



Under PM Modi, India moved from condemnation to decisive action against terrorism: Amit Shah

Says Art 370 abrogation, surgical strikes, Balakot air strikes, Operation Sindoor among key anti-terror actions

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 17: Stating that India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has moved beyond diplomatic condemnation to terrorism and security threats, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the country's approach towards terror has witnessed a significant shift.

In a post on X, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the policy of "zero tolerance" towards terrorism had been implemented on the ground during PM Modi's tenure.

"Abrogation of Article 370, the 2016 surgical strikes, the 2019 Balakot air strikes and Operation Sindoor in 2025 demonstrated India's willingness to respond decisively to



terror attacks," he said, adding, "Under the leadership of Modi ji, the country has witnessed for the first time the policy of 'zero tolerance' against terrorism being implemented on the ground."

Pertinently, the Centre

revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 on August 5, 2019, and subsequently reorganised the erstwhile state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

India's military responses

have also featured prominently in the government's national security narrative. The Army conducted surgical strikes across the Line of Control in September 2016 following the Uri terror attack, while the Indian Air Force carried out an air strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 after the Pulwama attack.

Operation Sindoor was launched by India on May 7, 2025, following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Shah also highlighted the government's record on internal security and border management, saying insurgency and long-running disputes in parts of the country had been addressed during Modi's tenure. "Naxalism has been eradicated, decades-old disputes in the Northeast have | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi worked day & night for 140 cr countrymen, built new, powerful J&K: LG Sinha

Celebrates PM's Birthday with children at Srinagar's 'Palaash,' 'Pareesha' Homes

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 17: Asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked day and night for 140 crore countrymen and has helped build a new, powerful Jammu Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said under PM's guidance Union Territory has emerged as an unparalleled example of prosperity and happiness.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) LG Sinha today celebrated the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the children of the 'Palaash' and 'Pareesha' children's homes in Srinagar. He distributed school bags, sports kits, and sweets, and also reviewed the residential facilities provided to ensure their well-being. Subsequently, he



visited the Children's Hospital at Bemina to spend time with the young patients and wish them a full and speedy recovery.

He said, "PM Modi has worked day and night for 140 crore countrymen and has helped build a new, powerful Jammu Kashmir. The GDP growth rate for the first

quarter of 2026-27 is 7.8%. If we look at other indicators of welfare and development, 25 crore people have moved above the poverty line and 80 crore people are receiving free ration under the Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana."

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the unprecedented growth | [More on P6](#)

'If nothing else, give us statehood': CM Omar on PM Modi's birthday

'We were told statehood would follow delimitation, elections; still not restored'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Amritsar/Srinagar, Sep 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would be an appropriate announcement on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, reiterating that the Union Territory was verbally assured that statehood would be restored after the completion of delimitation and elections.

"It's his (PM's) birthday, so on behalf of myself and my colleagues, I would like to wish him a happy birthday. I hope he stays healthy and may God give him a long life," the Chief Minister, as reported by the



news agency – Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said while responding to questions from reporters in Amritsar.

Asked what the Prime Minister could do to make his birthday memorable for Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister said, "If nothing else, give us the | [More on P6](#)

Rethink dev models to make them climate-resilient: LG Sinha

Calls climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution interconnected faces of deeper crisis; stresses bridging science-policy gap

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called for redefining development models to make them climate-resilient and inclusive, saying climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are not separate challenges but three interconnected forms of a deeper crisis.

Addressing the valedictory session of a three-day national conference on Environment, Climate and Sustainability: Science, Policy and Pathways at the University of Kashmir, LG Sinha, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer



(KNO), said experts from different parts of the country had come together with different areas of specialisation but were leaving with a common language to understand the

climate crisis and work together on its solutions.

"Three days ago, when you entered the University of Kashmir campus, you had your respective | [More on P6](#)

'OPERATION SOHAN'

Two Jaish terrorists killed in Udhampur encounter, one suspect held

Bodies retrieved; M4 carbine, AK-47, pistol, grenades recovered

Yogesh

Udhampur, Sep 17: Two Pakistani Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists were killed and a suspected over-ground worker was detained during a joint intelligence-based counter-terrorism operation in the Brattal area of Udhampur district on Thursday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the 'Operation Sohan,' was

launched jointly by the Army, Jammu & Kashmir Police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the Brattal-Sohan and Khubban areas of Majalta this morning amid heavy rainfall, difficult mountainous terrain and poor visibility.

He said, "Security forces had been tracking the movement of a suspected terrorist group in the dense forest belt for the past several days. Following fresh intelligence inputs, the area was cordoned off around 9 pm on Wednesday, after which contact was established with the terrorists. Intermittent firing and explosions were heard after the operation | [More on P6](#)

If govt has no authority, CM should dissolve Assembly: LoP Sharma

Umair Gul Ganaie

Anantnag, Sep 17: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Thursday said that if the government has no authority to take decisions, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should dissolve the Assembly.

Speaking to reporters, Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), if the government has no authority and is only taking salaries, it would be better for Omar Abdullah to take a decision and dissolve the Assembly so that everyone can sit peacefully.

He said fresh elections



would be required after statehood is restored, as the current constitutional arrangement is that of a Union Territory.

"Whenever statehood is restored, there will be new elections in the state. If statehood comes today, elections will

have to be held because the new constitutional arrangement will be that of a state. The elections held under the present arrangement were for a Union Territory," he said.

"If we have to wait for elections, what has Omar Abdullah come for till then? Has he come to enjoy? Have they come to live like kings? Have they come to exercise badshahi? Why is he deceiving the people?" Sharma said. On Article 370, Sharma said the decision was taken by Parliament and not by the BJP alone. "The day the National Conference takes 275 seats to Parliament, tell them to speak about it," he said.

Sharma said the BJP would continue to play | [More on P6](#)

Snowfall in higher reaches, rain in plains cool Kashmir

MeT forecasts dry weather from Sep 18-25

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 17: Higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley on Thursday received fresh snowfall as widespread rain lashed parts of the Valley, with heavy showers witnessed in several parts of south Kashmir, bringing down temperatures, officials said.

According to details obtained by the news agency – Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar received 8.2 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending 8:30 am, while Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara received 4 mm



of rainfall, while Banihal and Batote recorded 17.1 mm and 22.4 mm, respectively. Bhadarwah received 11.7 mm.

In the Jammu division, heavy rainfall was recorded at several places, with Jammu receiving 112.9 mm, Udhampur 117.8 mm

and Katra 45.2 mm during the period.

Kabul Gali, situated at an altitude of around 4,167 metres, received light to moderate snowfall, covering the high-altitude pass and adjoining areas with fresh snow.

The pass connects the Tulail Valley in Gurez with the Mushkoh Valley towards the Drass sector.

Fresh snowfall was also reported from the higher reaches of Zojila Pass and Zero Point near Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, while the Apharwat Peak in Gulmarg also received the season's first snowfall.

The rainfall | [More on P6](#)

BJP organises 'Ashirwad Ka Diya' prog at Lal Chowk to mark PM Modi's birthday

We pray for Prime Minister's long life, good health: LoP Sharma

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 17: Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir unit on Thursday organised an 'Ashirwad Ka Diya' programme at the historic Clock Tower in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, to mark the 76th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The party workers and supporters gathered at the clock tower and lit diyas and candles as part of the celebrations, offering prayers for the Prime Minister's long life and



good health. The programme was held as part of the BJP's

nationwide birthday observances centred on the 'Ashirwad Ka

Diya' initiative.

Addressing the gathering, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and BJP leader Sunil Sharma, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), extended birthday greetings to PM Modi on behalf of the party's Kashmir unit.

"First of all, at Kashmir's historic Clock Tower in Lal Chowk, on behalf of the BJP's Kashmir unit, we would like to extend our heartfelt | [More on P6](#)

DGP approves property attachment of two terrorists

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 17: Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhat, has approved the attachment of properties belonging to two terrorists allegedly operating from Pakistan.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the properties include 15 kanals and seven marlas of land and two residential houses in Kachama, Kupwara.

The properties belong to Ab Majid Qureshi, son of Ab Rouf Qureshi, and Parvaiz Ahmad



Qureshi, son of Mohd Mustafa Qureshi, both residents of Kachama, Kupwara.

The attachment has been

initiated in connection with FIR No. 276/22 registered at Police Station Kupwara under Sections 120-B, | [More on P6](#)

Speaker JKLA calls for constructive deliberations, people-centric legislative business

Chairs All Party cum BAC meeting ahead of Autumn Session



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Abdul Rahim Rather, Thursday chaired a meeting of the All Party cum Business Advisory Committee (BAC) ahead of the Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly, scheduled to commence on September 21, 2026, with a focus on ensuring smooth, orderly and people-oriented functioning of the House.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mubarik Gul, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Nizamuddin Bhat, Sajad Gani Lone, Mir Mohammad Fayaz and Choudhary Mohammad Akram.

The Speaker sought their valuable suggestions for making the forthcoming Assembly Session more fruitful, meaningful and responsive to public concerns. He emphasised the need to provide adequate opportunities to the elected representatives to raise issues pertaining to their respective constituencies and bring matters of public importance to the floor of the House.

The Speaker called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to ensure the smooth and effective conduct of the Assembly proceedings. He underlined that the legislative institution carries a significant responsibility towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Every eye is on the proceedings of the Assembly and the

people are watching how their elected representatives articulate their grievances and raise issues of public importance in the House. This places a great responsibility on every member. It is, therefore, imperative that all members conduct themselves with due regard to the dignity, discipline and decorum of the House," maintaining the Speaker.

He stressed that parliamentary debate should remain focused on public welfare, constructive deliberations and the effective articulation of issues confronting the people, while maintaining the established conventions and dignity of the legislature.

During the meeting, the members of the Business Advisory Committee put forward a range of valuable suggestions aimed at making the Session more relevant, inclusive and responsive to public aspirations. The members emphasised the importance of providing sufficient opportunities to legislators to raise constituency-specific concerns and matters requiring the attention of the government.

Among the key suggestions discussed was the conduct of Zero Hour, with members proposing that Chief Whips and party leaders should identify the members who would participate and furnish the requisite list in advance to facilitate effective management of the proceedings.

The members also suggested that mobile phone usage inside the Assembly Hall should not be

permitted, in order to maintain discipline, attentiveness and the decorum of the House.

Emphasis was also laid on timely circulation of the list of Private Members' Bills, Resolutions along with questions and answers, well in advance of the proceedings. The members stated that advance availability of such legislative material would enable them to study the issues thoroughly, prepare appropriately and raise relevant supplementary questions during the Session.

The Committee further stressed that every member should be provided adequate time and opportunity to present matters of public concern, constituency grievances and issues of wider significance before the House, in accordance with the applicable rules and the approved business of the Assembly.

The Speaker took note of the suggestions put forth by the members and underscored the collective responsibility of all members and concerned stakeholders in ensuring the orderly, productive and meaningful conduct of the Autumn Session.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on strengthening parliamentary engagement, facilitating constructive debate and ensuring that the proceedings of the Assembly remain focused on the concerns and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit was also present in the meeting.

Workshop on Interlinking of Budget with SDGs held at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: A workshop on "SDG Budget Tagging & Outcome-Oriented Financing Framework" was held Thursday at Civil Secretariat, here with the objective of strengthening the linkage between the public expenditure, budgetary allocations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The workshop, as per an official statement, was presided over by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Finance, Shailendra Kumar and attended by senior officers including DG Budget, DG Codes, DG Resources, DG Audit & Trainings (A&T), Director SDG, Director DED-II, Directors Planning and Directors Finance of various Administrative Departments, besides resource persons from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The event focused on the need to move from SDG monitoring to SDG financing by linking identified development gaps with appropriate schemes, budgetary allocations and measurable outcomes. It was emphasised that SDG Budget Tagging would not involve creation of a separate SDG budget. It would instead bring an SDG perspective to the existing budgetary framework, enabling better assessment of whether public expenditure is addressing the identified development gaps and delivering intended outcomes.

The participants deliberated on mapping of existing UT Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes with relevant SDG Goals and Targets to promote convergence, avoid duplication and identify financing gaps. The exercise is aimed at strengthening the linkage between resources, expenditure and

development outcomes.

Emphasis was also laid on outcome-oriented planning, with departments to prepare SDG-wise Action Plans covering identified gaps, targets, interventions, beneficiaries, responsibilities, resources, indicators and timelines. These Action Plans are proposed to be aligned with the Annual Budget formulation process, so that SDG priorities become an integral part of the regular planning and budgeting cycle.

The workshop also deliberated on integration of the existing SDG Dashboard with IFMIS for improved tracking of expenditure against SDG priorities, without creating any parallel financial system.

The UNDP Team apprised the participants of its proposal covering three broad pillars including Evidence-to-Action, SDG Financing and Institutional & Capacity Building. The proposal is presently under examination.

The workshop highlighted the important role of Master Trainers in operationalising the SDG Budget Tagging framework at the departmental level. They will facilitate departmental sensitisation, scheme and expenditure mapping, outcome-based budgeting and inter-departmental convergence.

The workshop concluded with a clear roadmap to measure progress, identify gaps, plan interventions, converge resources, finance priorities, implement actions and measure outcomes. The departments will prepare SDG-wise Action Plans aligned with the Annual Budget cycle, along with scheme mapping, sensitisation and integration of the SDG Dashboard with IFMIS.

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION OFFICE OF THE CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, JAMMU & KASHMIR SRINAGAR/JAMMU

ORDER No: 167 wc of 2026
DATED: 07-09-2026
ORDER No: 167 wc of 2026
DATED: 07-09-2026

Subject: Prohibition of Single-Use Plastic and regulation of plastic and nonbiodegradable waste in Protected Areas of Jammu & Kashmir. Whereas, the Protected Areas of Jammu & Kashmir constitute ecologically sensitive landscapes supporting significant populations of Hangul, Himalayan black bear, brown bear, leopard, snow leopard, musk deer, markhor, ibex, migratory birds and other wildlife, besides important forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes and alpine ecosystems; And whereas indiscriminate use and disposal of plastic and other nonbiodegradable material in Protected Areas causes littering, ingestion and entanglement hazards to wildlife, contamination of soil and water, obstruction of drainage channels and degradation of habitats; And whereas the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has already imposed restrictions/prohibition on specified polythene and plastic articles under the applicable provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Non-Biodegradable Material (Management, Handling and Disposal) Act, 2007, the Rules made thereunder and SRO-45 dated 03.02.2017; the latter prohibited manufacture, stocking, distribution, sale and use of specified polyethylene carry bags, plastic sheets/packaging and multilayered packaging below 50 micron. And whereas the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended from time to time, provide the national regulatory framework for plastic waste and identified Single-Use Plastic items;

And whereas the Wildlife Protection Department is responsible for management and protection of Protected Areas and for preventing activities detrimental to wildlife and wildlife habitat;

Now, therefore, In exercise of the powers vested in the undersigned, in the capacity as Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, under Section 33 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended from time to time, and under all other applicable laws, rules, notifications and approved management plans, and without prejudice to the provisions of any other law for the time being in force, the following directions are hereby issued:

1. Short title

This Order may be called the "Jammu & Kashmir Protected Areas (Plastic-Free) Order, 2026."

2. Area of application

This Order shall apply to all Protected Areas under the administrative control of the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir, including:

- National Parks;
- Wildlife Sanctuaries;
- Conservation Reserves; and
- Wetland Reserves/other notified wildlife areas, to the extent applicable.

The Order shall also apply to all entry gates, tourist facilities, trekking routes, campsites, pilgrimage routes, viewpoints, water bodies and commercial establishments situated within such Protected Areas.

3. Prohibition of Single-Use Plastic

With immediate effect, carrying, use, sale, distribution or disposal of identified Single-Use Plastic items shall be prohibited within the Protected Areas.

This shall include, inter alia, the SUP items prohibited under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended from time to time, including plastic cutlery, plates, cups, glasses, straws, stirrers, certain wrapping/packing films, plastic flags, ear buds with plastic sticks and other notified SUP articles.

4. Plastic-free entry

All visitors, tourists, pilgrims, trekkers, commercial operators, contractors and other persons entering a Protected Area shall be advised/required to avoid bringing plastic articles and shall comply with restrictions imposed under this Order.

The Department shall establish Plastic-Free Entry/Exit Points at major entry gates.

Where feasible, visitors may be subjected to voluntary checking of disposable plastic articles at entry points and shall be encouraged to deposit prohibited articles in designated collection facilities.

5. Carry-in—Carry-out principle

The following principle shall be mandatory throughout Protected Areas:

"WHAT YOU CARRY IN, YOU MUST CARRY OUT."

Every visitor, tourist operator, vendor, contractor and institution shall be responsible for ensuring that plastic and other non-biodegradable waste generated by them is not littered or abandoned within the Protected Area.

6. Prohibition on commercial establishments

No hotel, dhaba, restaurant, camp, canteen, vendor, eco-tourism operator, contractor or other commercial establishment functioning within a Protected Area shall:

- sell or distribute prohibited SUP items;
- provide disposable plastic cutlery/cups/plates to visitors;
- dump or burn plastic waste; or
- permit littering of plastic or other non-biodegradable waste within its premises or surrounding area.

Existing licences, permits or agreements may be reviewed and suitably amended to incorporate this condition.

7. Plastic water bottles

The Department shall progressively move towards plastic-free drinking-water arrangements in Protected Areas. At identified high-footfall locations, preference shall be given to:

- refill stations;
- reusable bottles;
- steel/glass bottles;
- filtered drinking-water facilities; and
- other environmentally sustainable alternatives.

Where plastic bottles are permitted for essential reasons, an appropriate deposit/refund or take-back mechanism may be introduced by the concerned Wildlife Warden.

8. Waste collection and removal

Every Wildlife Warden shall prepare a Protected Area-specific Plastic and Solid Waste Management Plan covering:

- entry gates;
- tourist destinations;
- trekking routes;
- campsites;
- water bodies;
- pilgrim routes; and
- other high-footfall locations.

Plastic waste shall be segregated, collected and transported outside the Protected Area through authorised agencies for appropriate processing/recycling.

9. No burning or burial

Burning, burying or indiscriminate disposal of plastic or other nonbiodegradable waste within a Protected Area is strictly prohibited.

10. Responsibility of Wildlife Wardens

The concerned Wildlife Warden shall:

- identify plastic-sensitive/high-footfall locations;
- install prominent signboards at entry points;
- conduct awareness campaigns;
- inspect commercial establishments;
- maintain records of plastic waste collected;
- coordinate with the concerned Municipal Authority/Panchayat/ULB and Pollution Control authorities; and
- submit a monthly compliance report to the concerned Regional Wildlife Warden.

11. Enforcement

All Wildlife Officers and frontline staff shall be authorised to detect violations and take action in accordance with the powers available to them under the applicable laws.

Where an offence falls within the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir NonBiodegradable Material (Management, Handling and Disposal) Act, 2007, or the Plastic Waste Management Rules and other applicable environmental legislation, the matter shall be dealt with under the relevant statutory provisions.

Where the conduct also constitutes an offence under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest/Wildlife officer shall initiate action under that Act.

12. Seizure

Prohibited plastic articles found in possession in circumstances constituting a violation may be seized by an officer competent under the applicable law, and the seized material shall be dealt with in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

13. Penalties

No separate penalty is created by this Order unless specifically authorised under the parent legislation.

Any person violating this Order shall be liable to the penalty, fine, seizure and/or prosecution prescribed under the relevant applicable statute, rules, notification or byelaws.

14. Eco-tourism and tourism operators

All permits, licences, leases, concessions and agreements issued by the Department for eco-tourism, camping, trekking, rafting, angling or other permitted activities shall contain a mandatory condition requiring compliance with this Order.

Repeated violations may constitute grounds for suspension/cancellation of the permission, subject to the terms of the relevant agreement and applicable law.

15. Responsibility of visitors

Visitors shall comply with instructions displayed entry points and tourist destinations and shall not:

- litter;
- discard plastic bottles or wrappers;
- throw waste into rivers, streams, lakes or springs; * leave plastic material at campsites; or
- feed wildlife using plastic packaging or containers.

16. Institutional coordination

The Wildlife Protection Department shall coordinate with:

- Department of Forest;
- Department of Rural Development;
- Urban Local Bodies;
- Tourism Department;
- J&K Pollution Control Committee;
- District Administration;
- Panchayati Raj Institutions; and * local communities for effective implementation.

17. Awareness

A sustained "Plastic-Free Protected Areas J&K" campaign shall be undertaken through:

- entry-gate signage;
- tourist brochures;
- digital/social-media campaigns;
- hotels and tourism establishments;
- schools and colleges; * local communities; and * eco-tourism operators.

18. Community participation

Local communities, Eco-development Committees, Panchayats and other community institutions shall be encouraged to participate in plastic collection, awareness, monitoring and maintenance of plastic-free Protected Areas.

19. Review

The Chief Wildlife Warden may issue guidelines, SOPs and operational directions from time to time for effective implementation of this Order.

20. Saving clause

Nothing contained in this Order shall be construed as permitting any activity prohibited under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended, or any other law for the time being in force.

Where any provision of this Order is inconsistent with a statutory provision, the statutory provision shall prevail.

21. Effective date

This Order shall come into force with immediate effect.

By Order of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu & Kashmir

DIPK-5823/26
Dated: 17-09-2026

ANNEXURE-I

Protected Area categories to which the Order applies:
The Order shall cover all Protected Areas presently notified and administered by the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir, including the following categories:

S.No	National Parks	Jurisdiction/Wildlife Division
1	Dachigam NP	Central
2	Kishtwar HA NP	Chenab-Kishtwar
3	City Forest NP	Central
4	Kazinag NP	North
Wildlife Sanctuaries		
1	Limber WLS	North
2	Lachipora WLS	North
3	Gulmarg WLS	North
4	Hirpora WLS	Shopian
5	Trai WLS	Shopian
6	Rajparian WLS	South
7	Overa-Aru WLS	South
8	Tajawas WLS	Central
9	Nandini WLS	Jammu
10	Ramnagar WLS	Jammu
11	Jasrota WLS	Kathua
12	Bani WLS	Kathua/Forest Territorial Division
13	Tatakuti WLS	Rajouri-Poonch
14	Surinsar-Mansar WLS	Kathua
Conservation Reserves		
1	Naganani CR	North
2	Ajas CR	North
3	Brain-Nishat	Central
4	Dara-Khimber-Sharsbal	Central
5	Khonmoh CR	Central
6	Wangat CR	Central
7	Khrew CR	Central
8	Achbal CR	South
9	Jawahar Tunnel CR	Chenab-Kishtwar
10	Gambir Muglan	Rajouri-Poonch
11	Kheri CR	Rajouri-Poonch

Dr. Suneesh Buxy, IFS
Chief Wildlife Warden
Jammu & Kashmir

JKBOSE notifies annual examination dates for class 10, 11, 12

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 17: The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has notified the date sheets for classes 10, 11 and 12 for the examination session Annual Regular (Oct-Nov) 2026 for Kashmir Division, winter zone areas of Jammu Division and UT of Ladakh.

As per the date sheet, the Class 10 examinations will commence on October 19 for Mathematics paper and will conclude on November 18 with Computer Science.

The class 12 examinations likewise begin on October 21 and the class 11 on October 29. All examinations will begin at 11:00 AM and conclude at 2 PM.

Arrangements reviewed at ongoing Mela Patt in Bhaderwah

KT News Desk

BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 17: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal Thursday visited Khakhal Mohalla and adjoining areas to review the arrangements for the ongoing three day Mela Patt which started on September 16.

During the visit, the ADC, as per an official statement, took stock of various arrangements put in place for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the mela. He reviewed arrangements related to security, repair and maintenance of lanes, drains and municipal paths, uninterrupted power and water supply, medical facilities and ambulance services, sanitation and cleanliness, traffic management and fire and emergency preparedness.

Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B); SDPO; Assistant Engineer, PDD; BMO; Naib Tehsildars; traffic officials and representatives of Fire & Emergency Services and PHE department were present on the occasion.

MoE proposes review of TET exams

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 17: The Ministry of Education (MoE) has proposed to undertake comprehensive measures pertaining to the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).

MoE in an office memorandum said that the review is related to TET and proposed legislative review in view of emerging issues concerning teachers and teacher eligibility "The Ministry of Education, Government of India, has taken note of various representations and issues being raised by teachers, teacher associations, educational institutions and other stakeholders regarding the implementation of the TET requirement," it reads. The Ministry further said that it has also taken note of the



directions and observations of the Supreme Court concerning the requirement of TET for teachers covered under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009.

"In view of the representations received from various stakeholders and with a view to ensuring a transparent, fair and workable framework for teacher eligibility, the Government proposes to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing arrangements relating to TET," MoE said.

The Ministry said that the measures proposed for consideration of TET includes examination of the existing TET eligibility and qualification framework as well as examination of issues relating to teachers who are already in service and are required

to acquire TET qualification;

MoE also said that the consideration of measures shall ensure that TET examinations are conducted periodically and at reasonable intervals and

The Ministry has further proposed to review the examination of the practical difficulties faced by serving teachers in obtaining TET qualification.

MoE said that there must be a consultation of State Governments, Union Territory Administrations, NCTE, educational experts and other stakeholders.

It also said that the government will review whether appropriate amendments to the relevant statutory provisions are necessary in the larger public interest—(KNO)

CM Omar inaugurates renovated J&K House at Amritsar

KT News Desk

Amritsar, Sep 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday inaugurated the renovated Jammu & Kashmir House at Amritsar, Punjab.

The heritage property, located at 2-Court Road, Amritsar has been comprehensively upgraded with modern amenities to provide affordable and comfortable accommodation to residents of Jammu and Kashmir visiting Amritsar, particularly patients and their attendants travelling to the city for medical treatment.

The renovation and upgradation works commenced in October 2025 and were completed at an approximate cost of Rs 2.30 crore. The works covered civil and electrical works, interiors, guest amenities, external development and allied infrastructure.

The upgraded facility comprises four guest rooms with attached dressing areas and washrooms, besides a common sitting lounge, dining area and kitchen.

Located close to major hospitals and other key destinations in the city, the J&K House will serve as an important support facility for patients and their attendants, besides benefiting students, pilgrims and other visitors from Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister inspected the



upgraded facilities and directed the concerned officers to maintain high standards of hospitality, cleanliness and upkeep for guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the facility would help ease the difficulties faced by patients and their families travelling outside Jammu and Kashmir for treatment, while also providing a convenient and affordable place to stay for other visitors from J&K.

The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the departments and officers involved in the renovation

and upgradation of the property and stressed the importance of maintaining the facility to high standards.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Resident Commissioner J&K Ramesh Kumar, Secretary Hospitality & Protocol Avny Lavasa, Additional Resident Commissioner Anil Sharma and senior officers of Government of J&K and Government of Punjab.

LG Sinha releases 'Living the Gita Today' book

- Unveils two books published by GBK
- Lt Col Prashant Jankar receives warm send-off



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 17: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday released a book titled "Living the Gita Today", authored by Prof. Vandana Sharma, Dr. Shachi Sood and Dr. Vinay Kumar here at Lok Bhavan.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the authors for presenting a contemporary interpretation of the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita, exploring its relevance to modern challenges including inner conflict, stress, leadership, purpose and ethical living.

The book, published by Allied Publishers, Noida with

the support of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, is structured into ten chapters and discusses 90 selected verses of the Gita. It aims at bridging the gap between Indian knowledge traditions and their timeless contemporary relevance.

Sh. B. R. Shankaranand, Sangathan Mantri, Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal; Jitendra Bhardwaj, Shetriya Sampark Adhikari, BSM; Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir; Prof. Geeta Singh, University of Delhi; Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir; Shaffat Hukkani, Convener, Vishwagram Kashmir Chapter, and other prominent citizens were also present. Meanwhile,

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday released two books published by Gulshan Books Kashmir (GBK) at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar.

The releases include "History of Kashmiri Language and Poetry", authored by Abdul Ahad Azad and translated by Umar Shah, alongside "The Stranger Besides Me", by Prof. Neeraj Mattoo.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the authors, publication house and everyone associated with the publications.

The books are part of Gulshan Books Kashmir's wider publishing programme aimed at bringing works on Kashmir's literary and cultural

traditions to readers.

Sheikh Ajaz, Chairman, Gulshan Books; Sheikh Meelad and Sheikh Maied, Managing Directors, Gulshan Books were also present.

In the meantime, the Lieutenant Governor and the staff & officers of Lok Bhavan on Thursday accorded a warm farewell to outgoing Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Lieutenant Governor, Lt Col Prashant Jankar.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated Lt Col Jankar and expressed his appreciation for dedication and professional integrity of the officer.

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NHM employees extend strike by 72 hours

Minister appeals to resume duties
Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 17: The ongoing agitation by National Health Mission (NHM) employees across Jammu and Kashmir is set to continue, with the employees' association extending its strike by another 72 hours from September 18 amid continued demands for pay parity, job security, regularisation and social security benefits.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA) said the decision to extend the peaceful agitation was taken as its long-pending demands remained unresolved and there was no concrete, time-bound mechanism from the authorities for addressing the issues.

The extension means that the strike, which began across the Union Territory on September 9 and has already been extended several times, will continue as employees maintain their protests at various district, block and institutional levels.

Employees have been seeking a comprehensive employment policy, revision of remuneration on parity with NHM workers in other states, job security and regularisation, and benefits including EPF, ESI, insurance coverage, and post-retirement support. The association said the latest extension was



not a decision taken abruptly, but followed years of representations, meetings and discussions over their service conditions. "We have been working in the health sector for years and have continued our duties during difficult situations. Despite this, there is still no clear policy regarding our future. We want the government to frame a proper mechanism that recognises our service and provides us with employment security," an NHM employee said.

Another protesting employee said the issue was not limited to salaries but also involved disparities in service benefits and long-term security. "Our responsibilities are almost the same, but there is a disparity in remuneration and benefits. We are only seeking a fair and dignified wage structure," he said.

A female NHM employee said uncertainty over their employment had become a major concern for workers who had spent several years

serving under the mission. "Many of us have devoted a major part of our working lives to NHM services. We have families and financial responsibilities, but there is still no certainty about our future," she said.

Another employee said social security measures were equally important. "EPF, ESI and insurance are basic forms of social protection. These issues need a concrete response rather than repeated assurances," the employee said.

The protesting employees also said they were conscious of the impact of the prolonged agitation on healthcare services but maintained that their demands had remained pending for years.

"We understand that healthcare is an essential service. But our demands have also remained unresolved for years. We are ready to sit across the table with the government and discuss

Continued on
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MP Ruhullah joins NHM protest

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Sep 17s: Srinagar Lok Sabha Member Parliament and National Conference (NC) leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Thursday joined protesting National Health Mission (NHM) employees in Budgam and expressed solidarity with them.

According to the details available, protests of NHM employees in J&K entered into its eighth consecutive day today.

The protesting employees have been seeking resolution of their long-pending service-related issues, including job security, regularisation, pay parity and social security benefits.

The employees have maintained that they want a comprehensive and time-bound mechanism to address their concerns rather than temporary assurances.

Addressing reporters during the protest, Ruhullah also questioned the Jammu and Kashmir government over the delay in addressing the reservation issue, alleging that the matter has remained pending for nearly two years.

"Two years have passed, but the government has failed to tell the people where the reservation file is. Leave the ego aside and disclose its status and contents," he said.

Ruhullah said that if the government was unable to pursue the matter, it should hand over the responsibility to them, stating that he would accompany students to ascertain the status of the file.

Continued on
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NSD begins 3 month short term theatre course in Srinagar

PIB

Srinagar, Sep 17: The National School of Drama (NSD) has commenced its three-month Short-Term Theatre Course at its Srinagar Centre, aimed at providing aspiring theatre practitioners an opportunity to develop their understanding and practical skills through structured training and engagement with various aspects of theatre practice.

The formal inauguration of the course was held at the NSD Srinagar Centre on Thursday. The programme

was attended by the Registrar, National School of Drama; Dean (Academics), National School of Drama; and the Centre In-charge of the Srinagar Centre.

The dignitaries formally inaugurated the course and extended their best wishes to the participants, expressing hope that the programme would provide a meaningful and enriching learning experience in the field of theatre.

The three-month course is designed to offer participants exposure to different dimensions of theatre, combining

theoretical understanding with practical training.

The programme seeks to nurture artistic talent and strengthen theatre education by creating opportunities for young learners and theatre enthusiasts to engage with the performing arts.

The commencement of the course marks another step towards strengthening theatre education and training through NSD's regional centres and expanding access to quality theatre learning

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MP Ramzan backs CM Omar on written assurances for Ladakh

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 17: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) MP Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan on Thursday backed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's advice to Ladakh leaders to seek written assurance on their demands from the Centre.

MP Ramzan said the people of Ladakh had long demanded Union Territory (UT) status and were initially pleased when their demand was met.

"Ladakh's people had always demanded UT status, and they received it. But they also wanted a UT with an Assembly. When that expectation was not fulfilled, they felt disappointed," he said.

The Member Parliament said Jammu and Kashmir was downgraded from a state to a

Union Territory on August 5, 2019, describing it as an unprecedented development. He recalled that the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Assembly had the power to adopt, reject or amend laws passed by the Centre before they could be applied to the region.

He said the experience of Jammu and Kashmir should serve as a lesson for Ladakh leaders and urged them to ensure that assurances given by the Centre need to be obtained in writing and followed by implementation.

"We were promised delimitation, elections and restoration of statehood immediately after the elections. Nearly two years have passed, but there is still no sign of statehood being restored," Ramzan said.

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EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: Intention – The Soul Of Every Action

In Islam, actions are not judged by their outward appearance alone but by the intention behind them. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) declared, "Actions are but by intention, and every person will have what he intended." This hadith, among the most fundamental in Islamic teachings, establishes that the value of every deed lies in the purpose and sincerity with

which it is performed. Intention, or niyyah, is what distinguishes worship from habit. A person may eat to satisfy hunger, or eat with the intention of gaining strength to worship Allah. The act is the same; the reward is entirely different. Similarly, a student who studies with the intention of serving the community and seeking Allah's pleasure will be rewarded for that pursuit, while one who studies only

for worldly gain will receive only worldly benefit. The Quran repeatedly emphasises sincerity: "And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, being sincere to Him in religion" (98:5). This verse reminds us that the quality of our devotion depends not on the quantity of our actions but on the purity of our hearts. Intention also transforms ordinary moments into acts of worship. A smile

offered with kindness, a meal shared with a neighbour, or a moment of rest taken to regain strength for work—all become rewarding when done with the right purpose. Islam does not demand extraordinary deeds; it demands extraordinary sincerity in ordinary deeds. Conversely, good actions performed for show lose their spiritual value. The Prophet (PBUH) warned that whoever seeks praise for his

deeds will find no reward with Allah. This is a powerful reminder that Allah sees not only what we do but why we do it. In a world obsessed with appearances, the Islamic emphasis on intention offers a profound lesson: true success is not measured by what others see, but by what Allah knows. Let us purify our intentions and make every action a step toward His pleasure.

Why The Qur'an And Sunnah Belong Together

One of the clearest examples appears in Surah al-Nisa: 'O believers! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you' (Qur'an 4:59). Allah does not merely tell believers to obey the Qur'an—the Qur'an commands believers to obey Allah and obey the Messenger. The same chapter later makes the matter even more explicit: 'Whoever obeys the Messenger has truly obeyed Allah' (Qur'an 4:80). This does not mean that the Prophet (SAW) becomes a second deity. Rather, his authority comes from Allah.

Belal Assaad

In the previous part of this series, we began with the heart. We looked at how painful religious experiences, harsh environments, judgmental communities, and the misuse of sacred texts can leave people spiritually exhausted and intellectually distrustful.

But healing the heart is only the beginning.

Once the emotional wounds are acknowledged, we also have a responsibility to protect the mind. A painful experience with Muslims should never become a reason to abandon the foundations of Islam. Emotional exhaustion can make certain ideas feel liberating simply because they seem to offer an escape from the religious environment that caused the pain.

One such idea gaining attention online is the claim that Muslims should follow the Qur'an alone and reject the authority of the Sunnah and hadith.

At first glance, the argument can sound appealing: "Why not simply follow the Qur'an? It is the word of Allah, so why rely on books written by human beings?"

The answer requires us to slow down, examine the Qur'an itself, understand the role of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), and distinguish between the Qur'an, the Sunnah, and the later scholarly collections that preserve reports about the Prophet (SAW).

The Appeal of "Qur'an Alone"
The contemporary Qur'an-only or hadith-rejection trend is particularly visible on social media, where complex theological and historical questions are often compressed into thirty-second videos.

The message can be extremely simple: "Follow the Qur'an. Reject the hadith. The Qur'an is sufficient."

For someone who has encountered fabricated narrations, abusive religious arguments, or people using hadith selectively to control others, this message can feel like a breath of fresh air.

And there is an important truth behind that reaction: fabricated religious claims should not be accepted merely because someone attributes them to Islam.

Islamic scholarship itself developed sophisticated methods for distinguishing authentic reports from weak and fabricated ones.

But rejecting the entire Sunnah because some reports are unreliable creates a different problem.

The Qur'an itself does not present Muhammad (SAW) as merely a person who delivered a book and then disappeared from the religious picture.

It repeatedly commands believers to obey the Messenger.

The Qur'an Commands Obedience to the Messenger

One of the clearest examples appears in Surah al-Nisa:

"O believers! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you." Qur'an 4:59

The distinction is important.

Allah does not merely tell believers to obey the Qur'an. The Qur'an commands believers to obey Allah and obey the Messenger.

The same chapter later makes the matter even more explicit:

"Whoever obeys the Messenger has truly obeyed Allah." Qur'an 4:80

This does not mean that the Prophet (SAW) becomes a second deity or that Muslims worship him. Rather, his authority comes from Allah.

The Qur'an itself establishes that authority.

That is why following the authentic Sunnah is not an act of worshipping Muhammad (SAW). It is an act of obeying Allah's command to follow His Messenger.

The Prophet (SAW) Was More Than a Messenger Who Delivered a Book

The Qur'an gives Muhammad (SAW)



responsibilities beyond simply reciting revelation.

Allah says: "We have revealed to you the Reminder so that you may explain to people what has been revealed to them, so perhaps they will reflect." Qur'an 16:44

The Prophet (SAW) therefore had a teaching and explanatory role.

This distinction matters.

The Qur'an gives commands such as prayer, fasting, charity and pilgrimage. But the Qur'an does not provide every practical detail of how those acts are performed.

How many units are in each obligatory prayer?

What are the detailed movements of prayer?

How exactly is zakah calculated in different circumstances?

What are the detailed rites of Hajj?

The Qur'an establishes the obligation. The Prophet (SAW) demonstrates its implementation.

The Prophet (SAW) said: "Pray as you have seen me praying." Sahih al-Bukhari

And regarding Hajj, he instructed the companions to learn its rituals from him.

This is the essential relationship between revelation and Prophetic practice: the Qur'an provides divine guidance, while the Sunnah demonstrates, explains and applies that guidance.

The Prophet (SAW) as a Living Example

The Qur'an does not merely tell Muslims to listen to Muhammad (SAW). It presents him as an example.

Allah says: "Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah often." Qur'an 33:21

This is a remarkable statement.

The Prophet (SAW) is described as an us-wah hasanah - an excellent example.

An example is something that must be known and followed.

The Qur'an therefore directs believers beyond abstract principles toward the lived example of the Messenger (SAW): how he prayed, fasted, treated his family, dealt with opponents, conducted business, showed mercy, exercised justice and worshipped Allah.

Without knowledge of his life and teachings, the Qur'anic command to follow his example becomes extremely difficult to implement.

But What Exactly Is a Hadith?

This is where an important distinction is often lost in online discussions.

The Sunnah refers broadly to the Prophetic way: his teachings, practices, approvals, character and example.

A hadith is a report that conveys something attributed to the Prophet (SAW) - such as something he said, did, approved of, or a description of him.

Hadith collections are therefore not themselves revelation in the same category as the Qur'an.

The Qur'an is the direct revelation of Allah.

Hadith reports are historical transmissions about the Prophet (SAW), and individual reports have different levels of authenticity.

This is precisely why Muslim scholars did not simply declare every narration authentic.

They developed an entire discipline to examine reports.

Islam Did Not Treat Every Hadith as Automatically Authentic

One of the biggest misconceptions about traditional Islam is the idea that Muslims simply collected thousands of stories centuries after the Prophet (SAW) and accepted them without investigation.

That is not how the classical hadith tradition worked.

Scholars examined the isnad, or chain of transmission, as well as the content and other factors relevant to authenticity.

They investigated narrators: Who was this person?

Did they actually meet the person they claimed to narrate from?

When and where did they live? Were they known for honesty?

Were they accurate in their memory?

Did their narrations conflict with stronger transmissions?

Did the chain contain gaps?

This eventually produced a highly developed science of hadith criticism.

And the result was not simply "all hadith are authentic."

Quite the opposite.

Muslim scholars explicitly classified reports as sahih (authentic), hasan (sound), da'if (weak), mawdu' (fabricated) and other categories.

The existence of weak and fabricated hadith does not disprove hadith scholarship.

It demonstrates why that scholarship was necessary.

The Qur'an Itself Also Reached Us Through Transmission

Another important point is often overlooked.

Muslims believe that Allah promised to preserve the Qur'an:

"Indeed, it is We who sent down the Reminder, and indeed, We will preserve it." Qur'an 15:9

But preservation still involves human transmission.

The Qur'an was memorized, recited, taught and written by the earliest Muslim community. It was subsequently collected into a written codex and standardized during the caliphate of Abu Bakr and later under Uthman ibn Affan (RA).

The famous account in Sahih al-Bukhari describes Abu Bakr commissioning Zayd ibn Thabit (RA) to collect the Qur'anic material after the Battle of Yamamah, following concerns about the deaths of reciters.

Later, Uthman (RA) commissioned standardized copies to be produced and distributed throughout the Muslim territories.

This history does not mean the Qur'an was invented or assembled after the Prophet (SAW). Rather, it describes the process by which material already preserved through memorization and writing was gathered into a unified written codex.

That distinction is essential.

The Same Does Not Mean Identical

There is, however, an important

qualification.

It would be inaccurate to say that the Qur'an and hadith possess exactly the same level or type of transmission.

They do not.

The Qur'an occupies a unique position in Islam. Its text is transmitted mutawatir - through such widespread transmission that its authenticity is not dependent upon the evaluation of a single chain.

Hadith reports vary considerably in their chains and strength.

Some are mass-transmitted.

Many are transmitted through smaller numbers of narrators.

Some are authentic.

Some are weak.

Some are fabricated.

Therefore, the argument should not be: "The Qur'an and every hadith have exactly the same evidentiary status."

They do not.

The stronger argument is:

The Qur'an itself establishes the authority of the Messenger (SAW), and the Sunnah is the historical record through which Muslims learn how that Prophetic authority was expressed and practiced.

The Prophet (SAW) Explains the Revelation

The Qur'an says: "We have revealed to you the Reminder so that you may explain to people what has been revealed to them." Qur'an 16:44

This provides an important framework.

The Prophet (SAW) was not an independent source competing with Allah.

He was Allah's Messenger.

His authentic teachings explain and embody the revelation he received.

This is why the Qur'an repeatedly connects obedience to Allah with obedience to the Messenger.

And it is why Islamic law and theology were never constructed from isolated Qur'anic verses interpreted independently by every individual.

What Happens When Every Person Becomes Their Own Interpreter?

Modern social media has made religious information more accessible than ever.

That is a blessing - but also a challenge.

A person can watch a short video, search for a translation, find a verse that appears to support an argument, and within minutes develop an entirely new interpretation of a complex legal or theological question.

But Islam has never required Muslims to operate this way.

The Islamic scholarly tradition developed methods for interpreting revelation through Arabic language, Qur'anic context, Prophetic teachings, legal principles, scholarly consensus and reasoned analogy.

That does not mean scholars are infallible.

They are not.

It means religious interpretation requires knowledge and methodology.

The Qur'an itself says: "Ask the people of knowledge if you do not know." Qur'an 16:43

How Islam Deals With New Questions

What happens when Muslims encounter issues that did not exist during the Prophet's lifetime?

Artificial intelligence.

Organ transplantation.

Cryptocurrency.

Modern financial systems.

New medical procedures.

Genetic technologies.

The Qur'an obviously does not contain a verse naming every modern invention.

Islamic jurisprudence therefore developed tools for applying established principles to new circumstances.

Two famous concepts are ijma' and qiyas.

Ijma' - Scholarly Consensus

Ijma' refers, in its technical legal meaning, to scholarly consensus under defined conditions.

It is not simply "a group of Muslims agree."

The concept has detailed conditions and

has been debated in Islamic legal theory.

Qiyas - Analogical Reasoning

Qiyas involves extending an established ruling to a new case because the relevant underlying legal cause is shared.

For example, the Qur'an prohibits intoxicants because of their intoxicating effect and associated harms. When a new substance emerges, scholars can examine whether the same legally relevant cause applies.

This is one reason Islamic law has been capable of addressing circumstances that appeared centuries after revelation.

The Danger Is Not Questions - It Is Bad Methodology

Muslims should not be afraid of difficult questions.

Questions about hadith authenticity, Qur'anic compilation, early Islamic history and the development of Islamic law are legitimate subjects of serious study.

In fact, Muslim scholars have been asking and answering such questions for centuries.

The problem begins when complicated historical questions are reduced to viral slogans:

"Hadith were written 200 years later."

"Muslims only discovered hadith centuries after Muhammad (SAW)."

"The companions invented the Sunnah."

"If the Qur'an is preserved, we don't need anything else."

Each of these statements contains historical or conceptual problems that require careful examination rather than a thirty-second response.

Hadith literature was compiled into major canonical collections centuries after the Prophet (SAW), but that does not mean the material itself suddenly came into existence centuries later. Earlier written collections, individual hadith manuscripts, notebooks, teaching circles, oral transmission and earlier compilations all formed part of the history of hadith transmission.

The next step, therefore, is not to blindly accept every report.

It is to understand how Muslim scholars determined which reports could be trusted

A Faith That Uses Both Heart and Mind

The central lesson is simple.

A Muslim should not choose between the heart and the mind.

We need both.

We should recognize the pain of people who have experienced religious abuse without turning that pain into a rejection of Islam's foundations.

We should ask difficult questions without assuming that difficult questions have no answers.

And we should examine Islamic tradition using evidence rather than social-media slogans.

The Qur'an is the foundation.

The Messenger (SAW) is the one Allah commanded us to follow.

The Sunnah preserves his Prophetic example.

Hadith scholarship developed methods to evaluate the reports through which that example has been transmitted.

And the wider Islamic legal tradition developed tools for applying revelation to circumstances that emerged long after the Prophet (SAW).

This is not a system that asks Muslims to abandon reason.

It is a system that asks reason to work alongside revelation, language, history and disciplined scholarship.

The goal is not to win an argument with someone online.

The goal is to understand the religion Allah entrusted to us.

And that requires something more demanding than choosing whichever interpretation feels most comfortable.

It requires knowledge.

It requires humility.

And above all, it requires honesty.

Courtesy: IslamiCity

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

Leverage strengths, address challenges for high-value handicraft exports: CS Atal Dulloo

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the newly framed Action Plan for Promotion of Export of Handicrafts and Handloom Products, aimed at scaling up the Union Territory's textile and apparel exports from the present base of Rs 800 crore to Rs 2,000 crore by 2030.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir/Jammu; Managing Director, J&K Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation; Director, Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT); representatives from NIFT and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for a thorough analysis of the sector's strengths, competitive advantages and challenges before finalising the implementation framework. He also directed the Department to identify challenges for immediate resolution and dovetail your competitive advantages for boosting exports of high value craft products. He called for a year-wise strategy up to 2030, with clearly defined targets, measurable milestones and timelines to ensure systematic progress towards the



export goal.

Dulloo also directed the department to prepare a comprehensive plan focusing on capacity building, infrastructure upgradation, establishment of clusters and effective organisation of artisans and craftsmen. He also advised the formulation of a detailed blueprint to leverage incentives and schemes of the Government of India, while designing suitable UT-specific interventions to achieve the objectives in a time-bound manner.

Emphasising the importance of sound planning, the Chief Secretary observed that the assessments and projections underlying the Action Plan should be scientific, evidence-based and founded on robust data, as the quality of these assessments would directly influence the outcomes.

On this occasion the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh highlighted

the outline of the strategic framework developed by the Department for the period 2026-2030 which seeks to align the national export vision with coordinated UT- and district-level interventions.

The Commissioner Secretary also underscored the Jammu and Kashmir's improved trade readiness, noting that the UT had risen from 36th position in 2020 to 2nd position in 2024 in the national Export Preparedness Index among Small States, North-Eastern States and Union Territories.

He further added that the proposed framework comprises the State Export Action Plan (SEAP) and District Export Action Plans (DEAPs), with interventions tailored to the competitive strengths of individual districts.

The Action Plan as elucidated by the Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam envisages substantial

expansion of the export ecosystem by 2030, with the active registered exporter base targeted to increase to 15,000, against the present 269 active RCMC exporters and a potential pipeline of around 1,000 users.

It further aims to ensure 100 per cent GI-QR tagging of exports for enhanced authenticity and traceability, promote 100 crore in e-commerce exports through focused digital onboarding and market-access interventions, and raise Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilisation to over 50 per cent, from the current level of below 20 per cent.

The department also presented a phased implementation framework comprising immediate, medium-term and long-term interventions. Immediate priorities over the next 0-2 years include scaling up the Artisan Credit Card, establishing Export Textile Planning Cells under Tex-RAMPS and

launching the unified "Soulful J&K" GI branding campaign.

Additionally the Medium-term interventions over 2-4 years include introducing ESG and EUDR compliance certifications for more than 100 manufacturing units and establishing raw material banks to strengthen the production and export ecosystem.

Moreover the Action Plan proposes to leverage the benefits of key Central Government schemes of the Ministry of Textiles, including the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) and SAMARTH, the scheme for capacity building in the textile sector. It also envisages utilising the J&K Export Subsidy Scheme, 2021, under which eligible exporters are entitled to an export subsidy of 10 per cent, subject to a maximum of 5 crore per exporter, to strengthen the competitiveness of local products in international markets.

Concluding the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of sustained institutional coordination, robust monitoring and effective implementation of the Action Plan to strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's export ecosystem, enhance the global reach of its traditional crafts and secure sustainable livelihoods for its approximately 4.50 lakh artisans and craftsmen.

J&K Govt approves Rs 10.22 crore Tribal Tourism Village at Behri Qasab, Mendhar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 17: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, led by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded administrative approval for the development of a state-of-the-art Tribal Tourism Village at Behri Qasab in Mendhar area of Poonch district.

The project, as per an official statement, sanctioned at a cost of Rs 10.22 crore under the Capex Budget 2026-27, aims to showcase the rich tribal culture and heritage of the region while strengthening local

infrastructure and creating new economic opportunities for local youth.

The Tribal Tourism Village is envisaged as a dedicated destination that will highlight the distinctive cultural traditions and way of life of the tribal communities, while providing an added attraction for visitors to Poonch.

The project is also expected to contribute to local employment and livelihood generation, support community participation in tourism-related activities and further integrate Poonch with the broader tourism circuit of Jammu & Kashmir.

District admin Udhampur launches Swachhata Hi Seva campaign

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 17: With the aim of generating awareness among the public about cleanliness, sanitation and environmental protection, the district administration Udhampur Thursday launched the Swachhata Hi Seva fortnight-long campaign across the district.

The campaign was launched by Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa and attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Dr Ashwani Hansa and other district officers.

At the outset, the ACP delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the campaign, outlining awareness activities to be conducted across the district during the fortnight to promote cleanliness, sanitation

and environment conservation.

As part of the launch, the district administration organised a pledge-taking ceremony at the District Headquarters, wherein Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa administered the cleanliness pledge to the officers and officials. He encouraged all participants to reaffirm their commitment towards keeping Udhampur clean, green and environmentally sustainable through active participation and collective efforts.

The DC called upon the people to join hands with the District Administration and actively participate in the mega 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign. He urged the public to adopt environmentally responsible practices, particularly by reducing the use of plastic and opting for eco-friendly alternatives such as jute and cloth bags in their daily lives.

Later, the DC distributed PPE Kits, T-shirts and Caps among the Safaimitras.

DDC Poonch reviews Progress of PMGSY, PWD, NABARD works



KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 17: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting Thursday to review the progress of developmental works being executed under PMGSY, PWD and NABARD schemes.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of various road and infrastructure projects across the district was undertaken. The District Development Commissioner was apprised about the status of the works, including completed roads, ongoing works and the progress of different stretches of roads.

The meeting also reviewed issues related to road execution, pending works, forest clearances, financial progress and utilisation of funds under the UT Capex Budget.

The DDC stressed upon the concerned executing agencies to maintain close coordination and ensure that all ongoing developmental works are completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the required quality standards.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, concerned officers of PWD/R&B, PMGSY, NABARD and Forest Department, besides other officers associated with the implementation and monitoring of the developmental works.

DC Ramban reviews implementation of E-Waste, Solid Waste Management measures

Directs strengthening of Waste Collection, Segregation, Disposal and Monitoring Mechanisms

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan Thursday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of E-Waste Management and Solid Waste Management measures across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; ACD Imran Naik; Tehsildar Headquarters Reejuta Mahajan; Divisional Officer PCC Mukesh Singh Bali; CEO Municipal Council Sudarshan Jammal; Executive Officers of Municipal Committees of Batote and Banihal. The Tehsildars, Block Development Officers and other concerned officers attended the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner held a detailed review of the measures being undertaken for effective implementation of e-waste and solid waste management practices in



rural and urban areas of the district. He reviewed the status of construction and functioning of rural Solid Waste Management. He emphasized the importance of generating public awareness regarding cleanliness, source segregation and responsible waste disposal practices. He called for greater community participation to ensure sustainable waste management and improved sanitation across the district.

The ACD, BDOs, CEO of Municipal Council and Executive Officers of Municipal Committees were asked to take measures for virtual inspection of dumping sites

The DC also directed the concerned Tehsildar and Executive Officer, Municipal Committee to identify suitable land for establishment of a Solid Waste Management Plant in Banihal. He called for coordinated efforts to expedite the process and ensure availability of the required land for the proposed facility.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the officers of Municipal Committees and Block Development Offices to focus on revenue generation by utilizing all genuine resources and ensuring collection of user charges from residents for providing quality sanitation and waste management services.

JMC launches 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2026' 'at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar

Commissioner unveils fortnight-long action plan

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 17: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Thursday launched the 'Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026' campaign here from Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women (PSPS GCW), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, ushering in a fortnight of intensified cleanliness drives, citizen participation and awareness activities across the city.

Being organised under the national theme "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat" and the local call to action "Collective Action for Visible Impact," the campaign would continue till October 2, Swachh Bharat Diwas, with a focus on community participation, behavioural change and visible improvement of public spaces.

The campaign was formally inaugurated by Commissioner JMC Dr. Devansh Yadav with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp in the presence of the College



Principal Prof. (Dr.) Kulvinder Kour, Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation), Health Officer, senior sanitation officers, faculty members and a large gathering of students.

The inaugural programme featured a blend of awareness, technical and cultural activities designed to sensitise and engage young citizens in urban cleanliness. A documentary showcasing JMC's solid waste management initiatives and field operations across Jammu city was screened, followed by a technical presentation on the key provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, with emphasis on four-way source segregation at household and institutional levels.

Students further conveyed the message of cleanliness and

civic responsibility through a Nukkad Natak highlighting behavioural change, responsible waste disposal and the importance of litter-free surroundings. A thematic dance performance focusing on ecological harmony and civic responsibility also formed part of the programme.

A major highlight of the event was the unveiling of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Activity Calendar by Dr. Devansh Yadav. The calendar outlines a series of targeted interventions and citizen-centric activities to be undertaken across Jammu during the fortnight.

As part of the campaign, JMC will undertake focused interventions for the transformation and beautification of identified Cleanliness Target Units

(CTUs) and Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs). The campaign will also include cleanliness drives at public places, Sports for Swachhata activities incorporating zero-waste practices, post-event clean-up drives, dedicated SafaiMitra Suraksha Camps, and special sanitation initiatives at heritage and pilgrimage sites in connection with World Tourism Day on September 27.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Devansh Yadav appreciated the college administration and students for their enthusiastic participation and stressed that sustainable improvements in urban cleanliness can be achieved only through collective responsibility, behavioural change and sustained public participation.

He called upon citizens, particularly the youth, to become active partners in JMC's cleanliness initiatives by practising responsible waste management, ensuring proper source segregation and refraining from littering. He urged the students to become "Ambassadors of Cleanliness", take ownership of their surroundings and inspire others to adopt responsible civic practices.

Relief cases under Central Assistance Scheme reviewed in Poonch



KT News Desk

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Level Coordination-cum-Screening Committee to review and scrutinize relief cases under the Central Scheme for Assistance to different Civilian Victims including Cross-Border Firing and Mine/IED victims.

The Committee examined the cases placed before it and reviewed the relevant records and supporting documents submitted by the applicants/beneficiaries. The members discussed the verification of cases, medical documentation, eligibility of beneficiaries and other prescribed requirements under the scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure thorough verification of all cases, timely completion of formalities and strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines, so that eligible beneficiaries receive assistance without unnecessary delay.

The Committee also emphasized close coordination among the concerned departments for verification and processing of the cases and directed the officers to submit the requisite reports/documents within the stipulated time frame.

The meeting concluded with directions for expeditious disposal of eligible relief cases in accordance with the applicable rules and guidelines.

DC Kishtwar approves rates for Land Acquisition Cases



KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner (District Collector), Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma Thursday chaired a meeting of Collectors to consider, finalize and approve rates for land acquired for road construction projects.

A total of 03 land acquisition cases, as proposed by the SDM Chatroo (Collector Land Acquisition), were cleared and rates finalized.

The cases included Km 2nd to Loidhar Phase-III, Village Dhar; Chatroo to Treshi, Village Inderwal and Pranzil to Supnai Phase-I, Villages Sigi and Bhata.

The Deputy Commissioner directed expeditious completion of all codal formalities for disbursement of compensation as per the approved rates.

Media delegation from Srinagar meets with MoS Ministry of I&B

Explores modern rail manufacturing at ICF, maritime infrastructure at Chennai Port

KT News Desk

Chennai, Sep 17: A 13-member media delegation from Srinagar, currently on a five-day media exposure tour to Chennai organized by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Srinagar, completed its fourth day of engagements today with high-level visits to key national institutions and infrastructure projects. The tour aims to provide visiting journalists from Jammu & Kashmir first-hand insight into the nation's technological advancement, industrial self-reliance, and the ongoing march toward Viksit Bharat 2047.

Witnessing Indigenous Rail Innovation at ICF. The delegation began the day with a comprehensive visit to the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, one of the premier coach manufacturing units of Indian Railways. The journalists were given a detailed walkthrough of the assembly lines dedicated to Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches.

During an extensive interaction with senior ICF engineers and technical officials, detailed presentations were delivered showcasing the modern fabrication techniques and safety standards of LHB coaches. Anupam Chauhan, Chief Workshop Engineer, LHB Division briefed the delegation about the indigenous engineering and manufacturing evolution of the flagship Vande Bharat train sets, concepts and trials surrounding the experimental Vande Bharat freight trains aimed at high-speed cargo transit.



Special engineering adaptations integrated into the Vande Bharat rakes specifically designed for Jammu & Kashmir's unique high-altitude and sub-zero operational conditions, including heating lines, anti-freeze water systems, and reinforced cab climate controls. The delegation also visited Chennai Port Trust where senior port authorities briefed the journalists on the strategic maritime hub's daily logistics, multi-cargo handling capabilities, automated container operations, and upcoming modern expansion projects and digitization plans aimed at bolstering regional and international

trade. The delegation was given a tour to the berths, container yard, signalling station and Premium Cruise Passenger Terminal. Later in the evening the visiting journalists attended a special event organized at Doordarshan Kendra, Chennai, commemorating Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 25 years of dedicated public service to the nation. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Welcoming the Srinagar delegation to Tamil Nadu, Dr. Murugan emphasized the crucial role of media in bridging regional narratives

with the national development story. He urged the journalists to carry forward the story of transformative infrastructure, economic empowerment, and all-round developmental work taking place across the country under the leadership of the Prime Minister to the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He called the press teams visit the best example of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) as Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu are paired states under the EBSB initiative. The exposure visit concludes tomorrow with further interactive sessions before the delegation departs for Srinagar.

West Bengal bypolls

EC bars rival TMC factions from using party name, symbol

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 17: The Election Commission has directed rival factions of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) not to use the party name and "Flowers and Grass symbol" during the West Bengal bypolls, and asked them to submit their preferred names and symbols by Friday morning.

In its interim order issued on Thursday night, the Commission, after hearing leaders of the two factions led by Mamata Banerjee and Arup Roy, said the matter requires substantive determination by the poll body under provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968.

"On due consideration of the totality of information available on record... the commission is of the opinion that there are two rival groups in the All India Trinamool Congress, one led by Ms. Mamata Banerjee and the other led by Shri Arup Roy," the interim order said.

"Each group is now claiming to be the party, and therefore the matter requires a substantive determination by the Commission under Para 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation & Allotment) Order 1968," it said.

Accordingly, the commission said, to place both the rival groups on an even keel and to protect their rights and interests and going by the past precedent, the Commission gave its interim order to cover the purpose of the current by-elections and to continue till the final determination of the dispute in the matter.

"Neither of the two groups led by Shri Arup Roy (Petitioner) and the other led by Ms. Mamata Banerjee (Respondent) shall be permitted to use the name of the party 'All India Trinamool Congress'."

"Neither of the two groups shall also be permitted to use the symbol 'Flowers and Grass', reserved for 'All India Trinamool Congress,'" the Commission said.

The poll body said both the groups shall be known by such names as they may choose for their respective groups, and if they so desire, linkage with their parent party 'All India Trinamool Congress' and both the groups shall also be allotted such different symbols as they may choose from the list of free symbols notified by the EC for the purposes of the current by-elections.

"Accordingly, both the groups are hereby directed to furnish, latest by 11:00 AM on 18.09.2026: The names of their groups by which they may be recognised by the commission and, to this end, give three options in order of preference, any one of which may be approved by the commission and the symbols which may be allotted to the candidates set up, if any, by the respective groups."

"They may indicate the names of three free symbols, in the order of their preference, any one of which may be allotted to their candidates by the commission," the EC said. Both the factions had presented their cases for claim on party name and symbol ahead of the October 6 bypolls in the Nandigram and Rejinagar Assembly constituencies of West Bengal.

AI brings benefits but also risks; regulation has a role: IT Minister

PTI

New Delhi, Sept 17: The government is working with industry to find the right regulatory approach to keep artificial intelligence safe and protect citizens online, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday, asserting that AI's complex user-safety dimension makes regulation necessary even as the technology brings significant benefits. The advent of any new technology brings many benefits, but also carries several risks, he pointed out.

"Whenever a new technology comes, that new technology brings many positives, but it also carries several risks. That is why regulation always plays a role in every new technology. And that regulation is primarily about user safety," Vaishnaw said on the sidelines of SEMICON India 2026.

In the case of AI, the user safety dimension is very large, Vaishnaw said, describing AI safety as a very complex issue.

"In the case of AI, that user-safety dimension is very big because, unlike physical technologies, for example, nuclear, which is a very physical technology, there the imagination of how to be safe is much easier compared to the imagination of how to keep AI safe... that is why it is a very complex thing," he said.

The Minister further said that the Government is working with the industry to find the right way of regulating, the right way of keeping AI safe, and the right way of keeping citizens safe in the online world.

The Minister's comments assume significance as the relentless march of Artificial Intelligence has triggered a global debate over how to harness its economic and societal benefits while containing risks ranging from deepfakes, misinformation and fraud to privacy breaches, bias and potential misuse of increasingly powerful AI systems.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Under PM Modi, India

been resolved through peace accords, and the borders are secure," he said.

The Home Minister said national security was central to the government's development approach, arguing that security was essential for economic and social progress.

"A secure India is the first prerequisite for a prosperous India; Modi ji has proven this," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP president Nitin Nabin also praised PM Modi, describing the prime minister's political journey as one centred on "Nation First".

Nabin said Modi's leadership had contributed to India's development and self-reliance and helped the country advance its position globally.

He described Modi's tenure as a period of governance and public welfare, saying the prime minister's leadership had given India a "renewed identity and enhanced strength". (KNO)

PM Modi worked

of National Highways, which have increased from 91,000 km to 146,000 km, and the number of airports has risen from 74 to 165. "Kashmir is now directly connected with the rail network. Discrimination has been eliminated and the UT is witnessing historic transformation. As far as the welfare schemes across the country are concerned, 11 crore toilets, more than 10 crore gas connections and 4 crore PM Awas have been provided, and another 3 crore houses are under construction. Under Prime Minister's guidance Jammu Kashmir will emerge as an unparalleled example of prosperity and happiness. I urge all citizens of Jammu Kashmir to contribute to this Service Campaign," Lieutenant Governor said.

Pertinently, the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' begins today, marking a month-long festival of selfless service till 17th October. This campaign celebrates 25 years of PM Modi's public service, transforming India from the "Fragile Five" to the world's top five economies.

Over the next month, 12 programmes will include school competitions on 'Mere Sapno Ka Bharat', honouring Anganwadi and ASHA workers, tree plantation, youth activities, and registration camps under Seva Setu Abhiyan.

"Until 17 October, a 'Seva Setu Abhiyan' will be run at block and ward level, with 3-4 day camps to register deprived beneficiaries for government schemes. I earnestly appeal that every citizen of Jammu Kashmir participates wholeheartedly in this campaign," LG Sinha said. (KNO)

Two Jaish terrorists

began. Following a lull during the night, the encounter resumed on Thursday morning when the terrorists

opened fire while attempting to break the security cordon."

Jammu and Kashmir Police in a post on X said, "You can run but you can't hide!" "The two Pakistani terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammed outfit have been neutralised during Op Sohan and identified as Saddam and Mustafa," it posted. "An AK Assault Rifle (with 4 magazines); a Glock Pistol (with 2 magazines) and four grenades have been recovered from them," the post added.

The official said the bodies of both terrorists were subsequently retrieved from an area covered with thick vegetation and difficult hilly terrain.

Meanwhile, security forces also detained a local youth, suspected of being an over-ground worker. "He is being questioned in connection with the operation," said an official.

In a post on X, the White Knight Corps said, that the operation, code-named "Operation Sohan," was launched during the intervening night of September 16 and 17 after confirmed inputs about the presence of terrorists in the general area of Brattal.

"Despite hostile weather, difficult terrain and poor visibility, troops of White Knight Corps, Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF launched a targeted counter-terrorism operation, resulting in the neutralisation of two terrorists," it said.

It said the operation is still in progress, with search and surveillance operations underway in the area to track any remaining threat.

Security forces have maintained their deployment in the area and are conducting searches of the surrounding forest and mountainous terrain to rule out the presence of any other terrorists, the official added. (KNO)

Rethink dev models

identities and areas of expertise. Someone may have been an ecologist, someone a hydrologist, a soil expert or a policymaker. But when you leave today, you will carry something more valuable, a common language to understand the present climate change crisis and work together on it," he said.

LG Sinha said participants had brought different languages, cultures and expertise to the conference, but would return with a shared understanding of the problems and ways to address them, describing this as the true measure of the conference's success.

He said the three major crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are deeply connected.

"These three crises are not separate. They are not moving on parallel paths. I believe these are three forms of a deeper problem," the LG said.

He said the natural systems of the Earth are finite and deeply interconnected, while population growth, economic expansion and the continuously

increasing demand for food, energy, water and other natural resources are also interconnected.

He added that different government departments often deal separately with issues such as water, forests and climate, and stressed the need to look at these challenges in an integrated manner.

The LG also referred to the need for real-time climate monitoring and said there was a need to understand not only the challenges being faced but also what could happen in the future.

Stressing the need to bridge the gap between science and policy, LG Sinha said, "The sooner we can bridge the distance between what science knows and what policy delivers, the sooner we can address the biggest challenges associated with climate change together."

He said there was no shortage of data or technological tools to deal with the emerging challenges.

"There is no shortage of data. There is no shortage of technological tools. What is required is greater sensitivity at every level," he said, calling for all stakeholders to prepare themselves to maintain a balance between the use of natural resources and development.

LG Sinha said technological skills alone were not enough and stressed the need to prepare scientists and researchers who could think beyond the boundaries of their respective subjects.

"We will have to prepare a large number of researchers and scientists who can think beyond the boundaries of their subjects," he said.

He also said policymakers needed to be prepared to understand scientific knowledge and act according to it.

"We will also have to prepare policymakers who can understand the language of science, listen to it and act accordingly," LG Sinha said.

Stressing the relationship between development and environmental responsibility, the LG referred to the traditional Indian philosophy reflected in the Prithvi Sukta, under which the Earth is regarded as a mother and humans as her children.

He said this philosophy provides an ethical reminder that development should be based on responsibility towards the Earth.

"Development should establish a relationship with the Earth in which use is accompanied by responsibility, progress is accompanied by conservation, and rights are accompanied by duties," LG Sinha said.

Speaking about India's aspiration to become a developed nation, LG Sinha said the meaning of development also needed to be reconsidered in view of the damage caused by natural disasters.

He referred to the destruction of government infrastructure and development assets due to natural disasters

in Jammu and Kashmir and across the country, saying such losses required a rethink of conventional development approaches.

"If we want to see India as a developed nation, it should also be clear what development means. We have to redefine it and develop models that are climate-resilient and inclusive," he said.

LG Sinha said the conference should not merely conclude with the valedictory session but should mark the beginning of a new chapter of cooperation.

"I would want the conclusion of this conference not to be merely the end of a programme, but the beginning of a new chapter of cooperation," he said.

He added that the dialogue initiated during the three-day conference should reach universities, institutions, the administration, policymaking processes and ultimately the people.

LG Sinha also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday and the efforts towards creating greater awareness about the environment and climate change, mentioning the ongoing Seva Sankalp campaign and its focus on cleanliness and other initiatives.

He urged participants to connect the discussions held during the conference with such initiatives and contribute towards increasing green cover.

The LG expressed hope that the deliberations of the three-day conference would be translated into concrete action and contribute to balancing development with environmental conservation and climate resilience. (KNO)

'If nothing else,

statehood of Jammu and Kashmir. What else do we need?"

On the restoration of statehood, he said Jammu and Kashmir had been told that the process would follow three steps—delimitation, elections and restoration of statehood.

"We were told that statehood would be restored to Jammu and Kashmir after the elections, but nothing was put in writing. Assurances were given verbally, even in Parliament and the Supreme Court," he said.

CM Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir accepted the delimitation process and subsequently participated in elections in which a significant number of people voted, but statehood had still not been restored.

"That is why I advised my friends and colleagues in Ladakh, and since they are currently in talks with the Central government, they should not rely on verbal assurances but get it in writing," he said.

Omar also commented on the issue of UPI merchant discount rate (MDR) charges, saying the proposed charges would not directly be imposed on customers.

"It won't apply to you or me; the businesses facilitating the transactions will have to bear it. Furthermore, the issued order explicitly states that this cost cannot be passed on to the customer," he said.

The CM added that person-to-person UPI transfers would not attract any tax, while transactions below Rs 2,000, which constitute a major share of business transactions, would not carry merchant charges. "For amounts exceeding Rs 2,000, there is a set limit," he said, adding that if larger factories and merchants were required to bear such charges, "I don't think anyone should have an objection." (KNO)

Snowfall in higher

and snowfall brought down temperatures across the region.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 23.2 degrees Celsius, which was 4.6 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature was 13.4 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 14 degrees Celsius, 9.9 degrees below normal, while its minimum temperature was 9.4 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded the lowest maximum temperature among the listed Valley stations at 11.2 degrees Celsius, 7.4 degrees below normal. Its minimum temperature was 5.8 degrees Celsius, which was 2.9 degrees below normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 20 degrees Celsius, 6.5 degrees below normal, and a minimum of 12.4 degrees Celsius. Kupwara recorded 21.9 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 13.8 degrees Celsius as the minimum.

In Jammu, the maximum temperature settled at 31.4 degrees Celsius, 1.3 degrees below normal, while the minimum was 19.3 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal.

The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, has forecast generally dry weather from September 18 to 25, although brief spells of rain are possible at isolated places.

On September 26 and 27, partly to generally cloudy weather is expected, with brief spells of rain likely at a few places, while generally dry conditions are forecast from September 28 to 30.

The weather office has advised farmers to resume harvesting of apples and paddy, besides other agricultural operations, from September 18 as weather conditions are expected to improve.

For Thursday, the MeT Centre has forecast thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds at a few places, along with light snowfall over isolated higher reaches of north and central Kashmir.

Officials advised travellers heading towards higher reaches to exercise caution amid the changing weather conditions. (KNO)

If govt has no

India's semiconductor ecosystem opening new opportunities for investment & growth: PM Modi



PTI
New Delhi, Sep 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday pitched India as a trusted destination for global chip manufacturing and said the government is taking all measures to ensure the industry's success through enabling policies and frameworks.
Speaking at the inauguration of the SEMICON India 2026, the PM said that the semiconductor ecosystem is expanding rapidly, opening new opportunities for innovation, investment and growth.
The world needs new and trusted locations for chip manufacturing,

and India is preparing itself for this, he said. India is taking all measures to become a preferred destination for semiconductor manufacturing, he further said.
So far, 12 chip-making projects have been approved, and the next phase will see the numbers increase further, the PM noted.
India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 expanded outlay to USD 13.5 billion from USD 8 billion in the first phase, he said, adding, "Be it policies, regulatory framework... whatever is needed for you (manufacturers) to succeed, government is taking all steps and efforts to ensure that." The Indian economy

is expanding rapidly, and so is the world's confidence in India, he said, citing Q1 GDP growth and Japanese rating agency JCR's India rating upgrade.
India is seeking to build a complete semiconductor ecosystem, expanding beyond chip design and assembly to fabrication, advanced packaging, equipment, materials, research and talent as it looks to strengthen electronics manufacturing and reduce dependence on global supply chains.
India is betting that the global push to diversify semiconductor supply chains away from concentrated manufacturing hubs can help position the country as a major chipmaking and electronics manufacturing hub.
Backed by billions of dollars in incentives, New Delhi is courting global manufacturers and leveraging its engineering talent, vast consumer market and strategic position as it seeks to build a full-stack industry spanning chip design, fabrication, packaging and testing. On Thursday, Applied Materials announced USD 5 billion in investments under Vision 2035 to integrate India's semiconductor ecosystem into the global value chain.

Govt to target 200 chip design startups, companies under Semicon 2.0: Vaishnaw

PTI
New Delhi, Sep 17: The government will target at least 200 startups and companies designing chips in India under the next phase of the country's semiconductor mission, Semicon 2.0, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday.
Addressing the inaugural session of SEMICON India 2026, Vaishnaw noted chip design would be the first of six pillars of Semicon 2.0, with the government scaling up ambitions after the previous phase of the mission saw more than 105 startups attempted chip design, of which about 20 secured venture capital funding worth around Rs 800 crore.
"That was just the beginning. This time our ambition is much bigger. We would be targeting at least 200 startups and companies which design chips in India across the spectrum of semiconductor requirements," he said. The minister said the country had built the foundational base for a domestic semiconductor industry over the past few years through Semicon 1.0, a calibrated programme focused on nurturing talent and building the ecosystem.

PM Modi expresses gratitude for special video set to the song 'Ashirwad Ka Diya'



PTI
New Delhi, Sep 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed gratitude to the makers of a video depicting his various moments with citizens over time, set to the song "Ashirwad Ka Diya".
The video features reactions from citizens who have benefited from various welfare schemes of the Modi government, including free housing, healthcare, electricity and cooking gas.
In one scene, a woman lights a traditional diya. When her daughter asks her why she is lighting it, the woman says to bless the man who removed darkness from their lives and brought light.
The video also highlights various development projects undertaken by the Modi government across sectors, such as infrastructure, agriculture, industry, health and education.
Born on September 17, 1950, in Gujarat's Vadnagar, Modi turned 76 on Thursday.
Reacting to the video, the prime minister said some gestures remain very special and the "Ashirwad Ka Diya" is one such expression of affection that has deeply touched him.

"Every blessing strengthens my resolve to serve our beloved Bharat with even greater devotion," Modi said in a post on X.
Sung by Sneha Shankar, "Ashirwad Ka Diya" has been set to tune by Aman Pant.
"We grew up watching Narendra Modi ji's relentless service to the nation. Today, we dedicate 'Ashirwad Ka Diya' to his 25 years of Sewa. Happy Birthday, Mr Prime Minister. This September 17, we light a diya for you," Pant posted on X.
Modi's 76th birthday on Thursday is being marked with nationwide service initiatives and public events organised by the BJP.

India's power-sector emissions flat for 2 years due to clean-energy surge: Analysis



PTI
New Delhi, Sep 17: India's power-sector emissions did not increase from the first half of 2024 to the same period in 2026 due to a surge in clean energy, according to a new analysis.
The analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), released on Thursday, said this was the first time in more than 50 years that the country's coal power did not expand over two years, even as the overall electricity demand grew.
However, India's emissions rose by 3.7 per cent year-on-year in the first half of 2026 because of a surge from steel, cement and other sectors, it added.
The analysis, carried out by CREA analysts Lauri Myllyvirta and Anubha Aggarwal, highlighted that clean energy met all of the 7-per cent rise in India's electricity demand over the two years, adding 63 terawatt-hours (TWh).
"The period from the first half of 2024 to the first half of 2026 saw the largest increase in non-fossil power generation on record in India.... Solar grew by 44TWh, alongside growth from wind (13TWh), nuclear (7TWh) and hydro (8TWh)," the analysis said.
There are some causes for concern though. For instance, if the pace of India's clean-energy expansion is to continue, it will need to upgrade its electricity grid, rapidly build out energy storage and boost the flexibility of coal power, according to the analysis.
Moreover, the fossil-fuel industry continues to pursue major capital investments. "This includes large amounts of new coal-power capacity, ambitious plans for the conversion of coal to chemicals and efforts to boost domestic coking coal production for the steel sector," the analysis said.

Another issue is the rising levels of emission from heavy industry. The analysis revealed that steel and cement emissions grew by 8 per cent year-on-year, reaching a 23-per cent share of India's total carbon dioxide (CO2) in the first half of 2026.
The growth in steel and cement was supported in part by increased investment in India's real-estate sector, especially in the second quarter.
"Despite this, profit margins of Indian steel and cement manufacturers remained under pressure for much of the period due to elevated raw material costs -- particularly imported coking coal -- and higher freight costs stemming from the Hormuz crisis," the analysis said.

Modi's 25 years in public life marked by foundation for India's growth: Shah



PTI
Vadnagar, Sep 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public life should be seen as a period of welfare for the poor and foundation-laying for India's prosperity.
He was speaking after inaugurating the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' in Vadnagar and flagging off a bike rally to Varanasi to mark Modi's birthday. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde were also present.
Born on September 17, 1950, in Vadnagar in Gujarat's Mehsana district, Modi turned 76 on Thursday. He completes 25 uninterrupted years in public office on October 7, having first taken the oath as Gujarat chief minister in 2001 before becoming prime minister in 2014.
Addressing a gathering, Shah said the 25 years of Modi's public life "will have to be written in golden letters in history as the years of poor welfare".
He said the period under Modi's leadership had laid the foundation for India's prosperity, made the country more secure and started the

process of making India a global leader in infrastructure and digital public infrastructure.
Shah said Modi's tenure as PM would be remembered as a period of welfare for poor people and claimed that 25 crore people had been lifted out of poverty during this period. He said generations of people had waited for basic necessities such as houses, toilets, tap water, electricity, food and medical treatment.
"His 12-year tenure as prime minister will be known as a golden era for the 80 crore poor people of the country," Shah said, listing houses, electricity, tap water, five kg of free grain per person per month, health coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh, toilets and gas cylinders among the benefits delivered by the Modi government.
Shah said Modi had personally experienced poverty after being born in a poor village and had, despite his circumstances, put before the country a vision of equitable and inclusive development.
He said Modi's 25-year public life was also marked by sustained personal work and service to the poor, backward classes, Dalits and tribals.
Shah said he had worked with Modi during his organisational years

in Gujarat and later when he became the CM and PM.
The Union minister also praised Modi's simplicity and said he had connected BJP workers across the country with the "Nation First" slogan. He said Modi had treated the entire country as his family.
Referring to Modi's years as Gujarat CM, Shah listed initiatives including water management, the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, Sagarkhedu Kalyan Yojana, industrial development, Vibrant Gujarat, an education hub and 24-hour electricity supply to villages.
He said the state recorded an agricultural growth of more than eight per cent when Modi was the CM. The Gujarat model was subsequently taken to the national level after Modi took charge of the nation in 2014, he said.
Shah credited the Modi government with introducing what he described as clear policies after a period of policy paralysis and cited GST, the JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) trinity, Direct Benefit Transfer, banking reforms, FDI and PLI (Production Linked Incentive) as measures that had contributed to economic development.
He also referred to expansion of roads, railways, airports, ports and digital infrastructure, saying the number of airports in the country had increased from 75 to 150. He mentioned PM Gati Shakti, Digital India and Startup India as initiatives that had opened opportunities for the youth.
On national security, Shah cited the government's decisions on Article 370, the Citizenship Amendment Act, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, peace accords in the Northeast and military operations. He also referred to measures relating to women, tribal welfare, defence production and space programmes, including Chandrayaan and Aditya L1.
Shah said Modi's public life could be summed up in two words -- "India First".

Will take all necessary steps: MEA on US sanctions bill on Russia

PTI
New Delhi, Sep 17: India on Thursday said it will take all necessary steps to protect its economic interests and ensure energy security after the US House of Representatives cleared a bill that will allow US President Donald Trump to impose punitive tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries such as India and China for procuring Russian crude oil.
The US House of Representatives passed the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act 2026 that authorises Trump to impose sanctions on Russia and steep tariffs on its leading trading partners.
In its reaction, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India remains "firmly committed" to ensuring the energy security of its 1.4 billion people and will take all "necessary measures" to protect its trade and economic interests.
It said the Indian side is monitoring further developments

in the matter following the passage of the Act in the US Congress. Russia has been a leading source for India's energy security requirements. India's procurement of Russian crude oil has gone up significantly in the last few years.
"As stated on several earlier occasions, India remains firmly committed to ensuring energy security for its 1.4 billion people," it said.
"It will continue to do so through diversified sourcing and on the basis of evolving market dynamics," it said.
The MEA said the issue has been "discussed at high levels in recent months with various US interlocutors".
"Its potential implications for not just the bilateral relationship but also the international energy market have been very clearly articulated by the Indian side," it said.
The MEA further said that the Indian side has also made clear to the US side its determination to take all necessary measures to protect the country's trade and economic interests.

Health Ministry proposes CCTV surveillance at medical stores selling prescription drugs



PTI
New Delhi, Sep 17: The Union Health Ministry has proposed mandatory installation of CCTV cameras at medical stores as part of amendments to the Drugs Rules, 1945, to strengthen oversight of the sale of prescription drugs.
The proposed amendment seeks to prevent unauthorised access to and sale of Schedule H, H1 and X drugs without valid prescriptions.
The ministry issued a draft Gazette notification, dated September 8, proposing the changes.
The proposal was first deliberated by the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) and was subsequently circulated among members of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) for consideration.
Following deliberation, the DTAB recommended approval of the proposal. The mandatory CCTV surveillance is being proposed as

an additional regulatory safeguard to strengthen monitoring of the sale and distribution of Schedule H, H1 and X drugs at medical stores.
The ministry said the measure is expected to help curb unauthorised sale and access to such medicines and improve transparency and accountability in the pharmaceutical supply chain.
The proposed amendment is part of efforts to strengthen regulatory oversight and safeguards for public health, it said.
The ministry has invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders and members of the public on the proposed amendment.
The comments can be sent to the Under Secretary (Drugs), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare or emailed to drugsdiv-mo-hfw@gov.in.
The draft notification was issued on September 8, according to the ministry.

The statement didn't give details on when exactly this

On Wednesday, Saudi Arabia accused the Houthis of trying to attack Mecca, Islam's holiest city, with a drone. The Houthis denied targeting Mecca, and in

The growing tensions are impacting the Iran war, too, especially since Houthis captured the port city of Mokha and an island on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which is a crucial shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz.

"The talks we held were undoubtedly substantive, frank, and productive. As always, it was a genuine pleasure to talk with you, and our discussions once again demonstrated your



Israeli PM Netanyahu wished PM Modi a happy birthday, saying his leadership has transformed

"On behalf of the Government
and people of the Commonwealth

"I wish you good health, happiness and many fulfilling years ahead. Your warmth towards Sri Lanka and your efforts to bring our two countries and our peoples closer have meant much to our enduring friendship. May that friendship continue to grow stronger, and may the bonds between our peoples deepen for generations to come. Have a wonderful birthday, Prime Minister," he posted on X. Maldives former presidents Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Mohamed Nasheed also extended birthday wishes to Modi.



“China engages in normal economic and trade cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit”, Guo said. “Such cooperation does not target any third party and shall be free from disruption or coercion from any third party.

"Individual results do not matter in the Davis Cup. At home he will come with his best. He's a great player, I have grown up watching him, I have practised with

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