



Weather to remain dry in J&K over next 10 days, MeT predicts

Temps remain above normal; Srinagar records 33.2°C, Jammu 34.3°C

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 11: Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience mainly dry weather over the next 10 days, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers expected at isolated and scattered places.

The MeT, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the weather across the Union Territory is likely to remain generally dry on September 12 and 13, although brief spells of rain may occur at isolated places.

From September 14 to 16, brief spells of rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered places, particularly during the early morning and forenoon



hours, it said.

The weather is expected to remain generally dry again from September 17 to 21, with a possibility of brief rain at isolated places.

The advisory issued by the

department said farmers may continue harvesting apples and paddy along with other agricultural operations.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained above normal at several places in | [More on P6](#)



Harvesting the golden dreams: Farmers working together to gather the ripe paddy in the fields of Kashmir
Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

'NC-led govt unlikely to go for cabinet reshuffle for now'



KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 11: The National Conference-led government is unlikely to go for an expansion-cum-reshuffle in the council of ministers for the time being, sources said.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah would not immediately effect the expansion in his

cabinet.

"There are no chances of cabinet expansion this month. The exercise will not be taken up given that the autumn session of the J&K Assembly is now just 10 days away," they said.

The autumn session will begin on September 21 and conclude on September 30.

According to sources, there is a possibility that the expansion in the council | [More on P6](#)

Northern Command committed to peace, nation-building: Lt Gen Sharma

Umair Gull Ganie

Pahalgam, Sep 11: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on Friday said the Army will continue to remain committed to nation-building while ensuring peace and tranquillity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a function at Army Goodwill School (AGS), here in South Kashmir, Lt Gen Sharma, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "As we march towards Viksit Bharat, Northern Command will continue to remain committed to nation-building while ensuring peace and tranquillity."

"Our commitment is towards the people of J&K. Your peace is our purpose, your aspirations are our missions, and your success is our pride," he said.



The Army Commander also lauded students for their achievements and credited their success to the guidance of parents and quality education provided by teachers.

He said AGS Wuzur secured

third position and AGS Uri sixth position nationally in Young Scientist India 2025, while AGS Wuzur recently figured among the top 10 schools in the Innovation category.

Sharing his | [More on P6](#)

2 killed, 3 injured in road accident in Bani's Sarthal

KNO Correspondent

Kathua, Sep 11: Two persons were killed and three others injured in a road accident in the Sarthal area of Bani tehsil in Kathua district on Friday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the accident occurred in Sarthal when a vehicle carrying five persons was involved in an accident. Two occupants were killed, while three others sustained injuries.

The injured were shifted to Bani Hospital for treatment. Their condition was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh said he spoke to Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma after receiving a phone call from Bani MLA Dalip Singh Parihar, who informed him

about the accident.

In a post on X, Singh said, "Just now spoke to DC Kathua, Sh Rajesh Sharma after receiving a phone call from MLA Sh Dalip Singh Parihar informing about a road accident at Sarthal."

He said that of the five passengers travelling in the vehicle, three sustained injuries and were shifted to Bani Hospital, while two unfortunately lost their lives.

Singh said appropriate medical aid was being provided to the injured and expressed condolences to the bereaved families. He added that his office was in constant touch with the district administration.

The deceased and injured are likely residents of Bhaderwah in Doda district. Their identities and further details are awaited.

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated necessary proceedings. (KNO)

Residents demand immediate OPD services at AIIMS Awantipora

Seek Union Health Minister's intervention as August deadline misses; cite functional services at AIIMS Jammu

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 11: With the promised deadline of August 2026 for commencement of Outpatient Department (OPD) services at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Awantipora having passed without the facility becoming operational, residents across Kashmir have urged the government to immediately start at least the OPD services and sought the intervention of the Union Health Minister in expediting the process.

Residents told the news



agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the repeated postponement of deadlines has caused widespread disappointment among people who had

hoped that AIIMS Awantipora would provide advanced and affordable treatment within the region and reduce their dependence on hospitals outside Jammu and Kashmir.

They said the government had earlier stated that OPD services would commence by August 2026, while MBBS courses were expected to start from July this year. However, with the August deadline now over, there is growing concern over when patients will actually be able to access the institution.

Locals questioned the disparity in | [More on P6](#)

Waste piles, foul smell near Jhelum may soon be thing of past in Baramulla

50 TPD MRF, 20 TPD composting units planned to tackle Baramulla, Sopore's 58 MT waste crisis

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Sep 11: The long-standing waste management crisis in north Kashmir's Baramulla and Sopore is set for a major overhaul, with an integrated Solid Waste Management facility proposed at Jetty in Baramulla to scientifically process the waste generated by the two townships.

The proposed facility will include a 50 tonnes per day Material Recovery Facility (MRF), along with 20 tonnes per day composting units. The project is expected to provide a structured mechanism for waste segregation, recovery



and processing, reducing the dependence on open dumping at the Jetty site.

Sources within the Urban Local Bodies told the news

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Jetty has been designated as the site for the integrated waste management facility catering to both

Baramulla and Sopore.

The development comes amid a severe waste management challenge in the two densely populated and commercially important townships. Baramulla generates around 24 metric tonnes of municipal waste every day, while Sopore produces more than 34 metric tonnes, taking the combined daily generation to around 58 metric tonnes.

In the absence of adequate scientific waste processing infrastructure, a major portion of the waste has been transported to the Jetty site in Baramulla for disposal.

The site, located close to the Jhelum river, has | [More on P6](#)

7 years after cross-LoC trade closure, Salamabad centre set for tourism makeover

LoC sightseeing, amenities, local jobs our focus: Director Tourism

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 11: Seven years after the Centre suspended cross-LoC trade through Salamabad in Uri, the Trade Facilitation Centre is set to get a new role, with the Tourism Department planning to utilise the facility for promoting border tourism in North Kashmir.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

the department has received the green signal to take over the Trade Facilitation Centre, along with the assets and facilities available there, for tourism-related activities and promotion of border tourism.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajjad told KNO that the proposal has been approved and said the move reflects the government's focus on reviving tourism in Kashmir, particularly in border areas.

He said the department will focus on developing facilities and amenities for tourists and coordinate with other agencies to ensure hassle-free



movement of visitors and facilitate LoC sightseeing.

The department will also assess the existing infrastructure

and decide how the asset can be put to optimum use, the

director said, adding that the plan is expected to create employment opportunities for local youth and support tourism-related economic activity in the LoC villages.

Pertinently, the Salamabad facility was originally established as one of the two Trade Facilitation Centres for cross-LoC trade, the other being at Chakan-da-Bagh in Poonch. Cross-LoC trade between the two parts of Jammu and Kashmir began on October 21, 2008, as a confidence-building measure between India and Pakistan.

The trade operated four days

a week on a barter and zero-duty basis. It was intended to facilitate the exchange of goods of common use between people living on both sides of the LoC.

However, it came to an end in April 2019 after the Ministry of Home Affairs suspended cross-LoC trade at Salamabad and Chakan-da-Bagh, citing reports that the routes were being misused for the movement of illegal weapons, narcotics, fake currency and other activities.

Now, the Tourism Department plans to put the government asset to a different use.

The proposed tourism utilisation is expected | [More on P6](#)

Craft, Culture, Cuisine, Entrepreneurial Talent Deputy CM inaugurates Kashmir Expo 2026 at Zabarwan Park

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) under the aegis of the Department of Industries & Commerce, organized three day Kashmir Expo, 2026 being held from 11th to 13th September 2026 under the theme “Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine – Showcasing Rich Kashmir’s Heritage by Empowering Golden Hands & Talent.”

The expo, as per an official statement, was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary Friday at Zabarwan Park, Boulevard Road here.

The Expo is being attended by the artisans, craftsmen, weavers, entrepreneurs, businesses and other stakeholders. The event will provide a platform to showcase the distinctive products, craftsmanship and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that Kashmir Expo 2026 is an important initiative to provide greater visibility and market access to the region’s artisans, entrepreneurs and local enterprises. “Kashmir Expo 2026 celebrates the exceptional craftsmanship, cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit of Jammu and Kashmir. The Expo is aimed at connecting our local talent and products with wider markets while creating meaningful opportunities for artisans, entrepreneurs and businesses to grow and thrive,” he added.

Surinder Choudhary said that the event features a diverse showcase of handicrafts, handloom products, traditional crafts,



local produce, cuisine and contemporary products, highlighting the creativity and enterprise of the region. He said the Expo also provides an avenue for the participating businesses and artisans to gain wider market exposure, interact with visitors and explore new business and market opportunities.

Pertinently, JKTPO has been working towards promoting trade, commerce, investment and exports from Jammu & Kashmir by facilitating market linkages and providing platforms for local enterprises to connect with the buyers and business stakeholders. The Organization also serves as the nodal agency for

ODOP promotion, trade fairs and exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, district export promotion initiatives and digital market linkages.

The Kashmir Expo 2026 is part of these continued efforts to strengthen the market access, promote local products, empower artisans and entrepreneurs and showcase the rich economic and cultural potential of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Expo will continue till 13th September 2026 at Zabarwan Park, Boulevard Road, Srinagar, and is open to visitors, offering an opportunity to experience the region’s distinctive craft, culture and cuisine under one platform.

Artisan’s IFFJK show creates buzz, capture attention of tourists, locals

Srinagar’s SK Park hosts Soulful Kashmir, mesmerise visitors, students and craft lovers with niche handmade products

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11: Riding high on the success of its acclaimed ‘Know Your Artisan’ series, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, successfully organised its September edition on the sidelines of J&K’s 1st International Film Festival at SK Park, Srinagar.

Focused on showcasing Kashmir’s high-value GI-tagged and languishing crafts, the Department presented a vibrant blend of art, craft and heritage, drawing an overwhelming response from tourists, art aficionados, students and the general public.

In a press statement Friday, a spokesperson of the department, as per an official statement, stated that as many as 26 stalls were installed showcasing unique handcrafted creations, visitors to interact directly with master artisans, explore authentic crafts and providing artisans a platform for direct marketing.

The School of Designs, Kashmir, facilitated LIVE craft demonstrations, while a dedicated ‘Try Corner’ offered hands-on experience in pottery, papier-mâché and needlework. Live music, organised in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, further enhanced the heritage



ambience.

Students from various schools and colleges participated enthusiastically, mesmerised by the quality and intricate craftsmanship. They interacted with artisans, witnessed demonstrations and tried their hand at craft-making, gaining firsthand exposure to the skill and precision involved.

A spokesperson said the initiative provided artisans a platform to showcase their skills and connect directly with tourists, buyers, students and the public. “Know Your Artisan’ is aimed at creating awareness about the heritage value, authenticity and craftsmanship

of Kashmir’s traditional crafts while strengthening the artisan-consumer connect,” he said.

He said the encouraging response had strengthened the Department’s resolve to carry the initiative to prominent tourist-centric and other high-footfall locations, ensuring greater visibility, recognition and market access for artisans.

The Department urged tourists, buyers and craft enthusiasts to support Kashmir’s craft maestros by purchasing authentic products and joining the ‘Vocal for Local’ initiative to help preserve and revive the region’s rich craft heritage.

DC Bandipora visits Kuloosa to oversee rescue operation of drowned boy

Urges parents to keep children away from water bodies

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib visited Kuloosa on Friday morning to personally assess and monitor the intensive search and rescue operation underway following the unfortunate drowning of a young boy in Nallah Madhumati yesterday evening.

Expressing profound sorrow over the tragic incident, the DC extended heartfelt sympathies to the aggrieved

parents and family members. Terming the incident heartbreaking, she stated that the child had reportedly stepped near the bank to retrieve a ball while playing and slipped into the rapid stream.

The DC, as per an official statement, reviewed the ongoing joint search operation, which was launched swiftly within an hour of the incident by teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Jammu & Kashmir Police, District Administration, and local volunteers.

JKRERA Portal gets GIS Project Tracker, Unregistered Projects Report features

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11: In a major move to boost transparency and protect the homebuyers, the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) has upgraded its official web portal with two new citizen-centric features: an interactive GIS mapping tool and an online facility to report unregistered projects.

These digital interventions, as per an official statement, aim to give the public easy access to verified property data while actively curbing unauthorized real estate developments across the Union Territory.

The newly integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tool allows the general public to visually locate the real estate developments. Through this interactive map, citizens can easily check the real-time status of projects, including the details of all developments currently registered with JKRERA, as well as those whose applications are under process. To access the map, users simply need to visit the official JKRERA homepage and click on the “View on the Map” option.

IGNOU launches 1-year MA in Development Studies for FYUP Graduates for July 2026 session

KT News Desk

Srinagar, September 11: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has announced the launch of its new One-Year MA in Development Studies (MADVSOY) programme for the July 2026 academic session. The programme is set to boost specialized higher education in the development sector. It is specifically crafted to equip students with the advanced knowledge, practical skills, and field exposure required to drive impactful policy and social change.

The programme, as per a PIB statement, is being offered by the School of Extension and Development Studies IGNOU New Delhi. Designed meticulously for technical and multidisciplinary graduates who are keen to shape

their careers in the development sector. As per the official notification, admissions are open exclusively to FYUP Graduates, Professional Agriculture/Allied Graduates, and Engineering Graduates holding a 4-year B.Tech or B.E. degree in any branch.

There is no doubt traditional frameworks are evolving globally which are creating a pressing need for experts to formulate, implement, monitor, and evaluate large-scale development programmes. Likewise different nations are undergoing rapid transformation in the socio-economic sector while tackling the climate crisis, and a number of them are pushing for sustainable development, therefore, within the country there is high demand for highly skilled development professionals.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES, SRINAGAR Fisheries Complex Chattabal Srinagar-190010

Phone No. 0194-4062119)

NOTICE FOR INVITING OBJECTIONS

Objections are invited from the stakeholders/ applicants regarding the selection of beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Scheme in District Srinagar. The selection of beneficiaries for various Fisheries related activities/components was conducted through Draw of Lots by the designated District Level Steering Committee under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner, Srinagar constituted vide Govt. Order No. 944-JK (GAD) of 2020 dated 15-10-2020 at Meeting Hall, DC office Srinagar on 10-09-2026 at 4:00 PM. The objections shall be received in District Fisheries Office Srinagar by or before 15-09-2026 during office hours. No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of stipulated time period.

01. List of Selected beneficiaries for the component Live Fish Vending Centre (Gen. Category)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Asif Malik	Mohd Ayoub Malik	Lasjan	7006024574	Selected
02	Dr. Hilal Ahmad	Ghulam Mohd Bhat	Mufti Bagh	7006758393	Waiting 1
03	Nareema Showkat	Showkat Hussain Dar	Magarmal Bagh	6006378461	Waiting 2

02. List of Selected beneficiaries for the component Three Wheeler for fish vending (Women Category)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Nusrat Jan	Showkat Ahmad Bhat	Check Dara	9018760475	Selected
02	Nayeema Showkat	W/o Jahangir Rashid	New Theed	7006954288	Selected

03. List of Selected beneficiaries for the component Backyard Ornamental Fish Rearing Unit (Gen. Category)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Saira Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad	Ishber Nishat	9149516813	Selected
02	Dr. Hilal Ahmad	Ghulam Mohd Bhat	Mufti Bagh	7006758393	Waiting 1

04. List of Selected beneficiaries for the component Refrigerated vehicle (ST-DAJGUA)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Basharat Ahmad Khatana	Jalal Ud Din Khatana	Fakir Gujri	9103172442	Selected

05. List of Selected beneficiaries for the component Trout Rearing Unit (ST-DAJGUA Category)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Dilshada Bano	W/o Basharat Ahmad Khatana	Dardkhoover, Fakir Gujri	9103172442	Selected
02	Gulshan Akhter	Jalal Ud Din Khatana	Dardkhoover, Fakir Gujri	7889728320	Selected
03	Nussrath Jan	Juma Gojar Blote	Fakir Gujri	7780965018	Selected

05. List of Selected beneficiaries for the component Motor Cycle with Ice Box (ST-DAJGUA Category)

S. No.	Name of the Applicant	Parentage	Residence	Contact No.	Remarks
01	Rafaqat Ali	Jalal Ud Din Khatana	Fakir Gujri	6006409348	Selected
02	Nazakat Ali	Jalal Ud Din Khatana	Fakir Gujri	7889728320	Selected
03	Mudasir Ahmad Bajran	Mohd Ismail Bajran	Fakir Gujri	7006121312	Selected

DIPK-5582/26
DATED: 11-09-2026

Sd/
Assistant Director Fisheries
District Srinagar

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

e-Mail: xen-phemds@jk.gov.in; e-mail hcpphemds@gmail.com

GIST NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No: JSMDs/e-NIT-29 of 09/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division, Srinagar, invites tenders by e-tendering mode on percentage basis from registered Electrical Firms for execution of the following work: -

S. No.	Name of the work	Estimate cost (in)	EMD in (₹)	Time of completion	Head Of Account
01	Various electrical works at Lift Water Station Stage 1 st & 2 nd of WSS Pokhribal	2,17,368/-	4350/-	30 days	2215 (M&R)

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11 -09-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 11 -09-2026 (2:00 p.m.) to 25 -09 2026 (upto 04:00 pm)
3.	Period of submitting of bids (online)	From 11 -09-2026 (4:00 p.m.) to 25 -09 2026 (upto 04:00 pm)
4.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	26 -09-2026 (02.00 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Srinagar
5.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	After evaluation of technical bid(s)

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in The Bids Technical bid and financial bid shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website. www.jktenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division
Srinagar.

DIPK-5607/26
DATED: 11-09-2026

No: JSMDs/CC/
Dated: 10/09/2026

2595-99

Provide more opportunities to local artists: Mian Altaf



Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 11: National Conference senior leader and Member Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad on Friday said local artists of Jammu and Kashmir should be given priority and adequate opportunities in film festivals and other cultural programmes organised in the region.

Talking to reporters here, Mian Altaf said, "Artists from Jammu and Kashmir working in different fields, including films, drama, theatre and poetry, should be accommodated and encouraged. Whichever programme

is organised here, the first preference should be given to local artists and people from J&K, irrespective of the field they belong to."

He said the participation of filmmakers and artists from outside the region was welcome, but equal attention should be paid to local talent.

"Our local artists should also be encouraged in the same manner. They should be invited, separate programmes should be organised for them and they should also be provided funding," he said, adding that the concerns raised by local artists were genuine and deserved the

government's attention.

On the situation in Ladakh and the demands raised by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, Mian Altaf said he did not have sufficient knowledge of the ground situation in Leh to comment conclusively.

He said different versions were being presented by the stakeholders and maintained that the situation could become clearer in the coming days.

"Both sides have their own versions. We should wait; perhaps the position will become clear in a week or ten days," he said.

On the BRICS Summit, Mian Altaf termed the hosting of the major international event in Delhi a positive development, saying the participation of heads of several countries would provide an opportunity for discussions and deliberations.

"Such conferences are held across the world. What their agendas are and whether they are result-oriented will be seen, but holding such a major event in Delhi is a good thing," he said.

On the political situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he stressed the need for greater unity among people. "We also need to unite," he said—(KNO)

CM Omar congratulates Para Archer Sheetal Devi



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 11: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has congratulated Indian para archer Ms. Sheetal Devi on winning the Gold Medal in the Women's Compound Individual Event at the World Archery Para Series 2026, Stage III, held in Ahmedabad.

The Chief Minister said Sheetal's remarkable achievement, which also includes a Bronze Medal in the Compound Mixed Team Event, is a proud moment for the entire nation.

He wished her continued success and greater laurels in all her future endeavours.

The 19-year-old World Champion defeated Kazakhstan's Aizada Seidan in a shoot-off after the gold medal contest ended in a 144-144 draw.

Sheetal shot a 10 with her shoot-off arrow, while Seidan managed a 9, securing the title for the Indian archer at the Sabarmati Riverfront.

SED bans early exit on monthly last working day

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 11: The School Education Department has banned schools from letting students leave early without permission on the last working day of every month.

Directorate of School Education Kashmir in a circular said that it has observed during visits to various schools in North Kashmir including Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara that in some educational institutions an unauthorized practice of dispersing students before the prescribed closing time on the last working day of every month is being followed.

DSEK said that the practice of observing an unauthorized 'half-day' on the last day of every month is strictly prohibited.

"The last working day of the month is a regular working day and the prescribed school timings shall be adhered to in letter and spirit," reads the circular.

It also said, "No Head of Institution or member of the staff shall curtail the instructional/working hours or disperse students before the prescribed closing time merely on the ground that it is the last day of the month."

The directorate further said that such practices result in loss of valuable instructional time, adversely affect the academic interests of

students and reflect a serious lapse in the proper discharge of official duties.

"It has also been observed that during such curtailed hours, students may be left without meaningful academic engagement while staff may indulge in activities not connected with their assigned duties," DSEK said.

DSEK directed all Chief Education Officers, Zonal Education Officers and Heads of Institutions of North Kashmir viz. Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara to ensure that the practice is stopped forthwith and that schools function strictly as per the prescribed timings on the last working day of every month as well as on all other working days.

"The Heads of Institutions shall remain personally responsible for ensuring the proper attendance of staff and students, effective utilization of instructional time and adherence to the prescribed school timings," reads the circular.

It also said that any instance of unauthorized early dispersal of students or deliberate curtailment of school hours shall be viewed seriously. "Any official found involved in, facilitating or permitting such unauthorized practice shall be liable for strict administrative/disciplinary action under the applicable rules, besides any other action warranted under the circumstances," DSEK said—(KNO)

SPO's Marathon inspires youth to shun drugs: DGP Ladakh



Raja Syed Rather

Ladakh, Sep 11: Director General of Police (DGP) Ladakh, Anand Jain on Friday said the achievement of a Special Police Officer (SPO) in the Ladakh Marathon 2026 has send a strong message to the youth to remain physically fit and participate in positive activities.

Talking to reporters here, the DGP urged the youth to stay away from drugs and focus on sports, education and other constructive pursuits.

He said participation in sports and other positive activities would help the youth build their own future while also enabling them to contribute towards nation-building.

The DGP said the police department would provide cash awards to such achievers. He added that sportspersons also have an advantage under the four per cent quota in recruitment, subject to the category and applicable provisions—(KNO)

NHM employees extend strike by 72 hours

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 11: The agitation by National Health Mission (NHM) employees continued across Jammu and Kashmir for the third consecutive day on Friday, with the employees deciding to extend their ongoing 72-hour strike by another 72 hours from September 12, citing failure of the government to take concrete and time-bound action on their long-pending demands.

The decision was taken by the Jammu & Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA) UT-Level Coordination Committee, which said the extension was necessary as the issues raised by NHM employees had remained unresolved despite repeated representations, meetings and assurances from the authorities.

According to details obtained, the employees associated with different NHM programmes and health services continued their peaceful protest at district, block and field-level establishments across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The protesting workforce includes employees working under various NHM programmes, including the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), who have been seeking a comprehensive policy addressing their



remuneration, employment security and social-security concerns.

The Association said thousands of NHM employees have served the public healthcare system under contractual arrangements for nearly 18 years, often performing responsibilities comparable to those of regular employees, but without a clear and sustainable framework governing their long-term service conditions.

Among the major demands are revision and enhancement of salaries and remuneration, a comprehensive policy for job security, retirement benefits and social-security measures, besides resolution of other long-pending service-related issues through a transparent and time-bound mechanism.

The employees are also seeking a

dignified and workable retirement benefit or "Golden Handshake" policy for those who complete their service, along with welfare measures that can provide financial protection after retirement.

A protesting employee said the prolonged contractual nature of their employment had created uncertainty among thousands of workers despite their years of service. "We have served the health sector for years and have performed our duties in hospitals, health centres and at the field level. Our demand is not only about salary enhancement; we want a clear policy that gives us job security, social protection and dignity after years of service," the employee said.

Continued on

www.kashmirthunder.in

Another employee said NHM workers had repeatedly approached the government hoping for a permanent solution but were yet to see a concrete policy decision.

"We have received assurances at different stages, but assurances alone cannot resolve the uncertainty faced by employees and their families. We want a written, time-bound and sustainable mechanism through which these issues are finally settled," the employee said.

The Association maintained that NHM employees have remained an important component of healthcare delivery in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly during public-health emergencies, disease-control programmes and other situations requiring sustained manpower at hospitals, health centres and field institutions.

The employees said their agitation should not be viewed as being against the healthcare system or the public, asserting that their objective was to secure a sustainable future for the workforce while ensuring that the government addresses their concerns through dialogue.

The UT-Level Coordination Committee said the latest agitation followed the expiry of an ultimatum issued to the government after

Casual workers hold protest over regularisation delay



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 11: The Jammu and Kashmir Casual/Daily Wagers Forum (JKCDF) on Friday held a peaceful protest at Sher-i-Kashmir Park here, urging the government to address the long-pending demands of casual and daily-wage workers, particularly regularisation of their services.

The protest was led by J&K Casual/Daily Wagers Forum president Sajad Ahmed Parray, who said the workers had gathered peacefully to draw the government's attention towards their issues and seek their early resolution.

Parray said the forum wanted to pursue its demands through peaceful and democratic means, but warned the government against forcing workers to take a stronger step.

"We want to once again remind the government that this is a peaceful protest. We want to tell the government not to force us to take the call of stopping the water supply," he said.

The forum president said the workers are employees whose responsibility is to serve the people and appealed to the government to intervene and resolve their issues. "We are employees and our work is to serve the people. We appeal to the government not to force us to give a call for stopping the water supply. The day that happens, not even a single drop of water will flow here," he said.

Parray said the forum had repeatedly raised the concerns of casual and daily-wage workers and was seeking concrete action from the government on their long-pending demands.

He said the workers did not want the general public to suffer because of their grievances and maintained that the forum was continuing to pursue its demands through peaceful protests and democratic means. "We are peacefully saying this because we want the government to listen to our genuine concerns and resolve our issues. We do not want the public to suffer, but the government should also understand the difficulties being faced by the workers," Parray said.

The forum president further urged the government to take the matter seriously, initiate dialogue with the workers and take concrete steps towards resolving their grievances.

Parray said the forum would continue to raise the issues of casual and daily-wage workers through peaceful means and hoped that the government would respond positively to their demands.

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Kashmir Expo connects artisans with wider markets: Vikramjit Singh

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 11: Jammu and Kashmir is working to connect its artisans, self-help groups and entrepreneurs with wider domestic and international markets through exhibitions, trade promotion programmes and product-authentication initiatives, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, said on Friday.

Speaking about the Kashmir Expo, Singh said such events provide artisans, self-help groups and entrepreneurs a platform to showcase, market and sell their products while interacting directly with potential customers and understanding changing market demands.

Singh said the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) has been organising various programmes to create market opportunities



for artisans, self-help groups and entrepreneurs across the Union Territory. "Our endeavour is to provide opportunities to artisans, self-help groups and entrepreneurs so that they can bring their products to exhibitions, showcase them to the public and market them," he said.

He said a 'Know Your Artisan' campaign was organised near

Polo Ground last week, while a similar programme is currently being held in Kashmir. A programme will also be organised in Jammu from September 18, providing artisans, self-help groups and startups from the Jammu region an opportunity to exhibit and sell their products.

Singh said such trade promotion programmes help artisans reach

new customers and receive direct feedback on market requirements, enabling them to improve, redesign and innovate their products.

He said efforts were also being made to organise exhibitions within J&K as well as in other parts of the country, particularly at locations frequented by tourists and potential customers, to give local artisans access to larger markets.

On protecting handmade products and ensuring their authenticity, Singh said the Handicrafts Department had introduced a QR-code mechanism and secured 18 Geographical Indication (GI) tags for handicraft and handmade products, while 17 more were under process. "These efforts are aimed at protecting the unique intellectual property of our products and giving customers confidence that the handmade product they are purchasing is genuine and meets the required standards," he said.

Singh said the capacity of testing laboratories had also been substantially enhanced, with the facilities now conducting more than 150 tests a day, compared to around 20 tests two years ago.

He said funds from the Government of India had been utilised to install machinery and deploy manpower to further strengthen the testing infrastructure.

The Commissioner/Secretary further said the department was working towards establishing a Non-Farm Producer Company for every handicraft and handmade product to facilitate access to finance, raw-material banks and better marketing opportunities.

He added that Common Facility Centres were also being established wherever required, including facilities for wool dyeing in carpet-making and machinery for woodcraft. "Our effort is to create a complete ecosystem for

Continued on
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EDITORIAL

Start The Conversation

World Suicide Prevention Day was observed. Experts called for “starting the conversation”. Suicide is not an individual failing or a sudden, inexplicable act. It is, as mental-health experts remind us, the outcome of complex psychological distress—a pain so unbearable that a person can no longer see a way forward. Our task is to become that way forward. The theme “Changing the

Narrative on Suicide” calls for a fundamental shift in how we understand, discuss, and respond to this crisis. Words matter. Terms like “committed suicide” carry an element of blame and shame. “Died by suicide” is more compassionate and accurate. Responsible media reporting—avoiding sensational headlines, graphic details, and repetitive imagery—can save lives rather than cause harm. The focus

must shift to prevention, recovery, and where to find help. Equally important is recognising that suicide prevention is not the sole responsibility of psychiatrists. A teacher who notices a student’s withdrawal, a colleague who checks on a friend, a family member who simply asks, “Are you really okay?”—each of these acts of attention can make a difference. Warning signs such as persistent hopelessness, isolation, and

talk of being a burden should prompt a supportive conversation, not avoidance. Experts advise that asking directly about suicidal thoughts does not plant the idea; it opens a door for someone suffering in silence. Listening without judgment is often the first step toward healing. Accessible support systems like TeleMANAS, which provides round-the-clock mental health services through 14416, are vital. But

they must be complemented by a society that takes emotional distress seriously—one that replaces stigma with compassion and silence with conversation. Suicide prevention begins long before a crisis reaches a hospital. It begins in homes, classrooms, workplaces, and communities where someone chooses to listen. Let us commit to starting that conversation—and ensuring no one feels alone in their pain.

Every School, A Model School

PM SHRI And India's Push For Future-Ready Schools

Press Information Bureau

Launched on 7 September 2022, the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme seeks to develop over 14,500 exemplar schools aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. With a total outlay of 27,360 crore across 2022–23 to 2026–27, the scheme strengthens infrastructure, pedagogy, inclusion, and sustainability, while equipping students with 21st-century skills. As of July 2026, 13,092 schools – around 90% of the target– have been selected across 36 States/UTs including schools under KVS, NVS, and NCERT. The schools are selected through a three-stage Challenge Mode based on defined quality benchmarks. Envisioned as mentor institutions for neighbouring schools, PM SHRI schools mark a shift from infrastructure-centric development towards holistic, equitable, and future-ready education.

PM SHRI: Building Schools That Lead by Example

India is witnessing a significant transformation in its school education system, marked by a growing emphasis on quality, equity, inclusion, and future-ready learning. With 14.71 lakh schools serving more than 24.69 crore students, the education system is increasingly focused on enhancing learning outcomes and creating enabling environments that support the holistic development of every learner. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 furnishes the overarching framework for this transformation, while the PM SHRI initiative operationalizes its vision at the school level, translating policy intent into institutional practice. Launched on 7 September 2022, the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. The scheme seeks to qualitatively strengthen existing schools and develop them as exemplar institutions demonstrating the effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. With a total project cost of 27,360 crore, the scheme focuses on strengthening more than 14,500 existing schools as exemplar institutions. These schools are envisioned to provide safe, stimulating, and welcoming learning environments, supported by quality infrastructure, appropriate learning resources, and diverse learning experiences.

As of July 2026, 13,092 schools have been selected as PM SHRI Schools across States and Union Territories, including schools under the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). This represents around 90% of the envisaged target. The scheme is expected to benefit more than 20 lakh students directly.

Strategic Focus of PM SHRI

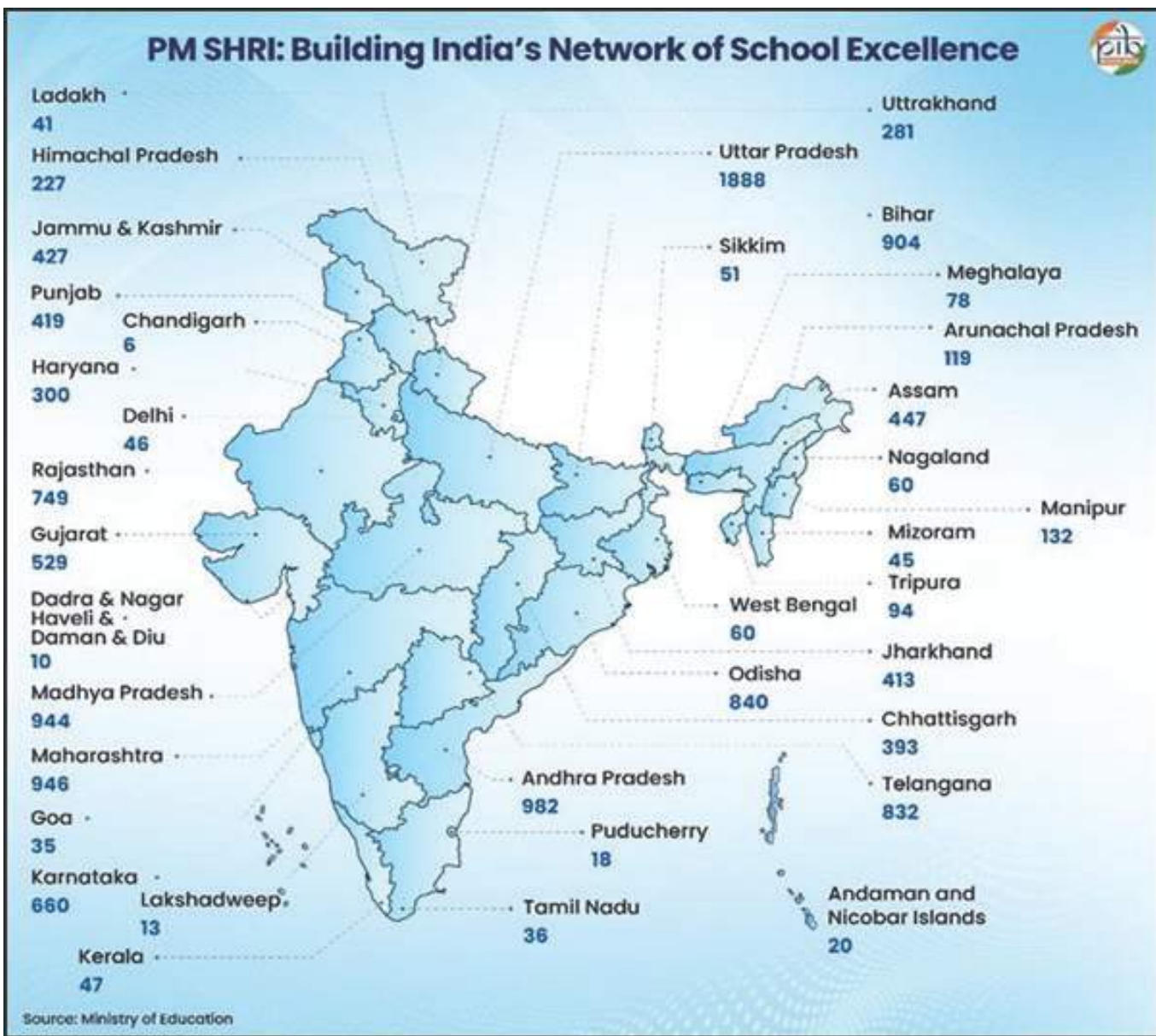
The scheme extends support beyond strengthening individual schools. PM SHRI schools are envisioned as models for their regions, sharing their practices and supporting neighbouring schools through mentoring, handholding, collaboration and clustering. This is intended to create a ripple effect, enabling more schools to develop towards exemplar standards over time.

At the core of the scheme is a vision of education that fosters lifelong learning and equips students with the capacity and disposition to learn, unlearn and relearn. The broader objective is to develop engaged, productive and responsible citizens capable of contributing to the creation of an equitable, inclusive and plural society.

Strengthening School Education Through PM SHRI

The Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme is being implemented over five years, from 2022–23 to 2026–27. The scheme has a total project cost of 27,360 crore, including a Central share of 18,128 crore. The central share of approved Project Approval Board (PAB) outlay rose from 2,520 crore in 2023–24 to 5,224 crore in 2026–27. This marks an increase of around 107%, reflecting the growing scale of investment in strengthening PM SHRI schools.

PM SHRI Schools: Advancing the Vision of NEP 2020



PM SHRI Scheme aims to showcase all the components of the National Education Policy 2020 and focuses not only on cognitive development but also on creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st century skills. The scheme focuses on creating an equitable, inclusive, and joyful learning environment that caters to diverse backgrounds and varied academic abilities. These schools are designed to engage students actively in their learning process, ensuring that every child feels welcomed, cared for, and supported in a safe and stimulating environment.

Key Dimensions of Quality and Excellence under PM SHRI

PM SHRI Schools are designed as exemplar schools that demonstrate the key principles of NEP 2020 through quality education, modern infrastructure, inclusive practices and sustainable development.

Inclusive Learning: Provides high-quality, equitable, and joyful education while addressing diverse backgrounds, multilingual needs, and different learning abilities.

Mentorship: PM SHRI Schools will serve as exemplar schools and provide leadership and mentorship to other schools in their regions.

Green Schools: Promote sustainable and environment-friendly practices as an important school quality benchmark.

Experiential Learning: Emphasizes experiential, holistic, integrated, inquiry-based, and learner-centered approaches, including play and toy-based learning in the foundational years.

Learning Outcomes: Focuses on curriculum, pedagogy and assessment to strengthen learning outcomes and the application of knowledge.

Quality Infrastructure: Involves assessing school infrastructure on parameters including adequacy, functionality, aesthetics and safety.

Future Ready Skills: Promotes exposure to 21st century skills and links schools with the local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Quality Assessment: The School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) provides a structured mechanism to assess and monitor the quality of PM SHRI Schools.

The six pillars of PM SHRI schools The PM SHRI schools scheme is based on the development of sub-domains of six

major pillars derived from 9 chapters of NEP 2020, which are as follows:

How PM SHRI Schools Transform School Education

Learning Designed Around the Child PM SHRI schools follow either the CBSE or the relevant State or Union Territory syllabus according to their affiliation. Their curriculum follows the National Curriculum Framework or State Curriculum Framework developed in accordance with the 5+3+3+4 curricular and pedagogical structure under NEP 2020. States and Union Territories have flexibility to contextualise the curriculum according to local needs while adhering to core principles and constitutional values.

PM SHRI Schools also promote experiential learning through bagless days,

internships with local artisans, study of local arts, crafts and traditions, celebration of important cultural events, and preservation of indigenous knowledge and practices.

Equity, Inclusion and Multilingual Learning

PMSHRI schools have played a pivotal role in providing inclusive and equitable education, ensuring that students from diverse backgrounds, including rural and underserved communities, have access to high-quality education. By focusing on bridging educational disparities, these schools have helped create a more equitable learning environment across India.

The scheme also promotes the use of the mother tongue, local or regional language as the medium of teaching and learning, particularly in the early grades. The latest UDISE+ 2025–26 data records 6,102 Sanskrit teachers, 1,994 Urdu teachers, and 9,152 regional language teachers in PM SHRI schools.

It also encourages community participation in supporting learning through local languages. This approach is crucial for ensuring that every child develops strong foundational literacy and numeracy skills.

Technology Enabled Learning

A significant achievement of PM SHRI Schools lies in the systematic integration of technology into the teaching–learning environment. The provision of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities, smart classrooms, internet connectivity, digital learning platforms, and STEM-based

programmes is contributing to the creation of more interactive, experiential, and learner-centred educational environments. These interventions not only enhance access to diverse learning resources but also support the development of digital literacy, technological competencies, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Platforms such as DIKSHA serve as repositories of high-quality digital educational resources and facilitate the sharing and dissemination of learning materials among teachers and students, thereby strengthening technology-enabled pedagogical practices.

Holistic Student Development

PM SHRI Schools adopt a holistic approach to student development by integrating academic learning with extracurricular activities, sports, arts, and life-skills education. This multidimensional approach extends beyond traditional academic achievement to foster the development of leadership capabilities, creativity, socio-emotional competencies, and interpersonal skills. By providing opportunities for diverse forms of learning and participation, the schools seek to equip students with the competencies, resilience, and adaptability required to navigate future educational, professional, and social challenges.

Empowering Teachers and School Leaders

PM SHRI Schools seek to strengthen teacher capacity and institutional leadership through structured professional development initiatives supported by District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs). Under the initiative, financial assistance of up to 3 lakh per DIET is provided for capacity-building programmes, while support of up to 2,500 per teacher is extended for the training of subject teachers, principals, special educators, ICT teachers, and master trainers.

Principals are provided training in educational leadership, school management, and competency-based pedagogical planning, enabling them to strengthen institutional planning and academic governance. Teachers receive professional development in areas including the Holistic Progress Card, school safety, mental health and well-being, first-level counselling, and ICT integration. These interventions seek to enhance pedagogical competencies, strengthen school leadership, and promote continuous professional

development among educational personnel.

A Growing National Network

The PM SHRI initiative has established a substantial national network comprising 13,092 selected schools across States and Union Territories, including institutions under the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The initiative has achieved extensive geographical coverage, encompassing 725 districts and 8,340 blocks/ULBs, thereby establishing a broad institutional and spatial footprint across the country.

Among the 13,092 selected schools, 1,305 are primary schools, 3,102 upper primary schools, 3,141 secondary schools, and 5,544 higher secondary schools. The network further includes 80 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), 913 KVS schools, 620 NVS schools, and 4 NCERT schools. The scale and diversity of this network demonstrate the expanding reach of PM SHRI Schools.

Selection Built on Quality Benchmarks

Selection of PM SHRI schools is done through Challenge Mode, wherein Schools compete for support to become exemplar schools. Selection is done through a three-stage process with definite timelines, which is as follows:

Stage 1: Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

States and Union Territories (UTs) enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre, outlining their commitments towards providing the requisite support and enabling the selected schools to achieve the prescribed quality standards for PM SHRI Schools.

Stage 2: Identification of Eligible Schools

A pool of schools eligible for selection as PM SHRI Schools is identified on the basis of prescribed minimum benchmarks and relevant indicators available through the UDISE+ data.

Stage 3: Selection through the Challenge Method

Eligible schools identified in Stage 2 participate in a challenge-based selection process to demonstrate compliance with specified criteria. Schools compete against the prescribed challenge conditions, with fulfilment of the stipulated requirements.

Fulfilment of conditions is verified and certified through physical inspection by the respective States/UTs, KVS, or NVS authorities, and recommend the list of schools to the Ministry.

An Expert Committee headed by the Secretary (SE&L), at the Ministry of Education, is constituted for final selection of schools. Schools must meet minimum standards such as a pucca building, barrier-free access, safety measures, separate toilets, drinking water, hand-washing facilities, electricity, ID cards for teachers, enrolment at Elementary and Senior Secondary levels must be more than the State average enrolment and library or sports facilities. For the Challenge Method, schools in urban areas are required to secure a minimum score of 70 percent, while schools in rural areas require a minimum of 60 percent. The assessment covers infrastructure, learning outcomes, pedagogy, PM POSHAN, vocational education, green initiatives, and stakeholder commitment.

Schools as Models for Wider Change

PM SHRI represents a paradigm shift from an infrastructure-centric approach to school development towards the establishment of holistic, inclusive, equitable, and future-ready learning institutions. The initiative operationalises the vision and priorities of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by emphasising quality and competency-based learning, continuous teacher professional development, technology-enabled education, and the creation of a safe, inclusive, and enabling school environment.

As exemplar institutions, PM SHRI Schools are envisaged to demonstrate and disseminate innovative educational practices that can be adapted and replicated by neighbouring schools, thereby contributing to broader systemic improvements in school education. The overarching objective is to foster capable, confident, creative, and responsible learners, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values required to participate meaningfully in a more equitable, inclusive, and future-ready India.

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

CS Dulloo reviews framework for UT-level Project Monitoring Group

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11: Jammu & Kashmir is set to establish a dedicated Project Monitoring Group (JK-PMG) on the lines of the National Project Monitoring Group (PMG) to ensure high-level monitoring of mega developmental projects and facilitate smooth, coordinated resolution of bottlenecks affecting their execution.

The institutional framework for replicating the national mechanism in the UT was presented before Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, by representatives of the National PMG. The proposed system is aimed at strengthening project oversight, improving inter-departmental coordination and ensuring timely intervention in matters involving land acquisition, statutory clearances, construction approvals and other implementation-related issues.

While speaking the Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, maintained that we should leverage technology to move from periodic status reporting to real-time, milestone-based project monitoring. He exuded hope that this comprehensive digital platform will enable us to track progress, identify critical gaps and take informed decisions based on reliable data.

He further observed that a clearly defined escalation framework will ensure that issues are addressed at the level where they can be resolved,



while matters requiring higher-level intervention are brought up without unnecessary delay. This will strengthen both administrative responsiveness and project accountability, he appreciated.

The Chief Secretary also impressed upon the National PMG team to undertake additional capacity-building sessions for local stakeholders, ensuring that they are fully conversant with the system, its workflow and the escalation mechanism, along with adequately equipping them to take over its operations efficiently here. Highlighting the significance of this monitoring group the Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R.Alice Vaz revealed that currently the National PMG monitors 61 projects in J&K, involving investments of 3.91 lakh crore with 130 active issues currently under review through National PMG portal.

She further added that the proposed JK-PMG would function under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary, with a dedicated team of project experts and a designated administrative

department responsible for day-to-day operations and coordination.

The group would monitor identified mega and strategically important projects, track milestones and pending approvals besides facilitating coordination among executing agencies and district administrations, and escalate unresolved issues for appropriate intervention.

The framework envisages a structured review mechanism comprising fortnightly departmental-level reviews by Administrative Secretaries/Heads of Departments, monthly reviews chaired by the Chief Secretary, besides the reviews at the highest government level chaired by the Chief Minister himself for matters requiring such consideration. This graduated arrangement would ensure that project-related issues are examined at the appropriate level and escalated wherever necessary.

It was demonstrated by the team that the proposed JK-PMG would leverage a digitized, cost-free portal with automated

reporting and analytical capabilities. Under the envisaged workflow, project proponents would register projects and bottlenecks, sponsoring departments would verify the issues, and the concerned district administration or departments would undertake action for their resolution. Critical unresolved matters would be escalated to higher forums involving the concerned stakeholders for instant resolution of the issues at hand.

Later, the National PMG team conducted a sensitization workshop for officers and officials of the Planning Department and other concerned stakeholders, apprising them of the working, institutional architecture, digital workflow and escalation mechanism of the proposed JK-PMG. The workshop focused on the roles of various stakeholders in identifying, tracking and resolving project-related bottlenecks, while facilitating a common understanding of the operational processes required for its smooth implementation in the UT.

Eye screening of school children in collaboration with Nayonika Eye Care started in Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 11: The District Administration Budgam Friday started the training programmes for school-level screening facilitators as part of the district-wide Children's Eye Health Programme in partnership with Health Department, Education and Nayonika Eye care.

The programme, as per an official statement, aims to equip screening facilitators with the necessary skills to conduct preliminary eye screening of students at the school level, enabling early identification and timely referral of children with vision-related problems. Under the program basic screening is being done in schools to identify kids with difficulties in eye sight. And then detailed tests and diagnosis at Sub District Hospitals and District Hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, emphasised the crucial role of school-level screeners in early identification of health and learning-related difficulties among children.

Asserting on screening of all school children, the Deputy Commissioner said that the timely detection of vision problems can significantly improve children's participation in classroom learning and educational activities.

Launched in collaboration with Nayonika Eye Care



Charitable Trust and Help Foundation J&K, the initiative envisages screening around 1.67 lakh students across 917 schools in the district.

During the training, teachers were sensitised on the correct use of the Snellen Eye Chart, screening procedures, recording of observations and referral of students requiring further assessment to Sub District and District Hospitals.

Students identified with suspected vision problems will be referred to concerned District

and Sub-District hospitals for rescreening and detailed examination. Those requiring spectacles will be provided eye-glasses free of cost, while cases requiring specialised or surgical treatment will be facilitated at GMCs and other tertiary-care eye hospitals.

The programme was attended by ADDC Budgam Vivek Agarwal, CMO, CEO, ZEOs and School wise screening facilitators, and representatives from Nayonika eye care and other collaborating organisations.

DC review preparation of vision document on narcotics control 2026-29 in Udhampur

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa Friday convened a meeting of officers of different departments to review the preparation and implementation of the vision document on drug control 2026-2029 as mandated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritpal Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan and other officers.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on various aspects to be incorporated in the Vision Document, including the drug threat and roadmap, the three-year, time-bound national roadmap to dismantle the drug-trafficking ecosystem and advance the vision of a Nasha Mukh Bharat,

treatment, rehabilitation and recovery, capacity building, preparation of the district vision document, patient monitoring systems, onboarding of Nasha Mukti Mitras, among other related issues.

The DC directed the concerned officers to incorporate the District specific aspects for effective implementation of the Vision Document on Drug Control 2026-2029. He laid emphasis on adopting a network-centric approach to combat the drug menace and stressed the need for strengthened inter-agency coordination.

During the meeting, he directed the concerned officers to prepare the district vision document through extensive consultations with various stakeholders.

He said that the document would provide a comprehensive roadmap for tackling the drug menace through coordinated measures focusing on demand reduction, supply reduction, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery.

Rural Mart coming up at Pethkoot Bandipora

DC Bandipora visits Mart site, takes spot inspection of work progress

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 11: With an aim to promote the local livelihood by providing multiple facilities under one roof for the tourists visiting various tourism attraction places at Bandipora including Gurez, the District Administration Bandipora is setting up a one of its kind Rural Mart at a beautifully located Yaali Pethkoot area of the district.

The Rural Mart, as per an official statement, shall be a wonderful facility for the tourists, as well as locals which will provide a range of amenities, including food and refreshment facilities, washrooms, parking, seating and resting spaces under a single roof. Besides it shall give impetus to the local livelihood by creating a sustainable and eco-friendly economic opportunities for the residents.

In order to monitor and expedite the ongoing construction work on the Rural Mart for its timely completion in next 45 days, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Friday visited the Mart site and took spot inspection of the work progress.



Executive Engineer R&B, informed that the Rural Mart is being constructed under the SSY at an approved cost of Rs 47 lakh. He informed that around 40 percent of the work has been completed so far and the project is expected to be completed by October 2026.

On the occasion, the DC held an interaction with the locals of Yaali Pethkoot, and apprised them about the purpose and potential of the Rural Mart being established in their locality. She called for active participation of the local community esp women in making the initiative successful.

The DC said the initiative is expected to provide an important platform for local artisans, entrepreneurs, foodpreneurs, self-help groups and other community members to showcase and sell their articles directly to visitors, thereby creating avenues for income generation and employment in the surrounding villages.

With its beautiful strategic location on the route towards Gurez, and overlooking Wullar, the facility is also being conceived as a tourist attraction in its own right, encouraging visitors to spend time in the area while offering them a

DDMA reviews disaster mitigation measures in Udhampur



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 11: District Disaster Management Authority meeting was held here Friday to review disaster mitigation measures in the district. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, who is also the chairman of the DDMA, chaired the meeting attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and functionaries from the stakeholder departments.

The DC, as per an official statement, conducted a

detailed department-wise review of temporary and permanent restoration works, including road-related projects. He stressed the need for close coordination among all line departments to strengthen disaster mitigation measures.

The DC also sought updates on the division-wise assessment of damages to roads and the status of permanent restoration projects. He directed all executing agencies to expedite restoration works and ensure their timely completion to restore connectivity and minimise inconvenience to the general public.

Progress of JM 2.0 schemes, water conservation projects reviewed in Kishtwar

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma Friday conducted a detailed scheme-wise review of Water Supply Schemes under JJM 2.0, 'Catch The Rain' under JSA: CTR and Water Security Interventions, here at a meeting of the stakeholder departments.

The Project Manager Jal Jeevan Mission, as per an official statement, presented a detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, JSA: CTR and Water Security Interventions (VB-G RAM G), while the ACP presented the achievements regarding implementation of SBM 2.0.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti to start Jal Aankalan of the remaining 09 villages out of the 16 reported villages within 07 days and submit the compliance report. He further directed him to pursue the matter with higher authorities and ensure procurement of 15mm dia pipes at the earliest to complete 13 Water Supply Schemes with minimal balance FHTCs. He also



directed him to rectify the observations in the three DAJGUA DPRs and ensure their resubmission by 12th September, 2026, besides to resolve the reconciliation issue with the Directorate of Jal Jeevan Mission and ensure payment to the contractors within three days.

The Jal Shakti Department was directed to carry out regular collection and testing of water samples, to complete geotagging of assets under Sujalam Bharat within 15 days and to ensure creation of the remaining 161 Sujal Gaon IDs within one week. Visits to the scheme construction sites and regular meetings with VWSCs and Pani Samitis, with geotagged photographs submitted to DPMU-JJM

was also stressed.

The Forest Department was directed to pursue approval of the JSA: CTR plan with higher authorities and incorporate the plantation programme of the department under JSA: CTR.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to provide the data of completed JSA: CTR works in the devised format for uploading on the portal and ensure completion of ongoing works at the earliest.

The Municipal Council officials were directed to coordinate with the Revenue Department for identification of suitable State land for construction of FSTP outside the town and ensure

construction of rooftop rainwater harvesting structures during construction of individual houses. The concerned departments were directed to expedite construction of the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) at Marwah and commencement of work on the ETP at District Hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the CEO and Jal Shakti Department to formulate a programme for visits of students to water supply schemes and NABL-accredited water testing laboratories after 22nd September, 2026, ensuring that the number of students visiting the laboratory remains within its capacity.

He also directed for proper coordination among the field staff of RDD and Jal Shakti departments for effective coordination in planning, implementation and uploading of data on designated portals.

"There is a need to foster a close coordination among the field functionaries of stakeholder departments for effective implementation of JJM 2.0, JSA: CTR and Water Security Interventions (VB-G RAM G) and facilitate the benefits of all schemes to the rural/urban habitations of the district," he noted.

DC Rajouri reviews implementation of Skill Development Programmes

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma Friday chaired a meeting of the District Skill Committee to review the implementation of the Skill Development Programmes and discuss measures for expanding skill-based livelihood and entrepreneurship opportunities in the district.

The meeting deliberated on strengthening convergence among departments and developing training programmes in accordance with local resources, market demand and emerging employment opportunities.

The Fisheries Department was asked to identify eligible beneficiaries under Mission Yuva, for pond-based fisheries activities, while the Rural Development Department will facilitate the construction of ponds for the identified beneficiaries.

Meeting decided to organise training programmes on milk processing at the block level to promote value addition, entrepreneurship and sustainable



income generation in rural areas.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the agriculture and allied departments to work on plans for enhancing the skills of beneficiaries of their departments to meet the market requirement. He also stressed on promoting innovative ideas aligned with new technology.

Discussing skill development interventions in border areas, the meeting explored collaboration with the Red Cross for extending suitable training and capacity-building programmes to youth in these areas.

The DC also reviewed the scope and functioning of Skill Training Centres and emphasised on strengthening their outreach and aligning courses with emerging market requirements.

Highlighting the potential of

emerging technologies, the DC stressed exploring AI-based video production and other digital skills as part of future-oriented training initiatives for youth.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure close coordination, identify innovative livelihood opportunities and make skill development programmes more outcome-oriented so that trained youth can access sustainable employment and self-employment opportunities.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Malik Zada Sheraz UI Haq; PO ICDS, Harpal Singh; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; ACD, Sheraz Chohan; Dy DEO, Mohd Nawaz Choudhary; DSWO, Abdul Raheem; CEO Mohd Hafiz; CAO, Rajesh Verma and other concerned officers.

BRICS: PM Modi meets UN chief Antonio Guterres

Discusses ongoing conflicts, freedom of navigation



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres ahead of the BRICS Summit, as both leaders held discussions on various issues, including ongoing conflicts and freedom of navigation, sustainable development, human-centric AI and global food security.

Both leaders also underscored the significance of "multipolarity" and the need to reform multilateral institutions, including the UNSC, to "reflect contemporary realities," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

India is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13.

Prime Minister Modi met with the UN Secretary-General

on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit here, it said.

"UNSG Guterres congratulated PM Modi for India's chairship of the BRICS for the fourth time. Both leaders underscored the significance of multipolarity and the need to reform multilateral institutions, including the UN Security Council, to reflect contemporary realities," it said in a statement.

"They also held discussions on various issues, including ongoing conflicts and freedom of navigation, sustainable development, human-centric AI, progress in renewable energy and global food security," the MEA said.

PM Modi also wished UNSG Guterres the very best for the remainder of his tenure.

In a post on X, he wrote, "Had a wonderful meeting

with UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres. Discussed multiple subjects including the ground covered in India's BRICS Presidency, India's commitment to strengthening multilateralism and the urgent need for UN reforms. @antonioguterres @UN @BricsIndia2026."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and several other leaders arrived in Delhi on Friday to attend the two-day BRICS summit that gets underway from Saturday.

President of New Development Bank Dilma Rousseff and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Chief Zou Jiayi have also reached the capital for the summit.

Putin says BRICS not against anyone, vows to scale up ties in talks with Modi

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 11: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday stressed the BRICS grouping was not against anyone and Moscow was open to working with the whole world as he agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties with India and slammed the economic restrictions imposed by the West on his country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the safety of Indian seafarers in the Black Sea during bilateral talks with Putin and reiterated India's readiness to support any peace initiative to end the Ukraine conflict. The meeting took place hours after Putin landed in New Delhi on a three-day visit to participate in the high-stakes BRICS summit. After the talks, Modi and Putin travelled in the same car.

Addressing a gathering of BRICS business leaders ahead of the summit, Putin said Russia was ready to work with partners on infrastructure and logistics projects, including the Arctic Transport Corridor and North-South Transport Corridor, as well as cooperation in technology, artificial intelligence, unmanned transport, finance, tourism and industry.

"We are not against anyone," Putin said. "We are in favour of our interests," while asserting that BRICS remained open to co-operation with the wider world.

Putin said the proposed NDB-based investment platform would seek to mobilise private-sector funding and make BRICS economies more competitive. He expressed hope that other BRICS members would support the initiative.

"We need funding," Putin said, adding that the NDB was already doing significant work but could provide the basis for a broader investment mechanism.

Signalling their resolve to maintain deeper engagement across diverse sectors, Modi and Putin agreed to strengthen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. According to an Indian read-out, the partnership continues to register "significant growth" and has "shown resilience in the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties".

While reviewing trade and investment ties, the two sides resolved to push annual bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030, up from the current USD 65 billion.

Modi said he and the Russian leader talked about closer trade ties, including implementation of the 'Programme for Economic Cooperation 2030' besides



delving into engagement in areas like infrastructure, energy, technology, defence and culture.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in the read-out that Modi accepted Putin's invitation to travel to Russia for the annual summit talks between the two countries.

In their over 45-minute talks, Modi and Putin also agreed to step up cooperation in defence, critical minerals, civil nuclear energy, fertiliser supplies and people-to-people exchanges. The two leaders "shared perspectives on key regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the conflicts in West Asia and the Black Sea region which have impacted maritime trade and the safety and security of Indian seafarers", the MEA said in the readout.

"The prime minister once again reiterated that dialogue and diplomacy was the way forward in resolving conflicts and India stood ready to assist in peace efforts," it said.

Five Indian seafarers died in the Black Sea due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine hostilities, prompting India to strongly raise the incidents with both Moscow and Kyiv.

The two leaders also visited the INNOPROM India exhibition at the Bharat Mandapam and interacted with the participants.

"President Putin invited Prime Minister to visit Russia for the 24th India-Russia Annual

Summit. The prime minister accepted the invitation. The dates of the summit will be decided as per mutual convenience through diplomatic channels," the MEA said.

Speaking at the business forum after his talks with Putin, Modi said progress in global trade is possible only when sea lanes are secure, supply routes remain open, and seafarers are safe. "That is why India is a staunch supporter of freedom of navigation and the safety of seafarers," he said.

"The world is always changing," Putin said, arguing that the economic weight of the traditional growth centres of the second half of the 20th century was being replaced by new engines of growth.

The Russian President framed the expanding BRICS economic architecture as an effort to advance national interests rather than exclude other countries. He argued that cooperation among governments, businesses and academia was helping BRICS build a resilient platform for global growth based on innovation and national priorities.

"The most important elements of this growth are not being imposed on anyone from the outside," Putin said.

Putin rejected the idea that Russia or BRICS was seeking economic isolation, saying Moscow was ready to cooperate with both existing and new

partners.

"We are open to working with the whole world," he said, adding that the BRICS Business Council could provide additional momentum to trade and economic ties and help advance projects in infrastructure, logistics, finance and technological cooperation.

At the same time, Putin sharply criticised the economic sanctions and other restrictions, arguing that competition was increasingly taking forms that included trade restrictions, pressure on transport routes and secondary sanctions.

He criticised Western trade and financial restrictions, saying competition was increasingly taking "ugly forms" at both corporate and state levels.

Modi and Putin previously met on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Bishkek last week where the prime minister called for an immediate end to the Ukraine conflict and urged the Russian leader to shift from an "endless war towards the end of war".

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025. Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last year.

Iran says to discuss Hormuz with Gulf states in Oman Monday

AFP

Tehran, Sep 11: Iran's foreign ministry said the country would meet with Gulf states in Oman on Monday to discuss the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which the Islamic republic has blockaded during the Middle East war.

"This meeting is intended to promote better understanding among the countries of the region and help strengthen shared regional security," the ministry said in a statement on Friday.

"Iraq and other littoral Arabian Gulf states" will participate, it added.

Iran has been at war since



February 28, when US-Israeli strikes killed its supreme leader. Iran retaliated with attacks across the region and blockaded the Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of world oil supplies previously flowed.

More than six months into

the Middle East war, the blockade continues to drive up oil prices, which soared past \$100 a barrel this week.

Oman and Iran, which both border the Strait of Hormuz, have been discussing for several weeks how the crucial waterway will be managed in the future.

The strait was free to transit before the war, but Iran now requires vessels to obtain permission and is considering a mechanism to impose service fees.

Ships that do not comply are regularly targeted by Iranian strikes, while the United States periodically bombs the Iranian coastline to challenge the Islamic republic's control of the strait.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Weather to remain

Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees Celsius, 5 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 16.4 degrees Celsius, 2 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 30.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.5 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 27.8 degrees Celsius and 10.4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In North Kashmir, Kupwara recorded a maximum of 32.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.4 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag recorded a maximum of 30.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14.8 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded 24 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 10.6 degrees Celsius as the minimum.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 34.3 degrees Celsius, 1.4 degrees above normal, while the minimum was 25.4 degrees Celsius.

Among other stations, Banihal recorded a maximum of 28.6 degrees Celsius, Batote 27.7 degrees Celsius, Katra 31 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 29.9 degrees Celsius.

No significant rainfall was recorded across the listed stations during the 24 hours ending at 8:30 am on Friday, the weather department said. (KNO)

Northern Command

own experience as a student and the challenges he faced, Lt Gen Sharma exhorted students to dream big and remain committed to their goals.

"Irrespective of the place, irrespective of the environment, continue to work hard. A time will come when you will prove yourself," he told the students.

Pertinently, the event also marked ten years of educational partnership between the Army Goodwill Schools and Bharti Airtel Foundation. The partnership, which initially covered 14 schools, has now expanded across all 43 AGS in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The initiative has focused on strengthening institutional leadership, classroom practices, academic management, teacher capabilities and technology-enabled learning in line with NEP 2020. The partnership has also promoted creativity and scientific temperament, with AGS Innovation Clubs facilitating more than 160 student-led projects and participation in platforms including ISRO YUVIKA, INSPIRE-MANAK and Young Scientist India," said an official.

Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel Foundation Co-Chairman Rakesh Bharti Mittal announced continued support for the next decade, including library books, sports coaching, additional smart classes, higher-education scholarships and cash incentives for meritorious Class 10 and 12 students.

Regional President AWWA, Northern Command, Shinei Sharma also called upon parents and teachers to nurture students for future challenges and stressed the need to promote education of the girl child for an inclusive society. (KNO)

'NC-led govt

of ministers could take place around the second anniversary of the NC-led government.

The government will complete two years in office on October 16.

It was widely expected that Omar Abdullah would effect a reshuffle-cum-expansion immediately after August 15.

He is also understood to have approached the Congress high command to ascertain whether they would avail a ministry. The Congress high command subsequently discussed the offer of the NC-led government with its J&K-based leaders.

Currently, the strength of the council of ministers in J&K is six. It can have three more ministers, as the J&K Reorganisation Act restricts the strength of the council of ministers to one-tenth of the total strength of MLAs. (KNO)

Waste piles, foul

over the years turned into a massive waste

accumulation point. Lakhs of metric tonnes of waste are currently accumulated at the site, officials said, highlighting the scale of the problem facing the civic authorities.

The accumulated waste has also become a source of concern for residents living around the area. The presence of large quantities of unprocessed waste has resulted in foul smell and unhygienic conditions, while the site's proximity to the Jhelum has raised environmental concerns.

Garbage has also frequently been seen scattered along roads and open spaces in and around the townships, with civic authorities facing difficulties in handling the steadily increasing volume of municipal waste.

The situation has been particularly challenging for Sopore, which generates around 34 metric tonnes of waste every day but has lacked adequate infrastructure for comprehensive processing and disposal. The township has consequently depended on Baramulla's designated Jetty site for waste disposal.

Officials, however, say the continued dumping at the site is largely a consequence of the lack of alternative infrastructure rather than a deliberate policy of indiscriminate disposal.

"We are not dumping the waste there deliberately, but that is a designated site," an official, wishing anonymity, said.

The official said the government and concerned departments were now working towards creating a systematic mechanism to address the problem. "Remediation works for accumulated waste are underway, while works for the SWM plant will commence soon," the official said.

The remediation work is significant given the huge quantity of legacy waste accumulated at Jetty. The proposed intervention is expected to deal with both the existing waste and the daily generation of fresh municipal waste from Baramulla and Sopore.

The 50 TPD MRF will facilitate the recovery and segregation of recyclable material, while the 20 TPD composting units will process

biodegradable waste. The objective is to reduce the quantity of waste requiring final disposal and shift the two townships towards scientific waste management.

For residents, the project could mean an end to years of foul smell, visible waste piles and concerns over waste being accumulated close to a major water body.

With remediation of the accumulated waste already underway as per the Municipal Council and the proposed SWM plant expected to commence soon, authorities are hopeful that Jetty can eventually move from being a major dumping point to a scientifically managed waste processing site.

The project, once completed and fully operational, is expected to provide a long-term waste management mechanism for Baramulla and Sopore and address the crisis created by the daily generation of nearly 58 metric tonnes of municipal waste. (KNO)

Residents seek

the pace of operationalisation of the two AIIMS projects sanctioned for Jammu and Kashmir in 2019—one at Vijaypur in Jammu and the other at Awantipora in south Kashmir.

"Both projects were sanctioned at the same time, but AIIMS Jammu has been functioning for the last two years, while people in Kashmir are still waiting even for basic OPD services at AIIMS Awantipora. We want to know why Kashmir is being subjected to such step-motherly treatment," residents said.

They said the issue should not be viewed merely as a matter of infrastructure but as a question of access to specialised healthcare for millions of people living in Kashmir.

"For a patient from Kashmir suffering from cancer, heart disease, neurological disorders or other serious illnesses, travelling outside J&K is not an easy option. It involves huge expenditure on transportation, accommodation and treatment and puts an additional burden on already distressed families," they said.

Residents urged the government to start OPD

services in the portions of the institute that are ready instead of waiting indefinitely for every component to be completed.

They appealed to Union Health Minister J P Nadda to personally intervene and seek a time-bound status report regarding the operationalisation of AIIMS Awantipora. They also urged the J&K administration and the Union Health Ministry to make public a clear timeline for starting OPD, inpatient and emergency services.

The AIIMS Awantipora project was sanctioned at an estimated cost of around Rs 1,828 crore and envisages around 57 structures. Once fully operational, it is expected to add around 1,000 beds, including 300 super-speciality beds, a medical college with an annual intake of 100 MBBS students, and a nursing college with capacity for 60 students annually.

The project was initially expected to be completed by January 2025, with the deadline subsequently revised to November 2025. However, it continued to face delays due to land-related litigation, restrictions following the abrogation of Article 370, the COVID-19 pandemic, issues concerning a nearby Army establishment, adverse weather conditions and labour shortages.

Residents said the operationalisation of AIIMS Awantipora would significantly benefit not only Pulwama and adjoining south Kashmir districts but the entire Kashmir Valley, particularly patients requiring specialised treatment.

"Kashmir has waited long enough. The Union Health Ministry must intervene and ensure that OPD services are started without any further delay," they said. (KNO)

7-years after

to focus on visitor amenities, border tourism activities and facilitation for tourists visiting the Uri sector and nearby LoC viewpoints.

Officials said the department will work out the detailed utilisation plan in the coming days, including the available facilities and the scope for creating livelihood opportunities for local residents. (KNO)

Modi raises safety of Indians in Black Sea in talks with Putin

Nudges Russian leader to end Ukraine conflict

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday raised the safety of Indian seafarers in the Black Sea with Russian President Vladimir Putin, reiterating India's readiness to support any peace initiative to end the Ukraine conflict even as both leaders agreed to shore up bilateral trade ties amid growing uncertainties and geopolitical upheaval.

The meeting took place hours after Putin landed in New Delhi on a three-day visit to participate in the high-stakes BRICS summit.

Following the talks, the two leaders travelled in the same car inside the Bharat Mandapam complex to reach the venue of a business forum.

Signalling their resolve to maintain deeper engagement across diverse sectors, the two leaders agreed to work up further strengthening the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

According to an Indian readout, the partnership continues to register "significant growth" and has "shown resilience in the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties".

While reviewing trade and investment ties, the two sides resolved to push annual bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030,



up from the current USD 65 billion.

In a social media post, Modi said he and the Russian leader talked about closer trade ties, including implementation of the 'Programme for Economic Cooperation 2030' besides delving into engagement in areas like infrastructure, energy, technology, defence and culture.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in the readout that Modi accepted Putin's invitation to travel to Russia for the annual summit talks between the two countries.

In their over 45-minute talks, Modi and Putin also agree to step up cooperation in defence,

critical minerals, civil nuclear energy, fertiliser supplies and people-to-people exchanges.

The two leaders "shared perspectives on key regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the conflicts in West Asia and the Black Sea region which have impacted maritime trade and the safety and security of Indian seafarers", the MEA said in the readout. "The prime minister once again reiterated that dialogue and diplomacy was the way forward in resolving conflicts and India stood ready to assist in peace efforts," it said. Five Indian seafarers died in the Black Sea due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine hostilities, prompting

India to strongly raise the incidents with both Moscow and Kyiv.

Speaking at a business forum after the talks with Putin, Modi said progress in global trade is possible only when sea lanes are secure, supply routes remain open, and seafarers are safe. "That is why India is a staunch supporter of freedom of navigation and the safety of seafarers."

Modi and Putin previously met on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Bishkek last week where the prime minister called for an immediate end to the Ukraine conflict and urged the Russian leader to shift from an "endless war towards the end of war".

"The two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation in political, economic, defence, energy, space, skill mobility and people-to-people domains," the MEA said. It said they welcomed Russia's International Industrial Exhibition "INNOPROM India", held for the first time in India (New Delhi) from September 9 to and underscored its importance in further expanding trade and industrial ties. The two leaders also visited the INNOPROM India exhibition at the Bharat Mandapam and interacted with the participants.

The MEA said Modi and Putin exchanged views on India-Russia engagement in the multilateral sphere, in particular in BRICS

under India's chairship for 2026.

"President Putin invited Prime Minister to visit Russia for the 24th India-Russia Annual Summit. The prime minister accepted the invitation. The dates of the summit will be decided as per mutual convenience through diplomatic channels," it said.

Ways to boost trade and investment ties dominated the talks, with the Indian side pitching for greater market access for Indian exporters in Russia to address the ballooning trade deficit in Moscow's favour, it is learnt.

The two sides also delved into expanding their already strong defence cooperation.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday that both sides are exploring BrahMos missile upgrades, adding that Moscow remains committed to fulfilling its remaining S-400 system deliveries and discussing the proposed supply of Su-57 fighter jets.

In the energy sector, the two sides reviewed the overall scenario and agreed to further ramp up cooperation in civil nuclear energy.

Expanding industrial cooperation, collaboration in the rail and tunnelling sectors, developing the steel value chain, and broadening access to the Russian market for Indian exporters also learnt to have figured in the talks.

Gold falls Rs 2,700 to Rs 1.55 lakh per 10g; silver tumbles by Rs 10,000 in Delhi

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 11: Precious metals took a beating on Friday, with gold prices declining by Rs 2,700 to Rs 1.55 lakh per 10 grams and silver tumbling by Rs 10,000 to Rs 2.34 lakh per kg in the national capital.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 2,700 to Rs 1,55,900 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), according to local traders. It had closed at Rs 1,58,600 per 10 grams on Thursday.

Silver also declined Rs 10,000 to Rs 2,34,600 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) against the previous close of Rs 2,44,600 per kg. Traders said the sharp correction in domestic bullion prices reflected selling pressure in the local market after the recent rally, with both precious metals pulling back.

The domestic selloff came despite gains in global markets, where spot gold rose USD 49.82, or 1.15 per cent, to USD 4,366.58 per ounce and silver gained 2 per cent to USD 64.77 per ounce.

Gold prices in the overseas trade recovered slightly but remained under pressure and are on track for a third consecutive weekly decline, said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities.



Notice

I Mudasir Ahmad Untoo F/O Mohammad Uziar Untoo R/O Noor Bagh Sopore Baramulla Jammu and Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that i have changed my name from Mohammad Uziar Untoo to Mohammad Uziar Untoo for all purpose, including Aadhaar card bearing Aadhaar number 9309 8123 3301 Henceforth,

Notice

I Ghulam Mohammad Najar F/o Shafat ahmad Najar R/o wadoora bala ,wadura sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my son's name from Mohammad shafat to Shafat Ahmad Najar for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 368067087767 Henceforth, He shall be known as Shafat Ahmad Najar

Notice

I Masrat jan M/o Mutasima Billah R/o Mir pora Brat seelu sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my daughter's name from Muntazim Naseer to Mutasima Billah for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 939973662440 Henceforth, she shall be known as Mutasima Billah

Notice

I Abida Begum M/o Sahiba tawfeeq R/o Lathi shath sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my daughter's name from shaibah Ather to Sahiba tawfeeq for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 370428757295 Henceforth, she shall be known as Sahiba tawfeeq

Notice

I Ghulam Nabi lone F/o Binsha Nabi R/o wagub wagul Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193202 do hereby declare that I have correction my daughter's name from benisha Nabi to Binsha Nabi for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 35811267797 Henceforth, she shall be known as Binsha Nabi

Notice

I Khatooni Begum S/oD/oW/o Ghulam Ahmed mir R/o Adipora Sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from khutni Begum to Khatooni Begum for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 986352807531 Henceforth, I shall be known as Khatooni Begum

Bihar flood situation grim, over 47 lakh affected across 15 districts



PTI

Patna, Sep 11: The flood situation in Bihar remained grim on Friday, with more than 47.33 lakh people affected across 15 districts as the Ganga and its tributaries continued to flow above danger levels, triggering erosion and breaches in embankments, officials said.

At least four embankment breaches were reported from different parts of Bhagalpur district, they said, adding that while some have been repaired, restoration work is underway at the remaining sites.

A breach at the Brahmottar Dam in Gopalpur block was brought under control overnight with the help of a Water Resources Department technical team and locals, the district administration said in a statement.

At Dhubania Zamindari Dam in Rangra block, around 20 feet of the embankment

eroded at about 4.30 am, causing floodwaters to enter alongside PWD Road No 14. Protective measures, including bamboo piling, sandbagging and plastic sheeting, are being undertaken, it said.

Breaches were also reported at Dhubania Dam on the Kalbalia River in Rangra Chowk and Budhiya Dam, part of the Sadopur ring embankment, in Bania Baisi panchayat, the administration said.

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary directed officials to maintain round-the-clock vigil over embankments.

Choudhary, who is in charge of the Water Resources Department (WRD), said the Ganga water level at Gandhi Ghat in Patna has crossed its previous maximum recorded level of 2016 and is still rising.

"The rise has primarily been attributed to unexpectedly high discharge in the Son and Ghaghra

rivers. While the Son is now receding, the Ghaghra has stabilised, and the situation is expected to improve over the next 24 hours," he said.

Choudhary said personnel have been deployed at vulnerable locations, and all possible measures were being taken to prevent floodwater from entering residential areas.

Among the worst-affected districts are Bhagalpur, Patna, Saran, Vaishali, Begusarai, Katihar, Purnea and Buxar.

The state has recorded 104.1 mm of rainfall in September so far, about 27 per cent above normal, they said.

The DMD said the Ganga at Sultan Ganj in Bhagalpur was flowing at 36.62 metres at 6 am, 2.12 metres above the danger level, though the water level was receding.

Gandak was flowing above the danger mark at Dumriya Ghat, Kosi at Baltara and Khusela, Burhi Gandak at Khagaria, and Ganga at Digha, Gandhi Ghat, Hathidah, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon and Munger, Punpun at Sri-palpur, Bagmati at Benibad, and Ghaghra at Darauli and Gangpur Siswan.

A total of 1,221 community kitchens are being operated in various districts. Fifteen relief camps are also functioning, providing accommodation, food, medical care and other essential services to 12,260 flood victims, the bulletin said.

Banking services affected across country as unions strike work seeking 5-day week



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 11: Banking services, particularly at public sector banks, were hit across the country on Friday as employees affiliated with the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) observed a nationwide strike demanding immediate implementation of a five-day work week.

The strike call given by the UFBU, an umbrella body of seven unions representing 90 per cent of officer and employee strength, however, did not impact the functioning of private sector banks.

Most branches of public sector banks across India were either completely or partially closed.

Services such as cash deposits, withdrawals, cheque clearances, and administrative work were hit at branches of most public sector banks (PSBs) and some old-generation private sector banks.

Reports coming from different parts of the country, including Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir and

Himachal Pradesh indicated complete disruption of transactions at the branch level.

Madhya Pradesh Bank Employees Association Chairman Mohankrishna Shukla told PTI that around 42,000 employees and officers from nearly 7,000 of the state's 8,707 bank branches joined the strike.

In Himachal Pradesh, bank employees and officers participated in large numbers to support their long-pending demands, particularly the implementation of a five-day banking system. Representatives from various banks and affiliated unions attended a protest demonstration to express their solidarity with the strike.

"The bank employees were compelled to resort to a strike to press for their legitimate demands," said UFBU State Convener Narendra Sharma and All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) State President Ashutosh Sharma in a statement issued in Shimla.

Banking services, particularly at public sector banks, were affected across Jharkhand too.

"Services such as cash deposits, withdrawals, cheque clearances and administrative work were hit at branches of nationalised banks, State Bank of India and Gramin banks in the state," said Umesh Das, deputy general secretary of the Bank of India Employees Union, Jharkhand.

Regarding the future course of action, All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC) General Secretary Rupam Roy said "if the government does not consider our demand, we would go for a three-day nationwide strike beginning September 28, coinciding with the half-yearly closure."

Maharashtra FDA suspends 199 eatery licences in 3 months

Pune tops in violations

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 11: Cockroach-infested kitchens, uncovered raw meat and filthy utensils prompted the Maharashtra FDA to suspend 199 eatery licenses after inspecting more than 1,800 hotels, clubs, and dhabas across the state over the last three months, officials said on Friday.

Pune division emerged as the worst offender with the highest number of licence suspensions, while



inspectors served 948 improvement notices for critical cold-chain and sanitation breaches, they said.

According to the FDA, Pune topped the overall enforcement chart with 4,261 inspections and 168 licence

suspensions, followed by Konkan with 3,142 inspections and 108 suspensions, and Greater Mumbai with 1,451 inspections and 121 suspensions.

Among other divisions, Nashik recorded 1,356 inspections and 56 suspensions, followed by Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar with 1,173 inspections and 61 suspensions, Amravati with 989 inspections and 45 suspensions, and Nagpur with 711 inspections and 44 suspensions.

Vijay Mallya continues to evade Indian law, recovery of assets doesn't absolve him: ED to HC

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 11: Former liquor baron Vijay Mallya continues to evade the legal process in India, and the recovery of debts by the banks does not absolve him of the money laundering charges, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has submitted to the Bombay High Court.

The central agency on September 8 filed its affidavit in response to a petition filed by Mallya in 2020 seeking a closure of the criminal cases lodged against him. His dispute with the banks was settled after the debts were recovered, he had contended.

The ED said movable and immovable properties worth Rs 14,131.6 crore were handed over to the SBI-led consortium, but this does not cancel or lead to the dropping of the money laundering charges against Mallya.

He left India in March 2016 and did not appear before the investigating authority despite repeated summons, the agency said in its affidavit, noting that a non-bailable warrant was also issued against him.

India-EU trade deal reaches council stage for signing



PTI

Brussels, Sep 11: The European Commission on Friday formally submitted its proposal to the European Council to sign and conclude the Free Trade Agreement with India, marking a major step toward implementing the ambitious pact - widely termed the "mother of all deals".

If authorised by the Council, this will be the largest trade agreement ever concluded by both the

EU and India.

India and the EU announced the conclusion of the FTA in January, marking a historic milestone in their economic relations and trade engagement with key global partners.

Once adopted and entered into force, the agreement will improve market access, reduce tariffs, tackle unnecessary trade barriers, and provide predictable rules for trade and investment between the EU and India, the Commission said in a press release. The EU and India already

trade over 180 billion euros worth of goods and services per year, supporting close to 800,000 EU jobs.

This deal will eliminate or reduce tariffs on 96 per cent of EU goods exports to India. Overall, the tariff reductions will save around 4 billion euros per year in duties on European products, the release said.

"This agreement brings together two of the world's largest economies - a market of 2 billion people and around a quarter of global GDP," Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security; Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency, said in a statement.

"Our focus has been clear from the start: to ensure that businesses and citizens feel the tangible benefits of this landmark FTA as quickly as possible. Timing matters, which is why we are now following through by submitting our proposals to the Council for signature and conclusion in record time," he added.

The EU-India FTA "reflects the EU's commitment to strengthen economic ties with key partners in the Indo-Pacific region," the release said.

Once approved by the Council, the final text will require the European Parliament's approval before its implementation.

Oil prices fall to USD 104, world shares mixed following Wall Street losses

AP

Hong Kong, Sep 11: World shares were mixed Friday following Wall Street losses, while oil prices fell with Brent crude trading at around USD 104 a barrel after hitting its highest level since May.

US futures edged higher.

In early European trading, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.5 per cent to 10,656.44 after official data showed that Britain's economy in July grew faster than what economists had expected. Germany's DAX gained 0.6 per cent to 25,514.37, while France's CAC 40 climbed 0.6 per cent to 8,161.31.

Markets most declined in Asia. Japan's Nikkei 225 dropped 1.9 per cent to 64,011.34. Shares of multinational investment holding firm SoftBank Group, an investor of OpenAI, fell almost 4 per cent.

South Korea's Kospi lost 1.8 per cent to 6,909.91. Samsung Electronics slid 3.5 per cent, while memory chipmaker SK Hynix declined 2.2 per cent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped 0.6 per cent to 24,805.63. The Shanghai Composite index was down 1.2 per cent to 3,888.11. Shares of Chinese AI chipmaker Enflame surged 179



per cent in its trading debut in Shanghai. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.9 per cent to 8,741.20. Taiwan's Taiex lost 1.6 per cent, while India's Sensex edged up less than 0.1 per cent.

Oil prices fell Friday after climbing earlier, as tensions between the US and Iran intensified. Brent crude, the international standard, was 3.3 per cent lower at USD 104.09 per barrel after earlier rising above USD 108. It was approximately USD 72 a barrel in late February, before the start of the war.

Benchmark US crude was down 2.8 per cent to below USD 100 per barrel, trading

at USD 99.63.

That comes as US diesel prices on Friday soared past USD 6 gallon on average and set another record.

Oil flowing through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway critical for global oil transport, remained "well below pre-war levels," wrote ING commodities strategists Warren Patterson and Ewa Manthey in a commentary Friday. That's "underscoring how fragile the situation has become," they said.

Even if oil prices retreat as tensions ease, they are likely to remain at elevated levels for the rest of the year, adding to inflation uncertainties,

said Yu Song, chief China economist at UBS Securities in a commentary. On Thursday, Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 dropped 0.6 per cent in its fourth straight loss. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 0.6 per cent, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite fell 0.7 per cent.

Investors are also monitoring the US' consumer price index data for August set to be released Friday ahead of the Federal Reserve's meeting next week. Also on Thursday, the US producer price index report for August was up 5.4 per cent year-on-year, accelerating from July's 4.8 per cent.

Iran seeks end to Saudi blockade of Yemen after Tehran-backed rebels take key port

AP

Cairo, Sep 11: Iran's government on Friday called for an end to Saudi Arabia's blockade of Yemen and the immediate resumption of talks, in its first public statement since Iran-backed Houthi rebels entered a key Yemeni port and intensified their threat to a key global shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency, Iran's foreign ministry said Yemen's sovereignty must be respected and its problems cannot be resolved through a blockade



or military alliances.

Iran also said it was ready to help support negotiations. Meanwhile, experts say the developments in Yemen

could give Tehran more leverage in any negotiations with the United States after over six months of war.

Events threaten a key

Strait of Hormuz alternative The Houthis' entry into the Red Sea port of Mokha on Thursday brings them within 80 kilometres of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, an important alternative for global shipping as Iran targets vessels on the Strait of Hormuz. It's the rebels' biggest territorial gain in years.

The Bab el-Mandeb at the southern end of the Red Sea is especially important to neighbouring Saudi Arabia, a key US ally, whose blockade of the Houthis has fed into the rebels' escalating attacks on Saudi shipping as the kingdom tries to get its oil out of the region.

BCCI invites fresh applications for COE Sports Science Head

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 11: The BCCI on Friday invited applications for Head of Sports Science and Medicine at its Centre of Excellence after being unable to fill the key position lying vacant since the resignation of Nitin Patel in March 2025.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia and COE head VVS Laxman have publicly spoken about the challenges in filling up the vacancy.

The application deadline is September 30.

Former India physio Andrew Leipus was BCCI's top choice for the post but he "backed off" citing family reasons.

"After Nitin left, we did not get anyone who can fill in that position. We

had Andrew Leipus, and everything was agreed upon. In fact, (BCCI secretary) Devajit (Saikia) had two or three meetings with him but suddenly Andrew backed off citing family reasons," Laxman had told select media at the BCCI COE last month.

COE has been under scanner of late for injury management of the players.

"We conducted a full fledged interview process where we had Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala, Dr. Ashish Soni, Dr. Rohan Khavte and myself, and we shortlisted five candidates and number one was an Australian.

"After selecting him, suddenly he also backed out saying he cannot move to Bangalore and it was one of the important conditions," Laxman had said.

UT-Level Boxing event begins in Srinagar

Srinagar Sep. 11: The Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta on Friday kick started the Inter-District UT Level Boxing Competitions at the Indoor Sports Complex, Wazir Bagh, here.

She was accompanied by Deputy director Planning YSS, Megha Baogia.

14 districts of the UT of J&K, consisting of 279 boys of all age groups along with 52 technical officials, have reported to participate in the competition. The first phase of the boys' competitions for all age groups commenced today and is scheduled to culminate on 13th September 2026.

India defeat Malaysia to reach junior men's Asia Cup final



PTI

Moqi (China), Sep 11: In-form captain Anmol Ekka struck twice as defending champions India defeated Malaysia 3-1 to storm into their fourth consecutive AHF Men's Junior Asia Cup final here on Friday.

Drag-flicker Anmol once again led from the front, scoring twice from penalty corners to take his tournament tally to an impressive 16 goals and strengthen his position at the top of the scoring charts.

Goalkeeper Vivek Lakra was equally influential, making a series of outstanding saves, including stopping a penalty stroke, which kept India in control of the contest.

The defending champions, chasing a fourth consecutive and sixth overall title, will face the winners of the second semi-final between Pakistan and South Korea.

India began the match on the front foot,

with Ajeet Yadav coming close twice inside the opening two minutes after intelligently getting to the end of long balls played out from deep defence.

India soon earned three penalty corners, but Malaysian goalkeeper Amsyar Mohamad Adib stood firm with a couple of good saves to keep India at bay.

A turnover in the 12th minute almost presented India with the opening goal, but they were unable to convert the opportunity. Malaysia came close in the final minute of the quarter, although the attempt from the top of the circle lacked both power and direction.

India finally broke the deadlock early in the second quarter when they earned their fourth penalty corner in the 16th minute.

Skipper Anmol, positioned at the first battery, unleashed a hard, low flick that beat Amsyar to his right and crashed into the board to give India a 1-0

lead.

Malaysia responded immediately, forcing a brilliant save from Lakra in the 17th minute before earning their first penalty corner.

However, India's first rusher made an important block to deny the Malaysians.

Lakra then produced one of the defining moments of the match early in the third quarter.

In the 34th minute, he made a stunning double save, followed by another stop moments later, as Malaysia increased the pressure.

India were reduced to 10 players after Manmeet Singh Rai received a yellow card in the 36th minute.

Prabdeep Singh was shown a yellow card in the 41st minute, leaving India with 10 players once again.

India finally found the breathing room they were looking for in the fourth quarter.

After a Malaysian defensive touch denied them in the 51st minute, India immediately launched another circle entry and this time found the target, with Sukhvinder finishing the move to make it 2-0.

Lakra then delivered another moment of brilliance.

Malaysia were awarded a penalty stroke in the 53rd minute, but the Indian goalkeeper dived sharply to his left and used his glove to keep the effort out.

India quickly turned defence into attack and earned a penalty corner in the 54th minute.

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HINDI ATMOS

02:55 PM, 06:45 PM

HAIWAAN (U/A 16+)

HINDI

03:45 PM, 07:00 PM

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