



J&K security situation firmly under control: Defence Ministry

Violence on decline, zero stone-pelting incidents, overall scenario peaceful

Tourists visiting Kashmir despite Pahalgam terror attack

Only one local youth joined terrorist ranks last year; people rejecting violence

Indian Army maintaining robust deployments across LAC

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Sep 14: The annual report of Ministry of Defence for the year 2025-26 has stated that the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir remains firmly under control with significant decline in violence, scaled-down protests and zero incidents of stone pelting.

The report accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Indian Army's efforts, coupled with the participation of people in government and Army-run initiatives, have contributed to the improvement in the overall security situation in the Union Territory.

It said the situation within J&K and along the Line of Control (LoC) has changed significantly during Operation Sindoor. However, following Director Generals of Military Operations (DGsMO)-level talks held on May 10 and 12, 2025, the situation stabilised to a large extent, though "unpredictability continues".

TOURISM ON RISE

The report said there has also been a rise in tourism in J&K,



Pic: Shah Jehangir

Pakistan's narrative of home-grown terrorism".

19 TERRORISTS KILLED IN HINTERLAND

The Union Territory continued to witness a high tempo of counter-terrorism operations in its hinterland, according to the report.

A total of 19 terrorists were neutralised in such operations in 2025, including eight Pakistani terrorists, accounting for about 40 per cent of the total.

The report said the figures indicated the role of Pakistan in what it described as a proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir.

The report also recorded a sharp increase in ceasefire violations along the LoC in 2025.

While two ceasefire violations were recorded along the LoC in 2024, the number rose to 163 in 2025.

Of these, 124 violations took place during Operation Sindoor, the report said.

2025 WITNESSED SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN DEPLOYMENT OF CHINA'S PLA

On the situation along the Northern Front, the Ministry of Defence said 2025 witnessed a significant | [More on P6](#)

Address gaps in manpower, equipment, infra: CM to Health Dept

Says Advisory Committee report to serve as roadmap for health reforms

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a meeting to review the health sector reforms and the roadmap for further strengthening healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta and Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education, M. Raju.

Director SKIMS; Principals of all Government Medical Colleges of J&K; Principal SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Mission Director National Health Mission J&K; Managing Director J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited; Commissioner Food & Drug Administration and other concerned officers also attended the meeting. Officers stationed outside Srinagar participated through video conferencing.

Detailed presentations were made by the respective



heads of the Advisory Committee on various aspects of the health sector, including healthcare infrastructure, medical education, specialized healthcare services, digital health, public health and human resource requirements.

The meeting reviewed the progress made in strengthening healthcare infrastructure and services across J&K and took stock of the requirements and priorities for further improvement in the sector.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister appreciated the Health Department for the steps taken over the last nearly two years to address man power shortages as well as infrastructure and equipment deficiencies.

"I appreciate all the steps that the Health Department

has taken over the last almost two years, both in terms of addressing infrastructure and equipment deficiencies," he said.

The Chief Minister advised the department to focus on filling up critical gaps in the system as per the expected budgetary allocations and the report of the Advisory Committee would serve as the road map in this direction.

"Elaborate and extensive reforms plan would require huge funding and the report on the reforms to be undertaken suggest what should our healthcare system look like in an ideal situation but the financial resources required may not be available in one go," he said.

Omar underlined the need to prioritize and plan which components | [More on P6](#)

Body fished out from Salal Dam Reasi



KNO Correspondent

Reasi, Sep 14: A dead body was recovered from the Salal Dam area of Reasi district on Monday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the body was spotted in the Salal Dam area by locals, following which the matter was brought to the notice of the concerned authorities.

He said that an investigation has been initiated, while the identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, | [More on P6](#)

Two killed, 7 injured as matador overturns near Reasi LG, CM condole loss of lives

KNO Correspondent

Reasi, Sep 14: Two people were killed and seven others injured after a passenger matador overturned near the Bakkal Tunnel area of Reasi district on Monday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the matador, bearing registration number JK14B-2973, was travelling from Bakkal towards Reasi when it overturned on the road near the tunnel.

He said two persons died in the accident, while seven others sustained injuries and their identities are being ascertained. "Police and rescue teams have reached the spot and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital for treatment," the official said.

Police have initiated necessary proceedings.



Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have expressed grief and extended his condolences to the bereaved families.

In a condolence message, the LG said, "Deeply pained to learn about the loss of precious lives in a tragic road accident in Reasi. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured."

CM Omar Abdullah conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and | [More on P6](#)

Autumn session: Speaker calls all-party meeting Thursday

LoP Sharma to chair meeting of BJP MLAs today

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 14: In a move to ensure the smooth conduct of proceedings during the upcoming 10-day autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather has convened an all-party meeting on Thursday.

The Assembly Secretariat has written to party leaders and members of the Business Advisory Committee to attend the meeting at 2:00 PM in the Assembly complex.

According to a letter accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Speaker has invited Sunil Kumar Sharma (Leader of Opposition, BJP), Ali Muhammad Sagar (NC), Mubarak Gul (NC), Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami (CPI-M), Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Congress), Sajad Gani Lone (PC), Mir



Muhammad Fayaz (PDP) and Choudhary Muhammad Akram (Independent).

The meeting comes days ahead of the autumn session, commencing on September 21. The session is expected to be stormy, with the principal opposition BJP and smaller Kashmir-based parties like PDP, PC and AIP preparing to

corner the government on a range of governance and administrative issues.

The BJP has already begun its preparations, with Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma scheduled to chair a meeting of party legislators at the party headquarters in Jammu tomorrow.

As per the | [More on P6](#)

Minor boy's body recovered from Nalla

'Big relief': MLA Bandipora

Sajid Raina

Bandipora, Sep 14: The body of a nine-year-old boy, who had drowned in Madhumati Nalla near District Police Lines (DPL) in Bandipora, was recovered on Monday after a five-day search operation, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the body was recovered following sustained joint search efforts by teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, civil administration and local volunteers.

The boy had drowned on September 10 and remained untraced since then.

He said the body was retrieved after five days and would be handed over to the family after completion of legal formalities. The deceased was identified as Momin Ahmad (9), a resident of Ganie Mohalla in the Kuloosa area of Bandipora. | [More on P6](#)

EOW chargesheets fake job fraudster

15 cases registered across Kashmir



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 14: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K on Monday chargesheeted a man accused of duping people on the pretext of securing government jobs through fake appointment orders.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said that the EOW Kashmir has filed a chargesheet before the Court of Forest Magistrate, Srinagar, in case FIR No. 12/2026 under Sections 420, 468 and 471 of the IPC against Abdul Majeed

Mir, son of Abdul Rahim Mir, a resident of Lishtiyal, Kalaroos, Kupwara, for cheating and forgery.

He said the case was registered on the basis of a written complaint alleging that the accused had dishonestly taken lakhs of rupees on the pretext of securing a government job for the complainant's son. The accused provided an appointment order purportedly issued by the Airports Authority of India, which was later found to be fake and forged.

"During investigation, the allegations were substantiated and the chargesheet | [More on P6](#)

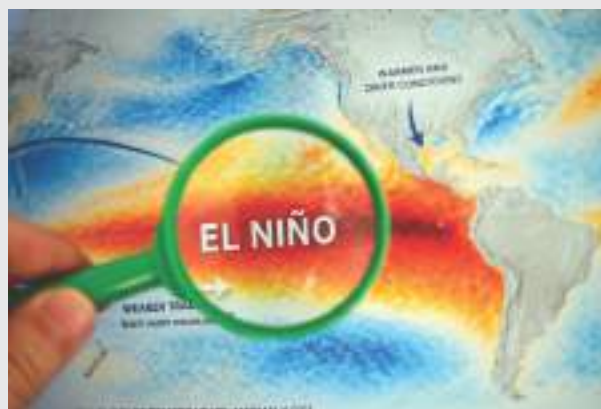
El Nino likely to make J&K winter milder, drier: Director MeT

Says one or two major snowfall spells possible, plains could continue to see severe cold during foggy periods; timely snowfall vital for Himalayan regions

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 14: Director of Meteorological Department Srinagar Dr Mukhtar Ahmad on Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience a relatively mild and dry winter this year under the influence of El Nino, though one or two major spells of snowfall during the peak winter months cannot be ruled out.

Addressing concerns over social media reports claiming that winter may not occur in India this year, Ahmad, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Such claims were unscientific. The winter is a natural seasonal



phenomenon that will occur, although its intensity may vary."

"Winter will definitely come. Sometimes winters are severe and sometimes

mild. What we have been seeing for the last few years is a relatively mild winter," he added.

Ahmad said the World Meteorological Organisation

(WMO) indications suggest that the latter part of 2026 and the beginning of 2027, particularly the peak winter period, could be somewhat warmer and drier because of the El Nino effect.

He, however, cautioned against making a definitive forecast this far in advance, saying weather conditions are dynamic and can change significantly with even small shifts in atmospheric patterns.

"If there are one or two good spells during peak winter, especially if the moisture supply is good or a major Western Disturbance occurs, it can be helpful," Ahmad said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir had experienced a

witnessing 35 per cent excess rainfall and August recording around 25 per cent deficit, the Meteorological Department said. Director, Meteorological Department, Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, told the news agency—Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

Sajid Raina

Jammu and Kashmir has recorded near-normal precipitation during the current season despite significant month-to-month variations, with July

J&K records near-normal seasonal rainfall despite Jul surplus, Aug deficit: MeT

Govt committed to provide better road connectivity to people of remote, far-flung areas: Javed Rana

Lays foundation stone for macadamization of Chajjala to Ramkund road in Mendhar



KT News Desk

MENDHAR, SEPTEMBER 14: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest,

Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Monday laid the foundation stone for macadamization of road from Chajjala to Ramkund, Mendhar.

The project will be executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department under Cities & Towns Programme at an estimated cost of Rs. 40.00 Lacs.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister, as per an official statement, said that the Government is committed to provide better road connectivity to the people of remote and far-flung areas. He said that macadamization of this road will provide much needed relief to the locals by improving connectivity and boosting economic activities in the area.

He directed the executing agency to complete the work within stipulated time frame with quality as per prescribed standards. Among others, senior officers of PWD (R&B), district administration and large number of locals were present on the occasion.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of ongoing, proposed disaster mitigation projects, measures

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR SEPTEMBER 14:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also the Chairman of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Monday chaired a meeting here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to reviews progress of ongoing and proposed disaster mitigation projects and measures aimed at strengthening the district's emergency response mechanism.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer PHE Hydraulic, Er. Ambreen Anjum, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM West, Zuber Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineer I&FC, Shuja Ahmad, Executive Engineer, LCMA, all Tehsildars and other concerned. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a



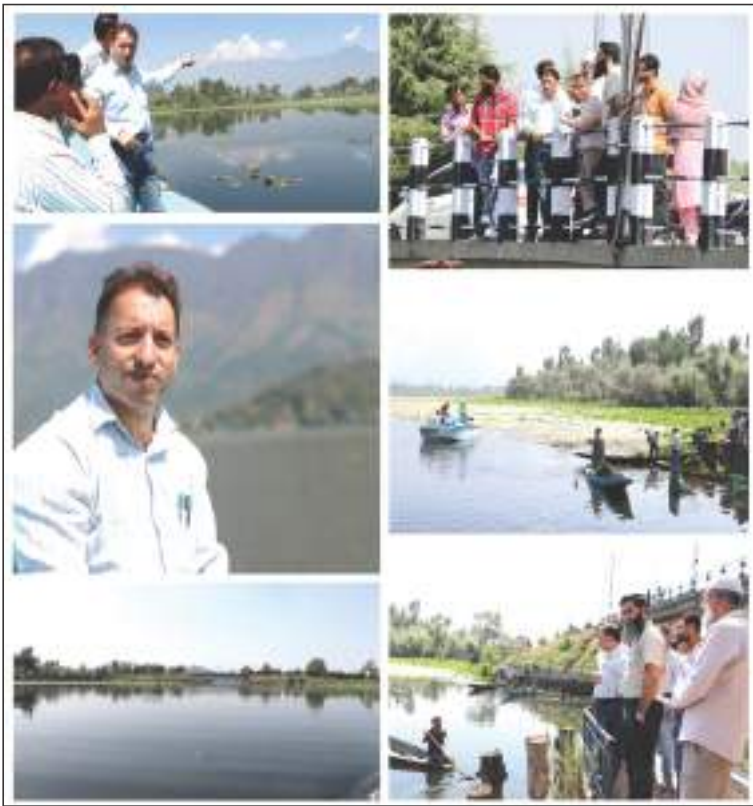
detailed review of key interventions proposed under the Disaster Mitigation Plan, including installation of Automatic Water Level Recorders (AWLRs) at identified locations, strengthening of vulnerable stretches along Dachigam Nallah, Tailbal Nallah and River Jhelum, equalization of bunds and slopes along the Jhelum, earthquake assessment of critical infrastructure and responsive mitigation measures for flash floods, landslides and earthquakes in vulnerable higher reaches of Srinagar district. On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned departments

to identify and incorporate all measures requiring immediate intervention and strengthen preparedness to effectively tackle any eventuality arising from landslides, cloudbursts and flood-like situations. He emphasized the need for a prompt, coordinated and effective response mechanism across the district involving all concerned Departments.

The DC further stressed the need to reinforce disaster mitigation measures along Dachigam Nallah, Gandbal, Doodganga Nallah and other vulnerable locations across the District. He directed the concerned Departments to undertake priority based assessments of these areas and implement necessary mitigation projects to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience against natural disasters.

The meeting also reviewed the preparedness and action plans of various Departments for responding to natural disasters and emergencies, with emphasis on minimizing response time, ensuring effective inter-departmental coordination and safeguarding lives and property.

VC JKLCMA inspects Ashai Bagh area, directs strengthening of Lake Cleaning Measures



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 14: Vice Chairman (VC), J&K Lakes Conser-

vation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Monday visited the Ashai Bagh area to review the ongoing cleaning and

maintenance works being carried out in and around the lake.

The Vice Chairman, as per an official statement, was accompanied by the SE, Collector, XEN LD-I, AEs, JEs and other Revenue and Engineering officials of JKLCMA.

During the inspection, the Vice Chairman reviewed the cleanliness of the area and took stock of the ongoing works related to lake cleaning, conservation and maintenance. He appreciated the improvement in the cleanliness and overall appearance of the area following the cleaning activities undertaken by the Authority.

The officers briefed him about the ongoing works and the measures being implemented for effective conservation and management of the lake.

He also directed the concerned officers and field staff to continue the ongoing cleaning activities and ensure proper upkeep of the lake and its adjoining areas. He stressed the need for regular field supervision and timely execution of the works. The Vice Chairman called for sustained efforts to maintain cleanliness and improve the overall condition of the lake and its surroundings. He further emphasized that close monitoring and coordinated efforts by the field staff are essential for strengthening the conservation and management of the lake.

ITI Shopian organises NAPS Mela at GDC Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 14: The Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Shopian, in collaboration with the District Administration Shopian organized a District Level National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) Mela at Government Degree College (GDC), Shopian Monday.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

While speaking on the occasion, the ADDC, as per an official statement, stressed upon maximum awareness about NAPS and called for maximum registrations of youth and establishments under the NAPS portal within stipulated time to bridge the gap between Industry and Education. He urged local industrial units and commercial establishments to actively enroll maximum local youth under NAPS, aiming to build a self-reliant and

skilled workforce in Shopian.

An awareness session was conducted by Assistant Advisor Apprenticeship, ITI Shopian, Suhail Ahmed who through a detailed presentation, explained the salient features, objectives, financial benefits and registration process of NAPS. He highlighted how the scheme provides stipend support, practical training and enhanced employability to youth.

The mela witnessed overwhelming participation of more than 1000 students, ITI trainees and representatives of over 50 reputed Industrial Establishments.

A major highlight of the mela was on-spot registration of 1000 candidates, 50 establishments and issuance of 15 new contracts on the NAPS portal.

The Mela was attended by Principal, GDC, Tariq Ahmed, GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik, CEO, Bashir Ahmed Shah, Superintendent ITI Shopian, Fida Hussain, Principal, Government Polytechnic College Shopian, Manzoor Ahmed, LDM, Farooq Ahmed, CHO, Muneer Ahmed and other concerned.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION LOLAB

NIT No. 34-Lolab/ EEL/2154-62 of 2026-27 e-tendering DATED: -10-09-2026

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD ,Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of TI Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	DLP Period	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
01	CONSTRUCTION OF FOOTBRIDGE AT YARIBEHEK ON NALLAH DUDI RING.	24.91	800/-	50,000/-	120 days	19-09-2026	B&C	24 months	SSY

Position of funds

:

Demanded

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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 as per schedule of dates given below:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	10-09-2026
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-09-2026 to 18-09-2026
03.	Bid submission start date	10-09-2026 from (06.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	18-09-2026 up to (06.00 P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on-line)	19-09-2026 (11:00A.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Lolab

Terms and Conditions :-

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written the Name of Work Or NIT No. with Sr. No of NIT, Name of Contractor) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/IFDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab (CDR/IFDR shall be valid from date between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) .

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/IFDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) otherwise the tender will be rejected. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% plus the amount as per the Table given below in point "C" at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% plus the amount as per the Table given below in point "C" of the bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/IFDR/BG as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Lolab (tender receiving authority),as per circular issued by J&K Finance Department (Codes Division) under No.: - FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025.

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid Viz. advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional Security	Performance
01.	Upto and including 10% below	Nil	
02.	>10% upto and including 20% below project cost. Example: If the bid is 12% below project cost, that's 2% below the 10% limit → Additional Security = [0.1% x(12-10)] = 0.2% of bid price.	Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.	
03.	>20 % or more below project cost. Example: If the bid is 25% less than project cost, that's 5% below the 20% limit → Additional Security = [1%+(0.2% × (25-20))] = 2% of bid price.	Example: If the bid is 25% less than project cost, that's 5% below the 20% limit →Additional Security = [1%+(0.2% × (25-20))] = 2% of bid price. Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.	

No. EEL/2154-62
DT: 10-09-2026

CC

Draftsman

HA

AC

TO

DIPK-5678/26

DATED: 14-09-2026

(Er. H. M. Jahangir)
Executive Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SPECIAL FOREST DIVISION TANGMARG

Email Id: dfotangmarg.for-jk@nic.in Ph/Fax.No.01954254489 TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No.: 06 of 2026-27 DATED: 12-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K, fresh e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Particulars of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD)Rs.	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
Extraction, Conversion, Carriage & Transportation of Firewood to the tune of 4175 Quintals upto PC Depot Srinagar and Firewood Depot(s) in Tangmarg & Beerwah	11.78 Lakhs	23560	Forest Contractor/ JKFDCC Contractor	Rs. 600	90 Days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:-www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of Funds: Budgeted
Position of A&TS: Received

Publishing Date: -	12-09-2026
Download Start Date: -	12-09-2026 from 3:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date: -	12-09-2026 from 3:00 PM
Bid submission End Date: -	22-09-2026 Up to 6:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online: -	23-09-2026 At 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar circle Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online: -	To be opened (Online) at any convenient date and time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids.

Important Note: "In pursuance of Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and Circular issued by the Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), J&K vide No. PCCF/Acctts./2026-27/435-43 dated 24.06.2026, Bid Security (EMD), Tender Fee and applicable transaction/service charges shall be deposited online in cash through the prescribed online mechanism. Submission of EMD in the form of CDR/IFDR/TDR/Bank Guarantee shall not be accepted. Bidders shall comply with the aforesaid instructions while submitting their bids."

01. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

sd/
Divisional Forest Officer,
Special Forest Division,
Tangmarg.

DIPK-5681/26

DATED: 14-09-2026

NO: - DFO/TNG/Acctts/2026-27/519-24
Dated: 12-09-2026

J&K's domestic power demand likely to surge 11% by FY32

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 14 : Jammu and Kashmir power sec-tor is facing a massive transformation as the domestic power demand is projected to surge by 11 percent by the fiscal 2031-2032.

The figures said that the power demand of the domestic consumers may surge from 5352 Million Units (MUs) to over 15,000 MUs—swallowing nearly two-thirds of the territory's total energy consumption.

According to the official documents available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), authori-ties have forecasted that in the overall power sector, the domestic power consumption in the year 2021-22 was 5352 MUs that may surge to 15,066 MUs by the year 2031-32.

It also said that authorities from Jammu and Kashmir tar-gets to reduce its



Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses from 46.9 percent to 16.4 percent by 2031-32.

The documents further projected that the peak power demand across Jammu and Kashmir may jump by 54 per-cent to 4,633 MWs in 2031-32 from 3,000 MWs in 2021-22.

As already reported by KNO, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require nearly an additional 450 Megawatts (MWs) of power during the peak hours in the coming three years. The official documents in this regard had said that in the ongoing fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir may have a peak de-mand of 3813 MWs.

It also said that in the coming fiscal 2027-28, the region is likely to require additional 151 MWs of power during the peak time with a total d mand projection of 3964 MWs. Furthermore, the projections said that

in the year 2028-29, Jammu and Kashmir may require additional 300 MWs of power during the peak hours in comparison to the pro-jected demand of the ongoing fiscal.

The official figures also said that in the year 2029-30, Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a peak demand of 4262 MWs that amounts to 449 MWs of additional energy demand to the projection made for the year 2026-27. Pertinently, this news agency earlier reported that in the past 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a surge in power demand by more than 24 percent.

The Government of India (GoI) had said that from the fis-cal 2014-15 to 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a surge in demand of 3,971 MU.

The official figures further reveal that the annual energy demand in J&K rose from 16,214 Million Units (MU) in 2014-15 to 20,185 MU in 2025-26.

CM Omar meets legislators, other deputations



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday met a number of legislators, delegations and individuals at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed issues of public importance.

The Chief Minister met MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone along with a delegation. The delegation raised var-ious developmental issues and public welfare concerns pertaining to the constituency.

MLA Khansahib Saif-ud-Din Bhat also called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of several con-stituen-cy-specific issues.

The Chief Minister also met Director, ICAR-Central In-stitute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Srinagar, M.K. Verma, and Deputy Director, National Horticulture Board, Ashok Kumar. The delegation discussed various matters concerning the functioning and development of the Centre with the Chief Minister.

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan: Jammu improves, Srinagar slips

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 14: Jammu has improved its position in the Centre's 2026 clean air assessment report (Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan), while Srinagar has slipped sharply in the latest ranking of cities.

According to the details available, Jammu ranked 20th among cities with populations between three lakh and 10 lakh has improved from 22nd position in 2025. Its score increased to 176.5 this year from 168.2 in 2025 and 102.8 in 2023.

Srinagar has bagged 26th rank among cities with populations above 10 lakh, down from 21st position in 2025 and fourth in 2023. Its score fell to 162.6 in 2026 from 169.2 last year and 184.6 in 2023.

The Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan is conducted annually by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the National Clean Air Programme to assess cities on their efforts to control air pollution and implement measures under their clean-air action plans.

The assessment covers road dust, vehicular and industrial emissions, construction and demolition waste, municipal solid waste and biomass burning, among other pollution sources. It also considers public awareness



measures and improvements in PM10 concentrations.

Jammu has also received recognition for three wards under the state-level awards. Greater Kailash Ward 68 was placed in Category-I, New Plot Ward 16 in Category-II and Bhagwati Nagar Ward 14 in Category-III.

The assessment comes despite major urban infrastructure spending in Srinagar under the Smart City Mission, under which projects worth around Rs 3,530 crore were approved for areas including sanitation, mobility, environment and energy.

Officials said measures such as plantation drives, electric buses and

e-rickshaws, mechanical sprinkling of roads, concrete roads and riverfront improvement have been undertaken in Srinagar.

However, solid waste processing, vehicular emissions and construction and demolition waste remain areas of concern, with officials acknowledging gaps in waste management.

Among cities with populations above 10 lakh, Lucknow topped the 2026 ranking with a score of 198, followed by Indore at 197 and Jabalpur at 195.

In the three lakh to 10 lakh category, Rourkela, Firozabad and Guntur secured the first three positions—(KNO)

NHM employees extend strike by another 72 hours



“We have been serving the health system for years, but our service conditions and future remain uncertain. We need a concrete policy and a time-bound resolution rather than repeated assurances,” a protesting employee said.

PIB Srinagar media delegation visits Dakshina Chitra Heritage Museum



PIB

Srinagar, Sep 14: A 13 member media delegation from Jammu and Kashmir, organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Srinagar, visited the Dakshina Chitra Heritage Museum at Muttukadu, Tamil Nadu, on

Monday as part of the press tour being conducted by PIB Srinagar from September 13 to 19.

The delegation was briefed about the museum and its heritage structures by curator Lakuma Chebrolu.

She explained the architectural features of the traditional

homes preserved at the museum and provided information about the different regional styles represented there.

The museum houses reconstructed traditional heritage homes from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

The delegation was informed that the houses were carefully dismantled and reconstructed at the site with the involvement of regional artisans and traditional master builders.

The visiting media delegation also explored the traditional streetscapes and living environments recreated at the museum, providing an insight into the architectural and cultural traditions of the southern states. Sharath Nambiar, Director, Dakshina Chitra, interacted with the delegation and briefed them about the history of the

*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

Improved apple demand brings relief to growers

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 14: Better demand for Kashmir apples in major markets across the country has brought smiles back to the faces of fruit growers, with quality produce fetching significantly better returns than last year and raising hopes of recovering at least part of the losses suffered during the previous season.

Apple harvesting has picked up in low-lying areas of Kashmir, while harvesting in higher belts is yet to begin. At present, Kulu and early Delicious varieties are being harvested, while harvesting of traditional Delicious varieties is expected to begin in around 15 days.

Growers and traders said the market response so far has been encouraging, particularly for premium-quality fruit. Premium apples are currently fetching around Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 per box, while good-quality boxes are being sold for around Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500.

The prevailing rates are a major improvement over last year, when even quality produce was fetching only around Rs 300 to Rs 700 per box amid weak

demand and difficulties in transporting fruit to outside markets.

Mohammad Yousuf, a grower from Chitragam in Shopian said that the improvement in demand has come as a major relief for orchardists.

"Last year, growers suffered huge losses. The highway remained a major concern and demand was also weak, because of which even good-quality apples did not fetch satisfactory prices. This year, the demand is encouraging and the rates for quality fruit are much better," he said.

Yousuf said growers were now hopeful that the improved market conditions would help them compensate for at least some of the losses incurred during the previous season.

"Apple cultivation involves huge expenditure on labour, fertilisers, pesticides and other inputs. When the crop does not fetch a proper price, the entire family suffers. The rates we are getting this year have given growers some confidence," he added.

Abbas Ahmad, a grower from

*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

Achan cleanup begins as Srinagar tackles waste-processing challenge: H&UDD Secy

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 14: Cleaning of 'Achan', the municipal solid waste landfill in Srinagar, started after a solution was found to the city's major waste-processing challenge, Commissioner and Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, said on Monday.

She expressed hope that the development would help Srinagar secure a place among the top three cleanest cities in the country within the next two years.

Speaking with reporters during an awareness programme on cleanliness, Kaur said waste collection in



Srinagar was taking place effectively, but waste processing had become an "unmanageable" problem for the authorities, making it necessary to

find a solution.

"If you compare Srinagar, waste collection is happening, but processing was one problem which

had become unmanageable for us. It was necessary to find a solution to it. Thankfully, the solution has now been found and the cleaning of Achan has started," she said.

"I hope that in two years, Srinagar will at least come in the top three," she added.

Kaur stressed the need for citizens to adopt proper waste-management practices, including home composting, and take responsibility for keeping their homes and surroundings clean. "We can talk as much as we want about cleanliness, but nothing will change until we start from our own homes," she said.

She said the government could spend thousands of crores

on infrastructure, vehicles and waste-processing facilities, but such investments would not yield the desired results unless people changed their habits and maintained cleanliness around their homes.

"Even if we spend thousands of crores of rupees on constructing buildings, purchasing vehicles and creating processing facilities, nothing will change until we change the environment around our homes and keep our surroundings clean," she said.

Referring to Srinagar's sanitation workforce, Kaur said the Municipal Corporation had around 3,000 to 4,000 sanitation workers, while the

*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

Another employee said their demands were aimed at se-curing basic employment and social protection. "We are not against patient care and have kept our protest peaceful. But our genuine concerns also need to be addressed. We want the government to come forward with a clear roadmap," the employee said.

A female employee said NHM workers had continued to serve despite prolonged uncertainty.

"We are ready for dialogue, but there has to be a concrete response from the government. Thousands of employees are waiting for clarity regarding their future," she said.

The association expressed willingness to engage in dia-logue with the government and urged the authorities to initiate meaningful and time-bound measures to resolve the grievances.

With the strike now extended by another 72 hours from September 15, employees have urged the government to intervene at the earliest and take concrete steps towards addressing their demands and restoring normal functioning of NHM-linked health services across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

BRICS Summit A Powerful Statement Of A Transformed India

The successful conclusion of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi is a powerful statement of India's transformation from a nation of potential into a global force driven by technology, talent, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship. For decades, India's global identity revolved around its population, democratic credentials, and English-speaking workforce. Those strengths remain, but the

India presented to the world at this summit was broader and more confident. It is a nation building technologies at scale, creating global businesses, and emerging as a magnet for capital and manufacturing. The summit offered India a rare opportunity to bring diplomacy, business, technology, and culture together on one platform. Leaders from the world's most important emerging economies

arrived in Delhi, and the world watched not just the meetings but the country hosting them. From digital public infrastructure and fintech to space technology and a thriving startup ecosystem, India showcased its ability to build solutions for scale—a capability the world increasingly seeks. Equally significant is India's evolving role in manufacturing. Global companies looking to diversify supply

chains now see India as a serious option. This shift in perception is crucial. It signals that India is not merely a market where products are sold, but a place where they are designed, engineered, and made. Yet, the most enduring asset remains India's human capital. Indian talent continues to shape global boardrooms, laboratories, and creative industries. The shift is that India is now creating opportunities for

that talent at home. The BRICS Summit has helped move the global narrative from "India has potential" to "India is an important force". But this transition must be sustained through economic growth, infrastructure, innovation, and institutional strength. The summit was a moment. The challenge is to make it a movement. India has seized the stage; now it must own the story.

Data Centres In India Infrastructure For The Digital Age

India's data-centre growth reflects a steady policy journey towards a resilient and sovereign digital infrastructure. It is increasingly important for data sovereignty, digital trust, economic competitiveness and technological self-reliance.

Press Information Bureau

Data centres are the invisible engines powering India's digital life. They support banking, e-Governance and online services every second. As emerging technologies drive rapid data growth, the Government is building a supportive policy ecosystem. Infrastructure status, fiscal incentives and clean energy adoption are strengthening India's data centre ecosystem.

Strengthening India's Digital Infrastructure through Data Centres

India's digital economy is entering a new phase of rapid growth and technological transformation. Digitalisation is reshaping productivity, competitiveness and service delivery across sectors. As digital services expand, they are generating unprecedented demand for computing capacity, data storage and high-speed connectivity. Meeting this demand requires infrastructure that can operate continuously, securely and at scale. Data centres provide this critical foundation, powering the digital services that increasingly drive India's economy and governance.

A data centre is a secure facility that houses computing, storage and networking equipment. It stores, processes, manages and distributes large volumes of digital information. These capabilities support online banking, e-Governance, digital payments, cloud computing and other emerging technologies.

Modern data centres integrate computing, networking, power, cooling, security and management systems. These systems work continuously to maintain reliable operations, data security and uninterrupted digital services. As India's digital economy expands, resilient data centres are becoming a strategic infrastructure for innovation, competitiveness and sustained digital growth.

Inside a Data Centre: The Technologies Powering Digital Services

A data centre relies on a reliable power infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted operation of critical equipment. Data centre computers can never turn off—not even for a millisecond. Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) provide immediate backup during electrical interruptions. Backup generators and electrical distribution systems provide additional resilience during prolonged power disruptions. Continuous operations of this scale requires cooling systems to maintain suitable operating conditions for the computing equipment. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems regulate temperature and airflow within the facility. Advanced airflow management and liquid cooling further improve thermal efficiency and reliability.

The Information Technology (IT) infrastructure then performs the core computing functions. Servers process information and run digital applications. Storage systems securely hold large volumes of data using Hard Disk Drives (HDDs) and Solid-State Drives (SSDs). Security systems protect equipment, networks and data from physical and digital threats.

Networking equipment, including routers and high-speed switches, enables data exchange within and beyond the facility. Fiber-optic connections provide high-speed communication between the data centre and external networks.

Finally, management software monitors the systems and helps optimize the use of computing resources efficiently. Virtualisation allows multiple virtual machines to run on one physical server, improving resource use. Imagine taking one large house and dividing it into several



separate apartments. Virtualization allows one physical computer to run multiple virtual "mini-computers" inside it, maximizing resource efficiency. Automation tools manage workloads, support maintenance and help identify operational problems.

From Click to Response: How a Data Centre Handles Your Request

Every digital request begins with a simple action, such as opening an app, checking a bank balance or accessing a document. Behind the instant response, the request travels through a network to a data centre, where multiple systems work together to process it securely and efficiently.

The security layer first checks the request and protects the system from cyber threats. The load balancer then directs the request to an available server, helping distribute the workload efficiently.

The application server processes the request and determines what information or service is required. If necessary, it uses an Application Programming Interface (API) to communicate with other applications or services.

The database server then retrieves the required information and sends it back to the application server. Once processed, the information travels back through the network and reaches the user's device.

This entire process can take just 1–2 seconds, enabling fast and seamless digital services. This interconnected chain—Connect → Receive → Network → Process → Store → Secure → Respond—allows cloud services, e-governance platforms and Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications to deliver information reliably and at scale. It shows why modern data centres are far more than storage facilities; they are the digital infrastructure that enables everyday online services.

In Simple Terms: The Behind-the-Scenes Team

Network = The Corridors & Intercom, the internal hallways that connect the whole team so they can pass information to each other instantly.

Security Layer = The Security Guard, inspects your request at the entrance for safety.

Load Balancer = The Traffic Cop, directs incoming digital traffic so no single server gets overwhelmed

Application Server = The Chef, takes your order, figures out what information or recipe is needed.

API = The Waiter, acts as a messenger.

Database Server = The Digital Vault,

where details are locked away and retrieved when needed.

Status of Data Centers in India

India's data-centre journey has evolved alongside the rapid expansion of e-Governance and digital services. Rising citizen expectations for online services are increasing demand for robust data-centre infrastructure. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has established state-of-the-art National Data Centres across the country. These include facilities at NIC Headquarters in Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar. NIC has also established 37 smaller Data Centres at various State Capitals. These facilities provide reliable digital services to Government institutions at different levels. They support round-the-clock operations, system management and skilled onsite personnel.

India's rapidly expanding digital economy is further strengthening demand for secure and reliable data infrastructure. Installed data-centre power capacity stood at around 375 MW in 2020. It has increased to 1.57 GW as of August 2026. The capacity is projected to expand further to nearly 8 GW by 2030. Investments of nearly USD 70 billion are already underway in India's data centre sector, with an additional USD 90 billion in announced projects, highlighting the scale of expansion and reflecting strong investor confidence.

Enabling Policy Environment for Data Centres

The Government has strengthened the data-centre ecosystem through targeted policy and fiscal measures. In the Union Budget 2022–23, data centres were included in the Harmonized List of Infrastructure. This accorded infrastructure status to data centres and facilitated greater access to credit for digital infrastructure. The measure also supported investment and expansion of India's data-centre capacity.

Infrastructure Status in Simple Terms

Giving data centres "Infrastructure Status" treats them like national highways, airports, and power grids, granting them access to easier and cheaper long-term loans.

The Union Budget 2026–27 further introduced a tax holiday for eligible foreign cloud service providers until 2047. The incentive applies to global operations using India-based data-centre infrastructure. It covers Tax Years 2026–27 to 2046–47 for

notified foreign companies. These measures strengthen India's investment environment for data centres and cloud infrastructure.

Linked Ecosystem Schemes Supporting Data Centre Growth

The second phase of the Semicon India Programme (Semicon 2.0) was approved by the Union Cabinet on 15.07.2026, with an outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). It aims to holistically build a trusted and resilient semiconductor ecosystem in the country.

The IndiaAI Mission was approved with a total budget outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore to build a comprehensive AI ecosystem in the country. The AI ecosystem being fostered under the Mission is a key driver of data centre growth in India.

The Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) has also received higher financial support. Its allocation increased from ₹22,000 crore to ₹40,000 crore.

The Government of India has also launched PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware to create a robust domestic manufacturing ecosystem for IT hardware (such as servers), attract large investments, reduce import reliance, and make India a trusted global supply chain hub.

Sustaining the Data Centre Sector: Energy and Water Planning

Data centre capacity is expanding rapidly, making energy and resource efficiency increasingly important. Data centres require reliable electricity and efficient cooling systems for continuous operations. According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Ministry of Power, demand could reach 17 GW by 2031–32. As the sector is expanding, the Government is also promoting cleaner energy and efficient resource use to support sustainable sectoral growth.

Renewable Energy & Clean Power

The Government is promoting renewable energy through several key initiatives. These include the Green Energy Open Access Rules, Green Energy Corridor Scheme and National Green Hydrogen Mission. The National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules and Solar Park Scheme further support clean-energy deployment. These measures improve access to cleaner and more reliable power for energy-intensive digital infrastructure.

SHANTI Act & Clean Power

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act strengthens the clean-power ecosystem. It supports reliable nuclear power for emerging sectors, including Artificial Intelligence and data centres. The framework also enables future deployment of Small Modular Reactors and Micro Nuclear Reactors.

BIS Standards for Data Centres

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has developed standards for data-centre efficiency. Its technical committee LITD 31 covers Cloud Computing, Information Technology and Data Centres. BIS has published standards covering Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) and Carbon Usage Effectiveness (CUE). These standards also address Cooling Efficiency Ratio (CER) and Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE).

In Simple Terms

PUE and WUE - serve as green mileage ratings to measure how efficiently a facility uses electricity and water.

CUE measures how much carbon pollution a data centre produces for every bit of electricity its computers use.

CER measures how efficiently the cooling systems (like fans, chilled water pipes, or liquid coolant) remove that heat relative to the electricity they consume.

Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has notified the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017. It also notified the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) 2024. These codes prescribe energy-efficiency and water-conservation norms for buildings. They also include provisions relevant to data-centre infrastructure.

Advanced Cooling and Water Management

Data-centre water requirements depend on the cooling technologies deployed. Groundwater extraction, including for industrial purposes, is regulated under guidelines issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. AI infrastructure is driving adoption of advanced cooling technologies in data centres. These include direct-to-chip liquid cooling, adiabatic cooling and immersion cooling. Closed-loop liquid cooling systems are also emerging as resource-efficient solutions.

Way Forward

India's data-centre growth reflects a steady policy journey towards a resilient and sovereign digital infrastructure. It is increasingly important for data sovereignty, digital trust, economic competitiveness and technological self-reliance. The expansion of cloud and Artificial Intelligence infrastructure is creating new opportunities for innovation and economic growth. However, this growth also requires responsible governance of data, technology, energy and digital infrastructure. A technology governance approach can help balance innovation with security, sustainability, accountability and public interest. This requires strong standards, robust cybersecurity, responsible data practices and efficient resource management. It also calls for greater domestic capabilities across computing, semiconductors, energy and critical digital infrastructure. As India advances towards Viksit Bharat by 2047, data centres can serve as a foundational layer of the digital economy.

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Satish Sharma reaffirms commitment to Para Sports promotion in J&K

Launches
Hyderabad
Hawks Jersey

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 14: Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Jammu & Kashmir, Satish Sharma Monday reaffirmed the government's commitment towards the promotion of para sports and empowerment of differently-abled sportspersons, stating that every athlete deserves equal opportunities to excel and bring laurels to the nation.

The Minister, as per an official statement, made these remarks while interacting with a delegation of the JK Divyang Welfare Association (JKDWA), which called on him at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

During the meeting, Satish Sharma formally launched the jersey of Hyderabad Hawks, a franchise participating in the



upcoming Radiant World Para Cricket League, scheduled to be held from October 6 to 11, 2026, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

The delegation was comprised of Sayed Shah Aziz, Captain of the Indian Differently-Abled Cricket Team and Hyderabad Hawks; General Secretary JK

pride for Jammu & Kashmir. He said that Aziz's journey from Poonch to leading the Indian Differently-Abled Cricket Team reflects the extraordinary determination, talent and resilience of the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Extending his best wishes to Hyderabad Hawks for the forthcoming tournament, Satish Sharma expressed confidence that the team would perform exceptionally well and continue to inspire countless sportspersons across the country.

The Minister also held detailed discussions with the delegation regarding the development of disability sports in Jammu & Kashmir.

Various issues related to the promotion of para cricket and para sports, including infrastructure, training facilities, sporting opportunities, recognition and institutional support for differently-abled athletes, were deliberated upon.

Satish Sharma emphasized that the government is committed to

create an inclusive sports ecosystem where athletes with disabilities receive the support and facilities necessary to realise their full potential. He said that sports serve as a powerful medium of empowerment, confidence-building and social inclusion. He reiterated that the aspirations of differently-abled athletes would be given due attention.

The Minister said that the achievements of para athletes from Jammu & Kashmir have demonstrated that physical limitations can never become barriers to excellence when determination and dedication are coupled with opportunity and support. He stressed the need to further strengthen the initiatives aimed at encouraging greater participation of differently-abled youth in sports activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The JK Divyang Welfare Association appreciated the Minister's keen interest in the development of para sports and thanked him for his encouragement and support.

DC Srinagar visits Ganpatyar Temple, participates in Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Monday visited Ganpatyar Temple in the Habbakadal area of the City and participated in the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, which were marked by deep devotion, spiritual fervour and enthusiasm.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the arrangements put in place for devotees and the smooth conduct of the celebrations. He interacted with the devotees and extended his warm greetings and best wishes to them on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi.

The DC paid obeisance at the revered temple and extended his warm greetings to devotees on

the religious occasion. He interacted with members of the temple Management Committee, devotees and Officers and reviewed the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the celebrations.

The event was organized in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere with the active participation of devotees, volunteers and members of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

The DC appreciated the coordinated efforts of all Departments, Police and organisers for ensuring the successful conduct of the celebrations. The members of organising committee also expressed its sincere appreciation to the District Administration Srinagar for making comprehensive arrangements for the occasion.

District Committee reviews JJM 2.0 progress in Udhampur



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa Monday convened a meeting of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) to review the progress of protection and strengthening of drinking water sources under Jal Jeevan Mission JJM 2.0 in the district.

The meeting was attended by PO Poshan Subash Dogra, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and other concerned district officers.

The DC took a detailed sub-division-wise review of the status of JJM schemes, key components of JJM 2.0, component-wise progress of civil works, status of mechanical works and electrical substations, extension of timelines for JJM schemes as per JJM 2.0, physical and financial progress of water supply schemes being

implemented by the Jal Shakti Department, Har Ghar Jal certification and the status of wildlife-related cases among other issues.

The DC directed the concerned officers and field functionaries to work in close coordination and in a time-bound manner to ensure effective implementation of JJM 2.0. He directed the executing agencies to expedite pending works within the stipulated timelines and conduct regular field inspections to monitor progress on the ground.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti was directed to undertake categorisation of damages to JJM schemes and ensure timely remedial measures. The DC also stressed the need for certification of all completed and functional household tap connections and directed the concerned officers to ensure that every eligible household is covered under the mission.

RDD Kishtwar issues notices to absentees, initiates termination proceedings against GRS, CIC Operator

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 14: Taking serious note of unauthorized absence and poor performance of officials, the Rural Development department Kishtwar has issued show-cause notices to two officials, besides, initiating termination proceedings against a GRS and a CICO for dereliction of duty.

The action has been taken by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Manoj Kumar during a visit to Block Marwah where he conducted a comprehensive review of the implementation of the developmental schemes, besides inspecting ongoing works at different Panchayats of the Block.

During the review meeting, the ACD took a detailed assessment of the implementation of VB-GRAM-G, with particular emphasis on Person-Days (PDs) generation as per the normative allocation, especially against the funds released for the first quarter. He directed the field functionaries to ensure maximum generation of Person-Days before the commencement of the pause period from October 15 to November 13. He further directed immediate e-KYC of all left-out GRGs and completion of e-KYC of 100% skilled and semi-skilled workers. Inputs were sought from Panchayat-level functionaries



regarding pendencies and bottlenecks, with directions to resolve the same on priority. He also stressed that timely payment of wages under VB-GRAM-G must be accorded utmost priority.

The ACD also reviewed the progress under District Capex, UT Capex, ABDP and APDP. He directed the officials to expedite the execution of sanctioned works.

Later, the ACD conducted an extensive field inspection of developmental works in Nowpachi-A, Nowpachi-B, Yourdoo, Pethgam, Qaderna-A, Qaderna-B, Changer and Tiller. He also directed to install Community Information Boards (CIBs)/Janta Boards at every worksite for transparency and public awareness.

Taking serious note of unauthorized absence and poor performance of officials, the ACD issued show-cause notices

to two officials and initiated termination proceedings a GRS and a CICO for dereliction of duty.

During his interaction with the local population, the ACD sensitized the people about the provisions and benefits of the VB-GRAM-G Scheme, encouraging eligible households and workers to avail themselves of wage employment opportunities and participate in the creation of durable community assets.

The ACD also attended a Nasha Mukta awareness programme at a local School in Nowpachi, where he sensitized students and the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The ACD was accompanied by BDO Marwah Irshad Ahmed Waza along with JE/TA, Panchayat Secretaries, PAAs, MIS Operator, GRSS and other field staff.

Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

GCW Parade hosts grassroots intervention, community training

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 14: The NSS Unit of Government College for Women Parade Ground, in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, organised a Grassroots Intervention and Community Training Programme on the Rehabilitation Module under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, J&K.

The three-day training programme, being held from 14th to 16th September 2026, is aimed at strengthening grassroots-level awareness, intervention and community-based approaches for the prevention of substance abuse and rehabilitation. In accordance with the communication issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Jammu, three faculty members from Government Degree Colleges of District Jammu participated in the training along with NSS and NCC students of GCW Parade Ground. A total of 70 participants attended the programme.

District Health Officer Dr. Sophia formally introduced the programme and highlighted the significance of coordinated community-level intervention in addressing substance abuse.

The expert sessions were delivered by Dr. Balkes Razia, Occupational Therapist; Reefat Iqbal, Nurse, Addiction



Treatment Facility (ATF), GMC Jammu and Dr. Neelam Raini, Medical Officer, ATF, GMC Psychiatric Hospital. The resource persons sensitised the participants on identification of cases, early recognition of substance-use-related concerns, community counselling, referral mechanisms and rehabilitation-oriented interventions.

The training also emphasised the important role that educational institutions, faculty members and student volunteers can play in creating awareness, identifying vulnerable individuals at the grassroots level and facilitating timely counselling and referral for appropriate support.

Dr. Naveen Anand, Principal,

Government College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu, welcomed the resource persons, faculty members and student participants. He appreciated the initiative under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and stressed the need for sustained community engagement and awareness among young people.

Dr. Gurpreet Kour, NSS Programme Officer, GCW Parade Ground and Coordinator of the event, coordinated the programme and delivered the vote of thanks. Dr. Atiya Syed, NSS Programme Officer and Dr. Nitu Sharma, ANO, NCC, GCW Parade Ground, were also part of the organising team and contributed to the smooth conduct of the programme.

PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

Doda Admin organises Capacity-Building Workshop

KT News Desk

DODA, SEPTEMBER 14: The District Administration Doda on Monday organized a comprehensive capacity-building workshop on the implementation of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The Workshop was attended by the Assistant Commissioner (Revenue); District Panchayat Officer and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Assar along with Officers and representatives from PWD (R&B), Hydraulic, JPDCL, PHE, Irrigation, PMGSY, Mechanical, REW, Education, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Social Welfare, Youth Services and Sports, Planning, Statistics, Transport, Fisheries, Handlooms, Handicrafts and other concerned departments.

The session aimed to strengthen integrated infrastructure planning, promote multi-modal connectivity and enhance coordination among various government departments for the effective and time-bound execution of development projects across the district.

General Manager District Industries Centre (DIC) Mohammad Asfaq Khanzi participated as the District Nodal Officer as designated by Directorate of Industries and Commerce Jammu.

The Technical Officer of the PM Gati Shakti National Master

Plan provided an overview of the PM Gati Shakti portal and briefed the participants on its various features and procedures for handling and updating data on the portal.

The workshop focused on familiarizing officers with GIS-based spatial planning tools, integrated digital data platforms and geo-tagged infrastructure mapping under the PM Gati Shakti framework. Detailed discussions were held on the importance of sharing departmental data, identifying infrastructure gaps, avoiding duplication of projects, improving last-mile connectivity and ensuring coordinated planning of roads, utilities and other public infrastructure.

The participants were also sensitized to the importance of technology-driven and evidence-based planning for better prioritization, monitoring and implementation of developmental projects.

The session emphasized that effective adoption of the PM Gati Shakti approach would facilitate whole-of-government coordination, optimum utilization of resources, faster project execution, improved connectivity and greater transparency in infrastructure planning. The district officers and stakeholders were advised to ensure timely updating of relevant data and maintain close inter-departmental coordination for aligning district-level projects with the objectives of the National Master Plan.

Consumer Protection, Food Quality

Director reviews functioning of FCS&CA in Poonch

Directs officers to expedite NFSA verification, strengthen e-KYC, intensify market inspections



KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 14: Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), J&K Rajesh Kumar Shavan Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting here in the Conference Hall, Dak Bungalow, to review the functioning of the Department and implementation of the schemes and services in this border district.

Assistant Director Mills Rehana; Assistant Director T&S, Rohit and Assistant Director, FCS&CA Khalil A. Bandy, besides Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs), storekeepers and other departmental staff attended the meeting. Bandy gave a detailed presentation on the department's functioning, progress achieved under various parameters and key issues requiring attention.

The Director took stock of the status of e-KYC of ration card holders and LPG subscribers, stock and supply position of foodgrains and

implementation of various targeted schemes. He directed the TSOs to expedite verification of beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) to delete ineligible entries and ensure rightful targeting.

Emphasising the protection of consumer rights, the Director directed stressed regular inspections in co-ordination with the District Administration to check weightment, domestic LPG cylinders, calibration checks at petrol pumps, quality and price checking of essential commodities. He pushed for strict action against unfair trade practices and violations of prescribed norms.

Speaking to the media later, the Director said that routine samples of foodgrains are lifted for quality testing as part of the department's regular quality-control mechanism. He said the exercise is aimed at ensuring that foodgrains supplied to consumers conform to the prescribed quality standards.

IEC Campaign sensitises students on Drug Abuse in Baderwah

KT News Desk

BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 14: An Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign involving students was Monday organized by Social Welfare Department here under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan.

The interactive session witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members and representatives from the line departments. Participating students actively engaged in discussions and shared their views on the importance of making healthy, informed and responsible

choices.

The speakers called upon the students to stay away from intoxicating substances, embrace positive and healthy lifestyles and inspire their peers to join the collective effort towards building a healthier, safer and drug-free society.

They highlighted serious physical, psychological, social and academic consequences associated with drug addiction. They urged students to remain cautious of negative peer influence, make informed and responsible choices and understand the long-term impact of substance abuse on their lives and future.

Ensure clean drinking water for staff, filling trains: Div Com Kashmir



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 14: In pursuance to directions of Chief Secretary J&K, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Monday chaired a meeting to address the potable water supply issues at Budgam and Nowgam Railway Stations.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Chief Engineer PHE, Superintending Engineers PHE, and senior officers from the Railways.

During the meeting, Railway authorities apprised the chair that water being lifted from the nearby source does not meet potable standards and requested a clean drinking water supply for staff usage and for filling trains.

Taking cognizance of the issue, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned PHE officers to tap water from an alternative source identified by

field officers, located 2.5 km upstream.

He directed the Superintending Engineer, PHE Circle Budgam, to work out the capital expenditure for laying the new supply pipeline and to float tenders within ten days, in consultation with Railway authorities.

Regarding water supply to Nowgam Railway Station, the Divisional Commissioner directed SE PHE Budgam to expedite the completion of the lift water supply scheme.

On a separate issue regarding macadamization of the access road to Parrypora Colony near the Railway line, the Divisional Commissioner instructed ADC Budgam to conduct a joint site visit along with Revenue officials, Railway officers and representatives of the colony to ascertain land ownership of the road stretch and take appropriate action for providing road access to the residents.

JD(U) leaders to soon meet Amit Shah to discuss UCC

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 14: Janata Dal (United) working president Sanjay Jha on Monday said his party leaders will soon meet Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the issue of Uniform Civil Code in states.

The JD(U) leader's remarks come a day after Shah asserted that the NDA governments in 21 states will introduce a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) before 2029.

"We will soon meet Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the issue," Jha told PTI when asked about Shah's assertion.

Addressing a press conference in Mumbai on Sunday, Shah highlighted the government's initiatives for women and said, "Triple talaq has been abolished, giving Muslim women equal rights. We have introduced UCC in several states, and I am confident that in the 21 BJP-NDA ruled states, we will introduce the UCC before 2029."

The press conference was organised to announce a month-long campaign from September 17

to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 76th birthday and 25 years of his public service starting as the Gujarat chief minister.

With 12 Lok Sabha MPs, the JD(U) is a key constituent of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The Nitish Kumar-led party shares power with the BJP in Bihar. Senior JD(U) leader Shyam Rajak, however, said on Monday that the party is opposed to the implementation of UCC in Bihar, even though it had "supported the UCC Bill" in Parliament.

The former JD(U) national general secretary claimed that its stand on the issue had been clearly spelt out by former Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, the party's supreme leader.

Rajak was responding to questions from journalists in Patna on Shah's remark on UCC. "Our stand on the issue was made clear by our leader way back. He had said that although our party was supporting the UCC Bill in Parliament, it was not in favour of implementing the same in Bihar," Rajak said.

UN calls for 'urgent action' to rein in AI in face of 'unprecedented risks'

AFP

Geneva, Sep 14: The United Nations rights chief called Monday for countries and "frontier" artificial intelligence companies to act urgently to rein in a technology he warned posed "unprecedented risks".

In a letter sent to countries and AI developers and shared with the media, Volker Turk cautioned that the world was "on the cusp of irreversible change, affecting not just us but generations of humanity to come".

"The current race towards ever more powerful AI is a step change towards greater existential risks to every aspect of our lives."

He sent the letter at a time when worries over the risks of "superintelligent" computer systems have been on full display, after a researcher publicly resigned from leading AI firm Anthropic over fears that the technology could escape human control.

Another Anthropic



employee, who did not resign, stated publicly that "we really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans", and that he thought the chances were greater than "10 percent within the next decade".

Amid the outcry, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei called Saturday for AI companies to "pace the frontier" -- or coordinate a slowdown in the technology's development, with his chief competitors, xAI's Elon Musk and OpenAI's

Sam Altman, publicly supporting him.

"In today's world, we are almost entirely reliant on a small number of powerful companies to make the right choices on AI development for all of humanity," Turk lamented.

"I call on States and companies to mobilise urgently through multilateral fora to chart a path for action to govern advanced, frontier AI models, grounded in international human rights law."

Immigration process lapses: Civil Aviation Min issues show-cause notice to Air India

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 14: The civil aviation ministry has issued a show cause notice to Air India for alleged procedural lapses that resulted in three Italian passengers taking a connecting flight from the Delhi airport without completing immigration process earlier this month and the home ministry has called for a meeting of the stakeholders to discuss the incident on Tuesday, according to sources.

The three passengers had taken a flight from Amritsar to Delhi on September 4 and subsequently boarded a Lufthansa flight from Delhi to Munich.

However, they did not complete the immigration process at the Delhi airport, the sources said.

There was no comment from Air India on the incident.

The civil aviation ministry has issued the show cause notice to Air India CEO Campbell Wilson seeking an explanation on the alleged procedural lapses.

The sources said Home Secretary Govind Mohan will chair a meeting to discuss the incident on Tuesday.

Secretary and Additional Secretary at the civil aviation ministry, Director of Intelligence Bureau, Additional Secretary (UT and Foreigners) at the home ministry, Bureau of Immigration (BoI) Commissioner, Air India CEO

and Delhi airport CEO are expected to attend the meeting, they added.

Amritsar airport is among the airports from where Air India has introduced 'Hub-and-Spoke' model flights, under which passengers can complete the immigration process at the origin airport and travel seamlessly to overseas destinations. At the hub airport from where the international flight starts, passengers can just go through the security check and board the flight concerned.

If a person is travelling from Amritsar via Delhi to a foreign destination, then Amritsar is the spoke and Delhi is the hub.

In the particular case of the three Italian passengers, the sources said they were issued the boarding passes at Amritsar airport for Delhi as well as the Lufthansa flight to Munich.

Since the two flights did not come under Air India's 'Hub-and-Spoke' model, the three passengers were supposed to come out through the arrival area and then do their immigration process before taking the Lufthansa flight.

However, after landing at the Delhi airport, they were taken to the international transfer area as a result of which they did not reach the immigration counter and without completing the immigration process took the flight to Munich, the sources said.

Central team to visit Bihar to assess flood situation: CM

PTI

Patna, Sep 14: A central team led by Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will visit Bihar to assess the flood situation, Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary said on Monday.

Choudhary, however, did not specify when the team will arrive in the state.

He said the state government was making sustained efforts for a permanent solution to Bihar's flood problem.

The CM also stressed the need for river conservation, better water management and long-term, flood-control measures.

Around 49.67 lakh people across 15 districts -- Patna, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Buxar, Samastipur, Munger, Katihar, Lakhisarai, Khagaria, Purnea, Madhepura and Araria -- have been affected by the floods this year.

The state has recorded 112.7 mm of rainfall so far in



September, around six per cent above normal, officials said.

Speaking at a 'Hindi Diwas' and poetry conference in Patna, Choudhary also announced a two-day Hindi literary conclave, with leading writers, poets and scholars from across the country expected to participate.

Choudhary also hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for presenting India's views in Hindi at the recent BRICS Summit.

AAP unseats Congress from Kota Municipal Council stronghold

PTI

Kota, Sep 14: In a major upset, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) uprooted the 15-year-old Congress-led board in Baran, securing a clear majority in the municipal council elections, results of which were declared on Monday.

The AAP won 31 out of the 60 wards, crossing the majority mark required to form the local municipal board.

The elections, which traditionally saw a direct contest between the BJP and Congress, resulted in Congress securing only 18 seats, while the BJP was reduced to nine. Independent candidates won the remaining 2 seats.

Former Baran municipal council chairperson Kamal Rathore led the local body election for the AAP.

Rathore started his political career in the RSS-affiliate Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and later became a part of the BJP, as well as the Congress.

With AAP holding an absolute majority, all eyes have turned to the selection of the council chairperson, or 'sabhapati'.

The seat is reserved for a General Category Woman candidate.

"The people of Baran chose development. Corrupt politicians who pushed Baran backward and harassed the public; politicians like Bunty-Babli.



The people of Baran have wiped them out," Rathore, AAP candidate from Ward 46, said.

"Our goal was set, and we succeeded. Now, our priority is to fulfil the expectations of the people who placed their trust in us," he added.

His wife, Sheetal Rathore, who also won from Ward 37, is being considered the most probable candidate to contest for sabhapati.

Reacting to the defeat, Congress general secretary Kailash Jain said the party would review the shortcomings, and blamed the BJP's central governance and local interference for disturbing civic work.

"The BJP's condition in these elections is even worse than ours. During their two-and-a-half-year governance in the state, despite Congress holding the board, BJP framed false

cases against our leaders and sabhapati, disrupting public development works. The public's frustration over this disturbance impacted the results, which we also had to suffer," Jain said.

BJP Baran district president Naresh Sikarwal accepted the mandate. "The results have come today, and we will review where we lagged behind and what went wrong."

The ruling BJP won 4,179 wards against the Congress's 3,613 and secured clear majorities in four of the state's 10 municipal corporations.

Besides these two, the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party won 63, AAP 42, CPI(M) 38, BSP 19 and Bharat Adivasi Party eight.

The elections were held for 309 urban local bodies comprising 10 municipal corporations, 51 municipal councils and 248 municipalities.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K security situation

reduction in the deployment of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) forces opposite the Northern Borders.

It said 10 combined-arms brigade-sized PLA forces remained deployed in areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and in traditional training areas.

The Indian Army's deployment across all sectors along the LAC remained "robust, well-poised and prepared" to deal with any emerging contingency, the report said. (KNO)

Address gaps in

need more immediate attention besides improving the basic facilities of primary & secondary health-care system.

The Chief Minister, who is also holding the Finance portfolio, assured the Health Department of continued support for further strengthening the sector. "As I am currently looking after the Finance Department as well, I reassure the department and particularly the Minister concerned that whatever we can do from the Finance Department to continue this improvement in the Health Department, we will do," he said.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning and requirements of Government Medical Colleges, SKIMS and other tertiary and district-level healthcare institutions, with particular focus on improving patient care, infrastructure, equipment, medical education and specialized services.

The discussions covered a wide range of areas, including cancer care, medical education and seat capacity, digital health services, oral healthcare, food safety, mental health and drug de-addiction, liver transplant services, nutritional support and geriatric care.

Minor boy's

Meanwhile, Bandipora MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, in a post on X, wrote, "A big relief. Momin's

body is retrieved from Madhumati. We are obliged to all who put in effort and stood in solidarity with the bereaved family. Their grief, sorrow and pain is shared. RIP." (KNO)

Autumn session:

calendar issued by the Assembly Secretariat, four days have been scheduled for Government business and three for Private Member Bills and Resolutions. While two days have been earmarked for Private Member Bills, all eyes are expected to be on Government Bills, given that Private Member Bills seldom pass. Private Member Bills almost never succeed in the Lok Sabha or the J&K Assembly due to procedural hurdles.

The Government is expected to introduce four bills during the session. (KNO)

Two killed, 7

directed authorities to ensure the injured receive the best possible medical care.

Body fished

the body has been shifted for necessary legal formalities. (KNO)

EOW chargesheets

was accordingly presented before the competent court for judicial determination," the spokesperson said.

He said the accused, against whom 15 criminal cases have been registered across the Kashmir Valley, was arrested on July 18, 2026, and is presently lodged in Central Jail, Srinagar. He allegedly impersonated highly influential persons and bureaucrats with the intention of deceiving and cheating innocent people.

"The general public is advised to remain vigilant against economic fraudsters and report any such incidents directly to SSP EOW Srinagar (Crime Branch J&K) Abdul Waheed Shah. If you have been a victim of economic fraud, you may also send your complaint to the official email: speow-kmr@jkpolice.gov.in,"

he said. (KNO)

El Nino likely to

pattern in recent years, with prolonged dry periods followed by one or two snowfall spells that were generally weaker than expected.

The MeT director said frequent but feeble Western Disturbances (WDs) were currently affecting the region, generally arriving every third or fourth day but producing little significant weather activity.

"These are mostly feeble Western Disturbances. In the mountainous areas of North Kashmir, we may see some light snow or cloudiness, but there has been no major weather activity," he said.

Ahmad said a strong Western Disturbance, particularly during the beginning or peak of winter, would be important for the region.

WARMER CONDITIONS ALTERING FORM, TIMING OF PRECIPITATION IN HIMALAYAN REGION

He also linked the changing snowfall pattern to climate change and rising temperatures, saying warmer conditions were altering the form and timing of precipitation in the Himalayan region.

Over the past four to five years, he said, Kashmir has not consistently received snowfall during the peak winter period, resulting in shorter-lasting snow cover and longer dry spells.

"Timely snowfall, especially in hilly states like Jammu and Kashmir and other Himalayan regions such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, is as important as rainfall during summer," Ahmad said.

He explained that snowfall during the peak winter months has a longer-lasting impact because lower temperatures allow snow to remain on the ground and contribute to glacier recharge. Snowfall occurring later in February or March can also be beneficial, but warmer temperatures can cause it to melt more rapidly.

"Due to rising temperatures, the snow melts

quickly. So timely snowfall is very important for the Himalayan region," he said.

PRECIPITATION SITUATION CURRENTLY NEAR NORMAL

On the precipitation situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Ahmad said the overall seasonal scenario was currently near normal despite significant variations between individual months.

He said July recorded 35 per cent excess rainfall, although the early monsoon period also caused considerable losses. August, however, recorded around 25 per cent rainfall deficit, with some spells occurring during the month but without consistent or widespread activity.

"Overall, the precipitation scenario for the season is almost near normal," he said.

Ahmad also dismissed claims that February or winter itself would somehow be absent this year, saying such conclusions could not be drawn from seasonal forecasts.

He advised people to remain positive, saying snowfall and rain were still expected even though the overall winter could be milder than normal.

"Let us see what happens. It is very difficult to say from now. These things are very dynamic. There will be snow, God willing, and there will be rain," he said. (KNO)

Rain, thundershowers

a maximum temperature of 30.4 degrees Celsius on Monday, 2.6 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature stood at 13.5 degrees Celsius, which was normal.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius, 0.8 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature was 23.3 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal.

Among other stations, Qazigund recorded a maximum of 26.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 11.6 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 23.9 degrees Celsius and 8.9 degrees Celsius respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 30.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 11.9

degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded 28.6 degrees Celsius and 11.8 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 21.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 8.7 degrees Celsius, making it among the cooler locations in the Valley.

In Jammu division, Katra recorded a maximum temperature of 31.7 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 20.9 degrees Celsius, while Banihal recorded 29.5 degrees Celsius and 13.6 degrees Celsius respectively.

The weather department advised farmers to continue harvesting apple and paddy crops along with other agricultural operations, while taking precautions in view of the possibility of thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds.

The MeT department said the forecast could change depending on evolving weather conditions. (KNO)

J&K records near-normal

News Observer (KNO) that the overall precipitation scenario in Jammu and Kashmir remained almost near-normal despite contrasting rainfall patterns in the two months.

"July was good in terms of rainfall. In J&K, there was 35 per cent excess rainfall," Ahmad said.

He said August, however, recorded around 25 per cent rainfall deficit, with some spells during the month but no consistent or widespread rainfall activity. "There were some spells in August, but these were not consistent or widespread. No such activity happened," he added.

The MeT Director said despite the deficit recorded in August, the overall seasonal precipitation situation in Jammu and Kashmir remained near normal.

The variations in monthly rainfall come amid changing weather patterns being observed across the Union Territory in recent years.

Ahmad said the precipitation pattern could continue to fluctuate, with weather activity remaining dependent on atmospheric conditions. (KNO)

‘President Xi, PM Modi reached most imp consensus that India, China should be partners’

PTI

Beijing, Sep 14: President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have reached "most important consensus" during their meeting on the margins of the BRICS summit that China and India should be partners, the top Chinese diplomat said on Monday.

Summing up Xi's two-day visit to New Delhi on September 12-13 to attend the 18th BRICS Summit and his meeting with PM Modi, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the two leaders held a candid and in-depth exchange of views on strategic, long-term and directional issues concerning China-India relations.

The most important consensus they reached was that China and India should be partners, Wang told Chinese official media on Sunday.

President Xi said that China and India can draw on each other's strengths, support one another, help each other succeed and pursue common development, according to Wang, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

The leaders of the two countries agreed to jointly maintain peace and tranquility in border areas, while the two countries will support each other as rotating chair of the BRICS, Wang said.

The Modi-Xi meeting drew widespread international attention, he said.

Under the strategic guidance of the two countries' leaders, China-India relations have gradually emerged from a low point, progressing from a "restart" to a "renewed elevation," a readout posted on the Chinese Foreign Ministry website said.

Areas of cooperation between the two countries keep expanding, trade volume has hit record highs, and people-to-people exchanges are growing more



dynamic.

The improvement and development of China-India relations are not only welcomed by the over 2.8 billion people of both nations, but also represent an essential pillar of strengthening cooperation across the Global South, Wang said.

He said that both sides pledged to further nurture political mutual trust, manage differences and contradictions appropriately, and jointly uphold peace and tranquility along the border areas.

Wang said that the development trajectories of China and India represent shared opportunity for one another, and that the impact of China-India cooperation extends far beyond bilateral ties -- carrying profound significance for the Global South and the wider world.

He noted that the normalisation and improvement of China-India relations has been hard-earned, and this progress deserves to be cherished.

Expressing hope that India will join China in translating the leaders' shared consensus into action, he reaffirmed that both nations should remain partners rather than rivals, and advance bilateral relations steadily forward without stagnation or backsliding.

He also emphasised that the border issue should be viewed in proper perspective within the broader context of the bilateral

relationship; that dialogue and cooperation should remain the prevailing trend; and that both nations should accelerate their respective development and national renewal, working side by side to contribute their due share toward regional and global peace and shared prosperity.

In his meeting with Modi, Xi called on China and India to draw on political wisdom of mutual respect and understanding to overcome disruptions, urging both sides to pursue parallel progress in bilateral ties and border issues with the two tracks reinforcing each other, so as to maintain peace and tranquility in border areas.

Wang said PM Modi offered a positive response, affirming that India has always approached India-China relations from a strategic and long-term standpoint.

PM Modi stated that India stands ready to be a partner, not an adversary, to China, and regards each other's development as an opportunity rather than a challenge, according to the Chinese foreign minister.

India's approach to its relationship with China is independent of third-party influence, and it will not allow any forces to conduct anti-China activities on its territory, Wang said, quoting PM Modi.

India remains committed to maintaining high-level exchanges

with China, deepening strategic communication, and broadening people-to-people ties on the foundation of mutual respect and trust -- all to drive further progress in bilateral relations, he added.

The two leaders agreed to prioritise development as the bedrock of shared interest, deepen friendly ties and mutually beneficial collaboration, and expand cooperation in areas including cultural and people-to-people exchanges and direct air connectivity, to foster greater mutual understanding between the Chinese and Indian public and build stronger public support for bilateral relations, Wang said.

They also agreed to support each other's BRICS chairmanship, strengthen coordination within multilateral frameworks including the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and the G20, advance cooperation across the Global South, promote a more multipolar world order, and together serve as a stabilising, progressive force in an era of global uncertainty, he said.

Elaborating on Wang's comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here on Monday "as the two leaders have charted the course for the future development of the bilateral ties, China will work with India to implement the important common understandings reached between the two leaders."

Guo said China will make the cooperation list longer, deepen people-to-people exchanges, have closer collaboration on multilateral occasions, make continued efforts to improve and grow our ties, and render firm support to each other's development and revitalization, so that we can contribution to the peace and prosperity in the region and beyond.

China takes over as the BRICS chair for 2027.

Malaysia PM Anwar Ibrahim meets Keralam CM, leaves for Maldives

PTI

Malappuram (Keralam), Sep 14: Keralam Chief Minister V D Satheesan met Malaysia Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at a wellness centre in Chelembra on Monday during the latter's stay in the state.

Ibrahim met Keralam Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and a businessperson before boarding a flight from Karipur airport to the Maldives in the evening.

Ibrahim arrived in Keralam on Sunday evening after attending the BRICS conference in New Delhi and was staying at the wellness centre.

According to details shared by the Keralam Public Relations Department, Satheesan arrived at the centre by helicopter around 2.30 pm for the meeting with the Malaysian premier.

Indian Union Muslim League leaders Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal and PK Kunhalikutty, who is also the Keralam Industries Minister, were present at the meeting, according to pictures shared by the PRD.

Satheesan presented Ibrahim with a traditional Kathakali-themed memento.

Ibrahim presented a gift to Satheesan, as the pictures showed.

Later, Ibrahim shared



pictures of his interaction with Satheesan on his Facebook page."This meeting provided space for us to exchange views on the great potential of Keralam in strengthening the Malaysia-India relationship, particularly through economic cooperation and increased trade and investment," he said.

"We explored cooperation and opportunities in the fields of digital economy, health-care, tourism, education and high-value sectors. Business relations, people-to-people exchanges and close historical and cultural interconnections need to be strengthened," he added. Ibrahim invited Satheesan to visit Malaysia to

continue the discussions and translate the potential for cooperation into more concrete outcomes benefiting the citizens of both countries.

Satheesan shared pictures from the meeting on his social media accounts, as well.

"An absolute honour to welcome the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, to Keralam. Our historic cultural ties and the vibrant Malayali diaspora in Malaysia continue to anchor our enduring partnership. Held productive discussions on expanding cooperation in IT, sustainable tourism, higher education, and trade," the CM said in an X post.

India, Vietnam to expand defence ties



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 14: India and Vietnam agreed on Monday to boost their defence ties through joint production of military hardware and decided to expand bilateral trade by building stronger supply chains and widening market access.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Vietnamese counterpart Le Hoai Trung explored ways to further bolster the bilateral ties in a range of key areas during the 19th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

The two sides have also decided to expand cooperation in areas of air connectivity, nuclear energy and space.

"In a productive and outcome oriented discussion, the two ministers reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations under the India-Vietnam Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

It said the two ministers identified the "way forward" on deepening ongoing defence and security collaboration, including through co-production of Indian defence items, expanding trade, investments and mutually beneficial supply chains and extending market access for Indian marine and agricultural products and pharmaceuticals.

The MEA said other areas identified for deeper cooperation included port and air connectivity; nuclear energy and space sector; heritage conservation; cooperation in standards for seafarers; capacity building, and people-to-people ties.

"The two sides exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to closer cooperation and coordination in regional and multilateral fora," it said in a statement.

In his opening address at the meeting, Jaishankar said Vietnam is a key partner in India's Act East Policy, vision MAHASAGAR as well as in its outlook of the Indo-Pacific.

"Vietnam is equally an

Jamia forms panel to probe video of chameleon in hostel food

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 14: Jamia Millia Islamia has constituted a four-member fact-finding committee to examine CCTV footage allegedly showing a chameleon in a student's bowl of pulses at a hostel mess, amid an ongoing row over food quality and hygiene at the university. The university said on Monday that it was also seeking assistance from government investigating agencies to examine the footage and ascertain the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The committee will also ascertain whether the incident was part of any deliberate attempt to disrupt the functioning of the hostel messes or bring disrepute to the university.

It appealed to students to refrain from circulating unverified material and said genuine concerns relating to food quality, hygiene or hostel facilities would be addressed on priority.

According to the university, the CCTV footage appears to show a hostel resident taking his bowl of pulses under a mess table, following which a group of students created a commotion alleging that a chameleon had been found in the bowl.

"The JMI administration has directed that appropriate action shall be taken against individuals involved in this incident, in compliance with applicable rules, in the event that any deliberate wrongdoing, fabrication, misinformation or other misconduct is established," the university said.

The committee has been tasked with examining the complete footage, the circumstances leading to the incident and the actions and roles of those involved, the university said.

The development comes amid a protest by students of Jamia's Jammu and Kashmir Girls' Hostel over the quality of food served in the mess.

The protest began after students alleged that insects and foreign objects had been found in food served at the hostel. They demanded the cancellation of the existing mess vendor's contract, appointment of female staff in the mess and action against hostel authorities.

Retail, wholesale inflation rise in Aug

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 14: Retail inflation rose to 4.82 per cent in August, driven by costly onions and other food items, a trend the RBI will have to factor in when its rate-setting panel meets early next month.

Also, wholesale price-based inflation increased to 9.92 per cent in August from 9.78 per cent in July, official data released on Monday showed.

While the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) print remains within the central bank's tolerance band, pressure on energy prices amid the ongoing West Asia conflict poses challenges for policymakers on the inflation front.

A higher CPI reading will be a key factor in policy rate decisions when the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets during October 5-7. The RBI's rate-setting panel left the key interest rate unchanged last month amid inflation concerns.

The CPI-based retail inflation was 4.45 per cent in July.



August inflation numbers are the highest since the new series, with base year 2024, took effect in January.

According to National Statistics Office (NSO) data on CPI for August, retail inflation for rural and urban were 5.23 per cent and 4.31 per cent, respectively.

Retail food inflation in August climbed to 5.95 per cent from 5.52 in the preceding month.

Inflation in onions rose to 48.27 per cent in August against 22.54 per cent in July. Inflation in garlic rose to

43.6 per cent from 35.36 per cent in July. The rate of price rise in ginger was also high at 73.82 per cent compared to July. On the other hand, there was a contraction in prices of tomato, potato, lady finger, and parwal.

The highest retail inflation was recorded in Telangana at 6.27 per cent and the lowest in Mizoram at 2.35 per cent.

Reserve Bank governor-headed MPC, which factors in retail inflation for arriving at the key interest rate (repo), is scheduled to meet on October 5 to 7.

Maruti Suzuki's Made-in-India cars make mark in Japan

Jimny, Fronx, e Vitara cross

1 lakh exports

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 14: Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said cumulative exports of the Made-in-India Jimny 5-door, Fronx, and e Vitara to Japan have surpassed 1 lakh units.

Maruti Suzuki India began exporting the Fronx to Japan, one of the world's most competitive and advanced automobile markets, in August 2024, followed by the Jimny 5-door in December 2024.



The Company's first Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV), e Vitara, joined this export portfolio in September 2025, further strengthening India's role as a global manufacturing hub for Suzuki.

Jimny 5-door and e VITARA are manufactured exclusively in India.

With growing acceptance of Made-in-India vehicles, Japan stood as Maruti Suzuki's second-largest export market by volume in FY26, the company said, adding that it has retained the position during the first five months (April-August) of the current fiscal year.

"The milestone of over 1 lakh

exports of Jimny 5-door, FRONX, and e VITARA to Japan is a powerful endorsement of India's manufacturing excellence. This achievement is particularly significant as Japan is one of the world's most demanding and advanced automobile markets," said Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.

The success of Jimny 5-door, Fronx, and e Vitara has also contributed in Suzuki Motor Corporation emerging as the top vehicle importer in Japan in the previous financial year, the company said.

Maruti Suzuki-manufactured vehicles accounted for nearly 100 per cent of imports by Suzuki in Japan during the last fiscal year, it added.

Iran nuclear chief blocked from Vienna meeting



AFP

Tehran, Sep 14: Iran's nuclear chief was blocked from attending an annual conference on Monday at the headquarters of the UN's nuclear agency in Vienna due to opposition from the United States, Iranian state television said. "Mohammad Eslami and his delegation took a regular flight to Vienna on Saturday, but were blocked on the way because of obstructions by the United States," the state broadcaster reported, saying he had returned to the capital Tehran.

Iran stated on Monday it had summoned Austria's charge d'affaires after the European country refused to allow Iran's nuclear chief to participate in the meeting.

"The Austrian government's refusal to issue visas to the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a completely unjustified decision," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said at a press conference in Tehran.

Trump says Ukraine, Russia agree not to hit energy targets

AFP

Washington, Sep 14: US President Donald Trump said Monday that Ukraine and Russia had agreed not to target each other's energy facilities, a day after he chastised Kyiv for hitting Russian oil refineries.

"Ukraine has agreed not to hit Russian Energy targets. Russia has agreed to do, likewise!" Trump said on his Truth Social network.

"The World's Diesel price rise is mostly caused by the Russia/Ukraine War, not Iran."

There was no immediate confirmation from Kyiv or Moscow of any deal.

Trump's claim comes as oil prices continue to soar in the seventh month of the Iran war, raising American fuel costs and inflation just weeks before crunch US midterm elections.

The US leader has insisted that the Iran war will finish immediately after the mid-terms and gas prices will drop -- but has in the meantime apparently found a new target to blame for the cost at the pump.

Trump had lashed out at Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky during a trip to



Ireland on Sunday, saying he had to do "one thing" and "stop knocking out diesel fuel" refineries in Russia due to growing shortages.

"Let him go after targets, but not diesel fuel, because he's causing a shortage of diesel," Trump said, again insisting the Russia-Ukraine war -- not the US-Israel conflict with Iran -- was to blame.

Trump added he had spoken to Ukraine's leader about the country's stepped-up attacks on such sites over recent months. "There are plenty of

other targets. Don't hit diesel fuel because that's hurting. That's hurting the world. We don't want him to hit diesel fuel... He's hitting diesel refineries."

Ukraine has hit numerous Russian oil refineries far from its border with Russia, while Moscow has also intensified its long-range attacks in recent months, leading to a jump in civilian deaths.

Kyiv has been firing record numbers of drones at Russia, while Moscow has been launching all-time high missile

attacks. Trump said last week he had a "great conversation" with Russian President Vladimir Putin, insisting that Putin wanted to make a deal to end Moscow's war on Ukraine.

Putin "is wanting to make a deal, and if Zelensky is wanting to make a deal, that'd be very nice," Trump told reporters on Wednesday.

Zelensky said last week he would be willing to meet Putin at the G20 summit at Trump's own Doral resort in Miami in December, but the Kremlin immediately ruled it out.

PM Narendra Modi congratulates women's cricket team on Asia Cup Victory



PIB

New Delhi, Sep 14: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated the Indian Women's Cricket Team on winning the Asia Cup.

The Prime Minister said that the team's confidence, consistency and remarkable spirit were on full display throughout the tournament.

Shri Modi expressed hope that this triumph would inspire millions of youngsters across the country to play more and shine.

In a post on X, Shri Modi said;

"A proud moment for Indian cricket!

Congratulations to the Women's team on winning the Asia Cup. Their confidence, consistency and remarkable spirit were on full display throughout the tournament.

May this triumph inspire millions of youngsters across the country to play more and shine."

NATO chief Rutte promises more Ukraine support after Russian drones near Polish border

AP

Warsaw, Sep 14: NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said Monday that Russian drone strikes near the Ukraine-Poland border would drive the military alliance to increase its support for Kyiv, calling the attacks on Sunday a sign of growing desperation by the forces under Russian President Vladimir.

"The strikes yesterday on trains in Ukraine close to NATO territory again show Putin's desperation and also his desire to sow fear and terror," Rutte said at NATO's political headquarters in Brussels. "Russia is growing increasingly reckless as it continues its terrible war against Ukraine."

Rutte pledged to increase support for Ukraine and bolster the 32-nation alliance's

own defences along its long eastern border with Russia.

"He thinks that he can stop us from supporting Ukraine and that he can undermine our unity. He is wrong," the NATO chief said of Putin.

Rutte's comments came as Poland pledged increased security along its border with Ukraine after a wave of Russian drone strikes near the frontier, including two that landed within kilometres of Polish territory.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk warned Sunday that Moscow appears poised to intensify its campaign against Ukraine's borders with European countries. Ukraine is under mounting pressure from Russia's intensifying air campaign that uses ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones to pierce defences.

Varun ruled out of Afghanistan T20 Series, Asian games hopes in doubt

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 14: India spinner Varun Chakaravathy was on Monday ruled out of the ongoing T20 series against Afghanistan due to an injury, making him doubtful for the upcoming Asian Games.

Chakaravathy had recently recovered from a hamstring injury that he suffered on the tour of England in July. He picked up a wicket in the series opener against Afghanistan that India won comfortably, conceding just 16 runs in his four overs.

"It is a fresh injury. He is out of the series," said a BCCI source.

The injury management at the Centre of Excellence has come under scanner of late with players getting injured frequently. Chakaravathy is another example of that trend.

The fresh injury makes Chakaravathy highly doubtful for the Asian Games beginning on September 19.

President Murmu hails junior hockey teams for Asia Cup glory

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 14 : President Droupadi Murmu on Monday congratulated the junior men's and women's hockey teams on their outstanding Asia Cup victories and said their dedication, discipline and teamwork have brought pride to the nation.

"It is heartening to see young players setting inspiring examples of channelling positive energy for excellence. My best wishes to all the young players for continued success in the future," she said in a post on X.

The Indian junior women's hockey team won the AHF Junior Asia Cup title by defeating China 1-0 in a closely fought summit clash on Sunday, qualifying for the Junior Women's Hockey World Cup.

"Heartiest congratulations to our Junior Men's and Women's Hockey Teams on their outstanding victories in the Asia Cup. Their dedication, discipline and teamwork have brought immense pride to the nation," the President said.



2nd T20I: India target series victory amid fifth-bowler conundrum

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 14: The lack of a reliable fifth bowling option in the injury-forced absence of Hardik Pandya seems to be the only major concern for India as they look to deliver another knockout punch and seal the series against Afghanistan in the second T20I here on Tuesday.

World Cup winners India returned to the shortest format with a dominant show, beating Afghanistan by seven wickets in a one-sided contest on Sunday here.

Shreyas Iyer's men ticked all the boxes as pacer Arshdeep Singh and opening batter Abhishek Sharma produced sensational performances to set up the win.

While Arshdeep (3/19) was precise in his execution to help India restrict Afghanistan to 156 for eight, Abhishek came out all guns blazing with a 32-ball 82 to help complete the chase in 13.4 overs.

Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakaravathy also made successful returns from injury, but it is the fifth-bowler conundrum that Iyer needs to address before India turn their attention to the Asian Games gold later this week.

Iyer struggled to fill the slot and his batting all-rounders -- Shivam Dube and Nitish Kumar Reddy -- could not deliver.

Dube conceded 21 runs after coming on to bowl for the first time in the last over after Reddy



had gone for 30 in his two overs. Abhishek also rolled his arm over for an over. And trio conceded 59 runs in their collective four overs.

With the specialist trio of Arshdeep, Bumrah, Axar Patel and Chakaravathy doing the bulk of the damage, India were never really tested. But Iyer would want a more settled option with the Asian Games on the horizon.

In the batting department, Abhishek quashed doubts around his form with his entertaining innings, while in-form Ishan Kishan shrugged off a minor back injury scare sustained during training to produce a 33-ball 42, that was studded with five fours and a maximum.

However, opener Sanju Samson (10) continued to live on the edge and will hope to come up with a substantial innings after falling early on Sunday.

The Kerala batter was a star

of India's T20 World Cup triumph but his form has been topsy-turvy ever since, having scored 33 runs in four innings before the Afghanistan series.

With in-form youngster Vaibhav Sooryavanshi breathing down his neck, Samson would hope to turn the tide quickly and retain his opening slot as Iyer finalises the XI for India's Asian Games campaign in Japan.

However, these are minor issues for a team that is operating like a well-oiled machine, and Afghanistan will have to come up with much better plans to contain the side.

The Afghans were no match for India in the opening game, lacking the batting firepower and the bowling attack to put their opponents under any kind of pressure.

It is a short series and Afghanistan will need a far stronger batting effort after their top order struggled to build momentum in the opening game.

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