



» Kashmir Marathon

Youth ran for India's soul, spirit of new J&K: LG Sinha

Over 6,000 participate, Lt Governor calls on youth to strengthen brotherhood, harmony

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the more than 6,000 participants in the Kashmir Marathon-Run for Unity had run not merely for speed or endurance, but for the "soul of India" and for a peaceful, united and progressive Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the marathon organised by the J&K Police at the Police Golf Course on the banks of Dal Lake, Srinagar, Sinha congratulated the runners and lauded the enthusiasm of the youth, describing the event as a symbol of peace, unity and progress in the Union Territory. "I am delighted to witness the extraordinary energy of our youth. I congratulate all the runners, participants and the Jammu and Kashmir Police for making this event a success," he said.

Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the Run for



Unity reflected the strength of collective resolve and faith rather than mere physical speed.

"The Run for Unity is not just about the pace of our steps. It reflects the strength of our resolve and the faith that when people walk together, no destination remains beyond reach," he said.

Highlighting India's diversity, the Lieutenant Governor said differences in language,

traditions, food and attire could never weaken the country's shared national spirit.

"Despite our diversity, the heartbeat of India remains one. Unity is our greatest strength, and when millions move in the same direction, even the highest mountains can be conquered," he said.

Sinha said the participation of young people in the marathon represented | [More on P6](#)

Youth participation helping foil neighbour's nefarious designs: DGP

'Growing participation in Run for Unity reflects J&K's march towards peace, prosperity'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 01: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday said the increasing participation of children and youth in sports and constructive activities is helping Jammu and Kashmir move towards peace and prosperity while thwarting the "nefarious designs" of the neighbouring country.

Addressing the flag-in ceremony of the 'Run for Unity' marathon, Prabhat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer (KNO), said the growing turnout reflected the younger generation's commitment to a peaceful and prosperous future.

"The increase in participation every year shows that our children and youth are working towards a peaceful and prosperous future," he said, according to KNO.

The DGP said J&K's youth were increasingly choosing "peace over violence and progress over destruction," adding that the police were supporting them through sports tournaments and the Civic Action Programme.

"The energy | [More on P6](#)

J&K targets 1.4 lakh EVs by 2032 under new policy

900 charging sites, winter testing for vehicles

Sets six-year roadmap for cleaner mobility: CM Omar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 01: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has notified the J&K Electric Vehicle Policy-2026, following its approval by the Council of Ministers chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, setting a six-year roadmap for expanding clean, affordable and weather-resilient electric mobility across Jammu and Kashmir.

The policy, covering the period 2026–32, aims to accelerate EV adoption, strengthen charging infrastructure and create an enabling ecosystem for electric mobility across all 20 districts of J&K. It targets 1.40 lakh electric vehicles by 2032, supported by demand incentives, climate-specific infrastructure, power-grid integration, public-private partnerships, skill development and employment generation.

Under the strategic infrastructure roadmap, the policy envisages establishment of 900 public charging sites, including 140 fast-charging hubs across urban grids and highway corridors. It also provides for EV-ready parking, with building bye-laws mandating EV-readiness for 20 per cent of



parking capacity.

Recognising J&K's distinct climatic conditions, the policy introduces a Specialized Winter Validation Protocol under which EVs will undergo winter-performance validation, particularly for operation in snow and sub-zero conditions. The framework also seeks managed integration of EV charging demand with the power system.

To encourage adoption, the policy provides for 3–5 per cent interest subvention on EV loans for up to 36 months, with higher support aimed at reducing the cost of EV ownership for eligible beneficiaries. It also provides for scrappage-linked incentives, with an annual budgetary provision of 50 crore to incentivise replacement of old vehicles | [More on P6](#)

Season's first major rain, snowfall spell likely from Oct 8-11

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 01: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness the season's first major spell of rain and snowfall between October 8 and 11, with a strong Western Disturbance expected to affect the Union Territory, according to a weather forecast.

The weather is expected to remain mostly dry across Jammu and Kashmir until October 5, while indications suggest a significant change in conditions from October 8, according to Kashmir Weather Forecast, which put the current possibility of the spell at around 55 per cent.

Snowfall during the period is mainly expected over the higher reaches, while rain could occur across the plains and lower-lying areas, it said.

The forecast cautioned that the assessment is an early indication and that the exact timing and intensity of the weather system could change as it moves closer to the region.

"More updates will be shared as the dates come closer," Kashmir Weather Forecast, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

Inter-state drug network busted in Sgr, 8 arrested, huge haul seized

2.19 lakh tablets/capsules, codeine, heroin-like substance, Rs 85.75 lakh cash, gold worth Rs 2.2 crore, pistol recovered: Police

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 01: Srinagar Police on Thursday claimed to have busted an inter-state narcotics network operating from downtown Srinagar, arresting eight persons and recovering more than 2.19 lakh pharmaceutical tablets and capsules, codeine, a heroin-like substance, cash, gold and a pistol.

Addressing a press conference, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr G.V. Sundep Chakravathy, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the action stemmed from the investigation of FIR No. 135/2026 registered at Police Station Safakadal under relevant sections of the NDPS Act, Arms Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

He said the probe unearthed a structured narcotics network allegedly involved in the procurement, transportation, storage, distribution and



financing of banned pharmaceutical drugs, with links extending beyond Jammu and Kashmir.

"There was an organised network in downtown Srinagar with a well-established supply chain," the SSP said.

The arrested accused have been identified as Mohammad Waseem Zargar of Malik Sahib, Safakadal; Inam Ahmad Zargar of Hafiyarbal, Safakadal; Sahib Ahmad Ganie of Danamazar,

Safakadal; Ansar Hussain Bhat of Zabar Mohalla, Budgam; Peer Shakoor of Palpora, Noorbagh; Haroon Tariq Pandit, Aqib Saleem and Haris Hameed Malla, all residents of Guzarbal, Chattabal.

According to the SSP, Haris Malla was traced through technical surveillance and apprehended from Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Police recovered 2,19,425 pharmaceutical tablets and capsules, | [More on P6](#)

Forged LG letter used to influence Anantnag Police

EOW files chargesheet

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 01: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Crime Branch Kashmir, on Thursday said it has filed a chargesheet against a Pulwama resident for allegedly using a forged official letterhead and signature of the Lieutenant Governor to influence the functioning of the Anantnag District Police Administration.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said the EOW, Crime Branch Kashmir, has filed a chargesheet in case FIR No. 29/2026 under Sections 204, 319(2), 336(2) and 340(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) before the Court of Sub-Judge, Srinagar, against accused Saqlain Mushtaq Dar, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, a resident of Deeri, Pulwama.

He said the case relates to a forged communication purportedly addressed to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Anantnag, in which the sender allegedly impersonated the Lieutenant Governor



of Jammu and Kashmir. The communication was prepared using a counterfeit official letterhead and forged signature and was intended to unlawfully influence the functioning of the Anantnag District Police Administration.

The spokesperson said that during the investigation, the allegations and evidence collected were found to substantiate the commission of offences under the relevant provisions of the BNS. Accordingly, the investigation was concluded as "Proved" and the chargesheet was presented before the court for judicial determination.

He said the general public has been advised to remain vigilant against | [More on P6](#)

LG, CM greet people on Gandhi Jayanti

KT News Dessk

Srinagar, Oct 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have greeted the people on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, which will be celebrated on Friday, October 02, 2026.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the occasion of the 157th birth anniversary of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu Kashmir. Puja Babu showed the world that truth, non-violence and self-reliance are eternal paths to peace. His timeless ideals of Satya, Ahimsa, Swadeshi, Swachhata and Sarvodaya continue to guide humanity and inspire us to dedicate ourselves to the country's continuous growth and prosperity. On this sacred occasion, let us pay heartfelt tribute to Puja Babu by pledging to live by his noble principles. Together, let us build a peaceful and prosperous Jammu Kashmir and developed India".

Paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the Chief Minister said his enduring message of truth, non-violence, | [More on P6](#)

Motorcyclist killed after struck by vehicle in Pulwama

KNO Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 01: A 22-year-old motorcyclist died after being struck by a vehicle in Kangan area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the youth was riding a motorcycle when a vehicle hit

him in Kangan, Pulwama.

He said the youth was initially taken to District Hospital Pulwama, from where he was referred to SMHS Hospital Srinagar in critical condition. However, he was declared dead upon arrival at the hospital.

The deceased was identified as Adil Ahmed Chopan (22), son of Ghulam Mohammad, a resident of | [More on P6](#)

Man found dead in Budgam's Branwar

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Oct 01: A 45-year-old man was found dead near Nallah Doodganga in the Branwar area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man was found

dead near Wani Mohalla Masjid in Branwar, Chadoora.

He said the body was taken for medico-legal formalities and would be handed over to the family after completion of the legal procedure for the last rites. He was identified as Fayaz Ahmad Wagay (45), son of Ghulam Qadir | [More on P6](#)

New rice varieties double yields in Kashmir, farmers rejoice

Agriculture Dept says SR3, SR4, SR5 yield 4-5 quintals per kanal, 'traditional varieties remain vulnerable to diseases'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 01: New rice varieties introduced and distributed by the Agriculture Department in Kashmir are yielding encouraging results, with farmers reporting a significant increase in production and reduced incidence of crop diseases compared to traditional varieties.

Farmers from different parts of the Valley told the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the newly introduced varieties, particularly SR3 and SR4, have helped them achieve higher yields this season, with some reporting nearly double the production compared to previous years.

They said the improved varieties have not only increased productivity but have also shown greater resistance to diseases, including rice blast,



which continues to affect paddy cultivation in several areas of Kashmir.

Mansoor Ahmad, a farmer from south Kashmir's Kulgam district, said he had been cultivating traditional rice varieties for years but faced recurring problems due to rice blast, which affected crop production.

"Rice blast was a common

problem in my fields every year, resulting in considerable losses. However, this season I cultivated the SR3 variety supplied by the Agriculture Department, and the results have been very encouraging," he said.

Ahmad said his production had almost doubled this year, adding that the crop remained free from disease during the

growing season.

He said farmers who continued cultivating traditional varieties faced similar disease-related problems this year, highlighting the difference in performance between the old and newly introduced varieties.

Another farmer, Nazir Ahmad from Pulwama district, said the new varieties had brought a noticeable improvement in paddy production, particularly for farmers struggling with declining yields in recent years.

Nazir said he owned four kanals of agricultural land, where production had generally remained around 2.5 quintals per kanal in previous years. "However, this year, after cultivating the new variety, I harvested around four quintals per kanal. This is a considerable improvement for a

farmer like me," he said.

The new varieties, Nazir said, were also performing well in terms of grain quality and market value, providing farmers with the possibility of better returns.

He said disease resistance and improved productivity could help reduce crop losses and improve the economic condition of farmers, particularly those dependent on paddy cultivation for their livelihood.

A senior official of the Agriculture Department told KNO that the SR3, SR4 and SR5 varieties had demonstrated encouraging results in different areas of Kashmir, with reported yields ranging between four and five quintals per kanal.

The official said the department was promoting improved | [More on P6](#)

FDA intensifies Food Safety Enforcement across UT



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 01: Continuing its food safety surveillance and enforcement activities, FDA, J&K conducted inspections in the last couple of days across the Union Territory to ensure compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations framed thereunder.

During the enforcement drive, Food Safety teams conducted 348 inspections of Food Business Operators (FBOs) across various districts and lifted 180 food samples covering major commodities, including edible oils, ghee, milk and milk products, spices and other food products. The samples have been forwarded to NABL-accredited food testing laboratories for analysis against the prescribed safety and quality parameters. The establishments inspected during this round of inspections

belonged to various categories which included Hotels, Restaurants and canteens.

As part of the enforcement action, six Improvement Notices were issued to FBOs found deficient in complying with prescribed food safety requirements and the Food business operators have been directed to report compliance within the stipulated timeline failing which legal action as necessary shall be initiated.

Further, 31 complaint cases were initiated under Sections 56 and 58 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 against violations detected during inspections and filed before the Adjudicating Officers (Additional Deputy Commissioners) of the respective districts.

In addition, 17 cases were compounded under Section 69 of the FSSA, 2006, involving a cumulative fine of ₹37,000. Two cases were also dealt with under Section 52 in

respect of misbranding and labeling-related violations, wherein a cumulative fine of ₹55,000 was imposed.

The FDA, J&K, reiterated that all Food Business Operators are required to strictly adhere to statutory requirements relating to licensing/registration, hygiene and sanitation, food handling and processing, storage, labeling and other prescribed food safety standards. The field enforcement authorities have been directed to maintain regular inspections and sampling and to initiate appropriate regulatory and penal action against violations in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Consumers have been requested to report any suspected unsafe or adulterated food product through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in

VB-G RAM G: DDC Kulgam reviews implementation



KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 01: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Thursday chaired a meeting at Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam to review the progress and implementation of Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G) in the district.

The meeting reviewed key indicators including person days generation, wage and material release vis-a-vis expenditure, Master Roll status, physical progress of works, delay monitoring, skilled employment and social audit issues.

It was informed that against an annual target of 14 lakh Mandays, 4,60,781 Mandays have been generated, achieving 32.91% of the annual target and 98.74% of the Q1 target.

The DDC stressed upon timely wage payments, expeditious processing of FTOs and Master Rolls, proper utilisation of funds and speedy completion of works, besides ensuring transparency and accountability in implementation.

The meeting also reviewed preparations for People's Plan Campaign and Reform Utsav, scheduled from October 2 to December 31, with special Gram Sabhas to be held in every Halqa Panchayat. The DDC directed the concerned officers to ensure maximum public participation and effective awareness on key reforms, scheme convergence, institutional readiness and citizen awareness, besides facilitating participatory planning and identification of local development priorities.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri; ACR, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; CPO, Suhail Malik, DIO, CEO, Ex En, BDOs, ALC, besides other concerned officers and officials of the Rural Development department, Kulgam.

DC Budgam felicitates CMO Dr Gulzar Ahmad on Superannuation



KT News Desk

BUDGAM OCTOBER 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan Thursday felicitated Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Budgam, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad, on attaining superannuation.

On the occasion, the DC congratulated Dr. Gulzar Ahmad on the completion of his 27 years of dedicated service and appreciated his valuable contributions

and sincere efforts towards strengthening and improving healthcare services in Budgam district.

The Deputy Commissioner acknowledged Dr. Gulzar Ahmad's commitment to public service and his role in enhancing the delivery of healthcare services to the people of the district. He extended his best wishes to Dr. Gulzar Ahmad for a happy, healthy and fulfilling post-retirement life.

VB-G RAM G

ADDC Shopian presides over Workshop on Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 01: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone Thursday presided over a workshop on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) under VB-G RAM G here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The workshop aimed at strengthening participatory and integrated planning for inclusive, resilient and prosperous rural development.

On the occasion, the ADDC highlighted the importance of preparing comprehensive Gram

Panchayat Plans by identifying local needs and priorities and translating them into actionable development plans. He also stressed on convergence of various schemes and departments to ensure effective utilization of resources and better outcomes at the grassroots level.

During the workshop, the ADDC sensitized the participants about integrated planning under VB-G RAM G, covering key areas including local needs, people's participation, environment, technology, data and infrastructure.

DPHQ Udhampur LOOK OUT NOTICE

No: - CB/Look Out Notice/2026/65937-45

Dated: 30 .09.2026

As requested by SDPO Ramnagar that on 24.09.2026, applicant namely Raj Kumar S/O Darshanu R/O Village Sullan Tehsil Ramnagar District Udhampur lodged a missing report at P/S Ramnagar to the effect that his wife namely Bandhu Devi, age 21 years along with minor daughter namely Sakshi Devi age 03 years is missing since 20.09.2026. The applicant has conducted her search, but she has not been traced out. Accordingly, a missing report has been entered by P/S Ramnagar vide DDR No. 09 dated 24.09.2026 and search started. The Photograph with

Photo	Description
	Name: Bandhu Devi
	Age: 21 yrs.
	Complexion: Wheatish
	Height: 5'-3"
	

descriptive roll of missing lady is as under
It is therefore requested that a sharp lookout may please be maintained and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of said missing lady is received an information may kindly be shared on the below mentioned Telephone Nos./Fax/e-mail address for further course of action.
Email: sspoudh@jkpolice.gov.in
Fax: 01992-270027
Phone: 01992-2270210
SHO P/S Ramnagar: 9906124100
PCR Udhampur : 01992-276915

DIPK-6327/26

DATED: 01-10-2026

SSP Udhampur

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan,NowsharaSrinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 9th.
of Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum.

Subject: 1. Construction of 125 mm dia machine drilled Bore well including allied accessories in the premises of Divisional Office (Executive Engineer Civil Investigation & Design Division PDC Sopore) for drinking water purpose in District Baramulla. (Sl.no.2)
2. Construction and Harnessing of 01 No. 125 mm dia, machine drilled Bore-well in the premises of Mechanical & Hospital Division Baramulla. (Sl.no.3)
Reference: 1. This office Extension Notice 6th of ReTender Notice /Corrigendum 1st vide Endorsement No: JS/PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/8384-408/ dated: 25.08.2026. Bearing Tender ID No: 2026_PHE_309097_7 & 8
2. This office Retender Corrigendum Notice vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/2949-72.Dated: 19-06-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_309097_7 & 8.
3. This office Extension Notice 3rd issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/2412-35, dated: 11-06-2026. 27/
4. This office e-NIT No. 11/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/818-41, dated: 29-04-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_309097_2 & 3.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned work's advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 01-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	14-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	15-10-2026 11.00 AM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/13388-411.
Dated: 01-10-2026.

DIPK-6321/26

DATED: 01-10-2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E- mail: - hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

GIST of Detailed e- NIT No: - 70/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27.

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for "registered experienced Contractors of Production Tube wells" as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on www. jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ. (Table – I)

S. No	S. No of AAA	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money	Cost of Tender Document	Class of contract	Time of completion	Technical Sanction	Major Head / Programme	Tender Call
	03	Construction of Deep Bore well 200 mm dia by ODEX method at Wasoora, in District Pulwama.	Rs.15.41 Lacs	Rs.46,300/-	Rs. 500/-	45 Days	Registered for Construction of Production Tube Wells	JS-PHE/ GWDS/ Distt. Capex Budget (Untied)/ 182 of 09/ 2026, Dt: 30-09-2026	Capex Budget 2026-27 (Untied Grants)	1 st

Position of Funds: - Available:

> Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the District Development Commissioner Pulwama Vide Order No: 181-DDCP of 2026, issued under endorsement No. DDCP/ Addl. United 25/2026-27/4749-55, Dated: 24-09-2026. -2026.
The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website:https://www.jktenders.gov.in From 01.10.2026 (10:00 AM) to 17.10.2026 (11:00 AM)
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: https://www.jktenders.gov.in
As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below
Table-II

1.	Publishing Date	01-10-2026 (10:00 A.M)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	01-10-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 17-10-2026 (11:00 A.M).
3.	Period of Submission of bids	01-10-2026 (10:00 A.M) upto 17-10-2026 (11:00 A.M).
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	19-10-2026 (11:00 A.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011	
6.	Cost of Tender Document : To be deposited online (If available) or Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/ deposited to Account Head 0215 or in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply) Note: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD /TR/ the hard copies shall have be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2 nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT (if needed)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in	

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan-generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication.
The cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 19-10-2026 (11:00 AM) If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

DIPK-6304/26

DATED: 01-10-2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

LG Sinha pays tribute to Lal Bahadur Shastri Meets, MLA, delegations



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 01: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the former Prime Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on the eve of his birth anniversary. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was the epitome of simplicity, honesty, integrity and patriotism. A strong and visionary leader, he guided India toward self-reliance. His famous call, 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan', will always echo in our hearts and inspire future generations. On his birth anniversary, let us rededicate

ourselves to his noble ideals and serve the motherland with the selfless spirit". Meanwhile, Shagun Parihar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kishtwar called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. She discussed important matters pertaining to the development of Hudh Mata Temple, Sarthal Mata Temple and Sports Stadium in Kishtwar. In the meantime, a delegation of All Minority Employees Association Kashmir (AMEAK), led by its President Sanjay Koul called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and submitted a memorandum highlighting the issues related to Old Pension Scheme coverage for PM Package employees appointed against the posted created and notified prior to NPS in J&K. Furthermore, Maulana Yasooob Abbas, General Secretary and Spokesperson, All India Shia Personal Law Board called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed various welfare issues of the community. He was accompanied by Molvi Imran Reza Ansari, former Minister. Maulana Yasooob Abbas also expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor-led UT Administration for the smooth observance of the Muharram processions. Also, a delegation of Mata Kheer Bhawani Asthapan Tikkar, Kupwara led by its President Mohan Lal Padroo called on Lieutenant Governor and apprised him of various development issues of the sacred shrine.

Kashmir Marathon draws over 6,000 participants

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 01: From toddlers taking their first steps into the world of sports to an 84-year-old participant completing the course, the Kashmir Marathon, Run for Unity, brought together people across generations, drawing applause and appreciation at its closing ceremony in Srinagar on Thursday. Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the marathon saw participation from more than 6,000 runners across various categories, turning the event into a celebration of fitness, unity and community spirit. According to details obtained, a two-year-old girl and three-year-old Mohammad Hamza were among the youngest participants and emerged as crowd favourites. Their presence, alongside young athletes and senior citizens, highlighted the marathon's inclusive spirit and its appeal across age groups. Participants said the involvement of both

children and elderly runners made the event especially memorable. "The participation of children and senior citizens made the marathon particularly special," said Zubair Ahmed, a resident of Anantnag. Zahid Nadeem of Srinagar's Jawahar Nagar also lauded the initiative, saying such events bring people together while promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. The elderly participants received special appreciation during the event. A 61-year-old woman was awarded a cash prize of 2,500, while 84-year-old Haji Ghulam was applauded for completing the marathon. The closing ceremony, held at the Police Golf Course on the banks of Dal Lake, was attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, ADGP Armed Police Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID M.K. Sinha, senior civil and police officers, sports personalities and youth—(KNO)

'25-year-old commercial vehicles to face seizure, FIRs'

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 01: The J&K Transport Department has directed field offices to seize commercial vehicles that have attained the age of 25 years and lodge FIRs if they are found plying on roads. Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan, in a post on X urged owners of such vehicles to scrap them, citing commuter safety as a concern. "Request all Commercial Vehicle owners to Scrap the vehicles which have attained the age of 25 years as today. We have written to find

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

4 injured in bear attack in Nandimarg

Umaisar Gull Ganie

Kulgam, Oct 01: Four people were injured after being attacked by a wild bear in Nandimarg Nard area of Damhal Hanjipora in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday, officials said. An official said that four people, comprising two men and two women, were injured after they were attacked by a wild bear in the area. He said the two women are stated to be in critical condition, while the two men are stable. They were identified

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Poonch Admin intensifies efforts to tackle legacy waste

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Oct 01 (KNO): The Poonch district administration and Municipal Council have taken a series of measures to address legacy waste, prevent garbage from entering the Poonch River and strengthen solid waste management in the district, as part of compliance with the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The action has been reported before the NGT in connection with Original Application No. 253/2023, filed by Raja Muzaffar Bhat against the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and others. Separate compliance documents submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, and the Municipal Council have detailed the remedial measures being undertaken to address the issue of accumulated waste and prevent further pollution of the river. According to the compliance documents, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the administration has directed the Municipal Council to lift the legacy waste dumped near the Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge and shift it to a safer location away from the river. Officials have also been directed to ensure that waste does

not enter or flow into the Poonch River, particularly during the monsoon season. For scientific remediation of the accumulated legacy waste, machinery and equipment have been installed at the site. CCTV cameras are also being used to monitor and record the collection, remediation and scientific processing of the waste the Municipal Council has stated that the remediation process is being monitored and efforts are being made to complete the work in a time-bound manner. The measures are aimed at addressing the existing legacy waste as well as preventing further dumping and discharge of waste into the Poonch River, as per the compliance submitted before the NGT. As part of the long-term waste-management plan, an eight-kanal parcel of State land at Village Banwat has been transferred in favour of the Municipal Council for construction of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The Council said construction of the facility is underway, while the remaining works related to its establishment and commissioning are being completed at the earliest in accordance with the

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

CS consults VC's, academicians for multiversity ecosystem push in J&K

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 01: Chief Secretary (CS), Atal Dulloo on Thursday held a detailed consultation with Vice Chancellors of Universities and senior functionaries of the Higher Education Department to explore the creation of a Multiversity ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, leveraging the collective academic, research, technological and infrastructural strengths of the region's universities and premier institutions. The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors of the universities of J&K, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Director Colleges, J&K, and other concerned officers. The consultation focused on developing an institutional framework for greater inter-university collaboration, shared academic resources, multidisciplinary learning, student and faculty mobility, research partnerships and stronger industry linkages, in keeping with the emerging requirements of higher education as per the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Speaking during the deliberations, the Chief Secretary observed that the world is changing rapidly, with technological innovations continuously transforming lifestyles, workplaces and human situations. He noted that while technology is taking over certain conventional jobs, it is simultaneously creating newer and more complex challenges requiring multidisciplinary knowledge and skills. He further maintained that the future will belong to those who can continuously upgrade their knowledge, acquire multidisciplinary skills and work across institutional and professional boundaries. Moreover, he stressed that such capabilities cannot be developed in isolation and require greater networking and collaboration. He stated that the idea of developing a Multiversity could provide an institutional mechanism for grooming a future-ready generation by bringing together the strengths of different institutions and enabling students to access diverse areas of knowledge. He particularly emphasized the need to move "from papers to patents", with a clear roadmap for research, innovation and technology transfer. He directed that the proposed framework should define specific milestones, timelines, institutional responsibilities and measurable outcomes to ensure that the concept translates into tangible action



on the ground. Earlier, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, made a detailed presentation on the concept, its relevance and the possibilities of developing such a model in J&K. He gave out that we need to build an inter-institutional framework today to remain relevant tomorrow. The possibilities offered under NEP-2020 provide us a clear policy direction to move towards such a collaborative model, he maintained. He highlighted that the region possesses a diverse and rich higher education ecosystem comprising academic and agricultural universities, AIIMS, SKIMS, IIT, IIM and other specialized institutions, along with technical institutions and a large network of colleges. He emphasized that these institutions could complement each other by sharing infrastructure, expertise and academic resources to create a wider learning ecosystem without necessarily duplicating facilities. The presentation explored possible academic architecture, interdisciplinary learning pathways, shared courses and facilities, mobility of students and faculty, internships and apprenticeships, industry and public-sector linkages, anchor institutions and measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for monitoring progress. On this occasion the VC, University of Kashmir, Prof. Neelofar Khan, observed that inter-institutional collaboration was not entirely new to J&K, as institutions had undertaken such collaborations in the past, albeit on a limited scale. She stressed the need to strengthen skill development and industry-academia linkages, which could become important components of the proposed framework.

Similarly, the VC, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, emphasized that NEP-2020 already provides a broad roadmap for such initiatives and that the focus should be on building upon its provisions. Referring to MOOCs and the Academic Bank of Credits, he suggested developing appropriate mechanisms for seamless transfer and recognition of credits across participating institutions. The VC, Cluster University of Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin, stated that the Cluster University model itself provides an existing example of bringing multiple colleges within a common academic framework. He suggested building upon this experience while addressing the challenges encountered in its implementation. While speaking the VC, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, highlighted the Cluster Universities of J&K as an early collaborative model in the country and suggested that further institutional and academic additionalities could be explored under the proposed Multiversity framework. The VC, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Prof. Pragati Kumar, on giving his remarks highlighted the Government of India's I-STEM platform for sharing high-end research equipment and scientific resources among institutions. He stressed the need to examine appropriate financial mechanisms to facilitate faculty and student mobility and exchange across institutions. Additionally the VC, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, described the two Cluster Universities of J&K as "mini-Multiversities" and suggested expanding the model by bringing more institutions into a common academic ecosystem through

online, offline or hybrid modes. Meanwhile the Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma, informed that several private universities in the country have developed collaborative arrangements for sharing resources, faculty and students across institutions and courses. He suggested that one institution could potentially be identified as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) or anchor institution to drive the initiative in a focused manner, initially through a select set of courses. The Director Colleges, J&K, Dr Twinkle Suri, also gave her suggestions and stressed that equity of access would be a key consideration in designing the model, noting that J&K already possesses a substantial institutional and infrastructural base in the form of universities, technical institutions and hundreds of colleges. The consultation also deliberated upon possible anchor institutions, identification of initial courses, shared laboratories and other facilities, student and faculty mobility, credit transfer, research collaboration, industry partnerships, internships and apprenticeships, financing mechanisms and institutional responsibilities. The Chief Secretary called for further working out the concept into a time-bound and outcome-oriented framework, with clearly defined roles for participating institutions and measurable milestones. He emphasised that the objective should be to create greater opportunities for students and researchers by enabling them to access expertise and facilities available across institutions, while strengthening the overall quality, employability, innovation and research potential of J&K's higher education ecosystem.

2 Uri Govt schools function with no students, teachers

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Oct 01: Uri's government schools present a contrasting picture of enrollment and staffing, with two schools reporting zero students and teachers, while another set of schools are grappling with exceptionally high pupil-teacher ratios. Government data reveals that two schools among 375, including Boys Primary School Ghati Choolen Kalsan and Primary School Khalabhat, have recorded zero students and zero teachers, with both schools showing a PTR of 60. The data also throws up a number of schools functioning with extremely low enrolment. Primary School Tula Wari has just one student and one teacher, while Primary School Kakroo Mohalla Nambla has two students and one teacher. Similarly, Primary School Sokdhani has four students and one teacher; Primary School Pakhlan has four students and two teachers; and Girls Primary School Kanderwan Mohura also has four students with two teachers. Other schools with very low enrolment include Primary School



Laribal Nambla, with five students and one teacher, and Primary School Martahan, with six students and one teacher. High PTR at other end While some schools have negligible or zero enrolment, the data shows that schools where teachers are catering to substantially larger numbers of students, with only 10 out of the 375 government schools having a PTR above 40. Primary School Dara tops the PTR table with 120 students against just two teachers, recording a PTR of 60. It is followed by Higher Secondary School Sultandakhi, which has 441 students and eight

teachers, resulting in a PTR of 55. Primary School Gujjar Nalla has 100 students against two teachers, recording a PTR of 50, while Boys Primary School Naik Mohalla Salamabad Dachana has 146 students and three teachers, giving a PTR of 49. Other schools among the highest PTR cases include Primary School Kalsee, with 91 students and two teachers (PTR 46), and Middle School Nawa, with 86 students and two teachers (PTR 43). Govt initiates rationalisation The government, responding to MLA Uri Dr Sajjad Shafi in the

Infant, 2, dies after falling into water tub



KNO

Kupwara, Oct 01: A two-year-old boy died after he accidentally fell into a water tub at his home in Qalamabad area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Thursday, officials said. An official said that the child was hospitalised after he accidentally fell into a water tub at his home in Qalamabad. He said the child was shifted to NTPHC Qalamabad, where he was undergoing treatment since yesterday. He was later shifted to a hospital in Srinagar, where he succumbed to his injuries today. He was identified as Shahnaz Shafat (02), son of Shafat Ahmad Reshi, a resident of Qalamabad. Meanwhile, cognizance of the incident has been taken, while a probe is underway—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: Character – The Weight Of A Human Being

In a world obsessed with identity—religion, caste, creed, nationality—the Quran and Hadith cut through the noise with a radical proposition: what matters is not what you call yourself, but how you behave. Character, not label, is the true measure of a human being. The Quran is unequivocal. "Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you" (49:13). The verse does

not say the most Arab, the most wealthy, or the most powerful. It says the most righteous—those whose conduct reflects moral excellence. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) reinforced this in his Farewell Sermon: "An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a white over a black, except by piety and good action." This is a universal declaration of human equality, grounded not in

blood or belief, but in behaviour. The Prophet's mission itself was defined by character. When asked about his purpose, he said, "I have been sent to perfect noble character." He did not say he was sent to perfect rituals, institutions, or empires. He was sent to perfect character. His wife Aisha described him simply: "His character was the Quran." He lived the message. What does this mean for us? It means that

a person of any faith—or no faith—who acts with honesty, kindness, generosity, and justice is living according to the spirit of Islam's moral vision. And a person who professes faith but behaves with cruelty, dishonesty, or arrogance betrays it. The Quran warns: "The hypocrites will be in the lowest depths of the Fire" (4:145). Ritual without character is hollow. Character is not a religious monopoly. It

is a human responsibility. It is the legacy we leave in the lives we touch. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said, "The heaviest thing to be placed in the scales of a believer on the Day of Judgment is good character." In a world increasingly defined by division, this is a truth we urgently need to reclaim. Character is the only identity that matters. Everything else is just noise.

The Age Of Distraction When Noise Seeks To Drown Out The Truth

Spahic Omer

The truth of Islam - revealed to all prophets, with Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as the Seal of the Prophets - is so self-evident and so nourishing for humanity's essential needs that nothing can be instituted as a viable alternative to it. This was the case before the sending of the final Prophet, it remained the case after his sending, and it continues to prove itself today.

Myriads of quasi-religions, ideologies, philosophies, and intellectual fashions keep mushrooming on a regular basis. Yet, as soon as they emerge and begin pretending to establish themselves, they start waning and eventually disappear. Their problem is intrinsic: when placed side by side, truth and its antithesis, falsehood, stand on entirely different grounds. Falsehood may become fashionable, powerful, or widespread for a time, but it possesses no enduring foundation capable of withstanding the truth.

This is known to all adversaries of the truth and its people, including their chief, Satan. They know that standing up directly against the truth is an impossible task. Consequently, the only - and at the same time most "potent" - thing they can do is to invent distractions and diversions. If the truth cannot be defeated, it can at least be obscured; if it cannot be silenced, it can at least be drowned out by noise. The objective is not necessarily to make people reject the truth openly, but to prevent them from hearing it clearly, reflecting upon it deeply, and living by it consistently.

Distraction is thus a strategy of displacement. It takes attention away from what is essential and directs it towards what is secondary, temporary, superficial, or inconsequential. The believer may continue to profess the truth while gradually becoming too occupied to embody it. His faith remains in principle, yet his attention is consumed by an endless succession of things that demand his time, emotions, curiosity, and energy. In this way, the truth is not defeated; it is simply crowded out of consciousness and conduct. Yes, exactly that is all they can do, and that is all they keep doing. Frustration and desperation perhaps best capture the nature of their actions.

Satanic Distraction: From Paradise to Lahw and La'ib

From the dawn of the confrontation between truth and falsehood, and between light and darkness, in Paradise, when Satan entered into confrontation with Adam and his wife, the nature of this struggle was already foregrounded. Satan proved incapacitated, though willing; ineffective, though ostensibly resourceful. The most he could do was talk, make false promises, and lie in order to disturb Adam and Eve, upset their concentration, and temporarily disrupt their priorities.

The episode revolved around Satan's promise that he wanted to guide Adam and Eve to the tree of eternity and everlasting authority, which he falsely presented as something destined never to fade away, while swearing that he was their sincere adviser. Here resides the essence of satanic distraction: the substitution of illusion for reality, immediate attraction for lasting consequence, and imagined gain for genuine felicity. Satan cannot create truth, but he can distort perception. He cannot provide genuine nourishment to the human soul, but he can persuade the soul to seek nourishment in substitutes.

It is owing to this that, in Islam, the ideas of entertainment and leisure assume a different meaning. Human beings require rest, recreation, enjoyment, and moments of relief, but these must remain subordinate to the purpose for which man has been created. Life is too short and too precious to be surrendered to nonsense and non-productive pursuits. Even leisure can be elevated, regulated, and spiritualized when it serves legitimate human needs and remains within the boundaries of morality. Under no circumstances should it become a pathway towards immorality, heedlessness, or the abandonment of responsibility.

The danger becomes particularly acute when truth is distorted or abandoned. A serious vacuum is then created within the human heart, soul, and mind, and that



vacuum must be filled. Human beings cannot live indefinitely without meaning, purpose, orientation, and something towards which their deepest longings are directed. When the truth is removed, proxies inevitably rush in. However, because these stand-ins cannot satisfy the fundamental needs for which the human being was created, they generate an endless demand for further stimulation. One distraction requires another, one pleasure must be followed by another, and one diversion must constantly be replaced by something louder, newer, or more absorbing.

It is then and there that all doors are left ajar for Satan to step in and dictate the terms of engagement. He becomes, metaphorically, in charge of both the protocols and the results. The Qur'an portrays this condition through concepts such as lahwh and la'ib: divertive amusement and play. The problem is not that every form of recreation is inherently forbidden or meaningless. The deeper problem is allowing amusement and play to become the governing principle of existence. If truth presides over decision-making and behavioral patterns, lahwh and la'ib can remain controlled and properly proportioned. If the voice of truth is silenced, nonetheless, the environment of lahwh and la'ib grows empowered until it begins to govern the individual rather than serve him.

The Tyranny of Ghaflah
What then ultimately overpowers and enslaves the human being is heedlessness (ghaflah) - a state of mind and being in which consciousness of what truly matters becomes eclipsed and the forces of distraction are allowed to assume command. One may wrongly presuppose that ghaflah is a dormant, passive, or virtually inactive state. Nay, it can be among the most devastating conditions to afflict the human being, precisely because it works slowly, subtly, and often imperceptibly, gradually tearing apart the fabric of one's inner being.

It is a condition at whose door the Qur'an places responsibility for much of human wrongdoing and loss. Its destructive power lies in the fact that it does not necessarily require a person to reject the truth openly. A person may know the truth, acknowledge it, and even profess allegiance to it, while allowing heedlessness to prevent that truth from regulating his actual existence.

Thus, one may be fully aware of one's duties towards Almighty Allah yet regularly, or even completely, compromise them. One may know the prohibitions established by the Creator and still rarely, or never, hesitate to transgress them. Knowledge remains present, but consciousness is absent; recognition survives, but attentiveness has been weakened. The person does not necessarily cease knowing what is right and wrong. He simply becomes progressively less responsive to that knowledge. This is the subtle tyranny of ghaflah: it separates awareness from action, knowledge from obedience, and truth from lived reality - something from which many Muslims nowadays, unfortunately, suffer greatly, even while proudly claiming their Muslim identity.

In this sense, heedlessness is more

dangerous than a momentary distraction. Distraction may occupy the attention temporarily; ghaflah gradually reshapes the condition of the person who repeatedly surrenders his attention to it. What begins as amusement can become habit, what becomes habit can develop into attachment, and what is repeatedly attached to can eventually become a governing force. The human being then ceases to ask whether what occupies him is worthy of his time, thought, and existence. He naively follows whatever calls most loudly for his attention. His life becomes an interplay and clash of algorithms, each competing for his consideration, shaping his choices, and directing his desires. His life becomes reactive rather than purposeful, fragmented rather than integrated, and ensnared rather than liberated.

The Institutionalization of Distraction
The same principle operates at the institutional and civilizational levels. Life systems and (un)civilizational trajectories of nations and communities normally adopt diversionary models in order to justify their raison d'être and maintain control over the masses, particularly when people begin realizing what is happening and start demanding improvement. Distraction can then become systematic. It can be built into institutions, commercialized through industries, amplified through mass communication, and normalized until people cease recognizing it as distraction at all.

It was the proponents of certain modern ideological systems who popularized the slogan that religion is the "opium of the masses." Through such thinking, heavenly influence over terrestrial life was to be neutralized or diminished. Once the reach of transcendent authority was excluded from the human realm, however, another form of authority was bound to take its place: the authority of systems, institutions, ideologies, markets, and those who control them. On this account, one form of "opium of the masses" was merely replaced with another. The vocabulary changed, but the function of diversion remains.

They all know all too well that there is little of substance or nourishment that they can offer. Dishonesty and fabrication thus become the only means left to them to remain afloat. Consider, for example, the West-dominated modern civilization, which is proving to be a failed civilizational experiment - or, at best, the anticlimactic conclusion to what appeared, and was so confidently paraded, as a promising new chapter in human history during the periods of the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and the Industrial Revolution. What was heralded as the dawn of unprecedented human progress has, in many respects, given way to disappointment, frustration, and outright failure. As the reality increasingly diverges from the promise, the greatest achievement of modern civilization may well be its popular culture: its remarkable ability to translate life into a vast universe of distraction and diversion, deflecting people's attention from what the situation actually is towards what it is not, or what they wish it to be.

It should therefore come as no surprise

that innumerable forms of pleasure-seeking and self-indulgence have become some of the most conspicuous features of modern civilization. There are, certainly, many sectors of modern life that are either neutral or highly commendable in themselves. Yet even these, when pushed to their ultimate ends, are often subjected, in one way or another, to the generation, articulation, refinement, and optimization of the very hedonistic pursuits mentioned above. Indeed, ours is a civilization of fleeting delights and a culture of squandered hours. Our society is drunk on amusement, and our world enthralled by diversion.

Towards this end has emerged an enormous repertoire of entertainment, music, sport, spectacle, consumption, commercialized sexuality, and perpetual amusement - precisely in an age when man lives ever further from himself, from nature, and, ultimately, from his Creator. So much emptiness has been generated within and around man that carefully devised and sustained schemes of diversion keep him perpetually occupied, leaving scarcely any room for reflection, stillness, or self-recovery. He is encouraged to believe that everything is fine when very little is, and that the civilization appears in harmony, though only a fraction sings the right note. He is kept emotionally stimulated yet intellectually distracted, constantly occupied yet spiritually unfulfilled.

Man must thus be intoxicated with false attractions and malnourishing surrogates until he becomes unable to discern reality from fantasy, righteousness from depravity, and, perhaps most critically, his real self from his fictional counterpart. The tragedy is not simply that he is distracted. It is that he may eventually come to identify distraction with life itself.

If the Romans had their bread and circuses, the Egyptians their magic, the Greeks their Olympic Games, and the Mesopotamians their festivals and spectacles, then today's so-called modern civilization has its pop culture (the theatre of the masses), which is vast in scale, sophisticated in technique, breathtaking in appearance, yet shallow in substance and empty of meaning. All is but a veneer; remove the glittering facade, and the abyss yawns beneath.

Staying the Course: The Believer's Refuge
No wonder, then, that in such an alarming ecosystem, the people who remain attached to Islamic truth constitute a profound obstacle to the culture of distraction. They can still see the larger picture, recognize the true nature of affairs, and conduct themselves accordingly. No wonder, furthermore, that they become targets of both Satan and his armies from among the jinn and humankind. Islam cannot be annulled and substituted with something else - not even remotely. The more practical objective, therefore, is to flood the believer's mind, life, and surroundings with noise and distraction until his truth-oriented focus is weakened and every dimension of his honorable life becomes occupied by secondary concerns.

The result is the incessant and pervasive presence of local and international, basic and elaborate, lahwh and la'ib wherever one

goes and, all the time more, wherever one looks. It is an invasion of attention from which there seems to be no escape. The believer's response, however, need not be complicated. He needs to remain steadfast in what and who he is: a believer. He must protect his attention as carefully as he protects his faith, resist the temptation to confuse activity with productivity, and refuse to allow noise to determine the rhythm of his existence.

Simply put, he needs only to remain himself and stay the course. As the Qur'an says of the servants of the Most Merciful, "when the ignorant address them, they say, 'Peace'" (25:63), and "when they pass by laghw (ill speech), they pass by it with dignity" (25:72).

His real refuge lies at levels inaccessible to the advocates and activists of noise, clutter, and aggressive (mis)behavior: the levels of spiritual excellence, moral commitment, intellectual seriousness, and purposeful living, all rooted in faith, certainty, and servitude to the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. The believer does not defeat distraction by becoming louder than it. He defeats it by refusing to become distracted. He turns his attention back to what is essential, orders his life around truth, and remains conscious of the rationale for which he was created.

For Satan's greatest weapon is not the ability to destroy the truth. It is the ability to make human beings too distracted to hear it, too occupied and confused to contemplate it, and too absorbed in fake alternatives to live by it. That is why, when a person dies and the effects of distraction come to an end - that is, when the noise finally falls silent - he realizes what was actually going on and understands that he had been duped. No sooner does this realization dawn upon him than he wishes to return to life and live differently. But, as the Qur'an repeatedly verifies, it will be too little, too late. The only chance he was given has been squandered. He should have understood that life was about struggle and active participation in its currents, in lieu of sham high living and the chasing of shadows, ultimately returning to Allah bruised yet victorious, exhausted yet transformed, and tested yet genuinely enlightened.

Hence, the message to each and every Muslim is simple: make the timely performance of salah, the Qur'an, the remembrance of Allah, the emulation of the Prophet, beautiful akhlaq, etiquette, and affirmative mindset among your best and most constant companions. Let them remain close to you throughout the day and accompany you wherever you go. In this manner, your attention will remain anchored in reality, normalcy, appropriateness, and beauty, and your life will remain oriented towards what is true, wholesome, and worthy.

It is truly inconceivable that a person who claims to be Muslim seldom or never reads the Qur'an - not mechanically, but in order to understand what his Creator communicates to him, so that he may live accordingly. Nor does he read the biographies of his Prophet so that he may know more about the most exemplary personality from whom he is supposed to draw inspiration and whom he is supposed to follow. Nor does he generally read useful material about his din (religion) of Islam so that he may live a better, more meaningful, and more consequential life.

If, however, a person's physical body, mind, heart, and soul are not in harmony when it comes to both the quality and quantity of his servitude to Almighty Allah, one ought to examine how sincere and how committed a Muslim he truly is. This is all the more necessary lest his submission to distraction, rather than to his Creator, get the better of him in this world and, ultimately, in the Hereafter.

This is all, furthermore, lest such an unfortunate soul, at the moment of death, find itself crying out: "My Lord, send me back, that I might do righteousness in that which I left behind" (Qur'an 23:99-100). Without doubt, the only path to true happiness is to live life neither according to one's own whims nor according to the dictates of others, but solely according to the will of the Creator of life.

Courtesy: IslamiCity

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

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No eligible voter to be left behind: CEO



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 01: Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sanjeev Verma, Thursday chaired a meeting with District Election Officers and EROs for the enrolment of left out and young/first time eligible electors under the process of continuous updation. Special attention was emphasised for left-out eligible electors who have attained eligibility for registration.

The CEO, as per an official

statement, also directed that Booth Level Officers should undergo House-to-House visits and remain accessible to eligible electors requiring assistance with enrolment or related forms. They were also asked to facilitate the proper filling and submission of forms, particularly in cases where electors face any difficulty, so that no eligible voter to be left behind.

Chief Electoral Officer, J&K reiterated his commitment to ensuring an accurate and inclusive electoral roll.

DC Kathua reviews Road Safety action plan

KT News Desk

KATHUA, OCTOBER 01: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Road Safety Action Plan in the district. He reviewed the measures being undertaken by concerned departments to enhance road safety and minimise road accidents.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by ADC Mahima Madan; ASP Sunil Kesar; RTO Surinder Paul Sharma; Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), CMO, EO MC and representatives from concerned departments.

At the outset, the concerned officers briefed the DC on the status of the road safety interventions, accident-prone locations, enforcement measures, road engineering works, traffic management and awareness activities being undertaken across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the department-wise progress under the Road Safety Action Plan and stressed the need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach to address road safety concerns. He directed the concerned agencies to identify and address accident-prone spots,



ensure proper road signage, road markings, crash barriers and other requisite safety measures, besides maintaining close monitoring of vulnerable stretches.

Emphasising strict enforcement of traffic regulations, the DC directed the enforcement agencies to intensify checking against overspeeding, rash driving, overloading, driving without helmets and seat belts, use of mobile phones while driving and other traffic violations. He called for regular enforcement drives, particularly on vulnerable road stretches and stressed that violations posing a threat to road users must invite strict action as per law.

Reviewing the emergency

response mechanism, the Deputy Commissioner called for effective coordination among the Health Department, Police, Traffic authorities and other stakeholders to ensure timely assistance to accident victims. He further directed the concerned officers to regularly review the progress of the Road Safety Action Plan and ensure timely completion of identified interventions.

The DC reiterated that road safety requires collective responsibility and sustained efforts by all stakeholders and called upon the concerned departments to work in close coordination to create safer roads and reduce preventable loss of life due to road accidents.

Dengue Surveillance intensified in Doda



KT News Desk

DODA, OCTOBER 01: As part of the ongoing efforts to contain dengue and strengthen vector-control measures in the district, the Dengue Surveillance Team of the Health Department Doda conducted a comprehensive field inspection of identified hotspots.

The field team, led by Dy Medical Superintendent AH GMC Doda Dr. Irfan Tasaduq Kelam, revisited the identified hotspots to assess the prevailing situation and undertake a detailed inspection of areas having potential for mosquito breeding.

Special attention was given to stagnant water and other possible breeding sites, with the team checking for the presence of mosquito larvae

and conditions conducive to mosquito proliferation.

During the visit, the team, as per an official statement, also surveyed the surrounding areas and identified locations requiring immediate preventive intervention. Emphasis was laid on the timely removal of stagnant water, elimination of potential breeding sources, proper sanitation and regular surveillance to minimise the risk of mosquito breeding and further transmission of dengue.

The inspection forms part of the Health Department's continued strategy to strengthen field-level surveillance, ensure early identification and source reduction of mosquito breeding sites and maintain close monitoring of dengue-prone areas across the district.

DC Reasi reviews arrangements for Navratra, Dussehra celebrations

KT News Desk

REASI, OCTOBER 01: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek chaired a meeting here Thursday to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming Navratra and Dussehra celebrations in the town.

Representatives from Durga Natak Mandli apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the programmes planned for the festivities, including the staging of Ram Leela during Navratra and the Dussehra celebrations.

The meeting, as per an official statement, held detailed discussions on various arrangements, including sanitation, security, power supply, drinking water, medical facilities and fire safety, to ensure the smooth, safe and peaceful conduct of the festivities.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Officer, Municipal Council to undertake a special sanitation drive across the town, with focus on the festival venues. The concerned health authorities were asked to deploy adequate medical staff along with an ambulance at the General Zorawar Singh



Sports Stadium on Dussehra day. The Fire and Emergency Services Department was also asked to station a fire tender at the venue as a precautionary measure.

The Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply, particularly during the Ram Leela events, while the Jal Shakti Department was tasked with deploying water tankers to ensure the availability of safe drinking water for participants and visitors. The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, was further asked to put in place necessary barricading arrangements at the Ram Leela Ground and General

Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized close coordination among all concerned departments and stressed the timely completion of all arrangements for the safe, smooth and successful conduct of the Navratra and Dussehra festivities.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Nitin Verma, Executive Engineer, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, Tehsildar Reasi, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), members of Durga Natak Mandli and other officials were present in the meeting.

GDC Ramkote celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

Organises Swachhata Rally, Shramdan

KT News Desk

KATHUA, OCTOBER 01: Government Degree College Ramkote celebrated Gandhi Jayanti to spread the message of cleanliness, civic responsibility and community participation. The event was organised under overall guidance of Principal of the college Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul. The programme commenced with the offering of floral tributes to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. The staff and students recalled his ideals of cleanliness, self-discipline and service to society.

As part of the "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign 2026, the NSS Unit of the College organised a Mega Swachhata Rally, followed by Shramdan to spread awareness about the importance of cleanliness and a hygienic environment. Nearly 70 students, along with faculty members and local residents, participated enthusiastically in the rally.

The rally, as per an official statement, started from the

college campus and passed through the adjoining areas of the adopted village, covering the local lanes and Ramleela Ground, culminating at the Tehsil Office, Ramkote. The participants carried cleanliness-related banners, raised slogans, encouraging residents to maintain cleanliness and actively contribute towards creating a cleaner and healthier community.

The Shramdan activity provided an opportunity for students, faculty and community members to work together towards improving the cleanliness of the surrounding areas. The initiative reflected the spirit of collective responsibility and community engagement, while reinforcing Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a clean and responsible society.

The programme concluded with an appeal to all participants and residents to make cleanliness a regular part of their daily lives and to continue contributing towards the objectives of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign.

DLSA Samba observes Int'l Day of Older Persons

KT News Desk

SAMBA, OCTOBER 01: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Samba Thursday observed the International Day of Older Persons under the theme "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives." The objective was to generate awareness about the rights, dignity, health, safety and well-being of senior citizens.

The programme was inaugurated by Chairman (Principal District & Sessions Judge) District Legal Services Authority Ashwani Kumar Sharma in presence of Additional District & Sessions Judge Arvind Sharma, Secretary DLSA, Shafeeq Ahmed and Block Medical Officer Dr. Richa Arora.

On the occasion, the DLSA, as per an official statement, organised a Health Check-up Programme for older persons, wherein senior citizens were provided medical consultation and basic health check-up facilities. Eye consultation, Ortho consultation, Blood Pressure check – up and on spot Blood Sugar check – up



was done. Along this, the necessary medication was also provided to the beneficiaries as per requirement. The programme aimed at encouraging preventive healthcare and ensuring that older persons receive proper attention, care and support.

The DLSA Samba reiterated its commitment towards extending legal awareness, assistance and support to senior citizens, particularly those who are vulnerable or in need of legal intervention.

The programme was attended by judicial officers, officials of DLSA, Bar Members, Medical professionals, Para Legal Volunteers, Litigants and Senior Citizens.

SWD Doda celebrates Int'l Day of Older Persons

KT News Desk

DODA, OCTOBER 1: Under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner and under the overall supervision of the District Social Welfare Officer, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) Doda Thursday celebrated the International Day of Older Persons 2026 at the District Headquarters and across all tehsils of the district. A series of activities dedicated to the welfare, dignity and well-being of senior citizens were held.

The programme was organised to recognise the valuable contributions of elderly persons to society and to promote awareness about their rights, health and social well-being.

As part of the celebrations, the Department distributed shawls among senior citizens and organised recreational activities including carrom and chess. Free medical check-ups were also conducted for elderly persons, while free medicines were provided to those requiring medical assistance. The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than 500 senior citizens across four tehsils of the district. The celebrations provided an opportunity to senior citizens to interact, participate in recreational activities and avail themselves of basic healthcare services.

The Department also appreciated the participation and support of all officials, healthcare personnel and other stakeholders who contributed to making the International Day of Older Persons 2026 a meaningful occasion for senior citizens across the District.

KU observes International Day of Older Persons 2026



KT News Desk

Srinagar, October 01: The Directorate of Lifelong Learning and Skill Development (DLL&SD), University of Kashmir (KU), observed the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) 2026 at the Main Campus in collaboration with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Ageing, Moul Mouj Foundation (MMF) and Geriatric Orthopedic Society of India (GOSI), Bengaluru.

Observed under the theme "Wisdom Beyond Retirement," the event aimed to highlight the valuable experience, knowledge and contributions of older persons and promote greater understanding of healthy and meaningful ageing.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, as per KU statement, said that older persons remain an important part of society and their experience and wisdom should continue to be valued. She said, "Retirement should not mean withdrawal from society; experience and wisdom continue to have value."

Prof. Khan also highlighted the role

of educational institutions in promoting greater awareness about ageing and encouraging communities to remain responsive to the needs and contributions of senior citizens.

Dean, School of Open Learning, KU, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad said that universities have an important role in creating opportunities for lifelong learning and meaningful engagement for older persons.

Founder and Chairman, MMF, Dr. Zubair Saleem, emphasised that retirement should be seen as the beginning of a new phase of life rather than its end. He highlighted the need for social engagement, dignity and opportunities for older persons to remain active and connected with society.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director DLL&SD, KU, Prof. Bashir Joo, said that the programme was aimed at recognising the contribution of older persons and creating greater awareness about their needs, rights and wellbeing.

The event was attended by representatives from civil society, volunteers from MMF and GOSI, faculty members and students of the University.

National Voluntary Blood Donation Day observed at Blood Centre AH GMC Doda

KT News Desk

DODA, OCTOBER 1: National Voluntary Blood Donation Day was observed Thursday at the Blood Centre Associated Hospital, Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, with active participation of students, security personnel and volunteers.

The programme was inaugurated by Deputy Medical Superintendent AH GMC Dr. Irfan Tasaduq, in the presence of Head and Assistant Professor, Blood Centre, AH GMC Dr. Rampal, besides officers and representatives from 10 RR Arnora and SSB Khellani.

As part of the observance, a voluntary blood donation drive was organised in which personnel from Jammu & Kashmir Police, 10 RR Arnora, SSB Khellani, 26 RR Thathri, MBBS students and B.Sc. Nursing students participated enthusiastically.

The participating donors donated blood for the benefit of patients requiring transfusion at the Associated Hospital, GMC Doda. The initiative highlighted the importance of voluntary blood donation and reflected the



spirit of community service and social responsibility.

Dr. Rampal appreciated the donors and participating organisations for their valuable contribution. He emphasized that voluntary blood donation is a noble humanitarian service and urged eligible citizens to come forward and donate blood regularly to help ensure the availability of safe blood for patients in need.

The Head and staff of the Blood Centre, AH GMC Doda expressed gratitude to all donors, students, security personnel, officers and participating organisations for their support and active participation in making the blood donation drive successful.

Dr Yugal Kishore takes over as Director Animal Husbandry Deptt Jammu

KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 01: Dr. Yugal Kishore Thursday took over as the new Director, Animal Husbandry Department Jammu here at the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tillo. Senior officers and staff of the department welcomed the New Director.

Dr Yugal Kishore has vast experience spanning over thirty-two years and has held several important postings in the department including CAHO Kathua, prior to taking over as the Director Animal Husbandry, Jammu.

On assuming the charge, Dr. Yugal Kishore interacted with the officers and officials of the department and took stock of the ongoing activities, programmes and initiatives of the Animal Husbandry Department.

He emphasized the need for effective implementation of the developmental and welfare programmes, strengthening veterinary services and ensuring that the benefits of departmental schemes reach farmers and other stakeholders at the grassroots level. The officers and officials of the department welcomed Dr. Yugal Kishore on assuming the charge of Director and extended their whole-hearted support and best wishes for a successful tenure.

Asian Paints Wood Adhesives announces a new chapter with Hydronaa & Ultraa and a monumental 384 sq. ft. mosaic
250 trade partners come together to create a striking wooden installation, culminating in the reveal of the brand's new Wood Adhesives products

KT News Desk

Srinagar October 1: Some of the most enduring things in life are built one small piece at a time and held together by a bond strong enough to make them last. Bringing this thought to life, Asian Paints Wood Adhesives has launched Asian Paints Hydronaa and Asian Paints Ultraa, two new products designed to bring together durability, ease and performance to the woodworking community. To celebrate the launch, the brand brought in 250 distributors from across India to create a monumental 384 sq. ft. wooden mosaic creating a landmark moment for the brand. The

achievement is now officially recognised in the Asia Book of Records as the 'Largest Wooden Mosaic Artwork Created by an Organisation'. Built around the thought 'A Better Bond Starts Here', the activation turned a product benefit into a shared experience. Each distributor applied the new launched Asian Paints Hydronaa adhesive to individual wooden panels, and affixed together, with the individual pieces coming together to create one striking installation. In doing so, all the distributors who are instrumental in taking Asian Paints Wood Adhesives to the market became an integral part



of the brand's launch story.

The 384 sq. ft. mosaic comprised individual wooden panels, each affixed by a participating distributor. The panels were then placed onto the larger

installation using Asian Paints Hydronaa, making the product an intrinsic part of the record.

As panel after panel came together, the artwork took shape, transforming hundreds of

individual contributions into one cohesive piece. The final mosaic installation also served as the backdrop for the reveal of Asian Paints Hydronaa and Asian Paints Ultraa, creating a visual connection between the record attempt and the brand's next chapter.

The activation brought together three elements: the scale of the installation, the participation of 250 distributors and the collaborative nature of its creation. More importantly, it gave the distributor community an active role in marking the launch and the record attempt, bringing alive the important role they play in the brand ecosystem.

The initiative reflects Asian Paints'

broader approach to the homes and spaces it serves, bringing together products, people and expertise to create solutions that make a meaningful difference to everyday life. As a brand with a long-standing understanding of the home, its expansion into Wood Adhesives builds on this expertise while addressing an important need within the woodworking ecosystem: creating furniture that is built to last.

The installation also brings the product proposition to life in a tangible way. Asian Paints Hydronaa, the new premium waterproof wood adhesive, is powered by advanced waterproof polymer technology and is designed for durable bonding in demanding

woodworking applications. Its superior spreadability, easy application, high bond strength and 10% higher coverage make it suited for applications where resistance to water and humidity is important. At its core, Hydronaa is built around a simple benefit: helping furniture last longer by protecting it from the impact of water. Alongside Hydronaa, Asian Paints has also launched Ultraa, its new and improved everyday woodworking adhesive. The upgraded product offers better coverage, superior spreadability, easier application, improved bubble reparability and high bond strength, while retaining the trust built with existing Ultraa users.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Youth ran for

an investment in a shared future and reflected the aspirations of a new generation.

"Through the Kashmir Marathon-Run for Unity, the youth have sent a message that no goal is too distant for a united India. Their participation is an investment in a shared future and a reflection of the dreams of a generation working towards a stronger, self-reliant and developed Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged young people to embrace discipline, fitness and brotherhood while staying away from drugs. Referring to the success of the 100-day Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir campaign, he said thousands of youth had been engaged through padayatras and civic action programmes.

He also called on the youth to become ambassadors of the Fit India Movement and contribute to nation-building. "The true victory in a marathon is not just crossing the finish line, but helping others move forward as well," he said.

Urging people to strengthen brotherhood and dedicate themselves to peace and harmony, Sinha said: "Though we may come from different paths, our destination is one. Our identities may be many, but our national identity is one. Our pace may differ, but our India remains one, united and moving steadily towards the vision of a Developed India by 2047."

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the J&K Police for organising the marathon and highlighted its civic action programmes aimed at youth engagement and empowerment.

More than 6,000 runners participated in various categories of the Kashmir Marathon-Run for Unity this year.

Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, ADGP Armed Police Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID M.K. Sinha, senior police and civil administration officers, prominent sportspersons and a large number of youth attended the closing and felicitation ceremony. (KNO)

Youth participation

of J&K's youth is being channelled in a very positive direction," he said.

Highlighting the police's anti-drug campaign, Prabhat said 3,257 cases had been registered since April 11, around 4,000 people arrested and 170 convictions secured. More than 2,500 cases have also been disposed of, he said.

He said 288 properties worth over Rs 138 crore had been attached, more than Rs 80 lakh in cash seized, and 144 persons booked under the PIT-NDPS Act, which he described as the highest figure in the country.

Referring to counter-terrorism efforts, Prabhat said September witnessed several major operational achievements for J&K Police. He added that the force remained actively engaged in crime prevention, crime detection and maintenance of law and order.

The DGP also highlighted the role of 19 Mountain Rescue Teams of the J&K Armed Police deployed during this year's Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, saying they performed their duties effectively.

He further lauded the rescue operation carried out after the disruption of the Gulmarg Gondola service, saying J&K Police, along with its Mountain Rescue Teams and SDRF personnel, evacuated stranded tourists in record time.

Prabhat also cited the Armed Police's achievements in mountaineering and sports, including successful summit expeditions to Kang Yatse in Ladakh and Kolahoi Peak in Anantnag, besides winning a medal at the Asian Championship in Vietnam.

He said sustained engagement through such initiatives was bringing the police and youth closer. "The bond between J&K Police and the youth is growing stronger with each passing day," he said.

ADGP Armed Police Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID M.K. Sinha, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, senior police and civil administration officers, sportspersons and a large number of young participants attended the ceremony. (KNO)

J&K targets 1.4 lakh

with cleaner electric vehicles.

The policy further provides early-adopter top-up incentives for the first 15,800 eligible adopters. The incentives include 15 lakh for the first 300 e-buses, 1 lakh for the first 1,500 personal cars and 5,000 for the first 10,000 two-wheelers, subject to the eligibility and conditions prescribed under the policy.

The policy also envisages phase-wise electrification of fleets, expansion of charging networks, greater private-sector participation and development of skilled manpower to support the emerging EV ecosystem.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated Transport Minister Satish Sharma and the Transport Department on the notification of the J&K Electric Vehicle Policy-2026.

The Chief Minister said the policy provides a structured framework for advancing clean transport while taking into account the specific terrain and cold-weather conditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The notification marks the formal implementation of the Omar Abdullah led Government's six-year strategy for transitioning towards cleaner mobility, strengthening supporting infrastructure and creating new opportunities in the electric mobility sector.

LG, CM greet

peace and communal harmony continues to inspire generations and remains relevant in the contemporary world.

"Gandhi Ji showed the world the strength of truth, non-violence and compassion. His life and ideals continue to inspire us to work for peace, harmony, equality and human dignity," he said.

Abdullah said Gandhi Ji's vision of India was rooted in unity, tolerance and respect for all, adding that his teachings offer enduring guidance for building a peaceful and inclusive society. The Chief Minister called upon people to draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's life and reaffirm their commitment to the values of peace, harmony and social solidarity.

Forged LG letter

attempts involving the impersonation of public authorities and the fabrication and use of forged letters, documents, official letterheads and signatures.

Members of the public have been urged to verify the authenticity of any suspicious communication purportedly issued by government authorities or public officials and immediately report any such instance to the Economic Offences Wing, Crime Branch J&K.

Complaints or information may be brought to the notice of SSP EOW Srinagar (Crime Branch J&K), Abdul Waheed Shah, or communicated through the official email: sspeow-kmr@jkpolice.gov.in. (KNO)

Inter-state drug

3.83 kg of codeine-containing liquid and around 40 grams of a heroin-like substance.

The haul includes nearly 2,18,500 tapentadol tablets, 1,200 pregabalin capsules and 414 tramadol tablets/capsules. Police also recovered a .32-bore pistol with two empty magazines, a dagger and approximately 85.75 lakh in cash.

The financial investigation led to the identification and freezing of nearly 1.07 crore in multiple bank accounts linked to the accused and other persons under scrutiny.

The SSP said two lockers maintained by Mohammad Waseem Zargar at Axis Bank, Bemina, were searched following court orders, leading to the recovery of around 65 lakh in cash and gold coins, biscuits and other gold articles. The total value of the locker recoveries has been estimated at around 2.20 crore.

Other recoveries include 108 gold coins, gold biscuits and assorted gold articles, two Rolex watches, a Dior handbag, a DSLR camera with lens and an iPhone 16 Pro Max.

Police have also attached a residential house belonging to one of the accused and two vehicles, a Maruti Brezza (JK01AK-7523) and a Suzuki Ertiga (JK01AX-4601), in accordance with law.

Dr Chakravarthy said the investigation into the source of the drugs led

police teams to Chandigarh, Panchkula and Ambala, where pharmaceutical establishments and transport agencies were examined.

Relevant invoices, bills, goods receipts and other documents were collected during the exercise, he said.

Police are scrutinising discrepancies related to drug licences, purchaser details, invoices, payment records and the functioning of certain establishments in coordination with regulatory authorities. Investigators are also examining the role of transport agencies allegedly used in the supply chain and tracing distributors and beneficiaries linked to the network.

Punjab Police and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) assisted Srinagar Police during the investigation.

The SSP said two accused remain absconding. They have been identified as Faizan Firdous alias Farzan Khanday of Safakadal and Mohammad Shahvar Gaur, who was identified during the investigation in connection with the pharmaceutical supply chain.

"Their precise roles and further linkages are being investigated," he said.

Police are analysing digital devices seized during the probe to establish the complete procurement, transportation, distribution and financial chain.

Dr Chakravarthy said the investigation remains active and evidence-driven, with further arrests, recoveries, attachment of assets and other legal action likely based on emerging evidence.

"Our objective is to dismantle the entire narcotics supply chain rather than limit the action to individual arrests and recoveries," he said, adding that Srinagar Police remains committed to identifying and dismantling the network of suppliers, transporters, distributors, financiers and other facilitators involved in the illicit drug trade. (KNO)

Season's first major

News Observer (KNO), said.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department's evening weather parameters showed dry conditions across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, with no rainfall recorded at the listed

stations during the observation period.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 29.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 10.2 degrees Celsius, while Jammu recorded a maximum of 32.6 degrees and a minimum of 20.4 degrees.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 20.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 7.2 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 25.5 degrees and 6 degrees, respectively. (KNO)

New rice varieties

rice varieties after successful trials to help farmers overcome the challenges associated with traditional paddy cultivation.

"Traditional rice varieties are more susceptible to various diseases, which can significantly affect productivity. The newly introduced varieties have shown better performance during trials and are being distributed among farmers accordingly," the official said.

He said the department was focusing on introducing improved varieties that could increase agricultural productivity while reducing losses caused by crop diseases.

The encouraging results reported by farmers come amid recurring complaints of rice blast in several parts of Kashmir, where traditional paddy varieties have reportedly suffered damage during the current growing season.

Farmers said wider availability and adoption of improved varieties could help address the recurring problem of crop diseases and improve overall rice production in the Valley. (KNO)

Motorcyclist killed

Yousmarg, Budgam.

Cognisance of the incident has been taken, while details regarding the incident and the vehicle involved are being verified. (KNO)

Man found dead

Wagay, a resident of Hangoo Surasyar.

Cognisance of the incident has been taken and further proceedings are underway. (KNO)

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Captain Smit Machchhar fought valiantly, prevented another 9/11-like attack: PM Modi



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday praised Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar's bravery for fighting valiantly and preventing another 9/11-like attack, without fearing for his own life.

Addressing the centenary celebrations of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) here, he said that Captain Machchhar has shown the world the highest form of courage. The prime minister said that without fearing for

his own life, Captain Machchhar fought valiantly and prevented another 9/11-like attack from happening, a statement issued by his office said. He said that 140 crore Indians salute Captain Machchhar and are praying for his well-being.

The prime minister said that he also spoke with the injured Captain's father, mother and wife. "He is undergoing treatment. Today, the entire world is proud of him. I urge my fellow citizens to pray for Smit's long life and excellent health, and to

honour our brother Smit, who has brought glory to India," PM Modi said. For every Indian, Smit's bravery fills our heart with pride, he said.

The flydubai flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv, had transmitted emergency signals on Wednesday and made a sharp descent of more than 17,000 feet from 34,000 feet before diverting to Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Airport in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk city. The flight was carrying 174 passengers, including 27 children.

Ethanol blending a step towards diversification of agri sector: Gadkari

PTI

Patna, Oct 1: Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday debunked claims that blending ethanol with petrol was damaging motor vehicles, asserting that it facilitated diversification of the agriculture sector.

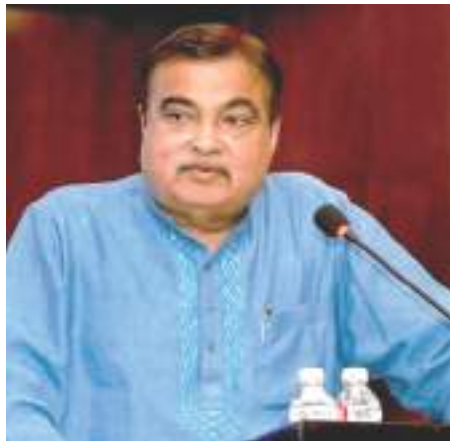
Addressing the inaugural session of the 'Bihar Investor Summit 2026: The Emerging Investment Destination of India', Gadkari said that since 2022, 4 crore four-wheelers and 20 crore two-wheelers have been running on petrol mixed with ethanol.

"I challenge anybody to come up with the complaint that his or her vehicle has suffered damage on this account. Of course, those with vested interests may have some other story to tell," said Gadkari, who holds portfolios of Road Transport and Highways.

"We must understand that the decision to blend ethanol with petrol was taken with a view to diversification of agriculture towards energy and power sectors... Our farmers shall no longer remain 'anna data' (food producers) but also become 'urja data' (energy producers)," he added. Gadkari claimed all leading automobile brands have tried running their vehicles even on 100 per cent ethanol, and there have been no complaints.

"Of course, we are importing (conventional fuel) worth Rs 22 lakh crore, and those who feel that their business will get hit are bound to feel bad. But let me tell you, I am the minister in charge of the department concerned; all leading automobile brands have tried running their vehicles even on 100 per cent ethanol. And there have been no complaints," he said.

"After the Union government took the decision to make ethanol out of corn and the same was used for the aforementioned purposes, it resulted in additional earnings of up to Rs



45,000 crore for farmers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Is it not preferable to serve the interests of those from whom we import (fuel)," he asked. Gadkari said the Centre has been working with a futuristic vision.

"We have even made aviation fuel with rice straw. The future belongs to innovation, technology and research. And a state like Bihar has to play a key role in this direction," he said.

The minister said Bihar was "rich, but its people are not as poor as they ought to be", adding that he saw immense potential in sectors like tourism. He also noted huge international demand for goods like makhana (Indian fox nuts), which are produced here in abundance.

"Under the leadership of Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, the state is bound to scale new heights," he said.

In his speech, Choudhary urged investors to believe in and build in Bihar, promising that his government will provide them with a "big market if your produce is found up to the mark".

Govt revises guidelines on issuance of exempted FASTags for Divyangjan, PwD vehicles



"FASTag issued to persons with 70 per cent to 100 per cent disability will be valid for five years, while those issued to persons with 40 per cent to less than 70 per cent disability will be valid for three years," the ministry said.

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 1: Vehicles registered under the 'Divyangjan' category will get an exempted FASTag based on the percentage of disability recorded in a valid disability certificate, unique disability identity (UDID) card or other applicable records, as the government on Thursday revised guidelines for the segment.

In a statement, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said that to promote ease of living for the citizens and further simplify toll-related procedures for Divyangjan and persons with disabilities (PwD), it has revised the guidelines for issuance and renewal of exempted FASTags for eligible Divyangjan/PwD beneficiaries.

Earlier, guidelines mandated renewal of exempted FASTag for Divyangjan on an annual basis.

"However, as per the new guidelines, validity of the exempted FASTag will be determined by the recorded percentage of disability.

"FASTag issued to persons with 70 per cent to 100 per cent disability will be valid for five years, while those issued to persons with 40 per cent to less than 70 per cent disability will be valid for three years," the ministry said.

According to the ministry, the exempted FASTag may be renewed thereafter, subject to continued eligibility and compliance with the provisions of the National Highways Fee Rules, 2008.

The revised provisions are aimed at making the National Highway tolling ecosystem more accessible, transparent and user-friendly for eligible Divyangjan/PwD beneficiaries, while ensuring that toll exemptions continue to be administered in accordance with the prescribed rules and eligibility requirements.

Rajnath seeks early implementation of Defence Accounts Dept's SAMPURNA project



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 1: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday made a pitch for early implementation of the SAMPURNA project, which aims to build a fully automated, end-to-end revenue procurement system leveraging data analytics, AI and machine learning for a valuable decision-support system.

He was addressing an event held at the DRDO Bhawan here to mark the 279th annual day of the Defence Accounts Department (DAD).

Singh said, "We must move from 'annual review' to 'any-time review' of the budget, with real-time data enabling timely and informed decision-making."

He congratulated the DAD on its nearly 280 years of service to

the nation and commended its contribution to defence financial audit and management, calling it the backbone of the country's defence preparedness.

In his address, Singh also called for greater integration of financial systems of the Army, Navy and Air Force and stressed the need for maximum digitisation, automation and transparency, with real-time updating of Management Information System (MIS) data.

Emphasising the role of quality audit, digital data cleaning and prompt resolution of grievances and court cases, he said, "Our approach must be firm, fair, sensitive and responsible, especially when dealing with the legitimate dues and service rights of those who have devoted their lives to defending the nation."

Doctors can't exercise sound judgment while working under threat of physical violence: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 1: A doctor cannot be expected to exercise sound and independent judgment while working under the apprehension of physical violence, intimidation or coercion, the Supreme Court has said while cancelling the bail of Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre and three others, accused of assaulting and verbally abusing doctors at a municipal hospital in Maharashtra's Thane district.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehra, which cancelled the bail while setting aside a Bombay High Court order on September 28, said in its detailed order that physical violence, intimidation or coercion cannot become a means of expressing dissatisfaction with medical treatment, securing compliance with a demand or raising grievance for an adverse medical outcome.

"A doctor cannot reasonably be expected to exercise sound and independent judgment while labouring under the apprehension of physical violence, intimidation or coercion. The safety and dignity of the medical professional are



consequently not matters of personal privilege. They are the safeguards which serve the larger public interest in ensuring that medical care is rendered with the concentration, composure and judgment that the profession demands," it said.

The court directed Mhatre and three of his associates -- Ramesh Laxman Pawar, Pramod alias Prakash Uddhav Nikam and Akshay Sharad Karande -- who were also granted bail in the case to surrender before the trial court by October 5.

All four are accused of assaulting and verbally abusing three doctors, including a lady doctor, who were on duty in the labour ward of the Shastri Nagar Municipal Hospital in

Dombivli on July 6.

The bench said an elected representative is entrusted with the responsibility of serving the public and strengthening the institutions through which grievances are addressed and justice is administered.

"He/she cannot supplant those institutions by assuming the role of the police, the administrator or the court. The use of personal influence to secure compliance through fear or intimidation has consequences extending beyond the immediate victim and carries the potential to erode public confidence in the rule of law itself," it said.

The court said since the case depends on the testimony of doctors and

hospital staff, the trial court must ensure that all material witnesses are afforded adequate protection throughout the trial under the Maharashtra Witness Protection and Security Act, 2017.

It said the trial court must remain vigilant to any apprehension of threat, intimidation or coercion and, wherever the circumstances so warrant, pass appropriate orders directing the district administration or the superintendent of police to extend requisite protective measures, so as to ensure that the witnesses are able to depose freely and without fear or external influence.

The bench, however, clarified that in the event of any material change in circumstances, the accused would be at liberty to renew their prayer for bail before an appropriate forum.

In the 36-page order, the bench detailed the antecedents of Mhatre and said the courts below have failed to accord due consideration to the criminal history of the accused, against whom 18 cases are stated to have been registered, including those involving serious offences punishable under sections 302 and 307 of the Indian Penal Code.

Market slide continues: Sensex drops 570.59 points, Nifty tanks 198.50 points

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 1: Indian equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty extended their losing streak for the fourth consecutive session on Thursday, weighed down by persistent foreign fund outflows, elevated bond yields and a fresh rise in crude oil prices. The negative cues kept investor sentiment subdued, with both indices ending lower.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 570.59 points, or 0.79 per cent, to settle at 71,909.70. During the day, it tanked 1,187.41 points, or 1.63 per cent, to 71,292.88.

The 50-share NSE Nifty tumbled 198.50 points, or 0.88 per cent, to end at 22,421.95.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Adani Ports, ITC, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever and Eternal were the major laggards.

Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech and HDFC Bank were among the winners.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 10,148.41 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 2.77 per cent to USD 100.8 per barrel.

"The market sell-off has been driven largely by external factors, with bond yields reaching multi-year highs and crude oil prices remaining elevated, raising concerns about the economic outlook for 2026-27," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI and Japan's Nikkei 225 index ended sharply higher.

Markets in Europe were trading lower.

US markets ended mostly lower on Wednesday.

Amazon, Flipkart tighten checks on security camera listings after unlicensed products go on sale

Reuters

New Delhi, Oct 1: Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart have begun checking security camera listings on their platforms in India after hundreds of unlicensed products were offered for sale despite strict government testing rules imposed six months ago amid concerns about espionage risks.

The two e-commerce companies, which dominate online shopping in India, were reviewing internet-enabled surveillance cameras listed by third-party sellers and brands on their platforms after Reuters discovered the listings, two people familiar with the checks said. Any without government approval would be removed, the people said. Amazon, in an email, declined to comment, while Flipkart did not respond to Reuters queries.

From roads to homes,



security cameras have become ubiquitous across India, fuelling an industry worth \$4.4 billion, but unapproved sales online are a "serious concern", said Gulshan Rai, who was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cybersecurity chief from 2015 to 2019.

"A compromised camera can become both a surveillance risk and a cybersecurity entry point," he told Reuters. A Reuters analysis this week found

more than 700 of roughly 770 internet security camera listings on Amazon and Flipkart were for models that were not on the Bureau of Indian Standards' public database of approved brands or cameras.

Since April, surveillance camera manufacturers have been required to submit hardware and software for testing to obtain certification from the standards bureau before they can sell their equipment in

the world's most populous country.

The rules, first announced in 2024, reflect growing concern in New Delhi that sensitive footage could be transferred abroad. In April, the Delhi police said they had uncovered a Pakistan-linked spying network that used Chinese-made SIM-enabled CCTV's near military sites in northern India to send live footage to handlers in Pakistan.

Since Tuesday, at least a dozen listings have been removed from the e-commerce platforms, including at least two models from Hikvision's EZVIZ brand, which Amazon now shows as "currently unavailable".

Hikvision and Zhejiang Dahua Technology had 30% of the Indian security camera market, Counterpoint Research told Reuters last year. The companies did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my name enlisted in my bank account is TASLEEMA DAR. However my actual name as per my Aadhaar card is TASLEEMA. Now i intend to rectify my name in my bank records. In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same before the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd NUNNAR GANDERBAL within a period of 3 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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R/O: NUNER GANDERBAL

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This is to inform the general public that Sikandar Agro Chemicals, At Check-i-goowind joodhar chararisharief Kashmir, intends to obtain the required licence/registration for the manufacturing and sale of Vermicompost.

Any person having any objection or claim regarding the proposed licence/registration may submit their objection to the Concerned Licensing Authority within 4 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Objection Period: 4 Days Only After completion of the above Last day period, no objection shall be entertained.

Applicant. Owais iqbal

S.o. Mohammad iqbal mir R/o. chararisharief

nowhar, Prop. Sikandar Agro Chemicals,

Business Activity: Manufacturing & Sale of Vermicompost

Contact No.: 7006817829

Supreme court reviews trump administration's Immigrant detention policy



AP
Washington, Oct 1 : The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to review a Trump administration policy denying bond hearings for immigrants as the government carries out a sweeping immigration crackdown.

The justices will consider whether immigrants who have been living in the US have a right to a hearing to determine if they should remain detained while challenging their possible deportation.

Appeals court judges from nine of

11 federal circuits have concluded that detaining immigrants without a bond hearing violates federal law.

Those decisions conflict with rulings by the 5th and 8th circuits, which held that immigrants accused of illegally entering and remaining in the US must be detained while their deportation cases are pending.

Attorneys from President Donald Trump's administration argue the circuits' split is "disrupting the orderly administration of immigration law." They say the nation's

courts have been inundated with thousands of petitions filed by immigrants challenging the government's legal interpretation.

"The result is an unworkable patchwork of inconsistent immigration enforcement, where aliens present without admission are subject to mandatory detention in some circuits but are entitled to bond hearings and often released in others," administration lawyers wrote.

The plaintiffs are immigrants represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, which says hundreds of district court judges have joined most circuits in rejecting the administration's new reading of the statutes. Plaintiffs' lawyers say the administration is trying to deny bond hearings for immigrants apprehended anywhere in the US — no matter how long they've lived here — rather than limiting the restriction to non-citizens stopped at the border.

"Millions of noncitizens could be affected by the government's new interpretation," ACLU attorneys wrote.

The Trump administration says its new mandatory detention policy is legal under a 1996 immigration law. The policy change departs from the practices of prior administrations, which typically allowed most non-citizens without criminal records to request a bond hearing if they were arrested away from the border.

Sri Lankan court rejects Rajapaksa's plea to block arrest

PTI

Colombo, Oct 1 :A Sri Lankan court on Thursday dismissed without hearing a writ petition by former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to gain protection from his arrest related to the 2019 Easter Sunday bombing, which killed nearly 270 people.

In June, the 77-year-old was banned from travelling overseas by the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court.

The move was seen as the first step in the possible arrest of Rajapaksa, the country's president between 2019 to mid-2022.

Two weeks later, he filed a writ application in the court of appeal seeking an order preventing the police's CID from arresting him.

The dismissal of his application on Thursday came after several submissions made by the state and Rajapaksa's defence lawyers in June and July.

The state had told the court that no undertaking could be given that he won't be arrested. His lawyers argued that there were no reasonable grounds to impose a travel ban him due to the Easter Sunday investigation.

Last month, a Sri Lankan court found 15 people guilty of involvement in the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide attacks and sentenced them each to over 200 years in prison.

Nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat, linked to ISIS, carried out a series of devastating blasts that tore through three Catholic churches and as many luxury hotels on April 21, 2019, killing nearly 270 people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500.

In July, former police chief Pujith Jayasundera and Hemasiri Fernando, the then top bureaucrat in the Ministry of Defence, were handed the death sentence after being found guilty of criminal dereliction of duty for failing to act on prior intelligence that could have prevented the attacks.

Student protests spread across France as PM calls crisis meeting



AP

Paris, Oct 1 : France's prime minister convened a crisis meeting on Thursday and cancelled ministers' trips to focus on the nationwide spread of protests, some violent, by high school students venting against under-resourced schools, long hours and other complaints.

The demonstrations erupted in Paris-region schools last week and have snowballed, with police making hundreds of arrests in clashes with the young protesters.

Authorities have reported many dozens of injuries, including from hurled objects but also, in some suspected cases, from police riot-control projectiles.

The protests are quickly blowing up as a hot

topic in the election campaign to replace President Emmanuel Macron next May, who is constitutionally barred from seeking a third consecutive term, and heightening pressure on the government also beset by France's growing financial problems.

Far-left presidential hopeful Jean-Luc Melenchon has decried the government response to the protests as repressive. His critics have accused Melenchon's party of seeking to use the unrest to score points in the presidential campaign and of inciting violence.

The office of Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu said he asked ministers to cancel any planned official trips in the coming days, to enable authorities and police to focus on dealing with the demonstrations.

Better infrastructure needed to bring international cricket to Kashmir: BCCI Chief

Assures full support for stadium development across UT as Irani Cup returns to Srinagar after 4 decades

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 01 : BCCI president Mithun Manhas on Thursday assured full support for the development of cricket infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, saying improved facilities are essential for attracting more high-profile domestic and international matches to the Union Territory.

Speaking to reporters after the opening day of the Irani Cup clash between Jammu and Kashmir and Rest of India at the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Manhas, said the return of the prestigious fixture to Srinagar after nearly four decades was a significant moment for cricket in the Valley. "I would like more matches to take place here. A match of this stature is being held here after four decades, which is a matter of great happiness," he said.

Emphasising the need for better infrastructure, Manhas said the newly formed JKCA administration should prioritise stadium development.

"It is important to strengthen basic infrastructure. I hope the new body that has been formed recently will focus on building a stadium here," he said, assuring the association



of the BCCI's full support.

Manhas said cricket infrastructure development should not remain limited to Srinagar and Jammu but must extend to other parts of the Union Territory, including Rajouri and Poonch.

"It is the responsibility of the state association to ensure stadiums and facilities are developed across its jurisdiction," he said.

Backing the current JKCA administration, Manhas said the association had been working for the welfare of players and expressed confidence that it would continue contributing to the growth of cricket in the region. "We

already had talent; we just needed to give it direction," he said, describing J&K's progress in domestic cricket, including its Ranji Trophy performances, as encouraging.

He also acknowledged the support extended by former BCCI secretary Jay Shah towards cricket development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the rise of J&K pacer Auqib Nabi, Manhas said the cricketer's journey should inspire aspiring players across the region.

"Auqib Nabi's selection proves that talent can emerge from anywhere. He is from Baramulla, and his story is truly inspiring," he said—(KNO)

Russian drone hits Kyiv school amid ongoing Ukraine attacks

AP

Kyiv, Oct 1 : Russian drone struck a school in Kyiv on Thursday, city officials said, as the Ukrainian capital endured another day of relentless aerial attacks.

Children and staff at the school were in shelters when the drone hit, Mayor Vitalii Klitschko said, and its warhead didn't explode. No casualties were reported, but the building's brick facade showed a large hole, revealing a staircase, and burn marks alongside smashed windows.

Kyiv has felt like a city under siege in recent weeks, with repeated air raid alerts, punctuated by loud explosions from drone and missile strikes. The onslaught aims to terrorise civilians, officials



and analysts say, and break their will to resist 4½ years after Russia's full-scale invasion.

The strain is showing. Maryna

Lystopad, 35, said her hair has started falling out due to the stress from escalating attacks and never knowing where the next

attack will hit.

"It's really horrible. I can't take it anymore. I think, I think that soon we're all going to leave. I'm really not doing well," she told The Associated Press. "I'm constantly anxious. I can't relax. I keep thinking that if something happens, if something hits, one of my relatives could be killed."

Lystopad said she recently had to travel to another part of Kyiv and had been "genuinely stressed" the whole way there.

"I kept checking, like, whether anything was flying in, where it was going, where am I supposed to go? Where am I supposed to run?" she said.

Ukraine's air defences are stretched

Irani Cup: J&K bowlers shine as Rest of India bowled out for 237

Sunil Kumar, Nasir Lone clinch three wickets each; J&K 21/1 at stumps, trail by 216 runs; BCCI president Mithun Manhas attends

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 01 : Jammu and Kashmir produced a disciplined bowling display on the opening day of the Irani Cup, bowling out Rest of India for 237 before ending the day at 21 for one at the Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium here on Thursday.

After winning the toss, J&K captain Paras Dogra elected to bowl first, and his decision paid dividends as the hosts kept the Rest of India batters under pressure throughout the day.

Sunil Kumar and Nasir Lone were the pick of the J&K bowlers, claiming three wickets each, while Umar Nazir Mir picked up two wickets. Sahil Lotra and Abid Mushtaq claimed one wicket apiece.

Despite the absence of key players including Auqib Nabi, the hosts' bowling unit put up a strong show to restrict a strong Rest of India side to 237 runs in 68.1 overs. For Rest of India,

Smarn Ravichandran top-scored with 68, while Shikhar Mohan contributed 60 and Sarfaraz Khan made 45. India wicketkeeper-batter and Rest of India captain Rishabh Pant was dismissed for 10.

Pant's dismissal came when he attempted to attack Umar Nazir but sliced the delivery towards Qamran Iqbal at short cover-point, ending his 36-ball stay at the crease.

Eventually, Rest of India were bowled out for 237, with J&K's bowlers sharing the wickets and preventing the visitors from building a substantial first-innings total.

In reply, J&K lost opener Shubham Singh Pundir for one, leaving the hosts at 21 for one at stumps. Qamran Iqbal was unbeaten on 12, while Umar Nazir Mir, promoted as a nightwatchman, was unbeaten on four.

J&K will resume their first innings on Friday, trailing Rest of India by 216 runs.

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