



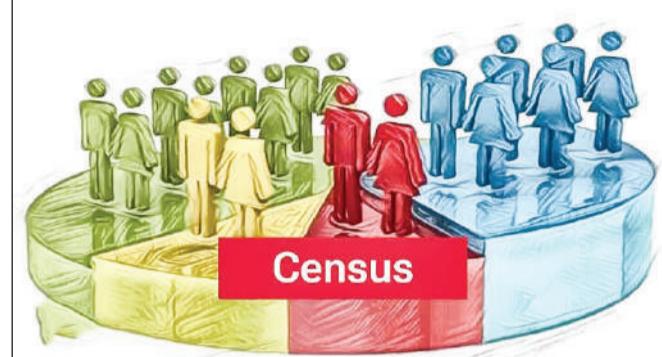
J&K gears up for Census 2027

- House listing operations planned between April & Sep
- Committee to be led by Chief Secretary
- Census will reveal population details for delimitation
- First-time enumeration of new tribal communities
- OCB data to inform reservation policies

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Jan 10: Jammu & Kashmir has geared up for Census 2027, with the Union Territory-level Census Coordination Committee expected to soon decide on a 30-day window for house listing operations (HLO) between April 1, 2026, and September 30, 2026.

Talking to news



agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Amit Sharma, Director of Census Operations and Director of Citizen Registration for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, said that Jammu & Kashmir is expected to decide shortly on the timeline for conducting house listing operations.

The census coordination committee will decide on a 30-day window between April 1 and September 30, 2026," he said, adding that house listing operations will be undertaken between June 1 and June 30 in Ladakh.

The UT level coordination committee for census is headed

by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo. It is expected to decide on a 30-day window for HLO in its next meeting.

Sharma explained that house listing operations constitute Phase 1 of the census exercise.

He further said that Phase 2—the population enumeration exercise—will be undertaken in September 2026 in snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir and in February 2027 in the plains of the Union Territory.

"The population enumeration exercise will be undertaken in September 2026 across Ladakh, keeping in view its classification

as a snow-bound region," he added.

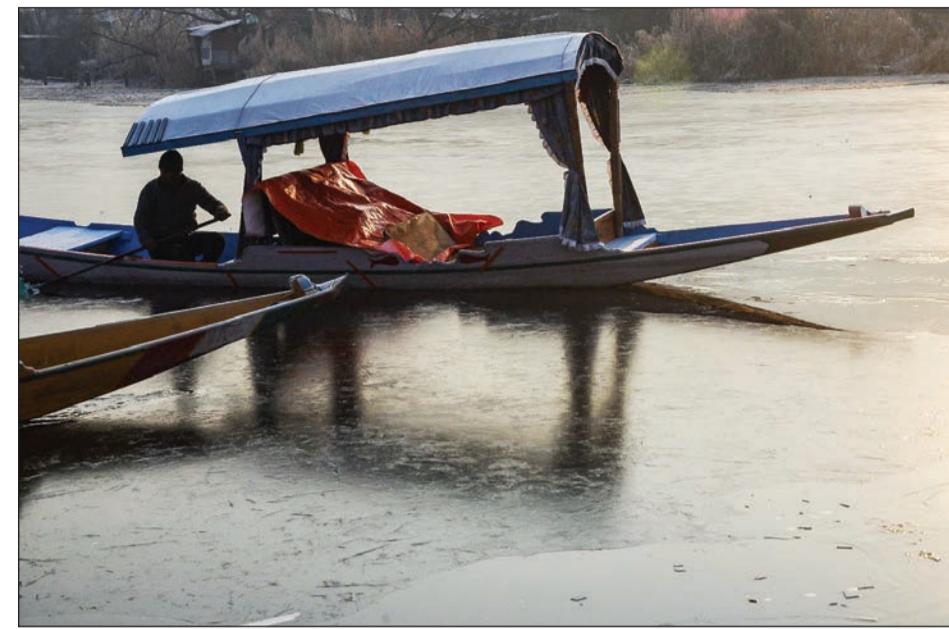
The census holds significance for Jammu & Kashmir for two reasons: it will reveal the exact population of reserved categories, and it will serve as the basis for the next delimitation of Assembly and Lok Sabha segments.

For the first time, the Papadis, Paddaris, Gadda Brahman, and Koli tribes—added to the Scheduled Tribe list of Jammu & Kashmir in 2024—will be enumerated as separate tribes.

The census will also provide data on Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in J&K for the first time.

According to details available with KNO, 20 castes/communities are included in the Central list of OBCs for J&K, while 41 are listed in the State (UT) list. In J&K, OBCs are entitled to 8 percent reservation in government jobs.

More importantly, the census will form the basis of the next delimitation of electoral constituencies in the Union Territory, as laid down in the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. The law | More on P6



Man rowing Shikara in Dal Lake on Saturday early morning. Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Cold wave prevails, Dal, Wular lakes freeze

- Drass remains coldest at -24.6°C
- Dense fog in Jammu
- No major weather activity till Jan 21

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Jan 10: A cold wave continued across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on

Friday, with several places recording sub-zero temperatures, while Dal Lake and Wular Lake froze at multiple spots on Saturday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Pulwama and Shopian recorded the lowest minimum temperatures at -8.0°C and -8.2°C respectively, slightly colder than Friday's readings of -7.5°C and -7.7°C.

Central Kashmir's Srinagar district recorded a minimum of -5.7°C, marginally warmer than -6.0°C recorded the previous day, while Qazigund saw a slight drop from -6.2°C to -6.3°C.

Famous tourist destination Pahalgam in South Kashmir recorded -7.8°C, down from -7.6°C on Thursday. Other areas, including Gulmarg (-6.8°C) and Sopore (-7.6°C), also remained in the sub-zero range. | More on P6

Troops intensify surveillance along IB, LoC in J&K

'Drone arms consignment recovered, suspicious pigeon caught, investigation on'

Sajid Raina

Samba/Akhnoor, Jan 10: Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have intensified vigilance along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) following multiple incidents raising concerns over cross-border smuggling.

The move, the officials said, aims to strengthen border security and prevent any attempts at infiltration or ceasefire violations during the holiday season.

Key frontier zones, including north Kashmir's Gurez, Uri,

Karnah, and Tangdar sectors, as well as critical areas in the Jammu region, are under intensified monitoring.

Along the IB, BSF personnel are carrying out continuous patrolling, digital surveillance, and other precautionary measures.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that troops are maintaining strict dominance over sensitive sectors and are ready to respond promptly to any security threats.

They said the Border Security Force (BSF) | More on P6

Over 72% of children under 5 in J&K are anaemic

Doctors say nutritional deficiency, inadequate diet, poor feeding practices after six months key reasons

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jan 10: Over 72% of children under the age of five are suffering from anaemia in Jammu and Kashmir, one of the highest rates in the country.

Experts warn that this alarming trend poses serious risks to the growth, immunity, and development of the region's youngest population.

As per the 'Children in

India 2025' report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), 72.7 per cent of children, including 73.9 male and 71.4 females, are anaemic in J&K which includes 73.5 per cent in rural areas and 70.1 per cent in urban areas.

Doctors termed it a serious public health concern. They explained that when a child is anaemic, their blood lacks enough healthy red blood cells or haemoglobin needed to carry oxygen throughout the body. This leads to fatigue, weakened immunity, delayed growth, impaired brain development, | More on P6

MLA discusses rehabilitation of calamity-hit families with LG

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 10: Baldev Raj Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi on Saturday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

He discussed the rehabilitation of families affected due to recent natural calamities in his constituency.



The MLA was accompanied by Saraf Singh Nag, Chairman, District Development Council Reasi.

Army commander reviews security measures at LoC in north Kashmir

PTI

Srinagar, Jan 10: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Saturday reviewed the security measures and the counter-infiltration grid along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir.

During the review, Sharma was briefed on counter-infiltration measures undertaken in hinterland areas to dominate the operational space, the Northern Command said in a post on X.

It said the Army commander emphasised the importance of a strong intelligence grid and close coordination with other security agencies for effective and timely response to emerging threats.

"He also visited the High Altitude Warfare School, Gulmarg, where he reviewed training activities with a particular focus on skill enhancement through incorporation of technology and innovation," the Northern Command said.

Meanwhile, Lt Gen Sharma also visited the Army Aviation Squadrons operating in Kashmir Valley. "These units are the backbone for the active formations in responding to emergency situations and provide logistics support to the troops deployed in inaccessible places," the Army said.

It said the Army commander also awarded the Northern Command Annual Flight Safety Trophy to two | More on P6

Police arrest 4 drug peddlers, seize contraband substance

Srinagar, Jan 10: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested four drug peddlers in Awantipora and Budgam; and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a police party led by SHP Police Station Awantipora arrested two drug peddlers during naka checking at Padgampora near the CRPF Camp. The accused have been identified as Mahasif Wani, son of Masrat Wani, resident of Fatehkal, Srinagar; and Sahil Khokhar, son of Mohd. Ashraf, resident of Pindobal Kokernag. During search, approximately 650 grams of Bung Chura were recovered from their possession. In Budgam, | More on P6

PRE-BUDGET MEET CM seeks stronger institutional support to address J&K's fiscal challenges

KNO Correspondent



2026-27. He emphasized the need for stronger institutional support to address J&K's fiscal challenges," reads a post on X handle of Chief Minister's Office.

The Union Budget for the fiscal year 2026-27 will be presented on February 1, 2026, which falls on a Sunday. This marks the first time in recent years that the Union Budget is presented on a Sunday.

The budget of Jammu and Kashmir | More on P6

Rajnath urges youths to embrace multidisciplinary learning

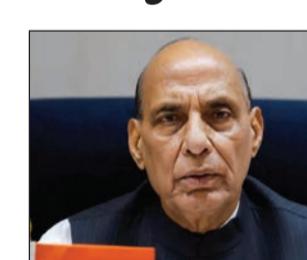
PTI

New Delhi, Jan 10: Youths are the main drivers of India's journey towards becoming a developed nation, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

The defence minister called upon the youths to embrace multidisciplinary learning to stay abreast with the rapid technological advancements, especially in fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing and space research.

Singh made the remarks during an interaction with 78 youths from Uttar Pradesh, who are participating in the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' in the national capital.

"The learning process never ends. You should learn from the latest practices, from your



and failure are what test a person's mettle, ultimately determining the future direction. "However, not being afraid doesn't mean taking problems lightly; it means we should face them with courage, wisdom and self-confidence," Singh said.

The defence minister also urged the youths not to view a challenge as a burden, but rather as an opportunity, which recognises and enhances one's capabilities.

"Easy paths often make us weak, while difficult paths make us strong, resilient and capable. Complaining doesn't solve a problem; finding a solution does," he said.

Self-confidence is the key, which isn't achieved from ego, but from hard work and integrity, he told the group.

"One | More on P6

Hindi connects communities, brings people together: UN on World Hindi Day

PTI

United Nations, Jan 10: Marking World Hindi Day on Saturday, the United Nations said the language connects communities and brings people together across borders.

"Saturday is World Hindi Day!" the UN said in a post on X with a greeting in Hindi.

"Today and every day, we celebrate Hindi as a language that connects communities and brings people together across borders," the world body said on Hindi Diwas.

WORLD HINDI DAY

10th JANUARY 2025



It also urged people to follow @UNinHindi for more updates on the UN's work.

In a first, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had issued his New Year's message

for the year 2026 in Hindi, among other languages.

Guterres' New Year message was issued in 11 languages, including the six official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish, as well as Hindi and Urdu. His video message on the occasion was issued with Hindi subtitles as well.

In 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and the UN Department of Global Communications establishing the 'Hindi@UN' | More on P6

104th SKOCH Summit in New Delhi

JKMSME health clinic conferred SKOCH Gold Award

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Jan 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (JKMSME) Health Clinic, a flagship initiative of the Industries and Commerce Department, J&K, has been conferred with the prestigious SKOCH Gold Award in recognition of its impactful implementation and transformative contribution to the MSME sector at 104th SKOCH Summit held in New Delhi.

The JKMSME Health Clinic initiative was conceptualised under the guidance

of the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, and is being implemented by the Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh. The award | More on P6

the supervision Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh. The award | More on P6

CS reviews Ayush expansion, pushes for new colleges, hospitals across J&K

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JANUARY 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Saturday chaired a review meeting to take stock of the progress achieved under the National Ayush Mission (NAM), with emphasis on service delivery, infrastructure creation and outreach initiatives aimed at strengthening Ayush-based healthcare across the districts of J&K.

Those who attended includes Secretary, H&ME; Principal, GMC Srinagar; Commissioner, FDA; Director, Health Kashmir/Jammu; Director, Ayush and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, was informed that all 523 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Ayush) across the UT have been fully operationalized since 31st March 2025. These centres are providing a wide range of Ayush wellness interventions and patient care services based on Ayush principles and practices.

Reviewing the status of infrastructure development, it was apprised that the 50-bedded Integrated Ayush Hospital at Chawalgam, Kulgam, has been completed and made fully operational. The hospital recorded an OPD footfall of 12,852 patients during 2024-25 and 5,546 patients during 2025-26 up to December 2025. An amount of Rs 105 lakh has been approved under SAAP 2025-26 for completion of allied works, including landscaping, herbal garden development and other facilities, besides manpower support.

The meeting was further informed that the 50-bedded Integrated Ayush Hospital at Billawar, Kathua, has achieved around 80 percent physical progress, with finishing works such as tiling and aluminum works underway. An allocation of Rs 70 lakh has been approved for construction of the boundary wall, and the project is



scheduled for completion by March 2026.

Similarly, the 10-bedded Integrated Ayush Hospital at Gadhi Garh, Jammu, has been made operational in the building of Sub-Centre Lower Gadhi Garh. OPD services at the facility have catered to 7,609 patients during 2024-25 and 4,713 patients during 2025-26 up to December 2025. An amount of Rs 122.50 lakh has been approved for construction of an additional block and engagement of manpower.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the implementation of Ayush Public Health Programmes, and it was reported that targets have been exceeded in several areas. Under the National Programme for Prevention and Management of Osteoarthritis and other Musculoskeletal Disorders, 62 units have been operationalized, with 59,628 people screened and 48,576 patients provided Ayush treatment.

Highlighting the performance the Director, Ayush, Dr Suresh Sharma apprised the meeting that under SUPRAJA, focusing on maternal and neonatal health, 33 units have been made functional, while 40 units each have been operationalized under AYURVIDYA for school health and KARUNYA for palliative care.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed progress in Ayush educational

institutions, including Government Ayurvedic, Unani and Homeopathic Medical Colleges. Academic activities, infrastructure strengthening, creation of teaching and non-teaching posts and approvals for new courses were discussed as part of the efforts to strengthen human resource capacity in Ayush systems.

Measures undertaken to enhance the visibility of Ayush in the UT were also highlighted. Large-scale IEC and BCC campaigns have been conducted across the districts of the UT, covering lakhs of beneficiaries through themes such as Har Ghar Ayush, Yoga and Meditation, Nasha Mukt Abhiyan, Aneemia Mukt Bharat, Poshan Abhiyan, Millets awareness and observance of Ayurveda Day. Digital and social media outreach, along with regular TV and radio interactions, have further amplified public engagement, the meeting was informed.

Discussing future plans, the meeting outlined proposals for establishment of Government Homeopathic Medical College at Kathua, setting up of 10/30/50-bedded Integrated Ayush Hospitals in remaining districts, establishment of a Government Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital in Baramulla, strengthening of Ayush public health programmes in all Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, and operationalization of tele-consultation services through e-Sanjeevani.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo emphasized timely completion of all ongoing projects, effective utilization of funds and further integration of Ayush services with the mainstream healthcare system. He reiterated that Ayush has a vital role in preventive, promotive and holistic healthcare, and directed the concerned to sustain momentum for ensuring accessible, affordable and people-centric Ayush healthcare services among the public.

On financial progress, it was informed that during 2024-25, an expenditure of over 71 percent was achieved under NAM. For 2025-26, funds amounting to Rs 37.31 Cr have been on-boarded through SNA-SPARSH, with significant releases already made to implementing agencies. Overall expenditure of over 80 percent is expected to be achieved by the end of March 2026.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed progress in Ayush educational

DC Srinagar distributes CSC biometric kits, micro ATMs to Krishi Udhayamis

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR | JANUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Saturday distributed CSC Biometric Kits and Micro ATMs among Krishi Udhayamis of Kisan Khidmat Ghars of the district under HADP in a function held here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex aimed to promote digital inclusion and enable seamless delivery of government services, financial transactions, and farmer welfare schemes at the village level.

The event, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Agriculture Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, District Programme Officer NRLM and other concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC underscored that the initiative would empower Krishi Udhayams of Srinagar district and significantly improve accessibility to digital and



financial services for farmers. He emphasized the importance of digital inclusion and doorstep delivery of citizen-centric services in the district.

The DC added that the distribution of biometric kits and micro ATMs will strengthen the Common Services Centre (CSC) ecosystem enabling Krishi Udhayamis to provide Aadhaar-based services, banking

facilities, and various government services to the public in an efficient and transparent manner.

The DC further highlighted that the initiative would enhance financial inclusion, promote transparency, generate self-employment opportunities and improve access to essential services for farmers and the general public.

PIB Srinagar holds media Vartalap on Viksit Bharat-GRAMG Act in Budgam

Viksit Bharat-GRAMG Act marks a paradigm shift in rural employment delivery: Director PIB

KT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, JANUARY 10: Press Information Bureau (PIB) Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Administration Budgam, organised a Media Workshop 'Vartalap' at Budgam Saturday to sensitise the media fraternity about the provisions, objectives and implementation framework of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025.

The programme, as per a PIB statement, was inaugurated by the District Development Commissioner Budgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. About 45 journalists from District Budgam participated in the day-long workshop.

Addressing the participants, the District Development Commissioner Budgam said that the role of media is critical in translating complex policy reforms into understandable information for the common people. He stated that well-informed reporting significantly contributes to transparency, accountability and effective implementation of government programmes at the grassroots level. He emphasised that the

Viksit Bharat-GRAMG Act, 2025 represents a transformative shift in rural employment policy and requires active engagement of the media to ensure that its objectives and benefits reach rural households in a timely and accurate manner. He also stressed the need for fact-based, development-oriented journalism, particularly in the context of welfare legislations impacting livelihoods and rural infrastructure.

In his welcome address, Director, Press Information Bureau Srinagar, Shri Qazi Salman highlighted the transformational shift and positive reforms introduced under the Viksit Bharat-GRAMG framework. He underlined the crucial role of the media in creating awareness about the Act and ensuring accurate dissemination of information to the public.

The workshop featured two technical sessions covering the operational aspects of the VB-GRAMG. Ms. Syed Jaa-sirah Syedain, Block Development Officer spoke about the various generic aspects and features of the scheme, while Shri

Tafheem Shah, Block Development Officer, discussed its various pillars and how the scheme is incorporating technological intervention. Each session was followed by an interactive question-and-answer segment, enabling meaningful engagement between journalists and resource persons Chief Planning Officer, District Bud-



gam, Shri Javaid Ahmad Najar said that the media needs to disseminate news that holistically benefits society at large. The media has to be considerate and help make the execution process more convenient, he added.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM KASHMIR

TRC, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.190001

Tel/Fax 0194-250227, 0194-250228. E-mail- dirtourism-kashmir@jk.gov.in

e-NIT No:- Accts/11/DTK

Dated: - 09.01.2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K (UT), e-tenders in Two (02) Cover system on items wise basis from Authorized Dealer / Suppliers Certified agencies by OEM for supply of Snow Mobiles to the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir having rate validity for 365 days as indicated in the detailed SCOPE OF WORK OR BoQ:-

S. No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (in Lakhs of Rs.)	Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Lakhs Rs)	Time of Completion	Position of Funds
01	Procurement of Snow Mobiles	100.00	8000/-	5.00	60 days	Approved

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (Scope of Work or BoQs), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded/deposited from/on the website <https://jkttenders.gov.in> as per the schedule given below:

01.	Date of Publication / downloading of tender Notice.	09.01.2026 (12:00 Noon)
02.	Last date of downloading of bidding documents.	26.01.2026 (3:00 PM)
04.	Bid submission start date	09.01.2026 (1:00 PM)
05.	Bid submission end date	26.01.2026 (4:00 PM)
06.	Date and time of opening of bids (Technical) on line.	27.01.2026 at 11:00 AM in the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir TRC - Srinagar
07.	Tender Inviting / Opening / Receiving Authority.	Director Tourism, Kashmir TRC - Srinagar
08.	Financial Bid Opening Date	To be decided. Shall be conveyed later on.
09.	Earnest Money (CDR/FDR/BG) for an amount mentioned above pledged to	To be pledged in favor of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir payable at Srinagar, Kashmir in shape of CDR/FDR/BG from any Nationalized Bank. Note: Submission of Tender Fee and EMD is mandatory. No exemption shall be given.

COVER-I SHALL CONTAIN COPIES OF FOLLOWING:

1. Tender Fee	Tender fee in the shape of treasury receipt deposited in treasury under Major Head 1452-Tsm Miscellaneous Revenue of Accounts Officer, Director Tourism, Kashmir TRC - Srinagar "OR" In the shape of e-challan/e-receipt: Bank: J&K Bank Ltd.; Branch: International Banking Division TRC Srinagar; IFSC Code: JAKA0INTDIV; Account No: 12370102000000006. DD from any nationalized bank in favor of Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir payable at Srinagar, Kashmir
2. Earnest Money Deposit	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir TRC - Srinagar. The EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be released immediately after opening the financial bid. In case of successful bidder; EMD shall be released after the submission of performance guarantee. Submission of Tender Fee and EMD is mandatory. No exemption shall be given. Original Equipment Manufacturers or their Authorized Dealers/Suppliers
3. Eligibility	Documentary proof of Bidder or their principles having experience of successful completion of supply of similar equipment to the value not less than 80% of tender in last Five financial years anywhere in India or abroad in Govt./Semi Govt. or Public/Private Sector undertakings. The Bidder shall also submit the client list /Experience Certificates/Previous similar Orders if any.
4. Experience	GST Registration / latest GST Clearance Certificate or Acknowledgment of latest returns. Average Annual financial turnover of the bidder for the last three years 2024 – 25, 2023-24 and 2022 – 23 should be not less than Rs 100.00 lacs duly certified by registered Chartered Accountant. Turnover certificate without UDIN shall not be entertained.
5. GST registration	Accepted copy of Annexure-“A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, “E” & “F” duly signed and stamped.
6. Turnover Certificate.	Technical brochure of the equipment offered depicting relevant specifications/makes/Pictures should be attached.
7. Annexure “A” to “F”	An amount equivalent to 05% of the value of the Contract shall be submitted by the successful bidder before release of the EMD as “Performance Guarantee” in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Accounts Officer, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir TRC – Srinagar and shall be released after completion of the contract.
8. Technical brochure	
11. Performance Guarantee	

COVER-II SHALL CONTAIN:

- The Price Bid (Scope of Work or BoQ) Instruction to bidders
 - The prices shall be inclusive of all taxes (direct or indirect), levies, duties, custom duty, freight, insurance, GST etc. FOR to be conveyed later on in supply order and shall include all charges and incidentals for successful commissioning.
 - The Price shall remain valid for a period of 365 days from the date of execution of Rate Contract.
 - The complete bidding process will be online.
 - The earnest money shall be forfeited in case any bidder withdraws during the period of bid validity or the firm/contractor fails to execute the agreement after fixation of the Contract.
 - Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the “Downloads” option as well as from “Bidders Manual Kit” on website <https://jkttenders.gov.in>
- No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents of pre-qualifications. However self-attested copies of same shall be submitted physically in the office of the Director Tourism, Kashmir TRC - Srinagar.
- Any uploaded tender furnishing tampered/false information shall be rejected as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract, besides the firm may also be penalized for such action.
- Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders may contact office of the undersigned for any guidance for e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in Scope of Work or BoQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. The Scope of Work or BoQ downloaded should be used for filing the item rate and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

DIPK-9917/25

Dated: 10-01-2026

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
DoT, Kashmir-TRC

No.: Accts/11/DTK Date: 09-01-2026

Robust security for R-Day: SSP Sopore

Warns of strict action against VPN usage

KNO

Sopore, Jan 10: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sopore Iftikhar Talib on Saturday said that security arrangements ahead of Republic Day are being finalised to ensure smooth celebrations across the police district.

SSP Talib said the police, along with the civil administration, are finalising the arrangements for January 26. The main function will be at Khusht Stadium. He urged people to attend the event in large numbers.

Speaking on the sidelines of a sports event, the SSP also warned against unauthorised VPN usage. He said the



district administration has banned VPN use, and the authorities are strictly implementing it.

"Any violations will be dealt with seriously. We have already initiated action against identified individuals using VPNs," he said.

Talib added that the

ongoing efforts to engage youth would continue throughout 2026. "We don't want to be just a law enforcement agency; engagement and public outreach are our aim. That's why we are organising events, be it sports, cultural, or any other," he said. —(KNO)

DC Kathua reviews bunker construction works

KT NEWS DESK

Kathua, Jan 10: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the progress of construction of bunkers being taken up in border areas of the district.

The meeting focused on assessing the status of ongoing works, identifying bottlenecks and ensuring timely completion of the remaining bunkers.

The DC was informed that, against a total of 802 bunkers taken up in Kathua district, including 717 individual and 85 community bunkers, as many as 796 bunkers have been completed so far. At present, only six bunkers are under execution including one community bunker and five individual bunkers, while the rest have



already been completed and handed over.

The DC stressed the need for expediting the pace of work on the remaining bunkers and directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure completion of all target bunkers by the end of January 2026. He emphasized that the safety and security of border residents remains a top priority of the administration and any

avoidable delay in completion of the works will not be tolerated.

The DC also called upon the XEN REW to clear all pending financial liabilities in a time-bound manner so that the works are completed smoothly without any resource constraints. He directed officers to maintain close coordination at the field level and conduct regular monitoring

to ensure adherence to timelines and quality standards.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Vishayjeet Singh; Chief Planning Officer, Ranjit Thakur; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Vishav Partap Singh; Block Development Officers of Marheen and Hiranagar, besides other concerned officers.

Kishore chairs DHS meet to review DHAP 2026-27

KT NEWS DESK

Ganderbal, Jan 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, who is also Chairman District Health Society (DHS) to discuss District Health Action Plan (DHAP) for the year 2026-27.

The meeting was convened to review and approve the District Health Action Plan (DHAP) for the year 2026-2027, aimed at strengthening the delivery of quality, accessible, and equitable health services across the district.

Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal through a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the proposed DHAP 2026-27 highlighted key health priorities, sector-wise proposed interventions, physical and financial planning, human resource requirements, infrastructure strengthening, and priority health programmes under NHM, besides budgetary



requirements for the district. The presentation also emphasized focus areas such as Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC), Non-Communicable Diseases, Maternal and Child Health, Disease Surveillance, National Health Programmes, and capacity building of health institutions.

After detailed deliberations, the DC emphasized the need for strengthening health service delivery and issued directions to achieve the desired goals

enhance the budget under certain priority activities to ensure better outreach, quality of care, and effective implementation of NHM programmes across the district.

He stressed for effective inter-departmental coordination, timely implementation, optimal utilization of resources to achieve tangible improvements in health indicators and close monitoring of all approved activities to achieve the desired goals

under NHM.

The meeting was attended by all members of the District Health Society, including Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat/Development, Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal, Medical Superintendents of District and Sub-District Hospitals, Block Medical Officers, officials of DPMU Ganderbal, and other concerned stakeholders.

Sagar calls for comprehensive arrangements for Shab-e-Meraj

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Jan 10: The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference General Secretary and MLA Khanyar Ali Mohammad Sagar on Saturday called upon the divisional administration to make comprehensive and meticulous arrangements for the upcoming Shab-e-Meraj.

The religious observance, which is one of the holiest nights in the Islamic calendar, holds immense significance for Muslims, marking the miraculous night journey and ascension of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In a statement issued on Saturday, Sagar emphasized the need for the local administration to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place to accommodate the spiritual needs of the people during this important occasion. He highlighted the significance of providing adequate security, lighting, and sanitation services at major prayer sites, mosques, and



shrines across the region. The safety and well-being of the public, particularly during the late-night hours, should be a priority, he added.

Sagar further called for the deployment of necessary medical teams and ambulances at key locations to handle any medical emergencies that may arise. He also urged the administration to ensure the smooth flow of traffic and take preventive measures to avoid any inconveniences to

the devotees. He stressed the importance of maintaining peace and harmony during this sacred occasion, urging citizens to unite in their prayers for the well-being of the people and the region.

Sagar appealed to the administration to work proactively, coordinating with relevant authorities to make the upcoming Shab-e-Meraj peaceful and spiritually fulfilling occasion for all.

Satoora residents demand smart meter installation

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Pulwama, Jan 10: Residents of Satoora, Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday staged a protest against what they termed as an "unjust and arbitrary" hike in electricity tariffs.

Protesters alleged that their monthly power bills have increased nearly fourfold over the past one year.

They assembled in the area, raising slogans and demanding immediate installation of electricity meters to ensure fair billing.

The protesters said that despite consuming the same amount of electricity, their bills have witnessed a steep and unexplained rise, pushing many households—especially daily wagers and economically weaker families—into financial distress.

"We used to receive electricity bills ranging between Rs 400 to Rs 600, but now the same households are being charged Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,000 without



any justification," said a local resident. "How can poor families afford such inflated bills when there has been no increase in usage?"

They said that if PDD is going to increase tariff as per its will then they must install meters in the area so that people can use power as per their will and submit fee accordingly.

Women residents also expressed concern over the growing burden on household finances. "Electricity has become a luxury for us. Either we pay the bills or manage basic necessities. The government keeps talking about relief for the poor, but on the ground

we are being crushed by rising tariffs," said a woman protester.

The residents warned that if their demands are not addressed, they would intensify their agitation. "We are not against paying bills, but they should be based on actual consumption. Install meters and charge us fairly," another local said.

Meanwhile, the protesters urged the district administration to intervene immediately, stating that unchecked tariff hikes without proper metering are breeding resentment and hardship among the people of Satoora Tral.—(KNO)

Jammu division canals closing on Jan-15 for maintenance

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Jan 10: All major canals of Jammu province including Ranbir Canal, New Partap Canal, Kathua Canal and their distribution networks along with the Tawi Lift Irrigation Canal and Ravi Canal (including their distribution networks) shall be closed from January 15, 2026 for annual desilting and maintenance work.

Official communiqués received from Chief Engineers of Irrigation & Flood Control and Ravi Tawi Irrigation Departments stated that "As per consent conveyed by the Director, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu (Letter No: Agri/DAJ/Dev-32/2025-26/7583 dated 06-01-2026), all major canals of Jammu division shall be closed from January 15, 2026. The date for opening of canals shall be notified separately. All the concerned Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers have been directed to complete works before the scheduled reopening of the canals".

Week long management development programme concludes in Udhampur
KT News Desk
Udhampur, Jan 10: Jammu



& Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Udhampur, has successfully concluded the 5th batch of the Management Development Programme (MDP-V) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance RAMP initiative of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

As many as 20 participants were registered for the programme, out of which 18 candidates successfully completed the training.

The batch witnessed strong female participation, with 14 women entrepreneurs taking part, reflecting growing inclusivity and enhanced engagement of women in entrepreneurial development

across the district. The programme was designed to strengthen business management competencies, enhance operational efficiency and build resilient entrepreneurial capabilities.

Participants were equipped with practical skills and strategic insights aimed at supporting sustainable enterprises and contributing to the growth of the local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

JKEDI continues to play a pivotal role in promoting entrepreneurship and empowering aspiring and existing entrepreneurs through structured capacity-building programmes across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

JKBOSE notifies date-sheet for Class 10

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Jan 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has notified the date-sheet for Class 10 Annual/ Regular, 2026 (Feb-Mar session) of Jammu Division (summer zone), scheduling the examination from February 17 from 10 AM to 1 PM.

In all, nearly 51,000 students from Jammu Division are taking up the examination.

As per the date-sheet, the examination will commence on February 17 for Mathematics.

The Hindi/ Urdu papers have been scheduled on February 21 and English subject on February 25 followed by Social Science on March 2 and in between Computer Science paper will be held on February 19 and Home Science on February 27.

The examination for Science subject has been scheduled on March 6.

The examination will conclude on March 10 on which vocational subjects are scheduled. In between, subjects with smaller number of candidates like Music on March 5, Painting/Art and Drawing on March 7 whereas additional/ optional subjects including Dogri/Sanskrit/Arabic/ Kashmiri/Bhoti/Punjabi/Hindi/ Urdu/Persian have been scheduled on March 9.

The J&K BOSE has urged students to prepare seriously for the examinations while renewing its commitment to conduct the examinations in observance of high standards of transparency.

ACB arrests Patwari in bribery case



KNO

Srinagar Jan 10: Acting on a complaint, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday said it has arrested a Patwari from Budgam for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of rupees 10,000 / 30,000 for issuance of a revenue extract and bank lien certificate.

According to a statement, the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau received a written complaint wherein the complainant has alleged that he had applied before the concerned Revenue authorities for issuance of Revenue extract and bank lien certificate for the said property situated at Rakh Soothi BK Pora for Bank Guarantee. For getting these documents he approached the concerned patwari of Halqa Rakh Soothi, namely Riyaz Ahmad Khan, but instead of processing the case in due manner, the concerned patwari demanded bribe of rupees 10,000 / 30,000 before he would prepare and provide the required documents.

The statement reads, the complainant, stating that he is against corruption, has approached ACB Srinagar seeking legal action against the accused official. On receipt of the complaint, discreet verification was conducted, which confirmed the demand of bribe by the accused public servant.

"Accordingly, Case FIR No. 02/2026 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up. During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted which laid a successful trap and caught the accused Riyaz Ahmad Khan, Patwari Halqa Rakh Soothi, Budgam red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of 10,000 from the complainant."

It reads, after completing all necessary medico-Legal formalities, the accused Public Servant was taken into custody. Further investigation is going on.—(KNO)

YEAR-END REVIEW

WCD Ministry's 2025: 9 Crore On Poshan Tracker, 1515 Helpline, And A Drive Against Child Marriage

The Ministry of Women and Child Development presents its comprehensive review of achievements and initiatives for 2025. The Ministry continues its mission to empower women and children, ensuring inclusive development, safety, and well-being. Below are the detailed account of its flagship missions and their impact.

Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0: Strengthening India's Nutrition

Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0—integrating Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls—has benefited over 8.69 crore pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and children as on 30th November 2025.

Strengthening Anganwadi Infrastructure & Service Delivery

A total of 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) has been approved for upgradation as Saksham Anganwadi under Mission Poshan 2.0. Out of these, 94,077 Anganwadi Centres have been upgraded with improved infrastructure including LED screens.

Under PM JANMAN, in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) areas, 2,500 AWCs have been sanctioned. Out of these, 2,326 AWCs are operational. Recently, Hon'ble President awarded MWCD as one of the best performing Ministries for their outstanding contribution to the implementation of the PM-JANMAN.

Through convergence under the DAJUA initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 875 Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned. Out of these, 455 Anganwadi Centres are currently operational, benefiting 27,785 tribal beneficiaries.

Digital Governance & Data-Driven Monitoring through Poshan Tracker

Poshan Tracker application, a governance tool for Anganwadi was launched in March 2021, enables 360-degree view and real-time monitoring of service delivery, Anganwadi infrastructure and tracking of supplementary nutrition for improving the nutritional status of beneficiaries, including pregnant women, lactating mothers and children (0-6 years) at Anganwadi Centres.

More than 9 Crore beneficiaries registered in Poshan Tracker

Around 8 Crore: Children monitored monthly growth (height and weight)

14 Lakh: Anganwadi Centers connected

24: Languages supported by the app

Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024 under the Innovation (Centre) category

Poshan Tracker application supports daily and monthly activities for AWWs such as opening of Anganwadi Centre (AWC) and attendance tracking, distribution of Hot Cooked Meals (HCM) & Take-Home Ration, daily instructional videos and voiceovers for ECCE activities and creation of ABHA ID / APAAR ID etc.

Beneficiary/Citizen Empowerment: The Poshan Tracker beneficiary/Citizen module allows citizens to apply for registration to access anganwadi services at the nearest AWC.

Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan

Launched on 26 December 2024 by Hon'ble PM to identify and reward 1,000 high-performing Panchayats demonstrating excellence in nutrition security, infrastructure and malnutrition outcomes.

Utilises Poshan Tracker-backed benchmarking and cross-State peer review to drive healthy competition towards a "malnutrition-free Bharat."

Nutrition Outreach & Behaviour Change at Scale

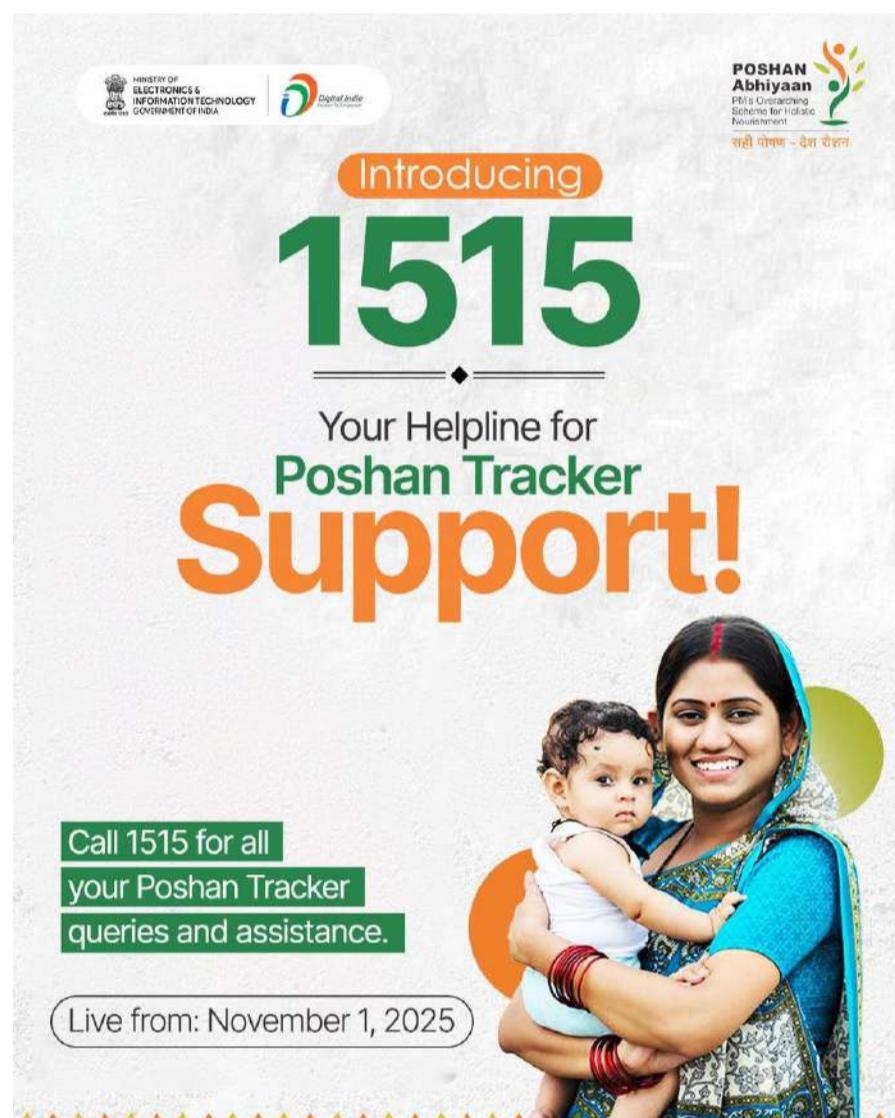
8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 17 September 2025 from Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, under Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan.

A total of 14.33 crore activities were conducted nationwide in convergence with more than 20 Ministries.

Under the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan & 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah, Rs. 450 crores transferred to 15 lakh plus women in a single day for the PMMVY beneficiaries in DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode.

Strengthening ECCE through Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi

In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Ministry is committed to transforming AWCs into vibrant early learning spaces. Under the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi initiative, 8,55,728 AWWs and 41,645 SLMTs have been trained by December 2025 have



been trained. The Aadharshila (0-3 years) and Navchetana (3-6 years) curricula have been adopted across the country and have been translated into 12 regional languages.

Digital learning enablement has been strengthened through the Poshan Tracker, which records over 2.56 crore preschool activities every month and provides daily learning prompts for AWWs.

On 3rd September 2025, the Ministry issued Guidelines for Co-location of Anganwadis with Schools to facilitate convergence with the school ecosystem, with 2.9 lakh AWCs within school premises.

Helpline Number- 1515

The Ministry has set up a toll-free Helpline as a dedicated grievance-redressal mechanism under PM CARES, Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, and PMMVY. The call centre manages inbound complaints, feedback, and technical issues from beneficiaries and Anganwadi workers, and conducts outbound follow-up calls. Grievances are resolved either by Call Centre Executives or escalated to the concerned AWW/ Supervisor/CDPO for timely action.

Facial Recognition System (FRS) in PMMVY: Mandatory biometric verification through facial authentication has been introduced from May 21, 2025, for all new enrolments under PMMVY. The FRS system has been widely accepted by all States and Union Territories. Since the introduction of this feature, 17.82 lakh beneficiaries (till 17.11.2025) have been enrolled after biometric verification through FRS.

Mission Shakti: Safety, Dignity & Empowerment of Women

1025 One Stop Centres OSCs have been approved while 865 are (OSCs) operational; 12.67 lakh women assisted

Women Helpline 181 integrated with ERSS-112 across 35 States/UTs; 93.48 lakh women supported.

Mission Shakti Mobile App is functional on both iOS and Android platform.

Under PMMVY (Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna), 4.26 crore beneficiaries received 20,060 crore in maternity benefits through DBT mode.

411 Shakti Sadan Homes and 531 Sakhi Niwas (erstwhile Working Women Hostel) functional nationwide.

10 years celebrating of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: The Ministry has marked the 10th anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme from January 22 to March 8, 2025, culminating on International Women's Day. A decade of advancing protection, education, and empowerment of girls. The milestone aligns with India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and the shift toward Women-Led Development.

She Box Portal: To strengthen workplace safety and ensure effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (SH Act), the Ministry launched the Sexual Harassment electronic Box (She-Box) on August 29, 2024. This significant initiative of the Government of India provides a single-window access for women across all sectors, organized or unorganized, private or public to register complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace. By providing a secure, confidential and user-friendly platform, She-Box empowers women to report incidents without fear. It plays a vital role in enhancing women's participation in the workforce by ensuring safer, more accountable workplaces and fostering a culture of transparency. The portal also serves as a repository of information about Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) across the country. The portal is available in 22 languages including Hindi and in English. As on 05.01.2026, over 1, 30,000 workplaces have on boarded (Public and private sector) and details of more than 50,000 ICs have been updated. Also, details of the LCs of all 777 districts are available on the portal.

The Ministry observes the 16 Days of Action from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day) with impactful activities aimed at addressing gender-based violence through a participatory and collaborative approach in which all the institutions under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development and diverse stakeholders actively participate. Every year, the Ministry collaborates with various institutions for the purpose; one major collaboration is with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) through Nayi Chetna, a national campaign on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment led by the Women Self Help Groups. This year the fourth edition of Nayi Chetna 4.0 has been held from 25 November to 22 December 2025. The initiative reaffirms the Ministry's commitment to preventing and eliminating gender-based violence.

Mission Vatsalya: Strengthening Child Protection & Care

Mission Vatsalya Portal operational as a unified workspace for all child welfare systems. CARINGS adoption platform integrated with MV Portal to enhance adoption processes.

Technical Training of Master Trainers on Mission Vatsalya Portal has taken place at 5 locations viz: Delhi, Bangalore, Guwahati, Bhopal and Lucknow for various stakeholders working in the child protection system. A total of 303 Master Trainers has been trained in all 36 States/UTs.

Child Helpline operational across all 36 States/UTs, integrated with ERSS-112 for emergency response. As on 01.01.2026, installation completed in 728 districts, enabling a unified national child response mechanism.

The MoWCD partnered with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) and develop an online training module - available on the KARMAVYOGI IGOT for strengthening implementation of child rights with a special focus on the Juvenile Justice Act in India. As on 31.12.2025, a total of 37,242 stakeholders has enrolled for the course and 19,728 have successfully completed it.

Campaigns

PMRBP – Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar-2025:

The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) is one of India's most prestigious national honours, conferred annually by the Government of India to recognize children who have demonstrated exceptional excellence and extraordinary talent at a young age.

The PMRBP-2025 ceremony was held on 26th December 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where the awards were graciously conferred by the Hon'ble President of India. This distinguished event celebrated the remarkable achievements of young achievers whose dedication and perseverance have inspired the nation.

In 2025, 20 outstanding children from 18 States and Union Territories were selected for this esteemed honour. These young role models were recognized for their exceptional contributions across diverse fields, including

- Ministry of Women and Child Development continues its mission to empower women and children, ensuring inclusive development, safety, and well-being
- More than 9 Crore beneficiaries registered in Poshan Tracker
- Out of 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres approved for upgradation as Saksham Anganwadis, 94,077 Anganwadi Centres upgraded with improved infrastructure including LED screens
- Under PMMVY, 4.26 crore beneficiaries received 20,060 crore in maternity benefits through DBT mode
- MWCD awarded as one of the best performing Ministries for outstanding contribution to implementation of PM-JANMAN
- 14.33 crore activities conducted nationwide in 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah
- To further improve accessibility, short code for PM CARES, Poshan, and PMMVY Helpline changed from 14408

Bravery, Art & Culture, Environment, Social Service, Science & Technology, and Sports.

The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar not only acknowledges the extraordinary accomplishments of these children but also serves as a beacon of inspiration, encouraging young minds across the country to pursue excellence, innovation, and service to society.

Veer Bal Diwas-2025: Veer Baal Diwas is celebrated with great reverence in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The occasion marked a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of young heroes. The Prime Minister interacts with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees and addresses a nationwide audience of students and children through a live webcast, making the event a memorable and impactful celebration of youthful bravery and valor. The Prime Minister interacts with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees and addresses a nationwide audience of students and children through a live webcast, making the event a memorable and impactful celebration of youthful bravery and valor. The Prime Minister interacts with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees and addresses a nationwide audience of students and children through a live webcast, making the event a memorable and impactful celebration of youthful bravery and valor.

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Sakeena Itoo felicitates ISKOI Karate medallists in Udhampur

Takes stock of developmental issues, grievances

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, JANUARY 10: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday conducted an extensive tour of far-flung areas of Tehsil Panchari of District Udhampur and felicitated the winners of 6th ISKOI India Karate Championship-2025 during an impressive medal ceremony held at Government Higher Secondary School, Panchari here.

Mission Director, POSHAN, Sajad Ahmad Ganai; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Ranjeet Singh; Director Health Services Jammu; Director Colleges, PO Poshan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Joint Director School Education Udhampur -Reasi, DDC Member Panchari, other district officers, parents of medal winners and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering,



the Minister, as per an official statement, congratulated the girl achievers, their parents and the local populace on the remarkable accomplishment of young girls. She lauded their dedication, discipline and fighting spirit and expressed pride in the fact that many of these medal winners hailed from far-flung and remote areas, overcoming limited resources and challenging circumstances, to bring laurels to Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister Sakeena said that the achievements of these young girl sportspersons reflect their hard work and their

parents as well as the growing sports culture in the region. "Your success proves that talent knows no geographical barriers. With determination and proper guidance, our youth can excel on any national and international platform," she stated.

Highlighting the importance of sports, the Minister said that sporting activities provide a common platform for budding sportspersons to showcase their talent and prepare them to face challenges in life. She urged the participants to actively engage in sports for physical fitness, mental well-being and overall personality development. She

assured continued government support for promoting sports activities, especially in rural and far-flung areas, to ensure equal opportunities for talented players.

She also lauded the efforts of the International Shito-Ryu Karate Organisation of India for promoting sports culture among youth, especially in rural areas.

During the ceremony, the Minister interacted with the players, coaches and parents, appreciating the role of coaches and families in nurturing young talent. She encouraged the medal winners to continue their training and aim for greater achievements at national and international competitions.

During the ceremony, as many as 47 medal winners of the 6th ISKOI India Karate championship-2025 were felicitated by the Minister and presented trophies and prizes to them.

On the sidelines of the event, Sakeena Itoo later distributed school bags and umbrellas under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.

Later, the Minister also interacted with DDC Member Panchari, former PRI members

and locals who projected several issues and demands pertaining to health, education, road and other sector before the Minister.

While interacting with them, the Minister said that the Director Health Services Jammu has been given strict instructions to prepare a holistic plan for upgradation of medical care facilities at the PHC Panchari as well as addressing shortage of staff, owing to the remoteness of area from district head quarters. She further added that the maintenance of road and allied works will be taken up with concerned quarters for immediate redressal.

She reaffirmed that the Government led by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah is committed to strengthen road connectivity, health infrastructure and other essential facilities to ensure every basic service is available at the doorsteps of common people.

She also said that the Tourism potential of the Panchari area will be tapped to its full extent by the Government, which will eventually lead to overall development of the area and add to its economic efficiency.

DC Kulgarn approves 73 new cases in 5th DLIC meeting



KT News Desk

KULGAM, JANUARY 10: To review the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Urban 2.0 in the district, a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) was Saturday convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kulgarn, Athar Aamir Khan, at the Mini-Secretariat, Kulgarn.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, undertook a comprehensive appraisal of the scheme's implementation across the Municipal Council Kulgarn and the three Municipal Committees of the district.

During the 5th DLIC meeting, 73 new cases were cleared. These included 58 cases under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component and 15 cases under the Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) component.

With this approval, a cumulative total of 451 cases have been cleared so far under PMAY-U 2.0 in the district, comprising 412 cases under BLC and 39 cases under AHP.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to the scheme guidelines so that all genuine and eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas of the district are covered under the programme.

DC Srinagar reviews rollout of key citizen-centric health schemes

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the progress and implementation of various key citizen-centric health programmes in the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; Medical Superintendents of SKIMS, JLN Hospital, SMHS Hospital and CD Hospital, District Tuberculosis Officer and all Zonal Medical Officers of Srinagar district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive review of key health indicators with respect to progress of the enrolment of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs, the status of enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under the Ayushman Vay Vandhana Yojana and the implementation of Tuberculosis (TB) control and surveillance measures in the population.

The DC also reviewed the status of enrolment of eligible senior citizens under the Ayushman Vay Vandhana Yojana and emphasised swift enrolment to enable senior citizens to avail the benefits of free and cashless healthcare services. He directed Zonal Medical Officers and other concerned officials to coordinate closely with field staff to



the generation of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs, the DC stressed the need for accelerating enrolment to ensure seamless digital health records and improved access to healthcare services. He directed the concerned officers to intensify awareness campaigns and ensure maximum coverage, particularly among vulnerable sections of the population.

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ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out.

Further, the DC underscored the importance of strengthening tuberculosis (TB) control measures and directed health functionaries to intensify surveillance, early detection, and treatment efforts in line with national health goals. He also laid stress on promoting preventive healthcare practices through mass awareness and urged the department to maintain close coordination with other departments to strengthen healthcare delivery and improve outreach at the grassroots level.

The DC also emphasised the need to improve patient care facilities and ensure the adequate availability of medicines and diagnostic services in all health institutions across the district.

DC Bandipora reviews healthcare service delivery in Gurez

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning of healthcare institutions and the delivery of essential services in Sub-Division Gurez, with particular focus on preparedness during the ongoing winter season.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the status of healthcare infrastructure, availability of manpower, and overall service delivery. Emphasis was laid on the effective and optimal utilization of available resources to further strengthen healthcare services and ensure uninterrupted patient care during winter.

The review covered key aspects including the functioning of health facilities, availability of ambulances, oxygen support systems, diagnostic services, operation theatres, and Ayushman Bharat counters were reviewed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of ongoing works being executed by the Executive Engineer R&B Gurez, and assessed the preparedness of the Mechanical Engineering

Division, Gurez, to meet winter exigencies. She was informed that snow clearance machinery had been kept in readiness and that adequate stocks of fuel, lubricants, generators, and firewood had been ensured to maintain essential services during adverse weather conditions.

Emphasizing the importance of patient-friendly healthcare services and uninterrupted delivery of essential facilities amid the ongoing winter season, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to maintain a high level of preparedness and ensure timely, accessible, and quality healthcare services for the people of Gurez.

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DC Bandipora chairs MDMC meeting on environmental aspects of Kishanganga HE project

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Saturday chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Committee to review environmental aspects related to the Kishanganga Hydroelectric (HE) Project.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, emphasized that all concerned departments should keep comprehensive plans ready for future allocation of funds and ensure that available resources are utilized judiciously and effectively. Detailed discussions were held on various mitigation measures aimed at addressing environmental and livelihood impacts arising from the project.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Agriculture Department, in coordination with other allied departments, to assess baseline data to ascertain department-wise losses and impacts. It was further stressed that the district is considering engaging experts for project

formulation to ensure scientific assessment and credible analysis.

The meeting also stressed the importance of coordinated data sharing. Departments including IWMP, Horticulture, Social Forestry, Irrigation & Flood Control, Animal Husbandry, Divisional Forest Office, Agriculture, Fisheries and Wildlife were directed to share baseline data pertaining to the project, particularly with regard to impacted revenue villages, catchment areas, conservation measures and other affected parameters.

The Deputy Commissioner underlined that accurate baseline and impact data would form the foundation for effective mitigation planning and sustainable environmental management related to the Kishanganga HE Project.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ACD Bandipora, ACP Bandipora, CAO Bandipora, CHO Bandipora, Project Officer IWMP Bandipora, ExEn I&FC Bandipora, representatives of Social Forestry, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Wildlife Departments.



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DC Kupwara reviews NRLM implementation



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, JANUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse conducted a comprehensive review meeting Saturday to evaluate the implementation and progress of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) throughout the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed NRLM interventions across all Community Development Blocks, with particular focus on the institutional fortification of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), promotion of livelihoods, establishment of credit linkages, capacity enhancement, and synergy with allied departments.

The District Programme Manager (DPM), NRLM, delivered a detailed presentation on performance metrics, informing that the Mission has encompassed 68,638 rural households via a robust institutional architecture comprising 8,316 SHGs, 684 Village Organisations (VOs), and 53 Cluster Level Federations (CLFs).

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a thorough block-wise evaluation of bank linkage advancement, credit disbursal to SHGs, physical accomplishments, identification of prospective Lakhpatti Didis, development of Agri-Nutri Gardens, and constitution of Producer Groups. He directed concerned officers to rectify deficiencies

in capitalization and guarantee prompt credit provision to all qualifying SHGs.

Achievements under Lakhpatti Didis initiative were also discussed. He also directed optimal utilisation of Community Mobilization and Training Centres (CMTCs).

Pending matters at banks were scrutinized, with directions to financial institutions to resolve them on utmost priority. NRLM officials were instructed to enhance collaboration with banking entities for seamless credit facilitation.

Convergence with line departments including Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Horticulture as well as with Mission Yuva was reviewed, advocating intensified integration. He also directed special focus in vibrant villages. Coverage under different social security schemes and mobilisation of SHG members in Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was also discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Mufti Fareed ud Din; Chief Planning Officer; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; Lead District Manager; District Sheep Husbandry Officer; Assistant Director Fisheries; Employment Officer; District Programme Manager; and Block Programme Managers (BPMs) of NRLM.

DLSA Srinagar holds awareness programme on child marriage



KT News Desk

Srinagar, January 10: District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar organised an awareness programme at Gandbal, Dhara, Srinagar, aimed at sensitizing the local population on critical social and legal issues of Child Marriage.

The programme, as per an official statement issued on Saturday, was conducted under the aegis of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority as part of the nationwide 100-day intensive awareness campaign "Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat", launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

The campaign seeks to strengthen legal awareness, outreach and rapid preventive intervention mechanisms

at the grassroots level, in consonance with the ASHA (Awareness, Support, Help & Action) framework.

During the programme, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar actively interacted with the residents of the area and apprised them of the harmful social, legal and health consequences of child marriage.

The programme, as per an official statement issued on Saturday, was conducted under the aegis of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority as part of the nationwide 100-day intensive awareness campaign "Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat", launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

The Para Legal Volunteers also informed the locals about the availability of free legal services, counselling and support mechanisms provided by the Legal Services Authorities.

DC Bandipora reviews 7th minor irrigation census, 2nd census of water bodies

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 10: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Saturday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the 7th Minor Irrigation Census and the 2nd Census of Water Bodies being conducted in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to depute technical experts for accurate data entry, sought feedback on challenges faced, and assured full support from the district administration. She also directed the Agriculture Department to share data on irrigated and un-irrigated areas to ensure accuracy and timely completion of the census.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Executive Engineer I&FC Sumbal, Executive Engineer PWD Gurez, all Tehsildars of the district, District Officer Pollution Control Board Bandipora, and Master Trainers including the Naib Tehsildars.

Sharma seeks major sports infrastructure push for J&K

Submits comprehensive memorandum to Union Sports Minister

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Jan 10: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports and Transport, Satish Sharma, on Saturday met with Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and projected several issues and initiatives related to sports upgradation aiming transformation of Jammu and Kashmir into a national hub of sports excellence.

The minister submitted a comprehensive Memorandum outlining an ambitious, multi-sectoral roadmap to upgrade sports infrastructure, promote youth engagement, generate employment and position Jammu and Kashmir as a premier destination for sports tourism and high-performance training.

Highlighting cricket as passion for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Satish Sharma sought sanction of international-standard cricket stadiums at Srinagar and Jammu. He stated that the absence of such facilities has long restricted the region from hosting national and international fixtures. He emphasized that these stadiums would not only revive top level cricket in the UT but also boost tourism and inspire a new generation of athletes.

The minister also proposed creation of a Border Sports Development Circuit spanning Kathua-Samba, Akhnoor-Chhamb,



Poonch-Nowshera-Rajouri, Uri-Baramulla-Kupwara and Karna-Gurez, aimed at harnessing the sporting talent of youth living in border and far-flung areas. He sought special grants for development of Dangal Akharas, cycling tracks, hockey and football fields besides provision of sports equipment in all border panchayats to strengthen grassroots sports and youth engagement.

To promote employment through sports, Satish Sharma requested for a financial support of 600 crore over five years for establishing 10 Border Sports & Employment Hubs (BS-EH), five each in Jammu and Kashmir, equipped with multi-sport facilities, skill training classrooms and residential infrastructure. He also proposed a Border Youth Sports Apprenticeship Programme with an outlay of 300 crore, a Coaches & Trainers Wage Support Scheme of 150 crore

and a High-Altitude & Winter Sports Livelihood Programme of 120 crore for areas like Gurez, Tangdhar and Teetwal.

The minister laid special emphasis on water and winter sports, seeking establishment of a National Water Sports Centre of Excellence at Basohli (Kathua) by upgrading the world-class facility at Ranjit Sagar Dam. He also proposed declaring Jammu & Kashmir as India's National Hub for Paddle and Water Sports, leveraging its unparalleled natural water resources.

Sharma further sought revival of the Arun Jaitley International Cricket Stadium Project at Hiranagar, whose upgradation had been sanctioned earlier but stalled due to external impediments. He requested the Union Ministry's intervention to remove obstacles and ensure completion of the project, calling it a landmark for the Jammu region.

To optimally utilise the growing sports infrastructure in J&K, the minister proposed a Special Coaches Engagement Scheme for hiring qualified national and international-level coaches on contract basis, especially in priority disciplines like gymnastics, water sports, winter sports and cricket. He also called for regularisation and utilisation of registered NYCs as a skilled human resource base in sports.

Recognising the need for quality accommodation to host national and international sporting events, Sharma sought development of modern Youth Hostels at Jammu and Srinagar under the Khelo India framework to boost sports tourism and training capacity.

The minister also called for expediting the long-pending National Winter Sports Centre of Excellence at Gulmarg, seeking direct facilitation for engagement of international consultants and release of funds to the J&K Sports Council to kick-start this landmark project.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said that Jammu and Kashmir has immense untapped sporting potential and world-class natural advantages. "With focused national support, our youth can become champions on the global stage while sports can become a powerful engine of employment, tourism and regional development," he said.

The minister expressed confidence that the proposals, aligned with the Khelo India vision and National Sports Development Agenda, would help establish Jammu and Kashmir as a leading sporting destination and talent hub of India.

Multi-specialty medical camp organised for tribal community at Thanala, Bhaderwah

KT NEWS DESK

Bhaderwah, Jan 10: A multi-specialty medical camp under the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) initiative was on Saturday organised for the tribal community here at Village Thanala Medical Block Bhaderwah.

The medical camp was conducted under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, with the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr Tanveer A Rather and the supervision of the Block Medical Officer Bhaderwah, Dr Versha Sharma.

The camp was inaugurated by BMO, Dr Versha Sharma, in the presence of local residents.

A wide range of healthcare services were provided including general health check-ups, NCD screening, TB screening, ultrasonography and on-the-spot registration of Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards for senior citizens.



The consultations were provided by a team of healthcare professionals consisting of Dr. Javed Ahmed Paray, Dr. Kamaldeep Singh, Dr. Deep Mala, Dr. Sheenam Rafiqi, Dr. Rahat Goni, Dr. Saima Khateeb, Dr. Amir Malik (MLHP), Dr. Saima Qureshi (MLHP), Asia Beg (Phst), Junaid Hashmi (STS) and Shiv Kumar (Lab Technician). The MMU staff from the CMO Office and the

DIU team from Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) were also part of the team.

About 200 individuals were screened for various ailments. Free medicines were provided to each patient, besides imparting health counselling. Awareness was imparted regarding the national health programmes, personal hygiene and preventive healthcare practices.

CEO BDA reviews preparations for Bhaderwah Winter Festival 2026

KT News Desk

Bhaderwah, Jan 10: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Bhaderwah Development Authority, Sanjeev Sharma assessed the preparations for the upcoming Bhaderwah Winter Festival 2026 scheduled to be held on January 17 and 18.

The CEO reviewed arrangements related to event management, venue readiness, cultural activities, adventure sports, tourism promotion and accommodation.

Members of civil society and



representatives from tourism Trade Associations also attended the meeting and gave valuable suggestions for smooth conduct of the festival.

The CEO emphasized inter-departmental coordination to ensure hassle-free

arrangements for tourists and local visitors. Special focus was laid on showcasing the winter tourism potential of Bhaderwah, promoting local culture, cuisine, handicrafts and ensuring safety measures during the festival.

Sahitya Akademi, JKAAACL host symposium on legendary Punjabi poet Shiv Kumar Batalvi

KT News Desk

Jammu, Jan 10: The Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAAACL), on Saturday organized a day-long symposium on the celebrated Punjabi poet Shiv Kumar Batalvi, bringing together scholars, writers and literature enthusiasts to reflect on his life, poetry and enduring literary legacy.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, Secretary

JKAAACL, Harvinder Kour expressed her gratitude to the Sahitya Akademi for organizing such a meaningful literary programme in Jammu & Kashmir. She reaffirmed the Academy's commitment to promoting literature and languages across the Union Territory and stated that similar programmes would be organized in other regions to further strengthen cultural and literary engagement.

Speaking on the life and works of Shiv Kumar Batalvi, the Secretary highlighted that



despite his short lifespan, the poet made an immense contribution to Punjabi literature. She observed that Batalvi's poetry

resonates deeply with the emotions of the common man, enabling readers to connect with his expressions of love, pain,

longing and human experience. She further informed that JKAAACL plans to extend such literary activities to colleges and other educational institutions across the UT. Programmes in various languages, she said, would help cultivate interest in languages among the public in general and students in particular, thereby contributing to their promotion and preservation.

Editor (Punjabi), Sahitya Akademi, Ms. Sandeep Kour also addressed the gathering and emphasized the need for concerted

efforts to promote the Punjabi language on par with other languages in the Union Territory. She called for a structured and sustained plan to organize more literary programmes dedicated to Punjabi literature and its rich heritage.

Eminent scholars Prof. Rawail Singh, Khalid Hussain, and Ashok Angurana presented insightful papers highlighting the life, literary works and lasting contributions of Shiv Kumar Batalvi to Punjabi literature.

Their presentations provided

critical perspectives on Batalvi's poetic themes, stylistic innovations and cultural significance.

In the second session, Harvinder Bhandal presided over the proceedings, while Satish Gulati, Makhan Mann, Surjit Judge, Javed Rahi, Swami Antar Neerav, Amanpreet Kaur and Gurdeep Kaur participated as speakers.

Adding further literary significance to the event, a book titled 'Dream Land', authored by Pawan Gulati, was also released on the occasion.

CONT'D. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K gears up

stipulates that there cannot be any readjustment of Assembly and Lok Sabha seats in the UT until the figures of the first census conducted after 2026 are released.

The last delimitation exercise in Jammu & Kashmir was completed on May 5, 2022. (KNO)

Cold wave prevails

In Jammu, the mercury dipped in several areas compared to Friday. Jammu city recorded 3.6°C, down from 5.6°C, while Katra registered 5.2°C, higher than Thursday's 3.5°C.

Bhaderwah's minimum was -2.8°C, slightly warmer than the previous day's -3.4°C. Samba and Rajouri recorded -1.6°C each, showing a fall compared to Friday.

Ladakh continued to experience severe cold. Drass remained the coldest place at -24.6°C, unchanged from Friday.

Nyoma recorded -20.3°C, a slight rise from -21.6°C, while Padum registered -19.6°C, marginally warmer than Friday's -20.3°C. Leh remained steady at -14.4°C, while Hanle saw a drop from -16.2°C to -17.0°C.

Kargil and Nubra Valley recorded -13.7°C and -13.5°C respectively, showing slight variations from yesterday.

Meanwhile, Srinagar's famous Dal Lake was partially frozen, while Wular Lake, India's largest freshwater lake, froze at several locations, restricting local residents and tourists from accessing the lakes due to icy conditions.

Further more, the Met said that no significant weather activity is expected in Jammu and Kashmir until January 21.

"Light snowfall may occur at isolated higher reaches on January 22 and 23. Minimum temperatures are likely to continue falling until January 10, after which they may rise by 1-2°C," it said, adding that dense fog is expected at a few places in the Jammu division over the next five days. (KNO)

Army commander

frontline aviation squadrons, recognising their professionalism and dedication.

Over 72% of children

lowered learning ability, and increased risk of infections.

Dr Shabeena Shah, a child specialist, said the most common cause of anaemia worldwide

and in India is nutritional deficiency, especially iron deficiency. "Young children have high iron needs for rapid growth, but many diets do not supply enough iron or other vital nutrients like folate and vitamin B12," she said, adding that Iron Deficiency Anaemia (IDA) is the predominant form responsible for a large share of anaemia cases in toddlers and young children.

According to the doctor, a diet too reliant on staple grains without enough iron-rich foods (like leafy greens, lentils, eggs, meat, fortified cereals) worsens this deficiency. She said the children whose mothers are anaemic themselves are more likely to be anaemic. Low maternal iron stores during pregnancy limit the amount of iron the baby receives before birth and through early infancy, Dr Shah added.

Dr Showkat Hussain, another doctor, said that after six months of age, breastmilk alone isn't enough to meet a baby's iron requirements. He said that if complementary foods aren't introduced properly or are low in iron, the risk of anaemia increases. He added that parasitic infections like hookworm and other gastrointestinal infections can cause blood loss and reduce nutrient absorption, contributing significantly to anaemia.

Dr Hussain added that inclusive breastfeeding for the first six months provides optimal nutrition and helps build immunity. "Breast milk contains iron that is easily absorbed by infants, helping protect against anaemia in early infancy. However, after 6 months, iron stores from birth get depleted, and complementary foods need to be introduced. If the complementary diet lacks iron-rich foods, anaemia risk rises," he added.

They added that eating fried or junk foods does not directly cause anaemia, but it contributes indirectly by displacing nutritious foods in a child's diet, providing empty calories with little iron, vitamins, or minerals.

Doctors said that inadequate complementary feeding, such as giving mostly watery cereals or liquid foods without iron enrichment, can worsen anaemia.

They added that eating fried or junk foods does not directly cause anaemia, but it contributes indirectly by displacing nutritious foods in a child's diet, providing empty calories with little iron, vitamins, or minerals.

Doctors called for introducing iron-rich complementary foods after six months, such as meat, eggs, green leafy vegetables, lentils, beans, pair iron foods with vitamin C-rich foods (like citrus fruits, tomatoes) to improve iron absorption and avoid overreliance on packaged snacks and fried foods.

They said the government programmes, such as Anaemia Mukt Bharat and Mission Poshan 2.0, provide iron and folic acid supplements for children and mothers.

The weekly iron supplementation and fortified foods can substantially reduce anaemia prevalence, the doctors said, adding that routine deworming and immunisation help reduce anaemia caused by parasites and infections. (KNO)

Troops intensify

recovered an arms and ammunition consignment dropped by a Pakistani drone near the IB in Samba district.

The packet discovered in the Regal forward area during routine surveillance contained two pistols, three magazines, 16 rounds of ammunition, and a grenade, they said.

"The consignment was likely intended to fuel disruptive activities in the border region. The timely recovery prevented a potential security threat," a BSF spokesperson said in a statement, adding that security measures have been strengthened and additional surveillance has been deployed.

Meanwhile, a suspicious pigeon was caught in the forward village of Kharah in the Akhnoor sector near the LoC.

The pale grey bird, marked with red and yellow rings on its legs, inscribed with "Rehmat Sarkar" and "Rizwan 2025", was found by a 13-year-old local boy.

Officials said the pigeon's wings were also stamped, and the bird has been handed over to Pallanwala police for further investigation.

In a separate development, Jammu Police continued their crackdown against narco-terror networks under Operation Sanjeevani.

Rohit Kumar alias Makhan, a key accused, was arrested on January 3, leading to the seizure of a pistol, magazine, and live rounds from his residence in R.S. Pura.

Officials said investigations are ongoing to trace cross-border and inter-state linkages of arms and narcotics supply. (KNO)

Rajnath urges

should also always remain humble, as your achievements are not just yours alone but are a contribution of family, teachers and friends. Humility keeps you grounded," Singh said.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan,

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other senior officials were present at the event.

CM seeks stronger

is likely to be presented by the Chief Minister in the first week of February, during the session

beginning on the 2nd of the month. (KNO)

Police arrest

a police party from Police Station Budgam at a checkpoint established near Ompora Railway Flyover intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK01J-4450 with two persons on board. During search, heroin and charas-like substances were recovered from their possession.

They have been identified as Bilal Ahmad Khan, son of Abdul Majeed Khan, resident of Bathar Budgam; and Irshad Ahmad Kuchay, son of Ghulam Mohammad Kuchay, resident of Munipatty Budgam. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized, the statement reads.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation is underway.

Police said they remained committed to eradicating the drug menace and urges the public to cooperate by sharing any information related to drug trafficking, the statement further reads. (KNO)

JKMSME health

was received by Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Dr Arun Manhas on behalf of J&K Government.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Arun Manhas termed the JKMSME Health Clinic as a critical institutional mechanism for safeguarding the backbone of the local economy and enabling timely redressal of industrial stress. He further stated that the clinic is one of the first attempts in the region to treat MSME distress the way a physician treats early symptoms: detect early, intervene precisely, and monitor continuously.

Dr Manhas added that the program marks a shift from reactive relief to preventive economic care, combining data, field intelligence

and expert-led mentoring. Launched in July 2025, JKMSME Health Clinic has emerged as a pioneering institutional mechanism aimed at building a resilient, growth-oriented industrial environment in the Union Territory. The initiative is designed to identify stress factors affecting industrial units at an early stage and facilitate systematic assessment and customised remedial measures to enable timely revival and sustainable growth of MSMEs.

'Swadeshi', 'Swabhasha' should be encouraged: Amit Shah

PTI

Jodhpur, Jan 10: Emphasising the need to encourage 'Swadeshi' and 'Swabhasha', Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday urged people to make and use local products and converse in their mother tongue at home.

Shah said that language is key to preserving any society, culture and religion. While any language can be learnt or spoken as required to progress in the world, only Hindi and local languages must be used for conversation with children at home, as it will help strengthen their connection with their roots, he stressed.

The minister was addressing the Maheshwari Global Convention at Jodhpur, where members from the Maheshwari community have converged from



various parts of the country and abroad.

"If you talk in your language with the children at home, they will be automatically connected to their history, to their state of Rajasthan.... It is the

language only which keeps the society alive, religion alive and takes the culture forward," said Shah.

"Speak in any language as is needed at other places, even if it is a foreign language, but speak only in the

mother tongue with children at home," the minister said.

Emphasising the need to work towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', Shah termed Swadeshi as the only mantra to attain the goal in order to make India a leading nation in every field by 2047.

"If we have to reach the top, 'aatmanirbhar' is the only option and to make it successful, the only mantra is 'Swadeshi', said Shah, calling upon businesses to venture into manufacturing at least one product which is not being made in country yet, along with what they have already been producing, in order to make 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Recognising the role of the community, the minister said that right from the era of the freedom struggle to the developing and evolving India post-independence, the Maheshwari community

has played a crucial role. "They have a very big role in the cultural renaissance of the country," said Shah.

Terming such conventions of communities a binding force for the country, Shah said that they "strengthen the nation, not divide them".

"Our communities never divided the country. This does not symbolise narrowness, but unity and power. Unity is important not only for the community but for the nation as well," he said.

"If every community takes care of its poor, the entire country's poor will be taken care of. If every community becomes independent, the entire nation becomes independent," he said.

On the occasion, Shah also released a stamp recognising the contribution of the Maheshwari community in the development of the country.

No jewellery to customers wearing burqa, mask, veil in Varanasi: Traders body



PTI

VARANASI (UP): Local unit of Uttar Pradesh Jewellers Association on Saturday imposed a ban on the sale of jewellery to customers wearing a veil, burqa, mask or helmet, citing security reasons.

This decision has been taken in view of the incidents of theft, robbery, and fraud that have occurred in several districts, they claimed.

Kamal Singh, the district president of UPJA here, said, "We will not sell jewellery items to customers whose faces are covered. If a person with a covered face commits a crime, their identity cannot be established. For this, we have put up posters in front of our shops, which state that entry into the shop is prohibited while wearing a mask, burqa, helmet, or veil."

Singh said that they only want their own safety. If a customer comes wearing a hijab, they should uncover their face upon entering the shop so that the jewellers can feel safe.

Satya Narayan Seth, president of the UPJA, said that similar posters have been put up in front of jewellers' shops in several districts of the state, including Jhansi.

Seth said that there are thousands of jewellery shops in Varanasi. Everyone is facing problems with people covering their faces.

The association is not opposing any person's religion. It is doing this only for jewellers' own safety. Muslim customers can come wearing a burqa, but they should remove it before entering the shop so that their identity can be confirmed.

Shahid, a jeweller from the Lohta area here, said that it is wrong to refuse entry to customers wearing burqas. Such a refusal will drive away customers. Asking a woman wearing a burqa to remove it would be insulting.

He said that theft committed while wearing a burqa is an exception, just like the incident where the chief minister of Bihar pulled a woman's burqa.

"If there is a female employee in the shop, she can see the woman's face, but a male employee cannot remove the woman's burqa to see her face; this is not right," he said.

Meanwhile, government advocate Rana Sanjeev Singh commented on the matter, saying that this is not a wrong act.

Recently, several incidents have surfaced on social media and in the media where women wearing burqas were caught on CCTV cameras stealing from jewellery shops and their identities could not be established due to the veil, he said.

Singh added that everyone has the right to their own security. There is nothing wrong with that.

ABVP says its 8 members fined for 2024 JNU violence

Claims 'nexus' between JNUSU, administration

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 10: Eight JNU students have been fined Rs 19,000 for their involvement in the March 2024 campus violence, the ABVP said on Friday and alleged a "nexus" between the university administration and the students' union while claiming that all those penalised were its members.

At least four students of Jawaharlal Nehru University were injured in a clash between two groups over the selection of election committee members on March 1, 2024. The clash broke out between RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Left-backed student groups during the School General Body Meeting for polls.

According to a notice issued to an MA student at the Centre for German Studies, a fine of Rs 19,000 has been imposed following a proctorial enquiry into the violence that took place at the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.

The January 9 order issued by the chief proctor stated that the student was found guilty of multiple acts of indiscipline, including taking part in violence, involvement in the physical assault of students, use of abusive language towards students and security personnel, and participation in a gherao.

While noting that the conduct was unbecoming of a student of the university and warranted strict disciplinary action, the JNU administration said it had taken a "somewhat lenient view", keeping the student's career prospects in mind.

"As part of the penalty, a fine of Rs 19,000 has been imposed along with a strict warning not to repeat such activities in the future," the



notice read.

The student has been directed to deposit the fine within 10 days from the date of issue of the order and submit the payment receipt to the proctor's office. The order further states that any appeal against the fine or punishment must be filed within 20 days.

The ABVP's JNU wing secretary Pravin Piyush claimed that eight of its members have been fined Rs 19,000 each.

In a statement, he accused the Jawaharlal Nehru Students Union (JNUSU) and the university administration of "selectively targeting" students who raise nationalist slogans on campus.

The JNU administration and the JNUSU did not immediately respond to the allegations.

Piyush described the JNUSU as "incompetent" and claimed it had failed to address core student issues while "shielding individuals accused of raising anti-national slogans". The JNU administration had acted in a biased manner against ABVP activists, he alleged.

According to the RSS-backed student organisation, the fines of Rs 19,000 each were imposed

selectively on its members who had protested in defence of national integrity.

It accused the university administration of hypocrisy, alleging that while it publicly spoke of nationalism, it penalised students who raised slogans such as "Vande Mataram".

"No amount of financial pressure or administrative bullying will silence us," the ABVP said, asserting that the fines and disciplinary action were intended to break the morale of nationalist students.

The JNU administration has slapped a Rs 4,66,000 fine on ABVP students since 2022. This new fine is nothing more than compensating for the sloganising which happened on the campus on January 5.

"ABVP-affiliated students are paying fines in lakhs while fighting ideological battles with anti-national elements on the campus," Piyush told PTI.

The student body said it would continue its protest against what it termed a "biased administration and an ineffective students' union" until "justice is served".

Youth power is foundation of developed India: Mandaviya

PTI

New Delhi, Jan 10: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who also holds the Labour and Employment portfolio, on Saturday said youth power would be the foundation of a developed India and that the country will march towards a brighter future despite global challenges.



moves 140 crore steps ahead," he added.

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to make India a developed nation, Mandaviya said every citizen has to be an active participant in this effort.

"Our duty is towards the nation. Just as we have expectations from the country and the government, every citizen also has duties towards the nation," he said.

"We must reflect on where this sense of duty comes from. We must understand how to align our lives with the national objective." Speaking as the Labour and Employment minister briefly, Mandaviya said India has managed to beat the global slowdown despite the COVID-19 shock to economy. "India

is moving forward with an economic growth rate of 7 to 8 percent. This is not merely economic growth. Economic growth leads to employment opportunities," he said.

"When people earn more, their income rises and consumption increases. When consumption increases, demand grows. When demand grows, manufacturing expands, employment is generated," he explained.

He then cited the low unemployment rate of the country.

"I say this with responsibility, as the Employment Minister of the Government of India. Today, India's unemployment rate is below 3.5 percent. This is a major achievement for the country," he said.

PayG secures RBI approval for offline and cross-border payment aggregation

PTI

Hyderabad, Jan 10: PayG, a leading home-grown payment gateway, is proud to announce that it has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Offline and Cross-Border Payment Aggregator. With this approval, PayG has completed its full suite of Payment Aggregator (PA) licenses, enabling it to facilitate digital payments across online, offline (in-person) and international use cases under RBI's regulatory framework.

The approval enables PayG to support a comprehensive range of payment use cases through a single, compliant platform. These include processing online payments, enabling offline and in-store transactions through POS, QR and device-based solutions and handling cross-border payments for international customers and global merchants.

With the complete set of PA licenses in place, PayG further strengthens its regulatory standing and expands its ability to serve businesses operating across multiple channels and geographies. The approvals ensure end-to-end regulatory compliance, enable wider market reach across offline-first and export-driven businesses and support stronger partnerships with enterprises and banking institutions.

This milestone also establishes PayG as a fully licensed payment aggregator with clear differentiation in the payment's ecosystem.

For merchants, the expanded authorization offers a unified platform to manage online, offline and cross-border payments. It

simplifies international expansion through RBI-compliant infrastructure, ensures secure, transparent and compliant transactions, and enables seamless payment journeys for customers across touchpoints.

Commenting on the milestone, Mr. Kamal Manohar Janeti, Chairman of PayG, said, "Receiving RBI approval for Offline and Cross-Border Payment Aggregation is an important milestone for PayG. It reflects our continued focus on regulatory compliance and building a robust payments infrastructure. With the full suite of Payment Aggregator licenses in place, we are well positioned to support merchants across online, in-store and international markets through a single, trusted platform." With the completion of its full suite of Payment Aggregator licenses, PayG enters its next phase of growth with a strong regulatory foundation. The expanded approvals position the company to support businesses across digital, physical and cross-border payment environments, while maintaining the highest standards of compliance and operational integrity. As payment needs continue to evolve, PayG remains focused on building a secure, scalable and inclusive payments infrastructure aligned with India's regulatory and economic priorities.

About PayG

Founded in 2020, the PayG payments solution is one of the most trusted payment gateway service providers in India. We proudly make our payment gateway one of the most affordable ones so that everyone can access it. PayG also frees the merchants from all sorts of extra charges. So, you pay for only what you want - no hidden terms and conditions.

7 simple foods that can help grow muscle

TOI HEALTH

New Delhi, Jan 10: Let's be real—most people think building muscle is all about lifting weights, but that's only half the story. The behind-the-scenes of the gym camera is equally important when it comes to muscle gains. What you eat, both before and after your workouts (and honestly, all day), has a huge impact on how fast your muscles grow and recover.

The science is pretty clear: you need solid protein, healthy fats, the right carbs, and those little micronutrients to really fuel muscle protein synthesis—the engine behind muscle growth and repair. Doesn't matter if you're just starting out or trying to hang onto your strength as you get older. Knowing what to eat, when to eat it, and why it matters can totally change your results. Here are seven foods that actually help you build muscle, plus some easy ways to get

them into your routine.

Chicken breast – Lean, reliable protein

Chicken breast just gets the job done. It's packed with protein but barely any fat, so your muscles get exactly what they're looking for after a workout. Three ounces? That's 26 to 31 grams of protein, easy. Toss it on the grill, throw it in the oven, or chop it up for a stir-fry—whatever works for you. Eat it before or after the gym, and your muscles will thank you. If you add some brown rice or sweet potatoes, you'll get your energy back and recover faster, too.

Greek yogurt – Double the protein punch

Greek yogurt really pulls its weight when it comes to protein. It's got both whey and casein, so your muscles get a steady supply of amino acids, not just a quick hit. Plus, it packs almost twice as much protein as regular yogurt. Scoop some up

right after a workout or before you go to bed. Want to make it interesting? Throw on some fruit, nuts, or a bit of honey.

Eggs – The complete package

Eggs are tough to beat. All the amino acids your muscles need, plus vitamin B12, vitamin D, and healthy fats that help you bounce back after exercise. Scrambled, boiled, poached—it's hard to mess them up. Whole eggs work best for muscle growth because all those nutrients in the yolk help your body use the protein from the egg white.

Salmon – Protein and healthy fats in one

Salmon isn't just about protein—it's loaded with omega-3 fatty acids that help cut down on inflammation and speed up muscle repair. People who eat more omega-3s actually see a better response in muscle protein synthesis. Try to get salmon in for lunch or dinner a couple of times a

week. Grill it with some herbs and lemon, or grab canned salmon for a quick salad or sandwich.

Quinoa – Plant-based, complete protein

Quinoa is a rare plant protein that has all nine essential amino acids—most grains don't pull that off. You also get fiber, iron, and magnesium, which all help your muscles work better and keep your energy up. Use quinoa as a side with dinner, or swap it for rice in your favorite bowls or salads to get a little more out of your meals.

Cottage cheese (paneer) – Slow-release protein

Paneer, or cottage cheese, is packed with casein protein, which digests slowly and feeds your muscles for hours. That makes it a great option at night, or anytime you want to keep your muscles fueled between meals. Toss it in curries, salads, or just grill it and enjoy.

Nuts and seeds – Easy, on-the-go muscle support

Nuts and seeds bring protein, healthy fats, and magnesium to the table—great for muscle and nerve function. They're not the biggest protein hitters, but they give you steady energy and nutrients. Snack on a handful between meals or after the gym, or sprinkle them on yogurt or oatmeal. Nut butter on whole-grain toast works, too.

Why timing matters

After you work out, aim to eat some protein and carbs within 30 to 90 minutes. Pair chicken, salmon, or Greek yogurt with something like quinoa or sweet potato for the best recovery. Spread your protein out during the day—try eggs for breakfast, Greek yogurt at lunch, and cottage cheese or paneer at night. Foods like cottage cheese are great before bed because they keep feeding your muscles while you sleep. That's how you keep the gains coming, even when the lights are out.

Protests in Iran near 2-week mark as authorities intensify crackdown on demonstrators

AP

Dubai, Jan 10: Protests sweeping across Iran neared the two-week mark Saturday, with the country's government acknowledging the ongoing demonstrations despite an intensifying crackdown and as the Islamic Republic remains cut off from the rest of the world.

With the internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations from abroad has grown more difficult. But the death toll in the protests has grown to at least 65 people killed and over 2,300 others detained, according to the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency.

Iranian state TV is reporting on security force casualties while portraying control over the nation.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has signalled a coming clampdown, despite US warnings. "The United States supports the brave people of Iran," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrote Saturday on the social platform X. The State Department separately warned: "Do not play games with President Trump. When he says he'll do something, he means it."

State TV split-screen highlights Iran's challenge.

Saturday marks the start of the work week in Iran, but many schools and universities reportedly held online classes, Iranian state TV reported.

State TV repeatedly played a driving, martial orchestral



arrangement from the "Epic of Khoramshahr" by Iranian composer Majid Etezami, while showing pro-government demonstrations. The song, aired repeatedly during the 12-day war launched by Israel, honours Iran's 1982 liberation of the city of Khoramshahr during the Iran-Iraq war. It has been used in videos of protesting women cutting away their hair to protest the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini as well.

"Field reports indicate that peace prevailed in most cities of the country at night," a state TV anchor reported. "After a number of armed terrorists attacked public places and set fire to people's private property last night, there was no news of any gathering or chaos in Tehran and most provinces last night."

That was directly contradicted by an online video verified by The Associated Press that showed demonstrations in northern Tehran's Saadat Abad area, with what appeared to be thousands on the street.

The semiofficial Fars news agency, believed to be close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and one of the few media outlets able to publish to the outside world, released surveillance camera footage of what it said came from demonstrations in Isfahan. In it, protester

appeared to fire a long gun, while others set fires and threw gasoline bombs at what appeared to be a government compound.

The Young Journalists' Club, associated with state TV, reported that protesters killed three members of the Guard's all-volunteer Basij force in the city of Gachsaran. It also reported a security official was stabbed to death in Hamadan province, a police officer killed in the port city of Bandar Abbas and another in Gilan, as well as one person slain in Mashhad. State television

also aired footage of a funeral service attended by hundreds in Qom, a Shiite seminary city just south of Tehran.

More weekend demonstrations planned

Iran's theocracy cut off the nation from the internet and international telephone calls on Thursday, though it allowed some state-owned and semiofficial media to publish. Qatar's state-funded Al Jazeera news network reported live from Iran, but they appeared to be the only major foreign outlet able to work.

Iran's exiled Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi, who called for protests Thursday and Friday, asked demonstrators to take to the streets Saturday and Sunday with Iran's old lion-and-sun flag, used during the time of the shah.

Pahlavi's support of and from Israel has drawn criticism in the past – particularly after the 12-day war. Demonstrators have shouted in support of the shah in some protests, but it isn't clear whether that's support for Pahlavi himself or a desire to return to a time before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The demonstrations began December 28 over the collapse of the Iranian rial currency, which trades at over 1.4 million to USD 1, as the country's economy is squeezed by international sanctions in part levied over its nuclear programme. The protests intensified and grew into calls directly challenging Iran's theocracy.

UNSC plans emergency meeting on Ukraine tomorrow

AFP

United Nations, Jan 10: The UN Security Council will meet Monday to discuss Ukraine, a revised schedule showed, after Kyiv's mayor urged residents to leave the capital due to mass heating outages caused by Russian strikes.

"The Russian Federation has reached an appalling new level of war crimes and crimes against humanity by its terror against civilians," Ukrainian ambassador Andriy Melnyk said in a letter to the Security Council seen by AFP on Friday.

The latest strikes left half of the residential buildings in Kyiv without heating in sub-zero temperatures, Mayor Vitaliy Klitschko said.

Whatever is written in my destiny, no one can take that from me: Gill

PTI

Vadodara, Jan 10: Left out of next month's T20 World Cup, India's ODI and Test captain Shubman Gill on Saturday said he respects the selectors' decision and remains focused on giving his best whenever the opportunity arises.

The 26-year-old was not considered for next month's T20 World Cup despite leading India in the longer formats. He has played 36 T20Is for India, scoring 869



runs at an average of 28.03 with a strike rate of 138.59.

"My belief is that in my life, I am right where I have to be and whatever things are written in my destiny, no one can take those things from me," Gill told reporters ahead of the first ODI against

New Zealand here on Sunday. "Obviously as a player, you have a belief that if you play in the World Cup, you will win (it for) your team, (and) you will win (it for) your country."

"Having said that, I respect the selectors' decision and (I am) wishing the T20 team all the very best and I really hope that they win the World Cup for us".

Asked if his exclusion could have an adverse mental impact, Gill said it's important to keep it simple.

Siraj takes batting tips from Rohit as India finalise preps for ODIs against NZ



PTI

Vadodara, Jan 10: Former India skipper Rohit Sharma offered batting tips to Mohammed Siraj, while Rishabh Pant briefly needed treatment after being hit during net practice as India put the final touches to their preparations for the three-ODI series against New Zealand starting here on Sunday.

Rohit was waiting outside the net when Siraj, who was in early, could not connect while trying to hook the ball. The India opener then gave some tips to the pacer who only had a batting stint in the nets during India's optional training session here on Saturday, with

other members also turning up for Saturday's nets.

India vice-captain Shreyas Iyer, having captained Mumbai in their narrow one-run loss to Punjab on Thursday in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, batted in partnership with KL Rahul, while Pant and Ravindra Jadeja also had a hit in the nets.

Each of the three, Siraj, Iyer and Pant were busy playing for their respective state teams in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, with the matches on January 8 being their most recent appearance.

Pant, however, was left grimacing in pain when he copped a blow just above his waist while batting against Indian throwdown specialists and was attended by the

team's support staff and other members, including head coach Gautam Gambhir.

After receiving some initial treatment, Pant walked off the field of the BCA Stadium's Ground B, where India captain Shubman Gill was seen having a long chat with the chairman of selectors, Ajit Agarkar.

The three-ODI series against a new-look New Zealand team will get underway here with the Baroda Cricket Association Stadium set to host its first men's international match.

The second ODI will be played at Rajkot's Niranjan Shah Stadium on January 14, while the third and final will be at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

Tarique Rahman appointed as chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party

PTI

Dhaka, Jan 10: Tarique Rahman has been appointed as the chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), days after the demise of his mother and party chairperson Khaleda Zia following a prolonged illness.

The Standing Committee of the BNP approved the appointment of Rahman as the Chairman of the party in a meeting on Friday.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir confirmed the appointment to the media after the meeting, Dhaka Tribune reported.

Rahman, speaking at a meet-and-greet event on Saturday, said there is "no reason" for the country to return to the political conditions that existed before the toppling of the Awami League regime on August 5, 2024, news portal bdnews24.com reported.

"We don't want to go back to pre-August 5 days. There's no reason for us to do that," Rahman said.

The BNP in a social media post said Rahman has assumed office as the chairman of the party. "Following the passing of BNP chairperson and former Prime Minister, national leader



Khaleda Zia.

The three-time Bangladesh prime minister and BNP matriarch died on December 30 following a prolonged illness.

Rahman, 60, has emerged as a leading contender for the post of the prime minister in the polls. In 2002, Rahman was made BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General and became Senior Vice Chairman in 2009. In 2018, when Zia was imprisoned, Rahman was appointed acting chairperson of the party.

The BNP emerged as the forerunner to capture power in the February polls, as former prime minister Hasina's Awami League party has been barred from contesting the election.

Ethiopia begins \$12.5 billion construction of 'Africa's biggest airport'

REUTERS

Bishoftu, Jan 10: Ethiopian Airlines on Saturday officially started a \$12.5 billion construction project for what officials say will be Africa's biggest airport when completed in 2030 in the Ethiopian town of Bishoftu.

The state-owned airline got the contract to design the four-runway airport in the town located around 45 km (28 miles) southeast of Addis Ababa. "Bishoftu International Airport will be the largest aviation infrastructure project in Africa's history," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali said on X. The airport will have space to park 270 planes and capacity for 110 million passengers a year.

That is more than four times the capacity of Ethiopia's current main airport, which will reach its limits on existing traffic in the next

two-to-three years, Abiy said.

The airline's Infrastructure Development & Planning Director Abraham Tesfaye told reporters it would fund 30 percent and lenders would finance the rest.

It has already allocated \$610 million for earthworks, which are due to be completed in one year, he said at the site, with the main contractors scheduled to start work in August 2026.

The project was initially billed at \$10 billion.

Other creditors include the African Development Bank, which last August said it would lend \$500 million and lead efforts to raise \$8.7 billion.

"Lenders from Middle East, Europe, China and USA have shown strong interest to finance the project," Abiy said.

Ethiopian Airlines is Africa's biggest carrier. It added six extra routes in 2024/25, while revenues are also expanding.

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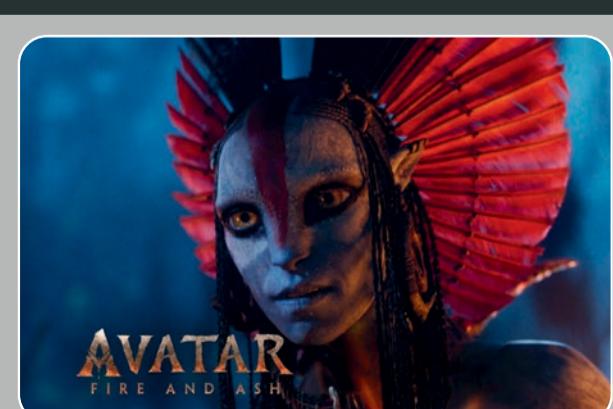
DHURANDHAR (A)
HINDI - 10:50 AM, 02:10 PM, 03:05 PM,
06:10 PM



ZOOTOPIA 2 (U/A 7+)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 07:00 PM



PRABHAS S THE RAJASABA (U/A 16+)
HINDI - 10:40 AM, 02:45 PM, 06:30 PM



AVATAR : FIRE AND ASH (U/A 16+)
3D HINDI - 11:20 AM

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