



Chaos in J&K Assembly over statehood resolution tabled by CM

BJP protests reference to autonomy resolution, storms into Well; legislator marshalled out

Rehan Qayoom/ Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 25: Pandemonium broke out in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Friday when Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tabled a resolution seeking the restoration of the full statehood. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) staged protests over the reference to the autonomy resolution in it.

As soon as Question Hour concluded, the Chief Minister, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), moved the resolution calling for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

"In addition to the resolutions passed by this House on 26 June 2000 and 6 November 2024, the House calls upon the Government of India for full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and resolves that this



Resolution be forwarded to the Government of India," the resolution stated.

In 2000, the legislature of the erstwhile state had passed a resolution seeking the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy- the pre-1953 position.

The 2024 resolution had urged the Government of India to initiate dialogue with elected representatives for the restoration of special status and constitutional guarantees.

The tabling of Friday's resolution came as | [More on P6](#)

Statehood demand not anti-national act: CM Omar

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday dared the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to point out even a single "anti-national" word in the resolution he moved in the Legislative Assembly, asserting that demanding the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir was not an anti-national act.

Speaking to reporters after proceedings in the Assembly were disrupted over the resolution, Omar, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the resolution specifically sought the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Show me a single anti-national word used in the resolution," Omar said.

He clarified that the



statehood resolution was distinct from earlier resolutions regarding autonomy and other issues already passed by the House.

"If the BJP wants to dilute the already passed resolutions, let them bring a resolution. Who am I to oppose them if they have the votes? This is what democracy is," he remarked.

Accusing the BJP of creating disruptions instead of allowing a debate, Omar said | [More on P6](#)

MeT predicts short rain spells on Sep 27, 28

Jammu records 31.9°C, temp plummets to 5.8°C in Gulmarg

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 25: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience generally dry weather tomorrow, while a brief spell of rain, thunder and gusty winds is expected at a few places on Sunday and Monday.

According to the latest forecast accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) September 27-28 will remain generally cloudy, with the possibility of light rain and thundershowers at a few places. Light snowfall is also likely over higher reaches during the period.

The weather department said September 29-30 is expected to remain generally dry, with brief spells of rain possible at a few places.

Generally dry weather is forecast for October 1-2, while October 3-5 is likely to remain generally cloudy with light rain, thunder and gusty winds at a few places. Weather is expected to remain generally dry again on October 6-7.

The MeT has advised farmers that prevailing weather



conditions are suitable for harvesting apples and paddy and carrying out other farm operations.

It has, however, advised safe storage of harvested crops during September 27-28 in view of the possibility of rain and gusty winds.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 27.9 degrees Celsius on Friday, 0.9 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 12.4 degrees Celsius, 1.4 degrees above normal. Qazigund recorded a maximum of 26.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 9.4 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 22.6 degrees Celsius | [More on P6](#)

LoP says BJP ready for statehood debate

Rejects discussion on Article 370, autonomy

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma on Friday said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is ready to debate the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir but will oppose any discussion

on Article 370 or the autonomy resolution. Addressing reporters, Sharma, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), questioned the reference to the autonomy resolution in the Chief Minister's move. "Today's resolution moved by the | [More on P6](#)

50% representation for open merit examined by CSC: Govt

'Recommendations approved by Council of Ministers, forwarded to competent authority'

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 25: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that the issue of ensuring 50 percent representation for Open Merit candidates in recruitment and admissions has been examined by a Cabinet Sub-Committee, whose recommendations have been approved by the Council of Ministers and forwarded to the competent authority for consideration.

The government, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stated this in response to an unstarred question raised by MLA

Shabir Ahmad Kullay (Shopian), who sought to know whether the issue of reservation of Open Merit candidates in recruitment in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had been repeatedly raised in earlier Assembly sessions.

In its reply, the government said, "Yes, Sir."

On whether the government had examined the proposal for ensuring 50 percent representation for Open Merit candidates in accordance with applicable constitutional and judicial provisions, the government said that a Cabinet Sub-Committee was constituted vide Government | [More on P6](#)

Army Chief visits Tangdhar, interacts with patients at mega eye surgery camp

Surgeons from Armed Forces Medical Services perform 220 surgeries in two days

Umair Gull Ganie

Srinagar, Sep 25: Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth on Friday visited Tangdhar in Kupwara, where the Indian Army organised a mega eye surgical camp under 'Operation Drishti' and interacted with patients who underwent sight-restoring surgeries.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the 10th edition of the Mega Eye Surgical Camp was held on September 24 and 25 at an underground operation theatre at 328 Field Hospital in Tangdhar, a shelling-prone



area along the Line of Control.

Surgeons from the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) performed 220 surgeries during the two-day camp, most of them cataract procedures, besides selective retinal interventions and minimally

invasive glaucoma surgeries (MIGS).

General Dhiraj Seth interacted with patients and distributed medicines and gifts. Director General Armed Forces Medical Services Air Marshal | [More on P6](#)

Govt says no applications received under J&K Journalist Welfare Scheme

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 25: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that no application has been received by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) under the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS) 2023.

The government further said that the scheme provides financial assistance to accredited and non-accredited journalists, including freelancers, in cases of extreme hardship.



In response to a question raised by MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania regarding the government, as per the

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Journalist Welfare Scheme, issued by the | [More on P6](#)

J&K recognised as 'Best Performing UT' at Aarogya Manthan 2026

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 26: Jammu & Kashmir has received national recognition for its efforts under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, with the State Health Agency, J&K, being honoured as the 'Best Performing Union Territory' for achieving saturation of frontline workers with Ayushman Cards.

The award was presented at Aarogya Manthan 2026, held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, as part of the celebrations marking 8 years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya



Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and 5 years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

Virender Kumar, Nodal Officer, SHA | [More on P6](#)

'SKUAST to assess Uri's potential for olive plantations'

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 25: The government on Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that it plans to undertake a field research-cum-feasibility study to assess the potential of Uri in Baramulla district for large-scale commercial plantations, particularly olive and other suitable non-fruit species.

The information was provided by the Agriculture Production Department in response to a question raised by Uri MLA Sajjad Shafi.

The government, as per the

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the study will be conducted through Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir. "The exercise aims to evaluate the viability of large-scale commercial plantations in Uri, keeping in view the area's limited traditional agriculture and horticulture opportunities."

The government said the study will also examine the scope for demonstration plantations, nursery development and value-chain opportunities, wherever | [More on P6](#)

FROM THE LOC

In shelling-prone Tangdhar, underground operation theatre provides critical medical support

Umair Gull Ganie

Tangdhar, Sep 25: Deep beneath the rugged terrain of Tangdhar along the Line of Control (LoC), an underground operation theatre is providing a secure and specialised setting for critical medical care in one of North Kashmir's shelling-prone frontier zones.

Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Head of Ophthalmology at Army Hospital (Research &



Referral), Delhi Cantonment, while talking to the news

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Army

uses the facility regularly and its being utilised for the first time on such a scale for a surgical outreach camp."

"This is our 10th outreach camp, a mega surgical outreach camp. The camp at Tangdhar is part of this initiative," Brigadier Mishra said.

"By yesterday, we had completed 110 surgeries, while around 60 surgeries have been completed today. Around 88 patients are listed for today, and combining | [More on P6](#)

Govt acknowledges shortage of staff in certain healthcare instts

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 25: The Jammu and Kashmir government has acknowledged a shortage of medical and paramedical staff in certain healthcare institutions across the Union Territory, while maintaining that health services are functioning smoothly.

The Health and Medical Education Department, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stated this in a written reply to a starred question raised by MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar regarding the shortage of doctors and other

medical staff.

The department said the extent of the shortage varies from institution to institution depending on sanctioned strength, existing vacancies, functional requirements and service delivery needs. It added that the manpower position is being continuously monitored to ensure optimum utilisation of available human resources.

"Wherever required, the available Medical/Paramedical manpower is rationally deployed and adjusted among healthcare institutions," the department said, adding that patient | [More on P6](#)

Congress protests in Assembly seeking CEC's removal

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 25: The Congress on Friday staged a brief protest in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

As soon as proceedings of the House began, Congress lawmakers carrying banners that read "Gyanesh Kumar resign, protect the vote, protect democracy" raised slogans demanding the CEC's resignation.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), questioned | [More on P6](#)

Healthcare Services at AIIMS Awantipora Div Com Kashmir directs for resolution of issues for timely rollout

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: To ensure the timely rollout of healthcare services at AIIMS Awantipora from October 31, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Friday chaired a meeting to review the status of pending issues and expedite their resolution.

The meeting, as per an official statement, took up several critical matters concerning the operational readiness of the institution, including electricity supply for the running of water supply system, commissioning of the dedicated power sub-station, land-related issues and the fire safety measures.

On the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) to resolve



the pending inter-departmental issues by Monday and ensure electricity supply for the water supply system.

Regard the commissioning of the power station, the Div Com directed KPDCL to issue the requisite

No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) at the earliest so that the uninterrupted electricity shall be provided to the institute.

He further directed the Deputy Commissioner,

Pulwama, to provide necessary assistance and guidance to CPWD engineers for the expeditious resolution of land-related issues pertaining to the facility.

The Divisional Commissioner also directed DC Pulwana to make adequate arrangements for transportation facility of the general public up to the entrance of AIIMS Awantipora, ensuring convenient access to the hospital.

Regarding issuance of NOC for fire safety, the Div Com directed concerned officers to conduct joint inspection of the facility and issue the certification by 5th October.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Director, AIIMS Awantipora; SSP Traffic; and concerned officers and engineers from PHE, KPDCL and different wings of CPWD.

DLSA Pulwama organises awareness programme on NALSA Scheme

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 25: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Pulwama organised an awareness programme on the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness & Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024, with the objective of strengthening awareness regarding the legal rights, entitlements and access to free legal services for persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities.

During the programme, participants were sensitised about the provisions of the Scheme, the importance of legal aid and the role of Legal Services Authorities in ensuring equal access to justice for vulnerable and disadvantaged persons. Emphasis was laid on protecting the dignity, rights and interests of persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities and ensuring that they are not deprived of legal representation or other available legal remedies.

The resource person Advocate Masood Ahmad Magery, Panel lawyer highlighted the various mechanisms available through DLSA/TLSCs for seeking free legal aid, legal advice, assistance and representation, wherever required. The participants were also informed about the importance of identifying persons in need of legal assistance and facilitating their access to the appropriate legal services.

The programme further emphasised the need for coordinated efforts among Legal Services Authorities, institutions, caregivers, families, social welfare agencies and other stakeholders for effective implementation of the Scheme at the grassroots level.

DC Ganderbal reviews implementation of Green India Mission



KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Friday chaired a meeting of the District Steering Committee for Green India Mission (2026-2031) at the VC Room, DC Office Ganderbal, to review the proposed activities under the Mission in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the proposed interventions under the Green India Mission and emphasised the need for effective convergence among the concerned departments for timely implementation of afforestation, nursery development, medicinal plant cultivation and livelihood oriented activities.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure proper planning, plantation and post-plantation care for achieving sustainable green cover in the identified areas.

He further directed the Forest Department to focus on the development and strengthening of

nurseries in the district and called for their effective utilisation for raising quality planting material to support afforestation and other plantation activities in the district.

The DC also stressed upon the concerned departments to promote the cultivation and development of medicinal plants and explore suitable interventions for encouraging medicinal plant-based activities in the district.

The DC directed the concerned department to work towards establishment and strengthening of a training centre for tribal and artisan communities, with focus on skill development and livelihood opportunities related to forest-based activities, including forest produce.

He emphasised that the interventions under the Green India Mission should not remain confined to plantation activities but should also contribute towards livelihood generation, capacity building and sustainable utilisation of forest resources, particularly for tribal and artisan communities.

Div Com Jammu reviews arrangements for Navratra Festival 2026 in Katra

KT News Desk

KATRA, SEPTEMBER 25: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Friday chaired a meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra, to review arrangements for the upcoming Navratra Festival 2026, scheduled to be held from October 11 to 19 in Katra.

Comprehensive programme of religious, cultural and entertainment activities proposed during the festival, aimed at providing an enriching experience to pilgrims and tourists while showcasing the rich cultural heritage and spiritual traditions of Jammu and Kashmir were discussed elaborately in the meeting.

The Divisional Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the arrangements proposed to be put in place by various departments and agencies for the smooth conduct of the festival. Detailed discussions were held on security and traffic management, sanitation and cleanliness, water and power supply, road maintenance, illumination, decoration, fire



safety, transportation and other essential arrangements.

The meeting also discussed the arrangements for Shobha Yatra, Prabhat Pheris, All India Devotional Song Competition, Cultural Programmes, Bhagwat Katha, Wrestling Competition, Kavi Sammelan and other events planned as part of the festival.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of close coordination among all concerned departments and agencies to ensure that all arrangements are completed well in advance. He directed the officers to ensure adequate facilities for pilgrims, tourists, artists and visitors besides maintaining cleanliness and an attractive festive ambience

across Katra town.

The PWD Department was directed to undertake necessary repairs and blacktopping of all roads connecting Katra before commencement of the festival. He stressed that road connectivity must remain smooth and safe for pilgrims visiting Katra during the festive period.

The Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply throughout the festival. The department was also asked to keep additional transformers available in advance to meet any emergency requirement and ensure uninterrupted power supply during the celebrations.

The Jal Shakti Department

was directed to ensure regular and adequate water supply throughout the festive period. The department was also asked to keep sufficient water tankers available as a contingency measure and undertake repairs of damaged water supply pipelines in Katra town on priority.

The Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Katra, was directed to ensure that all street lights remain functional and to undertake special cleanliness drives across Katra ahead of the festival. He also directed the Municipal Committee to install mobile toilets at designated locations and undertake regular fogging in Katra to maintain proper sanitation and hygiene.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT 90 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/7477-86, DATED 22-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-P

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.(in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Protection wall/ Drain at Donipawa	<u>3.41 Lacs</u> Contract Price exclusive of GST: 2.89 + (18% GST Amount 0.52)	200	6820/-	15 Days	M & R (M.H 3054)	DEE Class & MSME's Only
2.	Construction of R-Wall at Hardmarg Wopzan at Different spots under AR 2026-27 (Phase -I)	<u>3.03 Lacs</u> Contract Price exclusive of GST: 2.57 + (18% GST Amount 0.46)	200	6060/-	15 Days	M & R (M.H 3054)	DEE Class & MSME's Only
3.	Upgradation of Drain at Mirgund Anantnag.	<u>2.17 Lacs</u> Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.84 + (18% GST Amount 0.33)	200	4340/-	15 Days	M & R (M.H 3054)	DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority : Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag.

Position of Authorization: Authorized vide Order No. ARD/SEA/2026-27/25 & 27, Dated 14.09.2026 & 18.09.2026.

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-09-2026
	From	22-09-2026
	To	28-09-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	22-09-2026
	From	22-09-2026
	To	28-09-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	22-09-2026
	From	22-09-2026
	To	28-09-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	29-09-2026
	From	29-09-2026
	To	10:30 AM
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

1. Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of receipt of EMD and Tender Fee should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date). The same EMD/Tender Fee receipt should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

Note:a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs500/-whichever is lower.

b. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower

3. The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be deposited by the Successful Bidder in Performance Security Deposit Head. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and receipt of EMD deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original receipt of Cost of Tender Document, EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-6040/26
DATED: 25-09-2026

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir Office of the Deputy Director (HQ), I/C SHTO Bemina, Srinagar.

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No: DD/SHTO/Filtere/NIT/2026-27/04; Dated: 24.09.2026

Tender ID:	2026_HME_325916_1
Tender Reference No:	05_SHTO_2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited from OEM/Authorized Dealers/Registered Suppliers for the below mentioned work in Single cover system: -

Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In lakhs of INR)	Cost of Tender Document. (In INR)	Earnest Money (In INR)
Supply of Fuel Filters for Ambulances/ Vehicles of Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir	0.66	200/-	1320/-

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 25.09.2026 (01:00PM).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 25.09.2026 (01:00PM) to 03.10.2026 (02:30 PM) in single cover.
- The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on 03.10.2026 (03:30 PM) in the Office of the Dy. Director (HQ), I/C SHTO, Bemina Srinagar.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (HQ)
I/C SHTO, Bemina, Srinagar

No: DD/SHTO/e-Tender/Filtere/2026-27/455-56
Dated: 24.09.2026

DIPK-6069/26
DATED: 25-09-2026

Patnitop proposed for global tourism destination scheme: CM Omar Abdullah

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that Patnitop has not been declared a world-class tourism destination by the Government of India, while the J&K Government has proposed the destination for consideration under the Centre's Globally Competitive Tourism Destination Scheme.

Replying to a question by MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session, the Chief Minister said a preliminary survey for identification of suitable land parcels, along with comprehensive stakeholder consultation conferences, had already been completed for the proposed initiative.

He said the requisite ground data and basic details for the proposal were currently being compiled. No funds have so far been sanctioned or released by the Government of India for the proposed project.

On the revision of the PDA Master Plan-2000, the Chief Minister said the Tourism Department had initiated the process for comprehensive revision and preparation of Master Plans for various Development Authorities, including the Patnitop Development Authority.

He said the initiative seeks to address rapid urban growth,



modern infrastructure requirements and sustainable spatial development, besides optimising land use, improving public amenities and establishing a clear roadmap for long-term development.

The Chief Minister informed the House that the Request for Proposal, as finalised by the Steering Committee constituted by the Government, had been floated for engagement of a consultancy

agency to prepare the Master Plan.

Regarding construction norms for hilly areas, he said these were proposed to be reviewed wherever required during the preparation or revision of the Master Plans, keeping in view local terrain, geological and structural safety considerations, environmental sensitivity, carrying capacity, infrastructure requirements and tourism potential.

On the proposed revision of BOCA norms for commercial buildings

within the PDA jurisdiction, the Chief Minister said any modification in construction norms, zoning regulations, land-use classification or other planning parameters would be considered in accordance with prevailing laws, rules and applicable planning and building regulations, after due assessment and consultation with concerned stakeholders.

He also informed the House that the Unified Building Bye-Laws, 2021 were already implemented in the jurisdiction of the Patnitop Development Authority.

Giving details of building permission cases for the last two years, the Chief Minister stated that during 2024-25, the PDA received six commercial cases, of which three were approved and three rejected, with none pending. In the residential category, 42 cases were received, 18 approved and 24 rejected, with no case pending. During 2025-26, 10 commercial building permission cases were received, of which four were approved, three rejected and three remained pending. In the residential category, 60 cases were received, 16 approved, 41 rejected and three remained pending.

The Chief Minister further informed the House that, as per available records, 14 residential and two commercial building permission cases had subsequently been received

Hailstorm loss in Banakoot falls below SDRF assistance limit: CM Omar Abdullah

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, today informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that the damage caused by hailstorm in parts of Banakoot Block of Bandipora has been assessed at less than 33 per cent, and therefore does not meet the prescribed threshold for input subsidy under SDRF norms.

The Chief Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by MLA Bandipora Nizam-ud-Din Bhat regarding the hailstorm accompanied by rainfall and gusty winds reported in certain areas of Banakoot on September 6, which caused localized damage to agricultural and horticultural crops, including paddy, vegetables and fruit orchards.

As per the report of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Bandipora, the extent of crop damage in the affected areas has been assessed at less than 33 per cent.

The Chief Minister informed the House that the damage was mainly in the form of localized lodging and physical injury to paddy, minor damage to vegetable crops and limited bruising, fruit drop and injury to fruits and foliage in orchards.

He stated that since the assessed crop damage is below the prescribed 33 per cent threshold, the affected cases do not qualify for input subsidy under the applicable SDRF norms.

The Chief Minister further informed



the House that the concerned Agriculture and Horticulture field functionaries have been advising the affected farmers on appropriate crop-management measures to minimize further losses.

Govt admits rural youth face gaps in access to internships, apprenticeships

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Srinagar, Sep 25 : The Jammu and Kashmir government has acknowledged gaps in access to internships, fellowships and apprenticeships for youth, particularly in rural and far-flung areas, while informing the Legislative Assembly that several platforms and schemes are already in place to expand opportunities.

The disclosure came in response to a question by Budgam MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi in the Legislative Assembly. According to the Higher Education Department, internships have been integrated into the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) under NEP-2020, with skill-based, research or industry internships carrying 2-4 credits and being mandatory for undergraduate students across J&K.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

No approved proposal to widen Srinagar-Yousmarg road via Chadoora: Govt

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Srinagar, Sep 25 : The Jammu and Kashmir Government has said there is currently no approved proposal for upgradation or widening of the Srinagar-Yousmarg road via Chadoora, even as it acknowledged that the route carries substantial and growing traffic.

The matter was raised by Chadoora MLA Ali Mohammad Dar through a question in the Legislative Assembly, seeking the status of any proposal for widening and strengthening the road, particularly congested and vulnerable stretches. The question was listed among the Assembly's road-related matters on September 25.

Continued on
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J&K plans to generate revenue through green projects, carbon credits

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar Sep 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review the proposed Carbon Credit Framework for Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at unlocking the economic potential of the Union Territory's ecological assets and creating sustainable revenue streams through carbon markets and green financing.

The meeting besides ACS, Finance was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; MD, JKPD; Commissioner, JMC/SMC; DG, Resources; DG, A&T; DG, Budget; CEO, CITaG concerned officers and technical experts from CITaG.

The framework, presented by the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) in collaboration with the Finance Department, envisages a comprehensive strategy built around four key pillars constituting Carbon Markets, Green Cess, Convergence and a dedicated Green Fund.

Appreciating the preliminary work undertaken by CITaG, the Chief Secretary called for developing a comprehensive policy document supported by a well-defined Standard Operating



Procedure (SOP) to ensure seamless implementation across the Union Territory.

He directed CITaG to organise a specialised capacity-building workshop for all concerned departments to familiarise officers with carbon accounting, data standards and their respective implementation responsibilities. Emphasising technology-driven monitoring and transparency, the Chief Secretary suggested exploring collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) for developing an integrated digital monitoring platform and carbon registry.

During the deliberations, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, highlighted the immense potential of J&K's agriculture, hydropower and forestry

sectors in generating carbon credits and attracting green investments.

He asked CITaG to prioritise these sectors while also incorporating emerging opportunities arising from rooftop solar installations under PM Surya Ghar Yojana and the growing adoption of electric vehicles across the Union Territory.

The ACS Finance also advocated the early establishment of a dedicated Green Fund to pool carbon proceeds and green revenues, safeguard their utilisation and leverage these resources for financing future climate-resilient development initiatives.

Earlier, the presentation by CITaG highlighted the considerable untapped potential of J&K's ecological assets, observing that the Union Territory has yet to generate revenue from global carbon

markets despite substantial investments in environmentally sustainable activities.

Citing successful initiatives elsewhere, the meeting was informed that BMC has earned ₹27 crore, Gujarat ₹22 crore, Indore Municipal Corporation ₹8.34 crore and Himachal Pradesh 20 crore through carbon credit monetisation and similar initiatives. The proposed framework envisages integrating carbon screening into existing development programmes, including CAMPA, MGNREGS and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), to maximise environmental and financial returns while avoiding duplication of expenditure.

The meeting also deliberated on a proposed

Continued on
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Embracing green mobility will add new dimension to J&K's tourism sector: JD Tourism

Says EV rally significant step towards sustainable tourism in J&K, hails women-led initiative

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 25 : Terming women-led Electric Vehicle (EV) rally from Jammu to Srinagar as a significant step towards achieving the goal of sustainable tourism, Joint Director, Tourism Kashmir, Waseem Raja, on Friday said that embracing green mobility would add a new dimension to the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Raja received the rally at TRC Complex here. He welcomed the participants and appreciated the initiative.

"This EV rally is a milestone and a step towards achieving the goal of sustainable tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. We really appreciate their zest, commitment and endeavour of promoting Kashmir tourism and green and sustainable tourism," he said.

Raja said the participants had "walked the talk" on sustainable tourism by travelling from Jammu to Srinagar in electric vehicles, calling it a great initiative.

"We say, we talk about sustainable tourism, but they have walked the talk. These green events are needed. We want to promote sustainable tourism," he said.

He said the participants would visit several destinations during their stay in Kashmir, including a Dal Lake cruise, adding that such initiatives would help promote Jammu and Kashmir tourism.

He said the Tourism Department had also collaborated on a concert scheduled for Saturday.

The JD said the initiative also aimed to promote Jammu and Kashmir as a safe destination while encouraging greener tourism "for a better tomorrow."—(KNO)

Peer Ki Gali, Sadhna tunnel alignments under finalisation: Govt

'Singphora-Vailoo tunnel project at bidding stage, completion period 60 months'

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 25 : The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that the alignment finalisation of the proposed Peer Ki Gali and Sadhna tunnels is underway, while the Singphora-Vailoo tunnel project is presently at the bidding stage.

The government stated this in response to an un-starred question raised by MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone regarding the construction of tunnels and the steps being taken for timely execution of the proposed projects.

In its reply, the Public Works (R&B) Department said the Peer Ki Gali tunnel on the Mughal Road, having an approximate length of 8.51 km, is being executed by Project BEACON.

The department said alignment finalisation is under progress and compliance with observations raised by the Additional Director General (Tunnel), MoRTH, during



a site visit held between June 17 and June 19, 2026, was furnished to MoRTH on September 9, 2026.

"Approval awaited. DPR will be prepared after approval of the alignment. Actual timeline shall be decided after approval of DPR from MoRTH," the department said.

Regarding the Sadhna Tunnel on the Kupwara-Karnah road, having an approximate length of 7.82 km, the government said the project is also being executed by Project BEACON and alignment

finalisation is under progress.

It said compliance with observations raised by the ADG (Tunnel), MoRTH, during a site visit held between June 17 and June 19, 2026, was furnished to MoRTH on September 9, 2026.

"Approval awaited. DPR will be prepared after approval of the alignment. Actual timeline shall be decided after approval of DPR from MoRTH," the department said.

On the Singphora-Vailoo tunnel, approximately 10 km in length, the government said the project is presently at the bidding stage and has a stipulated completion period of 60 months from the appointed date.

Regarding the status of proposals for construction of the Baba Reshi-Gulmarg Road, Hajibal-Gratbal-Daji-Baba Reshi Road, Cherry Valley Road and

Continued on
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Conventional settlement operations in J&K closed in 2014: Govt

Says focus shifted to maintenance, updating, computerisation, digitisation of land records

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 25 : The Jammu and Kashmir Government has said that the conventional settlement operations in J&K were closed in 2014, with the focus thereafter shifting towards maintenance, updating, computerisation and digitisation of land records.

The information was given by the Revenue Department in a written reply to Starred Question No. 68 raised by MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para in the Legislative Assembly.

The government, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said settlement operations undertaken from the 1990s onwards focused on re-survey, updating and correction of land records necessitated by changes in land use, ownership and ageing of earlier settlement records.

According to the district-wise details furnished by the department, J&K has 6,855 villages, of which settlement has been completed in 1,889 villages. At present, the settlement process is underway in one village—Tujar Pehlihaar in Baramulla district.

The highest number of completed settlements was reported in Jammu district at 419 villages, followed by Budgam with 278, Pulwama 199, Kulgam 175, Udhampur 174, Kathua 150, Anantnag 74, Kupwara 64, Ganderbal 58, Baramulla 46, Reasi 36, Samba 36, Srinagar 33, Rajouri 19, Bandipora 7 and Doda 3. No completed settlements were reported in Kishtwar and Poonch.

ENT surgeries resume at Kangan Trauma Hospital after 9 years

18-year-old undergoes endoscopic septoplasty; hospital to undertake various ear, nose, throat, thyroid procedures

Raja Syed Rather

Kangan, Sep 25 : ENT operations have been resumed at the Kangan Trauma Hospital after a gap of nearly nine years, with doctors performing an endoscopic septoplasty on an 18-year-old boy patient, officials said.

Dr Asif Mahajan, ENT Surgeon at Trauma Hospital Kangan, said the hospital has restarted ENT surgical procedures, with the latest procedure involving an endoscopic

septoplasty to correct a severely deviated nasal septum.

"After almost nine years, we have restarted ENT operations at this hospital. The operation we performed today was a septoplasty, which we carried out using an endoscope. This procedure is called endoscopic septoplasty," Dr Mahajan said.

He said Medical Superintendent Dr Nazir Ahmad played a key role

Continued on
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Notice

I Arshida Begum W/o Mohammad Ashraf Shah R/o Haigam Tehsil Khoie District Baramulla Jammu and Kashmir 193202 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Arshada Begum to Arshida Begum for all purpose, Including aadhaar card bearing aadhaar number 822944208773 Henceforth, I shall be known as Arshida begum

EDITORIAL

One Officer, One Vehicle: A Necessary Corrective

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly witnessed a rare moment of accountability this week when Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather turned the spotlight on a practice that has quietly drained public resources for years: officers holding multiple official vehicles. His intervention was sharp, precise and entirely justified. "It is a question of state

resources. Jammu & Kashmir is a poor state, and it cannot afford luxury," the Speaker remarked, questioning why officers holding additional charge of departments should require separate vehicles for each assignment. His demand for details of such allotments has rightly cornered the Transport Minister, who could only offer assurances of corrective measures. The

numbers speak for themselves. Over three years, the government spent approximately Rs 12.26 crore on fuel, oil, lubricants, repairs and maintenance alone. Expenditure on POL rose from Rs 17.45 lakh in 2023-24 to Rs 235.27 lakh in 2025-26, while repair and maintenance costs climbed from Rs 297.59 lakh to Rs 472.76 lakh over the same period. These are not trivial

sums in a region with competing demands for healthcare, education and infrastructure. The proposed "One Officer-One Vehicle" principle is a step in the right direction. It rationalises the fleet, optimises resources and promotes economy in government expenditure. The exemptions for security, field duties and operational exigencies are reasonable. But the policy

must not become a loophole that perpetuates the status quo. The Speaker's demand for accountability must be followed through with rigorous enforcement. What makes this intervention significant is that it transcends partisan politics. The Speaker did not question the government's authority; he questioned its priorities. He asked why a high-level committee's

recommendations should languish in files while public money continues to be spent on duplication. The Assembly's scrutiny sends an important message: public resources are a trust, not an entitlement. The government must now act with urgency. A policy that exists only on paper is no policy at all. The Speaker has done his duty. The government must do its part.

Waves OTT And MyWaves: From Public Broadcasting To Public Participation

Prasar Bharati's shift from conventional broadcasting to an integrated digital public-service ecosystem—bringing archives, live TV and radio, education and creator platforms onto one multilingual stage. Doordarshan and Akashvani once connected millions through fixed schedules. WAVES OTT now delivers that legacy on demand—1.2 crore registered users, 24,000-plus titles, and reach across 130 countries.

Press Information Bureau

WAVES reflects Prasar Bharati's shift from conventional broadcasting to an integrated digital public-service ecosystem. WAVES OTT brings live television, radio, on-demand programmes, archives, education, devotional content and publications onto one digital platform. With 1.2 crore registered users, over 1.5 crore downloads and 24,000-plus titles, it is widening access across devices and languages. MyWAVES gives creators an institutional platform for submission, discovery and showcasing, while Gems of India promotes district-level stories and talent. New content-sourcing and distribution mechanisms further expand participation. Together with the WAVES Summit ecosystem, these initiatives connect India's broadcasting heritage and emerging creators with wider audiences and global markets.

Public Broadcasting for a Digital Generation

For decades, Doordarshan and Akashvani connected millions through stories, news, culture and music. Today, audiences increasingly access content through smartphones, smart televisions and digital platforms. Public broadcasting has therefore evolved across changing formats, languages and viewing habits, to adopt the digital, over-the-top or OTT platform mode. Under this model, video, audio, and messaging content is directly streamed to viewers over the internet without the need for cables, satellites, and service providers. WAVES OTT, launched by Prasar Bharati on 20th November 2024, is a response to this transformation. It brings archival treasures from TV and radio, contemporary programmes and live broadcasting onto one multilingual digital platform. MyWAVES takes this transition further by enabling citizens to create and share their original content.

This transformation is part of a broader national effort to strengthen India's creative economy and expand opportunities across the media and entertainment sector. The push and visibility for this comes from the WAVES Summit, envisaged as a platform to bring together creators, industry leaders, policymakers and investors from across the world, fostering partnerships, business opportunities and international dialogue. The first edition of WAVES Summit was held in 2025. The summit has contributed to supporting creators and start-ups, facilitating investment, and strengthening global collaboration across the media and entertainment ecosystem through its various platforms.

WAVES OTT: Making Public Broadcasting Digital

From Broadcast Archives to Digital Access WAVES OTT was launched at the 55th International Film Festival of India on 20th November 2024 in Goa. It was unveiled as Prasar Bharati's public-service OTT platform. The launch brought India's broadcasting legacy into the modern digital space. Unlike commercial OTT platforms, WAVES OTT goes beyond entertainment. It brings together reliable information, education, culture, news, and selected entertainment. It takes public broadcasting beyond fixed schedules and traditional television sets. Audiences can access national and regional content according to their convenience.

It also brings Prasar Bharati's extensive archives to younger and wider audiences. Its easy access helps reach people beyond major cities and paid streaming services. Partnerships, subtitles and improved search information make regional content easier to discover. Its launch supports three larger goals: wider digital access,



cultural preservation and linguistic diversity. It shows how a national institution can modernise while retaining its public-service purpose.

WAVES OTT is therefore more than another streaming platform. It represents a wider reform in how Prasar Bharati distributes content, reaches audiences and works with creators, producers and content partners.

One Platform, Multiple Experiences WAVES OTT brings television, radio, streaming, learning and digital publications onto one platform. Its growing library now includes over 24,000 titles and 15,000 hours of content.

Watch on demand: Films, television shows, web series, documentaries and archival programmes.

Tune in live: Over 140 television channels and 220 radio services.

Follow major events: National occasions, sports, cultural programmes and devotional streams.

Learn and prepare: PM eVidya channels and educational programmes support students and learners.

Read and explore: E-books, photo collections and magazines such as Yojana and Kurukshetra.

Play and shop: Games and ONDC-integrated shopping extend WAVES beyond conventional streaming.

The platform combines entertainment with education, culture, heritage and useful public information. Thousands of hours from Prasar Bharati's archives further connect new audiences with India's broadcasting history.

Reach Across Languages and Screens WAVES OTT currently has 1.2 crore registered users and over 1.5 crore downloads, reflecting the growing adoption of Prasar Bharati's digital services. It now reaches audiences across more than 130 countries.

Its interface supports over 10 languages. Its content is available in more than 26 languages.

It is accessible through mobile applications, websites, and connected televisions.

It carries all 35 Doordarshan satellite

channels alongside other broadcasters.

Its radio services draw upon Akashvani's national and regional networks.

Regional content and subtitles help reach audiences across languages and locations.

WAVES OTT caters to audiences across India, particularly youth and digital-first users, regional and linguistic communities, and those seeking cultural, spiritual, and archival content. It also extends access to Indian content, culture, and public broadcasting services to the Indian diaspora and audiences worldwide. This expanding digital reach strengthens WAVES OTT as an important component of India's evolving public broadcasting ecosystem while providing a platform that showcases the country's cultural heritage, knowledge traditions, regional diversity, and creative expression.

Opening the Platform to More Content

WAVES OTT is also changing how content enters public broadcasting. The Pay-Per-View Content Sourcing Policy provides a transparent and scalable mechanism for producers and rights holders to offer quality content for the platform.

WAVES has also introduced ONDC integration and railway-related digital distribution initiatives. These measures broaden distribution, encourage content partnerships, and create additional routes for Indian and regional content to reach audiences.

MyWAVES: Turning Viewers into Creators

MyWAVES was launched on 23rd March 2026 within WAVES OTT. It expands the platform from content viewing to active public participation. Citizens can create, upload, and share original content through a structured national platform. MyWAVES supports short videos, vertical videos, and episodic content. Its multilingual interface can help creators tell stories in Indian languages. It also supports participation in national programmes, including the Create in India Challenge.

The platform is especially relevant for

emerging creators outside established media networks. It can bring regional stories, local talent and community experiences to wider audiences. In doing so, MyWAVES strengthens both citizen participation and India's growing creator economy.

MyWAVES turns citizens from audiences into participants in India's digital storytelling journey.

Gems of India: MyWAVES in Action

The Gems of India Challenge demonstrates how MyWAVES can support creators nationwide. Its pilot phase was launched on 21st July 2026 across six pilot States and Union Territories. Creators could submit original videos of one to three minutes through the MyWAVES section of WAVES OTT. Submissions for the pilot phase were accepted from 1st-31st August 2026.

The challenge invites citizens to tell stories about their districts. Subjects include: Culture, heritage and historical places. Tourism, nature and lesser-known destinations.

Folk traditions, festivals and performing arts.

Handicrafts, handlooms and regional cuisine.

Local personalities, innovations and achievements.

The initiative involves Prasar Bharati, My Bharat and State and district administrations. Cultural and educational institutions support creator participation and content development. Furthermore, YouTube and Meta are also supporting outreach through their creator communities.

The programme is expected to expand across all States and Union Territories. Its larger goal is to build a nationwide network of grassroots digital creators. It can also create a digital collection of India's diverse local identities.

Connecting Content, Creators and the Creative Economy

India's digital media transition is not only about moving content online. It is also about widening access, encouraging participation,

and creating opportunities for talent.

Each initiative addresses a different part of India's creative journey. WAVES OTT preserves broadcasting archives and opens them to new audiences. Its multilingual content makes information, education, and entertainment available across regions and devices.

MyWAVES builds upon this access by giving citizens a voice. It allows regional creators to document local cultures, traditions, places and achievements. Stories once limited to local communities can now receive national visibility.

The Wider WAVES Ecosystem

The World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) is India's global platform for media and entertainment. Its inaugural edition, held in Mumbai from 1-4 May 2025, brought together creators, businesses, investors, policymakers and technology leaders. It covered broadcasting and infotainment, AVGC-XR, digital media and films.

WAVES 2025 at a Glance

100+ countries | 10,000+ delegates | 1,000 creators | 300+ companies | 350+ start-ups | Over one lakh participants

Key Platforms

The Global Media Dialogue advanced international cooperation, while CreateSphere and the Create in India Challenges identified and showcased creative talent. WAVES Bazaar connected projects with buyers and investors, and WaveX supported media-tech start-ups through mentorship, incubation and investment opportunities. The Bharat Pavilion and knowledge sessions presented India's storytelling traditions and emerging capabilities.

Key Outcomes

The WAVES Declaration was adopted by 77 countries.

Create in India Challenges attracted nearly one lakh registrations from over 60 countries, with 750+ finalists and 150+ awardees.

WAVES Bazaar generated 1,328 crore in business transactions through 3,000+ meetings.

The Viewing Room featured 100 films from eight countries, while 30+ start-ups pitched through WaveX.

WAVES continues beyond the Summit through its creator, business and start-up platforms. These initiatives connect talent with markets, investment and global opportunities throughout the year.

The WAVES Summit brought these efforts into a global creative-industry ecosystem, connecting creators with businesses, investors, policymakers, and technology leaders. Through its marketplaces, creator challenges, and start-up platforms, it provides avenues for talent to access professional networks, audiences, and global opportunities. The strength of these initiatives lies in their interconnectedness. Archives preserve India's cultural memory, regional platforms amplify diverse stories, and new talent is provided opportunities to create and innovate. Together, they connect India's rich cultural inheritance with its evolving creative future, making public broadcasting more accessible and content creation more inclusive.

By preserving existing narratives while enabling new voices, these initiatives are contributing to India's expanding presence in the global media and entertainment landscape. They are helping shape a creative economy rooted in local cultural identities, connected through national platforms, and increasingly visible on the global stage.

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

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■ J&K Assembly Autumn Session 2026

Govt intensifies relief, restoration measures in Rajouri, Poonch, seeks IMCT assessment: Deputy CM

Rs 300 lakh SDRF, Rs 281 lakh CMRF released for Rajouri | Rs 400 lakh SDRF, Rs 137 lakh CMRF for Poonch

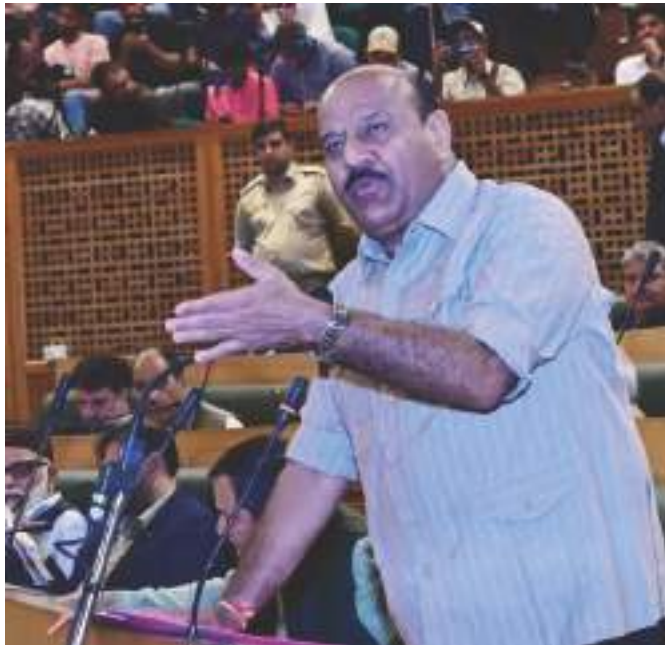
KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: The Jammu and Kashmir government Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that comprehensive relief and restoration measures have been undertaken for areas affected by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, in response to a Calling Attention Motion raised by MLA Muzaffar Iqbal Khan regarding the extensive damage caused by unprecedented heavy rains, flash floods and landslides in Thanamandi Constituency and various parts of Poonch.

The Dy CM, as per an official statement, was replying on behalf of Chief Minister who also holds the portfolio of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

The Dy CM informed the House that 300 lakh have been released to District Rajouri under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and 281 lakh under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). Similarly, 400 lakh have been released to District Poonch



under SDRF and 137 lakh under CMRF.

Regarding relief disbursement, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that, 75.52 lakh have been disbursed to 149 affected families in Thanamandi under SDRF norms while 120.50 lakh have been provided to 138 families under CMRF. In District Poonch, 216.379 lakh have been disbursed to affected

families under SDRF.

The government further informed the House that, over and above SDRF assistance, 5 crore each have been provided under the UT Capex Budget for Rajouri and Poonch districts to undertake restoration and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure on priority. The funds are being utilised through the concerned executing agencies.

The government also presented a district-wise account of damage and restoration measures undertaken. In Thanamandi Constituency, damage was reported to 182 roads, 25 HT poles/33 KV line infrastructure, 70 transformers, 72 drinking-water schemes, 51.98 hectares of agricultural land and 1.90 hectares of horticulture land besides 149 houses.

In District Poonch, 388 roads, 55 bridges, 29 power stations/transformers, 72 drinking-water schemes, 217.7 hectares of agricultural land and 379 houses were affected.

The final damage assessment for infrastructure restoration stands at 13,025.94 lakh for roads/bridges, 1,360.43 lakh for power stations/transformers, 4,149 lakh for water supply schemes, and 6,024 lakh for khuls in Thanamandi Constituency. For District Rajouri, the final assessment totals 46,022.57 lakh, comprising 18,517.50 lakh for roads/bridges, 3,144.32 lakh for power infrastructure, and 24,360.75 lakh for water supply schemes. For District Poonch, the final assessment amounts to 18,185.95 lakh for roads/bridges, 233.75 lakh for power infrastructure, 2,315.07

lakh for water supply schemes, and 186.97 lakh for khuls.

On the demand for a special inter-departmental mechanism, the government clarified that an existing institutional mechanism involving concerned line departments and district administrations is already in place for coordinated assessment, restoration and rehabilitation of affected infrastructure and essential services. The situation is being closely monitored and additional assistance will be initiated as required.

The government also informed the House that the matter has been taken up with the Ministry for Home Affairs, Government of India, seeking deputation of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) for on-spot assessment of the situation arising from flash floods, floods, cloudbursts and landslides during the 2026 monsoon in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The government reiterated that all reported cases of damage are being duly examined and verified by designated committees as per the prescribed procedure to ensure that all genuine and eligible cases are covered and relief reaches the affected persons in a timely and transparent manner.

14 developmental projects worth Rs 24.62 crore under execution across Baramulla: Govt

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: Minister for School Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, replying on behalf of the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that 14 developmental works involving a total project cost of 24.62 crore are under execution in Baramulla Town, with several projects completed and others progressing at different stages.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA Javid Hassan Baig.

Sakeena Itoo informed the House that against the total project cost of 2,462.67 lakh, an expenditure of 445.24 lakh had been incurred up to March 2026. During the current financial year, 25 lakh has been utilised against the released amount of 130.60 lakh. Of the 14 works, three have been completed, while the remaining works are at various stages of execution.

Regarding the proposed multi-level car parking facility near the R&B Office, Baramulla, the Minister, as per an official statement, informed the House that Administrative Approval for the project was accorded on October 10, 2025.

She said that commencement of the project was delayed as the land, being under the ownership of PWD (R&B), had not yet been transferred in favour of Municipal Council Baramulla.

The proposed site also contains existing poplar trees requiring valuation by the Forest Department followed by their auction/removal, she added. In addition, an old building at the site requires assessment and completion of the prescribed procedure for its disposal/removal, she added.

Sakeena Itoo said that these essential pre-construction and statutory formalities had affected commencement of the project.

"The requisite formalities are now under process, and the concerned agencies have been directed to complete them on priority so that work can commence at the earliest", she said.

On the construction/development of three entry gates at Baramulla, the Minister informed the House that Administrative Approval was accorded vide Order No. DULBK/Plg/746 of 2025 dated September 20, 2025. She informed.

She said that execution of the entry gate at Janbazpora and Khowjabagh was affected by objections raised by local

residents, necessitating shifting of the sites.

"At Khowjabagh, work is presently under progress at the newly identified site. At Khanpora, objections were raised by BRO authorities, necessitating modification of the approved drawing and change of location. Joint site visits by BRO and R&B authorities were subsequently conducted on June 13 and June 21, 2026, following which revised locations were proposed", the Minister informed.

The Minister informed the House that work at the new Khanpora site had progressed up to the column level, but was subsequently stopped after BRO authorities conveyed that the location was inadvertent and could not be permitted for continuation.

She said immediate steps have been initiated in coordination with the concerned authorities to identify and finalise suitable alternative locations at Janbazpora and Khanpora, enabling the works to be taken up and completed without further avoidable delay.

Regarding the double-storey office building of Municipal Council Baramulla, Sakeena Itoo informed the House that Administrative Approval was accorded vide No. MC/BLA/2021/215-18 dated December 22, 2021.

"The G+2 skeletal structure of the project was completed in November 2024. Thereafter, execution was interrupted pursuant to orders of the High Court in connection with the land dispute between Municipal Council Baramulla, the adjoining private property holder and on account of security-related restrictions", she maintained.

"The work remained halted until March 2026. Subsequently, Municipal Council Baramulla submitted an affidavit undertaking compliance with the security conditions prescribed by the Military Authority, following which execution of the work was resumed.", She added.

The Minister informed the House that truss work has now been completed and brickwork has reached approximately 80 per cent completion. The concerned executing agency has been directed to maintain the pace of execution and complete the balance work at the earliest.

Replying to a supplementary, the Minister stated that the works referred to in the question have not been completed within the originally envisaged time frame.

Manpower position across healthcare institutions being monitored on regular basis: Sakeena Itoo

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakeena Itoo Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that there is a shortage of medical and paramedical staff in certain healthcare institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, with the extent varying from institution to institution depending upon sanctioned strength, existing vacancies, functional requirements and service delivery needs.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar. Sakeena Itoo informed the House that the Health & Medical Education Department is continuously monitoring the manpower position across healthcare institutions with the objective of ensuring optimum utilisation of available human resources and uninterrupted delivery of healthcare services.

She said that wherever required, available medical and paramedical manpower is being rationally deployed and adjusted among healthcare institutions, keeping in view patient load, functional requirements, institutional needs, availability of specialised services and overall public health requirements.

The Minister stated that the Government is taking necessary measures to ensure that manpower constraints do not adversely affect the delivery of essential healthcare services.

Responding to the specific query regarding the impact of



staff shortages on healthcare delivery in District Srinagar, the Minister informed the House that health services across Jammu and Kashmir are presently functioning smoothly.

She said that wherever shortages exist, these are being supplemented through the deployment/engagement of staff under the National Health Mission (NHM), as permissible. "Consequently, there is no adverse impact on the delivery of healthcare services in District Srinagar," the Minister informed the House.

On the issue of shortage of doctors, nurses and allied staff at SKIMS, Sakeena Itoo stated that the health services there are running smoothly at present.

The Minister, as per an official statement, said the

available manpower is being utilised optimally, while vacancies are being addressed through recruitment and permissible alternative arrangements to ensure continuity of patient-care services.

The Minister reiterated that the Government remains focused on ensuring the availability of adequate healthcare manpower and strengthening service delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

She said that the Department is adopting a combination of rational deployment, recruitment, NHM engagement and other permissible arrangements to address manpower gaps and ensure that healthcare institutions continue to provide uninterrupted patient-care services.

Restoration of cloudburst, flash- flood affected Infrastructure underway: Govt

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government has taken necessary measures for restoration of affected infrastructure by flash floods/cloudbursts across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, was replying on behalf of the Chief Minister to a question raised by MLA Shakti Raj Parihar.

Surinder Choudhary informed the House that roads and water supply schemes affected during 2025-26 have been temporarily restored, while permanent restoration works are under process. Similarly, the affected roads and water supply schemes during 2026-27 have been partially restored, with permanent restoration works being taken up in all affected districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister further informed that financial assistance admissible under the norms of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is being provided to the affected persons. He clarified that no special package or separate relief package has been sanctioned specifically

for rehabilitation purposes.

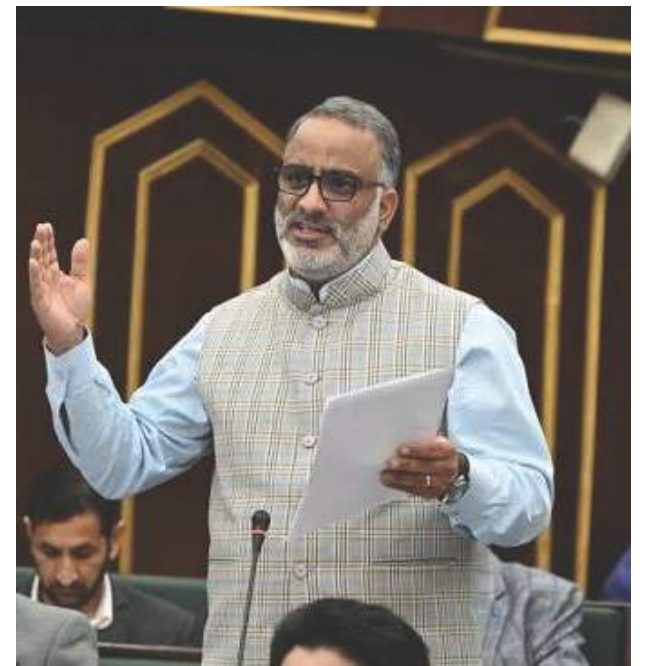
However, he said that the Chief Minister, under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, has extended additional assistance to families whose residential structures suffered damage in the affected areas.

"In Kishtwar district, following the cloudburst incident at Chishoti during 2025-26, an amount of 1 lakh each was provided to 16 affected households whose houses were damaged, while 0.25 lakh each was provided to three partially damaged houses" he said and maintained for the year 2026-27,

108 lakh has been released under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in Poonch district for 87 beneficiaries whose structures suffered damage. Similarly, in Rajouri district, 281.00 lakh has been released under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for 377 beneficiaries affected by structural damage.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the Government remains committed to ensuring timely restoration of essential infrastructure, extending admissible relief to affected families and expediting permanent restoration works in areas impacted by natural calamities.

Salman Sagar moves resolution seeking denotification of Phaak, Rural Block Harwan from Srinagar Master Plan



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Salman Sagar, Friday moved a resolution in the House seeking denotification of the Phaak area and Rural Block Harwan from the Srinagar Master Plan.

The Resolution, as per an official statement, reads, "This House resolves that the Phaak area and Rural Block Harwan be denotified from

the Srinagar Master Plan, thereby limiting the jurisdiction of Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) in the area and to regulate the predominantly rural area under applicable Panchayati Raj and Rural Development laws, and to withdraw unnecessary urban planning restrictions causing hardship to residents."

The Resolution will be taken up for discussion later in the ongoing session of the House.

75% work completed on 50-Bedded Pahalgam Hospital: Sakeena Itoo

Revised approval process underway

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that around 75 per cent physical progress has been achieved on the construction of the 50-bedded hospital block at Pahalgam, with the remaining works being pursued on priority.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani. Sakeena Itoo, as per an official statement, informed the House that the Health & Medical Education Department had accorded Administrative Approval under Government Order No. 244-JK(HME) of 2020 dated March 12, 2020, for construction of the 50-bedded hospital



at Pahalgam at a sanctioned cost of 19.90 crore. The project includes construction of the hospital building along with associated civil, electrical, mechanical and allied works.

The Minister said that 16.75 crore has been released against the project, while 10.53 crore had been expended up to March 31, 2026. An expenditure of 33.31 lakh has further been incurred during the current financial year, as reflected in the departmental statement.

The Minister informed the House that the project is

progressing satisfactorily and has achieved approximately 75 per cent physical progress.

She said the DG Set has been successfully commissioned and handed over, while the Laundry System, Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) and Sterile Tunnel Project (STP) have been supplied/installed and are presently at the commissioning stage.

The installation of the hospital lift is also under progress, while the remaining mechanical and electrical components are being pursued for completion.

Giving details about the delay,

Sakeena Itoo said that during execution, an additional basement became necessary due to site topography and level differences.

This resulted in an increase in the built-up area and consequently required additional structural, architectural, allied, mechanical and electrical works, leading to revision of the project cost.

She further stated that post-COVID escalation in equipment and installation costs also contributed to the increase in the project cost, for which additional funding is being explored.

The Minister informed the House that the progress of the project is being personally monitored and that a review meeting has also been held with all stakeholders to address the issues affecting its completion.

She said the process for revised Administrative Approval has already been initiated and the same will be accorded after

receipt and scrutiny of the revised DPR from the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir.

Responding to a supplementary regarding upgradation of PHCs at Pahalgam, Sallar and Aishmuqam to Sub-District Hospitals, the Minister clarified that there is no such proposal at present, as the Department is currently focusing on consolidation and strengthening of existing healthcare facilities.

She further explained the provisions of IPHS-2022 norms, stating that districts with less than five lakh population and having a functional District Hospital do not require a Sub-District Hospital.

Districts having a population between five and ten lakh can have one SDH, while one additional SDH can be considered for every further ten lakh population for providing comprehensive secondary healthcare services.

India’s financial, external sectors continue to draw strength from resilient domestic economy: RBI bulletin

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 25: India's financial and external sectors continue to draw strength from a resilient domestic economy, though escalating geopolitical tensions and weather-related uncertainties remain key downside risks, RBI Bulletin said on Friday.

The escalation of conflict in West Asia in September has led to a sharp increase in crude oil prices, reigniting concerns of further disruption in global supply chains and build-up of inflationary pressures, said the article on 'State of the Economy' published in the latest Bulletin.

Besides, the rise in sovereign yields in some of the major advanced economies has put pressure on government finances.

Despite the challenging global environment, the Indian economy recorded a strong GDP growth in Q1:2026-27, the article

said.

"India's financial and external sectors are drawing strength from the real economy, although geopolitical tensions and weather-related uncertainties are acting as key downside risks," it said.

It further said system liquidity remained in surplus in August and surged further in the first half of September as banks tapped the Reserve Bank's Foreign currency non-resident (Bank) [FCNR(B)] swap facility, before moderating later in the month due to tax-related outflows.

Money supply growth accelerated in August on account of a rapid increase in aggregate deposits.

"Credit growth maintained its momentum while deposit growth picked up," it said.

According to the article, Indian equity markets remained subdued in August and September

as geopolitical tensions and elevated bond yields weighed on investor sentiment.

"The current account deficit remained moderate in Q1:2026-27, supported by robust services exports and remittance flows," it said.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows strengthened in July with net FDI reaching its highest monthly level in five years, the article said, adding that net inflows under non-resident deposits rose sharply.

Various capital flow measures announced in June supported the accumulation of foreign exchange reserves, which rose to USD 765.9 billion as of September 18, 2026.

On the other hand, the article said, foreign portfolio investment (FPI) registered net outflows in September after witnessing inflows in August, on re-escalation of the West

Asia crisis and rising global bond yields.

On inflation, it said, until September 21, high-frequency data suggest a broad-based sequential increase in food prices.

Among cereals, rice and wheat prices continue to rise, though the pace of month-on-month increase moderated for rice.

"Prices of all major pulses, gram, tur and moong inched up over the previous month. Edible oil prices also registered a broad-based increase, led by mustard and palm oil," it said.

Among key vegetables, onion prices increased sharply, and tomato prices inched up after two months of moderation, while potato prices recorded a month-on-month decline.

The central bank said the views expressed in the Bulletin article are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India.

UTLSC reviews security of currency chests, ATMs in J&K

KT News Dessk

Srinagar, Sep 25: The 35th Union Territory Level Security Committee (UTLSC) meeting on Friday reviewed security arrangements at currency chests and ATMs across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said the meeting focussed on preventing theft, fire incidents and other security breaches.

He said the meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Jammu and Kashmir, and under the aegis of Prabhakar Jha, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by Alok Kumar, ADGP, Director, Fire & Emergency Services; Abdul Qayoom, , DIG, J&K Police (Crime); Harvinder Singh Kales, DIG, CRPF; Javid Iqbal, AIG, PHQ; Pushkin Jain, , CBI; Vikas Verma, GM, P&SO, RBI Jammu; Vinod Kumar, DGM, RBI Jammu; and Shariq Meraj, DGM, J&K Bank, along with other senior officials from government departments, controlling heads of commercial banks, the Airport Authority, Indian Railways and Air India.

The spokesperson said the forum

deliberated on various issues relating to the security and safety of currency chests and the movement of treasure. The discussions covered the adequacy and augmentation of security and guarding arrangements at currency chest premises, measures to mitigate fire risks, and the installation, functioning and periodic maintenance of advanced security and surveillance equipment.

He said the forum also reviewed incidents involving attacks, theft attempts and other security breaches at ATMs, along with the need for effective implementation and monitoring of e-surveillance systems.

"The committee further deliberated at length on the issue of circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) in the Union Territory, including the need for strengthening preventive and detection mechanisms. Emphasis was laid on capacity building and regular training of bank officials and other concerned personnel for effective identification and detection of FICNs," the spokesperson said.

He said the importance of sensitising the banking fraternity about security protocols, timely reporting of suspicious currency notes and incidents, and strict compliance with prescribed security guidelines was also highlighted. (KNO)

Girl, 10, injured in leopard attack in Bijbehara

KNO Correspondent

Anantnag, Sep 25: A 10-year-old girl was injured after being attacked by a leopard near her residence in the Hayar area of Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday evening.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the leopard attacked the girl near her residence in Hayar, Bijbehara, leaving her injured.

She was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Bijbehara for treatment and later referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for specialised treatment. She was identified as Zikra (10), daughter of Mohd Yousuf Ganai, a resident of Hayar, Bijbehara.

Meanwhile, residents have urged the administration to take necessary measures to prevent such incidents in the area. (KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Chaos in J&K Assembly

a surprise to the entire House, as it was not listed in the business circulated by the Assembly Secretariat on Thursday evening.

Speaking after moving the resolution, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the House should discuss and pass it, as the non-restoration of statehood had proved detrimental to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"A commitment was made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The commitment was made in Parliament, the Supreme Court as well as in different public gatherings that a three-step process would follow: first delimitation, then elections, and then statehood," the Chief Minister said.

He added that the processes of delimitation and elections had been completed, and the people were eagerly waiting for the restoration of statehood.

"The delimitation process was completed. I would not go into how it was carried out. Elections also took place and people participated in large numbers. We did not receive complaints from any area that voters were coerced to vote. People came out from areas where we had neither expected nor seen them voting in the past 30-35 years. They also perhaps came out to vote in the hope of the implementation of the third step," he said.

The Chief Minister said they had been waiting for the restoration of statehood, reminding the Government of India in every meeting and forum of its commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"But the commitment has not been fulfilled. We want to remind the Government of India that something should be done about this commitment. The Hon'ble Prime Minister associated his name with the promise. I and the Leader of Opposition were present at the function where I spoke about statehood and said this was the Government of India's commitment. When the Prime Minister addressed the gathering, he said 'Modi ka vaada hai' (It is Modi's promise). It means this is not a normal promise - it is more than that," he said.

The Chief Minister said they had referred to the 2000 and 2024 resolutions to avoid any misinterpretation.

"We have chosen the words of the resolution after due deliberations so that nobody misinterprets it. Had we avoided any reference to the 2000 and 2024 resolutions at the beginning, some friends would have accused us of giving up on other issues and seeking only statehood," he said.

The Chief Minister clarified that the resolution neither replaces the earlier ones, nor subsumes them, nor ignores them.

"This House owns those resolutions. They stand, and we own those resolutions," he said, adding that the current resolution is in addition to them.

As the Chief Minister concluded his speech, BJP MLA Rajiv Jasrotia stood up and protested against the reference to the 2000 resolution.

"What does the Government want to discuss?" Jasrotia asked.

The treasury benches replied "autonomy," triggering heated arguments between the two sides.

BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia said they would not allow autonomy to be discussed in the House.

"Hum cheen ke layenge apna haq (We will snatch back our rights)," NC legislators shouted in response.

Amid commotion in the House, the Congress also joined NC legislators to counter BJP MLAs. PDP MLAs and PC MLA Sajad Gani Lone also stood up to

support the resolution.

Amid slogans and counter-slogans, BJP MLAs trooped into the well of the House and staged massive protests.

Congress legislators Irfan Hafiz Lone, Ifitikhar, Nizamuddin Bhat and independent MLA Shabir Kulley tried to enter the well but were prevented by Marshals.

Amid the din, BJP legislators tore the resolution, with some of them climbing onto seats.

"Jis Kashmir mein balidan hua Mukherjee, woh Kashmir humara hai (The Kashmir where Shyama Prasad Mukherjee sacrificed his life is ours)," and "Desh ke tukde nahi sahenge (We will not tolerate the division of the nation)," BJP legislators shouted.

NC legislators countered with slogans like "Special status ko wapas karo (Return special status)."

Amid continued disruptions, the Speaker adjourned the House for half an hour.

When proceedings resumed, BJP members again raised slogans opposing the resolution and its reference to autonomy.

As BJP members questioned the legal basis of the resolution, Minister Sakina Masood Ittoo asked under which law Jammu and Kashmir's statehood had been removed.

"Tell us the law under which statehood was taken away from us. Tell us the law which allows you to tear the papers," she said.

The minister also objected to gestures made by BJP legislators during the exchange.

"Don't show me your hand - show it to somebody else," she said.

The disruptions continued, with BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa lifting a chair, apparently to throw it towards the treasury benches. Marshals overpowered him and evicted him from the House.

As the uproar continued, the Speaker adjourned the House for the day. (KNO)

LoP says BJP

Chief Minister is controversial and disputed. The BJP had rejected the autonomy resolution. Why is that resolution being discussed again in today's resolution?" Sharma asked.

He further urged the Congress party to clarify its position on Article 370, the autonomy resolution, and the government.

"Congress should clear its position from Rahul Gandhi to the State Chief of Congress. Is it with this resolution? Is it with the pre-1953 resolution? Is it with the resolution of 370?" he asked.

The LoP also questioned the Chief Minister's stance, recalling that he was a minister in the NDA government headed by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee when the autonomy resolution was rejected.

"When the BJP rejected and tore up this resolution, wasn't Omar Abdullah a minister in the NDA at that time? Didn't he continue as a partner of the NDA?" Sharma asked.

He alleged that the government was using the statehood issue to divert attention from governance-related concerns.

"The BJP is prepared for a discussion on statehood but will oppose bringing Article 370 and autonomy into the debate. If you want to debate statehood, we are ready to debate," Sharma said. (KNO)

Statehood demand

such conduct prevented people from knowing the party's actual position.

"The Leader of Opposition and the BJP are opposing restoration of statehood. People of Jammu and Kashmir

witnessed today that these 29 BJP MLAs are against statehood," he said.

He urged the BJP and the Leader of Opposition to participate in the debate rather than abstaining.

"Let them come and debate in the House. Neither should they abstain nor walk out or create a ruckus. If they want statehood, let them agree, and if not, then disagree," Omar said.

The Chief Minister stressed that the resolution was intended only to urge the Centre to immediately restore full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Today, it was only about statehood, and they were not ready even for that," he added.

Responding to BJP leader Sham Lal Sharma's remarks on the government's two-year record, Omar said his government was prepared to discuss its performance and challenges.

"We are ready. Let them discuss it on the next Assembly day. We will detail what challenges we faced, how we faced them, and then we will be hopeful that the House will vote on the resolution and it will be sent to the Centre," he said.

On Congress's support, Omar said there was nothing unconstitutional about the move.

"I am glad that Congress is comfortable with it, as they know there is nothing unconstitutional in it. It seeks to take the voice of Jammu and Kashmir to New Delhi. The only thing to be seen is whether the BJP is part of the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and that will be known after discussions," he said.

He reiterated that the statehood resolution was separate from earlier ones.

"There is nothing wrong in it. It is in addition to those already passed. It is separate, and there is nothing unconstitutional in it," he maintained.

Omar emphasized that the demand for restoration of statehood was not about his government or family but about the entire Union Territory."Statehood is not about the government, nor about my family, but about the entire Jammu and Kashmir," he said. (KNO)

MeT predicts short

and 7.4 degrees Celsius, respectively. Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 28.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 10 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded 25.6 degrees Celsius and 9.2 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded 18.4 degrees Celsius and 5.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 31.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 22.6 degrees Celsius.

Katra recorded a maximum of 29.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 19.4 degrees Celsius, while Banihal recorded 26.6 degrees Celsius and 10.6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Batote recorded a maximum temperature of 25.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14.3 degrees Celsius, while Bhadarwah recorded 26 degrees Celsius and 9.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

No rainfall was recorded at Srinagar, Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara, Kokernag, Gulmarg, Banihal, Batote, Katra or Bhadarwah during the period from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, while Jammu recorded 1 mm of rainfall during the period. (KNO)

Dir Info, DIPR express

held in high regard by his colleagues and all those who had the opportunity to know him.

The Director Information said that the demise of Abdul Ahad Bhat is an irreparable loss to his family as well as to the department, where he rendered

his duties with sincerity and dedication. She added that his gentle disposition, helpful nature and cordial relations with colleagues will be remembered with respect and affection.

Meanwhile, the officers and employees of DIPR also expressed solidarity with the bereaved family during this difficult hour and prayed for strength and fortitude for them to bear the irreparable loss.

'SKUAST to assess

found suitable.

The Minister in-charge said the findings would help identify commercially viable plantation models and guide future interventions in the sector.

The government further said that, based on the outcome of the study, an action plan for pilot plantations and subsequent scaling-up of viable models would be considered in consultation with the concerned departments and stakeholders. (KNO)

Army Chief visits

Sandeep Thareja also visited the camp and appreciated the medical teams and local personnel involved in the initiative.

Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja said the camp brought highly experienced eye surgeons from Delhi to Tangdhar and praised the groundwork carried out to identify patients requiring surgery.

"The most commendable part is the groundwork done prior to this—the team worked hard to identify and reach out to the individuals who needed these surgeries the most. I commend everyone for their dedication to that effort," he said.

The camp was led by Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Head of Ophthalmology at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantonment. His team carried advanced equipment for phacoemulsification, vitreoretinal and glaucoma procedures to the border area.

Patients from several LoC villages were screened before the camp, with the Indian Army facilitating their movement, treatment and post-operative care.

The 11th camp in the series is scheduled to be held in Srinagar from September 27 to 29, while the formal closing ceremony is scheduled for September 30 and will be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. (KNO)

50% representation

Order No. 2061-JK (GAD) of 2024 dated December 10, 2024.

The committee examined the existing reservation structure in detail and submitted its report/recommendations to the Council of Ministers, the government said.

"The Council of Ministers approved the recommendations and forwarded the matter to the competent authority for consideration," it said.

Regarding whether the proposal was placed before the Lieutenant Governor for consideration and approval, the government said the position was "same as above".

On measures being taken to ensure a fair and equitable balance between reserved and Open Merit categories in recruitment and admissions, the government said appropriate measures were being taken.

It said the Cabinet Sub-Committee was constituted to address grievances raised by different stakeholders and rationalise reservation quotas across all categories.

The government reiterated that the committee, constituted under Government Order No. 2061-JK (GAD) of 2024 dated December 10, 2024,

examined the existing reservation structure in detail and submitted its report/recommendations to the Council of Ministers.

"The recommendations thereafter stand submitted to the Competent Authority," the government said. (KNO)

Govt says no applications

Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on April 1, 2023, is already operational at the national level.

The government said that under the scheme, one-time ex-gratia financial assistance is provided to accredited and non-accredited journalists, including freelance journalists, in cases of extreme hardship.

"Assistance of up to Rs 5 lakh is admissible in cases of death, up to Rs 5 lakh for permanent disability and up to Rs 3 lakh towards treatment of major ailments not covered under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) or insurance," the government further said.

The government said journalists from J&K are eligible to apply under the scheme through the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and/or the Information Department, while eligible cases from the Union Territory can be forwarded with due recommendation.

Regarding district-wise details of funds sanctioned and applications received or financial assistance released to journalists or their surviving dependents during the last five financial years, the government said the JWS-2023 is not J&K-specific. "No such application has been received by the Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K under the JWS-2023 for recommendation to the MoB," it said.

On the demand for extending welfare benefits to non-accredited and digital-media journalists, the government added that financial assistance is available under JWS-2023 to accredited and non-accredited journalists, including freelancers, and their families in cases of extreme hardship.

On whether the government proposed to establish a dedicated and non-lapsable J&K Journalists Welfare Fund with a representative governing council, the government said that, so far, no dedicated welfare fund for journalists exists in J&K.

The government further said that the primary statutory obligations relating to service conditions, wages, gratuity, provident fund, insurance against employment injury and medical care of employed journalists rest with employers or media houses under applicable laws.

The government added that establishment of such a fund would require finalisation of its corpus and funding pattern, framing of eligibility and income criteria, institutional mechanisms for administration of the fund and concurrence of the Finance Department. (KNO)

J&K recognised as

J&K, received the award on behalf of the State Health Agency, J&K, from Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda. The ceremony was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, National Health Authority and other dignitaries.

The achievement is the result of the collective efforts of SHA J&K, Chief Medical Officers, district teams, frontline health workers and field functionaries across the UT. Their continued efforts at the district and grassroots levels have helped ensure that frontline workers are covered with Ayushman Cards and are able to

avail the benefits associated with the scheme.

The recognition is a proud moment for the teams working across Jammu & Kashmir and adds further momentum to the ongoing efforts of SHA J&K to strengthen AB-PMJAY SEHAT and ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach people across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Congress protests

legislators Nizamuddin Bhat, Irfan Hafiz Lone and Ifitikhar for bringing banners inside the House. "Who has given you permission to bring banners here? Close them," the Speaker asked.

He told the protesting lawmakers that the Election Commission of India was not under the jurisdiction of the J&K Assembly. "ECI is not under our control. I have disallowed it. This is Question Hour," he said, warning, "Take your seats before I take action against you." (KNO)

Govt acknowledges

load, functional requirements, institutional needs and availability of specialised services are taken into consideration.

Regarding healthcare facilities in Srinagar district, the government said all health services are presently functioning smoothly. It said shortages, wherever existing, are being supplemented through deployment or engagement of staff under the National Health Mission (NHM), as permissible.

On the functioning of SKIMS, the department said health services are running smoothly at present, while acknowledging vacancies. It said the available manpower is being utilised optimally and vacancies are being addressed through recruitment and permissible alternative arrangements to ensure continuity of patient-care services.

On filling the vacant posts, the government said vacancies in various medical and paramedical categories are proposed to be filled on priority. However, appointments will be made in accordance with prescribed rules and procedures and subject to the availability of selection panels/recommendations from competent recruiting agencies. (KNO)

In shelling-prone Tangdhar,

both phases, more than 200 surgeries are expected to be completed," he said.

On the underground operation theatre, Brigadier Mishra said it provides an added layer of protection given Tangdhar's location in a border area vulnerable to shelling.

"The Army regularly uses this underground operation theatre because this is a border area where there is a risk of shelling. It is a very well-equipped operation theatre," he said.

He said transporting sophisticated medical equipment and supplies to Tangdhar remains a challenge due to the difficult terrain and long travel time from Srinagar.

"The nearest airport is Srinagar, and it takes around six to eight hours to reach here. Large trucks can take even longer. Sophisticated equipment has to be transported very carefully to prevent any damage," he said.

Brigadier Mishra said the Army would continue organising medical and surgical outreach camps in remote and border areas.

"The Army stands with the people and the local population. Such surgical camps will continue to be organised in the future as well," he said. (KNO)

PM Modi lauds 'Make in India' success

Credits infrastructure & innovation for national growth

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday highlighted the success of his government's 'Make in India' initiative, and said creation of infrastructure, enterprise and innovation allows the country to prosper.

The 'Make in India' programme was launched on September 25, 2014 with the ambition of making India a global hub for manufacturing, design and innovation. "More made in



India. More investment in India. More exports from India. A transformation

visible across sectors. 'Make in India' is about creating infrastructure, enterprise

and innovation that allow India to grow and prosper," he said in a post on X.

The prime minister also posted a video on his social media handles showcasing the success India achieved in semiconductor industry, aerospace, train engines and coach manufacturing, ship building, metro networks, automobile, medicines, solar power, mobile phone making among others.

The 'Make in India' initiative is focused on facilitating investment, fostering innovation and

developing world-class infrastructure. Guided by 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance', it has also sought to modernise processes and policies.

Over the years, 'Make in India' has opened new opportunities for businesses and investors to participate in India's manufacturing journey. The initiative has subsequently been expanded under 'Make in India 2.0'. The initiative now focuses on 27 sectors, which include 15 in manufacturing and 12 in services.

Modi joins 'Bhajan clubbing' trend as youth jam to devotional beats

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took part in Bhajan clubbing, a modern trend where youngsters gather in concert-like settings to sing, clap and dance to Hindu devotional songs.

Modi attended the event on the 110th birthday anniversary of Sangh Parivar ideologue Deendayal Upadhyay at a park opposite the BJP headquarters here.

Seated on front row, Modi was seen clapping and playing a tambourine-like instrument to a Bhajan dedicated to Lord Ram.

Most of the audience, and singers, were youngsters, who could be seen clapping to the tunes.

Bhajan clubbing is a modern, cultural trend where youngsters gather in high-energy, concert-style settings for the performance of traditional devotional songs.

The attendees, including many representing the Gen Z, chant, sing along, clap and dance to traditional spiritual lyrics set to modern, high-energy acoustic or electronic rhythms.

Held in a club-like atmosphere minus the alcohol, Bhajan clubbing is catching on in many Indian cities and abroad.



IIT Kharagpur researchers develop mobile camera sensor to detect objects invisible to naked eye

PTI

Kolkata, Sep 25: Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur on Friday said its researchers have developed a highly sensitive sensor technology that could allow ordinary smartphone cameras to detect extremely tiny objects which are invisible to the naked eye.

The institute said the technology, built in collaboration with scientists from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, would likely help develop low-cost, portable devices for medical testing and other applications in which very small quantities of a substance need to be detected.

The researchers said the technology could be particularly useful when combined with smartphones, which are increasingly available in both urban and rural areas.

The new photonic crystal-based platform they developed can increase the interaction between light and matter by nearly 1,300 times and detect substances at the attomolar level -- a scale previously invisible to phone cameras.

Its integration with artificial intelligence and machine learning could open up further possibilities in healthcare diagnostics and other fields, the statement said.

Banks advise customers to complete essential transactions ahead of 3-day strike



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 25: Public sector banks and some old-generation private sector banks have issued advisories urging customers to complete essential banking transactions in advance to avoid inconvenience during the three-day strike from September 28 called by bank employees' unions.

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), which claims to represent 90 per cent of the banking workforce, has announced a three-day strike beginning September 28, to press for a five-day

banking week and other demands.

The strike, if it materialises, would coincide with the banking sector's half-yearly closing.

To meet customers' banking needs before the three-day nationwide strike, the government has already instructed public sector banks to stay open on Sunday, September 27.

In its advisory to customers, SBI said that while the bank will make every effort to provide essential banking services at branches/Offices, certain services may be affected during the strike period, which may inconvenience valued customers.

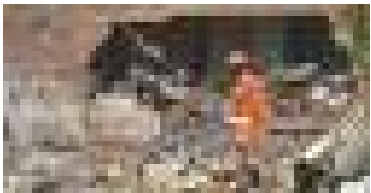
Satya Niketan incident: High-powered panel to examine students' accommodation, Delhi HC told

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 25: The Delhi High Court was informed on Friday that the city government has constituted a high-powered committee to examine issues on students' accommodation and their safety in the national capital and to recommend time-bound measures.

The submission was made during the hearing of a matter relating to the recent building collapse incident in the Satya Niketan area.

A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia was informed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) that immediately after the September 6



collapse incident, the matter was taken up at the highest executive level of the civic body.

The court also termed the affidavit filed by Delhi University to be "absolutely vague" and was assured by the varsity's counsel that a better response would be filed.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Delhi government, MCD

and the Delhi Police, said five officers across the entire supervisory chain of the municipal corporation, including a deputy commissioner, were placed under suspension and also gave details of other steps and actions taken by the authorities.

The MCD, in its affidavit, said the Delhi government has constituted a magisterial inquiry into the incident to examine issues, including the validity of permissions, compliance with building bye-laws and the role of the concerned officials.

It said no sanctioned building plan was approved for the property in question and it was not constructed pursuant to valid MCD permission.

Amit Shah likely to visit Mizoram on Oct 5



PTI

Aizawl, Sep 25: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to visit Mizoram on October 5 and inaugurate various projects, state government officials said on

Friday.

Although the full itinerary is yet to be received, preparations are underway for Shah's visit, they said.

The home minister is expected to inaugurate various

projects, including those under the state cooperation department during his visit, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Aizawl Deputy Commissioner Lalhriatpuia has issued an order restricting the parking of vehicles along the route between Lengpui and the Youth Recreation Centre in Aizawl's Falkland area on October 5 to facilitate the smooth movement of Shah.

Motorists have been asked not to cause traffic obstructions along the route, while all petrol pumps located on the stretch will also remain closed on October 5.

Water conservation shared duty, ideas must translate into action: Jal Shakti min

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 25: Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil on Friday said water conservation is a shared responsibility, and asserted that the ideas and technologies discussed during the India International Water Week should translate into concrete projects on the ground.

Addressing the valedictory session of the ninth India International Water Week (IIWW) at Bharat Mandapam here, Patil said three important points have emerged from the deliberations during the programme -- the importance of public participation in water conservation, ensuring the benefits of science and new technology reach the ground, and strengthening cooperation among countries and institutions.

"Water security is not merely a government responsibility. It is a shared responsibility of all of us," Patil said.

He said the experience garnered from initiatives such as the Jal

Jeevan Mission, Namami Gange, Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) and Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari shows that tangible results can be achieved when government and society work together.

Patil said the role of science, methods, data and new technology was also discussed during IIWW and stressed that such technologies should not remain confined to presentations and discussions but be implemented on the ground on a large scale.

Referring to international cooperation, he said technical cooperation between Indian and Dutch institutions has gained momentum, particularly in the context of the Kalpasar project in Gujarat -- describing it as a flagship project of the Narendra Modi government.

The project envisages creation of a water reservoir with a capacity of around eight billion cubic metres, which, he said, may become the world's largest in coming years.

Health & Medical Education Department GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210

Subject: Provisional Merit List of candidates for the post of Medical Officer (ATF) & Clinical Psychologist/Counsellor (ATF) on contractual basis for Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Centre, GMC Anantnag.
Ref: Adv. Notice No. 09 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 21-05-2026.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, Government Medical College, Anantnag advertised the vacant posts of Medical Officer (ATF), Clinical Psychologist/Counsellor (ATF) and Nurse (ATF) on contractual basis for Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Centre, GMC Anantnag, vide Advertisement Notice No. 09 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 21-05-2026;

Whereas, the written test for the above-mentioned posts was conducted on 17-08-2026 at Main Campus, Dialgam, Government Medical College, Anantnag;

Whereas, the provisional merit lists in respect of the posts of Clinical Psychologist/Counsellor and Medical Officer have been received in this office;

Now, therefore, the provisional merit lists of the candidates in respect of the posts of Clinical Psychologist/Counsellor and Medical Officer are hereby notified and enclosed as Annexure "A" and Annexure B "respectively, to this Notification.

The provisional merit list in respect of the post of Nurse (ATF) shall be notified separately.

NOTE: The representations/objections, if any, with regard to the notified merit lists shall be submitted in Writing to the Office of Principal, Govt. Medical College, Anantnag (Main Campus Dialgam) within three (03) working days from the date of issuance of this notification. No representation/objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained.

Prof. Dr. Junaid S Wani, Principal,
Govt Medical College Anantnag

No: GMCA/Estt/ Rec/2026/8398-8402

Dated: 24-09-2026

"Annexure A" Counsellor/Clinical Psychologist (ATF)				
S.no	Roll No.	Marks	Percentage	Rank
1	2515	33	66	1
2	2513	30	60	2
3	2512	27	54	3

"Annexure B" Medical Officer (ATF)				
S. No.	Roll No.	Marks	Percentage	Rank
1	2490	39	78	1
2	2506	39	78	1
3	2500	30	60	2
4	2498	28	56	3
5	2493	26	52	4
6	2504	26	52	4
7	2509	25	50	5
8	2503	19	38	6
9	2508	19	38	6
10	2495	18	36	7
11	2492	15	30	8

DIPK-6073/26

DATED: 25-09-2026

