



## Everyone saw Pakistan getting destroyed in 'Operation Sindoor': PM Modi

### 'Modi track record is in front of everyone, I do what I say'

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Nov 07: Asserting that everyone has seen Pakistan getting destroyed in 'Operation Sindoor' Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on Friday said that every promise made by his government has been kept.

Addressing a public rally in Aurangabad, Bihar, the Prime Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "We have taken every step from the abrogation of Article 370 to the avenging of the Pahalgam terror attack to end terrorism in Kashmir and ensure the country's security."

The Prime Minister said his government's record shows that promises made to the people have been fulfilled. "The Modi track record is in front of everyone. I do what I say," he said.

PM Modi cited several examples to back his words, referring to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and the 'Operation Sindoor' following the April 22 Pahalgam



terror attack. "I said that the Ram Temple would be built. Did that happen or not? I had promised that the wall of Article 370 would collapse. Did that happen or not? I declared from the land of Bihar that the Pahalgam terror attack will be avenged. All of us have seen Pakistan getting destroyed in Operation Sindoor," he said.

The Prime Minister said that these actions were not isolated events but part of a broader commitment to national integrity and the safety of citizens. "You saw what happened to the perpetrators of the Pahalgam

terror attack in Operation Sindoor," he said.

On Bihar, he said that the NDA government has brought a major decline in Naxal activities in areas such as Aurangabad, which were once considered centres of Maoist violence.

He said peace and development have replaced fear in these regions.

PM Modi accused the Congress-RJD alliance of favouring infiltrators for the sake of vote bank politics, claiming that such approaches weaken the nation's security and betray public trust. | [More on P6](#)



Photo: KNO | Shah Jehangir

## Autumn magic transforms Kashmir into golden paradise

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Nov 07: As autumn descends upon Kashmir, the University of Kashmir's Naseem Bagh, Nishat Srinagar Garden, Shalimar Garden and the Chinar-lined Boulevard Road among others have

nature's own artwork.

In Srinagar, the Chrysanthemum Garden, the University of Kashmir's Naseem Bagh, Nishat Srinagar Garden, Shalimar Garden and the Chinar-lined Boulevard Road among others have

emerged as the season's star attractions.

Gardens across the city are drawing hundreds of visitors daily, from photographers chasing the perfect shot to families relaxing under the shade of centuries-old trees.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the fall of Chinar leaves adds a unique charm to Kashmir's classic autumn season.

A local from Khanyar, said it is beautiful to watch the leaves gently | [More on P6](#)

## J&K achieves 81% tap water coverage

### Srinagar, Ganderbal reach 100%, Kupwara records highest shortfall

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Nov 07: Jammu and Kashmir has covered 81 per cent of its rural households with tap water connections, with Srinagar and Ganderbal districts achieving 100 per cent, as per official data.

The data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states that out of 19.26 lakh rural households in the Union Territory, 15.63 lakh have functional tap connections. The remaining 3.63 lakh households receive water through public stand posts installed under earlier schemes.

The Jal Shakti Department said 3253 schemes were taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission at a cost of more than Rs 13,334 crore. Of these, 1480 schemes are functional. Another 1,600 schemes have crossed the half-way mark.

The department said the remaining schemes are tied to the extended phase of the Mission and will move once funds from the Centre and the UT Government are released.

The data shows uneven progress across districts.

Srinagar and Ganderbal have achieved full coverage, while Anantnag has | [More on P6](#)

## You are inheritors of this great civilisation: LG Sinha tells youth

### Urges them to take motherland to its destiny of Viksit Bharat

KNO News Desk

Jammu, Nov 07: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday urged the younger generation to remember that they are inheritors of this great civilisation and they have to contribute towards progress and prosperity of the society.

Attending a function organised by Department of Culture to commemorate the 150th year celebration of 'Vande Mataram', here LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Our commitment and dedication to the motherland will take our nation to its destiny of a Viksit Bharat. Young generation must



remember that they are inheritors of this great civilization and their contribution in the progress and prosperity of society will be fitting tribute to Maa Bharti."

The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and visited the exhibition on the National Song

'Vande Mataram'.

He said Rishi Bankim Chandra had strengthened the bond between Maa Bharti and her sons and inspired people to secure independence.

The year 2025 marks 150 Years of Vande Mataram. Our national song "Vande Mataram", by | [More on P6](#)

## Bla admin orders CCTV surveillance at drug hotspots

KNO Correspondent

Baramulla, Nov 07: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Friday ordered strict surveillance and tough action against drug offenders during the 22nd NCORD meeting held at Dak Bunglow Baramulla.

Baramulla DC, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), directed departments to install CCTV cameras at all identified hotspots. He told the Education Department to monitor CCTV systems in schools and colleges to stop illegal activity.

He also instructed the ARTO to suspend driving licences of anyone found involved in drug peddling or consumption



under the law.

Officials from Police, Health, Education, Excise, Social Welfare and other departments shared data on ongoing action. They agreed to tighten coordination to check trafficking and abuse in the district.

The DC said enforcement, awareness and rehabilitation must run together. He asked departments to scale up campaigns in | [More on P6](#)

## Had BJP been in power, J&K may have got statehood by now: CM Omar Abdullah

Alleges PDP-BJP bonhomie still intact

Reiterates smart meters must for 200 free units

Vows university, cricket academy for Budgam

'Vande Mataram prog in schools not our decision'

Says won't force anyone to campaign for party

Naveed ul Haq

Budgam, Nov 07: Asserting that the decision on 'Vande Mataram' programmes in Kashmir wasn't taken by the



elected government, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said that the bonhomie between Bharatiya Janata Party

and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is still intact.

The Chief Minister also asked people not to install smart

meters if they are reluctant, but added that they won't be able to get benefits of 200 free units as promised in the manifesto.

Addressing a road show in Budgam, CM Omar, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the opposition has turned to politicising electricity. "I can stand here and say that I inherited these electricity meters. I did, but the truth is that I didn't stop the practice of installing them as the metering reduces electricity bills and we had promised 200 free units to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in our manifesto," he said.

"But without a meter, we can't determine the electricity bill. This is the | [More on P6](#)

## DGP leads main commemoration prog at PCR Kashmir

KNO

Srinagar, Nov 07: To mark the 150th anniversary of India's National Song "Vande Mataram," the Jammu and Kashmir Police organized the main commemoration programme at the Police Control Room (PCR) in Kashmir.

The event was inaugurated by the Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhat, who led the celebrations with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The programme commenced with the collective singing of "Vande Mataram," in which



the DGP, senior officers, and a large number of police personnel participated. The powerful rendition echoed through the PCR premises, symbolizing unity, dedication, and devotion to the motherland — values that the song has inspired for generations.

Senior officers of the J&K Police, including Spl. DGP (Coordination) J&K S.J.M. Gillani, IGP Kashmir, DIG IRP Kashmir, DIG KKR, DIG CID, and other senior officials, along with police personnel, graced the occasion. The ceremony concluded | [More on P6](#)

## Pulwama's 400-year-old Mughal-Era mosque to undergo restoration, Rs 22 lakh approved

### Locals express gratitude; officials hope preservation will boost heritage tourism

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, Nov 07: In a significant development, the centuries-old Mughal-era mosque at Shadimarg in south Kashmir's Pulwama district is all set to undergo restoration work, with the government sanctioning more than 22 lakh rupees for its renovation.

Officials told the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the government has cleared funds, and the renovation

process will begin in the coming days.

The locals have been consistently demanding preservation of the heritage monument.

The mosque, believed to be over 400 years old, dates back to the Mughal period and is considered one of the oldest surviving architectural structures in the region.

Locals said the monument holds immense cultural, historic, and architectural value, and preserving it is not only



necessary for heritage but also for identity.

"This mosque is a living reminder of our glorious past. Its craftsmanship, thick walls and traditional structural style clearly depict the Mughal influence," said Zakir Ahmad, a resident of Shadimarg. "We had been requesting authorities for years to safeguard this structure, and we are happy that finally something concrete is happening."

Another local, Nadeem Ahmad, said the site has the

potential to become a heritage tourism spot if restored properly. "The surroundings are beautiful and the mosque itself is a masterpiece. Once restored, it can attract tourists — both domestic and foreign — who are interested in history, culture and architecture," he said.

Residents said that over the decades, the mosque had suffered deterioration due to weather, ageing and lack of maintenance. Cracks had developed in the | [More on P6](#)



# SWD system to strengthen accountability: Satish

■ Reviews proposal for recruitment rules in J&K Deptts

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 07: In a significant step towards promoting administrative efficiency and digital governance, Minister for Administrative Reforms, Inspections & Trainings (ARI & Trainings), Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, IT, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the proposal for establishing a Single Window Digital System for framing and amending Recruitment Rules (RRs) across all government departments in Jammu and Kashmir. Commissioner Secretary ARI and Trainings, Shabnum Kamili; other senior officers of ARI and Trainings department were present in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized the importance of streamlining administrative procedures to ensure time-bound and transparent functioning of government departments. He said that the proposed digital platform would mark a major reform in



recruitment, enabling faster decision-making and uniform policy implementation.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of the ARI & Trainings Department for conceptualizing the initiative and directed officers to expedite the design and roll-out of the system in consultation

with GAD, Finance, Law, and JKPSC, ensuring inter-departmental coordination and accountability at every stage.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sharma said, "This digital reform will significantly reduce administrative delays, bring transparency, and ensure uniform

implementation of recruitment policies across all departments. The Single Window System will not only enhance efficiency but also strengthen accountability through real-time monitoring and public accessibility."

He further directed that the system be integrated with the existing E-Office framework, besides capacity-building initiatives for departmental nodal officers to be organised to ensure smooth transition and effective implementation.

The Minister also stressed the importance of introducing a public reference view to allow citizens and stakeholders to access approved Recruitment Rules online, reinforcing the government's commitment to transparent and citizen-centric governance.

Pertinently, the new initiative will ensure uniform recruitment policy across all departments, substantial reduction in paperwork and file movement with enhanced transparency through online monitoring, quicker processing and filling of vacant posts, and improved coordination between

departments and agencies.

The Single Window Digital System aims to replace the existing multi-tiered and paper-based process with a unified online mechanism. The system will have Online Portal & Dashboard Secure departmental logins with standardized digital templates for proposals, simultaneous online routing to ARI & Trainings, Finance, Law, GAD, and JKPSC, centralized archive of all approved Recruitment Rules, amendments, and notifications, real-time updates through SMS/email and escalation mechanisms for delays, real-time monitoring of pendency and performance indicators, strong data protection and audit mechanisms and defined Timelines for faster approvals.

Under the proposed model intending departments will finalize and submit proposals within 30 days. ARI & Trainings, Finance, Law, GAD, JKPSC, and the Standing Committee will process cases within 10 days each and final approval by the General Administration Department (GAD) will be ensured in a time-bound manner.

Bye-Elections to 27-AC Budgam

## Meeting of Micro Observers held

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 7: A meeting of Micro Observers for the upcoming Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam was Friday held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by the General Observer, Bhor Singh Yadav, and was attended by the Deputy District Election Officer (Dy. DEO) Budgam, Hilal Ahmad; ANO Trainings Zahoor Ahmad, and other officials associated with the election process.

During the meeting, ANO Trainings conducted an elaborate session on the roles, responsibilities, and duties of Micro Observers to be deployed during the forthcoming bye-election.

The participants were sensitized about their critical role in ensuring

transparency, fairness, and smooth conduct of the polling process.

It was emphasised that Micro Observers act as the eyes and ears of the Election Commission of India (ECI) at the polling stations and are expected to perform their duties with utmost integrity, neutrality, and vigilance.

The General Observer reiterated that all Micro Observers must strictly adhere to the guidelines and instructions issued by the Election Commission of India, ensuring that the polling process is conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner.

Clear instructions were given to all Micro Observers to remain impartial, vigilant, and to report any irregularity or violation of the Model Code of Conduct immediately to the concerned authorities.

## DC Bla approves 197 Mission YUVA cases

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 7: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Friday chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) at the DC Office Baramulla to review and approve cases under Mission Yuva, a flagship initiative aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment among the youth.

During the meeting, a total of 197 cases were approved after detailed scrutiny and evaluation. The approved cases will pave the way for young entrepreneurs to establish their ventures under the scheme, thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities across the district. The DC emphasized the importance of timely processing of applications and directed the concerned departments to ensure



effective handholding of beneficiaries so that the scheme achieves its intended objectives.

The meeting was attended by members of the DLIC, officers from the Employment and other line departments.

## Sherpa chairs 22nd NCORD meeting

KT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 7: The District Magistrate (DM) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Friday chaired the 22nd NCORD meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to review the ongoing measures to curb drug abuse and trafficking in the district.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Gurinder Pal Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, officers from Police, Health, Education, Excise, Social Welfare, and other departments who shared updates and discussed strategies for effective coordination in



tackling the issue.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the need for collective and sustained efforts from all stakeholders to

eradicate the drug menace from society. He directed the concerned departments to install CCTV cameras at identified hotspots and asked the Education

Department to ensure regular monitoring of CCTV footage in educational institutions to prevent any illegal activities.

The DC further directed the ARTO to suspend driving licences of individuals found involved in drug peddling or consumption, as per the law.

He stressed that strict enforcement, awareness, and rehabilitation must go hand in hand to make Baramulla a drug-free district. The DC also called for intensified awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and public spaces to sensitize youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

## Sgr admin commemorates 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 07: In connection with commemoration of 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram", District Administration Srinagar on Friday hosted the live streaming of UT & National level events at Meeting Hall of the DC Office.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with senior Officers of District Administration and all the Officers and Official watched live streaming of UT & National level events as part of the nationwide commemoration programme and viewing live telecast of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's address.

During the event, a large number of participants collectively expressed their patriotic fervour and gratitude in honour of the National Song, celebrating the historic occasion with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of national pride.

The event commemorating 150 years of "Vande Mataram", was celebrated as a moment to reflect on the unity, sacrifice, and spirit of freedom inspiring younger generations towards the values of patriotism and admiration for India's rich cultural and historical heritage.

## JKSTD organises day-long orientation workshop

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 07: Jammu & Kashmir State Taxes Department (JKSTD) Friday conducted a comprehensive one-day orientation workshop on the GST Prime Analytics Tool and e-Way Portal for officers of the department at Excise and Taxation Complex here.

The workshop was graced by P. V. Bhat, Scientific Director, e-Way Bill and GST Prime Portal, who delivered an insightful session on the advanced features and practical applications of the GST Prime Analytics Tool and the e-Way Portal. He highlighted various

utility tools designed to streamline compliance, enhance data analytics, and improve operational efficiency for tax administration.

He also addressed queries raised by the participating officers, providing clarity on technical and procedural aspects.

The event was presided over by Commissioner, State Taxes Department, P K Bhat.

In his address, he commended the resource person and participants for their active engagement.

Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Jammu), Namrita Dogra, in her welcome address emphasized

on the importance of digital tools in modern tax governance and the department's commitment to capacity building.

All Deputy Commissioners of Enforcement wing, Assistant Commissioner, State Taxes Officers (STOs) from both the Divisions, including those from outstation locations, participated in the workshop through virtual mode, ensuring wide outreach and inclusivity.

Pertinently, the workshop marks a significant step towards empowering tax officials with cutting-edge digital tools to strengthen GST compliance and enforcement in the region.

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Ph: 0191-2579126/2542759 0194-2506067/2506279

Email: socialwelfare.adm@gmail.com

No.SWD/ICPS/55/2021 (7698320)

Dated:07.11.2025

Subject: - Interview for the post of Chairperson and Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Commission for Protection of Child Rights notified by Social Welfare Department vide Advertisement Notice dated 18.10.2024.

### NOTICE

In continuation to the Interview Notice No. SWD-ICPS/55/2021-01 dated 24.10.2025, it is hereby notified that the candidatures of Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, S/o Gh. Nabi Bhat, RIO Roseland Extension, Bagh-e-Mehtab, Srinagar (figuring at S. No. 29), and Sh. Mukhtar Ahmad Sodagar, S/o Late Gh. Nabi Sodagar, R/o Green Colony, Janglat Mandi, Anantnag, who had applied for the post of Member, J&K Commission for Protection of Child Rights in response to Advertisement Notice No. SWD-ICPS/ 55/2021 dated 18.10.2024, have also been considered for interview.

Accordingly, both the above-named candidates are hereby informed to appear before the Selection Committee for interview for the said post on 11.11.2025 (Tuesday) at 11:00 AM at the Guest House, Sonwar, Srinagar, along with all original certificates/documents in support of their eligibility. All other terms and conditions notified vide the above-referred interview notice shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-7840/25

DATED: 07-11-2025

Raj Kumar  
Under Secretary to the Government Social Welfare Department

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LAKE DIVISION NO.1ST J&K LAKE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, SRINAGAR.

GIST OF NIT NO.07 OF 2025-26 (E)

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders on percentage rate basis in double cover system are invited from Company's Authorized Dealers only for below mentioned item;

S.No.	Description	Earnest Money	Tender Fee
01.	Purchasing / Re_filling of commercial gas cylinders for heating purposes of offices of J&K LCMA during upcoming winter season for the year 2025-26.	18,000.00	1000.00

AAA No.71 of 2025-26 dated:31.10.2025: Head :2217 (REVEX)  
Online bidding Schedule:

01.	Date of issue of tender Notice.	01.11.2025.
02.	Start date for downloading of bidding documents.	01.11.2025 (10.00 AM)
03.	Bid submission start date	01.11.2025 (11.00 A.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	21.11.2025 (04.00 P.M)
05.	Date and time of opening of bids (Technical on line).	22.11.2025 (2.00 P.M)
06.	Tender inviting authority.	
07.	Tender opening/receiving authority.	Executive Engineer Lake Division No: 2 <sup>nd</sup> J&K LCMA Miskeen Bagh Srinagar.
09.	EMD to be pledged to	
10.	Tender fee to be drawn in favour of Executive Engineer lake Div 1 <sup>st</sup> .	Tender fee to be deposited into account No: CDG/0185010200000003, JK Bank Upper Sathu through E-Challan/Treasury receipt./ Pay in slip. Note: NIT No. and S.No. of the work shall be mentioned on paying slip while depositing the fee. The fee must be deposited between publishing date of NIT and bid submission end date. No before or after-wards shall be entertained.

The quantities are approximate and may vary as per actual requirement during the winter season.

- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from/uploaded on the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule.

No: LD-II/1909-1925  
Dated: 01.11.2025.

DIPK-NB-2401/25  
DATED: 07-11-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Lake Division NO.2<sup>nd</sup>

KASHMIR  
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## DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the demise of Rafiq Ahmad Shah S/o Ghulam Nabi Shah R/o Pather Masjid, Zaina Kadal, Srinagar Who left for heavenly abode on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (Thursday). The congregational Fateha Khawni will held on Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2025 (Sunday), at 10:30 AM at their ancestral graveyard Bahawo Din Sahib Nowhatta, Srinagar.

**BEREAVED FAMILY**

**7006088062, 9469502860**



## CS reviews Aadhaar implementation

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Nov 07: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a meeting of the Unique Identification Authority of India Implementation Committee (UIDIC) to review the progress of Aadhaar-based initiatives and discuss measures to strengthen the authentication ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting focused on accelerating citizen-centric Aadhaar services, achieving universal coverage, and introducing new technological and policy reforms for efficient service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; UIDAI Regional Officer, Chandigarh; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary, Information Technology, Secretary, School Education; Secretary, Law; Director General, Economics & Statistics; and other senior officers. Deputy Commissioners from all districts joined the deliberations through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for a targeted approach to achieve full Aadhaar saturation, particularly



among children aged 0-5 years. He noted that the current enrolment rate in this category stands at 59.07, compared to the national average of 39.54%, and directed the Health and Social Welfare Departments to intensify efforts to ensure complete coverage. The Chief Secretary also directed the School Education Department to expedite demographic updates and Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU) processes for school-going children across J&K.

The Deputy Commissioners and the IT Department were asked to submit weekly progress reports regarding the notification of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes, activation of Enrolment Client Multi Platform (ECMP) kits for all

groups, and Child Enrolment Lite Client (CELC) kits used for enrolling children aged 0-5 years.

Emphasizing the need for technological reforms, the Chief Secretary called upon departments to move away from manual, non-verifiable certificates toward verifiable, QR-code-enabled online certificates to enhance transparency and trust. He also highlighted the adoption of Face Authentication Technology as a more inclusive and convenient mode of biometric verification suitable for all age groups.

The DDG, UIDAI RO, Chandigarh, Commodore (IN) DhirajSareen, informed the meeting that the UT has achieved a commendable

93% Aadhaar saturation, generating 1.26 CrAadhaar numbers against a projected population of 1.35 Cr. However, nearly 4.7 lakh Mandatory Biometric Updates remain pending, and the Chief Secretary directed for their completion through focused enrolment drives.

To fast-track this effort, District Administrations have been instructed to organize special enrolment camps at schools and Anganwadi Centres. A renewed emphasis was also laid on the Birth Registration-Based Aadhaar Enrolment (BRBAE) initiative to ensure that every newborn in the UT is seamlessly enrolled for Aadhaar at the hospital itself.

The meeting was apprised that Jammu and Kashmir currently operates over 1,000 Aadhaar enrolment centres, supported by two fully functional AadhaarSevaKendras (ASKs) in Jammu and Srinagar. Ten more ASKs are in the pipeline across other districts to strengthen coverage and accessibility.

The UIDAI also proposed the deployment of Face Authentication Technology at high-footfall religious destinations, including the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine and the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, to enhance security, streamline pilgrim management, and

improve service delivery. Further, the system is transitioning from the ECMP platform to the more robust Universal Client (UC) platform, while ePDS devices are being upgraded from L0 to L1 fingerprint devices to ensure greater accuracy and reliability in beneficiary authentication.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of data cleansing and inter-departmental integration to enable efficient governance and transparent subsidy delivery. Departments such as ePDS, Revenue and Regional Banks were directed to proactively share Aadhaar-seeded records with UIDAI to ensure accurate linkage of beneficiaries to welfare schemes.

The UIDAI Regional Officer, Chandigarh, appreciated the proactive measures undertaken by the J&K Administration and assured continued support for ongoing and future initiatives. It is pertinent to mention that the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. UIDAI is mandated to issue unique Aadhaar numbers to all residents of India to ensure targeted delivery of government services and benefits.

## E-buses stalled, craves for repair

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 07: More than eight e-buses in Srinagar have been grounded due to lack of funds needed for repairs and purchase of spare parts. The government has also not cleared the liabilities owed to the Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation (JKSRTC) for providing free travel to women passengers.

Top officials in the transport department said that the corporation has written several times to the government seeking compensation for losses incurred after the administration directed SRTC not to charge women passengers. Officials said no payments have been released so far. They added that the e-bus project will struggle to survive if adequate funding is not provided immediately.

"We have written to the government many times, and the process continues even today. We are seeking mitigation of losses incurred due to the directive of ferrying women passengers free of cost," a senior official said. He said earlier reports about

e-buses losing lakhs of rupees every day reflected only part of the problem, and that the actual losses are even higher. Due to insufficient funding, the corporation has been unable to carry out timely repairs. Several buses now have deflated tyres or remain grounded for want of spare parts. "Out of 20 e-buses operating in Srinagar, more than eight have been grounded. The number may rise if the situation continues," the official said. The NC-led administration launched the Zero Ticket travel initiative on April 1 this year, allowing free travel for women in Smart City e-buses and JKSRTC buses across Jammu and Kashmir. The measure was projected as an important step for women's safety. However, concerns were raised at the time that women passengers constitute a significant share of the overall ridership, and the initiative could affect the revenue of private transporters who rely heavily on female passengers.

Officials had also warned that the decision could put additional strain on the already cash-starved state exchequer—(KNO)

## Saffron growers harvest less than 10% cultivation

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Nov 07: Kashmir's world-famous saffron industry is staring at yet another disastrous season, with growers reporting that the crop bloomed for barely a few days this year. They said the overall harvest has remained below 10 per cent of the normal output.

Farmers said that, unlike earlier years when saffron flowers continued to appear for weeks together, the bloom this time lasted just a few days, leaving fields almost barren soon after.

"This is the worst season we have ever seen," said Abdul Rashid, a grower from Lethpora. "Normally, we used to pick flowers for 15 to 25 days. This year, we were done in hardly three days."

"We have lost hope now. For 10 years, we have been begging authorities for timely action, but nobody took us seriously," Rashid lamented.

Farmers claim that despite repeatedly raising alarms about drying corms, unavailability of irrigation and continuous weather stress,



nothing concrete was done on the ground.

"Had the government ensured irrigation infrastructure on time, the sector would not have collapsed like this," said another farmer, Javaid Ahmad, from Pampore. "When the corm stays dry during spring, autumn and even summer, its root decays, and when the root is damaged, how can you expect flowers?"

Growers are now demanding that the government must investigate the much-hyped National Saffron Mission, a centrally funded project worth over Rs 400 crore,

which was launched in 2010 to address issues of irrigation, quality corms and scientific cultivation.

"We want to know where this money has gone and what the outcome of this Mission actually is," said a grower, Mohammad Iqbal. "There is nothing visible on the ground. This Mission has completely failed."

Even though the Mission was later extended by two more years, farmers say the promised benefits never materialised and saffron land continues to be converted for other use. Although the

agriculture department data initially showed a steady rise in saffron yield between 2010 and 2014, farmers said the sector never recovered after the 2014 floods. Multiple years of severe dry spells dealt additional blows.

In 2024, production was already at just around 30 per cent of the normal crop, and this year, the production is just below 10 per cent, according to growers.

Official data also shows that land under saffron cultivation has shrunk from 5,707 hectares in 1996-97 to 2,387 hectares in 2019-20—a 65% reduction, and production fell from 17.33 MT in 2021 to 14.87 MT in 2022, and marginally improved to 14.94 MT in 2023, but last year's real output was only around 30% of expected production.

Farmers said irrigation availability, providing quality corms and stopping land conversion are urgently needed steps if the sector is to survive. They warned that if immediate measures are not taken, there will be no saffron left here in a few years—(KNO)

## Lavender plantation begins along 16-km NH stretch

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

Qazigund, Nov 07: To enhance aesthetics and promote aroma tourism, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has started lavender plantation along a 16-kilometre stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway between Banihal and Qazigund.

Shubham Yadav, Project Director NHAI said the initiative aims to combine environment-friendly beautification with livelihood generation.

"The primary purpose of introducing lavender cultivation along national highways is to promote environmental beautification and aroma tourism, while also providing benefits to local farmers," he said.

Yadav said that a substantial land stretch has been identified and planted. "A total of 200 kanals of land, as per the MoU with CSIR-IIIM (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine), has been brought under lavender cultivation along the 16.26-km Banihal-Qazigund section," he added.

Highlighting the impact of the project, he said lavender plantations will significantly improve highway aesthetics and boost



tourism. "Lavender fields, with their striking purple-blue hues, create a stunning landscape. During the blooming season, the stretch will turn into a scenic corridor. Beautifully landscaped highways reflect good governance and environmental

awareness, leaving a lasting impression on visitors."

On the progress made so far, Yadav said, "A total of 23,000 lavender plants have been cultivated at the North Portal and 29,000 plants at the South Portal."—(KNO)

## SIM card inspection drive begin



KNO

Srinagar, Nov 07: In its continued and sustained efforts to strengthen Public safety and communication security, District Police Srinagar has initiated a comprehensive inspection drive of SIM card vendors across the district.

The drive aims to prevent the misuse of SIM cards for any criminal, fraudulent, or terror-related activities and to ensure strict compliance with Know Your Customer

(KYC) guidelines and telecom regulations, a police spokesman said in a statement.

Police teams from all five zones — covering Police Stations Khanyar, Lal Bazar, Saddar, Nishat, RM Bagh, Soura, Parimpora, Safakadal, Karan Nagar, Batamalo, Maisuma, Kralkhud, Kothibagh, Zakoora, Ahmad Nagar, Shaheedganj, Sangam, Soura and Police Posts Noorbagh and Bagiyas, Khimber — conducted thorough inspections of

SIM vendors operating within their respective jurisdictions.

More than 50 SIM vendors were checked, focusing on verification of identity proofs, record maintenance, and ensuring that SIMs are issued only to genuine subscribers with valid documentation.

Any vendor found violating regulatory norms will face legal consequences, including penalties, cancellation of license, or prosecution under relevant laws, police said.

The public has been requested to extend cooperation during these inspections and to ensure that SIM cards registered in their names are not misused. Citizens are also urged to report any suspicious activity or irregular issuance of SIMs to the nearest police station or the District Police Helpline.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said that Srinagar Police remains committed to ensuring the integrity of communication networks and maintaining public trust by preventing their exploitation for unlawful or anti-national activities—(KNO)

## Police observe 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram



KNO

Srinagar, Nov 07: Srinagar Police on Friday observed the 150th anniversary of the National Song - Vande Mataram with patriotic fervour and reverence across all Police Stations, Police Posts and establishments of District Srinagar. A central commemorative event was held at PCR Kashmir, marking the occasion with grandeur and deep national spirit, a police spokesman said.

Vande Mataram, written in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and first sung by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted as the National Song of India on January 24, 1950. The event celebrated its enduring legacy and profound contribution to

India's freedom struggle and nation-building journey.

The function at PCR was graced by Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhakar, Special Director General of Police, S.J.M. Geelani, and Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V.K. Birdi, along with other senior officers, Zonal heads, and a large gathering of Police personnel from various wings of the Jammu and Kashmir Police. In all units of District Police Srinagar, the event was organized under the chairmanship of Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr. G.V. Sundee Chakravarty and supervised by the respective territorial officers.

The ceremony commenced with the singing of Vande Mataram, evoking a deep

sense of patriotism and unity among the participants. Officers and personnel paid homage to the song that has symbolized India's devotion, sacrifice, and unity for generations.

The programme highlighted the timeless message of Vande Mataram—devotion to the motherland, national integration, and collective responsibility toward building a strong and united India.

The event concluded with a collective pledge by all officers and personnel to uphold the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of the nation, reaffirming their unwavering commitment to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir with dedication, discipline, and National pride—(KNO)

## Maharashtra activists hold anti-drug rally in Sgr



REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Nov 07: A group of activists from Maharashtra on Friday organised a rally and Nukkad Natak (street play) at Srinagar's famous Lal Chowk to spread the message against drug abuse.

The campaign, organised in collaboration with a local trust, aimed to highlight the growing menace of narco-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and its impact on youth.

Holding placards and chanting slogans, the participants called for the slapping of the Public Safety Act (PSA) against those involved in drug trafficking networks.

One of the organisers, said, "Drug trafficking is not just a social issue, but it is linked to national security. We came here to stand with the people of

Kashmir and raise a collective voice against this growing threat.

Local volunteers and social workers also joined the rally, terming the move a "message of unity and shared responsibility" between states to combat the drug crisis. The Nukkad Natak portrayed the serious effects of addiction on families and society, drawing applause from onlookers at Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar).

A local present on the occasion told KNO, such plays help spread awareness among the youth and should be conducted regularly in schools and colleges across the Valley. "This collaboration proves that the fight against drugs goes beyond regional boundaries. We are thankful to our friends from Maharashtra for standing in solidarity with us," the participant said—(KNO)



## EDITORIAL

## Introducing Heritage Courses Is A Visionary Step

The launch of the “Chief Minister’s Scheme for Introduction of Heritage Courses” marks a transformative moment in Jammu and Kashmir’s journey toward preserving its cultural soul while building economic resilience. By integrating traditional crafts like papier-mâché, walnut wood carving, and Kani weaving into the formal education system across 25 units in government ITIs and polytechnics, the government has taken a visionary step in recognising heritage as a vital component of sustainable development. This initiative

is significant for several reasons. First, it addresses the critical challenge of intergenerational knowledge transfer by creating a structured pathway for master artisans to pass their skills to young learners. The monthly stipend of 1,000 for students and respectable remuneration of 12,000–15,000 for instructors make this learning accessible and financially viable, particularly for youth from artisan families who might otherwise abandon their legacy for other pursuits. Second, the scheme represents a strategic fusion of tradition and modernity.

By situating these courses within technical institutions, it elevates heritage crafts from informal vocations to certified qualifications, enhancing their market value and global appeal. This approach not only preserves endangered art forms but also repositions them as contemporary career choices with potential for innovation and entrepreneurship. These crafts are a bridge between tradition and opportunity. In a rapidly globalising world, such initiatives prevent cultural homogenisation while creating localised economic ecosystems. Each

trained artisan becomes a custodian of heritage and a potential job creator, contributing to the region’s economic diversity. The government deserves commendation for this forward-looking policy that values cultural capital as seriously as industrial growth. By investing in the hands that weave Kashmir’s cultural narrative, this scheme preserves the past and secures a future where development is rooted in identity, dignity, and sustainable prosperity. Other culturally rich regions would do well to emulate this model.

# 150 Years Of Vande Mataram: A Melody That Became A Movement

### Press Information Bureau

This year, November 07, 2025, marks the 150th anniversary of India’s National Song Vande Mataram, which translates to “Mother, I Bow to Thee”. This composition, an enduring anthem, has inspired countless generations of freedom fighters and nation builders, standing as a lasting emblem of India’s national identity and collective spirit. Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, ‘Vande Mataram’ was first published in the literary journal Bangadarshan on 7 November 1875. Later, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee incorporated the hymn in his immortal novel ‘Anandamath’ which was published in 1882. It was set to music by Rabindranath Tagore. It has become an integral part of the nation’s civilizational, political and cultural consciousness. Commemorating this milestone presents an occasion to reaffirm the timeless message of unity, sacrifice, and devotion that Vande Mataram embodies for all Indians.

### Historical Background

To comprehend the importance of Vande Mataram, it is imperative to examine its historical origins, a path that connects literature, nationalism, and India’s fight for independence. The development of the hymn from a poetic composition to a national song exemplifies India’s collective awakening against colonial dominance.

The song was first published in 1875. This is corroborated by a passage in the English daily Bande Mataram written by Sri Aurobindo on 16 April 1907, that it was thirty-two years ago that Bankim composed his renowned song. He further observed that few listened at that time, but during a moment of awakening from long delusions, the people of Bengal looked around for truth, and in a fated moment, someone sang “Bande Mataram.”

Prior to its publication in book form, Ananda Math was serialised in the Bengali monthly magazine Bangadarshan, of which Bankim was the founder editor.

The song “Vande Mataram” appeared in the very first instalment of the serialisation of the novel in the March-April 1881 issue.

In 1907, Madam Bhikaji Cama raised the tricolour flag for the first-time outside India in Stuttgart, Berlin. The words Vande Mataram were written on the flag.

### Ananda Math and the Religion of Patriotism

The central plot of the novel ‘Ananda Math’ revolves around a group of Sanyasins known as Santanas, meaning children, who dedicate their lives to the cause of their motherland. They venerate the motherland personified as the mother goddess; their devotion is solely to their land of birth. “Vande Mataram” is the song sung by the Santanas of Ananda Math. It stood as the symbol of the “religion of patriotism” that was the central theme of Ananda Math

In their temple, they placed three images of the mother representing the motherland: Mother that was, great and glorious in her majestic grandeur; Mother that is wretched and grovelling in the dust; Mother that will be, in her pristine glory. In the words of Shri Aurobindo “ The Mother of his vision held trenchant steel in her twice seventy million hands and not the bowl of the mendicant.”

### Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838–1894), the author of Vande Mataram, was one of the most prominent figures of 19th-century Bengal. He holds a pivotal role in the intellectual and literary history of Bengal during the nineteenth century. As a distinguished novelist, poet, and essayist, his contributions significantly influenced the development of modern Bengali prose and the articulation of an emerging Indian nationalism.

His notable works, including Anandamath (1882), Durgeshnandini (1865), Kapalkundala (1866), and Devi Chaudhurani (1884), reflect the social, cultural, and moral concerns of a

colonised society striving for self-identity.

The composition of Vande Mataram, is recognised as a milestone in nationalist thought, symbolising the synthesis of devotion to the motherland and spiritual idealism. Through his writings, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee not only enriched Bengali literature but also laid the foundational ideological principles for India’s early nationalist movement. In Vande Mataram he gave the country the vision of the motherland personified as the Mother.

### Vande Mataram - Song of Resistance

In October 1905, a Bande Mataram Sampradaya was founded in North Calcutta to promote the idea of the Motherland as a mission and a religious passion. Every Sunday, the members of the society went out in Prabhat Pheris, singing “Vande Mataram” and accepting voluntary contributions from the people in support of the motherland. Rabindranath Tagore also sometimes joined the Prabhat Pheris of the Sampradaya.

On 20 May 1906, in Barisal (now in Bangladesh), an unprecedented Vande Mataram procession took place, with over ten thousand participants, both Hindus and Muslims marching through the main streets of the town carrying Vande Mataram flags.

In August 1906, an English daily titled Bande Mataram was launched under the editorship of Bipin Chandra Pal, with Sri Aurobindo later joining as joint editor. Through its sharp and persuasive editorials, the newspaper became a powerful instrument of India’s awakening, spreading the message of self-reliance, unity, and political consciousness to an all-India audience. Fearlessly preaching the gospel of nationalism, inspiring young Indians to rise above colonial subjugation, the Bande Mataram daily served as a major platform for articulating nationalist thought and mobilising public opinion.

Alarmed by the rising influence of Vande Mataram—both as a song and slogan—the British administration adopted stringent measures to curb its spread. The Government of the newly created province of Eastern Bengal issued circulars prohibiting the singing or chanting of Vande Mataram in schools and colleges. Educational institutions were warned of derecognition, and students participating in political agitation were threatened with debarment from government service.

In November 1905, a fine of Rs 5 was imposed on each of the 200 students of a school in Rangpur, Bengal, as they were guilty of chanting Vande Mataram. In Rangpur, prominent anti-partition leaders were instructed to serve as special constables and to prevent the chanting of Vande Mataram. In November 1906, at a largely attended meeting held at Dhulia (Maharashtra), cries of Vande Mataram were raised. In 1908, at Belgaum (Karnataka), on the day Lokmanya Tilak was being deported to Mandalay in Burma, the police thrashed many boys and arrested many persons for chanting Vande Mataram against

a verbal order prohibiting the same.

### Battle Cry for Resurgent Nationalism

The song “Vande Mataram” became the emblem of India’s struggle for independence, encapsulating the collective aspiration for self-governance and the emotional connection between the populace and their homeland. Initially popularised during the Swadeshi and anti-partition movements, it quickly transcended regional barriers to serve as the anthem of national awakening. From Bengal’s streets to Bombay’s core and Punjab’s plains, the refrain of “Vande Mataram” echoed as a symbol of resistance against colonial rule. The British endeavours to suppress its rendition only amplified its patriotic significance, transforming it into a moral force uniting individuals across caste, creed, and language. Leaders, students, and revolutionaries drew motivation from its verses, reciting it at political assemblies, demonstrations, and prior to incarceration. The composition not only motivated acts of defiance but also infused the movement with cultural pride and spiritual zeal, establishing the emotional groundwork for India’s path to independence.

“Vande Mataram” emerged as the rallying cry of rising Indian nationalism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Vande Mataram was sung at the 1896 session of the Congress by Rabindranath Tagore.

During the stormy days of 1905, the anti-partition and Swadeshi movement in Bengal, the appeal of the song as well as of the slogan Vande Mataram, became very powerful.

At the Varanasi session of the Indian National Congress that same year, the song ‘Vande Mataram’ was adopted for all-India occasions.

Reserved: Vande Mataram as a political slogan was first used on 7 August 1905 when thousands of students, representing all communities, rent the sky with cries of Vande Mataram and other slogans as they went in procession towards the town hall in Calcutta (Kolkata) where, at a largely attended historic meeting, the famous resolution on boycott of foreign goods and vow of swadeshi was adopted, signalling the anti-partition of Bengal movement. The events in Bengal, which followed, electrified the entire nation.

In April 1906, during the Bengal Provincial Conference at Barisal in the newly created province of Eastern Bengal, the British authorities banned the public chanting of Vande Mataram and eventually prohibited the conference itself. Defying the order, delegates continued to raise the slogan and faced severe police repression.

In May 1907, in Lahore, a group of young protesters marched in defiance of colonial orders, raising the slogan Vande Mataram to condemn the arrest of Swadeshi leaders at Rawalpindi. The demonstration was met with brutal police repression, yet the youth’s fearless chanting of the slogan reflected the growing spirit of resistance spreading across

the country.

On 27 February 1908, around a thousand workers of the Coral Mills in Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu) went on strike in solidarity with the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company and against repressive actions by the authorities. They marched through the streets late into the night, chanting Vande Mataram as a mark of protest and patriotism.

In June 1908, thousands gathered outside the Bombay police court during Lokmanya Tilak’s trial, singing Vande Mataram in a powerful display of solidarity. Later, on 21 June 1914, Tilak received a grand welcome in Pune upon his release, with the crowd echoing Vande Mataram long after he had taken his seat.

### Impact on Indian Revolutionaries Abroad

In 1907, Madam Bhikaji Cama raised the tricolour flag for the first-time outside India in Stuttgart, Berlin. The words Vande Mataram were written on the flag.

On 17 August 1909, when Madan Lal Dhingra was hanged in England, his last words before he went to the gallows were “Bande Mataram.”

In 1909, Indian patriots in Paris undertook the publication of a magazine called Bande Mataram from Geneva.

In October 1912, when Gopal Krishna Gokhale arrived in Cape Town, South Africa, he was welcomed by a grand procession accompanied by cries of ‘Vande Mataram.’

### National Status

In the Constituent Assembly there was absolute unanimity over adopting both Jana Gana Mana and Vande Mataram as National symbols, and there was no debate on the issue. On 24 January 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad addressed the Constituent Assembly, stating that Vande Mataram, due to its significant role in the freedom movement, should have the same status as the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana, and be honored equally. He said, “There is one matter which has been pending for discussion, namely the question of the National Anthem. At one time it was thought that the matter might be brought up before the House and a decision taken by the House by way of a resolution. But it has been felt that, instead of taking a formal decision by means of a resolution, it is better if I make a statement with regard to the National Anthem. Accordingly I make this statement.

The composition consisting of the words and music known as Jana Gana Mana is the National Anthem of India, subject to such alterations in the words as the Government may authorise as occasion arises; and the song Vande Mataram, which has played a historic part in the struggle for Indian freedom, shall be honoured equally with Jana Gana Mana and shall have equal status with it. (Applause). I hope this will satisfy the Members.”

His statement was adopted with Rabindranath Tagore’s Jana-Gana-Mana being adopted as the national anthem of independent India, and Bankim’s Vande Mataram being adopted as the National Song with an equal status as Jana-Gana-Mana.

### Commemorating 150 Years of Vande Mataram

As the nation celebrates 150 years of Vande Mataram, commemorative activities across India seek to honour its enduring legacy as a song of unity, resistance, and national pride. Institutions, cultural bodies, and educational centres are organising seminars, exhibitions, musical renditions, and public readings to revisit the song’s historical and cultural significance.

The Government of India will commemorate this in four phases.

A Few of the activities are listed below.

### On 7th November 2025

National Level inaugural programme of the commemoration to be held in Delhi (Indira Gandhi Stadium).  
VIP events with widespread public

participation will be held across the country till the tehsil level on 7 November.

A commemorative stamp and coin will be released at the national event.

An exhibition on the history of Vande Mataram will be organised, and a short film will be screened.

Films of the stamp and coin releases will be shown at every official event.

Photos and videos of the events will be uploaded to the campaign website.

At the national level, the programme features prominent singers from across the country presenting different adaptations of Vande Mataram.

### Yearlong Activities

Special programmes to be hosted on All India Radio and Doordarshan and FM radio campaign.

PIB to organize panel discussions and dialogues on Vande Mataram in Tier 2 and 3 cities.

A cultural evening dedicated to the spirit of Vande Mataram to be organized in all Indian Missions and Posts across the world.

A global music festival dedicated to the spirit of Vande Mataram to be organised.

Vande Mataram: Salute to Mother Earth - Tree plantation drives to be organised.

Patriotic murals to be created and displayed on highways.

Audio messages and special announcements to be made. LED displays at railway stations and airports are to display information about Vande Mataram.

### Special Activities

25 films of 1 minute each on different facets of Vande Mataram, the Life story of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, the role of Vande Mataram in the freedom struggle, and the history of India to be made, and outreach to be done via social media.

To channelise the energy of patriotism, the Vande Mataram Campaign and the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign will be celebrated simultaneously

These initiatives not only pay tribute to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay’s timeless creation but also highlight its role in inspiring generations during the freedom struggle. Through these celebrations, the spirit of Vande Mataram is being reinterpreted for contemporary India—linking the nation’s proud past with its aspirations for a future, self-reliant, and culturally vibrant future.

### Conclusion

The commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram underscores the song’s profound historical and cultural significance in the evolution of India’s national identity. Emerging from the intellectual and literary milieu of the late nineteenth century, Vande Mataram transcended its literary origins to become a potent symbol of anti-colonial resistance and collective aspiration. The present observance not only reaffirms the enduring relevance of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay’s vision but also invites renewed reflection on the song’s role in shaping the discourse of nationalism, unity, and cultural self-awareness in modern India.

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## Strengthen hands committed to restoring JK's identity: CM Omar

### Addresses series of public meetings in Budgam

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 07: National Conference Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday led a series of massive election rallies and roadshows across Budgam constituency, urging people to strengthen the hands committed to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's identity and dignity.

Omar Abdullah made a fervent appeal to the people to support the NC and become active partners in the ongoing journey of development and progress.

Addressing enthusiastic crowds during roadshows and conventions at Narbal, Yargund, Gotapora, Jhorpura, Suya Bug, Chhon, Shehalpura, Nasrullah Pura, and adjoining areas, Omar Abdullah sought votes in favor of the NC candidate Aga Syed Mahmood, describing him as a committed and capable representative who will ensure Budgam's rightful place on the development map of Jammu and Kashmir.

Omar Abdullah said the people of Budgam are not voting to decide the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister in this by-election but to determine their relationship with the current



government for the next four years. "You have to decide whether you want to be part of Jammu and Kashmir's development journey or remain disconnected from it," he said.

Clearing misconceptions about his engagement with Budgam, Omar Abdullah said, "It is wrong to think that I have ignored Budgam in the past year. I have ensured that this constituency receives adequate funds and that no development work stops. In this year's budget, Rs 16 crore have been allocated for new projects in Budgam. If you make Aga Syed Mahmood Sahib successful, I promise to

develop this constituency as a model assembly segment."

He announced that a major cricket stadium and academy would be established in Budgam, similar to the one being developed in Kathua for Jammu, and that he is already in discussions with BCCI officials to realize this vision. "Along with that, I also promise to establish a university in Budgam constituency, giving our youth new opportunities for higher education and growth. I urge you to elect a representative who can walk into my office anytime, without permission, and fight for your cause," he

said, drawing loud applause from the crowd.

Highlighting the achievements of the NC government in the past year, Omar Abdullah said that Jammu and Kashmir has not only been brought back on the path of development but has also seen a revival of political accountability and democratic values. "As promised in our manifesto, we raised our voice in the very first Assembly session against the unconstitutional decisions of August 5, 2019, and demanded the restoration of our special status through a resolution, a move that PDP opposed. We also passed a resolution for the restoration of statehood in our first cabinet meeting," he said.

He further added that the government has initiated development projects across regions, brought governance to the people's doorstep, and introduced a system of transparency and accountability. "Today, our mothers and sisters can travel free of cost in any government bus, even if they're traveling from Srinagar to Delhi. These are the people-centric measures we are proud of," Omar said.

He blamed the current electricity woes and administrative chaos on those "doing politics

on meters today," saying these were the same people who "snatched our rights, divided our historic state, and reduced it to a Union Territory." He cautioned, "If given a chance again, they will sell whatever little is left of Jammu and Kashmir."

Prominent leaders including Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo, MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmed Khan Gurezi, MLA Chadoora Ali Muhammad Dar, MLA Uri Dr. Sajjad Shafi, MLA Sonawari Advocate Hilal Lone, MLA Lal Chowk Ahsan Pardesi, MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar, MLA Baramulla Dr. Muhammad Shafi, MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmed Shah, MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen, MLA Khan Sahib Saifuddin Butt, MLA Devsar Pirzada Feroz Ahmed, District President Budgam Ghulam Nabi Butt, DDC Nasir Lone, and other senior leaders were also present at the gatherings.

The rallies and roadshows witnessed a tremendous public response, with people enthusiastically pledging their support to Agha Syed Mahmood and the National Conference, reaffirming their faith in Omar Abdullah's leadership and the party's vision for an inclusive, progressive, and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

### 150 YEARS OF 'VANDE MATARAM'

## ACS Shantmanu emphasis role of education in nation building



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 07: Government College of Education (GCOE) here Friday organized a district level event to commemorate 150 years of the National Song "Vande Mataram", celebrating its historical, cultural, and patriotic significance.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantmanu was Chief Guest on the occasion. Director Colleges, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir; CEO Srinagar, SDM East, faculty members and a large number of students were also present on the occasion.

The programme commenced with the mass singing of "Vande Mataram" led by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, live streamed from the national event. This was followed by a flag hoisting ceremony led by Additional Chief Secretary and singing of the National Anthem thereby giving a dignified and patriotic start to the event.

After the flag hoisting, the Department of Music, Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar in collaboration with the cultural committee IASE presented a melodious rendition of "Vande Mataram." Their performance created a deeply emotional and patriotic atmosphere in the auditorium.

Addressing the gathering, ACS Shantmanu emphasized on the importance of civic responsibility, patriotism, and the role of

education in Nation building. He appreciated the efforts of institutions in organizing such a meaningful event that connects education with cultural heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, HoD History, Dr. Abdul Rashid Sheikh gave an insightful talk on the history and significance of "Vande Mataram." He traced its origin from Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's novel Anandamath (published in 1882), its role in the Indian freedom struggle, and its enduring relevance as a symbol of unity and patriotism.

In her welcome address, Principal, Dr. Seema Naz highlighted the role of the institution for fostering unity, integrity, and spirit of patriotism among the teachers.

The Cultural Committee organized a patriotic song performance by Puran Bakshi and Muneer Shah (B. Ed 2nd Semester), showcasing India's rich musical and cultural traditions. The songs resonated with the spirit of patriotism and collective pride.

The gathering also witnessed the live broadcast of the Prime Minister's national address, as part of the nationwide commemoration programme. The Prime Minister's message focused on national unity, cultural pride, and the values embodied in "Vande Mataram." The address rekindled a sense of national pride and unity among the audience.

## DC Ayushi emphasises transparency in welfare schemes



KT News Desk

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 07: An awareness programme on the schemes of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) was organized Friday at Government Degree College, Samba, under the overall guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Ayushi Sudan and the supervision of Assistant Director FCS&CA, Rahul Gupta.

The event aimed to sensitize students about the functioning and welfare schemes of the department. Deputy Commissioner, Ayushi Sudan, graced the occasion as the chief guest, while the College Principal Prof. Meenu Abrol, provided academic leadership and extended full support in organizing the programme.

As part of the event, students enthusiastically participated in a Symposium and Painting Competition focused on consumer rights, food security and transparency in the Public Distribution System. An Expert Talk session was also hosted to promote deeper understanding and interactive learning among students.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner

emphasized the importance of awareness about government welfare initiatives and urged students to become informed and responsible citizens to actively contribute to transparent governance.

Prof. Meenu Abrol appreciated the initiative and highlighted the value of inter-departmental collaboration in fostering informed and socially responsible youth.

The Assistant Director, FCS&CA underscored the significance of such awareness drives in empowering students with knowledge about public welfare schemes and promoting participatory governance at the grassroots level.

From the Department of FCS&CA, TSO Veerpal; Storekeeper Vijaypur; Amit Samotra and Storekeeper Navnidhi interacted with students and addressed their queries regarding departmental schemes and procedures.

The students evinced keen interest and actively engaged in all sessions, making the programme both insightful and impactful. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks and a collective pledge to spread awareness about consumer welfare and responsible citizenship.

### VANDE MATARAM CELEBRATION

## DC, SSP Bandipora join nation

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 7: The District Administration Bandipora Friday joined the rest of the nation in celebrating 150 years of the national song 'Vande Mataram', marking the beginning of a year-long commemoration programme.

As part of the celebrations, officers, officials, students, and citizens across the district participated in the live broadcast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from New Delhi.

The main event in Bandipora district was held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora, where the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib; Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar; Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Bandipora, Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora, District Information Officer Bandipora, officers from other departments, ASHA and Anganwadi workers; and other officials were present.

The event was organized to honour the timeless legacy of Vande Mataram, a song that has inspired unity, patriotism, and a deep sense of national pride for generations.

The live broadcast was



followed by the mass singing of 'Vande Mataram' across schools, colleges, and public places in Bandipora, symbolizing the collective spirit of harmony and devotion to the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that Vande Mataram is more than a song, it is a tribute to the nation's struggle for freedom and a reminder of the values that continue to unite India. She called upon all departments, institutions, and communities to actively participate in the year-long commemoration programme, which will include cultural, educational, and awareness activities celebrating national pride.

Similar events were also held across Government Degree

Colleges, educational institutions, and offices throughout the district, where officers, staff members, and students enthusiastically participated in the live broadcast and mass singing of Vande Mataram.

As part of the year-long commemoration, a series of programmes will be organized across Bandipora viz. mass singing events, cultural evenings, essay and quiz competitions, school and college assemblies, exhibitions, patriotic band performances, and awareness campaigns in synchronization with national activities.

These activities aim to rekindle patriotic fervour, celebrate India's cultural heritage, and promote public participation in honour of 150 Years of Vande Mataram.

## Haseeb inaugurates blood donation camp

KT News Desk

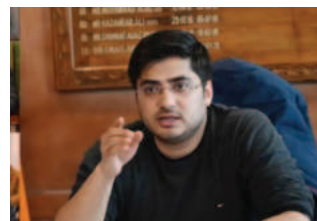
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 7: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Faz Lul Haseeb Friday inaugurated a Blood Donation Camp organized at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

The camp was held under the supervision of Health Officer SMC, Dr. Fauzia Habib.

The initiative aimed to promote voluntary blood donation, raise awareness about the importance of donating blood, and support healthcare institutions in saving lives.

A large number of SMC officials, employees, and members of the public participated in the camp, contributing generously to this noble cause.

A team of qualified doctors and paramedical staff from GMC Srinagar conducted proper



medical screening of donors, ensured their safety, and facilitated the smooth and secure collection of blood.

Commissioner, SMC appreciated the efforts of the SMC and GMC Srinagar for successfully organizing the camp. He stated that such initiatives foster a culture of compassion and civic responsibility, reflecting the Corporation's commitment to public welfare beyond its routine civic duties.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation extends gratitude to all participants and encourages citizens to continue supporting such life-saving initiatives in the future.

## DDC Reasi reviews Banking sector performance at DLRC meeting

KT News Desk

REASI, NOVEMBER 07: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik Friday chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of banks for the quarter ending September 2025.

A detailed discussion was held on sector-wise lending, performance under priority and non-priority sectors, bank-wise position of deposits and advances and the progress of various financial inclusion and government-sponsored schemes.

While reviewing the Credit Deposit (CD) Ratio, the DDC directed the banks with low CD ratios to take immediate corrective measures and ensure improved performance in the upcoming quarter. She emphasized the need to achieve the fixed targets under all banking sectors within the stipulated timelines.

The DDC also reviewed the



status of special camps organized by banks and took a detailed account of new accounts opened during these drives. She instructed the Lead District Manager (LDM) to take necessary action against banks showing poor performance and

urged all banking institutions to organize awareness camps at block and panchayat levels to enroll more beneficiaries under PMJJBY and PMSBY schemes.

DDC also stressed the need to cover existing customers under these social security schemes

and asked banks to sensitize pensioners about the Jeevan Pramaan Face App for hassle-free pension verification.

Reviewing the agro sector cases, the DDC directed concerned departments and banks to ensure timely processing of pending cases and extend maximum benefits to the farming community. In addition to this department wise progress of various Government schemes was also taken by the DDC.

Highlighting the importance of improving banking accessibility in remote areas, the DDC asked J&K Bank to prioritise on opening new branches in aspirational block Thakrakote, thereby strengthening financial inclusion and rural connectivity in the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, representatives from RBI, NABARD, LDM Reasi Raman, DSHO, CAO and other concerned officers.

## Udhampur admin begins week-long celebrations

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 07: The District Administration Udhampur under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, started the week long celebration events to mark 150th centenary celebration of National Song Vande Mataram.

In this connection, a mega programme was organized in the Conference Hall of the DC office Complex, featuring live streaming of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address and the inauguration of the year-long celebration.

The event was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Ashok Nagpure; Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and other officers, prominent citizens, staff and students of various educational institutions.



The DC expressed gratitude to all participants and informed that a variety of activities and programmes will be organized during the first phase of the week-long celebrations across the district to raise awareness about different government schemes.

The DC stated that the celebration of the National Song 150-year legacy stands as a tribute to India's rich cultural heritage and the spirit of patriotism

that unites the nation.

Emphasizing inclusivity, she said that the celebrations would reflect the diversity, unity and cultural vibrancy of Udhampur, ensuring that every citizen feels connected to the spirit of the event. The DC urged all stakeholders to actively participate in the week-long commemoration so that the celebrations become a true reflection of India's unity, diversity and enduring national spirit.



# India's Women's WC win sets all-time viewership record with 446 million reach

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 07: India's historic title victory in the Women's ODI World Cup saw new benchmarks being set for cricket broadcast in the country, with the official broadcaster recording an overall reach of 446 million on its digital platform over the course of the tournament.

JioHotstar said in a release on Friday that the Women's World Cup final, which India won by defeating South Africa, was watched by 185 million users on its platform.

The viewership in the final exceeded the daily average reach of the Indian Premier League, while it also equalled the viewership recorded during last year's men's T20 World Cup final between India and South Africa.

The broadcaster stated in a release that the 446-million viewership was "the highest ever for women's cricket and



greater than the combined total of the last three Women's World Cups, marking an extraordinary milestone in the evolution of women's cricket viewership in India."

"The Women in Blue's final act drew a peak concurrency of 21

million viewers as Harmanpreet Kaur's team became the first Asian team to lift the Women's World Cup," it said.

"In another record, 92 million tuned in to watch the historic clash on Connected TV (CTV), equalling the CTV viewership of

T20 World Cup 2024 final and the World Cup 2023 final. The surge reflects a significant shift in viewing habits and highlights the deepening adoption of digital, large-screen sports consumption across India," JioHotstar added.

## Jammu Division to upgrade trains with new LHB rakes for safety, comfort

KT News Desk

Jammu, Nov 07: Train No. 14662 (Jammu to Barmer) and 14661 (Barmer to Jammu), operating on the Jammu Division of Northern Railway, will soon be upgraded with state-of-the-art LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) rakes.

This upgrade aims to provide passengers with a more comfortable and safer travel experience. LHB rakes are renowned for their advanced safety features, including anti-climbing (chock-a-block) mechanisms and improved curb-sweeping, which significantly enhance passenger safety.

This initiative underscores the Railways' commitment to modernization and passenger-centric services. The new LHB rakes will feature modern, comfortable seating, better suspension systems, and increased space to ensure a more pleasant



journey for travelers.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mr. Uchit Singh, announced that the new LHB rakes will be introduced to Train No. 14662 starting January 15, 2026, and to Train No. 14661 from January 18, 2026. These coaches will also boast larger windows and improved interior lighting, offering passengers a wider and better visual experience. Additionally, LHB coaches are designed to operate safely at speeds of approximately 100 kmph or higher.

This upgrade is part of the Railways' ongoing efforts to enhance safety, comfort, and efficiency across its services.

## Clandestine nuclear activities are in keeping with Pak's history: India PTI

New Delhi, Nov 07: India on Friday noted US President Donald Trump's comments about Pakistan testing nuclear weapons and said Islamabad's "clandestine" nuclear activities were centred around decades of smuggling and export control violations.

Last week, Trump named Pakistan among the countries testing nuclear weapons. The US president said this to justify his administration's plans to resume testing of the US' own nuclear assets after a gap of over three decades.

"Clandestine and illegal nuclear activities are in keeping with Pakistan's history, that is centred around decades of smuggling, export control violations, secret partnerships," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. He was responding to a question on the issue.

"India has always drawn the attention of the international community to these aspects of Pakistan's record," Jaiswal said. "In this backdrop, we have taken note of President Trump's comment about Pakistan's nuclear testing," he added.

## Secy RDD&PR reviews performance under UT-CAPEX, SASCI

Pushes for urgent adoption of SNA-SPARSH platform to streamline fund flow

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Nov 07: Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress under UT-CAPEX, Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), and implementation status of PM-SHRI and Samagra Shiksha schemes under RDD.

The meeting was attended by DG Rural Sanitation, Anu Malhotra; Mission Director NRLM, Shubhra Sharma; Directors RDD Kashmir and Jammu, Shabir Hussain Bhat and Shahnaz Akhtar; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) for SASCI projects; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma; Additional Secretary, Waseem Raja; Superintending Engineers (REW), ACDs, ACPs, and Executive Engineers of all districts.

The Secretary also reviewed the on-boarding of schemes onto the SNA-SPARSH platform to ensure transparent and efficient management of funds.

During the review, the Secretary emphasized the urgent adoption of SNA-SPARSH platform and obtaining of the 'Mother Sanction' for each scheme, terming it crucial for authorizing expenditures and



ensuring seamless implementation on the ground. He directed all Scheme Heads to expedite on-boarding and streamline fund flow to avoid delays.

Reviewing UT-CAPEX works, the Secretary instructed that the pace of execution be accelerated with a district-wise review mechanism to bridge gaps between allocations and physical achievements. He laid special emphasis on infrastructure development for PRIs, BDCs, and DDCs, underscoring their vital role in strengthening grassroots governance and enhancing service delivery.

Under SASCI, it was informed that loan assistance of 21.10 crore has been sanctioned for RDD projects. The Secretary reiterated the Finance Department's directions mandating utilization of 75% of funds by December 2025, surrender of non-viable projects for reallocation. He

directed HoDs to personally monitor SASCI projects and ensure timely completion of all sanctioned works.

While reviewing PM-SHRI and Samagra Shiksha being executed by Rural Engineering Wing, the Secretary directed officials to expedite execution, strengthen monitoring, and ensure timely utilization of funds.

He also called for the establishment of monthly progress reporting mechanism to ensure that all schemes deliver tangible and timely results, benefiting communities, schools, and students across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Secretary reiterated Administration's commitment to efficient public spending, transparency in financial management, and time-bound completion of developmental works to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth across the Union Territory.

## Recurrence of dog bite incidents in institutional areas reflect systemic failure: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 07: The Supreme Court on Friday said recurrence of dog bite incidents, particularly within institutional areas, reflected not only administrative apathy but also a "systemic failure" to secure these premises from preventable hazards.

Recurrence of dog bite incidents in institutional areas reflect systemic failure: SC

Recurrence of dog bite incidents in institutional areas reflect systemic failure: SCThe apex court directed forthwith relocation of stray canines from institutional areas like educational institutions, hospitals, railway stations and bus stand to designated shelters after due sterilisation and vaccination in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023.

A three-judge special bench comprising justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria referred to several incidents of dog bite in schools, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands and railway stations.

The bench said despite the statutory framework of the Animal Birth Control Rules, the existence of various municipal byelaws, guidelines, standard operating procedures, the practical outcomes have remained suboptimal.

"The persistence of the problem calls for a holistic and co-ordinated approach... to ensure that the constitutional mandate of safeguarding the right to life under Article 21 is not compromised by administrative inaction or inefficiency," it said.

The bench passed a slew of directions in the interest of public safety, health and management of stray dogs.

It said the administrative heads of such institutions shall, through their respective local/municipal authorities, under the overall supervision of the district magistrate concerned, ensure that the premises are secured by adequate fencing, boundary walls, gates and such other structural or administrative measures as may be necessary to prevent the ingress of stray dogs.

It said the exercise be completed preferably within eight weeks.

The bench said management of every educational institution, hospital, sports complex, bus stand and railway station identified shall designate a nodal officer responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness of the premises and for ensuring that stray dogs do not enter or inhabit the campus.

"The details of the said officer shall be displayed prominently at the entrance and notified to the jurisdictional municipal body/authority," it said.

The bench said the local municipal authorities and panchayats shall carry out regular inspections, at least once in every three months, of all such premises to ensure that no stray dog habitats exist within or in the immediate vicinity of these institutions.

"It shall be the responsibility of the jurisdictional municipal body/authority to forthwith remove every stray dog found

within the premises of an educational institution, hospital, sports complex, bus stand/depot or railway station and to shift such animal/s to a designated shelter, after due sterilisation and vaccination...," the bench said.

It said stray dogs so picked up shall not be released back to the same location from which they were picked up.

"We have consciously directed the non-release of such stray dogs to the same location from which they were picked up, as permitting the same would frustrate the very effect of the directions issued to liberate such institutional areas from the presence of stray dogs," it said.

The bench directed the management of stadiums and sports complexes to ensure deployment of personnel specifically tasked with around the clock vigil against the entry or habitation of stray dogs.

It said railway authorities, state transport corporations and municipal authorities shall ensure that public-transport premises are effectively secured and maintained so as to prevent the habitation or movement of stray dogs there.

It directed the Animal Welfare Board of India to issue within four weeks detailed standard operating procedures for prevention of dog bites and management of stray dogs in institutional premises to be uniformly adopted across India.

The bench directed the chief secretaries of all states and UTs to file their affidavits of

compliance within eight weeks.

It said affidavits shall specifically indicate the steps taken to secure institutional premises besides the mechanism put in place for regular oversight inspection, coordination and reporting with municipal authorities/Panchayati Raj institutions.

The bench said the affidavits shall also indicate the availability of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin in all government medical facilities.

The bench said the Centre shall file a comprehensive affidavit of compliance within eight weeks indicating the steps taken to secure such institutions, the mechanism evolved for coordination with authorities and measures adopted for ensuring the availability of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin in central government hospitals and healthcare facilities.

It asked the Animal Welfare Board of India to file a consolidated report indicating the nationwide status of sterilisation and vaccination drives, as well as the formulation of uniform standard operating procedures for prevention of dog-bite incidents in institutional areas within eight weeks.

The bench said any reported non-compliance of any of its directions shall be viewed very seriously and may invite penalties/consequences including but not limited to the initiation of suo motu contempt proceedings against the erring officials.

It posted the matter for further hearing on January 13.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Everyone saw Pakistan

Referring to the Bihar Assembly elections first phase that was held yesterday, the Prime Minister praised the high voter turnout, especially among women, calling it a sign of confidence in the NDA's policies and a clear message against the opposition.

He also mentioned the alleged "land-for-jobs" case, saying leaders from the RJD and Congress took land from young people in exchange for government jobs and are now facing legal action for their involvement in the scam. (KNO)

### Autumn magic

fall, turning the surroundings into shades of gold and red. "The leaves, the view, the colours everything looks magical," he said.

The golden avenues near the University of Kashmir's Naseem Bagh, home to majestic Chinar, along with Badamwari and other gardens, have also become magnets for visitors.

Tourists, students and local families are seen posing for photographs, tossing leaves into the air and capturing memories of the fleeting season.

"Every year we look forward to this moment, the sunlight filtering through Chinar leaves, the way everything glows is simply amazing," said Mohammad Shoaib, a student posing for pictures at the university campus. "Autumn in Kashmir is not just a season, but it's a feeling," he added.

Similarly, for many, this time of year carries a quiet charm. Another student from Srinagar said, "The Chinars remind us that even endings can be beautiful."

It is worth mentioning that as October ends and November begins, the Valley slowly prepares for winter's hush. Residents, tourists and nature lovers gather in parks, gardens and tree-lined avenues to enjoy the rustle of falling

Chinar leaves. (KNO)

### J&K achieves 81%

9558 households pending. Shopian has 3,531, and Reasi has 7,210.

Similarly, Baramulla has provided 1.29 lakh connections, with 16845 rural households still waiting for tap water. Budgam district has 13,777 pending households, Pulwama has 11,530, Kulgam has 5,598, and Bandipora has 5,130.

Kupwara district has the highest shortfall in the Kashmir region. The district has 27,159 rural households yet to be connected.

In the Jammu region, Doda district has 26,757 households yet to be connected, while Poonch has 22,077, Ramban has 12,141, Udhampur has 20,589, and Kishtwar has 3,189.

Kathua has 35,064, while Samba district has 23,864. Similarly, Jammu district has 62,950 pending households, the highest shortfall in the division, while Rajouri has 44,759. (KNO)

### You are inheritors

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was written during the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Navami which was on 7th November in 1875. Vande Mataram first appeared in the literary journal Bangadarshan as part of his novel Anandamath.

The song, invoking the motherland as the embodiment of strength, prosperity and divinity, gave poetic expression to India's awakening spirit of unity and self-respect. It soon became an enduring symbol of devotion to the nation. The celebrations witnessed mass singing of the full version of "Vande Mataram" with participation of citizens across all segments of society.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament; Rajya Sabha; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home;

Bhim Sen Tuti; IGP Jammu; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; administrative secretaries; senior officials; heads of educational institutions; youth and prominent citizens were present. Officials and people from across Jammu Kashmir also joined the UT-level commemorative event through virtual mode. (KNO)

### Bla admin orders

schools, colleges and public areas to inform young people about the risks of drug use. (KNO)

### Had BJP been in

truth. We can't provide 200 units of free electricity through an agreement. Free electricity can only be provided where a meter is installed, and through the meter, we know how much electricity is being used. If you don't want a meter, don't install it. Your electricity bill will be per agreement. But if you want 200 units free, that is our firm promise," he said.

"We have promised free 200 units to people, if people don't want to be part of this scheme, they can opt out. I have no objection. 200 free electricity units can be ensured through smart meters only, but if electricity bills go up tomorrow, I won't be the one to blame," he said.

About Vande Mataram programmes in schools, the Chief Minister said that the decision has not been taken by the cabinet or the Minister for Education. "There should be no interference in it. It should be the elected government's decision. There should be no dictation in this regard," he told reporters in Budgam.

Earlier during his speech, Omar said that today all forces are out to defeat the National Conference and Agha Mahmood. "Our only fault is that we remained true to the foundation on which we sought votes a year ago. In the 2014

elections, PDP sought votes to keep the BJP out of power and later joined hands with them. By bringing the BJP to power, these same people began to erode Jammu and Kashmir. We too sought your votes last year on the same basis. Did we join hands with the BJP after that? No, that's the difference between the PDP and the National Conference. It's a fact that if the BJP were in power today, they might have granted Jammu and Kashmir statehood. But we are not willing to make that deal."

He also targeted BJP for not fulfilling its promise, saying that the party in centre had promised statehood to the J&K and despite having 27 MLAs from the party, the promise has not been fulfilled yet.

He also stated that the relation between PDP and BJP is still intact and asked people to question the party (PDP) about no candidate in Nagrota bye-election.

Asked about MP Agra Ruhullah's participation in the campaigning, Omar said that they have never forced any to be part of the campaign. Whosoever is willing to campaign voluntarily, are welcome and those who don't can also not be a part of our success in the future," he said.

He said that he has come to Budgam to help the party candidate. "So far, the candidate has got a positive response from people. We will further put efforts to ensure the victory of the candidate," he said.

Omar also promised a university for Budgam and also a cricket stadium and academy to the people there. "We are not among those who make election stunts. We promise whatever we can do. We had promised a resolution in the assembly, which had been done. We had promised the cabinet resolution on statehood and had subsequently been handed over to the Prime Minister. I have promised a University for Budgam like Ganderbal and cricket stadium and academy and I will make it happen. But, I

appeal to the people of Budgam to ensure the victory of Aga Mehmood," he said while replying to a query.

He said that he would thank the people of Budgam by giving them a university like the way he did in Ganderbal.

The Chief Minister also said that he is in touch with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and is planning a cricket stadium and academy for Jammu and Kashmir. "In Jammu, it would come up in Kathua and God willing we will get it and here, the cricket academy will be established in Budgam," he said. (KNO)

### DGP leads main

with participants reaffirming their pledge to serve the nation with integrity and devotion. The gathering reflected a renewed sense of national pride and solidarity, underscoring the timeless relevance of "Vande Mataram" as a symbol of India's unity and patriotic spirit.

### Pulwama's 400-year-old

structure, and parts of the building had started weakening.

They welcomed the sanction of funds and approval of renovation. "This was a long-pending demand of the area. We are thankful that the government has taken note of the issue. The renovation funds approved will help in preventing further damage," said another resident.

Officials said the project will focus on retaining the original architectural essence of the mosque, ensuring that the heritage character is not disturbed.

Locals hope that completion of this renovation will not only save this historic structure but also boost heritage tourism in Pulwama, thus contributing to the socio-economic landscape of the region. (KNO)



# Trump says he could travel to India in 2026

PTI

New York/Washington, Nov 07: U.S. President Donald Trump has said he could travel to India next year and noted that talks with India are "going good".

"It's great, going good. He [Prime Minister Narendra Modi] stopped... Largely he stopped buying oil from Russia," Trump said at the Oval Office in response to a question on how talks with Mr. Modi and trade discussions with India are progressing.

"He's a friend of mine, and we speak... He wants me to go there. We'll figure that out. I'll go. I had a great trip there with Prime Minister Modi, he's a great man. And I'll be going," Trump said.

When asked if he is planning to go to India next year, Trump said, "It could be, yeah." India will host leaders from Australia, Japan, and the United States for the Quad summit in New Delhi after the 2024 summit was held



in Wilmington, Delaware.

However, the dates for the summit in India are yet to be announced.

In his remarks before the press, Trump reiterated his claim that he stopped the war between India and Pakistan in May using trade.

"Of the eight wars I ended, I would say five or six were ended because of tariffs.

I'll give you an example. If you take a look at India and Pakistan, they started to fight, they are two nuclear nations... They were shooting each other. Eight planes were shot down. It was seven. Now it is eight, because the one that was sort of shot down is now abandoned. Eight planes were shot down."

"And I said, 'Listen, if you

guys are going to fight, I'm gonna put tariffs on you'. And they both went, you know, they were not happy about that. And within 24 hours, I settled the war. If I didn't have tariffs, I wouldn't have been able to settle that war," Trump said.

The President also termed tariffs a "great national defence".

## Delhi airport's air traffic control faces glitch, about 300 flights delayed

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 07: Hundreds of passengers were facing a tough time at the Delhi airport on Friday as nearly 300 flights were delayed due to technical problems with the air traffic control system and authorities are working to fix the issues, sources said. IndiGo, Air India, SpiceJet and Akasa Air said there are delays in their flights at the Delhi airport due to the issues with the air traffic control system.

The national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the country's busiest airport, handles more than 1,500 flight movements daily.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) said flight operations at the Delhi airport are facing delays due to a technical issue in the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS), which supports air traffic control data.

The state-owned AAI, which provides air traffic control and navigation services, said technical teams are working to restore the system at the earliest. "We regret the disruption being experienced at IGIA due to a technical issue at ATC that is affecting flight operations.

"This matter is being addressed on priority with close coordination among ATC, DIAL, and other stakeholders," Delhi airport operator DIAL said in a post on X. According to the



sources, there were long queues near boarding gates and hundreds of passengers were waiting inside the airport terminals for flight updates.

The sources said air traffic controllers are unable to get flight plans automatically due to the technical issues since Thursday evening.

There are some issues with the AMSS that provides the information for the Auto Track System (AMS), which gives the flight plans, one of the sources said. With the system issues continuing, air traffic controllers are preparing the flight plans manually with available data, which is a time-consuming process and as a result, many flights are getting

delayed, the sources said.

They also said the issues are also causing air traffic congestion at the airport and authorities are working to fix the problems. Information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com showed that nearly 300 flights have been delayed at the airport and the delay for departing flights is around 60 minutes at the Delhi airport.

"Due to an ongoing technical issue with the Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) that supports Air Traffic Control data, flights across all airlines at #DelhiAirport and some other airports in the northern region are currently experiencing delays," IndiGo said in a post on X.

## Govt proposes consumer law reforms to speed up case resolution, cut backlog

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 07: The Consumer Affairs Ministry on Friday outlined proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection Act aimed at reducing case backlogs and accelerating dispute resolution through artificial intelligence and digital platforms. The Department of Consumer Affairs held a consultation in New Delhi to discuss reforms to the 2019 law, focusing on strict timelines for case disposal and expanded use of technology including AI and machine learning tools.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said the law currently mandates

three-month timelines for regular cases and five months for those requiring testing, but emphasized no case should remain pending beyond six months, according to a statement.

"The government is committed to timely consumer justice," Khare said, highlighting the e-JAGRITI digital filing initiative and the National Consumer Helpline, which resolves over 1.2 million complaints annually. The consultation brought together state government officials, consumer commission members, voluntary organizations, representatives from national law universities, and industry groups including FICCI, CII, and ASSOCHAM.

## Take down YouTube channels hosting deepfake videos of Rajat Sharma: Delhi HC to Google

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 07: The Delhi High Court on Friday directed Google LLC to take down two YouTube channels hosting and circulating deepfake and fabricated videos using the personality rights of journalist Rajat Sharma.

The high court ordered Google to take them down within 36 hours and to disclose BSL details, access and contact details and monetisation data of the channels to Sharma within one week.

"Keeping in the averments made in the application categorically asserting the videos uploaded on these channels are fake, doctored and AI generated impersonating plaintiff no. 1 (Sharma) and spreading misinformation, the court is satisfied that the plaintiff has made out a case for issuance of directions as prayed for," Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora said.

The court directed Sharma and Google to have a mutual meeting where the journalist can bring to



Google's attention the deepfake content.

It asked Google to ensure that identical content is

removed to obviate the plaintiff's onus of making an endeavour to look out for such content on the channels.

The action is not only necessary to protect the plaintiff's common law rights and statutory rights but also to help in stopping the spreading of misinformation, the court said.

It allowed the fresh interim application of Sharma in his suit seeking protection of his personality rights.

The court was hearing the journalist's suit against

several defendants.

The lawsuit alleges that the firms were perpetuating gross misinformation, including through wrongful use of AI for the creation of doctored videos bearing distorted, modified, and modulated images or voice and other personality traits of Sharma.

The counsel representing Sharma submitted that the two channels were primarily dedicated to the journalist, so they were praying for the taking down of the channels and not just the content.

## Gold futures jump Rs 520 to Rs 1,21,133 per 10 grams

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 07: Gold prices extended gains for the third consecutive session on Friday, by rising Rs 520 to Rs 1,21,133 per 10 grams, tracking firm global cues amid expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate cut following soft labour data.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery appreciated by Rs 520, or 0.43 per cent, to Rs 1,21,133 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 13,446 lots. Silver futures also have robust traction. The white metal for December delivery rallied by Rs 1,598, or 1.09 per cent, to Rs 1,48,667 per kilogram in 19,396 lots.

"Gold and silver prices



are attempting to establish a base before the next rise, following confirmation of supporting factors, including massive layoffs and the US government shutdown," Renisha Chainani, Head - Research at Augmont, said.

On the global front, Comex gold futures for December delivery rose by USD 13.02, or 0.33 per cent,

to USD 4,004.02 per ounce while silver increased by 0.65 per cent to USD 48.26 an ounce. "Gold prices rose to around USD 4,000 per ounce on Friday after soft labour data reinforced expectations of a near-term Federal Reserve rate cut," Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said.

## Dalal street ends lower: Sensex down 95 pts, Nifty below 25,500 on weak global trends

PTI

Mumbai, Nov 07: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday as relentless foreign fund outflows and weak trends in global markets hit investors' sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 94.73 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 83,216.28. During the day, it tanked 640.06 points, or 0.76 per cent to 82,670.95.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 17.40 points, or 0.07 per cent, to 25,492.30.

From the Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel tumbled 4.46 per cent after Singtel said it has sold about 0.8 per cent stake in the firm for Rs 10,353 crore (SGD 1.5 billion). Tech Mahindra, Trent, Reliance Industries,

HCL Tech, Hindustan Unilever, and ITC were also among the laggards.

However, Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite Index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled lower.

Markets in Europe were trading lower.

US markets ended significantly lower on Thursday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,263.21 crore on Thursday, however, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 5,283.91 crore, according to exchange data.

## India has one ophthalmologist for every 65,000 people, reveals AIIMS Delhi survey

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 07: A survey by AIIMS, Delhi, revealed that on average, there is only one ophthalmologist available for every 65,000 people in the country.

There are 20,944 ophthalmologists and 17,849 optometrists (primary eye care providers) working nationwide at secondary/tertiary level, while the Vision 2020 initiative set a target of 25,000 ophthalmologists and 48,000 hospital-based paramedics to be achieved by 2020 for eliminating avoidable Blindness in India.

The study led by Dr Praveen Vashist and his team from Dr Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences at AIIMS



was performed to determine the human resources (HR) and infrastructure available for providing ophthalmic services from the existing secondary and tertiary level hospitals in India and to assess the achievement of targets related to HR and infrastructure as per Vision 2020 norms.

Dr Praveen Vashist, Professor and Officer In-Charge

of Community Ophthalmology at RP Centre, said the study highlighted that the distribution of ophthalmological services in India is highly uneven.

The situation is comparatively better in the states of South and West India, while there is a severe shortage of doctors in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. Out of the 8,790

eyecare institutes enrolled as part of the study, 7901 institutes completed the questionnaire (response rate 89.9 per cent), he said.

The eye institute population ratio for the entire country was one per 1,64,536 population, with better ratios in the Southern and Western states, compared to Northern, Eastern, and Northeastern states. Among the nine union territories, the highest proportion of eye institutes was reported from the Delhi National Capital Region, the study said.

As far as ownership of eye institutes is concerned, nearly two-thirds of institutes (70.6 per cent) were in the private sector, followed by the public sector (15.6 per cent) and the NGO sector (13.8 per cent).

The number of optometrists per ophthalmologist at secondary/tertiary levels was 0.85, meaning that for every ophthalmologist, there is not even one eye care professional who conducts eye tests, and diagnoses and treats certain eye diseases.

The optometrist: ophthalmologist ratio ranged from 8.33 in the Andaman Nicobar Islands to 0.45 in Delhi, the study found.

The ophthalmologist population ratio in the country was found to be 1:65,221. The number of ophthalmologists per million population was 15 for the country, ranging from the highest of 127 in Puducherry to the lowest two in Ladakh, it stated.

**GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**JAL SHAKTI(PHE)DEPTT.**  
**GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
**BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.**  
E- mail: - hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in  
Tel./ Fax No: 0194-2411285

**CANCELLATION CORRIGENDUM/NOTICE**  
**Sub: Construction of 200 mm Nominal Dia DTH/ ODEX Production Bore Well for IRP Battalion at Ajas (Police Colony Ajas) District Bandipora. Bandipora.**  
**Ref: 1. Assistant Ex. Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Drilling Sub-Division 1st letter No. AEE/JS/PHE/DSD/1st /399-402, Dated: 13-10-2025.**  
**2. This office Letter No. JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Camp./ 7950-60, Dated: 27-09-2025.**  
**3. This office e-NIT. No: 20/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26 issued vide this office endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Camp./ 5024-36, Dated: 18-08-2025, bearing tender ID No: 2025\_PHE\_284457\_1.**  
**Refer to the above mentioned subject and reference. In this connection, as per the report submitted by the Assistant Ex. Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Drilling Sub-Division 1st vide letter No. under Ref. No. 01 viz on account of less discharge (2500-3000 GPH), the above subject mentioned work against the e-NIT is hereby cancelled.**  

**Executive Engineer,**  
**Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.**  
**Ground Water Div. Srinagar.**

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Camp./ 11508-520  
Dated: 06-11-2025

DIPK-7861/25  
DATED: 07-11-2025

**GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.**  
**GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.**  
E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in  
Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

**EXTENSION NOTICE 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Subject: 1. Construction of Machine Drilled Hand Pump Operated Bore Well at Ajas Bandipora Near House Of Zahoor Ahmad and Tariq habib and Others in District Bandipora.**  
**Reference:This office e-NIT No. 41-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./6291-6304, dated: 02-09-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025\_PHE\_286817\_18.**  
**Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 06-11-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -**

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	12-11-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	12-11-2025 04.00 PM

**NOTE:**  
**All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.**

**Sd/=**  
**Executive Engineer**  
**Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.**  
**Ground Water Division Srinagar.**

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./11427-37  
Dated: 06-11-2025

DIPK-7855/25  
DATED: 07-11-2025



## US officials, NGOs cry foul as Washington snubs UN rights review

AFP

Geneva, Nov 07: US officials and rights defenders gathered at the United Nations in Geneva on Friday to voice concerns over human rights under President Donald Trump's administration, and denounce Washington's decision to snub a review of its record.

The US mission in Geneva confirmed this week that the country would skip its so-called Universal Periodic Review (UPR), after first announcing the decision in August, becoming only the second country to ever boycott the process. All 193 United Nations member states are required to undergo the standard review of their rights situation every four to five years. The decision "is deeply disappointing," Uzra Zeya, head of Human Rights First, said in an email.

"It sends the wrong message and weakens a process that has helped drive progress on human rights worldwide — including in the United States."

Zeya was to host one of several events at the UN in Geneva featuring activists and elected US officials voicing concerns around rights in the United States, in particular since Trump returned to



power in January.

The US decision to snub its review was linked to Trump's order in February withdrawing the country from a number of UN bodies, including participation in the Human Rights Council.

But dropping the UPR was not a given. Trump also withdrew from the council during his first term, but his administration still opted to take part in its 2020 review.

The US under Trump especially has repeatedly slammed the council for being biased against Israel, and has cited that alleged bias as prompting its withdrawal

from the review.

'Tragic'

The move "really, really undermines ... the notion that international human rights law is inalienable and applies equally to all," warned Phil Lynch, head of the International Service for Human Rights.

He was speaking at an event in a room of the UN's European headquarters where former US first lady Eleanor Roosevelt helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights before its adoption in 1948.

"It's tragic and deeply

ironic that we helped to create the norms as well as this (UPR) process that we are now backing out of," a former senior US official told AFP, asking not to be named.

Another former US official who worked on the country's previous UPR engagements warned the move was a "dangerous" signal.

"We're losing our legitimacy globally on human rights leadership... It's a hard pill to swallow."

The US absence sparked outrage among civil society, which typically participates in reviews, providing analysis and recommendations.

Denied the UPR platform, numerous groups, academics and local US officials were nonetheless intent on making their concerns known.

They listed a string of alarming developments, including repression of dissent, militarised immigration crackdowns, national guards sent into US cities, crackdowns on universities and art institutions, and lethal strikes on alleged drug boats in the Caribbean and Pacific.

Need for 'sunlight'

Many urged the international community to speak out and support their work to hold the

US government in check.

"It's the Human Rights Council, the United Nations system and a community of nations committed to human rights and democracy who can bring necessary sunlight to these abuses," said Chandra Bhatnagar, head of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)'s southern California branch.

Robert Saleem Holbrook, head of the Abolitionist Law Center agreed, insisting that as "we see our civil liberties being decimated, these forums are going to take on increasing importance in the future."

The United States is set to become one of the only two countries to fail to show up for their own review since the inception of the UPR system in 2008.

While some countries have requested postponements, only Israel has previously been a no-show, in early 2013, although it eventually underwent a postponed review 10 months later.

Observers warned the US absence could serve as a bad example. "We hope this doesn't risk normalizing withdrawal from the council," Sanjay Sethi, co-head of the Artistic Freedom Initiative, told AFP.

## World leaders gather for second day in Brazil, seeking solutions to confront global warming



AP/PTI

Belem (Brazil), Nov 07: As world leaders head to a second day of climate talks being hosted in Brazil, a major proposal to protect tropical forests worldwide is sure to be a major topic of discussion.

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Thursday sought to mobilise funding to halt the ongoing destruction of tropical rainforests and advance the many unmet promises made at previous summits.

He's proposing a fund called the Tropical Forests Forever Facility that would pay 74 developing countries to keep their trees standing, using loans from wealthier nations and commercial investors. Financed by interest-bearing debt instead of donations, it aims to make it more lucrative for governments to keep their trees rather than cut them down. The location where

the proposal was announced and the talks are being held, Belem, is significant because the city is part of the Amazon rainforest, which is crucial in helping to regulate the climate.

Destroying rainforests makes money for cattle ranchers, miners and illegal loggers, but Brazil hopes to convince countries that preserving forests promises richer rewards for the entire world by absorbing huge amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that heats the planet when it's released into the atmosphere.

As senior Brazilian officials walked reporters through the fund's inner workings, Norway pledged USD3 billion — the biggest commitment of the day — raising hopes for Lula's ambitions to become a reality. Germany expected to follow on Friday when Lula meets Chancellor Friedrich Merz. Brazilian officials announced a total of USD 5.5 billion in pledges.

## Indian Hockey celebrates 100 glorious years with Olympics legends

PTI

New Delhi, Nov 07: The iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium came alive on Friday as Indian hockey celebrated 100 glorious years with legends of the sport, including Olympic gold medallists Gurbux Singh and Aslam Sher Khan, gracing the historic occasion.

Hockey India felicitated some of the game's most celebrated icons in recognition of their lasting contributions to the sport and for the inspiration they provided to the generations of players.

Those honoured at the ceremony included Gurbux, Aslam, Harbinder Singh, Ajith Pal Singh, Ashok Kumar, B P Govinda, Zafar Iqbal, Brigadier Harcharan Singh, Vineet Kumar, Mir Ranjan Negi, Romeo James, Asunta Lakra, and Subhadra Pradhan. Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who attended the event alongside Union Minority Affairs



Minister Kiren Rijiju and Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin, lauded the sport's illustrious journey and its deep-rooted connection with India's sporting pride. "The sport has

seen many phases, and it was through hockey at the Olympics that we showed the world what India can achieve in sports. We have never looked back since," Mandaviya said. "With its rich history,

Indian hockey is once again rising and moving towards another Olympic medal." The centenary celebrations began with an exhibition match between the Sports Minister's XI led by Mandaviya himself and the Hockey India XI captained by Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey. The friendly yet competitive game set the tone for the day's festivities.

The Sports Minister's XI registered a 3-1 victory, with goals from Beauty Dungdung, Salima Tete, and Krishna Pathak, while Manpreet Singh netted the lone goal for the Hockey India XI.

The match featured a mix of players from both the men's and women's national hockey teams. Adding to the celebrations was the launch of a commemorative book, "100 Years of Indian Hockey," chronicling the sport's century-long journey through triumphs, challenges, and revival.

## Britain removes sanctions on Syria's president



REUTERS

London, Nov 07: Britain removed sanctions on Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa on Friday, after the United Nations Security Council did the same ahead of his meeting with US President Donald Trump on Monday. Britain said in the same statement that it was also lifting sanctions on Syria's interior minister Anas Khattab.

Both men had formerly been subject to financial sanctions targeted at Islamic State and Al-Qaeda.

## US must clarify nuclear testing intentions: Russia

REUTERS

Moscow, Nov 07: Russia said on Friday that it wanted the United States to clarify recent remarks by US President Donald Trump about the possible resumption of nuclear testing, given that such a step would trigger serious responses from other countries.

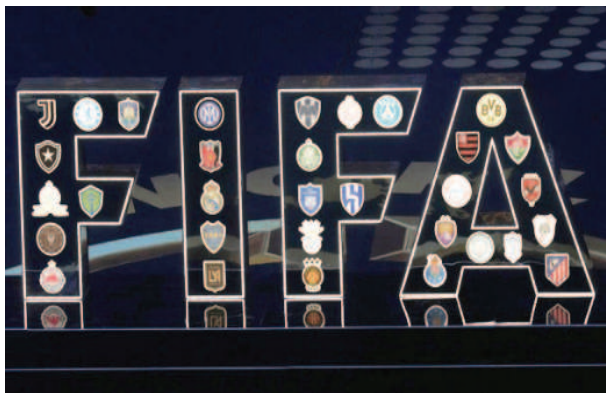
Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova made the comments at a news briefing in Moscow.

Trump last week ordered the US military to immediately restart the process for testing nuclear weapons after a halt of 33 years. But it was

not immediately clear whether Trump was referring to nuclear-explosive testing, which would be carried out by the National Nuclear Security Administration, or flight testing of nuclear-capable missiles. Given the lack of clarity around US plans, President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday instructed top officials to prepare proposals for Russia to carry out its own potential nuclear test in response to any US test.

Moscow has not carried out a nuclear test since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Russia and the US possess the world's largest nuclear arsenals.

## IFA to host draws for World Cup 2026 qualifying playoffs on Nov 20



AP

Zurich, Nov 07: FIFA will host draws on November 20 in Zurich for playoff brackets to decide the last six entries at the 48-team 2026 World Cup, the world football body announced Friday.

The European brackets will have 16 teams — likely including four-time champion Italy — playing for four places at the tournament next June and July in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Six teams from outside Europe will play for two entries in the intercontinental playoffs that Mexico is expected to host. Bolivia and New Caledonia have already qualified.

All the playoffs games are scheduled March 26-31.

The six playoffs slots will be placeholders coming out of the lowest-ranked pot 4 in the World Cup draw on December 5 at the Kennedy Center

in Washington DC with U.S. President Donald Trump expected to attend.

FIFA said the playoffs brackets will be seeded using the next men's world rankings due to be published November 19.

The European playoffs will involve four separate brackets of four teams, playing single-game semifinals and finals. Teams enter by finishing runner-up in the 12 qualifying groups, plus four teams that won Nations League groups last year which shape to include Wales and Sweden.

The 12 winners of European qualifying groups that finish November 18, already including England, advance directly to the finals tournament.

The intercontinental playoffs see the four lowest-ranked teams paired in two single-game semifinals to advance to finals against the two top-ranked teams.

## Uthappa shines as India beat Pak by 2 runs in rain-affected Hong Kong Sixes game

PTI

Hong Kong, Nov 07: Robin Uthappa and Bharat Chipli played blazing knocks as India defeated Pakistan by two runs via DLS Method in a rain-affected Pool C match of the Hong Kong Sixes, on Friday. Uthappa smashed a quick-fire 28 off 11 balls and Chipli struck 24 (13b) as India posted 86/4 in six overs. Pakistan began the chase well, reaching 41/1 after three overs before heavy rain halted play. Once play was called off, the DLS calculation left Pakistan two runs short of the par score. Stuart Binny's economical spell, where he conceded seven runs and took a wicket, proved to be the difference. In Pool B, Australia cruised to a 10-wicket win over the UAE, chasing down a target of 88 in just three overs.

Jack Wood led the assault with a blistering 55 (11b), while Nick Hobson remained unbeaten on 26 (5b).

Afghanistan continued their strong form in Pool A, notching up a commanding 49-run win over South Africa, their second victory of the tournament.

Captain Gulbadin Naib struck a rapid 50 off 12 balls, while Karim Janat added an explosive 46 off 11 as Afghanistan posted 148/2 in six overs.

In reply, South Africa managed 99/2, falling well short of the target.

In Pool D, Bangladesh secured a 14-run victory over Sri Lanka.

Skipper Akbar Ali top-scored with 32 off 9 balls, but it was Mosaddek Hossain's 3/20 that turned the game in Bangladesh's favour, as they successfully defended 75, restricting Sri Lanka to 61/6. The defeat marked Sri Lanka's second consecutive loss in the tournament.

The match between Australia and England was abandoned due to rain.

## MOVIES Schedule

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> November

TICKETS AT

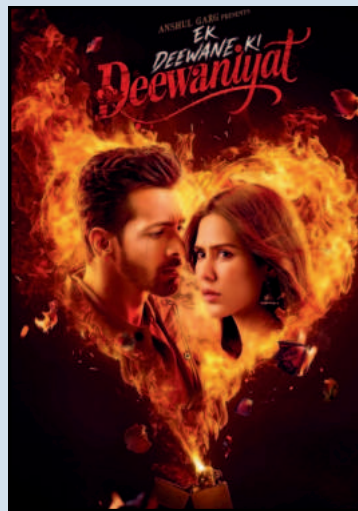
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THAMMA (UA16+)  
HINDI - 11:30 AM



HAQ (UA13+)  
HINDI - 03:50 PM, 06:40 PM



PREDATOR: BADLANDS (UA16+)  
3D ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
02:25 PM, 04:50 PM, 07:15 PM  
3D HINDI - 12:00 PM



OM SHANTI OM - RE RELEASE (U/A)  
HINDI - 12:20 PM