



High drama in J&K Assembly over hike in legislators' salaries

Two bills withdrawn after BJP's unexpected opposition; pension hike bill for former MLAs passed

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 29: High-voltage drama unfolded in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Tuesday over three bills seeking enhancement of salaries of the Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers and MLAs, as well as pension benefits for former legislators.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members unexpectedly opposed the bills when they were brought before the House, prompting the Chief Minister to seek withdrawal of two bills concerning ministers and MLAs.

As Chief Minister Omar Abdullah moved the bill - The J&K Ministers and Ministers of State Salaries Act, 1956 - for consideration, he smiled, prompting Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to remark that the smile "indicated



something else."

BJP members opposed the salary and allowances bills, with BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma urging the Chief Minister to withdraw all three. Sharma said the recommendations of the committee examining

MLA salaries had been put in the public domain, causing humiliation to legislators. He argued that the proposed

honorarium was not acceptable and suggested that the government should instead use resources to address the concerns of daily wagers and employees seeking regularisation, including those demanding risk allowance.

Responding to the objections, Omar said he had anticipated the issue would be politicised. | [More on P6](#)

BJP stages walkout over statehood resolution

Unconstitutional resolution has been allowed: LoP Sharma

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 29: The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday witnessed uproarious scenes as BJP legislators protested against Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather over the Statehood resolution before staging a walkout from the House.

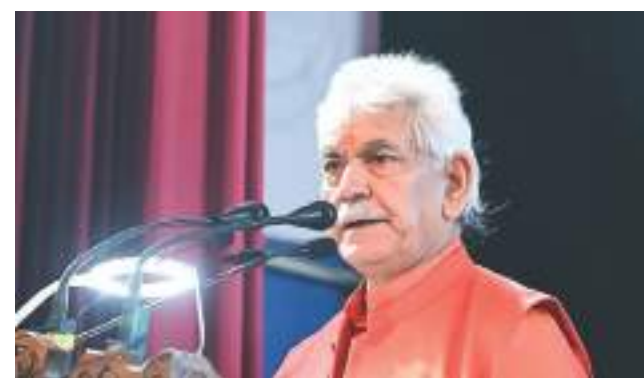
As soon as Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), sought the removal of the Speaker, he alleged that



an "illegal and unconstitutional" resolution had been allowed. Sharma said the Chief Minister had himself disclosed that the Law Department had given an opinion against discussion on the resolution and demanded that the Speaker take responsibility and | [More on P6](#)

Border youth inspiration for nation: LG Sinha

'Dream big, compete with youth living in metro cities'



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 29: Calling youth as the torchbearers of India's tradition of knowledge and culture, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that youngsters from border areas are brimming with courage, talent and they are an inspiration for the entire nation.

Addressing a felicitation ceremony for meritorious students organised by Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti in collaboration with Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The real development of Jammu Kashmir will come when a child in our border villages can say with confidence, I can fulfil my dreams. I know that the children and youth of border areas are brimming with courage, talent and they are an inspiration for the entire nation."

"Our youth should not lag behind those living in any metro city of the country. All scholarships, digital platforms, training programmes, and competition

opportunities at national and international levels must also be accessible to the youth in border areas," he said, adding, "You need to dream big and scale new heights."

Extending his greetings to students, teachers, parents, and organisers, the Lieutenant Governor said that the honoured students are not merely winners of a competition but torchbearers of India's rich tradition of knowledge, literature, and culture.

Highlighting the significance of the mother tongue, the Lieutenant Governor observed that it is not just a medium of communication but an identity, memory, and sensibility connected to the soul. He underlined that Jammu Kashmir's linguistic diversity reflects the confluence of India's shared culture. He noted that the National Education Policy places special emphasis on early education in the mother tongue and Indian languages, enabling children to learn and grow with confidence.

The Lieutenant Governor also stressed | [More on P6](#)

BJP missed chance to corner govt, ongoing LA session 'very fruitful' for us: Omar

Statehood resolution, key bills passed

Old pension scheme to benefit thousands of employees

Rehan Qayoom Mir

S tating that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had an opportunity to corner the government but it chose to stay away from the proceedings, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the ongoing assembly session has been "very fruitful" for the government.

Addressing reporters on the sidelines of a function here, CM Omar, | [More on P6](#)

CM turns BJP's 'appropriate time' statehood line against it on Panchayat polls

Waris Fayaz

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday took a dig at the BJP over its repeated assertion that Statehood would be restored at an "appropriate time," saying the government would use the same response when asked about holding

Panchayat elections. Responding to a question from BJP MLA R.S. Pathania on the timeline for Panchayat polls in the Legislative Assembly, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said: "You say appropriate time for Statehood, we will say the same for Panchayat polls." He added that if the BJP continued to | [More on P6](#)

'1.3 million land record errors fixed in J&K'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 29: More than 1.3 million clerical errors in land records have been identified and rectified across Jammu and Kashmir as part of the ongoing digitisation and verification of Jamabandis, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

Replying to a question by MLA Devyani Rana during Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session, CM Omar, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, said verification of digitised Jamabandis was underway across all districts of J&K.

He said a robust digitisation process followed by an extensive error-rectification mechanism had been put in place to ensure that digitised Jamabandis remained accurate and error-free.

The Chief Minister, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the land-record system had been shifted from a static Oracle SQL-based | [More on P6](#)

Turkey's reference to Kashmir at UN unwarranted: MEA

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Sep 29: Reiterating that no external party has any locus standi on matters concerning the India's territorial integrity and sovereignty, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday rejected Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's reference to Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations General Assembly.

Responding to questions on Erdogan's remarks, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said India rejects the "unwarranted references" to India and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir made by the Turkish president during his address to the 81st UN General Assembly.

"This is a matter, as you would understand, pertaining to India's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and no external party has any locus standi on this issue," Jaiswal said.

Pertinently, Erdogan, while addressing the UN General



Assembly in New York, had said disputes in South Asia, including Kashmir, should be addressed through dialogue within the framework of the UN Charter and relevant resolutions.

His latest reference marked the seventh time since 2019 that the Turkish president has raised Kashmir in his UN General Assembly address.

Erdogan first raised the issue at the UNGA after India's August 2019 decision to abrogate Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status. He subsequently referred to Kashmir in his addresses in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. He did not mention it in 2024 | [More on P6](#)

Int'l Buyer-Seller Meet

Take J&K products to world markets: CM Omar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 29: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday called for sustained business partnerships between Jammu and Kashmir's entrepreneurs and buyers from across India and abroad, emphasising that the Government is working to create an enabling environment for investment, trade and industry while protecting the unique identity of the region's traditional products.

Addressing the inaugural day of the two-day Jammu and Kashmir International Buyer-Seller Meet organised by the J&K Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) in collaboration with the Trade Promotion Council of India at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), the Chief Minister said the Government's efforts to promote exports and attract investment must go hand in hand with making it easier for businesses to operate in J&K.



Referring to the passage of important legislation in the Legislative Assembly earlier in the day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the Government had taken a significant step towards improving the business environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have brought a law in the form of Ease of Doing Business, in which we have tried to put a stop to all these things," he said, referring to unnecessary permissions, delays and excessive inspections faced by businesses.

He said the legislation provides for applications to be dealt with within prescribed timeframes and, where applicable, provides for deemed approval if action is not taken within the stipulated period.

"We have reduced the number of inspections," the Chief Minister said, adding that the Government wants to ensure that those seeking to establish industries, educational institutions and other enterprises are not discouraged by cumbersome procedures. He said | [More on P6](#)

Weather to remain dry across J&K till Oct 4: MeT

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 29: The Meteorological Centre on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally dry weather till October 4, with light rain and snowfall expected over higher reaches on October 5 and 6.

According to the latest forecast accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the weather is expected to remain generally dry on September 30 and from October 1 to 4.

"On October 5 and 6, the weather is likely to be partly to generally cloudy, with light rain, thunder and gusty winds at a few places. Light snowfall is also possible over the higher reaches during the period," the MeT centre said.

The weather is forecast to remain generally dry again on October 7 and 8.

Another spell of partly to generally cloudy weather is expected from October 9 to 11, when light rain, light snowfall over higher | [More on P6](#)

NHPC hydro projects generate Rs 5,537 cr for J&K in 5 yrs

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 29: In past five years Jammu and Kashmir has received substantial revenue of Rs 5537 crores from NHPC projects operating in the Union Territory.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the government in a reply to question tabled by MLA Shakti Raj Parihar said that the power generated from the hydropower projects owned and operated by JKPDCL Government of J&K, in accordance with the applicable power allocation arrangements.

The government informed the house that "During the last five financial years, JKPDCL has sold a total of 19,222.21 Million



Units (MU) of electricity to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir at an average selling price of Rs. 2.033 per unit."

"However, JKPDCL has paid an amount of Rs. 745.151 crore to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir on account of Water Usage Charges (WUC) during the last five financial years," the government said.

It also said, "The UT of Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

J&K set to offer 100 high-footfall govt services through WhatsApp

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 29: In a significant step towards making public service delivery more accessible, convenient and citizen-friendly, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of all the concerned Administrative Secretaries to review the preparedness of the IT Department for the early rollout of an AI-powered conversational messaging platform that will enable citizens across Jammu and Kashmir to access government services directly through WhatsApp.

The meeting besides the Commissioner Secretary, IT was attended by other Administrative Heads, Deputy

Commissioners; senior officers and a team from NeGD, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), NIC and senior officers from IT Department.

The initiative envisages onboarding 100 high-footfall government services in the first phase, allowing citizens to apply for essential services, track applications, submit documents, make payments and receive official communications through WhatsApp without the need to download separate applications or navigate multiple government portals.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the implementation roadmap for the proposed Multi-Channel Conversational | [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt refuses to disclose cabinet recommendation, Centre's queries on reservation, cites Assembly Rules

"No proposal to do away with EWS criteria, 82 % reserved category certificates issued in Jammu, 18 % in Kashmir"

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 29: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that it cannot disclose details of cabinet recommendations on reservation or queries posed by the Union Government, citing secrecy provisions under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House.

In a written reply to a question of MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone, the Minister in-charge Social Welfare, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the



cabinet's recommendations had already been submitted to the competent authority but could not be shared.

"The recommendations have

been submitted to the competent authority. However, in terms of Business Rule 38 of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the | [More on P6](#)

CS Dulloo reviews preparations for first-ever GCC Summit at IIM Jammu

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday reviewed the preparations for the first-ever Global Capability Centre (GCC) Summit, scheduled to be held at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu, on October 9-10, with a focus on attracting investment, generating skilled employment and exploring the potential of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities as emerging destinations for technology-driven enterprises.

The meeting besides ACS, Finance was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology Department; Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Director, IIM-Jammu; Director, Skill Development Department; CEO, CITaG; Representatives from NassCom and other senior government functionaries.

Chairing a high-level preparatory meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised that the summit should go beyond deliberations and serve as a platform for building meaningful partnerships between the government, industry and academic institutions, besides identifying new avenues for economic growth across Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that the growing preference of global enterprises for Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities presents a significant opportunity for J&K to leverage its educated youth, competitive operating costs and expanding institutional infrastructure to attract investment and create high-value employment opportunities.

The Chief Secretary underscored the importance of exploring the potential of smaller cities to emerge as alternative destinations for GCCs, thereby extending the benefits of technology-led economic growth beyond traditional metropolitan centres. He further observed



that the summit would provide a valuable learning experience for government officers by exposing them to emerging industry requirements, global business practices and innovative models of collaboration between the government and private sector.

Dulloo called for systematically documenting the feedback, recommendations and suggestions emerging from the summit so that these could inform future policy interventions. He said the deliberations should also contribute towards laying the groundwork for the government's upcoming policy on the circular economy.

Emphasising the importance of wider publicity, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to undertake extensive media outreach at both regional and national levels to ensure greater visibility for the summit and effectively communicate the investment opportunities offered by Jammu and Kashmir.

He called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to ensure that the summit translates into tangible outcomes in terms of investor interest, institutional partnerships, employment opportunities and a clear roadmap for developing the GCC ecosystem in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, Director, IIM Jammu, Prof. B. S. Sahay, gave

a detailed presentation on the objectives of the summit, its proposed sessions, participation of industry representatives and other stakeholders, besides the arrangements being made for its successful conduct.

He informed that the two-day summit to be held here from Oct 8-10 would bring together industry leaders, policymakers, technology experts, investors and representatives of academic institutions to deliberate on the opportunities and challenges associated with establishing GCCs in emerging destinations such as Jammu and Kashmir.

Giving details of th summit programme, the Director informed that the inaugural session on October 9. The first day would feature three thematic panel discussions on industry-government collaboration, India's GCC growth story and partnerships for investment, employment and economic development in J&K.

The second day would feature discussions on leveraging the advantages of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities for technological innovation, the future o talent and work force transformation, and a roadmap for making J&K an emerging GCC destination.

The summit would particularly focus on industry-government collaboration, India's evolving GCC

landscape, investment and employment opportunities, technological innovation, workforce transformation and the formulation of a comprehensive roadmap for positioning J&K as an attractive GCC destination.

The meeting was informed that J&K possesses several advantages, including a young and educated talent pool, comparatively lower operating costs, a favourable quality of life and the presence of premier academic and training institutions. These strengths, supported by an enabling policy environment and coordinated institutional facilitation, could help attract global enterprises seeking to diversify their operations beyond major metropolitan cities.

The Chief Secretary emphasised upon the timely completion of all outstanding preparations, stressing that the summit should project J&K's investment potential while creating opportunities for sustained engagement with prospective investors and industry stakeholders.

It was further informed that documentation of the summit proceedings would commence on October 12, with the finalisation of the proceedings, recommendations and summit resolution targeted for October 16. These would provide a basis for subsequent policy deliberations and follow-up action by the concerned departments.

SMC organises mental health, meditation session for officers, employees



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Tuesday organised a Mental Health and Meditation Session for its officers and employees in collaboration with the Art of Living at the SMC Meeting Hall, Srinagar, with the objective of promoting mental well-being, mindfulness and effective stress management in the workplace.

The session was attended by senior officers and officials of the Corporation and focused on the importance of mental well-being, emotional balance and maintaining a healthy approach towards workplace stress. Participants also took part

in guided meditation and wellness-oriented practices.

Among those present were Nuzhat Khurshid Qurashi, Joint Commissioner (Administration), SMC; Suhail Ul Islam, Joint Commissioner (R&E); Syed Abul Qasim, Joint Commissioner (S), SMC; Dr. Fozia Habib, Health Officer, SMC; Taahir Ahmad Magray, Secretary, SMC, besides other senior officers and officials.

The session was conducted by Vinod Soni and Jyoti Kaur, Senior Faculty, Art of Living, who guided the participants through meditation and wellness practices, while highlighting practical approaches to stress management and mental well-being.

DC Anantnag reviews facilities for fruit growers, traders

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Tuesday visited the Jablipora Fruit Mandi and reviewed the facilities and arrangements put in place for fruit growers, traders, transporters and other stakeholders during the ongoing harvesting and marketing season.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various facilities and operational arrangements at the fruit mandi and interacted with fruit growers, traders, transporters and representatives of trade associations. He took feedback from the stakeholders regarding the issues being faced by them and sought details about the measures being taken to ensure smooth and efficient handling of the ongoing fruit season. Highlighting the importance of horticulture to the district's economy, the DC said that horticulture is one of the key pillars and a backbone of the local economy, providing livelihood and employment opportunities to a large section of the population. He stressed the need for coordinated and sustained efforts to further streamline the horticulture sector and ensure that all necessary facilities and services remain readily available to growers, traders and other stakeholders.

The DC emphasized the importance of strengthening the entire horticulture value chain, from harvesting and transportation to marketing and exports, so that growers receive timely support and their produce is handled and marketed efficiently. He also called for close coordination among the concerned departments and stakeholders to address bottlenecks and facilitate the smooth movement and marketing of fruit.

DC Bandipora reviews winter preparedness

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Tuesday reviewed the district's winter preparedness, focusing on snow clearance, road connectivity, power supply, healthcare and availability of essential commodities.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the District Control Room to compile last year's winter-related challenges so that timely measures could be taken to address them.

Reviewing road connectivity, the

Officer Commanding, BRO, briefed the meeting about the steps taken to reduce Bandipora-Gurez road closure and informed that new works have been taken up to improve road conditions. The DC directed BRO to expedite work on the Markoot Bridge and other bridges and immediately flag any issues causing delays to the district administration.

The DC expressed displeasure over delays in bridge works and directed concerned departments to ensure adequate availability of machinery for winter-related requirements.

The DC stressed that poor road

connectivity affects all essential services and directed R&B, PMCSY and MED to finalize their snow-clearance plans well in advance. The Executive Engineer, MED, was directed to visit Gurez and submit an inspection report. GPS devices were also directed to be installed in vehicles deployed for snow clearance.

During the meeting, the Assistant Director FCS&CA Bandipora, informed that essential commodities would be stocked by the end of October. The DC directed the department to submit details of Fair Price Shops and storage facilities.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ARIPAL

AUCTION NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that Block Development Officer Aripal is going to conduct an open auction of 08 No. of standing trees in the premises of Panchayat Ghor Aripal. The auction shall be conducted on 19-10-2026 at 11:00 AM in the premises at Panchayat Ghar Aripal. Interested Persons/Firms are hereby invited to participate in the said auction. Description of trees:

S.No	Specie	Girth (Inches)	Volume in Cft	Reserve rate in Rs incl. 18% GST per Cft	Minimum Fixed Price (in Rs)	Remarks
01	Robinia	38	12.12	159.00	1,927.08	Green Standing
02	Poplar	89	161.22	215.00	34,662.30	Green Standing
03	Poplar	65	82.52	215.00	172741.80	Green Standing
04	Poplar	65	8232	215.00	172741.80	Green Standing
05	Ulmus	23	4.99	159.00	793.41	Green Standing
06	Ulmus	20	4.99	159.00	793.41	Green Standing
07	Minus	57	53.97	159.00	8,581.23	Green Standing
08	Brimji	21	3.00	159.00	477.00	Green Standing
Total			405.33		82718.03	

Submission Guidelines & Conditions:

- Interested bidders shall submit a bank draft of ₹5000/= in favor of Block Development Officer, Aripal prior to participation in the auction.
- Interested bidders can inspect the trees on or before the date of auction.
- The highest bid will remain open for 10 days for any 1 0% higher counteroffer, fading which it shall be deemed final as per the Rule 59(4) of Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996.
- The successful bidder shall make the complete payment immediately upon culmination of the 1 0-day period, failing which the bid shall be liable for cancellation and the earnest money forfeited.
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject any bid without assigning any reason.

For any clarification, please contact Faheem Ahmad Gharie, Panchayat Secretary (P/N: 7006257660) of the office of the Block Development Officer Aripal.

No: BDO/Apl/Pyt/1576
Dated: 29/09/2026

Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Aripal

DIPK-6221/26 Dated: 29-09-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity Bill Bearing consumer Id NO 0205010004541. from MOHD SULTAN BHAT TO SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT If anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the office of the Subdivision GANDERBAL PDD GANDERBAL. within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. after that no objection will be entertained. Name .SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN BHAT R/O TULI BAGH GANDERBAL

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e-mail Id: to-exenmidrsrinagar@jk.gov.in

Sub: Extension in bidding time for e-NIT No. 31 of 2026-27, dated: 19.09.2026 for below mentioned work:
Mechanical repair works to 05 cusec diesel engine driven pumping unit at Kujar of MISD Ganderbal.
Ref: JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: 2026_IFC_325290_1

Extension Notice 1

Due to Poor Response to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under:

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	03.10.2026 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	05.10.2026 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No.: MIDS/Ts/3321-24
Date: 29.09.2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

DIPK-6229/26 Dated: 29-09-2026

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, ANANTNAG

District Magistrate Complex, Anantnag-192101

EXTENSION NOTICE

In continuation to the Expression of Interest (EOI) notice issued by this Office for "SMILE — Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging", wherein the last date for submission of proposals was fixed as 25.09.2026, it is hereby notified that, due to poor response received from eligible and experienced organizations/NGOs, the last date for submission of proposals is hereby extended up to 10th October 2026.

All eligible and interested organizations/NGOs are requested to submit their proposals within the extended period in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the original EOI notice.

The other terms and conditions of the original EOI notice shall remain unchanged.

District Social Welfare Officer Anantnag

No: DSWO/Ang/Estt./2026/1560-63 Dated: 29/09/2026

DIPK-6217/26 Dated: 29-09-2026

Delegation, MLAs call on LG Sinha

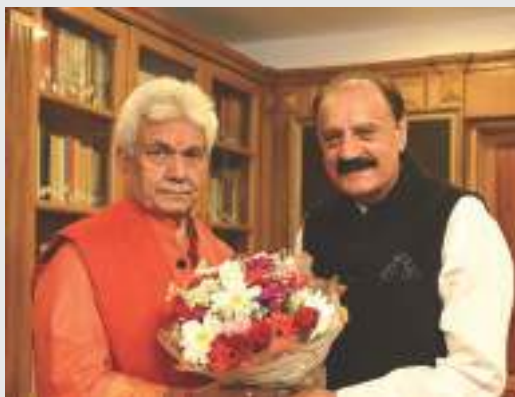
KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 29: Surjit Singh Slathia, Member of Legislative Assembly, Samba on Tuesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and put forth various issues of public importance of his constituency.

In the meantime, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Member of Legislative Assembly from Reasi called on Lieutenant Governor.

Furthermore, Brig Anil Gupta (Retd.), CEO, J&K Cricket Association (JKCA), called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He was accompanied by Vivek Khajuria, Secretary, JKCA.

The JKCA officials briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the preparations for the upcoming Irani Cup. Srinagar is set to host the five-day first-class match from October 1 to 5, 2026.



From Legislative Assembly

Cement plants using 'Pet Coke' to install advanced pollution controls: Dy CM

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 29: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Tuesday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that cement plants using Pet Coke as feedstock will install advanced pollution-control systems.

He also outlined measures to address waterlogging in Kathua, Environmental Clearance requirements for minor mineral extraction and relief and restoration in flood-hit Poonch and Rajouri.

Replying to a Calling Attention Notice by MLA Justice (Retd) Hunsain Masoodi, the Deputy Chief Minister Choudhary said the proposed pollution-control systems include Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) systems with over 90 percent sulphur removal efficiency, alkaline scrubbers and Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs).

He said the measures are aimed at curbing emissions and ensuring compliance with environmental norms. Masoodi had raised the issue of continued Pet Coke use

by cement factories in the Khrew-Khanmoh area and the alleged pollution threat to human and animal life.

Choudhary, who also holds the Industries & Commerce portfolio, said the department has a facilitative role, while monitoring and enforcement of pollution-control norms fall under the statutory mandate of the J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC).

He said registration of eligible industrial units/MSMEs is accorded through the concerned District Industries Centres, subject to fulfilment of prescribed formalities, including obtaining consent to establish and operate from the JKPCC.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the use of Pet Coke as feedstock is governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Pet Coke Furnace Oil Policy. Cement plants using Pet Coke are required to comply with specified safeguards, including authorisation under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, as the sulphur content in Pet Coke is above five



percent.

He said the units have been directed not to store Pet Coke beyond three months' consumption and to procure it only from registered dealers.

On waterlogging along Jail Road in Kathua, Choudhary said the Public Works (R&B) Department will lead coordinated efforts involving the Revenue, Home and

Housing & Urban Development departments and the district administration.

Replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by MLA Dr Bharat Bhushan, he said the issue involves land

records, jail premises, town drainage and housing and therefore requires coordinated intervention. "As per field reports and local enquiry, the nallah causing

the waterlogging presently lies within the boundary wall of District Jail, Kathua, constructed around 25 years ago, while available records do not show it as registered with the Revenue Department," he said.

He said the Revenue Department will verify the relevant records and undertake joint demarcation of the nallah, while the Home Department and jail authorities will examine the findings for removal of any obstruction or identification of a suitable alternative alignment without compromising jail security.

The Housing & Urban Development Department and Municipal Council, Kathua, will ensure that the drain and outfall are properly integrated with the town drainage system and undertake necessary desilting and sanitation measures.

"The Home Department/Jail authorities will be consulted on the findings to facilitate removal of any obstruction in the nallah or identification of a

*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

118 km roads upgraded in Srinagar: Govt

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 29: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has macadamised or upgraded 118.06 km of roads across Srinagar district during the current financial year, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary informed the Assembly on Tuesday.

Replying to legislators' questions during the Autumn Session, Choudhary said 15.43 km of roads had been upgraded in the Khanyar constituency under special development directives.

He said the Public Works (R&B) Department was continuing efforts to remove bottlenecks on key road corridors under the supervision of the High-Level Committee (HLC).

On Syed Meerakshah Road, he said 2.68 km of the 10.33-km stretch had been fully widened, while compensation and acquisition proceedings had been completed for 132 of the 332 affected structures.

For the Khanyar-Zadibal-Pandarth Road corridor, 161 of 314 structures have been acquired, with around 2 km of the 12.45-km road widened.

On the Koolipora-Budobagh Road, 231 metres of the 435-metre widening stretch has been completed and 14 of 29 structures cleared. The remaining 15 cases are being resolved on a fast-track basis. The

project has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 4.5 crore, he said.

Choudhary said a proposal for widening and upgrading the Devi Angan-Hawal Road had been submitted under the CRIF scheme at an estimated cost of Rs 31.25 crore, including Rs 30 crore for land acquisition and utility shifting.

Work on the Alamgiri Bazar Chowk project has been approved under the UT Sector at an estimated cost of Rs 3.35 crore. The project includes acquisition of five structures and redesigning of the junction.

For the Buchpora-Hazratbal Road, approval of the revised DPR is awaited. Acquisition proceedings involving 34 structures have been initiated, of which two structures have been acquired and Rs 20 lakh disbursed from the Rs 7 crore allocated for bottleneck removal. The remaining amount is awaiting revaluation, he said.

Choudhary said the Babopora-Habba Kadal Road had been largely cleared, with only four structures remaining, while acquisition of 24 structures was pending on the Habba Kadal-Gowkadal Road.

On the Fateh Kadal-Habba Kadal road via Chinkral Mohalla, 176 structures fall within the widening

*Continued on
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'26,544 EWS certificates issued in J&K in 2 years'

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 29: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that 26,544 Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) certificates were issued across the Union Territory during the last two years, with 24,058 issued in Jammu Division and 2,486 in Kashmir Division.

The information was provided by the Revenue Department in response to an unstarred question raised by MLA Surjit Singh Slathia regarding the number of EWS certificates issued in Jammu and Kashmir and the government's position on revisiting the existing criteria.

The department said that 2,486 EWS certificates were issued in Kashmir Division during the period under review.

Among Kashmir districts, Anantnag recorded 583
*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

No proposal to relax EWS criteria: Govt

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 29: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that there is currently no proposal under consideration to relax the existing criteria for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), including doing away with the prescribed asset-based criteria.

The information was provided by the Social Welfare Department in response to a starred question raised by Handwara MLA Sajad Gani Lone regarding category certificates and reservation-related issues.

The department said that recommendations regarding reservation have been submitted to the competent authority. However, details of queries raised by the Union Government or the decision and proceedings of the Cabinet cannot be provided under Rule 38 of the Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, particularly Clause (xxi), the government said.

*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

335 Medical Officers appointed, 290 posts under recruitment : Govt

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 29: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that efforts are underway to address staff shortages in health institutions across Akhnoor constituency, with 335 Medical Officers having already received appointment orders and recruitment for 290 non-gazetted posts in Jammu Division currently in progress.

The information was provided by the Health and Medical Education Department in a written reply to a question tabled by MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, who had sought details about the availability of medical, paramedical and other staff in Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Akhnoor, Community Health



Centre (CHC) Jourian and other health institutions in the constituency.

The department informed the House that it had received a selection list of 416 Medical Officers, of whom appointment orders for 335 candidates had been issued

after receipt of their verification reports.

These doctors will be posted against identified vacancies and manpower requirements, with priority being given to peripheral, underserved and doctor-deficient health institutions and

areas.

Regarding non-gazetted employees, the government said 290 posts pertaining to Jammu Division, including those relevant to health institutions in Akhnoor constituency, had been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

The posts were advertised by the JKSSB in July 2025, and the recruitment process is currently underway.

The department said it would continue recruitment against vacant sanctioned posts and rational deployment of available staff, subject to recruitment rules and the availability of eligible candidates.

Responding to questions
*Continued on
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145 GDCs, 111 technical institutions functioning in J&K

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 29: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that 145 Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) are presently functioning across the Union Territory, including six in Bandipora district.

The information was provided by the Higher Education Department in response to an unstarred question raised by Bandipora MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat regarding the number of higher and technical educational institutions functioning across J&K, with specific reference to Bandipora constituency.

The department said that out of the 145 functional Government Degree Colleges across J&K, six are located in Bandipora.

Regarding technical institutions, the government said there are 54 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), 31 private ITIs, 22 Government Polytechnics and

*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

Funding, tendering issues delay NTPHC Wangath construction

Raja Syed Rather

Ganderbal, Sep 29: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that the construction of the New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) at Wangath in Kangan has achieved around 60 per cent physical progress, while the project was delayed due to financial limitations and tendering issues under the Tribal Sub-Plan over the years.

The information was provided by the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department in response to a starred question raised by Kangan MLA Mian Mehar

Ali regarding the physical and financial status of the NTPHC Wangath project and the timeline for its completion.

The department said the construction of the NTPHC Wangath was taken up during 2017-18 under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) District Sector at an approved cost of ₹191.40 lakh through the J&K Housing Board. So far, ₹122.66 lakh has been incurred on the project.

The government said the project has achieved approximately 60 per cent physical progress, with the skeleton structure and roofing completed.

It attributed the delay in execution to

financial constraints and tendering issues under the Tribal Sub-Plan over the years.

"Keeping in view the importance of the project, funding limitations and for early resumption/completion of the balance components of the project," a revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) amounting to ₹148.41 lakh has been prepared by the J&K Housing Board and is under examination with the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir for accord of Administrative Approval, the department said.

The government further said that since the District Development Council (DDC), Ganderbal, has expressed

funding limitations under the District Sector Tribal Sub-Plan, funding for execution of the balance components would be explored under the UT Capex Budget for the revised estimates for 2026-27 and 2027-28.

Regarding the revised timeline for completion, the department said that after completion of the required Administrative Approval (AA) formalities, financial concurrence and provision of funds, the remaining work would be resumed and completed within two working seasons, so as to make the NTPHC Wangath functional—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Op Drishti – A Mission Bringing Light To Border Villages

The image of a soldier is often defined by the rifle he carries and the border he guards. But in the remote mountain villages of Tangdhar and Karnah, the Indian Army has redefined that image, not with weapons, but with scalpels. Under ‘Operation Drishti’, doctors of the Armed Forces Medical Services performed 223 sight-restoring surgeries in just two days at an underground operation theatre in a

shelling-prone zone along the Line of Control (LoC). For residents of 59 villages, this was not merely a medical camp. It was a miracle. Consider what it meant for Hamida Begum, who had lived with failing eyesight for 15 years and never imagined treatment was possible. Consider Saleema, who after three years of darkness, could finally see clearly again. Consider Kalamuddin, who would have spent nearly Rs 1 lakh for treatment

elsewhere but received it free of cost. These are not statistics. They are lives transformed. What makes ‘Op Drishti’ remarkable is not just its scale—over 10,000 patients screened and more than 3,000 surgeries performed across 10 locations nationwide—but its philosophy. Specialised healthcare should reach people where they live, rather than requiring vulnerable patients to overcome distance and expense to reach it. This is a profound

shift in how we think about access to medical care. For border communities, the Army’s presence has always meant security. But initiatives like this remind us that security is not only about defending territory; it is also about protecting the dignity and well-being of the people who live on that territory. When a soldier guides an elderly patient to the operating theatre, arranges tea for waiting families, and ensures comfort at every

step, he embodies the highest ideals of service. The Army’s partnership with AIIMS for an AI-based diabetic retinopathy screening programme further demonstrates its commitment to innovation in public health. ‘Op Drishti’ is a reminder that the nation’s uniform is not just a symbol of power—it is also a symbol of compassion. The Army has shown that it guards not only our borders but also the hopes of those who live along them.

Power From Waste: Inside Swachh Bharat Mission Waste-To-Energy Story

Waste-to-energy, under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, takes different forms across India, depending on the available waste and community needs

Press Trust of India

Across India, organic waste is finding a second life as fuel, electricity and valuable manure. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, launched in October 2014, scientific management of municipal solid waste has remained a core objective. As the Mission evolved, organic waste has been recognised as a valuable resource to produce clean energy. Biogas, produced through the anaerobic decomposition of organic waste, is among the most viable, economical and environmentally friendly cooking fuels available. The by-product slurry is rich in nitrogen and serves as an effective organic fertilizer. It reduces dependence on chemical inputs, lowers costs and helps maintain soil fertility. This delivers a dual benefit from a single initiative.

Waste-to-energy, under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, takes different forms across India, depending on the available waste and community needs. A vegetable market in Hyderabad lights its own streetlights with rotten vegetables. In Prayagraj, a multi-feedstock bio-CNG plant converts different types of organic waste into clean fuel and compost. An educational institution in Gandhinagar cooks for more than 500 people a day without depending on LPG cylinders. A gaushala in Gwalior turns cow dung into compressed biogas. Different feedstocks, different scales, but the same underlying shift. These initiatives showcase how cities and institutions are emerging as frontrunners in the journey towards sustainability. By adopting innovative, circular approaches to waste management, they are reducing environmental impact and unlocking the value of waste as a resource.

Gandhinagar: An Educational Campus Eliminating LPG Dependence

At the Shrimati Manekba Vinay Vihar Educational Complex, near Adalaj in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, the kitchen cooks for

more than 500 people every day. Around 250 hostel students receive two meals daily, alongside 15 staff families living on campus. The kitchen, however, has eliminated its dependence on LPG and transitioned to a biogas-based cooking system.

The Vasumati Charitable Trust, which manages the campus, operates two biogas plants with a combined capacity of 90 cubic metres per day. The feedstock includes dung from 222 cows housed in the trust’s cowshed. It is supplemented by kitchen waste and agricultural residue from nearby fields. The gas meets the campus’s entire cooking-fuel requirement, without which 30 LPG cylinders would have been required every month.

The institution demonstrates how innovative and scientific waste management can drive energy self-reliance and sustainability. The institutional mechanisms such as the Gujarat government’s Institutional Biogas Plant Scheme and Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) provided the policy and financial support to make this transition.

Gujarat continues to advance alternative energy and sustainable development, reducing pollution and achieving energy self-sufficiency. It also enables the scientific disposal of organic waste from gaushalas and educational institutions alike.

Prayagraj: One Plant, Four Feedstocks

Prayagraj’s bio-CNG facility is a waste-to-energy plant designed to process diverse forms of organic waste.

With the launch of the plant, Uttar Pradesh has established a significant milestone in green energy and waste management. The project represents a forward-looking step towards environmental conservation while advancing the mission of turning waste into a valuable resource.

The plant can process 343 tonnes of organic waste a day and produce around 21 tonnes of

bio-CNG. Its multi-feedstock model uses wet waste, paddy straw, cattle dung and poultry litter, creating productive uses for agricultural residues while helping address stubble burning.

The facility operates under a public-private partnership model and absorbs bulk organic waste from hotels, restaurants and apartment complexes. Daily wet-waste supply has increased from just 7–8 tonnes initially to around 125 tonnes, strengthening waste utilisation in the city. The bio-CNG produced is sold under the Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) – City Gas Distribution (CGD) Synchronisation Scheme, reaches users through the fuel cascade route, and currently supports city transport.

The process also produces 28 tonnes of high-quality compost daily, which is made available to local farmers, supporting regenerative farming. Looking ahead, the project is expected to extend clean energy access to around 45,000 households through piped gas and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 57,000 tonnes annually.

Gwalior: A Gaushala That Became a Power Plant

At Adarsh Gaushala in Laltipara, Gwalior’s largest cowshed, more than 10,000 cattle call it home. In October 2024, the gaushala gave its daily dung a new purpose with the inauguration of a 100-tonnes-per-day (TPD) Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant. The facility made Adarsh Gaushala India’s first modern, self-sufficient gaushala built around a state-of-the-art CBG plant.

The plant’s design goes beyond cattle dung alone. It is Madhya Pradesh’s first CBG plant built to also process vegetable and fruit waste collected from markets and homes. Spread over 5 acres, the 31-crore project was developed in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation. Every day, it converts 100 tonnes of cattle dung into two tonnes of compressed biogas. It also produces 10–15 tonnes of dry bio-manure daily, providing an affordable input for farmers

in nearby districts and encouraging organic farming.

The benefits extend beyond the gaushala. The CBG provides a cleaner, eco-friendly alternative to fossil fuels, while converting dung into energy helps reduce carbon emissions and contributes to climate change mitigation. The project has also created local employment opportunities, promoting skills in green energy and sustainable practices and contributing to the local economy.

The CBG plant is more than an industrial facility. It represents collaboration between society and government and demonstrates how waste can be converted into useful resources.

Bowenpally: What a Vegetable Market Can Power

Among these four stories, the vegetable market story at Bowenpally tells about one of the most innovative waste management systems. At Hyderabad’s Bowenpally Vegetable Market, roughly 10 tons of vegetable and fruit waste are collected every day. This waste previously went to landfills. Since a biogas plant was set up on-site, nearly all the waste collected from the market is put to use. It generates around 400–500 units of electricity and 30 kg of bio-fuel a day. The electricity generated is used to run the market’s streetlights, stalls, administration building and water-supply network. The biofuel is supplied to the market’s commercial kitchen, helping keep the marketplace clean and pollution-free.

Inside the biogas plant, vegetables are chopped, shredded and ground into slurry. The slurry then feeds into anaerobic digesters, while the resulting gas is stored in balloons until further use. The leftover slurry produces liquid bio-manure, which is used by farmers as fertiliser. Biogas is also collected in a separate tank and sent through a pipeline system for cooking. The biofuel is supplied to a 100% biogas generator, which powers the cold storage

From Waste To Purpose: Indian Cities Are Rewriting The Plastic Story

As the Swachh Bharat Mission completes twelve years on 2 October, these stories show how local action can change the plastic journey. The units differ — kilograms, bags, pouches and chipboards but the direction is the same: turning everyday choices into lasting change.

Press Information Bureau

Over a decade ago, walking through an Indian market, a purchase often came with a plastic bag, commonly called polythene. These bags carried vegetables, clothes, food and countless other purchases.

Today, markets across the country are increasingly becoming plastic-free. Many shoppers carry a cloth bag from home. A shopkeeper offers a reusable alternative. Residents segregate dry and wet waste at home. Plastic collected from households travels to a recovery centre instead of a dumpsite. Some of it may eventually return as a new product. India began changing its plastic story with stricter rules and better waste management systems. The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), launched on 2 October 2014, has strengthened systems for collection, segregation and recovery. Identified single-use plastic items have been prohibited since 1 July 2022.

But this change has not happened overnight, nor has it come from rules alone. It has grown through small habits, supported by awareness, local

action and community participation. Across cities and communities, they show how small changes can reshape the plastic journey. Together, they cover the arc of plastic: reduce, reuse, return, recover and recreate.

Reduce: Making Market Part of The Solution

A market is where one small habit repeats hundreds of times each morning. In Trichy, the city corporation launched a campaign in 2022 to tackle persistent single-use plastic use in markets.

Three farmers’ markets — Tennur, K.K. Nagar and Woraiyur — covering 220 vendors, were selected for intensive engagement. Trichy City Corporation engaged the vendors, explaining the environmental harm caused by single-use plastic and encouraging them to adopt sustainable alternatives. The “ThunippaiThiruvizhai” (Cloth-Bag festival) initiative further encouraged shoppers to use reusable cloth bags. The results were measurable. Tennur market avoided 2,200 kg of single-use plastic in one year, while K.K. Nagar avoided 620 kg in four months and Woraiyur 300 kg in six months.

Reuse: Thaila ATM: Making the Reusable Choice Easier

A cloth bag is a simple alternative to a plastic bag, but making it part of everyday shopping requires easy access. In Vita town, Maharashtra, the Nagar Parishad (Municipal Council) has installed five “Thaila ATMs” at crowded locations to offer shoppers reusable cotton bags.

The machines work like vending machines. Shoppers insert a coin or note and receive a cloth bag. Built on Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) technology, the machines remotely monitor bag availability and alert the council when stocks fall below a set level. The initiative is creating livelihood opportunities too. Women from local Self-Help Groups stitch the bags supplied through the machines. Around 6,000 bags have been sold, with the weekly market recording nearly 200 bags in a day.

For Vita resident Mumtaz Raju Sayyed, the change is practical: “With the Thaila ATM, I can now get a cloth bag, which makes carrying my shopping easy.”

The Thaila ATM is part of wider efforts in Maharashtra to reduce plastic

use. Cities are combining enforcement with awareness through market inspections, penalties, street plays and public campaigns. In Indapur, authorities seized 25 kg of plastic bags and imposed a 90,000 fine. At the same time, communities are promoting practical alternatives. In Wardha, a Self-Help Group distributed 17,000 paper bags, while cloth and jute bags are being encouraged for repeated use. Together, these efforts are helping make plastic-free choices more accessible in everyday life.

Return: Milk Pouches Earn A Return

What if an empty milk pouch could bring something back to the household? In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a buy-back initiative is encouraging residents to return used plastic milk pouches instead of discarding them.

Collection points were established where consumers could exchange used pouches for rewards, including fresh milk and discounts. Awareness campaigns encouraged residents to participate and highlighted the importance of recycling and responsible disposal. The project was done in collaboration with Andaman

and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO) and Sri Vijaya Puram Municipal Council (SVPMC).

The initiative gives plastic waste a value while creating an incentive for people to return it through a structured system. By November 2024, 17,600 milk pouches were collected, rewarding residents with 352 liters of milk. The model shows how a simple incentive can turn responsible waste disposal into a community habit.

Recover: Where Plastic Waste Finds a Second Life

Bengaluru is being made greener through plastic-waste recycling. According to the Karnataka State Plastic Association, plastic consumption in the city is around 16 kg per person each month. Against this backdrop, United Nations Development Programme’s Project Prithvi is helping give discarded plastic a second life.

Under the programme, a Material Recovery Facility called Swachhata Kendra was established in 2019 for Safai Saathis. The centre sorts plastic waste and processes it through shredding and baling, making the processed material suitable for

recyclers. The facility also provided employment to 76 Safai Saathis during the COVID-19 pandemic. Managed by social organisation Hasiru Dala, the centre connects waste recovery with livelihoods.

Processed plastic is used to make roads, agricultural water pipes and furniture. The initiative helps reduce the burden of plastic waste and contributes to the transformation of cities into cleaner spaces. What was once discarded therefore re-enters the economy as a useful material, bringing the idea of a circular economy closer to everyday waste management.

Recreate: Turning Multi-Layered Plastic into Durable Products

From chocolate wrappers and biscuit packets to chips and shampoo sachets, Multilayered Plastics (MLPs) are widely used in everyday packaging. These combine layers of materials such as plastic, paper and aluminium, making them difficult to separate and recycle. For years, most of this waste had nowhere to go but landfills. Patiala, however, found a way to give this difficult-to-recycle waste a new destination through a Plastic Recycling Facility (PRF).

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

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J&K ASSEMBLY AUTUMN SESSION 2026

118 Kms macadamized across Srinagar during current fiscal: Deputy CM

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that total road length of 118.06 KMs has been successfully macadamized/upgraded across Srinagar District during the current financial year through the joint efforts of the PW(R&B) Department and the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

The Minister was replying to a question raised by the legislator Ali Mohammad Sagar.

The Minister, as per an official statement, said that under special development directives, 15.43 KMs of road length have been upgraded specifically within the Khanyar Constituency till date.

The Minister informed the house that the R&B Department's community centres in Srinagar have generated an annual revenue of 6,83,000/- in the 2025-26, up from 4,15,000/- in the previous year, which is being actively utilized toward essential maintenance works.

The Minister said that the department continues to aggressively pursue bottleneck removals on historic transit corridors under the oversight of the High-Level Committee (HLC).

"With regard to Syed Meerakshah Road (SMS Road), out of the total 10.33 Km stretch, 2.68 Km has been fully widened (25.95% physical progress) and settlement as well as acquisition have been successfully completed for 132 out of 332 affected structures. Similarly, for Khanyar-Zadibal-Pandirath (KZP Road), the total road length is 12.45 Kms. Out



of 314 structures, 161 structures have already been acquired, achieving a physical widening of approximately 2.00 Km of the road corridor. In respect of Koolipora-Budoobagh Road (Special Reference) a critical 435-metre road widening project has achieved a completed stretch of 231 metres. Out of 29 structures, 14 have been cleared. The remaining 15 cases are currently undergoing fast-tracked resolution. The project stands approved at an estimated cost of 450.00 lakh", the Minister informed.

Deputy Chief Minister further informed the House that the widening and upgradation proposal for the Devi Angan-Hawal Road has been submitted under the CRIF scheme at an estimated cost of Rs 31.25 crore. The proposal includes Rs 30 crore for land acquisition

and utility shifting and Rs 1.25 crore for development works along an approximately 1.40-kilometre stretch. The project will be taken up after the requisite approval is received under the scheme.

On the Alamgiri Bazar Chowk project, Deputy Chief Minister stated that the work has been authorised under the UT Sector at an estimated cost of Rs 335 lakh, including acquisition of five structures and redesigning of the junction. Administrative approval has been accorded by the Chief Engineer, Public Works (R&B) Department, Central Kashmir. An amount of Rs 20 lakh was allocated during the financial year 2025-26, while the case is presently under examination at the Administrative Department level for further necessary action and release of funds.

With regard to the Buchpora-Hazratbal Road, the House was informed that administrative approval for the revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) is awaited. Land acquisition cases pertaining to 34 structures have been taken up under the Bottleneck Removal Component, of which two structures have already been acquired. An amount of Rs 700 lakh has been received for the removal of the bottleneck, of which Rs 20 lakh has been disbursed for the acquisition of two structures. The remaining amount is pending revalidation, while further acquisition will be undertaken subject to the availability of requisite funds, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister also apprised the House of the progress on the Babapora-Haba Kadal Road, which has been substantially cleared, with only

four structures remaining to be removed.

Regarding the Habba Kadal-Gowkadal Road, the Deputy Chief Minister informed the Assembly that 24 structures are presently pending acquisition. An amount of Rs 21 lakh is available for the project, while additional funds are required to complete the acquisition of the remaining structures and facilitate further widening work.

On the Fateh Kadal to Habba Kadal via Chinkral Mohalla Road, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the widening stretch involves 176 structures requiring acquisition and removal. Of these, 13 structures have been notified under Section 4, while 8 structures have already been acquired through the High-Level Committee. The acquisition and removal of the remaining structures will be taken up subject to the availability and release of the requisite funds.

"The Government acknowledges that certain stretches face delays due to active court litigations, missing Section 4 notifications, localized family title disputes, or ongoing compensation evaluations. Following the decisions of the 264th HLC meeting, the department is implementing the streamlined PNC mechanism to settle all pending land acquisition claims efficiently", the Minister further said.

The Minister that the Department is coordinating closely with the Collector, Land Acquisition (PWD) to ensure seamless validation and timely release of remaining compensation funds to minimize public inconvenience and deliver a modernized road network for Srinagar.

MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar raised supplementary.

JKPCC ensures strict compliance with environmental norms for establishing stone crushers

517 units inspected since Jan, 2025, 229 legal notices, 146 closure directions issued: Javed Rana



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29: The Government Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) inspected 517 stone-crusher units across the Union Territory from January 2025 till date, issuing 229 legal notices and 146 closure directions for violation of environmental and pollution-control norms.

This was stated by Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a question raised by MLA Ajaz Ahmad Jan.

The Minister, as per an official statement, said that in Kashmir Division, 318 crusher units were inspected, 154 legal notices issued and 112 closure orders issued. In Jammu Division, 199 inspections were conducted, resulting in 75 legal notices and 34 closure directions.

The Government stated these directions were issued under the relevant provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The action was taken, among other reasons, against units found operating without the requisite NOC from the concerned Deputy Commissioner, without valid consent from the J&K Pollution Control Committee and without adequate or requisite pollution-control measures.

The Government also

provided details of four stone crushers approved for establishment in Poonch district, from January 2025 till date, located at Seeri Chowana, Salotri and Bhainch areas, with the approvals granted in accordance with the prescribed norms and criteria.

Javed Rana stated that permissions for setting up and operating stone crushers in the Union Territory are being granted only after ensuring compliance with prescribed environmental norms, siting criteria and applicable regulations.

The minister stated that consents have been granted in accordance with the criteria and norms prescribed by the competent authority, while adhering to the environmental guidelines and siting criteria governing the establishment and operation of stone crushers in Jammu and Kashmir.

He further stated that the applicable framework includes the JKPC Order No. 70 of 2025 dated May 9, 2025, along with the subsequent amendment to the Siting Criteria for establishment and operation of stone crushers in Jammu and Kashmir issued vide JKPC Order No. 124-JKPC of 2025 dated August 30, 2025.

The Government also informed the House that, from January 1, 2025 till date, 58 applications for consent to establish and operate stone crushers had been received. Of these, 27 applications were approved, 28 rejected, while one application is under process.

Chadoora main bridge restoration work underway: Dy CM

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that restoration work on the main bridge at Chadoora, which was declared unsafe and closed to vehicular traffic on November 28, 2025, is presently underway.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Ali Mohammad Dar regarding the status of bridges, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Chadoora main bridge was technically inspected by NIT Srinagar, following which recommendations were received on February 2, 2026.

He informed the House that, based on the technical recommendations, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for restoration/reconstruction of the bridge was prepared and Administrative Approval amounting to 999.54 lakh was accorded. The work was subsequently awarded on August 3, 2026 and is presently in progress.

Regarding the alternate bridge near New Bus Stand, Chadoora, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the bridge

has already been constructed. He said that 50 lakh has been provided under UT Capex 2026-27 for completion of its approach road.

He further informed that the land acquisition process and alignment feasibility for the approach road are presently under progress. The approach road and commissioning of the alternate bridge will be taken up thereafter, subject to completion of the requisite land acquisition and other related formalities.

On the status of the Hanjigund bridge, the Deputy Chief Minister said that it forms part of the work titled "Construction of Road (Diversion) from Hanjigund to Chadoora via Dawlatpora, including 1x35 metre span truss girder bridge", sanctioned under NABARD.

He informed that the bridge, along with approximately 2.50 km of road, has been completed, with the overall physical progress of the project reaching 76 per cent.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the work is nearing completion, except for a minor portion, which is also being addressed by the concerned authorities.

Steps taken to rationalise manpower in corporations, retrieve encroached SIDCO land: Dy CM

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government has initiated measures to rationalize manpower across industrial corporations, address encroachment on SIDCO land and finalize the revised Industrial Policy for Jammu & Kashmir.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Chander Prakash Ganga, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that SICOP has 591 surplus staff following the closure/cessation of its Marketing Wing and Raw Material Depots. He said the surplus employees are presently engaged on 89-day arrangements.

He informed the House that J&K SIDCO is facing a shortage of regular manpower, particularly due to retirements. To meet the identified requirements, surplus staff from SICOP, along with personnel from J&K Cements Limited, have been deployed in SIDCO.

Wherever required, skilled manpower is also being engaged through outsourcing to ensure smooth functioning of the Corporation, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, further informed that 30 surplus employees from other Corporations have been deployed/utilized to augment manpower in Corporations facing shortages. The deployments have been made against identified manpower requirements for efficient functioning, he maintained.

On the issue of encroachment on SIDCO land at Balol, the Deputy Chief Minister said that an anti-encroachment drive had been conducted, resulting in the retrieval of 45 kanals of encroached land.

Regarding the remaining encroached land, he said the matter has been taken up with the District Administration through communications dated June 16, 2026 and August 29, 2026. He added that the Department is pursuing the matter with the District Administration and making all

requisite efforts for early retrieval of the remaining land.

On the Government's proposal to introduce a revised Industrial Policy addressing manpower, industrial land, infrastructure and investment promotion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the draft revised Industrial Policy was placed in the public domain for suggestions and comments from stakeholders.

He informed the House that a committee under the chairmanship of the Administrative Secretary, Finance Department, was constituted by the General Administration Department to examine and consider suggestions/comments received from various stakeholders. The committee has since held several rounds of meetings with stakeholders to deliberate upon their suggestions and incorporate appropriate inputs in the draft policy.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the revised Industrial Policy is presently at the final stage of consideration and is expected to be notified upon completion of the requisite formalities.

NCORD Meeting: DC Srinagar, SSP review anti-narcotics strategy

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District-Level NCORD Committee at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review ongoing efforts under the anti-narcotics strategy aimed at combating drug trafficking and substance abuse, ensuring prosecution of offenders, disrupting drug networks and expanding treatment and rehabilitation facilities across the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthy was present in the meeting.

The meeting, as per an official statement, held detailed discussions on enforcement, prevention and rehabilitation, effective

implementation of the Common SOP for action against accused persons, implementation of the nationwide 100 Weeks Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, maintaining zero tolerance towards Government employees involved in NDPS cases, regulation of pharmaceutical drugs and strengthening and expansion of treatment and rehabilitation measures for drug victims.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner called upon all stakeholder departments to maintain coordinated efforts to curb drug trafficking and strengthen rehabilitation mechanisms to effectively address the drug menace. He noted that while significant achievements have been made under the ongoing anti-drug campaign, all stakeholders need to work with renewed zeal, dedication and

commitment to realize the vision of a drug-free society.

While reviewing the progress in implementation of the recently launched rehabilitation policy being implemented on a pilot basis in selected Districts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar, the DC appreciated the efforts of IMHAANS and called for further strengthening of rehabilitation, counselling, follow-up and aftercare mechanisms for drug victims to facilitate their recovery and reintegration into society. He further underlined the need for proper enrolment and tracking of rehabilitation cases to ensure timely interventions, effective monitoring of beneficiaries and enhanced coordination among line departments and rehabilitation institutions.

The DC also reviewed the implementation of the nationwide 100

Weeks Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and directed the concerned departments to ensure effective implementation of the activity plans under the campaign. He stressed the need for sustained awareness and preventive interventions, particularly among youth and vulnerable sections of society, to strengthen the collective fight against drug abuse.

Reiterating the importance of a coordinated and proactive approach, the DC called upon all stakeholder departments to intensify their collective efforts towards curbing the menace of drug abuse.

The DC directed all concerned Departments to maintain close coordination and emphasized the need to protect the younger generation from the harmful consequences of drug abuse and urged all stakeholders to work in unison towards achieving the shared objective of a drug-free society.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Srinagar underscored the need for sustained and coordinated efforts to effectively combat narcotics-related activities, with particular emphasis on enhanced vigilance, stronger inter-departmental coordination and collective action. He stressed that a proactive and unified approach, coupled with timely sharing of information, is essential to prevent the spread of drug abuse and safeguard the younger generation from its harmful consequences.

During the meeting, the NCORD Committee was apprised of the sustained crackdown against narcotics, which has resulted in the registration of about 209 FIRs and the arrest of about 305 alleged drug peddlers. The Committee was further informed that 19 movable and 102 immovable properties, worth over

Rs 132 crore, linked to drug traffickers have been attached and dismantled as part of the intensified action. Besides, 163 bank accounts have also been frozen pursuant to financial investigations.

The Committee was further informed that 103 driving licences, 59 vehicle Registration Certificates (RCs) have also been suspended for violations linked to narcotics-related activities.

Around 418.15 kanals of illegal opium/poppy cultivation have been destroyed during the current year. During the meeting, the NCORD Committee was apprised of the sustained crackdown against narcotics, which has led to the registration of about 209 FIRs and the arrest of about 305 alleged drug peddlers, besides attachment and dismantling of illegal movable and immovable properties 19 (Moveable) & 102

(Immoveable) worth over Rs 132 crore linked to drug traffickers as a part of the intensified action, while 163 Bank accounts have also been frozen pursuant to financial investigations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din, DSWO, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Deputy Drug Controller, Rema Gazalla, I/c Drug De-Addiction Centre, SMHS Hospital, Dr Yasir Hassan Rather, Incharge ATF SKIMS Bemina, Officers from Excise, RTO, ANTF and other stakeholder Departments.

High drama in J&K

“I was smiling because I knew this would get politicised,” he remarked. He added that if Sharma discussed the matter privately with BJP members, he would not find a single member opposed to it. “At least, I will not allow them to do politics over it. They will get salary and allowance hikes but would still say they are opposed to it,” Omar said.

The Chief Minister stressed that the bills could not be passed unless there was unanimity in the House. “If this bill is not passed unanimously, then it will be difficult for me to pass it,” he said, announcing withdrawal of the three bills.

As Mehraj Malik attempted to speak on the bill, the Speaker ruled that discussion could not continue since the Chief Minister had proposed withdrawal. Amid din in the House, NC MLA Javid Baig said BJP MLAs were opposing the bill because they wanted salaries to be increased to Rs three lakh. “We will not allow them to do politics over it,” he added.

Omar further said that had BJP members been genuinely concerned about regularisation of daily wagers, Slathia - who headed the committee on MLA salaries - should have reflected that in the report. “Why was that not reflected in the report? How many BJP members were part of the committee? They want enhancement of salaries and allowances but simultaneously want to do politics over it. Had they been sincere about daily wagers, why didn’t they regularise them before 2024?” he asked.

He pointed out that no BJP member had submitted a dissenting note against the committee’s recommendations. “Nobody wrote a dissenting note. Nobody did,” Omar said.

The Chief Minister added that he was personally against the proposed increase and had repeatedly questioned its necessity, but agreed to introduce the bills due to demand from some MLAs. He reiterated that the legislation would not be passed if even one member opposed it.

The House then witnessed a noisy exchange, with members from the treasury benches and opposition trading heated arguments. The Speaker intervened, telling members there was no point in debating the matter as the bills had already been withdrawn.

The bills- The J&K Ministers’ and Ministers of State Salaries Act, 1956 and The Salaries and Allowances of Members of the J&K State Legislature Act, 1960- were withdrawn by voice vote. However, the bill seeking amendments to The J&K State Legislature Members’ Pension Act, 1984 was passed by the House with voice vote, with BJP members also supporting it.

CM turns BJP’s

press for clarity on Panchayat elections, the government could similarly respond that they would be conducted at an “appropriate time.”

Omar also questioned the meaning of the phrase, pointing out that the BJP itself had not clarified when that time would come or how it would be determined. (KNO)

BJP missed chance

as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, “It has been very fruitful for us. I can’t talk about the opposition. I can only talk about the treasury benches.”

“We were not expecting such a fruitful session. We were threatened before the session that the government will face a storm in the assembly and the opposition will corner us and they will do this and that,” he said.

The Chief Minister said the BJP had a good chance on the statehood bill and had asked the government for an answer on the record of the last two years. “They didn’t take a share. And our statehood resolution was passed. Today, the important bills that I wanted to pass, especially on the ease of doing business and decriminalisation, were also passed,” he said.

The Chief Minister said Wednesday would be the last day of the session, with the report on the Jal Shakti Department scheduled to be discussed before the House proceedings conclude.

On the pensioners’ bill, he said that it had been passed, while their salaries had not been paid. “The pensioners’ bill was passed. But our salaries were not paid,” he said.

Referring to the demand for a salary hike, the Chief Minister said there had been pressure from different parties over the issue. “I didn’t have much interest in teaching. There was pressure from different parties,” he said.Refrerring to a letter signed by BJP legislators seeking a salary hike, CM Omar said, “Look at that letter, which has the signatures of almost all the honourable members of the BJP, asking for a hike in their salaries. So, this is their habit. They want a salary and also want to do politics. I will not allow them to do that.”

ELECTION COMMISSION SHOULD DO SOME SOUL-SEARCHING

On the demand of resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the Chief Minister said the Election Commission should review its functioning. “The Election Commission should do some soul-searching. It is not as if all the opposition parties are against the Election Commission. No political party has brought the evidence,” he said.

“The evidence has come forward through the investigation of the newspaper. Instead of trying to hide it, I think the Election Commission should improve its work. We should try to avoid such

allegations,” he said.

Reacting to the BJP’s reported suggestion that Gyanesh Kumar should be given the Padma Bhushan, Omar said, “Why should he stay there? Give him Bharat Ratna. How many years will it take to get Bharat Ratna? One or two years for the election. Make him the President.”

INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS WERE NOT VISIBLE AFTER GALWAN CLASH

On External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar’s statement that India-China relations were better than during 2024-25, CM Omar said relations had not been visible after the Galwan clash. “People were being told to throw Chinese TVs from their balconies. Today, we are not only meeting each other, but also talking to each other. And this is how it should be,” he said.

He said the government had always maintained that better relations with neighbouring countries and other nations were in the country’s interest. “We have always said that the better our relations are with our neighbours and other countries, the better it is for us. If relations are good with a country like China, it is good for the country,” he said.

“But not only with China, there are many other countries with whom our relations are not good. In our neighbour- ing country, Bangladesh, there are many other countries,” he added. (KNO)

BJP stages walkout

step down.

The BJP opposed references to the 2000 autonomy resolution and the November 2024 special status resolution included in the Statehood resolution, while maintaining that it supports restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to the objections, Speaker Rather asserted that he was aware of his powers and responsibilities and warned that strict action would be taken if members created disruptions. His remarks led to a heated exchange between the treasury benches and the opposition, with National Conference members raising “Vote Chor” slogans.

Amid the commotion, BJP legislators staged a walkout, protesting the Speaker’s decision to allow discussion on the Statehood resolution. The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, was passed on Monday amid protests by BJP members. (KNO)

Border youth inspiration

that the mother tongue is the foundation of a modern India. He urged that children must be rooted in their heritage while being given wings to soar globally. He also observed that true development of Jammu Kashmir will be realised when every child in border villages can confidently pursue their dreams.

Calling upon officials, the Lieutenant Governor outlined five key themes for youth empowerment in border areas- education and technology, employment and entrepreneurship, sports and culture, connecting to opportunities, and guidance and mentorship. He emphasised that talent achieves true success when it paves the way for others.

“We must ensure that smart classrooms, digital libraries, and skill-development opportunities reach remote villages. We must create opportunities for youth in handicrafts, horticulture, agriculture, tourism, and local industries so that they become not just job-seekers but also job-creators. Let our youth hold books, pens, sports equipment and give strong expression to art, so that their energy finds a creative direction.

Our youth should not lag behind those living in any metro city of the country. All scholarships, digital platforms, training programmes, and competition opportunities at national and international levels must also be accessible to the youth of border areas.

All officials should ensure that well-known professionals from Jammu Kashmir visit these children twice a year, or share their experiences and provide hand-holding through programmes in Srinagar or Jammu,” the Lieutenant Governorsaid.

The Lieutenant Governor urged students to take pride in their language and culture while embracing science, technology, and modern knowledge. He lauded the efforts of Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti and its office-bearers for promoting Hindi language and wished a bright future for all meritorious students honoured at the event.

“Each student possesses special ability. They should transform that ability into responsibility. Take pride in your language, understand your culture, and at the same time move forward to touch new horizons in science, technology, entrepreneurship and modern knowledge,” he said.

Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL; Nasreen Ali Nidhi, National President Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti, senior officials, office bearers of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, Vaishvik Hindi Parivar and Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti, prominent citizens, heads of educational institutions, teachers and students of Army Goodwill Schools and Kendriya Vidyalayas attended the felicitation ceremony. (KNO)

1.3 million land

database to a dynamic PostgreSQL platform. Under close supervision, error correction had been undertaken across the entire land records, with more than

1.3 million clerical errors identified and rectified.

He said each entry in the digitised record was subjected to a three-stage verification process through the Maker-Checker-Approver framework, while a digital record was maintained of changes made in the Jamabandi to ensure accountability and traceability.

Abdullah said more than 6,800 village-level grievance redressal camps had been held across J&K for public reading of land records and disposal of grievances.

He said the JK Zameen Sudhaar Portal had been developed to enable people to view their land records online and register grievances, which were monitored for timely disposal.

The Chief Minister said that in collaboration with BISAG-N, a secure Backlog Mutation Module had been developed for systematic updation of Record of Rights data up to 2026. “For field-level supervision and verification, Senior Revenue Officers had been designated as District Mentors and Prabhari officers, while UT-level, district-level and inter-tehsil verification teams were also engaged in the process,” he said.

Responding to the issue of pending mutations, discrepancies and correction cases between original/manual revenue records and digitised Jamabandis, Omar said verification was underway across all districts and the same institutional mechanisms are being used to identify and rectify discrepancies.

On erroneous Jamabandi entries affecting ownership, inheritance, partition or transfer of land, the CM said digitised records had been made available on the JK Zameen Sudhaar Portal, allowing land-owners to inspect their records and submit grievances.

He said verification is also being carried out through grievance camps and the digitisation portal, while grievances involving clerical or other non-quasi-judicial errors were examined and corrected by competent revenue authorities under the prescribed procedure.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Power portfolio, informed the Assembly that augmentation of the Audoora Receiving Station was 95 per cent complete, while construction of a new 6.3 MVA Receiving Station at Kandi, Handwara, was under progress.

Replying to a question by MLA Khurshed Ahmad Sheikh, the CM said the Audoora augmentation was being executed under UT Capex, with installation of the 10 MVA power transformer remaining the major pending component.

He said procurement of 32 power transformers, including the transformer required for Audoora, was under process. The tender process had been delayed due to inadequate response to the initial tender, which was subsequently cancelled after extensions. A fresh tender was floated on the J&K Tenders portal, with financial bids opened on September 11, 2026.

Regarding the Kandi Receiving Station, Omar said construction of the 6.3 MVA station was in progress, with associated civil, transmission-line and electrical works at various stages of execution and tendering.

On the dedicated feeder for Qalamabad Hospital, Abdullah said the 11 kV dedicated hospital feeder had been constructed during 2024-25, and the work stood completed. However, a separate VCB panel for the feeder was presently unavailable at the Audoora Receiving Station. Consequently, the dedicated feeder was currently being charged and operated through the Lach Feeder.

Giving the project-wise financial and physical status, the Chief Minister said the Audoora Receiving Station augmentation had an estimated cost of rupees 133.28 lakh. Against this, rupees 76.50 lakh was released during 2025-26, with expenditure of rupees 49.52 lakh recorded during the year, while rupees 2.50 lakh had been released during 2026-27. The project had achieved 95 per cent physical progress.

The Kandi Receiving Station had an estimated cost of rupees 393.39 lakh. Against this, rupees 20 lakh was released during 2025-26 and rupees 25 lakh during 2026-27, with expenditure of rupees 21.50 lakh recorded during 2026-27. The project had achieved 40 per cent physical progress.

The Chief Minister said both projects are under progress and completion of the remaining works was dependent upon ongoing procurement, tendering and associated execution processes.

‘Five Bills Passed’

In another development, the J&K Legislative Assembly passed five Bills moved by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during the ongoing Autumn Session.

The Bills covered municipal governance, Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living, taxation, legislative members’ pension, and decriminalisation and rationalisation of offences.

The Bills included the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 10 of 2026); Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 11 of 2026); Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 12 of 2026); Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Members’ Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 15 of 2026); and Jammu and Kashmir Decriminalisation and Rationalisation of Offences Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 16 of 2026).

The Ease of Doing Business Bill seeks to replace permission-based control with rule-based governance and enable citizens and enterprises to plan, invest and

work with confidence, besides promoting employment, investment and long-term economic growth.

The Decriminalisation and Rationalisation of Offences Bill seeks to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to promote Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business, besides repealing certain enactments.

‘Two Salary Bills Withdrawn’

The Assembly also witnessed the withdrawal of two Bills seeking an increase in salaries and allowances of Ministers, Ministers of State and Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature following objections raised by members of the principal opposition BJP.

Responding to the objections, the Chief Minister said there is no dissenting note in the House Committee that had recommended the proposed increase in salaries and allowances.

He said that while BJP members were seeking salaries and allowances, they were simultaneously attempting to politicise the issue by referring to problems faced by daily wagers. “I was never in favour of it. Ask my MLAs. If a single member opposes, it will never pass. I withdraw the Bill,” the Chief Minister said.

The House subsequently voted in favour of withdrawal of the legislation by majority.

The withdrawn Bills were “A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Ministers’ and Ministers of State Salaries Act, 1956” (L.A. Bill No. 13 of 2026) and “A Bill to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Act, 1960, and for matters connected or incidental thereto” (L.A. Bill No. 14 of 2026). (KNO)

Weather to remain

reaches, thunder and gusty winds may occur at scattered places.

The Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting apples and paddy along with other agricultural operations during the period. (KNO)

Take J&K products

the Government was also taking steps towards decriminalising certain minor violations and mistakes, observing that not every lapse should result in a criminal case and a lifelong criminal record.

“Today, we have also tried to decriminalise some ordinary mistakes, so that people don’t have to go to the courts for no reason. This will reduce the pressure in the courts,” he said.

The Chief Minister said these measures were part of the Government’s larger effort to create conditions in which trade, commerce, manufacturing and investment can grow in Jammu and Kashmir.

“On one hand, we organise buyer-seller meetings. It is a good thing. But on the other hand, if we don’t make your work easier, then there is no point in these buyer-seller meetings if we tie one hand behind your back,” he said.

Emphasising the need to protect the distinct identity and authenticity of J&K products, the Chief Minister said the Government was working to strengthen Geographical Indication (GI) protection and ensure that products marketed in the name of Kashmir genuinely reflected the skills and craftsmanship of its people.

“Our Pashmina, our embroidery, the magic in the hands of our people, we are trying to sell it to the world in the name of Kashmir Shawl,” he said, adding that products such as shawls, carpets, Namda, walnut, wool and papier-mâché needed sustained promotion and protection.

“If something is sold in the name of Kashmir, it should be made in the hands of the people of Kashmir. And I’m it should benefit the people of Kashmir,” the Chief Minister said.

He stressed that the buyer-seller meet should not remain a one-off exercise but should lead to enduring commercial relationships.

“We don’t want this buyer-seller meet to be a one-off. We want to see relationships built from here,” he said, urging buyers and sellers to approach the event as an opportunity to establish continued business partnerships.

The Chief Minister noted that buyers attending the event had travelled from different parts of India as well as North America, Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

“It will be a matter of great disappointment if we approach this buyer-seller meet as a simple one-off, that I’ll do one deal and that will be the end of the story,” he said, expressing hope that buyers would identify products they could take back and market in their respective regions.

Highlighting the craftsmanship of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the region’s artisans possess unique skills that can transform simple materials into intricate and high-value products.

“It is our craftsmen and craftswomen who can convert a simple piece of thread into a beautiful piece of embroidery,” he said, describing the intricate workman-ship found in Kashmiri carpets and other traditional crafts.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the participation of women from rural areas associated with self-help groups, saying they had come together under difficult circumstances and were creating a wide range of handicrafts and products.

He encouraged buyers to engage with these groups and explore opportunities for sustained commercial relationships.

The event brought together over 25 international buyers, more than 15 national buyers and over 80 exhibitors and sellers, with participation from more than

12 countries. More than 200 handicraft, handloom and agro-food products are being showcased during the two-day event.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah recalled that the process of organising such buyer-seller interactions had begun during his earlier tenure as Minister for Commerce and Industries, and expressed appreciation for the Industries and Commerce Department for carrying the initiative forward.

He also invited visitors from outside Jammu and Kashmir to explore the Valley beyond the business event and experience its natural beauty.

“Every season in Kashmir is beautiful. Autumn has its own charm,” he said, inviting the visiting buyers and delegates to travel around the Valley and return with memorable experiences.

The Chief Minister called upon participants to share suggestions on how such buyer-seller meets could be further improved and expressed hope that both buyers and sellers would conclude the event satisfied with the opportunities created.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Managing Director JKTPO Sudharshan Kumar, heads of various departments, university faculty and staff, students, delegates, buyers, sellers and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Later, the Chief Minister inspected various stalls set up by entrepreneurs showcasing Jammu and Kashmir’s handicrafts, handloom and agro-food products and interacted with the exhibitors.

Turkey’s reference

but raised it again in 2025.

India has consistently rejected references to Kashmir by Turkey and maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the country.

New Delhi has also maintained that India and Pakistan should resolve their differences bilaterally, citing the 1972 Simla Agreement.

India has maintained that any meaningful dialogue with Pakistan would require an end to cross-border terrorism and “talks and terror” cannot go together. (KNO)

NHPC hydro projects

has received substantial revenue from NHPC projects over the last five financial years, totalling Rs 3582.06 Crore in Water Usage Charges and Rs 1955.26 Crore in the monetised value of 12 percent free power plus 1 percent LADF, across its various power stations with a combined installed capacity of 2250 MW.”

The house was further informed that apart from the direct financial benefits accruing to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in the form of free power, water usage charges and taxes and duties, hydropower projects also generate substantial indirect economic benefits locally.

“The implementation and operation of such projects create a continuous chain of economic activities, thereby contributing to employment generation, development of local enterprises and strengthening of the ancillary service sector,” the government said.

It also said that the continuous requirement of operation, maintenance, repair and upkeep of hydropower projects generates recurring opportunities for contracting agencies and local service providers.

“A substantial portion of such maintenance and ancillary works, particularly routine, minor and specialised works, is undertaken through contractors and agencies operating in and around the project area, sustained business. opportunities firms and entrepreneurs,” the government informed the house.

It also informed that during the operational phase of a hydropower project, various activities such as housekeeping, security, transportation, equipment handling, support services, routine maintenance and other ancillary operations require engagement of outsourced manpower and service providers.

The government further said that these activities provide regular employment and livelihood opportunities to local residents, including skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

“Thus, the operation of hydropower projects creates a continuous local economic ecosystem, wherein expenditure on maintenance works, contracts, procurement and outsourced services circulates within the project area and contributes to employment generation, income enhancement and the growth of local businesses and development of skilled manpower for future requirement of up-coming projects,” the government informed. (KNO)

J&K set to offer

Messaging API Solution, which will leverage Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) to provide an integrated, multi-lingual and interactive interface for accessing government services.

Emphasising the importance of simplifying government-citizen interactions, the Chief Secretary observed that the initiative should substantially reduce procedural complexities, minimise physical visits to government offices and make essential public services accessible to citizens from the comfort of their homes.

He stressed that the platform should particularly benefit people living in rural

and remote areas by providing a familiar, user-friendly interface capable of functioning even on low-bandwidth internet connections.

The Chief Secretary directed the IT Department to work in close coordination with the concerned line departments to expedite backend integration of the identified services and ensure their seamless delivery through the proposed platform.

He further called for comprehensive performance benchmarking, User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and adequate training of government functionaries to ensure the platform’s smooth and effective rollout.

On this occasion the Commissioner Secretary, IT Department, Saurabh Bhagat apprised the meeting that Jammu and Kashmir currently offers 1,710 e-services through various digital platforms, including e-UNNAT, ServicePlus and Revenue Plus. Of these, 100 frequently accessed services have been identified for on-boarding in the first phase to maximise public outreach and ensure immediate benefits to citizens.

These include issuance of Income, Domicile, Caste, EWS and RBA certificates, besides access to land records such as Fard, Girdawari, Jamabandi and Mutation under the Revenue Department.

Similarly, services relating to issuance and renewal of driving licences, vehicle ownership transfers, payment of e-Challans and fancy vehicle number e-auctions are proposed to be integrated from the Transport Department.

Under the Housing and Urban Development Department, citizens will be able to access services relating to Birth and Death certificates, commercial establishment NOCs and building construction permissions.

The platform will also facilitate access to various social welfare schemes, including Ladli Beti, marriage assistance and post-matric and merit-cum-means scholarships. Other identified services include electricity and water bill payments, ration card modifications, agricultural schemes under HADP, JKSSB registrations and pilgrimage-related services.

Highlighting the key features of the proposed platform, the IT Department informed that it would offer multilingual support in Urdu, Hindi and English to ensure wider accessibility across Jammu and Kashmir.

The platform will also incorporate a one-time registration and Single Sign-On (SSO) mechanism, eliminating the need for citizens to repeatedly enter their personal details while accessing different government services. A unified citizen database is also envisaged for seamless integration with the Family ID system.

Other proposed features include AI-assisted conversational interfaces, Optical Character Recognition (OCR)-based document processing and validation, secure integration with multiple payment gateways, automated grievance escalation mechanisms and modular workflows for document submission.

Regarding the progress achieved so far, the Department informed that a dedicated System Integrator has already been onboarded through the National e-Governance Division (NeCD) empanelment framework to facilitate the implementation of the project.

It was further disclosed that JK SAMADHAN 2.0, the government’s public grievance redressal platform, has been selected as the first service for integration. A functional working demonstration featuring a multilingual citizen interface has already been developed and showcased, marking an important milestone towards the operationalisation of the proposed platform.

Taking note of the progress, the Chief Secretary reiterated that the ultimate objective of the initiative should be to bring government services closer to citizens by leveraging widely used digital technologies, ensuring that people across Jammu and Kashmir can access essential public services with greater ease, transparency and convenience.

J&K Govt refuses

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, particularly clause (xxi), the present information sought by the Hon’ble Member being secret in nature, relating to the decision and proceedings of the Cabinet, cannot be provided,” the reply stated. To a question about the Centre’s queries on the report, the Minister reiterated the same position, again invoking Rule 38, clause (xxi), to underline that cabinet proceedings are confidential and cannot be disclosed.

Rule 38 deals with the admissibility of questions. Clause (xxi) specifies that questions shall not seek information about matters which are secret in nature, such as cabinet decisions, proceedings, or advice tendered to the Governor where constitutional, statutory, or conventional obligations prevent disclosure.

The Minister further said that there is no proposal under consideration to relax the existing criteria for reservation under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category, including the prescribed asset-based conditions.

Asked whether the Government intends to provide proportionate representation in reservation categories, including Open Merit (OM), based on population figures once the 2027 Census data is published, the Minister said the matter would be examined in accordance with applicable legal provisions.

“The issue shall be considered as and when the publication of Census-2027 data becomes available to the Government,” the reply stated. (KNO)

Detention under NSA can't be based on confession statement of accused made before police: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 29: The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the confession statement of an accused made before a police officer cannot be the basis for detaining him under the National Security Act (NSA).

The top court said preventive detention has always been regarded as an exceptional measure and, therefore, must be invoked with the utmost circumspection and only in those rarest of rare cases where the circumstances genuinely warrant such exercise.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu said a confessional statement made before the police is not regarded as trustworthy evidence and is generally excluded from consideration against the maker.

"We are of the considered opinion that a confessional statement made before a police officer cannot, by itself and in the absence of any independent material lending support thereto, constitute a basis for forming the subjective satisfaction necessary to sustain an order of preventive detention.

"To permit such a course would be to allow a detention order to rest upon a foundation which the law itself regards with suspicion and excludes from evidentiary consideration," the bench said.

The top court said that if the detaining authority has relied upon other materials apart from



the confessional statement, the court has to ascertain whether the detention can be upheld based on such other materials.

"We reiterate that a mere confessional statement of the detenu (without any other substantive grounds or material) cannot be relied on as the sole ground for passing an order of detention.

"This especially holds true in the facts of the present case where the detenu has consistently stated that his confessional statement has been obtained under threat and torture," the bench said while quashing the preventive detention of Mulla Afroz.

The Uttar Pradesh Police invoked the strict National Security Act (NSA) against Afroz in October 2025 for his alleged role in the 2024 communal violence in Sambhal.

The top court noted that the detention order was passed against Afroz on October 13,

2025, and he has already suffered considerable loss of liberty, even while being granted bail in all the cases relating to the incident in which he featured as an accused.

In such circumstances, the process was made the punishment, the bench said, while imposing a cost of Rs 10 lakh on the government for passing the illegal preventive detention order.

"Having regard to the peculiar facts and circumstances of the present case, particularly the status of the criminal proceedings against the appellant, the nature of the material relied upon by the detaining authority, and the multiple orders of bail passed in favour of the appellant, we are unable to persuade ourselves to sustain the detention order as legal and valid.

"The requisite nexus between the material relied upon and the satisfaction recorded by the detaining authority is

conspicuously absent. In view of our conclusions on the invalidity of the grounds relied upon by the detaining authority, it does not become necessary for us to enter into the question of whether the offences in which the detenu is implicated are of such nature as to fall within the ambit of affecting national security or even disturbance of public order," the bench said.

While pronouncing the judgment, Justice Datta also paid tribute to his law clerk, who passed away four days before his 27th birthday.

The NSA empowers the Centre and states to detain individuals to prevent them from acting in a manner "prejudicial to the defence of India". The maximum detention period is 12 months, though it can be revoked earlier.

The NSA can be invoked by the local administration and has to be ratified by a board headed by a former high court judge. As it is preventive detention and not arrest, there is no legal obligation to present the detainee before a court of law.

Tension brewed in Sambhal in November 2024, when a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid was being carried out there following claims that a Harihar temple previously existed at the site.

On November 24, during a second round of the survey, protesting locals clashed with security personnel, which led to the death of four people and injuries to dozens.

Amit Shah inaugurates Barapullah flyover, 3 other road projects in Delhi



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 29: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched four major road infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,941 crore in the national capital, including the long-pending Barapullah Phase 3 elevated corridor.

Shah inaugurated the projects at a function in Barapullah, which was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and her cabinet colleagues, and Union Minister of State for Road Transport Harsh Malhotra, among others.

Speaking at the event, Gupta attributed the launch of

these projects to the "power of a double-engine government".

"Only with a double-engine government can Delhi's stalled projects be opened to the public. The Centre and the Delhi government are working together," she said.

She said her government is planning several projects to address traffic congestion, an issue that was neglected over the last 50 years.

Minister for Public Works Department Parvesh Verma, who was present, said the 11-year wait for the Barapullah flyover was finally over.

"Last year, we committed that the Barapullah flyover

would be over in a year and we have done it. For the last 18 months, there has been no politics of allegations or excuses, but only work done by the government for the public," Verma said.

The Barapullah Phase 3 elevated road corridor, the biggest of the four projects, aims to provide seamless connectivity between east and south Delhi, linking Mayur Vihar Phase-1 and AIIMS through signal-free carriage-ways. The flyover will merge with the existing Barapullah flyover at Sarai Kale Khan, completing a stretch of around 10 kilometres.

Originally approved in 2014 and initiated in 2015, the project was initially scheduled for completion in 2017. However, it faced multiple delays and significant cost overruns, with the revised project cost escalating to approximately Rs 1,635 crore. The other projects include two new flyovers to reduce traffic congestion in south Delhi and an underpass on Outer Ring Road in north Delhi.

BJP's drug-free Punjab Yatra: Shah to address in Jalandhar today

PTI

Chandigarh, Sep 29: The 'Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra', launched by the BJP on September 18 under the slogan "BJP da Naara, Nasha Mukauna Saara", will conclude in Jalandhar on Wednesday, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah attending the occasion and addressing a public gathering at village Paragpur.

Rajesh Bagha, in-charge of the Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra, on Tuesday said that the four yatras, which began from Pathankot, Fatehgarh Sahib, Talwandi Sabo and Fazilka, have travelled through all 117 assembly constituencies of Punjab, covering a distance of 4,000 kilometres, and have reached Jalandhar on Tuesday.

Bagha said elaborate preparations have been made for the concluding rally, which will be attended by Shah, the largest rally in the history of the BJP in Punjab.

He said preparations were formally launched with a 'havan' at the rally venue on September 23 and have now been completed.

The rally will be held at village Paragpur,

located on the outskirts of Jalandhar city along the Amritsar-Delhi Highway.

According to Bagha, arrangements for the rally have been made across 60 acres of land. A 'pandal' has been set up over approximately 45 acres, while 15 acres have been reserved for parking.

He said party workers accompanying the four drug-free Punjab Yatras from different parts of Punjab will participate in the rally. Arrangements have also been made for more than 2,000 buses to facilitate a large gathering.

Families who have lost their sons and other close relatives due to drugs will also participate in large numbers, he said.

Punjab BJP state general secretary Anil Sareen said that the initiative was not merely a political programme but a social and people's movement.

He said the BJP has resolved to eradicate drugs from Punjab at their roots.

"Therefore, while the drug-free Punjab Yatra is concluding on September 30, this is actually the beginning of a people's movement, which the Punjab BJP will take to its logical conclusion," he said.

SBI seeks clarity on handling NGO funds under proposed FCRA changes

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 29: The State Bank of India (SBI) is learnt to have supported the objectives of the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act while seeking clear rules on how banks should handle an organisation's accounts and deposits when its permission to receive foreign donations ends.

In a presentation to the parliamentary committee examining the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 on Tuesday, a team of top SBI officials, led by its Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, said the bill provides for government control of foreign contributions and assets in such cases, but leaves the detailed banking procedure to be prescribed in rules, sources said.

The bank sought clarity on whether an account should be frozen or continue to operate once control passes to a government-appointed authority. It also asked who would be allowed to operate the account, whether incoming payments could still be credited and how existing balances, fixed deposits and interest would be treated.

INDIA bloc meeting

Joint agitation amid SIR row, impeachment notice against CEC on agenda

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 29: Top leaders of the INDIA bloc will meet here on Wednesday to finalise an action plan for a joint agitation over alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise and to press for CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, as the opposition group seeks to close ranks amid the raging row surrounding the Election Commission's decision-making.

Sources said the draft notice for a fresh bid to move a motion in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha for the removal of CEC (Chief Election Commissioner) Gyanesh Kumar was ready and would be deliberated upon for approval at the meeting.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and KC Venugopal, the TMC's Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee, and leaders from parties such as the SP, CPI, CPI(M), NCP(SP) and Shiv

Sena (UBT), among others, will participate in the meeting.

While the DMK and the AAP have made it clear that they will not be part of the meeting, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav will also not attend on account of nominations for Rajya Sabha polls in UP and will send his representatives.

Speaking about the meeting, Venugopal said, "Tomorrow, there is an INDIA bloc meeting. The Congress wants to hold a massive agitation to save democracy in the country with the help of all political parties. There will be valuable suggestions from leaders of the INDIA bloc tomorrow; after that we will sit and formalise the clear action plan for the future agitation."

"We will coordinate between the INDIA bloc agitation programme and that of the Congress," he told reporters.

Asked about Yadav not coming for the meeting, Venugopal said, "I spoke to Akhilesh Yadav, Congress

president Malikarjun Kharge also spoke to him. He has Rajya Sabha election nominations to take care of but his party leaders are attending."

Asked whether attempts would be made to get parties like the DMK and AAP on board, Venugopal said those types of issues would be discussed.

"The DMK was very much part of INDIA bloc. Still we believe, they are all against this type of attack on democracy. That is our thinking, let us see," he added.

On the INDIA bloc meeting, DMK spokesperson TKS Elangovan said, "Ideologically, we all stand together. Maybe we are not part of the INDIA alliance. That is different. But in Parliament, we will support whoever brings a removal motion against Gyanesh Kumar... our leader had issued a statement. On many of the issues where other opposition parties oppose the BJP, we will also stand by them. That doesn't mean that we are together. We are not in the INDIA bloc."

Dengue, malaria cases surge in Delhi, triple since Aug

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 29: Delhi has recorded a sharp rise in dengue and malaria cases this month, with the number of infections nearly tripling since August, according to the latest data from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

The city has reported 597 dengue cases and 214 malaria cases so far this year, including 286 dengue and 124 malaria cases in September, the MCD's weekly vector-borne disease report showed.

The latest figures mark a steep rise from the numbers recorded till the end of August, with September accounting for a substantial share of the year's cases. In the week ending September 26 alone, Delhi reported 85 new dengue and 29 malaria cases.

The surge comes during the post-monsoon period, when



stagnant water and increased mosquito breeding can contribute to the spread of vector-borne diseases. The MCD has been carrying out inspections and taking measures to check mosquito breeding in the city.

Health experts have advised parents to be particularly watchful as dengue and malaria symptoms can

initially resemble those of a routine viral infection.

"With dengue and malaria cases rising across Delhi-NCR, parents should be particularly cautious when children develop fever. These infections can initially look like a routine viral illness, so it is important not to self-diagnose," Dr Navin Bhatia, Consultant and HOD Paediatrics and PICU, PB Health, Gurugram.

He further added that patients should watch for symptoms such as persistent vomiting, severe abdominal pain, unusual sleepiness or restlessness, breathing difficulty, poor fluid intake, bleeding or reduced urine output, and seek medical attention promptly if they occur.

"A fall in fever does not always mean the child is recovering, particularly in dengue, where the period after the fever settles can be critical. Good hydration, medical monitoring and timely evaluation are important. Parents should also avoid giving medicines such as aspirin or ibuprofen unless advised by a doctor, and take steps to prevent mosquito breeding around the home," Bhatia said, adding that it is important to keep homes and surrounding areas free of stagnant water, which can serve as breeding sites for mosquitoes.

Stock markets end for second day as elevated oil prices



laggards.

Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the winners.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dipped 0.09 per cent to USD 105.1 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 5,353.22 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

"Domestic equities continue to face correction-led headwinds amid volatile crude prices, US Treasury yields hovering near two-decade highs, and persistent FII outflows exerting pressure on the rupee. Adding to the pressure, the unprecedented pace of IPO fundraising is absorbing incremental liquidity. Investor risk appetite remains subdued against a hawkish global backdrop amid rising odds of additional rate hikes later in the year," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled higher.

Markets in Europe were trading in positive territory.

US markets ended lower on Monday.

On Monday, the Sensex tanked 1,124.02 points, or 1.52 per cent, to settle at 72,771.72, the lowest closing level since March 30, 2026. The Nifty dropped 360.25 points, or 1.56 per cent, to end at 22,780.25.

Sensex drops 242 points

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 29: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower for the second consecutive session on Tuesday, weighed down by elevated crude oil prices amid uncertainty over the West Asia situation and continued foreign fund outflows. Weak investor sentiment also contributed to the decline in the

domestic equity market.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 242.65 points, or 0.33 per cent, to settle at 72,529.07. During the day, it slumped 707.72 points, or 0.97 per cent, to 72,064.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 64.05 points, or 0.28 per cent, to end at 22,716.20.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Titan, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services, UltraTech Cement, Hindustan Unilever and Tech Mahindra were among the major

Iranian currency hits record low amid war

AP

Dubai, Sep 29: Iran's currency fell to a new record low on Tuesday, with traders in Tehran exchanging more than 2.5 million rials to the US dollar in a stark reflection of how the war in West Asia has steadily eroded the Iranian economy.

The latest decline came just 27 days after the rial hit its previous record low of 2.2 million to the dollar on September 2. The currency has repeatedly reached new lows since the war began in February.

Meanwhile, Iran's top diplomat said indirect negotiations with the United States aimed at reopening the critical Strait of Hormuz have become "more serious," while the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' chief spokesman General Hossein Mohebbi on Tuesday called on Americans to take to the streets and protest the conflict.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Iranian media late on Monday that the "current focus is solely on the Strait of Hormuz," the chokepoint of the war.

Araghchi made the comments shortly before departing New York — where he attended last week's gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly — and after meeting with Pakistani and Qatari mediators.

Araghchi said that the Qatari



intermediaries were expected to soon engage with the US side.

"They are set to raise the matter with the American side once more, after which the final US response will be conveyed to us," Araghchi said. "If there is a response, the Qataris will convey it to us and a decision will be made in Tehran on that basis."

US and regional officials have confirmed to The Associated Press that mediators are working with Iran and the US on trying to broker a deal to end the fighting and open the strait.

The mediation efforts continue even after US President Donald Trump earlier this week spurned an Iranian proposal to reopen the strait in seven days if the US agreed

to lift its blockade of Iranian ports, release frozen Iranian assets and waive sanctions on Iranian oil sales, among other conditions.

Iran sends a provocative message to the US public The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps on Tuesday made an appeal to everyday Americans to push their government to end the US war against Iran, a provocative message that comes just weeks before critical midterm elections in the United States.

Mohebbi, the Guard spokesman, read a letter during a news conference in Iran's capital, Tehran, appealing to Americans to pressure their government and claiming that the only way for the war to end is for Washington to admit defeat and leave the Mideast.

Mohebbi's remarks come as Trump's Republican party faces fierce headwinds as it looks to maintain control of Congress. But polling shows the war has darkened the American electorate's mood ahead of the November 3 election in which elevated gasoline prices, a byproduct of the conflict, loom large.

Mohebbi also accused the US of using Iran's nuclear program as a ruse to "plunder Iran's wealth" and to turn the country "back into a colony."

He added that the US and others failed in their belief that military and economic action would get Tehran to submit and that Washington "has no choice but to acknowledge defeat and leave the region."

"This is how the war will end," he said.

Trump and his top aides are insistent that Iran's economy cannot sustain a conflict much longer and have expressed confidence that Tehran will be forced to capitulate.

The US president predicted soon after launching the war that the conflict would last a matter of weeks. More recently, he's said that the war will likely end after the November elections in the US.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a Monday appearance on Fox News said Iran was heading toward an economic "cataclysm."

Sri Lanka announces diesel subsidy to ease fuel cost burden

PTI

Colombo, Sep 29 : The Sri Lankan government has decided to provide a retail price subsidy on diesel widely used for public transport, commercial and industrial purposes to ease the economic difficulties arising from the tensions in West Asia.

Cabinet spokesman and minister Nalinda Jayathissa told reporters Tuesday that under the programme, the government will provide relief on the retail prices of Auto Diesel and Industrial Diesel for three months.

The measure is aimed at preventing domestic fuel prices from rising in line with increases in international markets and keeping fuel prices at a level considered manageable for consumers.

"The government did provide relief by the decision to grant a subsidy during April, May and June 2026. That was done to reduce the impact of rising global petroleum prices on the day-to-day lives of citizens and the wider economy," Jayathissa said.

Under the approved arrangement, allocations will be subject to monthly limits of Lankan rupees (LKR) 15 billion for October, LKR 13.5 billion for November and LKR 12.5 billion for December 2026.

The government said the programme is intended to provide relief to the public while preventing a sharp increase in domestic diesel prices resulting from developments in international petroleum markets. The conflict in West Asia has disrupted global energy markets and pushed up international oil prices. In Sri Lanka, fuel-import expenditure rose 68 per cent year-on-year in July, while expenditure during January-July was up 59.9 per cent from a year earlier, according to its Central Bank data.

Global markets mixed after wall street decline



AP

Hong Kong, Sep 29: Global shares were mixed on Tuesday following losses on Wall Street, while US Treasury yields paused their run-up after reaching their highest level in roughly two decades.

US futures edged lower and oil prices stabilised over uncertainties about US-Iran talks and the possible reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial route for global oil shipments.

In early European trading, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.3 per cent to 10,721.04. France's CAC 40 gained 0.1 per cent to 8,086.40, while Germany's DAX added 0.3 per cent to 25,460.81.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 0.6 per cent to 65,481.27. South Korea's Kospi declined 0.3 per cent to 6,870.81 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 0.5 per cent to 24,523.57.

Hong Kong-traded shares of Shein fell 10.7 per cent, after the

online fashion retailer reported that its adjusted net profit fell 67 per cent in the three months ending June 30 compared with the year-earlier period.

The Shanghai Composite index gained 0.2 per cent to 3,830.45 after the Xinhua News Agency reported late Monday that China's State Council had discussed "improving the effectiveness" of macro policies to help boost its economy.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged up 0.3 per cent to 8,709.30. Taiwan's Taiex was 0.8 per cent lower, while India's Sensex fell 0.5 per cent.

On Monday, the S&P 500 slipped 0.8 per cent, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.7 per cent, and the Nasdaq composite dropped 0.9 per cent.

Stocks have been pressured by rising US Treasury yields as investors demand higher returns amid growing concerns about inflation and rising government debt.

KV Aminoo Kulgam U-14 cricket team to represent Jammu at national meet

KT News Desk

Kulgam, Sep 29: Under-14 Cricket Team of Kendriya Vidyalaya Aminoo, Kulgam has been selected to represent the Jammu region at the 55th National Sports Meet, which is scheduled to be held in Bengaluru.

In this context, Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, who is also the Chairperson, Vidyalaya Management Committee (VMC), interacted with the young players and encouraged them to perform their best at the national-level

competition. He motivated the students to participate with confidence, discipline, dedication and true sportsmanship and inspired them to strive for victory.

The Deputy Commissioner also extended his best wishes for their upcoming national-level participation and encouraged them to bring laurels to Kendriya Vidyalaya Aminoo, Kulgam and to the district.

On the occasion, the sports kits provided by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) were also distributed among the

selected players. The distribution of the sports kits further boosted the enthusiasm and morale of the young sportspersons.

Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya Aminoo, Kulgam, congratulated the players and their coaches and stated that representing the Jammu Region at the national level is a matter of great honour for the Vidyalaya.

Principal expressed confidence that the students would showcase their talent, hard work and sporting spirit and make the Vidyalaya and the region proud.

National deaf men's T20 cricket championship held in Srinagar

KT News Desk

Srinagar Sep 29: Srinagar is hosting the 9th National Deaf Men's T20 Cricket Championship 2026, bringing together talented deaf cricketers from across the country and providing them a national-level platform to showcase their sporting skills.

The championship is being held from September 28 to October 04 at Bakshi Stadium and TRC Ground, Srinagar. The tournament commenced with an opening ceremony at Bakshi Stadium, where the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, congratulated the participating athletes and emphasised the importance of creating equal and inclusive opportunities in sports.

Highlighting the spirit of the



championship, the Secretary stressed that sports belong to everyone and that sporting platforms play an important role in fostering confidence, participation, excellence and inclusion among athletes.

The successful conduct of the championship reflects the continued efforts of the J&K Sports Council towards promoting competitive and inclusive sports, supporting national-level sporting events and

making optimal use of the sports infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir to provide athletes with quality facilities and platforms.

The participation of teams and athletes from different parts of the country also highlights Srinagar's growing stature as a host for national sporting competitions. The championship further underscores the power of sport to bring together athletes from diverse regions and backgrounds, while promoting the values of inclusion, equality, sportsmanship and national unity.

The event is providing an opportunity for athletes to compete at a high level while also showcasing the potential of Jammu and Kashmir to host major sporting events in a professional and inclusive environment.

India beat Qatar 3-2, enter men's volleyball quarterfinals



PTI

Nagoya, Sep 29: The Indian men's volleyball team continued its winning run, eking out a hard-fought 3-2 win over Qatar to register its third victory and qualify for the quarterfinals of the Asian Games here on Tuesday.

The Indian team bounced back from being two sets down to defeat Qatar 26-28, 25-27, 25-23, 25-20, 24-22 in a marathon Pool C match, which lasted two hours and 47 minutes.

All four quarterfinals will be played on Thursday.

India had earlier defeated Vietnam 3-0 (25-23, 25-21, 25-20) and Hong Kong China 3-0 (25-22, 25-19, 25-21) in their opening two matches respectively.

Against Qatar, Jerome Vinith scored 27 points for India, all coming through spikes, while Amit Singh Balwan scored 24 points -- 22 from spikes and two from blocks.

Joel Benjamin Jebaraj also made double-digit scores with 17 points -- 14 from spikes, two from blocks, and one service point

India Win 4x400m mixed relay bronze, Gulveer completes medal hat-trick



PTI

Nagoya, Sep 29: The Indian quartet of Gurinder Singh, Animesh Kujur, Sneha Sathyanarayana and Harita Bhadra won the bronze medal in the 4x400m mixed relay final after clocking a season best time of 41.06 seconds at the 2026 Asian Games here on Tuesday.

India's Pooja Singh fared well below her personal best with a leap of 1.84 metre but that was enough to clinch a bronze medal in women's high jump.

This was after India's Gulveer Singh continued his spectacular run of form at the ongoing games by winning a bronze medal in men's 5000m with a time of 13:32.75, completing a hat-trick of podium finishes in the Japanese city.

This is Gulveer's third podium finishes at the 2026 games, having won silver medals in men's 1500m and 10000m events earlier in the multisport

extravaganza.

Gulveer thus became the second Indian man and fourth from the country to win three medals in track and field events in a single edition of the continental games. Before Gulveer, Lavy Pinto (New Delhi 1951, 3 medals), PT Usha (Seoul, 1986, 4 medals) and KM Beenamol (Busan 2002, 3 medals) had achieved a similar feat.

After Gulveer, the Indian quartet ended third with a time of 41.06 in 4x400m mixed relay, having finished second behind China in the heats.

China won the gold with a time of 40.78 seconds, while Thailand took silver after finishing in 40.87 seconds.

India's Dev Kumar Meena created a national record in men's pole vault with an effort of 5.50m but that was only enough to take him to seventh position. India's Pooja Olla and Mohammed Afsal finished seventh and eighth respectively in men's and women's 800m.

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2026

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SHOW TIMES	SHOW TIMES	SHOW TIMES	SHOW TIMES	SHOW TIMES
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