the past few years — J&K recorded around 7,000 cases in 2024, 6,403 in 2023 and the highest ever 8,269 cases in 2022, which also resulted in 18 deaths. In comparison, dengue was almost non-existent in the region a decade ago—with only two cases reported in 2009 and none in 2010.

Authorities have once again appealed to the public to take the outbreak seriously and eliminate mosquito-breeding spots around homes, institutions and marketplaces to prevent further spread of the disease—(KNO)

Teachers shortage hits quality education in JK colleges

'HED hires around 2,000 academic arrangement faculty every session to meet workload'

RIYAZ BHAT

Srinagar, Nov 04: Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department (JKHED) is grappling with the acute teaching staff—thus raising a question on the quality of education in colleges of the region.

An official informed that the colleges in Jammu and Kashmir require more permanent teaching staff to meet the workload and to improve the quality of education in sync with the New Education Policy (NEP).

The official said, "There is a dire need of increased staff hiring to meet NEP workload."

"Around 2,000 academic arrangement faculty is being engaged every session in addition to permanent faculty," the official said, adding



that there is a need for creation of posts to fill the vacancies to address persistent staff shortage.

Stating the roadmap for the next ten years, the official said that the Higher Education Department is planning clustering of colleges to provide multidisciplinary education to the students.

It also said that the department is mulling to give Multidisciplinary Education and

Research University (MERU) status to select existing autonomous colleges.

"By 2036, all colleges will be made autonomous so that the quality of education in those institutions will be improved further," the official said.

"JKHED is incorporating the National Apprenticeship Scheme (NATS) within the NEP structure," the official said—(KNO)

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 04: For the first time, the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh co-hosted 81st NRPC meetings at Srinagar's SKICC. The JKPTCL acted as the host corporation, with support from JKPD and LPDD, marking a collaborative effort in the region's power sector discourse.

Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC), a statutory body established under the Electricity Act, 2003, responsible for the integrated, stable, and smooth operation of the power system in the Northern Region of India, held its 56th Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) and 81st Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) Meetings at Sher-I-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) Srinagar on 30th & 31st October 2025.

In a statement issued, the officials said that the UT of J&K and Ladakh jointly hosted these high level Meetings for the first time, with JKPTCL served as the host Corporation of JKPD, assisted by JKPD and LPDD.

"Both these Committees are also for the first time headed



by the IAS officers of UT of J&K, TCC headed by Gural Singh and NRPC headed by Shailender Kumar (Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary)," it reads.

The Meetings were attended by Hemant Jain, Member (Grid Operation and Distribution) Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Member Secretary NRPC, Smt Rishika Sharan, her team of NRPC Secretariat and high level dignitaries of Northern Power utilities, Managing

Directors, Executive Directors, Member Secretary Western Regional Power Committee (WRPC), Member Secretary North East Regional Power Committee (NERPC), Top level Management of NRLDC, PGCIL and other delegates/senior Officers from all the states/UTs of Northern Region viz a viz UT of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh & UT of Delhi, with

approximate participation of delegates of around 130.

In the meeting, Executive Engineer MD JKPTCL Eng Mohammad Amin Nayak and Eng Sunil Kumar Bhat Assistant Engineer MD JKPTCL respectively played the role of coordinator and nodal officer for the NRPC meet in Srinagar.

The press statement further states that on October-30, Meeting of TCC was held under the chairmanship of Gural Singh (IAS), wherein Vital Agendas of various Power utilities PSUs/Corporations related to the issues of Grid Operation and Stability, Coordination and Planning, Power Transfer, System Protection, Energy Accounting and Commercial Matters, Consensus Building, low voltage problems, Emergency restoration system in case of natural disasters were taken up for deliberations. After exhaustive deliberations, on every agenda point, Consensus on placement before the NRPC were arrived at in most of the Agendas.

PGCIL was advised to extend full Cooperation to the State/UT Transmission utilities, specifically in the event of system eventuality and natural calamities in the emergency

restoration works.

The meeting emphasized upon collaborative efforts among all stakeholders, to meet the operational challenges of the Transmission network of Northern India.

It also said that on October-31, Meeting of the NRPC under the chairmanship of worthy Shailender Kumar (IAS) (Financial Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary) was held, wherein Agendas deliberated and cleared by TCC were taken up for granting final nod and action by the respective Transmission Utilities thereof.

After the welcome address, Chairperson NRPC gave a detailed overview of the Power Sector of J&K and the challenges/constraints thereupon. Steps being taken which includes Loss reduction, infrastructure upgradation and modernization were highlighted by the Chairperson in his speech.

The high-level Meeting concluded with vote of thanks to all the participant dignitaries and with a renewed commitment to, strive and achieve the objectives of the discussions and deliberations held during the meetings—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Govt’s Bold Move To Strengthen Media Credibility And Accountability

The government’s move to regulate media operations in Kashmir marks a crucial step towards ensuring professionalism, accountability, and credibility in the journalism sector. By mandating that all journalists register and validate their credentials with the District Information Offices, authorities are taking a proactive approach to curb the misuse of media identity and prevent unverified individuals from infiltrating official events and government functions. This initiative is commendable for its emphasis on safeguarding the integrity of journalism. In an era where the proliferation of unverified and sometimes malicious content poses a threat to

social harmony and factual reporting, such regulatory measures are essential. By ensuring that only genuine media persons have access to official engagements, the government is reinforcing the importance of responsible journalism and protecting the sanctity of information dissemination. Moreover, the move will foster a more professional environment in Kashmir’s media landscape. With verified credentials, journalists can operate with greater confidence, knowing that their work is recognised and protected by official protocols. It also helps authorities maintain transparency, as the presence of verified media personnel allows for accurate and credible

reporting of government activities and developmental initiatives. Critics might argue that such measures could impose restrictions or create hurdles for journalists; however, the policy’s intent is fundamentally to establish a transparent and accountable media ecosystem. The seven-day window for credential submission is a reasonable timeframe, and the focus remains on verification rather than suppression. This balanced approach demonstrates the government’s commitment to fostering a responsible media culture without undermining press freedom. Ultimately, this regulation encourages a culture of professionalism, ensuring that the media acts as a true

watchdog rather than a conduit for misinformation. For a region like Kashmir, where information plays a vital role in shaping perceptions and fostering development, such measures will help build trust between the government and the media and reinforce the accountability of those reporting news. The government’s decisive step to regulate media operations in Kashmir is a positive move that will strengthen the credibility of journalism, promote responsible reporting, and contribute to a more transparent and trustworthy information environment. It is a step in the right direction towards safeguarding the principles of a free and responsible press.

Transforming Indian Agriculture:
A Holistic Approach To Education, Innovation,
And Farmer Empowerment

With a focus on research, technology, and skill development, India aims to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for its farmers through integrated agricultural education and training initiatives

Press Information Bureau

Agriculture provides the primary livelihood for nearly half of India’s population and contributes about 18 percent of GDP. Building human capacity, through higher education, research, and hands-on training, is vital for raising productivity, reducing costs, and achieving national goals. Agricultural education, research, and extension are recognised as the key pillars of the sector, forming the institutional and scientific base essential for sustaining the targeted 5 percent agricultural growth rate and achieving the national vision of "Viksit Krishi aur Samruddh Kisan" (Developed Agriculture and Prosperous Farmer)-the core philosophy of "Viksit Bharat". To achieve this vision, these three pillars must work in synergy under the guiding principle of "One Nation - One Agriculture - One Team."

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Apex body for agri research and education: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), established in 1929 (under the Department of

Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare), is India’s premier organization for coordinating agricultural research and higher education. It is responsible for guiding research institutes and universities in agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, and animal sciences.

Nationwide network: ICAR oversees a vast system, 113 national research institutes(a detailed list can be accessed here <https://icar.org.in/institutes>) and 74 agricultural universities across India, making it one of the world’s largest agri research networks. It spearheaded the Green Revolution and continues to lead in developing climate-resilient, high-yield varieties and farming technologies.

Extension and quality: Through its divisions, ICAR manages 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to transfer technologies to farmers. It also sets academic standards, issuing the 'ICAR Model Act (Revised 2023)' and 'Minimum Requirements for Establishing the Agricultural Colleges', and accredits institutions via the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board.

Public and Private Institutions Government universities and institutes: India has 63 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), 3 Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs) (Pusa, Imphal, Jhansi), 4 "Deemed" universities (IARI-Delhi, NDRI-Karnal, IVRI-Izatnagar, CIFE-Mumbai), and 4 Central Universities with agriculture faculty. The ICAR network also includes 11 ATARI (Agricultural Technology Application

Research Institutes) centres.

Private sector: Agricultural education falls under the purview of State Governments, which have their own policies for establishing and promoting private institutions. ICAR’s role is limited to granting accreditation upon request. Over the past five years, the number of ICAR-accredited private agricultural colleges has risen from 5 in 2020-21 to 22 by 2024-25.

Central Agricultural Universities Currently, three Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs) operate in India. Each was created by an Act of Parliament to serve regional needs:

Dr. Rajendra Prasad CAU, Pusa (Bihar): Converted to a CAU in October 2016 from the former Rajendra Agricultural University (Estd. 1970). It has 8 constituent colleges:

Tirhut College of Agriculture Post Graduate College of Agriculture College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology

College of Community Science College of Basic Sciences and Humanities College of Fisheries

Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay College of Horticulture and Forestry

School of Agri Business & Rural Management

RPCAU offers undergraduate programs in 8 disciplines (Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Community Science, Fisheries, Biotechnology, Forestry & Food Technology). Additionally, the university also offers a wide range of Master’s Programmes, and Ph.D. The university operates through multiple campuses, at Pusa in Samastipur District, Dholi in Muzaffarpur District, and Piprakothi in East Champaran District of Bihar, and manages 18 KVKs, linking research with farmers in Bihar. Aligned with the National Education Policy, the university has launched several short-term certificate and diploma programmes aimed at developing industry-ready talent at grassroots and mid-management levels.

Central Agricultural University, Imphal (Manipur): Established in January 1993 under the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992, the university serves seven Northeastern hill states, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, and Tripura. CAU, Imphal follows a comprehensive approach by integrating teaching, research, and extension across its 13 constituent colleges located throughout the seven hill states (the complete list available at, <https://cau.ac.in/about-cau-imphal/>). It currently offers 10 undergraduate, 48 master’s, and 34 Ph.D. programmes in agriculture and allied disciplines, with a total enrolment of 2982 students in the academic year 2024-25.



Rani Lakshmi Bai CAU, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh): Established as an Institution of national importance under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) by an Act of Parliament (Act No. 10 of 2014). The university serves as a centre of excellence in agricultural sciences, dedicated to advancing education, research and extension services in India. RLBCAU’s curriculum designed to equip students of undergraduate, master’s and Ph. D. with latest knowledge and skills under varied discipline of agronomy, horticulture, veterinary science, and agricultural engineering etc. Its constituent colleges include College of Agriculture and College of Horticulture & Forestry at Jhansi (UP), and Colleges of Fisheries and College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences at Datia (Madhya Pradesh).

Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial intelligence (AI) in Agriculture

Technology Adoption: The government is actively promoting the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to modernize farming. Applications include precision farming (sensor-driven irrigation, automated machinery), drones for imaging and spraying, livestock monitoring, climate-smart greenhouses, AI-driven pest/crop monitoring, and remote sensing.

Innovation Hubs: Under DST’s National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) were set up nationwide as of Dec 2022; three focused in the application of IoT and AI in agriculture. For example, IIT Ropar’s Agri/Water TIH, working on IoT sensors for saffron production and supply all over India. IIT Bombay hosts a TIH on "Internet of Everything," and IIT Kharagpur runs an AI4ICPS hub for AI/ML solutions (crop health forecasting, yield prediction).

Digital Infrastructure: The Ministry of Electronics has established Centres of Excellence on IoT in cities like Bengaluru, Gurugram, Gandhinagar and Visakhapatnam. The Visakhapatnam IoT Centre of Excellence (CoE), for instance, focuses on agri-tech and connects startups, industry, investors, and academia to democratize innovation. Under the National e-Governance Plan for Agriculture, states are funded to implement digital-agriculture projects using AI/ML, IoT, blockchain, etc.

Start-up Ecosystem: Since 2018-19, the "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been fostering innovation and

agripreneurship by offering financial assistance and strengthening the agri-incubation ecosystem. The initiative supports start-ups in agriculture and allied sectors, with the dual aim of boosting farmers’ incomes through new opportunities and generating employment for rural youth. Start-ups supported under the programme are engaged across diverse areas of agriculture and allied sectors, including agro-processing, food technology and value addition, artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), information and communication technology (ICT), precision farming, digital agriculture, blockchain technology.

Skilling and Training of Farmers

Skilling and training of farmers have become central to India’s agricultural transformation. Recognising that modern farming requirements, the Government has prioritised capacity building to help farmers adapt to technological innovations, climatic and market transformations. Programmes such as the Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Pradhan Mantri Kauschal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), and initiatives through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) are equipping farmers with practical knowledge and vocational expertise for sustainable agriculture practices.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs): These ICAR-run centers are the frontline for farmers training. Between 2021-22 and 2023-24, KVKs trained 58.02 lakh farmers with the number increasing consistently each year. In the first ten months of 2024-25, an additional 18.56 lakh farmers had already been trained. KVK courses cover improved agronomy, livestock care, soil health, post-harvest tech, etc., tailored to local conditions.

ATMA (Extension Reform Scheme): The Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme plays a key role in strengthening decentralized agricultural extension. Under this initiatives, 32.38 lakh farmers were trained in 2021-22, followed by 40.11 lakh in 2022-23 and 36.60 lakh in 2023-24. By January 2025, nearly 18.30 lakh farmers had been trained. Overall, nearly 1.27 crore farmers have been trained through ATMA during 2021-25.

Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY): STRY provides short vocational courses (about seven days) in agri/allied trades (horticulture, dairy, fisheries, etc.). It trained 10,456 rural youth in 2021-22, 11,634 in 2022-23 and 20,940 in 2023-24. As of Dec 2024, over 51,000 rural youth have been trained

since 2021. The program aims to boost self-employment and create skilled manpower in villages.

Farm Mechanization (SMAM): The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) provides training on farm machinery use. During 2021-25, SMAM directly trained 57,139 farmers in mechanization through demonstrations and custom hiring awareness.

Soil Health Card Scheme: This program issues soil health cards and educates farmers on balanced fertilization. By July 2025, over 25.17 crore cards had been distributed nationwide. Parallel efforts included 93,000+ soil-health trainings and 6.8 lakh on-field demonstrations to teach nutrient management practices.

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs): To build market-oriented capacity, the government has registered over 10,000 FPOs. Through digital modules and webinars, farmers in FPOs receive training on agri-business management, value chains and marketing. (By collectivizing smallholders, FPOs help deliver targeted skilling and extension in rural areas).

Conclusion

India’s agricultural education and training system today reflects a well-integrated approach linking education, research, technology, and field-level skill development. Guided by the vision of "One Nation - One Agriculture - One Team," institutions such as ICAR, Central and State Agricultural Universities, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras have created a strong foundation to make farming more productive, sustainable, and knowledge-driven. The continuous emphasis on quality education, accreditation reforms, and farmer-centric training is helping bridge the gap between scientific research and practical application.

The inclusion of technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and precision farming tools marks a significant shift toward modern and data-based agriculture. Through initiatives like ATMA, STRY, and SMAM, farmers and rural youth are being equipped with essential technical and entrepreneurial skills, fostering employment and self-reliance in villages. Together, these efforts are contributing to higher productivity, better incomes, and sustainable use of resources. As India aims for self-reliance in food production and a resilient rural economy, strengthening this synergy between education, innovation, and skilling will remain central to the nation’s agricultural progress.

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

Make 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram successful: DC Pulwama

Reviews action plan, calls for mass participation

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 04: In alignment with the nationwide commemoration of 150 Years of Vande Mataram, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the district action plan and arrangements for the forthcoming year-long celebrations.

At the outset, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama presented a detailed presentation on the District Action Plan, outlining a series of activities to be organised throughout the year at the district, subdivision, tehsil, block, and panchayat levels.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that the commemoration should witness mass



participation, enthusiasm, and patriotic spirit across all sectors of society.

He further urged the Principals of Degree Colleges and the Chief Education Officer to frame an activity-wise schedule for educational institutions, ensuring

that programmes are conducted in a structured and engaging manner across all schools and colleges of the district.

Dr. Qayoom further directed that every officer shall lead at least one event under the commemoration drive to ensure

inclusive participation and wide outreach across the district.

Emphasising the sanctity of the occasion, the DC remarked that the National Song holds significant reverence and every officer must ensure strict adherence to the prescribed protocol during the celebrations.

The DC further directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure mass participation and successful observance of the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Tral, and Awantipora; Principals of Degree Colleges, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, and other district and sectoral officers.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of NH-701 project

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 4: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the progress of the National Highway-701 (RKCTC Road) project and address various issues affecting its execution.

The meeting held a detailed discussion on key aspects of the project, including shifting of electricity poles and water pipelines, improvement of road curves.

The concerned Tehsildars were instructed to ensure timely submission of land title documents to facilitate prompt compensation to affected landowners.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the removal of hindrances, attestation of mutations, and clearance of issues related to walnut trees and forest land, directing the concerned departments to



expedite the process to ensure uninterrupted construction of the highway.

The DC directed the concerned agency to complete pending culvert works on fast track basis to avoid inconvenience to the general public.

The DC urged all stakeholders to maintain close coordination and work proactively to achieve timely completion of this vital infrastructure project,

which is expected to significantly enhance connectivity and boost economic activity in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kupwara, SE Hydraulics, SE R&B, OC Beacon, Chief Horticulture Officer Kupwara, and other concerned officers.

Budgam Bye-election

Voter awareness prog held at Bemina



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 4: In connection with the forthcoming Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam, the District Administration Tuesday organized a Voter Awareness Programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative at Bemina.

The programme aimed to encourage greater voter turnout and informed participation among the local electorate.

The awareness campaign was held under the directions of the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, and was spearheaded by the District Nodal Officer SVEEP (Chief Education Officer Budgam).

The initiative particularly focused on polling stations identified with relatively lower voter turnout viz. Bemina Polling

Stations E, F, G, and H.

The event witnessed active participation of the Zonal Education Officer Soibugh, Principal of GHSS Bemina, and other district officials.

A series of engaging and informative activities were carried out as part of the campaign, including Nukkad Natak (street plays), awareness rallies, distribution of voter information pamphlets, and the installation of awareness hoardings across the area.

A large number of students, teachers, and local residents joined the awareness rally, which started from Khomani Chowk, Bemina, passed through various local streets of Ward 65, and culminated at Government Higher Secondary School Bemina. The vibrant display of enthusiasm and community participation reflected a strong collective commitment towards enhancing electoral participation in the upcoming bye-elections.

DC reviews cooperative initiatives in 6th DCDC meeting

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 04: The 6th District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) meeting was Tuesday convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Kupwara, district officers and representatives from various cooperative institutions.

At the outset, the Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Adnan Nazir briefed the committee about the overall functioning and achievements of the Cooperative Department in the district.

He informed that special emphasis is being laid on the revival of dormant cooperative societies and that a silent revolution in milk cooperatives is underway under the umbrella of JKMPCL, aimed at strengthening the rural economy. It was further informed that Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Units (FPU) are receiving financial support under various government schemes to promote rural entrepreneurship and employment generation.

During the meeting, the



committee approved the establishment of an FPU in MPSC Kanthpora for setting up a bakery unit. The Chair was also apprised about the completion of works at the Cooperative Super Bazar Kupwara and the ongoing progress on the world's largest grain storage project at Turkpora.

The Deputy Commissioner issued several directions to the concerned officers, including coordinating with the executive agency for early operationalization of the Sogam Super Bazar, making fair price shops functional at the Cooperative Super Bazar Kupwara, providing space to NRLM-affiliated societies within the Super Bazar premises, submitting a comprehensive report on defunct cooperative societies, and ensuring timely completion

of the Grain Storage Project at Turkpora. He also directed the opening of new PACS PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras for the benefit of patients.

Appreciating the efforts of the Cooperative Department, the DC emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination and collective efforts to revive the cooperative movement and empower the rural economy of Kupwara district. He urged all stakeholders to align their efforts toward strengthening the cooperative sector as a sustainable model for local economic growth and self-reliance.

The meeting was attended by ADDC kupwara, Mufti Fareed ud Din; ACD, CHO, AD Fisheries BDOs, DDM NABARD and other officers from Cooperative Department.

DLSA Sgr conducts awareness drive on Free Legal Aid



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 04: In connection with the upcoming National Legal Aid Day to be observed on 9th November 2025, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar organized an Awareness Programme on Free Legal Aid across various locations of district Srinagar.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief, and under the supervision of Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman.

The initiative aimed to sensitize the general public about their rights and the availability of free legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act.

On this occasion, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Srinagar conducted awareness sessions and outreach programmes at different public places, spreading information regarding free legal aid, the role of Legal Services Institutions, and procedures to avail such services.

The Para Legal Volunteers acted as resource persons, engaging with the community, distributing informative material, and encouraging people to seek legal assistance through the District and Tehsil Legal Services Committees.

The awareness drive reflects the continued efforts of DLSA Srinagar to ensure access to justice for all, particularly for the marginalized and weaker sections of society.

SHEW Shopian organises awareness camp

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 04: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Shopian Tuesday organized an awareness programme at Anganwadi Centre Hanjipora, Shopian, focusing on various Women Welfare Schemes and Helpline Services aimed at uplifting and empowering women in the district.

The programme was aimed to create awareness among women about the government initiatives designed to enhance their socio-economic status, promote self-reliance, and ensure their safety and well-being.

Participants were educated about different welfare schemes, financial support programmes, and skill development opportunities available for women.

SHEW officials also shared vital information about important helpline numbers including Women Helpline 181, Sakhi One



Stop Centre, and other grievance redressal platforms, ensuring that women are aware of the support systems in place to assist them in times of need.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local women who engaged in interactive discussions about challenges, opportunities, and ways to achieve self-dependence. Officials emphasized that empowerment begins with awareness, and every woman should know her rights and the facilities provided by the government for her welfare.

HP&M Anantnag organises awareness camp

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, NOVEMBER 04: The department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing (HP&M) Anantnag Tuesday organised an awareness camp and capacity building workshop at F&V Market Jabilpura.

A large number of fruit growers, traders and FPOs participated in the camp and were apprised of various govt. schemes of the horticulture sector like HADP, JK-CIP, Support for Grading and Packaging and e-NAM trade.

The Area Marketing Officer briefed the participants about all components of HADP and JK-CIP schemes. The officers from



KVK Anantnag, Horticulture Production and Agriculture departments deliberated technical and informative lectures on various farmer centric govt. schemes and support systems.

The program aimed to sensitise the farming community about various govt. initiatives launched for sustainable

agriculture development and self-reliance in alignment with the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The camp served as an important platform for direct interaction between department and farmers encouraging the adoption of scientific and sustainable practices in horticulture.

Awareness play held under 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan'

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 04: The Cultural Unit Srinagar, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), organized a short play at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHHS), Sonwar, Srinagar Tuesday under the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan.

The event aimed to spread awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote the message of a healthy and drug-free society through creative expression.

The Head of the Institution appreciated the initiative and lauded the efforts of the Cultural Unit Srinagar for conducting such awareness programmes in educational institutions.

The Cultural Officer Kashmir addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in combating the drug menace.

The programme concluded with a pledge ceremony, wherein students and staff vowed to contribute towards the vision of a Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir.

Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute Pampore holds seminar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 04: The Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute (CSRTI), Pampore, under the Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, organized a National Technical Seminar on "Technological Interventions for Improving Quality and Productivity of Silk Industry" at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre, Srinagar.

The seminar was inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer and Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, and Director General, International Sericulture Commission, P. Sivakumar, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The event was also attended by

several distinguished dignitaries, including Director, Sericulture Development Department, Jammu and Kashmir, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat; Director, CSB-Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Pampore, Dr. Sardar Singh; Director (Retd.), Central Silk Board, Dr. M.A. Khan; Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam; Joint Director, Rajbhasha Vibhag, Ministry of Home Affairs, K.P. Sharma; and Joint Secretary (Tech), Central Silk Board, Bengaluru, Dr. Naresh Babu.

In his inaugural address, P. Sivakumar assured full support from the Central Silk Board for the promotion and sustainable growth of bivoltine sericulture in Jammu and Kashmir. He



appreciated the superior quality of Kashmir silk and emphasized the need for global branding of silk products from the region to enhance their visibility and market potential worldwide.

Director, Sericulture Development in his address said that the deliberation and

research findings being shared in bilingual (Hindi and Urdu) will have a far-reaching consequence for Technology diffusion and Silk Production and Productivity improvement across India especially in J&K. He further emphasized that such type of events may be continuously organized

for the benefits of Sericulture farmers and revive this age-old legacy of Kashmir and promote Kashmiri silk as a brand.

Director, CSB-Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Pampore, informed that it is first time that Central Institute is organizing a dedicated National Technical Seminar where sericulture scientific deliberations are being made in Hindi.

Director Handloom, appreciated the efforts and hope that it will add new dimensions to sericulture industry of Kashmir and Department of Handloom will be ultimate beneficiary of these developments as silk is an important constituent of Handloom products of Kashmir Valley being exported

worldwide.

Joint Director, Rajbhasha Vibhag, informed that Central Silk Board is playing a pivotal role in popularizing the Hindi as a medium of communication in Scientific deliberations. It is a welcome step that Sericulture farmers will get the information in their mother tongue as a result a communication between scientists and farming community is going to be more effective, he added.

On the occasion, three Hindi publications Abstract Book (Smarika), Annual Hindi Magazine, and Half-Yearly Newsletter were released by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries.

A total of 88 scientists from 20

states participated in the seminar and presented their research findings through oral and poster presentations.

During the Rajbhasha Session, four presentations were made by Hindi officers from the Central Silk Board, emphasizing the importance of Hindi in science and technology communication.

In the technical sessions, Directors from nine R&D institutes of the Central Silk Board presented their lead papers on the current status of Mulberry, Tasar, Muga, and Eri sericulture, along with Post-Cocoon technologies and by-products.

Across the Mulberry, Vanya, and Post-Cocoon sessions, 34 oral presentations and 25 posters were presented.

India, Israel ink major defence pact

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 04: India and Israel on Tuesday signed a defence pact that will facilitate sharing of advanced technologies and promote co-development and co-production of key weapon systems and military hardware, in a major move to further bolster their already robust strategic ties.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Tel Aviv following a meeting of India-Israel joint working group (JWG) on defence cooperation.

The MoU on defence cooperation was signed to provide a "unified vision and policy direction to deepen the already strong defence cooperation

between the two countries," the defence ministry said.

"India-Israel defence partnership is long-standing based on deep mutual trust and shared security interests," it said.

The ministry said a wide range of areas for cooperation have been identified in the MoU that will benefit both countries.

"Important fields include strategic dialogues of mutual interest, training, defence industrial cooperation, and capabilities including science and technology, research and development and technological innovation, artificial intelligence and cyber security cooperation," the ministry said in a readout.

"The MoU will enable the sharing of advanced technology and would promote co-development and co-production," it said.

The JWG reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation initiatives and agreed that both the nations have benefited from each other's strengths, the ministry said.

"The two sides discussed the potential areas for future collaboration in the field of technology as well as enhancing operational capabilities," it said.

"They also deliberated on various issues, including shared challenges of terrorism and underscored their collective resolve to fight against the threat," it said.



Praveer Ranjan, Director General, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday. He was accompanied by Sudhir Kumar, ADG, CISF and Navajyoti Gogoi, IG CISF.

Delhi sixth most polluted city in country in October: Study



PTI

New Delhi, Nov 04: Delhi was ranked the sixth most polluted city in the country in October, behind neighbouring Ghaziabad and Noida, according to a study.

Dharuhera in Haryana was ranked as the most polluted city in October, with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 123 g/m³, according to the Monthly Air Quality Snapshot released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) on Tuesday.

It provided a comprehensive analysis of India's air quality based on continuous ambient air quality monitoring station (CAAQMS) data.

The findings revealed a sharp deterioration in air quality across the country, with worsening conditions concentrated in the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP), particularly the National Capital Region (NCR), an official statement said.

Delhi ranked sixth with an average concentration of 107 g/m³, three times higher than its September average of 36 g/m³.

Despite stubble burning contributing less than 6 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 levels in October, the sharp rise highlights the impact of year-round emission sources and the need for long-term mitigation plans beyond short seasonal measures like the Graded Response Action Plan, it noted.

Dharuhera was ranked as the most polluted city in October,

with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 123 g/m³, breaching the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) limit on 77 per cent of the days.

It recorded two 'Severe' and nine 'Very Poor' days during the month. Following Dharuhera, the next most polluted cities were Rohtak, Ghaziabad, Noida, Ballabgarh, Delhi, Bhiwadi, Greater Noida, Hapur, and Gurgaon.

Overall, four cities each from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana dominated the top 10 list, all located within the NCR.

Shillong, Meghalaya, was India's cleanest city in October with an average PM2.5 concentration of 10 g/m³. The top 10 cleanest cities included four from Karnataka, three from Tamil Nadu, and one each from Meghalaya, Sikkim and Chhattisgarh.

Out of 249 cities, 212 recorded PM2.5 levels below India's NAAQS of 60 g/m³. However, only six cities met the World Health Organization's (WHO) daily safe guideline of 15 g/m³.

In October, cities with 'Good' air quality (0-30 g/m³) dropped from 179 in September to 68, while those in the 'Satisfactory' range (31-60 g/m³) increased from 52 to 144.

Cities in the 'Moderate' range (61-90 g/m³) rose from 4 to 27, while nine cities fell into the 'Poor' (91-120 g/m³) category and one city reached the 'Very Poor' (121-250 g/m³).

'Shifting to plant diets could slash world's need for farm labour by up to 30% by 2030'

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 04: A shift towards plant-based diets could lower the world's requirement of agricultural labour by up to nearly 30 per cent by 2030 — the equivalent of up to 100 million full-time jobs — indicating a need for policies to support a fair transition for workers, according to a study.

Estimates published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal also show that while countries practising a livestock-heavy agriculture would see the highest fall in labour demand, lower-income countries could need 18-56 million workers more to grow fruits, vegetables, legumes and nuts.

Switching to a plant-based diet, which favours fruits, vegetables, legumes and nuts and small portions of meat and dairy, is among the recommendations



described by the United Nations for reducing one's carbon footprint to meet the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

Researchers, including those from the UK's University of Oxford, said the study is the first detailed, country-level assessment of how a change in diets can impact farming jobs across 179 countries.

The team combined data on labour requirements for crops and livestock with models of global food

production to understand how dietary patterns, including vegetarian and vegan diets, would affect the agricultural workforce.

While dietary shifts can result in efficiency gains, the researchers said policy and planning are needed to ensure that transitions are fair.

Measures such as retraining, redeployment and investment in horticultural production will be crucial to support workers and rural communities as food systems evolve, they said.

"Dietary change doesn't just affect our health and the planet — it also has a big impact on people's livelihoods. Moving away from meat-heavy diets reduces the need for labour in animal production but increases demand in horticulture and food services," lead researcher Marco Springmann, senior researcher at the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, said.

"Consistent strategies and political support will be needed to enable just transitions both into and out of agricultural labour," Springmann said.

The researchers also found that changes to the world's agriculture workforce could slash labour costs by USD 290-995 billion per year, translating to around 0.2 per cent to 0.6 per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP).

UK govt orders poultry restrictions as avian flu spreads

AFP

London, Nov 04: The UK government on Tuesday ordered all poultry in England to be kept inside due to escalating cases of avian influenza.

The order takes effect from Thursday.

"The new measures mean bird keepers across the whole of England must house all poultry and captive birds if they keep more than 50... or if they sell or give eggs away," a

statement said.

Similar limited restrictions were made in parts of north, central and eastern England last week.

"Given the continued increase in the number of avian influenza cases in kept birds and wild birds across England, we are now taking the difficult step to extend the housing measures to the whole of England," said UK Chief Veterinary Officer Christine Middlemiss.

The risk to human health

remained "low" and that "properly cooked" poultry and eggs were safe to eat, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said.

There were 85 recorded avian flu outbreaks in poultry farms in Europe between August 1 and late October with 28 in the last week of that period, according to the Europe-wide ESA animal health monitor.

Of those six outbreaks were in Britain.

In January, following

an uptick in cases, the UK government ordered mandatory culls in England of birds within a three kilometer (1.8 mile) radius of a confirmed case, as well as stepped up hygiene measures and controls across wider areas.

The virus can spread through droppings and saliva or contaminated food and water.

Vaccinations against bird flu are currently not allowed in the UK, except in zoos.

Sakeena Itoo, Javid Dar extend Gurupurab greetings

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 04: Cabinet Ministers Sakeena Itoo and Javid Dar have extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Gurupurab, the birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, founder of Sikhism.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, in her message, the Minister said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of selfless service, harmony, and devotion to truth continue to guide humanity towards a just and inclusive society. She added that on this occasion, everyone should rededicate themselves to the ideals of universal brotherhood and service to humanity, which lie at the heart of Guru Nanak's philosophy.

The minister also prayed for peace, prosperity, and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, in his message, said that Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was a great spiritual ambassador who guided the humanity to attain salvation by spreading the cult of devotion to God with eternal message of love, compassion and spirituality amongst the mankind.

He said that Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji envisioned a casteless society free from rituals, thereby redeeming the suffering of humanity from the pangs of agony.

"Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji motivated the humanity with new ideas, aims, aspirations and called upon it to dispense with the maladies of hypocrisy, falsehood, pretensions and caste-prejudices," he said.

The minister said that teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji are still relevant today especially in the present complex and materialistic society. He appealed the people to imbibe the spirit of service and humility as preached by the Great Guru and strive hard for carving out a peaceful, prosperous and healthy society by following the precious legacy of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Indian Army neutralised

through precise operations," he said.

The Home Minister launched a scathing attack at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and accused him of supporting illegal immigrants.

"His (Rahul's) recent yatra was aimed at protecting those entering India illegally."

"Rahul Gandhi came to Bihar two and a half months ago and took out a 'ghuspaithiya bachao yatra'. Lalu Prasad joined hands with him. They want to protect infiltrators. But the NDA government will ensure that every illegal immigrant is identified and removed from the country," Shah said.

Shifting his focus to opposition politics, the Home Minister accused the Congress and Lalu Prasad Yadav's party of safeguarding Article 370 for decades. "For nearly 70 years, the Congress-Lalu alliance protected Article 370. It was Prime Minister Modi who finally ended it on August 5, 2019," Shah said. (KNO)

August calamity tested

The administration is committed to safeguard their interests and promote sustainable agricultural growth," he added.

LG Sinha called on the youth to preserve cultural heritage and termed it as crucial aspect for rapid economic growth.

He said cultural traditions, arts, crafts, and customs should be passed on to the younger generation through active participation in cultural-spiritual events and skill development that will open up employment opportunities as well. "Community participation in governance should be ensured to promote accountability, improve service delivery, and foster a more

inclusive and transparent governance to understand citizens' needs and accordingly formulate new policies," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He paid obeisance to Baba Jitto and Bua Kauri. "Baba Jitto is a universal symbol of public welfare, transcending sectarian divides. His values of truth, non-violence, and brotherhood strengthen society and make the Jhiri Mela a celebration of multiculturalism and social harmony. I believe the real tribute to Baba Jitto is to ensure that benefits of government schemes reach every farmer," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the people to take a pledge to embrace the path of selfless-service and work towards a just and equal society as envisioned by Baba Jitto.

He also exhorted the officials and public representatives to work collectively to provide markets to local artisans, craftsmen, and traders.

"Together we can make a strong, secure, prosperous and self-reliant Jammu Kashmir," he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor dedicated a pilgrim community hall and 4 modular bus stops and laid foundation stone for the first 'Indoor Sports Complex' under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at Marh Sub-Division.

He visited the stalls put up by the government departments, Agri-entrepreneurs, SHGs and farmers, and also felicitated progressive farmers. The event also featured vibrant cultural performances highlighting the rich culture and artistic heritage of Jammu Kashmir.

The pilgrim community hall inaugurated

today will continue to function as a dedicated Pilgrim Rest Hall throughout the year. It will also host religious, cultural, and community awareness programmes, making it a hub for social and spiritual engagement.

To improve transportation and ease of access for devotees, four modular bus stops have been constructed at Jhiri Chowk, Rajpura Chowk, Bawa Talab Chowk, and Kanachak Chowk. It will also strengthen the connectivity and accessibility to the Jhiri Temple and other adjoining rural clusters.

The Indoor Sports Complex in Marh Sub-Division is expected to be completed within four months, marking a new era for sports promotion and talent development in the area. The facility will include two Badminton Courts, dedicated Judo, Taekwondo, and Karate Rings, two Ten-Metre Air Rifle Shooting Ranges, two Table Tennis Tables, facilities for Chess and Carrom, a Reading Room and Recreation Zone.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu; Surinder Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Marh; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, senior officials, devotees and people from all walks of life in large number attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

India on way to

government would meet the ambitious fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent for the current financial year.

The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4 per cent of the GDP, or Rs 15.69 lakh crore.

'Cabinet expansion':

that reservations should not exceed 50 per cent. (KNO)

VC SKUAST-J discusses

and extension activities being carried out by the University to promote agricultural development in the region.

A delegation of the Catholic Church, led by Rt. Rev. Ivan Pereira, Bishop of Jammu-Srinagar, also called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

LG, CM greet people

service—continue to illuminate the path of humanity and inspire people across the world. He underlined the importance of embracing these universal values to build a society founded on mutual respect, harmony, and inclusivity.

Omar Abdullah expressed hope that the divine message of Guru Nanak Dev Ji would continue to guide Jammu and Kashmir towards greater unity, peace, and prosperity.

Gulmarg, other parts

department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad stated that the weather will remain generally cloudy on November 5 while there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snowfall (over higher reaches) at many places across Kashmir division and at scattered locations in Jammu division, particularly during the evening of November 4 to the early morning of November 5.

The dry weather conditions would prevail

once again from November 6 to 15, he said.

He had also stated that the maximum as well as the minimum temperatures are expected to plummet from tomorrow (November 5) onwards. (KNO)

World will overshoot

month, where countries will debate how to kick-start and finance faster action to rein in global warming.

The Paris Agreement temperature goals were based on scientific assessments of how each increment of global warming fuels worse heatwaves, droughts and wildfires. For example, 2°C of warming would more than double the share of the population exposed to extreme heat, compared with 1.5°C. Warming of 1.5°C would destroy at least 70% of coral reefs, versus 99% at 2°C.

Current policies - the ones countries already have in place - would lead to even more warming, of around 2.8°C, UNEP said.

The world has made some progress. A decade ago, when the Paris Agreement was signed, the planet was on course for around a 4°C temperature rise.

But heat-trapping CO2 emissions continue to rise, as countries burn coal, oil and gas to power their economies.

Global greenhouse gas emissions increased by 2.3% in 2024, to 57.7 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent, UNEP said.

Five IITs, DU, IISc

Asia for staff with PhD," it added.

IIT-Delhi, which ranked 59 this year, was declared the best Indian institute for the fifth consecutive year.

Press 'lotus' button to prevent return of RJD's 'jungle raj' in Bihar: Shah



PTI

Darbhanga (Bihar), Nov 04: Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday urged voters in Bihar to press the EVM button with the BJP's poll symbol lotus to prevent the return of 'jungle raj' during the RJD rule that had "devastated" the state.

He promised that if the NDA returns to power, the government will spend Rs 26,000 crore to harness Koshi water for irrigation and to prevent floods.

"Press 'lotus' button to prevent return of 'jungle raj' that devastated Bihar during the Lalu-Rabri's 15-year rule," Shah alleged, addressing a poll rally at Darbhanga.

He said the NDA under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership could only

lead Bihar to all-around development.

"Altogether, Rs 26,000 crore will be spent to harness Koshi river water to irrigate 'Mithilanchal' and prevent floods in the area if the NDA is voted to power in Bihar...Water of the Ganga, Koshi and Gandak rivers will be utilised for irrigation and to prevent deluge in Bihar," the former BJP president said.

If the NDA retains power in Bihar, people from Mithila, Koshi, and Tirhut will not be required to go to Patna or Delhi for treatment, as they will get quality medical facilities at AIIMS-Darbhanga, he said.

Shah claimed, "As many as 3.60 cr people have been covered with free health insurance up to Rs 5 lakh crore, while the IT park at

Darbhanga will employ the youth."

He slammed the RJD for its complaint to the Election Commission, seeking withdrawal of the Rs 10,000 benefit for 'Jeevika Didis', alleging that "three generations of Lalu won't be able to snatch funds transferred" to the self-help groups.

Reiterating that the RJD-Congress insulted 'Chaathi Maiya', the prime minister and his mother, Shah said people of Bihar will "avenge the insult by showing the exit door to such political parties" in the upcoming elections.

"Bihar people never forgive those who insult 'Chhathi Maiya'. The RJD-Congress will be wiped out in the Bihar polls," Shah claimed.

Not a single corruption case against Nitish: Rajnath



PTI

Hajipur (Bihar), Nov 04: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday claimed that there is not a single corruption case against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and asserted that only the NDA can make the state 'viksit' (developed).

Addressing an election rally in Vaishali district, Singh claimed that INDIA bloc leaders were lying about their poll promise of giving government jobs to one member of every family, if voted to power, and questioned as to where they would get the requisite money. "During the UPA regime, the Centre gave only Rs 2 lakh crore to Bihar, whereas the Modi government has released Rs 15 lakh crore to the eastern state in 10 years," Singh claimed.

"Only NDA can think of further developing Bihar... Vote for NDA, not for 'jungle raj'," he said. The Indian economy was in the 11th position, but due to steps taken by the Modi government, it is in the fifth position now and will soon take the third spot, he added.

Hydrogen may replace natural gas in India in 5 to 10 years: Top official

ANI

New Delhi, Nov 04: With hydrogen prices declining faster than anticipated, India could see hydrogen becoming a viable alternative to natural gas within the next five to ten years, making this route central to the country's decarbonisation and global competitiveness goals, according to Union Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik.

Delivering a keynote address at CII Steel Summit 2025, Poundrik stated that the steel sector is at heart of India's sustainability journey focusing on decarbonisation through cleaner technologies. He further said that "DRI plus Hydrogen" route offers a promising pathway for green steel production.

Poundrik noted that there are significant opportunities for investments in the steel industry, driven by growing needs from sectors such as defence, space, automotive and power - all of which are expanding rapidly and increasing demand for high-grade steel products.

The Union Steel Ministry Secretary said that it is a misconception that India's steel industry is driven only by a few large producers. In fact, nearly 47 per cent of the steel in the country is produced by around 2,200 medium and



small enterprises, he said adding that these players form the backbone of India's distributed and resilient steel ecosystem.

"There is a strong need for India to achieve self-reliance in Steel sector, given its strategic significance. Ministry of Steel is working closely with the Ministry of Coal to increase the share of domestic coking coal in steelmaking, ensuring greater self-reliance and security in raw material supply. The government is also taking proactive measures to ensure that cheap and substandard steel does not flood the Indian market. Through Quality Control Orders (QCOs), we are creating a level playing field where both domestic and foreign producers meet the same quality benchmarks," Poundrik said. Consistent growth in consumption and capacity along with rising opportunities from specialty steel and green steel, India is on its way to achieve the target of 500 million tonnes by 2047, he added.

"Aligned with the vision

of Viksit Bharat, our target is to reach 500 million tonnes steelmaking capacity by 2047. At the current pace, we would be adding around 100 million tonnes every five to seven years, positioning India to not only meet domestic demand but also emerge as a global leader in sustainable steel production," said Poundrik.

Koushik Chatterjee, Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Steel and Executive Director, Tata Steel Ltd, highlighted that steel forms the backbone of India's industrial transformation and national resilience. As the foundation for construction, transport, energy, and manufacturing, the sector will be pivotal in shaping world-class infrastructure, modern cities, and sustainable growth. He noted that under the National Steel Policy, India aims to achieve 300 million tonnes of capacity by 2030-31 and 500 million tonnes by 2047, positioning steel at the heart of the country's development agenda.

Stock markets decline in initial trade on foreign fund outflows, weak Asian peers



PTI

Mumbai, Nov 04: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty were trading lower in early trade on Tuesday amid persistent foreign fund outflows and weak trend in Asian markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 55 points to 83,923.48 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 40.95 points to 25,722.40.

From the Sensex firms, Power Grid, Eternal, HCL Tech, Maruti, Tata Motors and Infosys were among the major laggards.

However, Bharti Airtel, Titan, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra were the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,883.78 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth Rs 3,516.36 crore in the previous trade. "FIIs renewed selling is

constraining the rally in the market. During the last four days FIIs have sold equity worth Rs 14,269 crore. This is an indication that they will continue to sell on rallies. Higher valuations in India and muted earnings growth are restraining FIIs who are more focused on cheaper markets with better earnings growth," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index quoted lower while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index traded in positive territory. US markets ended mostly higher on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.20 per cent to USD 64.76 a barrel.

On Monday, the Sensex inched up by 39.78 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 83,978.49. The Nifty eked out a marginal gain of 41.25 points or 0.16 per cent to end at 25,763.35.

SC asks Centre to file comprehensive reply on pleas challenging online gaming law

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 04: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to file a comprehensive reply on petitions challenging an online gaming law which prohibits "online money games", and bars banking services and advertising related to them.

A Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan was informed that the Centre has filed its reply on the interim prayer made in the pleas.

"We want the Additional Solicitor General appearing for the Union to file a comprehensive reply to the main petition itself," the Bench said.

It said copy of the reply be served in advance to the advocates appearing for the petitioners and if they want to file any rejoinder, they may do so at the earliest.

The Bench posted the matter for hearing on November 26. The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 is the first central legislation banning real-money online gaming, including fantasy sports and e-sports played for stakes and has faced challenges before the Delhi, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh high courts.

Senior advocate C A Sundaram, appearing in the matter, told the Bench that the business was completely shut for



over a month.

During the hearing, one of the advocates told the bench that a fresh writ petition was filed in the matter but it was not listed for hearing.

"I (petitioner) am a chess player and its a source of livelihood. I was also about to launch an app," the lawyer said. "India is a strange country. You are a player. You want to play. It's your only source of income and therefore, you want to join the proceedings," Justice Pardiwala observed.

The counsel said the petitioner participates in online tournaments organised by the companies and he pays a participation fee also.

The Bench said his plea be also tagged with the pending petitions. The top court was hearing a batch of transferred petitions challenging the online gaming law. The Bench said a separate petition, which has sought directions to the

government to prohibit online gambling and betting platforms that allegedly operate under the guise of social and e-sports games, would also be heard on November 26.

The top court on Monday had sought response of the Centre on the plea filed by the Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change (CASC) and Shourya Tiwari. The petitioners argue that the Act imposes a blanket ban even on judicially recognised skill-based games, violating Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to practice any profession or carry on lawful trade.

The Karnataka High Court had recently issued notice in another related petition.

On September 8, the top court had allowed a plea by the Centre to transfer the petitions challenging the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 from three high courts to the

apex court to avoid conflicting verdicts.

It had transferred the petitions pending before the Delhi, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh high courts, to the apex court.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) filed the plea for transfer of three pending cases from the high courts to the apex court.

"Due to multiple litigations pending before various high courts involving same or substantially similar question of law and challenging the vires of the same impugned Act, it is imperative that the same is transferred to this court or any high court to avoid any divergence of opinions or multiplicity of proceedings," the plea said. It said after the law got the President's assent, multiple petitions were filed in the high courts challenging the validity of the Act.

The law prohibited offering or playing online money games, regardless of whether they are games of skill or chance, and categorised violations as cognisable and non-bailable offences.

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 20. It was passed within two days by voice vote in both Houses of Parliament and received Presidential assent on August 22.

POCSO cases misused, awareness needed: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 04: The POCSO act is being misused in cases of marital discord and consensual relationships between adolescents, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while stressing the need to spread awareness in boys and men about its legal provisions.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan was hearing a PIL seeking directions to sensitise people about the penal provisions for rape and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to make the country a better place for girls and women.

"One thing, we would like to remark. POCSO Act is being misused in cases of marital discords and matters pertaining to consensual relationships between adolescents. We should spread awareness in boys and men about the legal provisions," the Bench remarked orally.

The Supreme Court adjourned the PIL to December 2 and noted that some States and Union Territories had not filed a response in the matter.

The Supreme Court had earlier issued notices to the Centre, the Union Ministries of Education and Information and Broadcasting and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) on the plea filed by senior advocate Aabad Harshad Ponda.

Ponda said there is need to inform people about the laws regarding rape and the change in such laws after the Nirbhaya case.

Raw vs cooked vegetables: Which retains more nutrients?

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Nov 04: When it comes to getting the most nutrients from vegetables, the raw-versus-cooked debate is way more nuanced than you might think, neither side wins every time. Whether you crunch them raw or roast them golden, the method matters for vitamins, minerals, and health perks.

Why raw vegetables get the hype

Raw veggies are packed with vitamins like C and many B vitamins, which are sensitive to heat and can easily break down in cooking. When you eat spinach, kale, broccoli, or peppers raw, you get a big hit of vitamin C and folate. These water-soluble nutrients help immune function, energy, and more, but cooking, even gentle

steaming, can drop them fast.

Other reasons raw is sometimes better:

Raw vegetables keep antioxidants, minerals, and natural enzymes that help digestion and cell health.

The fiber in raw veggies tends to be more intact, which helps with gut health and keeps you full longer.

But: Raw isn't always better! Some folks struggle to digest raw veggies, especially those with sensitive stomachs. Cooking breaks down tough plant fibers, making veggies easier to chew, gentler on digestion, and safer for people with digestive issues.

Cooking: More than just softening

Cooking can zap water-soluble nutrients like vitamin C, but it can also unlock fat-soluble vitamins (like A, E, and K), increase antioxidant



levels, and kill bacteria. Lycopene (tomatoes) and

beta-carotene (carrots, sweet potatoes) are much more usable by your

body when veggies are cooked, think tomato sauce or steamed carrots.

Heat breaks down cell walls, which means the body can actually absorb more minerals like calcium and iron from cooked veggies. Cooking also reduces anti-nutrients like oxalates in spinach and beets, lowering kidney stone risk.

Best cooking methods for nutrients

How you cook makes a huge difference: Steaming: Preserves most vitamins and minerals better than boiling. Harvard researchers point out that steaming broccoli protects vitamin C and other nutrients.

Microwaving: Uses less water, helping retain water-soluble nutrients. Mayo Clinic highlights microwaving as quick and

nutrient-friendly. Stir-frying & sautéing: Quick with minimal oil, these methods enhance fat-soluble nutrient uptake (like carotenoids) without much vitamin loss.

Boiling: This is the worst for nutrient loss, especially for vitamin C and B vitamins, as they leach into cooking water.

Practical tips for eating more vegetables

Mix it up: Salads for fresh crunch, roasted veggies for warmth and absorbable nutrients.

Use cooking water in soups or sauces to rescue lost minerals. If you have digestive troubles, cook your veggies to soften fiber.

So, whether you're snacking on crisp raw cucumbers or enjoying a bowl of roasted carrots, your body's getting something good.

Indian students face record rejections as Canada tightens study permit rules

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 04: Canada's clamp-down on international students has hit applicants from India particularly hard, government data shows, as what was once a preferred destination loses its allure for Indian students.

Canada lowered the number of international student permits it issues for the second year in a row in early 2025 as part of a broader effort to reduce the number of temporary migrants and address fraud related to student visas.

About 74% of Indian applications for permits to study at Canadian post-secondary institutions in August - the most recent month available - were rejected, compared to about 32% in August 2023, according to immigration department data provided to Reuters.

By contrast, about 40% of study permit applications overall in each of those months were refused.

About 24% of Chinese study permits in August 2025 were rejected. The number of Indian applicants has dropped, as well, from 20,900 in August 2023 - when Indians formed just over one quarter of all applicants - to 4,515 in

August 2025.

India has been Canada's top source of international students over the past decade. In August, it also had the highest study-permit refusal rate of any country with more than 1,000 approved applicants.

The spike in refusals of would-be students comes as Canada and India seek to mend ties after more than a year of tension.

Former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused the Indian government of involvement in the 2023 murder of a Canadian in Surrey, British Columbia. India has repeatedly denied the allegations.

An effort to crack down fraud

In 2023, Canadian authorities uncovered nearly 1,550 study permit applications linked to fraudulent letters of acceptance, most of which originated from India, Canada's immigration department told Reuters in an email. Last year its beefed-up verification system detected more than 14,000 potentially fraudulent letters of acceptance from all applicants, it said. Canada has implemented enhanced verification for international students and has



increased its financial requirements for applicants, the immigration department spokesperson said. The Indian embassy in Ottawa said the rejection of study permit applications from students in India had come to its attention,

but that the issuance of study permits is Canada's prerogative.

"However, we would like to emphasize that some of the best quality students available in the world are from India, and Canadian institutions have in the

past greatly benefited from the talent and academic excellence of these students," the embassy said in a statement. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand told Reuters during an October visit to India that Canada's government is concerned about the integrity of its immigration system but wants to continue having Indian students in Canada.

A drop in Indian enrolment

People who work with would-be international students say they are seeing a higher level of applicant scrutiny. Michael Pietrocarlo of Border Pass, which helps people apply for Canadian visas, said his firm prepares applicants to show their eligibility beyond what's required on paper.

He says, for example, when students must demonstrate they have sufficient funds to support themselves, "it's not enough just to say, 'Here are some bank statements.' They may have to go the extra mile and say, 'Here's where the money came from.'"

The University of Waterloo, home to Canada's largest engineering school, has seen a two-thirds decline in the number of students from India entering its undergraduate and graduate

programs over the past three to four years. Ian Vanderburgh, its associate vice president of strategic enrolment management, said the drop was largely due to a government cap on foreign student visas and had altered the composition of the student body.

"We pride ourselves on being an international university," he said. The University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan have also reported a decline in the number of Indian students enrolled.

When Jaspreet Singh, who founded the International Sikh Students Association, came to Canada from India in 2015 to study mechanical engineering, he remembers government posters exhorting newcomers to "Study, work, stay" in the country. That attitude has soured, he said. Singh is not surprised at the higher rejection rate for Indian study permit applicants, saying he knows fraud is a concern. But as it becomes harder to get permanent residency or a job in Canada, he says some of those recently rejected appear to not mind: "They are happy they didn't come." (Additional reporting by Promit Mukherjee; Editing by Caroline Stauffer and Deepa Babington)

India, Israel need to work together in combating terrorism: Jaishankar

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 04: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday reaffirmed India's strong ties with Israel, calling the relationship one built on "a high degree of trust and reliability" while expressing support for the Gaza Peace Plan during his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar in the national capital.

Welcoming Sa'ar on his first official visit to India, Jaishankar said, "Excellency, let me welcome you and your delegation to India. You particularly, because I just learnt that this was your first visit to India. So, a very, very warm welcome."

Recalling their earlier meetings, he added, "Now, we have met before in Munich and we have been in telephonic contact, but I really look forward to our in-person discussion today."

Highlighting the depth of bilateral relations, the External Affairs Minister said, "India and Israel have a strategic partnership and particularly in our case, that term has a real meaning. We have stood together in testing times. And we have created a relationship with a high degree of trust and of reliability."

Emphasising shared concerns on global security, he stated, "Our two nations face a particular challenge from terrorism. It is essential that we work towards



ensuring a global approach of zero-tolerance towards terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations."

On the situation in West Asia, Jaishankar said India has been "following developments in your region with very close attention," adding, "We welcome the return of the hostages and the remains of those who unfortunately lost their lives. India supports the Gaza Peace Plan and hopes that it paves the way for a durable and lasting solution." Speaking on the growing partnership, Jaishankar said, "Your visit allows us to review our bilateral cooperation and assess the possibilities for further deepening it. The recent conclusion of our Bilateral Investment Agreement is a notable step in that direction."

He further noted, "It is

noteworthy that your ministerial colleagues dealing with agriculture, economy, tourism and finance have all visited us recently."

Highlighting India's development strides, Jaishankar said, "In recent times, India has developed many new capabilities, especially in rail, road and port infrastructure, in renewable energy and in health. Our businesses are very keen to explore opportunities in Israel and we would certainly like to give that more attention."

He also underlined the success of ongoing collaboration, stating, "We have a very strong record of working together in agriculture and in innovation. Taking that forward is very much in our mutual interest."

Jaishankar added, "There is a history of cooperation in semiconductors and in cyber.

That has become more relevant now. We are hosting the AI Impact Summit next year in February in India and look forward very much to Israel's presence."

Speaking on the presence of Indian workers in Israel, he said, "Indian workers are also today present in Israel in growing numbers as a result of our mobility understandings. They have some issues which need attention and I hope that we can take that dimension of our ties forward."

On the broader strategic dialogue, Jaishankar said, "Given our strategic cooperation, an exchange of perspectives on regional and global issues also holds great value. There are some pluralistic initiatives in which we both have a strong interest. I look forward to that aspect of our deliberations as well."

Never stop dreaming, you never know where destiny will take you: Harmanpreet

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 04: She never stopped dreaming since picking up her father's 'big' cricket bat as a kid and Harmanpreet Kaur is feeling 'humbled' after leading India to its maiden women's World Cup title.

After leading India to a 52-run win over South Africa in the women's World Cup summit clash in Navi Mumbai on Sunday, Harmanpreet's advice to budding youngsters is: "Never stop dreaming. You never know where your destiny will take you. Ever since, as a kid, I started getting a sense of what likes and dislikes are, I've always seen a bat in my hand. I still remember we used to play with a bat from my dad's kit bag. The bat was very big."

"One day, my dad cut an old bat (to make it small) of his for me.

We used to play with it. Whenever we used to watch a match on TV, or watch India play, or watch the World Cup, I used to think, I need an opportunity like this. At that time, I didn't even know about women's cricket," Harmanpreet said in a video released by the BCCI.

The journey which began as a child culminated to lifting the World Cup trophy, which, however, came after struggles and defeats.

"I was dreaming, when will I wear this blue jersey? So I think this means a lot to



me, a young girl who didn't know about women's cricket, but still dreaming, that one day, I want to bring that change in our country. And I think, it all shows that you should never stop dreaming. You never know where your destiny will take you. You never think, when will it happen, how will it happen. You only think, this will happen."

"So, I think, that was my self-belief, that this can be possible. And that exactly happened." The 36-year-old stalwart said she is feeling relaxed and humbled after the childhood dream was realised.

"Personally, it's a very emotional moment. Because, it was my dream since childhood. Ever since I started playing, it was my dream to win the World Cup one day.

If I get an opportunity to lead my team, I don't want

to miss this opportunity. "So, I said all these things from the bottom of my heart. And God heard everything one by one. It's like magic. I don't understand how come suddenly everything is falling in place. Everything kept happening one by one."

"Finally, we are world champions. I am feeling very relaxed, very humble, so grateful to God, for giving this team, which we have been dreaming of for so many years, and we are living this moment."

Harmanpreet recalled the big reception when the Indian team returned home after losing the 2017 women's World Cup final to England in London.

"After the 2017 World Cup, when we came back, we were so heartbroken. We lost the game by 9 runs. We didn't understand

how that happened because that game was also fully in control," she said of the 2017 final where India were all out for 219 in 48.4 overs while chasing 229.

"But after coming back, the kind of welcome and motivation we got from Indian fans, that shows that not only us, the entire country was waiting for women's cricket to do something special for them. And special for the country."

That team, led by Mithali Raj, had the current team's senior players like Harmanpreet, Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma.

"Everybody was waiting for this moment. And I think it's because of everyone's blessings and prayers that we were able to cross that line. I don't think we were alone playing in the stadium."

Mandhana, Jemimah, Deepti named in ICC Women's World Cup Team of Tournament



PTI

Dubai, Nov 04: The title-winning Indian stars expectedly dominated the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Team of the Tournament with Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma making it to the line-up announced on Tuesday.

The Indian trio played a stellar role in the team's maiden World Cup triumph. India defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the summit clash on Sunday.

Runners-up South Africa also have three of their players in the side, with skipper Laura Wolvaardt chosen to captain the Team of the Tournament following her sensational efforts with the bat where she amassed a whopping 571 runs at an average of 71.37 to break the record for the most runs at any single edition of the Women's World Cup.

Annabel Sutherland, Ash Gardner and leg-spinner Alana King feature from the Australian team that reached the

semi-finals, with standout wicket-keeper Sidra Nawaz of Pakistan the only player named in a side to miss out on the final four, stated an ICC press release. England's Sophie Ecclestone was also included following some strong efforts that helped her side reach the semi-finals, while compatriot Nat Sciver-Brunt is named as the 12th player. Opening batter Mandhana scored 434 runs at an average of 54.25 with one century and two fifties.

A model of consistency at the top of the batting order for India, Mandhana finished as the second-leading run-scorer at the tournament behind only Wolvaardt.

Her 109 against New Zealand in Navi Mumbai was the highlight for the left-hander, while consecutive scores of 80 and 88 against Australia and England prior to that century displayed Mandhana's ability to perform well against the best teams.

Rodrigues, on her part, made 292 runs at an average of 58.40 with the

help of one century and one fifty.

Her stunning innings of 127 not out against Australia in the semi-finals was the major reason behind her inclusion in the side, though the India No.3 also produced a string of other good scores throughout the tournament.

An unbeaten 76 against New Zealand was of vital importance in India's run to the semifinals, while Rodrigues' knock of 24 helped alongside Shafali Verma's fireworks in the final against South Africa. With the bat, Deepti scored 215 runs at an average of 30.71 with one century and three fifties. She also took 22 wickets at an average of 20.40.

Named Player of the Tournament, Deepti was instrumental in India's title-winning campaign. She finished as the leading wicket-taker and scored crucial runs across the tournament.

Deepti produced her best performance on the grandest stage, taking 5/39 in the final against South Africa and adding 58 with the bat. Her consistency and ability to influence games with both bat and ball made her India's most valuable player.

ICC Women's World Cup Team of Tournament: 1. Smriti Mandhana (India) 2. Laura Wolvaardt (c) (South Africa) 3. Jemimah Rodrigues (India) 4. Marizanne Kapp (South Africa) 5. Ash Gardner (Australia) 6. Deepti Sharma (India) 7. Annabel Sutherland (Australia) 8. Nadine de Klerk (South Africa) 9. Sidra Nawaz (wk) (Pakistan) 10. Alana King (Australia) 11. Sophie Ecclestone (England) 12th Player: Nat Sciver-Brunt (England).

Wednesday, 5th November

EK DEEWANE KI DEEWANIYAT (A)
HINDI - 11:00 AM, 03:30 PM, 06:20 PM

JOLLY LLB 3 (UA16+)
HINDI - 06:40 PM

BAAHUBALI - THE EPIC (UA16+)
HINDI - 11:15 AM, 02:00 PM

DEVDAAS - RE RELEASE (U)
HINDI - 02:50 PM

THAMMA (UA16+)
HINDI - 11:45 AM, 06:30 PM

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