



J&K Assembly adopts statehood resolution

NC, Congress, PDP, PC, CPI(M), AAP, independents support; BJP stages walkout

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday adopted a resolution urging the Government of India to restore full statehood to the Union Territory.

The resolution, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), was passed by voice vote, with members from different parties and independents supporting it, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) staged a walkout.

As Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather initiated the voting process after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah replied to the discussion, BJP legislators led by Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma walked out of the House.

The resolution secured support from the National Conference (NC), Congress, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peoples Conference



(PC), Communist Party of India (Marxist), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and independent members.

It was put to voice vote after five NC MLAs, two PDP MLAs, one Congress MLA, and two

independents withdrew their amendments.

The BJP had objected to the resolution, citing its reference to the 2000 autonomy resolution and the 2024 special status resolution. | [More on P6](#)

CM asks Centre to define 'appropriate time' for statehood

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 28: Defending the move to keep Article 370 out of the statehood resolution, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said he has repeatedly asked the Centre what the appropriate time for restoration of statehood was.

Addressing the Legislative Assembly, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir had already waited two years for the Central government to fulfil its promise of restoring

statehood.

"The Supreme Court had directed that after the elections, statehood should be restored at the earliest. In which language does 'at the earliest' translate into a period of years?" he asked.

The CM questioned whether the Centre's stance was that statehood could not be restored until terrorism ended.

"If you are saying that statehood will not come until terrorism ends, then you are effectively saying that the decision on the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir doesn't lie in | [More on P6](#)

No place for Pakistani agenda in J&K: LoP Sharma

Waris Fayaz

Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma on Monday said there was "no place for any Pakistani agenda" in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the Union Territory would remain an integral part of India.

Addressing reporters, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sharma said the BJP was committed to the restoration of statehood but opposed references to the



2000 autonomy resolution and the 2024 special-status resolution included in the resolution moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. "J&K is an integral part of India, and it | [More on P6](#)

BJP submits no-confidence motion against Speaker

Rehan Qayoom Mir

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday submitted a no-confidence motion against the Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, accusing him of allowing what they termed an unconstitutional reference to special status in the statehood resolution.

As soon as Question Hour began, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), BJP's R.S. Pathania stood up, claiming that the Speaker could not preside over the House after a no-confidence motion had been filed.

"You cannot sit on the chair," | [More on P6](#)

Amidst uproar, BJP runs mock Assembly from Well

BJP, Congress MLAs marshalled out; Speaker warns protesting members of strict action

Waris Fayaz

The Legislative Assembly witnessed high drama on Monday as BJP legislators staged a mock Assembly session from the Well of the House, while the ongoing uproar led to the marshalling out of BJP and Congress members during the debate on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's resolution seeking restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

After entering into the Well, the BJP legislators, as per the news agency— | [More on P6](#)

Rs 361 cr Achan waste management project at tendering stage: CM

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 28: The proposed Rs 361-crore Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) project at Achan in Srinagar is currently at the tendering stage, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday.

Replying to a question by MLA Mubarik Gul during Question Hour, the Chief Minister, who is also Minister in charge of Housing and Urban Development, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the proposed project has a waste-processing capacity of 800 tonnes per day and includes a construction period of 24 months within a 25-year project timeline.

He said the integrated project comprises composting facilities, a Bio-CBG plant, Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) facility, scientific sanitary landfill,

transfer stations, leachate management infrastructure and other ancillary environmental infrastructure.

The Chief Minister informed the House that no agency or contractor has been allotted the project so far as the tendering process is currently underway.

SMC UNDERTAKING SEVERAL STEPS FOR SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL WASTE

He said the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is undertaking several measures for scientific management of municipal waste, environmental protection and remediation of legacy waste at Achan until the new integrated project is commissioned. "The SMC is currently managing around 500-550 TPD of municipal solid waste generated within Srinagar municipal limits through collection, transportation, processing and disposal."

The civic body has achieved 100 per cent | [More on P6](#)

9-year-old among 5 killed, 8 injured in Karnah accident

LG Sinha, CM Omar express grief, direct best possible treatment

KNO Correspondent

Kupwara, Sep 28: Five persons, including a 9-year-old child, were killed and eight others injured after a passenger vehicle they were travelling in plunged into a river in North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the driver lost control of the vehicle near Seemari Road in Karnah, following which it skidded off the road and plunged into the Kishenganga River.

He said five persons died on the spot, while eight others sustained injuries. The injured were rushed to a Hospital for treatment. "Of the eight injured, six were referred to Srinagar, while two are presently undergoing treatment at SDH Tangdhar," the official added.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Idrees



(32), son of Kaser Din; his 9-year-old daughter Hamza; Sayeed Begum (30), wife of Mohammad Idrees; Shabir Ahmad (70); and Raja Irshad (27), son of Majeed Khan.

The injured have been identified as Sajid Ahmad of Semari; Naveed Ahmad, son of Ghulam Hussain; Mushtaq Ahmad, son of Ghulam Nabi, of Semari; Farhan Khurshed, son of Khurshed Ahmad, of Teetwal;

Javid Ahmad of Kadhama; Ashia Begum, wife of Abdul Hameed, of Semari; Ajaz Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmad, of Semari; and Shariq, son of Mukhtar Ahmad, of Teetwal.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident and said he had directed the District Administration to ensure the best possible | [More on P6](#)

Govt has zero-tolerance policy against all forms of terrorism: HM Shah

Calls for stronger counter-terror mechanisms, greater coordination

**Sajid Raina**

New Delhi, Sep 28: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday reaffirmed the Centre's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and called for institutionalising the PRAHAAR counter-terrorism strategy over the next decade.

Addressing the 'PRAHAAR - CT Policy and Strategy' conference, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stressed continuous assessment of terror threats, stronger coordination among agencies and an automated counter-terror

response mechanism at all levels.

He said the framework must be implemented down to the police station level to ensure swift action.

Built on seven pillars, including prevention, response, capacity-building, human rights, international cooperation and resilience, PRAHAAR seeks a whole-of-society approach to counter-terrorism.

Highlighting recent crack-downs, Shah said security agencies had busted over 40 modules of the Shahzad Bhatti network involved in cross-border smuggling of weapons. | [More on P6](#)

Fresh snow blankets Affarwat peak in Gulmarg; rain sweeps J&K

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 28: Fresh snowfall was recorded over the Affarwat peak in Gulmarg on Monday as light rain and thundershowers lashed several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing a brief spell of cooler weather across the Union Territory.

The fresh snow over the higher reaches of Gulmarg added to the wintry look of the tourist resort, while rainfall was reported from various areas across J&K.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar, according to the

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the weather remained generally cloudy with light rain and thundershowers at many places during the day.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 20.8°C and a minimum of 5.5°C, the season's lowest and 1.4°C below normal.

In Kashmir, Srinagar recorded a maximum of 29.8°C and a minimum of 11.5°C, while Pahalgam registered 24.8°C and 7°C, respectively.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature | [More on P6](#)

J&K incurs Rs 28,000 crore in 3-year power procurement

Cumulative revenue gap tops Rs 13,600 crore

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 28: Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) in past three years have spent Rs 28018 crores to procure 63080.62 million units (MU) of electricity, yet local DISCOMs accumulated a revenue deficit exceeding Rs 13,600 crore across the same period.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the government in a reply to the query

of MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat in a Legislative Assembly said that in the year 2023-24 at least Rs 9453 crore was incurred to procure 20,985.70 Million Units (MU) of power.

It also informed the house that in the year 2024-25, the government incurred Rs 9088 crore to procure 21,159.40 MU of power and Rs 9477 crore in 2025-26 to procure 20,935.50 MU of power.

The official figures however reveal that in the year 2023-24, there was | [More on P6](#)

J&K govt extends Old Pension Scheme to thousands of employees

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led government on Monday extended the benefit of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to thousands of employees appointed against posts advertised or notified prior to December 24, 2009, but who subsequently joined service under the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

The government issued the orders following the decision taken by the Council of Ministers, chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, at its meeting held earlier this month.

Under the decision, employees appointed against posts advertised or notified prior to December 24, 2009 and who joined service | [More on P6](#)

J&K depts, commercial users, security forces owe Rs 6,800 crore in power dues

PDD cuts electricity to 88,387 defaulters in FY26, 50,226 in FY27

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 28: In Jammu and Kashmir, government, commercial sectors and security forces establishments owe a whopping over Rs 6800 crore to Power Development Department (PDD) on account of unpaid electricity dues.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the government in a reply to the query of MLA Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi in Legislative Assembly said that there are over Rs 6870

crore pending dues lying with the commercial sector, industrial consumers, government, semi-government and security forces establishments.

The figures said that government and semi-government was the top defaulter that owes Rs 3155.69 crores to the PDD followed by the commercial sector with Rs 1833.60 crores, industrial consumers with 1005.89 crores and Rs 874.97 crores with the security forces installations.

The government however said that the DISCOMs have been undertaking sustained measures for recovery of outstanding electricity dues through systematic monitoring of arrears, issuance of demand. | [More on P6](#)

J&K journalists eligible for welfare schemes, govt tells Assembly

Rs 5 lakh for death, permanent disability; Rs 3 lakh for major ailments

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government has informed the Legislative Assembly that journalists from J&K are eligible to avail benefits under the Journalists Welfare Scheme (JWS) of the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, while accredited journalists are also provided accommodation and other facilities by the UT administration.

The information was given by the Minister-in-Charge, Information Department, in response to a question raised by MLA Tanvir Sadiq, seeking details regarding the welfare of journalists and



media persons in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the reply, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), one-time ex-gratia/financial assistance is provided

to journalists and their families under the Journalists Welfare Scheme as per guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on April 1, 2023.

Under the | [More on P6](#)

J&K govt acknowledges rising GLOF risk

616 glacial lakes mapped across 12 districts; 68 flagged as potentially dangerous

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government has acknowledged the increasing risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) in the Union Territory due to rising global temperatures, accelerated glacier melt and expansion of glacial lakes, particularly in parts of Kishtwar, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Anantnag.

The government made the disclosure in reply to an Unstarred Question D. No. 1/6/101 raised by MLA Tanvir Sadiq, Member (Zadibal), who sought details regarding the increasing risk | [More on P6](#)

National Mid-Term CME of IACAM concludes in Srinagar

Deliberates on child mental health, ethics, law



KT News Desk

Srinagar, September 28: The 4th National Mid-Term CME of the Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (IACAM) concluded in Srinagar on Sunday after three days of discussions on the ethical, legal and clinical dimensions of child and adolescent mental healthcare. Held from September 25 to 27, the CME was organised by IACAM in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Psychiatric Society (JKPS). The programme, themed “Children, Ethics and Laws”, brought together psychiatrists, psychologists, paediatricians, legal professionals, researchers and other mental-health practitioners from across the country. The conference, as per an official statement, was inaugurated by Dr Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal/Dean Government Medical College, Srinagar, who attended the conference as Chief Guest. Addressing the

gathering, Dr Shah highlighted the expansion of mental-health services in Kashmir and acknowledged the sustained efforts of professionals working in the field. Dr Savita Malhotra, Life President of IACAM, stressed the need to train and deploy more mental-health professionals to meet the growing psychological and developmental needs of children and adolescents. Dr Vivek Agarwal, President, IACAM, and Dr Rachana Bhargava, General Secretary, IACAM, underlined the importance of integrating ethical and legal considerations into child and adolescent mental-health practice. They emphasised that such an approach is essential for ensuring responsible, rights-based and child-centred care. The scientific programme examined the relationship between mental healthcare, child rights and the legal framework governing children and young people. Sessions addressed ethical dilemmas in clinical practice, legal issues

involving children, mental-health assessments, child protection, developmental concerns and the responsibilities of professionals working with young people. The CME featured lectures, interactive workshops, panel discussions and academic exchanges. Across the sessions, speakers emphasised that children should be recognised not only as recipients of care but also as individuals with rights, voices, vulnerabilities and evolving capacities. The programme included contributions from several distinguished experts and academicians, including Dr Shekhar Seshadri, whose work in child and adolescent mental health, ethics and child rights has influenced professional practice and training in the field. Clinicians, academicians and experts from diverse disciplines also participated in the scientific deliberations. A Panel Discussion on ‘From chalkboards to chatbots’ deliberated on the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and

chatbots in education and human interaction. The speakers discussed the potential of AI to support more equitable and individualised learning while also examining concerns relating to critical thinking, creativity, human interaction and the changing nature of communication and social relationships. The discussion noted that AI is emerging as a significant technological development with far-reaching implications for education and society. Speakers emphasised the need to engage with the technology responsibly, while ensuring that human creativity, critical thinking, social interaction and independent learning remain central to education and human development. The organisers called for evidence-based, ethical, compassionate and rights-based mental healthcare for children and adolescents. They noted that addressing child and adolescent mental health as a public-health priority would require sustained cooperation among professionals, families, schools, healthcare institutions, policymakers and legal authorities. The conference also highlighted Jammu & Kashmir’s growing role in academic and professional engagement in mental health and strengthened links between practitioners in the region and colleagues from across India. The gathering concluded with a renewed commitment to developing accessible, ethical and child-centred mental-health systems that place the dignity, voice and best interests of every child at the centre

Mission YUVA: DC Budgam reviews progress

KT News Desk

Budgam, September 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Monday chaired a Review Meeting-cum-SBDU/DLIC Meeting to assess progress under Mission YUVA and review implementation of various targets in the district. The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam, Vivek Agarwal, Joint Director Planning, GM DIC, Chief Agriculture Officer, Principal Polytechnic Nagam, Superintendents of ITI Budgam and Charar-i-Sharief, Lead District Manager and other concerned officers. The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the status of pending bank cases, hybrid training, capacity building, Udyam Jagriti, Hackathon, ONDC onboarding and Completion/WIP reporting. Taking note of pending cases with banks, he directed the concerned banks to undertake thorough scrutiny and ensure timely sanction and disbursement on priority. He directed immediate enrolment of all disbursed cases pending under Hybrid Training and stressed close follow-up for timely completion. Under Udyam Jagriti, the Deputy Commissioner directed coverage of all SHG members and awareness programmes in uncovered Panchayats. He also directed College Principals, Placement Coordinators and IIC Coordinators to intensify participation in the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 Hackathon. On capacity building, the DC directed expeditious enrolment of eligible beneficiaries, with DLIC-approved and disbursed cases to be taken up on priority. He stressed that there should be no delay between approval and training enrolment. Under ONDC, the Deputy Commissioner directed accelerated onboarding of products and called for timely submission of Completion/WIP Reports for all disbursed cases. He directed all concerned officers and stakeholders to ensure close monitoring, effective coordination and strict adherence to timelines for effective implementation of Mission YUVA.

PMFME Scheme: DLC approves 11 cases in Budgam

KT News Desk

Budgam, September 28: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) for the review and consideration of applications received under the Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme. At the outset, the District Nodal Officer and Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO), Budgam, briefed the chair about the applications/cases received under the scheme and placed the same before the committee for consideration and approval. After detailed deliberations and examination of the cases, the District Level Committee, as per an official statement, approved all 11 cases placed

before it for consideration. The PM FME Scheme is aimed at providing financial, technical and institutional support to micro food processing enterprises and facilitating their formalisation and upgradation. The scheme provides a 50 percent credit-linked capital subsidy, subject to the prescribed scheme guidelines and limits, to eligible beneficiaries for setting up or upgrading food processing units. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for wider dissemination and effective publicity of the scheme across the district so that maximum eligible beneficiaries, particularly small entrepreneurs and prospective food processing unit holders, can avail the benefits available under the scheme.

Environment Building Programme on Inclusive Education organised in Shopian

KT News Desk

Shopian, September 28: The Office of the Chief Education Officer, Shopian, organised an Environment Building Programme under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha, Inclusive Education Component, with the objective of sensitising teachers, parents and other community stakeholders towards the educational needs, rights and inclusion of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) enrolled in various schools of District Shopian. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Education Officer, Shopian, as per an official statement, said that inclusive education is not merely an administrative or institutional responsibility but a collective social commitment to ensure dignity, equality and equal educational opportunities for every child. He emphasised that no child should feel excluded, neglected or disadvantaged because of disability or any other special educational need. He stressed that the true measure of an inclusive school is not merely the presence of a child with special needs in the classroom, but the extent to which that child is able to participate, learn, communicate, develop confidence and feel an equal and valued member of the school community.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UT)
Office of the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Kulgam
Swachh Bharat Mission J&K

Assistant Commissioner (P), Kulgam invites applications for engagement of various skilled and Unskilled Labour for Operation and Maintenance of SBM Assets and Door-to-Door waste collection in 11 Blocks of District Kulgam for a period of 60 days.
Positions include:

Name of Posts	Unit of Engagement	Qualification	Remunerat ion per month (Lump Sum in ₹)
Swachhta Supervisor	One (1) per Block	Graduation from a University recognized by the UGC	13000/-
Fee Collector	One (1) per operational Zone	12 th Pass form recognized Board	8500/-
Driver	One (1) per operational Zone	10 th Pass form recognized Board, with a valid and current LMV driving license	10500/-
Helper with Driver	One (1) per operational Zone	10 th Pass form recognized Board	6500/-
Swachhta Sathi (Sweeper)	One (1) per Panchayat	Should be the resident of the concerned Panchayat 10 th Pass from a recognized Board.	6000/-
PWMU Operator	One (1) per PWMU	Diploma/Certificate in Automobile Engineering or Mechanical Engineering shall be preferred.	10000/-
PWMU Swachhta Sathi	Two (2) per PWMU	Should be the resident of the concerned Panchayat	8000/-

Eligibility:

- 21–45 years as on the date of notification.
- Domicile of Jammu & Kashmir. However, preference shall be given to the residents/domiciles of Block, operational Zone and Panchayat respectively.

Submission of Form: Completely filled forms can be submitted in the Office of concerned Block Development Officers by or before 05 October 2026, 4:00 PM.
Guidelines for detailed selection process, evaluation criteria and role descriptions can be collected from the Office Assistant Commissioner (P) and Block Development Officers of District Kulgam.
(Note: This is a public service advertisement. No fee is required for the application process).

NO. ACPK/ADV/2026-27/2527-33
DATED: 26.09.2026

SD/-
Assistant Commissioner (P)
Kulgam

Engagement of Skilled & Unskilled Manpower for O&M of SBM Assets & Door-to-Door Waste Collection (60 Days)

Advertisement Notice Dated: 26-09-2026
Last Date of Submission: 05 October 2026 (by 04:00 PM)
Submission Venue: Office of the Concerned Block Development Officer (BDO)
(Public Service Advertisement — No Application Fee Required)

1. Post Applied For:
(Tick () one post only):

Swachhta Supervisor
Helper with Driver
PWMU Operator

Fee Collector
Swachhta Sathi (Sweeper)
PWMU Swachhta Sathi

Driver (LMV)

APPLICATION FORM (TO BE FILLED IN BLOCK LETTERS)
A. CANDIDATE DETAILS
2. Full Name:
3. Father's Name:
4. Date of Birth: (DD / MM / YYYY)
5. Age (as on 26/09/2026):
6. Gender:
8. Contact Mobile:
Male Female Other
7. Domicile of J&K: Yes No
9. Alternate Mobile:
10. Aadhaar Number:
11. Email ID
B. JURISDICTION / RESIDENTIAL DETAILS (FOR LOCAL PREFERENCE)
12. Permanent Address:
13. Block: 14. Operational Zone:
15. Halqa Panchayat:
16. Ward / Village:
17. PWMU Center:

Affix Recent
Passport Size Photograph
(Self-Attested)

Examination Passed	Board / University	Year	Total Marks	Marks Obt.	%age / Grade
10th / Matriculation (Driver/ Helper with Driver & PWMU Operator Posts only)					
12th / Higher Secondary (Fee Collector Posts only)					
Graduation (Degree) (Swachhta Supervisor posts only)					
Diploma (Auto / Mech)					
Other Qualification					

Driving License No. (LMV): Valid Upto: Issuing Authority: Relevant Experience:
Driving License No. (LMV): Valid Upto: Issuing Authority: Relevant Experience:

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PANCHAYAT, KULGAM
SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAMIN) — APPLICATION FORM (PAGE 2)

Domicile Certificate (UT of J&K) Valid & Current LMV Driving License (for Driver post) Proof of Date of Birth (10th Diploma / Marks Card) Proof of Residence (Block / Zone / Panchayat)
Academic Qualification Certificates & Mark Sheets Copy of Aadhaar Card
Technical Diploma / Certificate (for PWMU Operator) Experience Certificate(s) (if any)

Important Instructions to the Applicant:
1. Engagement is strictly temporary on a contract/hire basis for 60 days for Operation & Maintenance under SBM-G assets and Door-to-Door collection.
2. Age must be between 21 and 45 years as on the notification date (26/09/2026).
3. Preference will be accorded to local residents of the concerned Panchayat, Operational Zone, and Block respectively.
4. Incomplete forms, applications without mandatory self-attested documents, or forms received after 05 October 2026 (4:00 PM) will be rejected summarily.
5. No application fee is payable by any candidate.

F. APPLICANT DECLARATION
DECLARATION: I hereby solemnly affirm, certify, and declare that the particulars and information furnished by me in this application form and the accompanying documents are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
I have carefully read and understood all the terms, conditions, eligibility criteria, and guidelines set forth in the advertisement notice dated 26.09.2026. In the event of any information being found false, incorrect, fabricated, or ineligible at any stage before or after selection, my candidature/engagement shall stand summarily cancelled/terminated forthwith without any prior notice, and I shall be liable to legal action as per rules.
I clearly understand and agree that this engagement is purely on a temporary/contractual basis for a fixed duration of sixty (60) days only for O&M of SBM assets and Door-to-Door waste collection, and does not confer any legal right, title, lien, or equity whatsoever to claim regular appointment, absorption, or regularization against any post in the Government Department.

Date:
Signature / Left Thumb Impression

Place:
(Name of Applicant:)

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, BLOCK
(ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / RECEIPT SLIP — TO BE HANDED OVER TO APPLICANT)

Received Application Form No.:
From Mr./Ms.:
Parentage / Spouse:
Date of Receipt/...../2026

Post Applied For:
Signature & Office Seal
Receiving Official (BDO Office)

Halqa Panchayat: Operational Zone:
ANNEXURE – II
SELF-DECLARATION AND UNDERTAKING
I, _____, S/o / D/o / W/o _____, resident of _____, Tehsil _____, District _____, applicant for the post of _____ (Operational Zone _____, District Kulgam, do hereby solemnly declare and undertake that:
1. I am a permanent resident / domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and all information and documents furnished by me with my application are true and genuine.
2. I fulfil the educational qualification and age limit prescribed for the post as on the date of the Advertisement Notice.
3. I understand that the engagement, if offered, is purely contractual/contingent for a period of six (6) months or up to 31st March 2027, whichever is earlier, and confers no right, claim or expectation of regularization, permanency or continued Government service of any kind, and I shall not make any such claim in any forum.
4. I understand that I shall be entitled only to the Fixed Contingent Pay, linked to attendance and satisfactory performance, and to no increment, allowance, pension, gratuity or other service benefit.
5. I shall abide by the Framework for Engagement of Human Resource for SWM Operations, District Kulgam, the Parent Framework, and all instructions issued by the Block Development Officer and the District Sanitation Committee from time to time.
6. I have not been dismissed or removed from the service of any Government, Government undertaking or local body, and have not been convicted by a court of law for any offence involving moral turpitude.
7. I understand that my engagement may be terminated at any time on the grounds specified in the Notice, and that extension, if any, is purely discretionary.
8. (For Fee Collector) I shall issue a receipt for every collection and deposit all collections only into the designated bank account of the Operational Zone, and never into any personal account.

Place: DPK-6197/26
Name: DATED: 28-09-2026
Signature / Thumb impression of Applicant Date:

Gulmarg hailstorm damage assessment underway: CM Omar

Says compensation will be sanctioned as per norms

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that a detailed assessment of crop damage caused by a severe hailstorm in parts of Gulmarg constituency is underway and compensation will be sanctioned and re-leased as per the prescribed relief norms after completion of the verification process.

Replying to a Calling Attention Notice by MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the hailstorm occurred during the intervening night of September 11 and 12 at around 11:45 pm and affected several villages in Tehsil Kunzer/Tangmarg.

He said the hailstorm damaged agricultural and horticultural crops, including apple orchards, maize and paddy/rice. The Chief Minister said Revenue teams, along with Agriculture and Horticulture officials, had been deputed to the affected villages to conduct on-the-spot assessment and verification of the crop damage in accordance with the prescribed norms and guidelines.

He said the concerned teams had been directed to submit detailed assessment reports at the earliest. "The village-wise and crop-wise extent of damage will be intimated after the field reports are received and consolidated," the government said in its response.

On compensation and relief, the Chief Minister said no compensation or relief had been sanctioned or released so far as



the assessment and verification process was still underway.

He said sanction and release of compensation, along with details regarding the amount and number of beneficiaries, would follow strictly as per the prescribed relief norms after the consolidated assessment report was received and processed.

The Chief Minister further informed the House that no case had been finalised so far and that the number of cases assessed, approved, paid and pending would be reported once detailed assessment reports from field functionaries were received and consolidated.

Regarding any special relief or assistance for affected farmers and horticulturists, Omar said there was presently no such proposal with the department as the assessment of losses was still under process in the district.

'ST-II APPLICATIONS IN URI UNDER PROCESS'

In another Calling Attention Notice, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the House that applications for issuance of ST-II certificates under the Pahari Ethnic Group category in Uri constituency were being

processed strictly in accordance with applicable statutory rules, government guidelines and codified criteria.

Replying to a notice by Uri MLA Dr Sajjad Shafi regarding alleged administrative delays, non-processing and wrongful rejection of ST-II certificate applications, the Chief Minister said reports received from the concerned Tehsildars indicated that all applications received under the Pahari Ethnic Group category in Uri were being processed according to the prescribed procedure and eligibility criteria.

The Chief Minister said no eligible application within the constituency was being subjected to any arbitrary, wrongful or unwarranted rejection.

He said each application was being examined objectively and on its individual merits, based on field verification reports, relevant revenue records and extracts, and supporting documents furnished by the applicants. The competent authorities, he said, were ensuring that the prescribed procedure and eligibility criteria were duly adhered to while processing each case—(KNO)

CS reviews census operations progress in snow-bound areas

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 28: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired a high-level meeting of the UT Level Census Co-ordination Committee (UTLCCC) to review the progress of ongoing Census 2027 operations in snow-bound areas and assess preparedness for the upcoming Population Enumeration exercise in the remaining parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; Secretary, Revenue; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; Director, School Education; Joint Director, Census Operations, J&K; and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive district-wise appraisal of the ongoing enumeration exercise from the respective Deputy Commissioners, besides reviewing the administrative arrangements, logistical preparedness and interdepartmental coordination required for the smooth conduct of the subsequent phase.

Reviewing the progress in snow-bound areas, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to expedite the completion of the remaining Enumeration Blocks (EBs), ensuring that the exercise is concluded well before the sunset date set for the exercise.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy, comprehensive coverage and strict adherence to prescribed timelines, while calling for close coordination between the district administrations and census authorities to address any operational bottlenecks.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed preparedness for the upcoming enumeration exercise in non-snow-bound areas of the UT. He directed the concerned



Divisional and District Administrations to put in place all necessary administrative and logistical arrangements well in advance, drawing up-on the experience gained during the ongoing operations in snow-bound regions.

A detailed presentation on the progress achieved and upcoming activities was made by Joint Director, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh.

The meeting was informed that enumeration operations are presently underway across 95 designated charges spread over 16 snow-bound districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Of the 4,597 Enumeration Blocks identified in these areas, 3,814 have already been completed, registering an overall achievement of 82.97 percent.

Four districts, namely Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Pulwama, have achieved 100 percent completion, while Kishtwar has recorded 98.84 percent progress, followed by Reasi at 94.49 percent and Udhampur at 91.69 percent.

Regarding financial arrangements, the Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R. Alice Vaz apprised the meeting that the Department has released 49.20 crore to the respective districts to meet expenditure on IT infrastructure, fuel, contingencies, honorariums and training allowances for field functionaries.

The Committee was further apprised that intensive training of nodal officers, charge officers, supervisors and enumerators deployed for Special Charges in snow-bound areas had been completed in two phases across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions earlier this month.

Reviewing preparations for the compilation of the District Census Handbook (DCHB), the Chief Secretary was informed that training of all concerned field functionaries had been completed between September 14 and 27, 2026.

The fieldwork for compilation of Village and Town Directories is scheduled to commence on October 1 through a dedicated digital portal, on which all field functionaries and charge officers have already been registered.

The exercise will involve collection of comprehensive information against 400 questions for the Village Directory and 420 questions for the Town Directory. The respective PCOs will exercise close supervision to ensure accuracy, completeness and reliability of the data collected.

The Chief Secretary stressed that the District Census Handbooks constitute an important repository of grass-roots-level information and called for meticulous data collection and effective supervision at every stage of their preparation. The

meeting also reviewed the extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign undertaken to generate public awareness and encourage active participation in Census 2027.

It was revealed that a multi-pronged publicity campaign is underway across the UT, encompassing print, electronic, digital and outdoor media. While awareness jingles are being broadcast through Akashwani and Red FM from Srinagar and Jammu in Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri and Dogri.

Besides, mobile LED publicity vans are disseminating awareness messages and video advertisements across districts, while hoardings have been installed at prominent public places, including bus stands.

Moreover it was highlighted that the educational institutions have likewise been involved in the awareness campaign, with outreach activities including a seminar at the Bhaderwah Campus of the University of Jammu and a district-level quiz competition in Kishtwar.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need for sustained public outreach, effective field-level monitoring and pro-active resolution of operational difficulties to ensure that the entire exercise is conducted smoothly, accurately and within the stipulated timelines.

BJP's stand on Statehood exposed: Dy CM



Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 28: Alleging that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) betrayed the people of Jammu by opposing the resolution on restoration of statehood to J&K, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday said the party's stand on the issue stood exposed during the Assembly proceedings.

Talking to reporters here Choudhary said the government had brought the resolution to remind the Centre of its commitment to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"BJP's reality got exposed today. Ask those who were chanting 'Statehood ke dushman mardabad, mardabad' who is against statehood. We brought the resolution and reminded the Centre of its promises," he said.

He said the promises made regarding restoration of statehood had not been fulfilled even after two years and claimed that the delay was affecting governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

"If BJP had doubts, they should have asked through the mikes. They have allotted seats and there is democracy. Their doubts could have been cleared through discussion, as the discussion was already mentioned in the business by the Speaker," Choudhary said.

Questioning the BJP over the 2019 reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, he asked whether anyone had been consulted when the erstwhile state was downgraded. "When the state

was downgraded in Parliament, was someone asked? Was the Constitution followed? BJP should answer this," he said.

Dy CM also said the BJP would have to answer to the people in 2029 over its position on statehood.

"What BJP did today, they will face it in 2029. The people of Jammu are also now regretting why they elected them, as they are betraying them," he said.

On governance, the Deputy Chief Minister said several institutions, including universities and the cultural academy, were outside the direct control of the Chief Minister, which he cited as an example of the limitations under the present arrangement.

"The Chief Minister himself is the Law Minister, yet the Chief Secretary and Law Secretary are writing letters to the Speaker asking him not to allow the discussion. What else can we put as an example of why we demand state-hood?" he said.

Responding to Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma's repeated reference to Omar Abdullah as "Shehzada", Choudhary said the Chief Minister was seeking restoration of statehood for the entire region. "I want to tell the Kishtwar Shehzada that the Chief Minister is demanding statehood for you as well, besides the people of Jammu and Kashmir, so that we can take our decisions ourselves and people get empowered to secure their rights through the Assembly," he said.

Choudhary said the day's proceedings had made it clear to the public where different political parties stood on the statehood issue.

"After the Chief Minister's address in the House today, the media also got to know what is inside and outside and who is the enemy of statehood, whether it is the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government or the BJP which does not want Jammu and Kashmir to get state-hood," he said—(KNO)

From Legislative Assembly

1238 posts referred for recruitment in Health Dept: Govt

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 28: The government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that it has referred 1238 posts in the Health and Medical Education Department to recruitment agencies in the recent past.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Wagoora-Kreeri Irfan Hafiz Lone, the government informed the house that 480 Medical Officer (Allopathic) posts were referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). Of these, 416 candidates were recommended and 335 have been appointed. The doctors are being deployed in peripheral, underserved and far-flung areas as per administrative requirements.

It further said 466 non-gazetted posts were referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), while another 292 non-gazetted posts under the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, including MCH and Immunisation wings, have also been referred for recruitment.

According to the government, the recruitment drive is aimed at addressing staff shortages and improving healthcare delivery, particularly in underserved areas. It added that the National Health Mission (NHM) continues to supplement manpower through

various approved programmes.

On healthcare infrastructure in Wagoora-Kreeri, the government said the constituency's population of 90,781 is served by 19 health institutions, including one CHC, two PHCs, three NTPHCs and 13 Sub-Centres. Eleven facilities operate from government-owned buildings, while eight Sub-Centres function from rented accommodation.

CONSTRUCTION OF SDH KREERI, ESTIMATED AT RS 5 CRORE

The government said construction of SDH Kreeri, estimated at Rs 5 crore, is underway and has been prioritised under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme.

It said strengthening of the Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) Kalantra, along with construction of a boundary wall, has been completed at a cost of Rs 1.99 crore. The Sub-Centre Wagoora building has also been completed at a cost of Rs 1.95 crore, while construction of the Sub-Centre at Authora Kreeri is being executed under the District Sector at an estimated cost of Rs 50 lakh.

Repair and improvement works at NTPHC Baba Reshi have been completed at a cost of Rs 10 lakh. Land has been

identified for NTPHC Resraipora, while construction of a Health and Wellness Centre at Chineed is under way at an estimated cost of Rs 50 lakh.

NO UPGRADE OF HEALTH FACILITY AT WA-GOORA TO PHC

Rejecting the demand for upgradation of the health facility at Wagoora to a PHC, the government said it does not qualify under IPHS-2022 norms. It noted that Wagoora is situated within accessible distance of SDH Kreeri, PHC Kalantra, NTPHC K. Mugam, PHC Shrakwara and District Hospital Baramulla.

The government also informed the House that several infrastructure projects are under execution at SDH Sopore, including mechanical works, balance civil works, upgradation of the Drug Treatment Centre and construction of doctors' residential quarters.

For the balance civil and mechanical works, Rs 3.90 crore has been approved, of which Rs 90.88 lakh had been spent by March 31, 2026. An additional Rs 2 crore has been approved under the 2026-27 budget. Mechanical works under UT Capex have an approved cost of Rs 4.04 crore, with expenditure of Rs 2.64 crore incurred till March-end 2026.

The government said Rs 60.53 lakh

has been earmarked for upgradation of infrastructure at the Drug Treatment Centre, while Rs 2.30 crore has been approved for construction of doctors' quarters at SDH Sopore.

RS 32 CRORE EARMARKED FOR GMC BARAMULLA

Regarding GMC Baramulla, the government said Rs 32 crore has been earmarked under the 2026-27 Capex Budget for procurement of machinery and equipment, including a Cath Lab and a 1.5 Tesla MRI machine. Both procurements are being processed through the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL).

An additional Rs 80.58 lakh has been earmarked for urgent procurement of essential equipment to strengthen patient care and diagnostic services.

The government said a proposal seeking additional land for expansion of GMC Baramulla is under consideration with the Industries and Commerce Department and the district administration.

It also said a DPR worth Rs 15.98 crore for strengthening and upgrading the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at GMC Baramulla has been forwarded to the Engineer-in-Chief, R&B Department, for technical vetting of cost estimates—(KNO)

'School dropout rate decreases at primary, up-per primary levels'

KNO

Srinagar, Sep 28: The government Monday said that the drop out ratio at primary and upper primary level has decreased during 2025-26.

The government in a reply to the question tabled by Mehraj Malik in Legislative Assembly said, "Drop out ratio at the Primary level (Class I-V) has declined to 1.1 per-cent during 2025-26 as compared to 1.6 percent during 2024-25."

The government also informed the house that the drop out ratio at the Upper Primary level

(Class VI-VIII) has also declined to 2.8 percent during 2025-26 as compared to 3.20 percent during 2024-25.

"Performance of students in JKBOSE examinations has shown significant improvement over the previous academic year by almost 10 percent," the government said.

Stating the reformative measures taken by School Education Department since 2019, the government informed the house that it introduced the Cluster, School Complex System for optimal utilization of manpower and other resources.

"746 Cluster and School Complexes have been constituted and made functional for sharing the resources within the cluster. The department undertakes Annual Transfer Drives (ATD) and staff rationalization regularly to ensure optimum utilization of available teaching resources," the government said.

It also informed the house that under NISHTHA, 78,975 Elementary Teachers, 21,926 Secondary Teachers and 40,318 Pre-Primary/Primary Teachers have been trained, as per available departmental figures—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Triple Helix – Key To J&K’s Economic Future

Jammu and Kashmir's economic future will not be built by any single actor. Not by the government alone, not by industry alone, and certainly not by academia working in isolation. The region's prosperity depends on a genuine convergence of all three, what economists call the "triple helix" of innovation and growth. The recent National Convergence Platform in Srinagar demonstrated the potential of such collaboration. Bringing together

young entrepreneurs, startup founders, industry representatives and government stakeholders under one roof is not merely an exercise in networking. It is a recognition that the challenges facing J&K's economy—unemployment, low industrial diversification, limited market access—cannot be solved in silos. Government has a crucial role, but it must be that of a facilitator, not a controller. Its task is to create an enabling environment: simplified

regulations, accessible credit, reliable infrastructure, and a predictable policy framework. When the government assures entrepreneurs of support "within its mandate," it acknowledges its own limitations while committing to what it can do. That honesty is welcome. Industry bodies, meanwhile, must do more than lobby for concessions. They must mentor young entrepreneurs, share market intelligence, and open doors to supply chains

and buyers. Chambers of commerce have the networks and experience that startups lack. Their willingness to engage with emerging enterprises will determine whether J&K's entrepreneurial energy translates into sustainable businesses. Academia's role is equally critical. Universities and technical institutions must move beyond producing graduates and start producing innovators. Research must connect to industry needs. Incubation centres must

nurture ideas into enterprises. The gap between the laboratory and the market must be bridged. What J&K needs is not more schemes but stronger linkages. The triple helix model—where government, industry and academia interact continuously—has transformed economies elsewhere. There is no reason it cannot work here. The foundation is being laid. The question is whether the three pillars will build together or remain isolated. The choice is ours.

Is The UN Still Relevant?

Apologists believe that the UN’s failures reflect the realities of states and societies that are in permanent discord. A new set of financial arrangements is needed if the organization is to function, however minimally, in these turbulent times.

Mohamed Chebaro

Amid unprecedented global challenges, from wars, epidemics, climate change and artificial intelligence's existential threats to humanity to superpower discord splintering the world order, many ask whether the UN is still a necessary space for global deal-making. The short answer is: not really.

But the reality raises another question: If not the UN, then what else could solve the problems of increasingly intransigent super- and medium-sized powers amid a rise in ethnonationalism and so-called patriotism, including calls for the erosion of multilateralism, the rule of law and the rules-based international order?

The world is in an era in which political leaders believe less and less in the ethos of the UN, which was founded to help protect the planet and its people from the scourge of war. If those leaders have pivoted away from the founding ideals and virtues of the UN, then the international organization's moral authority ceases to be a tool.

The relevance of the UN is increasingly being brought into question because the current global moment is one of international competition and discord. This is a moment in which deal-making and forceful unilateral power supplant cooperation. It is feared that the UN and its many institutions, which have long needed to reform and adapt to match the realities of our world, are now becoming nothing more than a talking shop.

The organization's only chance of getting a new lease of life rests in the hands of global powers, whether or not they realize



that the world needs the UN as a midway point to link between states and prevent total disconnection, leading to a descent into the law of the jungle and chaos.

Since 1945, the UN's record has been mixed. Its detractors, mainly from the Global South, believe it to be a tool that dispenses medicine to the various maladies of the world according to Western priorities. Apologists believe that the UN's failures reflect the realities of states and societies that are in permanent discord. Its standing has been constantly tested by challenges to peace and order and its funding limits.

Inside the UN's most powerful tool, the Security Council, the five veto-wielding

permanent members managed to prevent all-out war during the Cold War era. But in recent years, the council has repeatedly blocked interventions in crises from the Palestine-Israel conflict and Russia's invasion of Ukraine to Syria, Myanmar and Sudan. The repeated failure of the UNSC to broker a ceasefire in Gaza stirred deep resentment both inside the organization and outside it.

Over the years, the UN Charter's prohibitions against aggression have frequently been directly or indirectly flouted by the superpowers' geopolitical calculations. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the US' decision to attack Iran in February suggest that

the UNSC's biggest members no longer feel bound by its guiding principles.

With peace-making proving elusive, the current funding crisis also highlights a permanent handicap of the organization. Since its inception, US funding has been a cornerstone of the UN's operations. The Trump administration's decision to cut the bulk of America's funding has dealt an unprecedented blow to the UN, with its officials left wondering how to pay their various bills. A new set of financial arrangements is needed if the organization is to function, however minimally, in these turbulent times.

Traditionally, the US covered approximately a fifth of the organization's core costs and a quarter of the budget for its blue helmet peace-keeping operations. It also often covered a third of the budgets dedicated to relief agencies such as the World Food Programme. The US is not alone in scaling back. European governments have also been reducing their spending on international development and humanitarian aid, while emerging nations have not stepped up to close the financial gap.

Despite the pressing need for aid and the release of some funds for the UN's life-saving efforts this year, big relief agencies have been forced to cut back assistance to civilians in places like South Sudan and Afghanistan.

Looking ahead, the UN's tiptoeing around sensitivities looks set to stay, while the world teeters on the brink.

It is hoped that the new secretary-general, who will be elected soon, can harness the virtues of the UN and its moral authority to guide the world's search for peace. But it is feared that the rising tensions among

major powers, perennial disputes over how to come to an agreement and who should shoulder the financial weight of development projects and support for poorer states, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation, are likely to remain as a thorn in the UN's side.

The prospect of AI regulation, which will cause disagreements between corporations and governments, is another testing topic for the UN and the world. The colossal job of rebuilding trust between governments is nothing next to the adversities of rebuilding faith in the UN's complex negotiations-based approach, which balances nations' interests.

In such a climate, rather than turning to the UN, many governments are vying for cooperation through smaller clubs, both old and new, such as the G7 for Western nations and BRICS, the bloc for the so-called emerging market nations.

If this trend persists, and in the absence of a new covenant between the superpowers, the standing of the UN will remain denied, its future uncertain. Terminating the 81-year-old organization is no longer an odd thought, as many nations look determined to put their own interests first. As a result, the mantras of human rights, the rules-based international order and multilateralism continue to fade with every speech, tweet or toxic-fueled narrative that poisons all attempts at prioritizing compromise and cooperation.

Mohamed Chebaro is a British-Lebanese journalist with more than 25 years' experience covering war, terrorism, defense, current affairs and diplomacy. He is also a media consultant and trainer. Courtesy: Arab News

PM-AJAY: Building Pathways To Progress

Press Information Bureau

Scheduled Castes (SCs), constituting 16.6% of India's population, have historically faced barriers to socio-economic advancement and inclusion. Addressing these disparities is vital to ensuring social justice, equal opportunity, and broader participation in India's development journey. Recognising these development gaps, the Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) to foster the overall development of Scheduled Castes.

A Vision for Inclusive Empowerment

The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY) is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme launched in FY 2021-22. It envisions achieving socio-economic and educational empowerment of Scheduled Caste communities through a comprehensive and integrated approach. The Government has launched 'PM-AJAY' Mobile App and 'PM-AJAY' Portal for expedited and quality implementation of the PM-AJAY Scheme.

PM-AJAY is a merger scheme of three erstwhile centrally sponsored schemes, namely, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY). Implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,

PM-AJAY turns its broader goal of ensuring development for everyone into practical action through the following three main objectives:

To reduce poverty of the SC communities by generation of additional employment opportunities. It can be done through skill development, income generating schemes and other initiatives. These interventions seek to enhance livelihood opportunities and enable beneficiaries to engage in sustainable income-generating activities.

To improve socio-economic developmental indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in SC dominated areas. The scheme seeks to bridge critical developmental gaps and improve access to essential facilities that contribute to a better quality of life.

To increase literacy and encourage enrolment of SCs in schools and higher educational institutions. It is achieved by providing adequate residential facilities in quality institutions and residential schools, especially in aspirational districts/SC-dominated blocks and elsewhere in India.

Who Can Benefit from PM-AJAY?

At the heart of PM-AJAY lies a carefully defined framework of eligibility, ensuring that the benefits of the scheme reach the individuals and communities for whom they are intended. Accordingly, access to the scheme is determined on the basis of the following criteria:

While selecting beneficiaries under the GIA component, priority is given to the families/persons having annual income not more than Rs.

2.50 lakh per annum. SC members of SC majority group are also eligible.

In case of Infrastructure Development, villages having 40% or more SC population and total population more than or equal to 500 are eligible for grants under the Scheme.

PM-AJAY in Action

The architecture of PM-AJAY rests on three distinct components to address various aspects of development:

Development of SC dominated villages into "Adarsh Gram"

Transforming SC-majority villages into 'Adarsh Grams' (model villages) by filling critical gaps in infrastructure and services. The Adarsh Gram component has covered 47,243 villages, benefiting more than 47.79 lakh citizens across the country. A total of 46,944 development works have been completed, while 27,032 Village Development Plans (VDPs) have been prepared. As on 8th September 2026, 18,093 villages have been declared as Adarsh Grams, reflecting significant progress in improving infrastructure, basic services and quality of life in Scheduled Caste-majority villages.

An 'Adarsh Gram' is one wherein people have access to various basic services. The minimum needs of all the sections of the society are fully met and disparities are reduced to a minimum. These villages are envisioned to have all essential infrastructure and universal access to basic services required for dignified living. This creates an enabling environment for every resident to realise their full potential.

Grants-in-aid for Socio-Economic Projects to State/Districts

Providing financial assistance for district/state-level projects aimed at the socio-economic betterment of SCs. This includes increasing the income of the target population by way of comprehensive livelihood projects, including skill development and related infrastructure; improving socio-economic developmental indicators by creating adequate infrastructure in SC dominated villages; and increasing literacy and encouraging enrolment of SCs in schools by providing residential schools where required.

More than 1,730 crore has been released directly to States under the Grants-in-Aid component from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26. It extends skilling and livelihood support to over 2.5 lakh individual and group beneficiaries.

Construction/Repair of Hostels

The construction and repair of hostels is one of the means to enable and encourage students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) to attain quality education. Such hostels are immensely beneficial to the students hailing from rural and remote areas of the country. As of September 2026, a total of 785 student hostels have been completed. The Government has allocated central assistance of 61.46 crore for FY 2026-27 for construction of two hostel projects (one for girls and one for boys) to provide accommodation for 264 students.

Investing in Empowerment

Effective implementation of any welfare initiative requires sustained financial support. An overview of the funding framework under PM-AJAY is presented below.

Funding at a Glance
Funding Pattern: PM-AJAY is a 100% Centrally Funded Scheme. State/UT Contribution: States/UTs may supplement the scheme with additional resources, if required.

Component-wise Allocation: Up to 50% is allocated for gap-filling activities in selected Adarsh Gram villages. Up to 5% is allocated for setting up and operation of the Technical Support Group (TSG) and Project Implementation Units (PIU) at the Central level as well as PIU at the State and District level. Up to 2% is allocated for construction and repair of hostels, to be utilized for Central Institutions and released directly to the implementing agencies by the Ministry. The remaining funds are allocated as Grants-in-aid for the Projects at District/State, allocated based on Scheduled Caste population and ratio of State SCSP to the Annual Plan as compared to the SC population in the States/UTs.

Maintenance: Post completion of the infrastructure projects under the scheme, their upkeep and operations shall be taken care of by the State Governments/implementing agencies, as the case may be.

A Digital Leap Towards Effective Governance

The recent launch of the 'PM-AJAY' Mobile App and 'PM-AJAY'

Portal aims to transition from paper-based workflow and processing to an end-to-end digital workflow and processing on a real-time basis.

Good governance is built on the principles of transparency, accountability and efficiency. Digital technologies have transformed the planning, delivery and monitoring of public programmes. Technology-enabled governance improves information access, strengthens monitoring and supports data-driven decision-making. It also enhances coordination, transparency and the overall effectiveness of programme implementation.

The Next Chapter in India's Growth Story

The journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047 is founded on the principle that the benefits of development must reach every section of society and create opportunities for all to progress. In this endeavour, PM-AJAY plays a significant role in advancing the socio-economic and educational empowerment of Scheduled Caste communities through targeted interventions that promote sustainable livelihoods, quality education and improved infrastructure. As the scheme continues to expand, greater use of technology, stronger monitoring mechanisms, and focused last-mile delivery are enhancing its effectiveness and outreach. By empowering individuals and communities to realise their full potential and actively participate in India's development journey, PM-AJAY will continue to foster a more inclusive, equitable, and empowered nation.

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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Govt actively pursuing necessary clearances for Rs 47.42 cr Barnai–Jawdora road project: Deputy CM

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Government Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that it is actively pursuing all necessary clearances and taking sustained measures to facilitate the early commencement of work on the 18.824-km Barnai–Jawdora Link Road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary in reply to a Calling Attention Notice moved by MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi) regarding the commencement of construction work on the Jawdora–Barni road.

Dy CM, as per an official statement, replied that the Government is actively co-ordinating with the concerned departments to resolve the pending issues and complete the requisite forest and environmental formalities for the commencement of the project.

He stated that the proposal will be submitted on the PARIVESH portal immediately upon receipt of the required details on tree enumeration and



forest land involved, and the work will commence after the requisite forest clearance.

Elaborating, Surinder Kumar said that the project was sanctioned by the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, in 2025 at

a total cost of 4742.38 lakh to provide all-weather connectivity to Jawdora habitation.

It was informed that the work was tendered and allotted within the prescribed timelines and the executing agency has already mobilized the requisite men and machinery, while a temporary diversion across the

Kishanganga River has also been constructed to facilitate movement of construction resources.

The Government further informed that, in view of the entire road alignment passing through forest land, obtaining the requisite forest clearance is mandatory before construction can proceed. Recognising this requirement, PIU Bandipora had initiated the clearance process well in advance.

To expedite the process, Dy CM informed that, joint inspections of the proposed alignment have been conducted by the PIU and Forest Department. PIU Bandipora has also been coordinating with the Geology & Mining Department for geological analysis and the Revenue Department for identification of suitable disposal sites for earthwork and muck material, as required for submittal of the proposal on the PARIVESH portal.

The Government reiterated its commitment to expediting road infrastructure and ensuring all-weather connectivity to remote and border habitations in accordance with statutory and environmental requirements.

Govt committed to strengthen health infrastructure: Sakeena Itoo

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is taking a phased and need-based approach to strengthen health infrastructure and improve healthcare delivery in Bani Constituency.

The Minister, as per an official statement, was Replying to a question raised by MLA Dr.Rameshwar Singh.

The Minister informed the House that 50 health institutions are presently functional in Bani Constituency, of which 19 are operating from private/rented accommodation, while the remaining institutions are functioning from their own buildings.

She further stated that construction work on the Sub-Centre at Bhakoga is currently under execution under NABARD funding. Sakeena Itoo said that the Government is committed to providing own buildings to the remaining health institutions in a phased manner, subject to the availability of suitable land and resources. She emphasized that infrastructure



development is being prioritized on the basis of need and availability of resources.

Minister informed that the Health and Medical Education Department has received the selection list of 416 Medical Officers from the J&K Public Service Commission, out of which appointment orders for 335 Medical Officers have already been issued. These Medical Officers will be considered for posting in areas and institutions according to requirements to further strengthen healthcare services.

Regarding vacancies among non-gazetted staff, the Minister

said that the vacancies have already been referred to the concerned recruiting agencies for selection of suitable candidates on a priority basis. She added that, upon receipt of the selection/recruitment lists, paramedical staff would be posted in the concerned institutions and areas as per requirements.

Responding to the question regarding the deployment or relocation of healthcare workers during the last two years, Sakeena Itoo informed the House that four healthcare workers from Bani Constituency have been attached, deployed or relocated during the period.

31 healthcare institutions presently functioning in Bandipora constituency: Sakeena Itoo

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is taking sustained measures to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, manpower and service delivery in Bandipora Constituency, with particular focus on peripheral, underserved, remote and difficult areas.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat, the Minister, as per an official statement, informed the House that 31 healthcare institutions are presently functioning in Bandipora Constituency, including the District Hospital, ANMT School, PHCs, NTPHCs and Health & Wellness Centres.

Sakeena Itoo said that the Government is continuously assessing the requirements of health institutions and taking necessary measures in

accordance with sanctioned strength, service requirements and availability of resources. She said special attention is being accorded to strengthening healthcare facilities in peripheral and difficult areas.

On manpower augmentation, the Minister informed that the J&K Public Service Commission had recommended 416 Medical Officers, out of which 335 have so far been appointed. She said these Medical Officers would be posted appropriately, keeping in view the healthcare requirements of peripheral, underserved, remote and difficult areas, with a view to further strengthening healthcare delivery.

Sakeena Itoo further informed that 466 Non-Gazetted posts borne on the establishment of the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, have also been referred to the recruiting agency for selection of suitable and eligible

candidates.

On infrastructure, the Minister said that the Government is undertaking augmentation and upgradation of health facilities in a phased manner. Three infrastructure projects are presently under execution in Bandipora Constituency, which, upon completion, will further augment healthcare facilities for the local population.

Responding to the issue of incomplete, abandoned or unused health infrastructure, Sakeena Itoo clarified that, as per available records, no health institution in the constituency has been abandoned. She informed that some projects are presently under execution.

The Minister stated that NTPHC Quil Muqam, Bandipora, is fully functional, while NTPHC Wular Lake, Bandipora, is likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year. She also informed that the District Hospital Bandipora is fully functional.

PMAY-G beneficiary inclusion process being undertaken as per GoI guidelines: Javid Dar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is taking all necessary measures to ensure that eligible and deserving rural households are duly considered under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in accordance with the prescribed guidelines of the Government of India.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Mian Mehar Ali, the Minister stated that PMAY-G aims to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to eligible rural households, particularly those living in kuccha and dilapidated houses.

The Minister, as per an official statement, clarified that no eligible household or individual has been deliberately or officially rejected or deleted from the PMAY-G Awaas+ 2024 survey at this stage. He said that certain Blocks have reported instances



where deserving households are not appearing in the Draft Permanent Wait List (PWL), apparently due to automated scrutiny, validation and eligibility checks carried out through the prescribed system.

He emphasized that since the final PWL has not yet been generated, non-inclusion of a household in the Draft PWL cannot, at this stage, be construed as final rejection or deletion from the PMAY-G beneficiary selection process.

Javid Dar further informed the House that complaints regarding exclusion of eligible

households on account of technical or system-generated flags/errors in the Awaas mobile application have been received at various levels. He said that cases flagged or reverted by the automated system are being subjected to verification and re-verification by the concerned field functionaries as per the prescribed procedure. Therefore, no such case can be treated as finally rejected or deleted without due verification and approval by the competent authority, wherever required.

The Minister, however, informed the House that 4,250 system-flagged cases have been recommended for deletion after verification at the Block as well as District levels during the deletion module, in accordance with the guidelines conveyed by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.

Regarding the mechanism for inclusion of left-out or deleted beneficiaries, Javid Dar said that no prescribed provision or procedure is presently available for direct incorporation or re-inclusion of such beneficiaries in the PMAY-G beneficiary list.

He added that, with a view to identifying genuine and deserving households that may have been left out during the survey or re-verification process, Gram Sabhas have been conducted in the concerned Panchayats for identification and verification of such cases. Based on these proceedings, the Draft Permanent Wait List is being prepared, he added.

The Minister assured that all cases identified or recommended by the Gram Sabhas shall be examined and processed further in accordance with the applicable guidelines and instructions of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, and the procedure prescribed by the competent authority, as and when such provision is made available.

He reiterated that the Government remains committed to ensuring transparency, due verification and adherence to prescribed guidelines in the selection of beneficiaries under PMAY-G, so that genuine and deserving rural households are duly considered under the scheme.

DC Udhampur reviews drug control measures at NCORD meeting

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, Monday chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee to review drug control measures and assess the progress of ongoing efforts to combat the drug menace in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Additional SP Sandeep Bhat; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan and senior officers from various line departments.

The DC conducted a detailed review of measures pertaining to the identification and rehabilitation of individuals struggling with drug addiction, installation of CCTV cameras for hotspot surveillance, prevention of illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, inspections of pharmacies and de-addiction centres, destruction of wild cannabis and preventive enforcement, surveillance of educational institutions, implementation of IEC campaigns, mass awareness programmes, computerised billing systems in pharmacies, Nasha Mukti Panchayats and cases registered under the NDPS Act.

The DC directed the concerned agencies to intensify efforts to identify and apprehend individuals involved in drug trafficking, monitor drug abuse-prone areas and promote community-based rehabilitation and awareness initiatives.

He instructed the concerned departments to intensify counselling services and strengthen IEC activities to sensitise the public, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage timely rehabilitation and support.

The DC called for decisive action against drug trafficking, effective seizure of illicit substances and sustained efforts to protect the youth from the menace of drugs. SDMs were directed to conduct joint drives in their respective jurisdictions to identify and curb illicit cultivation of narcotic crops and ensure prompt action against those found involved in such activities.

Capacity Building Workshop on VB-G RAM-G held in Kishtwar

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 28: The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Kishtwar Monday organised a one-day District-Level Capacity Building and Awareness Workshop on the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM-G] in the Conference Hall of the New DDC Building.

The workshop was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner (DPC VB-G RAM-G) Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

The programme, as per an official statement, focused primarily on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) framework, convergence, operational guidelines, implementation procedures and digital workflows under VB-G RAM-G.

At the outset, Assistant Commissioner Development (ADPC, VB-G RAM-G) Manoj Kumar welcomed the Deputy Commissioner and government functionaries, including the participating officials and highlighted the objectives and significance of the workshop.

He briefed the participants that the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) process is scheduled to commence from Oct 2, 2026 with a five-year perspective plan based on saturation, evidence-based assessment and scientific planning. “The planning process shall be undertaken through the Yuktadhara portal,” he added.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the broader vision of VB-G RAM-G towards strengthening rural development and transforming rural

areas in line with the national development goals. He informed that the scheme provides for 04 Master Work Categories, 30 Sub-Categories and 375 permissible works, providing a comprehensive framework for need-based and outcome-oriented rural development planning.

The DC further emphasised that the planning exercise under VGPP will be undertaken through Yuktadhara, with greater focus on scientific and evidence-based planning. The designated Resource Persons subsequently conducted detailed technical and thematic sessions on various aspects of VB-G RAM-G.

The sessions covered the VB-G RAM-G Act, vision and key provisions; VGPP framework and SOP; end-to-end operational guidelines; convergence and permissible works; technical planning and execution; Yuktadhara, SECURE and e-MB 2.0; MIS, NMMS, e-KYC, FTO and wage-payment workflow; transparency, social audit, records and grievance redressal, besides other field-level implementation issues.

The Resource Persons also responded to queries raised by the participating field functionaries and provided practical guidance for effective implementation of the Scheme at Panchayat and Block levels.

The workshop served as an important platform for sensitising the field functionaries and developing a common understanding of the planning, implementation, convergence and digital workflow mechanisms under the new VB-G RAM-G framework, particularly in preparation for the commencement of the VGPP exercise across the district.

DC Srinagar chairs District Road Safety Committee meeting

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Monday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the road safety scenario in the District.

The DC, as per an official statement, assessed measures being taken by various Departments for prevention of road accidents and ensuring safer mobility for commuters and pedestrians, besides improving assistance to accident victims.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner held detailed discussions on road safety concerns requiring immediate attention, measures to improve roads and allied safety infrastructure, corrective measures for identified accident-prone black spots and pedestrian safety, besides timely emergency medical response, post-crash care and expeditious settlement of assistance and compensation claims for road accident victims, with the objective of reducing road accidents and fatalities and ensuring safer road conditions for all road users.

On the occasion, the DC emphasised the need for greater outreach to road accident victims and their families so that eligible victims can avail the assistance available under the PM Rahat (Road Accident Victim



Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) Scheme under which, every eligible road accident victim on any category of road will be entitled to cashless treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh per victim, for period of seven days from the date of accident.

He directed the concerned ARTO to ensure that information regarding the scheme reaches accident victims and eligible beneficiaries in a timely manner.

The DC also stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination among all concerned agencies to strengthen road safety measures and ensure timely implementation of necessary corrective interventions to minimise the risk of road accidents.

During the meeting, the

DC also directed the R&B Department to draft a comprehensive Road Safety Plan under District road Safety Fund incorporating corrective measures for identified black spots, pedestrian safety engineering interventions and other necessary road safety measures.

The DC also stressed the importance of effective implementation of the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) and directed the concerned agencies to ensure timely and accurate reporting of road accidents through the system. He underscored that reliable accident data is essential for identifying accident-prone locations and planning evidence-based corrective measures.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer, Sai Kiran, Chief Planning officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer of R&B(North), Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer of R&B (South), Tatheer Manzoor, Joint Commissioner, Hamid Iqbal Mir, Chief Education Officer, Gulam Mohi Ud Din, Executive Engineer R&B, Abdul Qayoon, Executive Engineer R&B, Khalid Mehmood, District Health Officer, Dr Rubeena, ARTO, Showkat Ahmad, District Informatics Officer, Shahnaz, Accounts Officer, DC Office, Mohammad Iqbal and other Officers of concerned Departments.

J&K Assembly adopts

"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.

This is the third resolution passed by the J&K Assembly and Cabinet for the restoration of statehood and special status.

After the formation of the government in October 2024, the Cabinet had passed a resolution seeking restoration of statehood. On November 6, 2024, the J&K Assembly had passed a resolution urging the Government of India to restore special status. (KNO)

CM asks Centre to

New Delhi but in Islamabad," he remarked.

The Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir had accepted that the decision on statehood rested with New Delhi and questioned the rationale behind attaching conditions to the Centre's commitment.

"If you have already decided that the Prime Minister will not give statehood to us during his tenure, then it is a matter of great regret," he said.

Defending the wording of the resolution, Omar said it had been prepared after careful consideration to ensure that nothing in it could provide an excuse for disrupting the House.

He added that the government had deliberately kept Article 370, Article 35A, and the issue of special status out of the resolution.

"Read the resolution and tell me where we are asking for a vote on 370, 35A or special status," he said.

Omar said that some colleagues had moved amendments seeking to bring these issues into the resolution, which, he said, could provide an opportunity to disrupt proceedings.

"My colleagues have fallen into that trap. When they add 370 and 35A to it, they give them an opportunity," he said.

He said the government had anticipated that some members would not be happy with the resolution and might attempt to create a situation in which the House could not pass it.

"We prepared this resolution after thinking carefully. We did not want anything in it that could give the BJP an excuse to disrupt the House," he said.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the Assembly had previously passed resolutions concerning special status, including one in 2000 during the government headed by Dr Farooq Abdullah.

"The House has passed a resolution on special status not once but twice. One was in 2000 under Farooq Abdullah," he said.

He added that it was ironic that an attempt was now being made to reject what had earlier been done by the House.

"Today, an attempt is being made to reject what you had done yourself," he said.

Narrating the difficulties faced under Union Territory status, the Chief Minister said that even for the resolution on statehood, the Law Department had sent an opinion to the Speaker claiming the matter was subjudice.

"I believe that the Chief Secretary also wrote to you. On whose directions was this done? I am the Minister in-charge of Law, yet I have not even seen the opinion sent to you," he said.

Omar further said the government had sent its Business Rules to the Centre nearly two years ago but was still awaiting approval.

"Nearly two years have passed since we sent the Business Rules to the Centre. They have still not been approved," he said.

He pointed out that the delay was another consequence of the Union Territory arrangement and the limitations placed on the elected government.

The Chief Minister also pointed out the delay in the appointment of an Advocate General.

"Nearly two years have passed since our government was formed, but Jammu and Kashmir still does not have an Advocate General," he said, adding that the government had already submitted its proposal.

Lashing out at BJP legislators who were shouting slogans in favour of daily-wagers, the Chief Minister said that had Jammu and Kashmir been a State, the report on daily-wagers would not have taken more than a year.

"Those who today show their so-called sympathy for daily-wagers should answer one simple question: why has the committee constituted to examine their regularisation still not submitted its report? They were given six months. It could have been done in four. The real reason is that Jammu & Kashmir is a Union Territory. Had we been a State, would this have taken more than a year?" he asked. (KNO)

No place for Pakistani

will always remain. There is no room for any Pakistan agenda here," Sharma said.

He said the BJP would support a resolution confined to the restoration of statehood, but would not accept references that, according to him, went beyond the statehood issue.

"If the CM brings only a statehood resolution, we will support it. Statehood is the agenda of the BJP and we are committed to it. It will come," he said.

Sharma objected to the references to the 2000 and 2024 resolutions, alleging that these raised issues linked to the pre-1953 constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The resolution was moved by the CM. If it was only for statehood, we would have taken part. But the references to 2000 and 2024 violate the Constitution," he said.

The LoP also questioned the Congress over its position on the issue and asked whether the party supported a return to the pre-1953 constitutional arrangement and restoration of provisions associated with Article 370 and Article 35A.

"Congress got exposed today and they have to answer the country. Do they want the pre-1953 situation, Article 370 and 35A? They should answer and their leaders should be held accountable," Sharma said.

He alleged that the National Conference and Congress were attempting to revive issues that could affect peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is not like the opposition will oppose everything. J&K is a sensitive state and we have neighbours who always try to take advantage of things and disturb peace," he said.

Sharma said the prevailing situation in J&K was peaceful and described restoration of statehood as the remaining major issue.

"Today the situation is peaceful and only statehood is missing. BJP is in support of the statehood demand of the government," he said.

Sharma also criticised Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather for allowing the resolution to be taken up despite BJP objections. He said the BJP had moved a motion seeking the Speaker's removal.

"We moved a motion for the immediate removal of the Speaker. He has no right to be there," Sharma said.

On the timeline for restoration of statehood, Sharma questioned the Chief Minister's authority to set a deadline.

"Who is the CM to set a timeline? Statehood will be given and we are committed to it. Discussions should not be taken in a hurry," he said.

Sharma also announced that the BJP would launch massive protests across Jammu and Kashmir against the resolution, particularly over references to revive the pre-1953 constitutional position. (KNO)

Amidst uproar,

Kashmir News Observer (KNO) sat down and began conducting parallel proceedings, holding what appeared to be a mock session as the debate on the Statehood resolution continued in the House.

During the parallel proceedings, BJP MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia targeted Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat over the references to autonomy and the pre-1953 position in the resolution.

"Do you want the restoration of the post of Prime Minister's nomenclature in Jammu and Kashmir?" Mankotia asked Bhat.

The BJP members have been opposing the references to the 1952 and pre-1953 political position, arguing that such references should not form part of a resolution seeking restoration of statehood.

The protests and counter-sloganeering continued inside the House, disrupting the proceedings repeatedly.

As the ruckus persisted, BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa and MLA Arvind Gupta, along with Congress MLAs Irfan Hafiz Lone and Iftikhar Ahmad, were marshalled out of the House.

The Speaker warned the protesting legislators of strict action and directed members to maintain discipline and decorum during the proceedings.

"Maintain discipline or face tough action," the Speaker warned amid continued sloganeering and protests.

The Congress legislators also raised slogans and displayed banners during the proceedings, adding to the disruptions inside the House. (KNO)

BJP submits

Pathania told the Speaker. The Speaker rejected the objections, clarifying that under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, leave for a no-confidence motion can only be taken up 14 days after receipt of notice.

"You can bring a motion. I have not seen it. Let me presume that it has been submitted. Our Rules are clear on how we deal with such motions," the Speaker said, adding, "You don't read the Rules properly."

As the Speaker explained the procedures, BJP legislators continued their protests, shouting slogans: "Speaker Sahab kursi chhodo, Speaker Sahab kursi chhodo."

Amid uproar, Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma reiterated that statehood was part of the BJP's agenda but ruled out any discussion on the pre-1953 position.

"The Government of India rejected the pre-1953 position when Omar Abdullah was Union Minister," Sharma said.

As the Deputy Chief Minister responded to LoP Sharma, BJP MLAs stormed into the Well of the House and disrupted proceedings.

In an unusual protest, BJP legislators staged a mock session from the Well of the House. After trooping in, they sat down and began conducting parallel proceedings.

During the mock session, BJP MLA Balwant Singh pointed towards Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, accusing him of supporting autonomy.

"Do you want the restoration of the post of Prime Minister's nomenclature in Jammu & Kashmir?" BJP MLA Mankotia asked Bhat.

The BJP legislators sitting in the Well also tried to disrupt speeches of almost every MLA, including Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, during the debate on the statehood resolution. (KNO)

Govt has zero-tolerance

explosives and narcotics. More than 100 FIRs were registered and 350 people arrested across 15 states, while the network has been designated a terrorist organisation under the UAPA, he said.

Shah also launched an Extradition Portal to expedite the return of fugitives, noting that 288 fugitive criminals were brought back to India from 36 countries between 2019 and 2026. He urged states to set up dedicated teams to work with central agencies on extradition cases.

The conference was attended by senior officials from the Union government, central police organisations and state police forces. Shah emphasised that effective implementation of PRAHAAR would require sustained coordination and a results-oriented approach. (KNO)

Fresh snow blankets

of 31.4°C. Batote received 1.4 mm of rainfall and Bhaderwah 6.2 mm during the past 24 hours. The highest rainfall of 16.5 mm was recorded at ARG Bakore.

The Met department has forecast generally dry weather from September 29 to October 3.

From October 4 to 6, weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy, with light rain, light snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds at a few places. Similar conditions are likely on October 9 and 10, while October 7 and 8 are expected to remain largely dry.

The department has advised farmers to continue harvesting apples, paddy and other crops and ensure safe storage of harvested produce—(KNO)

J&K incurs

a revenue gap of Rs 5238 crores followed by Rs 4198 crore in 2024-25 and 4177 in the year 2025-26.

Furthermore, the government informed the house that during the year 2023-24, Jammu and Kashmir was facing T&D losses of 41.68 percent and 38.06 percent of AT&C losses.

It also said that in the year 2023-24, the department was facing T&D losses of 28.99 percent and 32.04 percent of AT&C losses followed by 24.64 percent of T&C losses and 34.63 percent of AT&C losses in the year 2025-26 respectively.

Answering the queries regarding as to additional power stands purchased during 2024-25 to 2026-27 for Jammu and Kashmir Divisions during peak summer and winter, the government informed the house that the additional power has been purchased during peak summer and winter to meet the power demand of both regions as per the seasonal requirements.

"The power supply in the UT of J&K is met through the allocation of power from various CPSUs by Ministry of Power, GoI & generation from State owned power stations for which PPAs stand executed," the government said.

It also informed the house that the allocation of power from CPSUs is revised by MoP, from time to time keeping in view the demand. Availability and generation scenario.

"The power procured for UT of J&K is as per the allocated quantum and as per the tariff determined by CERC and JERC. The energy is further scheduled to both the divisions as per the seasonal requirement of both regions," the government said. (KNO)

9-year-old among

treatment for the injured. "Deeply pained by the loss of lives in an unfortunate road accident in Kupwara. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the early recovery of the injured," the LG wrote on X.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed deep grief over the tragic road accident. Expressing heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, Omar prayed for peace to the departed souls and strength to the families to bear the irreparable loss.

The CM directed the district administration and medical authorities to extend the best possible treatment and all necessary medical care to those injured in the accident. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure that all possible assistance is extended to the affected families. (KNO)

Rs 361 cr Achan

door-to-door waste collection across all wards, while around 60 per cent source segregation is being achieved through information, education and communication campaigns, public participation and strengthened collection mechanisms.

The SMC has also deployed more than 380 waste collection and transportation vehicles and engaged over 2,700 sanitation workers for collection, transportation and sanitation services.

At Achan, a 100 TPD Material Recovery Facility has been established for segregation and recovery of recyclable materials, including plastics, paper, cardboard and metals. The facility is being operated and maintained through a specialised agency for scientific processing and channelisation of recyclable material to authorised recyclers and end users.

An 85 TPD wet waste processing

plant has also been established at Achan for scientific processing of segregated wet and biodegradable municipal solid waste.

On the legacy waste at the Achan dumpsite, the Chief Minister informed the House that biomining and bioremediation of approximately 11 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste has been taken up.

The work has been awarded to a specialised agency, with windrow formation and associated civil works currently underway. Scientific segregation, recovery of recyclable material and stabilisation of waste fractions are being carried out as part of the remediation process.

A 60 KLD leachate treatment plant is also under construction at the site for scientific management and disposal of leachate.

The Chief Minister further informed that a 125 TPD Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Management Facility is being established at Achan under SBM-U 2.0. The work has been awarded, civil works completed and mechanical works and equipment installation are currently underway.

Once commissioned, the facility will enable scientific processing of C&D waste, recovery and reuse of construction materials and reduction in illegal dumping.

"10 KM OF DAL LAKE INTERNAL CHANNELS DREDGED IN 3 YEARS"

The Chief Minister also informed the House that around 10 kilometres of internal channels and waterways of Dal Lake and adjoining lake interiors have been cleaned or dredged during the last three years.

Replying to a question by MLA Tanvir Sadiq, Omar said further dredging of priority channels was being undertaken through departmentally owned machinery, while internal channels and waterways were being regularly cleared through manual weeding and collection of solid waste.

During the current financial year, mechanical dredging has been carried out in several important channels using departmentally owned water masters, including the channel from Dol Damb to Meena Bazar through Angraz Hut and two main channels in Khushalsar from Saidipora Bridge to Firdoushab Colony and Sazgiripora.

He said dredging and deepening of the main Gilsar had also been almost completed.

On sewage inflows into Dal and Nigeen lakes, the Chief Minister said sewage from the periphery and adjoining areas, as well as houseboats in the two lakes, was being catered to through five Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). These include the 16.10 MLD Brari-Numbal STP, 5.4 MLD Nallah Amir Khan STP, 7.5 MLD Hazratbal STP, 3.2 MLD Habak STP and 4.5 MLD Laam STP, catering to different areas around the Dal-Nigeen lake system.

He said a 30 MLD STP at Gupt Ganga was also coming up and was scheduled to be completed within two years. The facility will cater to the northern side of Dal Lake.

Regarding Khushalsar and Gilsar, Omar said the lakes were taken up by the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) in 2025, while the assignment for construction of the sewerage network around the lakes had been given to the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED).

He further said interior channels, including Jogi Lanker-Rainawari, Chowdary Bagh, Naidyaar, Sabzi Market and Lamba Mohalla, were being continuously cleared through manual weeding and collection of solid waste. These channels were also dredged during 2023-24.

The Chief Minister said cleaning of such channels would continue, while dredging would be undertaken through departmentally owned machinery on a priority basis.

6 BILLS INTRODUCED

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, introduced several Bills in the Legislative Assembly during the ongoing Autumn Session.

He introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, designated as L.A. Bill No. 11 of 2026. The proposed legislation seeks to replace permission-based control with rule-based governance and promote ease of doing business and ease of living in the Union Territory. The Bill has already been published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette.

He also introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Amendment Bill, 2026, designated as L.A. Bill No. 12 of 2026, seeking to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

He further introduced the Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Ministers' and Ministers of State Salaries Act, 1956, designated as L.A. Bill No. 13 of 2026.

The Chief Minister also introduced L.A. Bill No. 14 of 2026 to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Act, 1960.

Another Bill, L.A. Bill No. 15 of 2026, was introduced to amend the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members' Pension Act, 1984.

The Chief Minister also introduced L.A. Bill No. 16 of 2026, proposing amendments to certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences

to promote ease of living and ease of doing business, besides repealing certain enactments and making related provisions. All the Bills have been published in Extraordinary issues of the Official Gazette. (KNO)

J&K govt extends

under the NPS have been given a one-time option to switch over from the New Pension Scheme to the Old Pension Scheme.

The eligible employees will have to exercise the option through the proper channel within three months from the date of issuance of the Government order.

The government has clarified that the option, once exercised, shall be final. Employees who do not exercise the option within the stipulated period will continue to remain covered under the New Pension Scheme.

The decision fulfils the Council of Ministers' decision to extend the benefit of the Old Pension Scheme to employees whose posts had been advertised or notified before December 24, 2009, providing eligible employees an opportunity to opt for OPS coverage.

J&K depts, commercial

payment notices to defaulting liquidation of outstanding dues and enforcement of disconnection of supply in cases of persistent default, in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations and prescribed procedures.

"Disconnection of electricity supply for nonpayment of dues is an ongoing enforcement measure and is undertaken by the concerned field formations, wherever warranted, after following the prescribed procedure" the government said.

The house was further informed that in the financial year 2025-26, PDD disconnected electricity supply of 88,387 government, semi-government, commercial sectors and security forces establishments and 50,226 disconnections in financial year 2026-27 on account of unpaid dues

It also informed the house that the supply is restored to consumers upon payment of requisite outstanding dues and completion of the prescribed reconnection formalities.

"DISCOM's are continuously strengthening their revenue recovery mechanism with particular focus on commercial, industrial and other high-value defaulting Consumers," the government said. (KNO)

J&K journalists eligible

scheme, one-time financial assistance is available to both accredited and non-accredited journalists, including freelance journalists and cases of extreme hardship.

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

It said journalists from J&K are fully eligible to apply under the scheme through the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and/or the UT Information Department, after which eligible cases can be forwarded with due recommendation.

The government further stated that accredited journalists of J&K are provided paid government accommodation by the Estates Department, subject to demand and availability. It added that short-term subsidised accommodation is provided to accredited journalists by the J&K Hospitality & Protocol Department in government guest houses, both within and outside the Union Territory.

The government said the accreditation of journalists/media persons is carried out by the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, J&K, under the Guidelines for Accreditation of Journalists notified through Government Order No. 15-JK (ID) of 2022 dated November 17, 2022.

It said a Rs 5 lakh health cover is available under Ayushman Bharat/SEHAT; journalists who have not been provided health insurance or a post-retirement pension scheme by their employers can avail themselves of government schemes.

Under the Ayushman Bharat/SEHAT Scheme, health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per annum per family is available to all residents of J&K, including families of media persons.

The government also mentioned the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), under which citizens aged 18 to 40 years having a bank or post office savings account can subscribe. The scheme provides a fixed monthly pension from the age of 60, depending on the contribution amount.

On the proposal for establishing Press Clubs in Jammu and Srinagar with facilities for conferences, meetings, research and other professional activities, the government said Press Clubs are autonomous entities established by members of the media fraternity and registered as societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Their functioning, it said, is the responsibility of their respective Executive Bodies, with elections held regularly for their smooth functioning.

The government said the Jammu Press Club is operational from a building provided on lease by the Jammu Development Authority.

Regarding the Srinagar Press Club, the government said the Department of Information and Public Relations provided Rs 50 lakh financial assistance through Government Order No. 44-ID of 2018 dated December 14, 2018, followed

by Government Order No. 45-ID of 2018 dated December 19, 2018.

The entire amount was placed at the disposal of the Srinagar Press Club for its smooth functioning, while the Estates Department also provided space to the club for its operation.

The government further said that office bearers of the Srinagar Press Club can approach the government through the Department of Information and Public Relations in case of any issue.

The reply was furnished by the Minister-in-Charge, Information Department. (KNO)

J&K govt acknowledges

of GLOFs in J&K, scientific assessments of vulnerable glacial lakes, early-warning systems, evacuation routes and mock drills.

According to the reply, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the government has taken cognisance of multiple scientific assessments conducted by leading scientific bodies to identify vulnerable glacial lakes and assess the potential downstream impact.

The University of Kashmir has identified 616 glacial lakes across 12 districts, covering an area of 28.62 square kilometres, and delineated 68 Potentially Dangerous Glacial Lakes (PDGLs) as per criteria established by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The government said a Dedicated Core Committee was established through Government Order No. 71-JK(DMRRR) dated September 24, 2024, to focus on specific actions and studies related to high-risk glacial lakes in J&K. The 24 high-priority lakes were subsequently categorised into Category A, Category B and Category C, based on 17 risk parameters.

The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) has also mapped 546 glacial lakes measuring 0.25 hectares or more, while the Central Water Commission (CWC), SDC and IITs have mapped and ranked high-risk/high-susceptibility lakes, including Gangabal, Kousar Nag, Har Nag, Mundikzar, Hangu Lake, Boud Sar and Sheshnag.

Real-time monitoring, early-warning system planned the government said steps are being taken for installation of a real-time monitoring/Early Warning System (EWS) for vulnerable glacial lakes.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has been unanimously nominated as the Lead Technical Agency for J&K to design and implement an indigenous GIS-based GLOF Early Warning System.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been framed and is under process. Once finalised, the system will include water-level monitoring sensor buoy-based systems with satellite communication, automatic weather stations, glacial lake vision units equipped with camera modules and deformation detection hardware, and a Web Portal & Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) for real-time monitoring and alert dissemination.

The government further said a UT-level Focused GLOF Monitoring Committee (FGMC) was constituted under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Home Department, vide Government Order No. 930-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated April 4, 2024, to oversee glacial lake surveillance, desktop satellite monitoring, field expeditions and risk mitigation.

The FGMC has held five meetings to review and coordinate measures relating to surveillance, risk assessment, mitigation and early warning in respect of GLOFs.

At its first meeting on April 24, 2024, C-DAC was nominated as the Lead Technical Agency for the UT and tasked with executing GLOF mitigation measures and undertaking expeditions to high-risk glacial lakes. It was also decided to undertake aerial/high-resolution reconnaissance of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra routes for assessment of GLOF, landslide and avalanche risks.

At the second meeting on July 4, 2024, it was decided to adopt standardised categorisation of glacial lakes in accordance with NDMA criteria and finalise an inventory of GLOF-vulnerable lakes based on hazard profiles, risk assessments and geographical considerations.

The third meeting on September 12, 2024 constituted a Core Sub-Committee headed by C-DAC to establish uniform criteria and finalise the high-, medium- and low-risk categorisation. Participation of Aapda Mitras, SDRF, ITBP and Civil Defence in field expeditions and emergency response planning was also emphasised.

The meeting also decided to undertake PRI sensitisation and community awareness, prepare vernacular GLOF awareness material and integrate GLOF-related data into the Disaster Risk Database (DRDB) and Decision Support System.

At the fourth meeting on December 2, 2024, an expert expedition to Kounsar Nag from the Arbal side was decided upon. The DDMA Consultants were tasked with preparing district-wise GLOF Action Plans and conducting regular mock drills involving Aapda Mitras and local communities.

At the fifth meeting on August 28, 2025, it was decided that the Core Committee would finalise institutions and time-bound schedules for scientific expeditions to all identified high-risk glacial lakes. The EWS/AWS MoA with C-DAC was also to be finalised on priority.

PM Modi pays tributes to Bhagat Singh, Lata Mangeshkar

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tributes to Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary, and said his spirit of sacrificing everything for the honour of the nation remains a symbol of courage and inspiration for the youth of India. The freedom fighter was hanged by the Britishers on March 23, 1931.

"Millions of salutations to Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary. With his indomitable courage and valour, he gave a new edge to the freedom movement," Modi said in a post on X. The prime minister said Singh's spirit of sacrificing everything for the honour of the nation remains a symbol of courage and inspiration for the youth of India.

PM Modi also paid tributes to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar on her birth anniversary, and said her contribution to the world of Indian music will remain memorable for generations to come. Mangeshkar was born on September 28, 1929 and died on February 6, 2022. "Heartfelt respects to revered Lata Didi on her birth anniversary. She illuminated the nation's name across the world with her divine singing talent. She not only enriched India with her melodious voice, but also consistently encouraged every initiative tied to the country's prosperity," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister said Mangeshkar's incomparable contribution to the world of Indian music will remain memorable for generations to come.

Surgical strikes were result of ‘steely resolve’ of Modi, Parrikar: Lt Gen Nimbhorkar

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 28: Lieutenant General Rajendra Ramrao Nimbhorkar (Retd), who played a key role in the surgical strikes on terror camps across the Line of Control in 2016, on Monday said the action was possible only due to the "steely resolve" shown by PM Narendra Modi and then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar. "We had the capability, but somebody had to give the go-ahead. Till then, there was a lot of talk of avenging the death of our soldiers, but no action had been taken," Nimbhorkar told PTI.

They (Modi and Parrikar) were willing to take responsibility for the fallout of their action, said the army veteran, who was one of the three senior army commanders at the helm of key operational commands during the surgical strikes.

Nimbhorkar, who was the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Nagrota-based 16 Corps (White Knight Corps), played a central role in operational preparedness and tactical execution along the twin border districts of



Rajouri and Poonch.

"On the night of September 28, 2016, our soldiers went across the border and killed 82 terrorists across Uri, Poonch and Bhimber sectors," he said. It must be noted that our strike was so meticulously planned and executed that there was no collateral damage, he added.

The two units chosen for the task comprised Special Forces

soldiers of the Udhampur-based 9 Para (SF) and 4 Para (SF).

"We showed Pakistan that we can hit them hard. This was further carried forward in Balakot strikes and Operation Sindoor," Nimbhorkar said.

The September 18, 2016 attack on the Uri brigade headquarters' administrative area that led to the death of 19 soldiers prompted India to take action, he said.

"The then army chief asked us for the (strike) plans. We gave him the plans but were not sure of their approval. We were pleasantly surprised when Parrikar conveyed the go-ahead decision to Lt Gen Deependra Singh Hooda, the Northern Army Commander, Lt Gen Satish Kumar Dua, then the GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps (Chinar Corps) and me," Nimbhorkar said.

"When we launched the surgical strikes, only 18 people in India knew of the launch decision. The three of us were the junior most," he said in a lighter vein.

"Our soldiers were back on Indian terrain around 5 am the next day after accomplishing their mission and hitting the targets. We got whatever equipment we asked for, and also air support requirements," he said.

"It was the steely resolve of PM Modi and Parrikar that helped accomplish this unprecedented mission," Nimbhorkar said.

Modi on Sunday said the surgical strikes were India's decisive response to the pain of terror attacks and presented a new example of the country's counter-terrorism policy.

SC notice to Centre, others on plea against imposition of MDR on UPI payments above Rs 2,000

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 28: The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and others on a petition challenging the decision to impose a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on specified UPI person-to-merchant transactions above Rs 2,000.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalaya Bagchi and V Mohana agreed to hear the plea and directed the Centre,



the Reserve Bank of India and others to file their counter affidavits within four weeks. The bench refused to grant any

interim stay on the Centre's decision to impose MDR.

Additional Solicitor General N Venkataraman, appearing

for the Centre, told the bench that 96 per cent of people using the gateway were exempt. "It is less a legal and more a technical issue," the bench observed.

After the top court issued notice and directed the respondents to file their counter affidavits within four weeks, the counsel appearing for the petitioner requested the bench, "Please stay it till then."

Air India incoming CEO to reward staff for cost-saving ideas

Sensex tanks 730 points in early trade, Nifty drops 231.50 points

Rise in crude oil prices

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 28: Benchmark stock market indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled in early trade on Monday, weighed down by surging crude oil prices, geopolitical uncertainties and weak trends across Asian markets.

Persistent foreign fund outflows also dampened investor sentiment, adding to the pressure on domestic equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 730 points to 73,170.12 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 231.50 points to 22,908.95.

All the 30 Sensex firms were trading lower. Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro and Bharat Electronics were the major laggards.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 2.27 per cent higher at USD 106.7 per barrel.

"Indian equity markets are likely to remain cautious as renewed geopolitical uncertainty and a rebound in crude oil prices weigh on investor sentiment. The rejection by US President Donald Trump of Iran's proposal to resolve the conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz has revived concerns over prolonged supply disruptions, making oil prices the dominant factor for global markets," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index traded lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted higher.

US markets ended in positive territory on Friday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,693.93 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Air India incoming CEO to reward staff for cost-saving ideas



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 28: Incoming Air India CEO Tewolde Gebremariam plans to introduce programmes that reward employees for ideas that deliver measurable cost savings and improve operational efficiency, as the Tata Group-owned airline seeks to strengthen its financial performance while sharpening its focus on safety and operational reliability.

Gebremariam, who will take charge after receiving the requisite security clearances, said at a townhall with employees on Monday that cost discipline must become part of Air India's culture.

He also identified sustainable profitability, safety and operational reliability as key priorities for the airline.

"Cost management is not just the responsibility of leadership or the finance function. Every employee can contribute to savings, and those savings add up across an organisation of our scale," he said.

Seeking to send out a positive message to the employees, he said, "wherever you are in the organisation, you will be empowered to make decisions that help our customers and supported in delivering the right outcomes".

Stressing that safety is a shared responsibility and every Air Indian has a role to play, Gebremariam said a culture should be fostered where people are empowered to speak up, raise concerns

and report issues without hesitation.

"If you see something, say something. The stronger our reporting culture, the stronger our safety culture," he told the staff.

The remarks also come against the backdrop of a pilot testing positive for drug use and another pilot failing breath analyser test.

"Cost management is not just the responsibility of leadership or the finance function. Every employee can contribute to savings, and those savings add up across an organisation of our scale," he said at a townhall.

Gebremariam, who has been appointed as the CEO and MD of the loss-making Tata Group-owned airline, will take charge after receiving requisite security approvals.

In his second interaction with employees in recent weeks, Gebremariam said the airline plans to introduce programmes that reward ideas that generate measurable cost savings and operational efficiencies.

According to him, a combination of external factors has affected Air India's path to break even but stressed that the airline cannot afford to lose focus on financial performance.

"We must improve both revenue and cost performance. Revenue enhancement initiatives are already under discussion, including opportunities across our international network, commercial activities and cargo business," he said.

SC reviews India's food labelling proposal

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sep 28: India should reconsider the red colour of its proposed food warning labels as it can confuse consumers who associate the colour with non-vegetarian ingredient markings, food companies in India have told the Supreme Court. India is in the midst of an unprecedented food safety crackdown, including nationwide raids against eateries, amid concern over poor hygiene and standards. The government's plan for front-of-pack red warning labels came after heated public debate on the lack of such measures.

The food regulator has proposed a red hexagon warning label system to mark high salt, sugar or fat in packaged items, despite the industry's multi-year campaign to oppose the labels.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF J&K
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR GANDERBAL
Subject:- Issuance of legal heir certificate of deceased Zoonaa Begum W/o Late Gulla Sheikh R/o Beehama Ganderbal
NOTICE
Sir,
Regarding the subject cited above. In this connection, that the deceased Zoonaa Begum w/o Late Gulla Sheikh R/o Beehama Ganderbal expired 04 -06-2025 as per death certificates. The legal heirs of the said deceased are as below:-
S.No Name Relation with deceased. Age
1 Ab. Rashid Sheikh Son 66
2 Mohd Shafi Sheikh. Son 60
3 Mohd Ashraf Sheikh Son 47
4 Saleema Daughter 61
Before issue the legal heirs certificate in favour of Legal heirs of above mentioned deceased, general public are inform through medium of this notice. if any body having objection with regard to applicant's claim of death/legal heir certificate, he/she may file objection before the office of the undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Further no objection shall be entertained after the supulated time period.
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Ganderbal

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF J&K
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR GANDERBAL
Subject:- Issuance of legal heir certificate of deceased Gulla Sheikh S/o Mohammad Sheikh R/o Beehama Ganderbal
NOTICE
Sir,
Regarding the subject cited above. In this connection, that the deceased Gulla Sheikh S/o Mohammad Sheikh R/o Beehama Ganderbal expired on 21--04 -2017 as per death certificates. The legal heirs of the said deceased are as below:-
S.No Name Relation with deceased Age
1 Ab. Rashid Sheikh Son 66
2 Mohd Shafi Sheikh. Son 60
3 Mohd Ashraf Sheikh Son 47
4 Saleema Daughter 61
Before issue the legal heirs certificate in favour of Legal heirs of above mentioned deceased, general public are inform through medium of this notice. if any body having objection with regard to applicant's claim of death/legal heir certificate, he/she may file objection before the office of the undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Further no objection shall be entertained after the supulated time period.
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Ganderbal

Kashmir
Thunder
IS AVAILABLE
AT ALL LEADING
STALLS

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified for the information of general public that my in Adhaar Card Name wrongly mentioned Farooz Ahmad Shah S/o Fayaz Ahmad Shah R/o Hardushiva Sopore However my actual name as per my is Farooz Ahmad Shahpeer Now i intend to rectify my name in my Adhaar Card.
FAROOZ AHMAD SHAHPEER
S/O: FAYAZ AHMAD SHAHPEER
R/O: HARDUSHIVA SOPORE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I want to change the name on electricity Bill Bearing consumer ID NO 0205040003257. from MOHD AMIN SHEIKH TO NAJUM DIN SHIEKH If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the office of the SUBDIVISION KANGAN PDD GANDERBAL. within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection will be entertained. Name NAJUM DIN SHIEKH S/O MOHD AMIR SHIEKH R/O SHODA GUND KANGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE
I want to change my name in my driving license bearing No: JK1620110005238from BASHIR AHMAD REASHI TO BASHEER AHMED REASHI (as per aadhar card). If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file the same before the concerned authority within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.
NAME . BASHEER AHMED REASHI S/O ABDUL SALAM REASHI R/O RESHI PORASALOORA GANDERBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified for the information of general public that my name enlisted in my bank account is KAMRAN AYAZ MINOR THROUGH FATHER M. AYAZ. However my actual name as per my Aadhaar card is KAMRAN AYAZ SOFI. Now i intend to rectify my name in my bank records. In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same before the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd NUNNAR GANDERBAL within a period of 3 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
KAMRAN AYAZ SOFI
S/O: MOHAMMAD AYAZ SOFI
R/O: NUNER GANDERBAL
ACCOUNT NUMBER. 0174040800009150

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified for the information of general public that my FATHER NAME enlisted in my bank account is GH RASOOL SHEIKH However my actual name as per my Aadhaar card is LASSU SHEIKH Now i intend to rectify my name in my bank records. In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same before the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd BALGARDEN SRINAGAR within a period of 3 days. After that no objection shall be entertained. MOHD
SARWAR SHIEKH
S/O: LASSU SHEIKH
R/O: SARADAB BANDIPORA
ACCOUNT NUMBER. 0216040100014949

NOTICE
I Hassina Bano W/o Gh mohd dar R/o Aamin abaad sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from Haseena Begum to Hassina Bano for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 901628347596 Henceforth, i shall be known as Hassina Bano

NOTICE
I sumaira Ahad M/o Toha imtiyaz R/o Hakura Badas Gam, Anantnag Jammu & Kashmir 192211 do hereby declare that I have correction my daughters name from Taha imtiyaz malik to Toha imtiyaz for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 667247832202 Henceforth she shall be known as Toha imtiyaz

NOTICE
I Tawseer Ahmad Sheikh s/o Abdul Aziz Sheikh R/o Warpora sopore Baramula Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my name from Tauseer Ahmad to Tawseer Ahmad Sheikh for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 208716798594 Henceforth, i shall be known as Tawseer Ahmad Sheikh

Iran-US deal efforts continue through mediators

AP

Cairo, Sep 28: Three officials tell The Associated Press that mediators were still working with Iran and the United States on a deal to end the fighting and open the Strait of Hormuz, with the indirect talks expected to resume on Monday.

The details were revealed as the war enters its eighth month after causing widespread economic suffering. Multiple efforts to allow safe shipping on one of the world's most crucial waterways have failed.

There was uncertainty over the weekend after President Donald Trump told journalists he had rejected Tehran's latest proposal to reopen the strait in a week if the US lifts its blockade of Iranian ports, releases frozen Iranian assets and waives sanctions on Iranian oil sales, among other conditions.

Iran's foreign minister, however, remained in New York and said he awaited word from mediators. Qatar has been mediating.

The deal would first reopen the strait and lift the US blockade.

Two of the officials speaking to the AP on Monday confirmed that mediators are working with both sides on a proposal that would include reopening the strait and lifting the US blockade, and then removing sanctions.

According to the draft text being discussed, the strait would reopen in accordance with a separate deal that Iran has been discussing with



Oman, on the other side of the strait, and it would include no tolls — something Tehran has pursued. That deal seeks to temporarily manage shipping traffic on what was seen as an international waterway before the war.

The two officials also said that despite Trump's public comments, the US has not officially rejected the current proposal, indicating that his remarks may have been a negotiating tactic.

The third official said the US is seeking Iranian concessions on its nuclear programme, including allowing inspectors to enter the country. Under the Memorandum of Understanding the two sides signed in June that collapsed within days, Iran's nuclear programme was meant to be discussed over a 60-day period.

All three officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss

behind-the-scenes diplomatic negotiations.

One official reported positive signals coming from both sides. A second reported "slight progress" over the weekend. The third said mediators are still trying "to soften" the positions of both sides.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Iran's latest proposal has sought a faster timeline.

While Iran's latest proposal echoes the June deal, a key difference is speed.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told a closed-door meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly last week that Tehran had pitched the deal as benefiting Trump in the midterm elections. Araghchi later told journalists that "the seven-day timeline will start as soon as the United States accepts this plan." Both the US and Iran

have been hurting economically — the US from high oil prices as Iran attacks ships on the strait, and Tehran from the naval blockade and a growing number of US sanctions that bottle up its oil sales. Brent crude, the international standard, is above USD 108.

For months, the two sides have been trying to outlast the other, while regional countries put up with missile and drone attacks as Tehran claims to target US military assets in the region.

Reflecting Iran's impatience, a rare statement on Monday attributed to the theocracy's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khomeini noted the "painful blows" that enemy forces have received near the strait. "Before long, the Arabian Sea, too, will be rid of them," the statement added.

The latest proposed deal again seeks to end the fighting on all fronts, including in Lebanon. But a new front has emerged in recent weeks as Iran-backed rebels in Yemen are now perched on another crucial waterway, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. That has further pressured global markets.

Iran argues that the Houthis have their own demands, and that their conflict with neighbouring Saudi Arabia is separate from the US-Iran war, but Iranian officials said they are willing to help in finding a settlement between the Houthis and the Saudis, one of the officials said.

Prime Minister congratulates Indian Chess players

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Sep 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today congratulated the Indian chess players on their success at the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad.

The Prime Minister stated that their passion and determination are exemplary. Shri Modi further expressed his hope that these successes may motivate several more youngsters to play chess and excel in the sport.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister shared:

"Congratulations to our Chess players! Their passion and determination are exemplary.

May these successes motivate several more youngsters to play chess and excel."



Irani Cup set to make Srinagar debut from Oct 1

20 cameras, DRS and Hawkeye technology to feature in J&K's first-ever Irani Cup. Match to be telecast live on Star Sports and JioHotstar



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 28 : Cricket fever is set to grip Srinagar as Jammu and Kashmir prepares to host the prestigious Irani Cup for the first time, with the JKCA ground at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Sonwar, ready to stage the five-day contest from October 1.

The match will see Ranji Trophy champions Jammu and Kashmir take on the Rest of India from October 1 to 5 in what will be the Valley's maiden Irani Cup fixture.

The Irani Cup, one of India's premier first-class tournaments organised by the BCCI, is traditionally played between the reigning Ranji Trophy champions and a Rest of India side. The

upcoming edition marks another milestone for Jammu and Kashmir cricket following the team's historic Ranji Trophy triumph.

Extensive broadcast arrangements have been put in place for the match, including around 20 cameras, Decision Review System (DRS), Hawkeye technology, stump microphones and advanced scoring and graphics systems.

The broadcast team conducted multiple inspections of the venue before finalising technical requirements. The setup will feature near-side and far-side gantry cameras, slip and spin-vision cameras, along with six Hawkeye cameras for DRS operations.

The match will be

telecast live on Star Sports and streamed on JioHotstar, enabling fans across the country to follow the high-profile fixture.

The build-up has already gathered momentum with Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant receiving a warm welcome at Srinagar airport upon his arrival ahead of the clash, adding to the excitement around the event.

Cricket action at the venue will continue beyond the Irani Cup, with Jammu and Kashmir scheduled to host Madhya Pradesh in a Ranji Trophy first-round league match, giving local fans another opportunity to witness top-level domestic cricket—(KNO)

Indian Men, Women enter squash quarterfinals



PTI

Nagoya, Sep 28: The Indian men's and women's teams on Monday marched into the quarterfinals of the Asian Games squash competition with the latter producing a gritty win over Japan here.

Indian women, seeded third, got past Japan 2-1 despite lead player Anahat Singh losing to world number six Satomi Watanabe in five games.

The 17th ranked Anahat had beaten the world number six Japanese in

the individual semifinals before finishing with a historic silver.

Indian women, bronze medallists in the previous edition, had beaten China 3-0 in their opening match.

Veteran Joshna Chinappa, featuring in a record seventh Asian Games, gave India a 1-lead over Japan with a 11-1, 11-8, 11-9 win over Erisa Sano.

Next up was Anahat against Satomi for the second time in three days. Satomi was able to get the better of the Indian this time, pulling off a 11-8,

8-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-9 win in a 43-minute battle.

In the decider, Tanvi Khanna had to dig deep against Akari Midorikawa for a 12-10, 11-9, 4-11, 12-10 victory, sealing the match for India and a place in the quarterfinals.

The men's team, which won the gold in China, blanked South Korea 3-0 to seal a place in the last eight stage.

In the opening singles, Velavan Senthilkumar defeated Jooyoung Na 11-6, 11-4, 11-7 before singles silver medallist Abhay Singh had a comfortable 11-4, 11-7, 11-1 result over Jeongmin Ryu.

Veer Chotrani outplayed Seojin Oh 11-6, 11-4, 11-2 in the inconsequential third singles.

Earlier on Monday, the Indian men were barely troubled as Suraj Chand, Chotrani and Senthilkumar all registered comfortable wins to seal the tie in straight matches.

7 Killed in Russian drone strikes across Ukraine

AP

Kyiv, Sep 28: Russia's round-the-clock bombardment of targets in Ukraine killed at least seven people and wounded more than 50 others, officials said Monday.

Moscow's forces pounded apartment buildings, offices, data centres and a building of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in downtown Kyiv.

The ceaseless Russian drone attacks on cities and towns aim to wear down Ukraine's resistance and cripple the Ukrainian economy.

The attacks followed a week of diplomatic efforts at the United Nations to get traction for negotiations on ending Moscow's invasion that began four and a half years ago.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov indicated Monday that the chances of making speedy headway on forging a peace settlement were bleak after recent Ukrainian attacks, including during recent parliamentary elections in Russia.

Yashvir wins silver, Rohit bags bronze in javelin throw



PTI

Nagoya, Sep 28: The Indian duo of Yashvir Singh and Rohit Yadav produced superb efforts to secure the silver and bronze medals respectively as the country registered a double podium finish in the men's javelin throw competition at the Asian Games here on Monday.

Yashvir, the 24-year-old from Haryana, came up with a personal best of 85.72m in his sixth and last attempt to surpass fellow Indian Rohit Yadav and claim the silver medal.

Rohit, the 25-year-old from Uttar

Pradesh, threw the javelin at 84.35m to bag the bronze medal.

Sri Lanka's superstar Rumesh Pathiraje claimed the gold with an effort of 88.33m.

Yashvir had won a bronze medal at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games this year, but Rohit Yadav could not finish on the podium there. The two athletes were India's biggest hopes in javelin throw after a late ligament injury forced reigning champion and two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra to withdraw from this Asian Games.

Reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan produced a season-best effort of 80.29m to finish fourth.

INOX
LIVE the MOVIE
SRINAGAR

MOVIES SCHEDULE
29 SEPTEMBER 2026
TUESDAY

THE VVAAN HINDI	UA 16+	
11:00 AM	05:40 PM	
MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE HINDI	A	
01:50 PM	05:40 PM	
AVENGERS : ENDGAME ENCORE 3D ENGLISH MS - INFINITY VISION WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE	UA 16+	
11:00 AM	02:40 PM	06:20 PM
HEART OF THE BEAST ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES	UA 16+	
12:05 PM	03:25 PM	08:30 PM
TASRUFDAAR DJINNS OF KASHMIR KASHMIRI , URDU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES	UA 13+	
02:20 PM		

TICKETS AT FLAT

₹99 & 199

EXCLUDING
AVENGERS : ENDGAME ENCORE