



Support women-led start-ups: LG Sinha

‘Our engineering colleges, agri universities need to actively nurture women to reach top positions’

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 05: Calling upon institutions and private-sector stakeholders to support women-led start-ups Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that our engineering colleges and agricultural universities need to actively nurture women to reach positions of technological leadership.

Addressing the 60th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), co-hosted by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “Women-led start-ups in agricultural technology should receive financing with the same confidence with which any other start-up is provided the necessary support and facilities.”



“We must ensure that our engineering colleges and agricultural universities actively nurture women to reach positions of technological leadership. Laboratories, fellowships and incubation platforms should be created where a young woman engineer or scientist from a village in Kishtwar or Kupwara can see her idea progress through a credible journey into a market-ready product,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor underscored the critical role of women in agriculture,

noting that nearly 64% to 76% of the rural female workforce is engaged in farming and allied activities, often without wages or land ownership.

He called for empowering women innovators and ensuring their leadership in agricultural technology. He urged institutions and private-sector stakeholders to support women-led start-ups and create laboratories, fellowships and incubation platforms that nurture young women engineers from rural areas.

LG Sinha | [More on P6](#)



Harvest season in South Kashmir, where golden paddy fields meet the grandeur of the mountains.

Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Common Duct Policy to make J&K's urban infra future-ready: CM Omar

Policy mandates shared utility corridors, digital mapping to end repeated road digging

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 05: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday described the Jammu and Kashmir Common Duct Policy 2026 as a major step towards modernising urban infrastructure, improving utility management and creating cleaner and more orderly cityscapes across Jammu and Kashmir.

Following approval by the Council of Ministers, the Government has notified the Jammu and Kashmir Common Duct Policy 2026, establishing a framework for shared underground utility corridors for power, water, telecom, gas, sewerage and digital networks.

The policy mandates integration of common ducts in the planning and construction of new roads, while also providing for phased retrofitting of existing infrastructure. It introduces a coordinated framework for Right of Way (RoW) clearances through a single-window mechanism and provides for cost-sharing arrangements among utility service providers.



The policy also provides for digital asset mapping and real-time fault detection through Smart IoT and GIS-based systems, supported by the “Call Before You Dig” platform. This will enable agencies and utility providers to identify underground infrastructure before undertaking excavation, reducing the risk of damage and service disruption.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the policy would help move J&K towards a more coordinated and future-ready approach to urban infrastructure

development.

The Common Duct Policy is aimed at preventing repeated road cutting for laying and repairing utility networks, thereby protecting public road infrastructure and reducing inconvenience to commuters.

The shared infrastructure model will also help optimise operational and maintenance costs for utility providers, enable faster fault detection and repairs through dedicated inspection chambers, and reduce the visual clutter caused by overhead utility networks.

The policy | [More on P6](#)

J&K upper reaches likely to witness snowfall, rain till Oct 10: MeT

Temps remain above normal; Srinagar records 30.8°C, Jammu 33°C

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 05: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness light snowfall and rain over higher reaches from October 6 to 10, the Meteorological Centre said on Monday.

According to the forecast accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) J&K would witness thunderstorms, gusty winds and scattered rainfall in the next few days.

The MeT advised people to ensure safe storage of apples and paddy in view of the expected weather conditions between October 6 and 10. “From October 11 to 15 weather will remain partly cloudy,” the MeT said.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained above normal at several places in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 30.8 degrees Celsius, which was 5.3 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 12.3 degrees Celsius, 3.3 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 31 degrees Celsius, 6.9 degrees above normal, and a minimum of 10.2 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 26.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 7.4 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded 23 degrees Celsius and 9 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In Jammu, the maximum temperature was 33 degrees Celsius, 0.6 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 23 degrees Celsius, | [More on P6](#)

Farooq welcomes SC notice to EC

Says NC to present new constitution after working committee approval

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 05: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court’s notice Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the Election Commission and two other Election Commissioners and expressed hope that the court would address the shortcomings.

Speaking to reporters after a party meeting, Abdullah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said he was pleased that the top court had taken cognisance of the matter.

“I am very happy that the Supreme Court has taken notice of this. I hope it will examine the issue and rectify the shortcomings,” he said.

Abdullah said the meeting focused on strengthening the party organisation and identifying areas that required attention.

“We met the eight MLAs from Srinagar, | [More on P6](#)

Man killed as tractor falls into gorge

KNO Correspondent

Kupwara, Oct 05: A man was killed and two others injured after a tractor they were travelling in fell into a deep gorge at Manchatter Kralpora in Kupwara district on Monday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the tractor, travelling from Manchatter Kralpora, fell into a deep gorge, leaving three persons injured.

He said the injured were shifted to SDH Kralpora for treatment, from where one of them was referred to GMC Handwara, where he was declared dead on arrival.

The deceased was later identified as Tahir Ahmad Dar, son of | [More on P6](#)

150 Bangladeshis deported from J&K

Aadhaar discrepancies raised suspicion, prompted verification

Another batch set for deportation on Oct 7

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 05: Authorities have deported around 150 Bangladeshi nationals from Jammu and Kashmir after discrepancies in their Aadhaar details raised suspicion and prompted verification of their nationality, officials said on Monday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the deportees, who were working as labourers in Kashmir, were

flown out in a special Indian Air Force aircraft and taken to Bagdogra in West Bengal, where they were handed over to the Border Security Force for repatriation.

The official said the workers were asked to produce their Aadhaar cards during a registration exercise and discrepancies in the information provided by them led authorities to conduct further verification.

Their details were subsequently shared with authorities in Bangladesh, which confirmed their nationality, following which action was initiated under provisions of the Foreigners Act, he said.

The BSF is responsible for escorting the deportees from designated transit points in West Bengal | [More on P6](#)

J&K Pvt Universities rules await competent authority nod: HED Secy

Says UT moving towards job-oriented edu, 1.54 lakh students pursuing skill courses

Waris Fayaz

Sopore, Oct 05: Commissioner Secretary Higher Education Department J&K, Ram Niwas Sharma, on Monday said that rules governing establishment of private universities in Jammu and Kashmir are awaiting approval from the competent authority.

Talking to reporters here in North Kashmir, Sharma, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly passed the relevant Act in April this year. These rules have been submitted for approval and are likely to be finalized any time. We are awaiting approval from the competent authority.”

Sharma said: “The moment we have the rules in place, I expect investment not only from the country but across



international boundaries, and people will come and have private universities in Jammu and Kashmir.”

On making education more job oriented, Sharma said the government was moving rapidly towards skill-based education. “It’s the need of the hour. We are moving very fast in that direction and it is the need of the time,” he said.

The HED Secretary said: “As on date, we have 1,54,000 students who are attending different skill courses across J&K, and most of the university and college courses do have skill courses in their curriculum.”

He said the integration of skill components into higher education courses was part of the broader effort to align education | [More on P6](#)

J&K intensifies surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases: DHSK

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 05: Jammu and Kashmir has intensified surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), with a state-level workshop underway in Srinagar to strengthen early detection, case investigation, data collection and public health response.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the workshop, Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) Dr Nighat Yasmeen, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the exercise would focus on identifying disease patterns, analysing data and detecting gaps in immunisation coverage.

“The aim is to identify pockets reporting higher numbers of cases, assess immunity levels and understand where corrective measures are needed,” she said.

Dr Yasmeen said the

surveillance programme covers six vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles, rubella and tetanus, and is aimed at identifying vulnerable populations and areas requiring targeted interventions.

She said the surveillance mechanism, earlier carried out with technical support from the World Health Organisation (WHO), is now transitioning to an indigenous system under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

“The transition will take place in phases, beginning at the state level and gradually extending to hospitals and other tiers of the healthcare system. The process is expected to be completed by March 2027,” she said.

Dr Yasmeen said officials were being trained in key aspects of disease surveillance, including identification and reporting of suspected cases, specimen collection, | [More on P6](#)

Man found dead at home

KNO Correspondent

Reasi, Oct 05: A 28-year-old man was found dead at his residence in the Kun Kanyalan area of Katra in Reasi district on Monday, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the man was found unconscious at his residence in Katra during the early hours.

He said that soon after receiving the information, a police team reached the spot, took the body into custody and shifted it to the Community Health Centre (CHC) Katra for further proceedings, where he was declared dead on arrival.

The deceased was identified as Tarun Verma (28), a resident of Kanyalan in Katra tehsil.

Meanwhile, cognizance has been taken up and an investigation has begun. (KNO)

Mission YUVA: DC Kulgam reviews implementation

KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 05: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Monday chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall, Kulgam to review the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was held in connection with the visit of the GDI Team to the district for an assessment of Mission YUVA. A detailed review was undertaken of beneficiary-wise progress, applications under process, loan sanctions, bank linkages, enterprise establishment and the overall implementation of Mission YUVA.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure effective handholding of beneficiaries, expeditious disposal of pending cases and stronger coordination among SBDUs, BHDs, banks, JKEDI and other implementing agencies so that eligible youth receive timely financial and institutional support.

Emphasizing an outcome-oriented approach, the DC stated that the success of Mission YUVA would be measured not merely by the number of applications



processed or loans sanctioned, but by the actual establishment of viable enterprises, generation of sustainable livelihoods and creation of employment opportunities for local youth.

Tejal Sharma, Officer from the GDI Team made a brief presentation highlighting the implementation status, achievements, progress of beneficiaries and key areas requiring further intervention.

As part of the review, Mission YUVA beneficiaries representing different stages of the entrepreneurial journey including fresh applicants, entrepreneurs

who have already commenced their enterprises, and beneficiaries whose loans have been sanctioned and enterprises are under establishment, interacted with the GDI Team and shared their experiences, progress and challenges.

The meeting was attended by the ADDC, Altaf Ahmad Khan and other officers including Assistant Director, DE&CC Kulgam, DNO, JKEDI, Lead Bank Manager, Kulgam, SBDU/ BHD members and other concerned officials associated with the implementation of Mission YUVA.

VC JKLCMA conducts inspection of Dole Demb area

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 05: Vice Chairman (VC), Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Monday conducted an extensive inspection of the Dole Demb area to review the existing condition of the water body and its surrounding areas and assess the scope for beautification and development of the site.

The Vice Chairman, as per an official statement, was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer, Collector Land Acquisition, FA&CAO, Executive Engineers of Lake Division 1st and Lake Division 2nd, Technical Officer, Assistant Executive Engineers, Junior Engineers, and other officers and officials of the Authority.

Emphasizing the importance of developing the site in a planned and sustainable manner, the Vice Chairman directed that the beautification proposal should incorporate modern landscaping, suitable plantation, improved pathways, aesthetic features, and other necessary amenities. He stressed that the area should be developed as a state of the art public space while maintaining



the ecological character of the water body. He observed that the development of Dole Demb would also contribute towards enhancing the overall tourism potential of the area and attract more visitors to Dal Lake.

The Vice Chairman directed the concerned officers to immediately undertake bush cutting along the site and carry out other necessary site clearance works to improve the overall appearance and accessibility of the area, so that further dredging and restoration works in the Dole Demb area can be taken up. He further instructed

the Engineering Wing to prepare detailed estimates for the proposed beautification and development works at Dole Demb.

The Vice Chairman further directed the concerned officers to ensure close coordination among the Engineering, Revenue, and field wings so that the proposed works are planned and executed in a time bound manner. He emphasized that the development should focus on environmental improvement while enhancing the visual appeal and overall utility of the area for tourism. Reiterating

the Authority's commitment towards the conservation and beautification of water bodies and their surrounding areas, the Vice Chairman stated that LCMA will continue to undertake integrated conservation, restoration, and development measures to improve urban water bodies and create clean, attractive, and environmentally sustainable spaces for the public and tourists. He emphasized that such initiatives would also contribute towards strengthening the tourism potential of Dal Lake and its adjoining areas.

DDC Kulgam visits Animal Birth Control Centre

Reviews arrangements for operationalisation

KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 05: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Monday visited the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre at Kulgam and took stock of the arrangements being put in place for its operationalisation.

During the visit, the DDC, as per an official statement, inspected the various facilities at the centre and reviewed the preparedness with regard to infrastructure, equipment, sanitation, animal handling facilities and other essential arrangements required for commencing operations.

The DDC directed the concerned officers to ensure that all requisite arrangements are completed in a time-bound manner and that the centre is made fully functional with focus on maintaining proper hygiene, animal welfare and effective management of the facility.

The concerned officers briefed the DDC regarding the status of the arrangements and the steps being taken for early operationalisation of the centre. The Animal Birth Control Centre is aimed at facilitating scientific and humane management of the stray dog population through sterilisation and vaccination, thereby contributing towards a safer and cleaner environment in the district.

DC Budgam visits Charar-i-Sharief, reviews arrangements for Urs

Directs departments to ensure smooth facilities for devotees



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 05: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Monday visited Charar-i-Sharief to review arrangements for the forthcoming Urs and facilities for devotees.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, paid obeisance at the revered shrine of Sheik Nooruddin Noorani (RA) and inspected the ongoing development works, including the under-construction Guest House comprising 12 rooms and two halls.

During visit, the DC interacted with local residents and stakeholders and assured them that their genuine concerns would be

examined on priority.

The Deputy Commissioner subsequently chaired a meeting at Town Hall Charar-i-Sharief with concerned officers to review preparations for the Urs. He directed PDD to ensure uninterrupted power supply and keep backup arrangements in place. Officers from Jal Shakti Department were instructed to ensure adequate water supply and availability of water tankers.

For seamless transport facility, the ARTO was directed to ensure adequate public transport and proper parking arrangements to facilitate smooth traffic movement. CMO Budgam was asked to establish a medical camp near the shrine.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed concerned Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Charar-i-Sharief, to ensure cleanliness, sanitation and proper illumination in the town and around the shrine.

Similarly, the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department was directed to ensure timely distribution of ration of October month.

While the Food Safety Department was asked to intensify market inspections and prevent adulteration, overcharging and sale of substandard food items.

ADDC Kupwara chairs Development Review Meeting in Karnah

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 05: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Kupwara, Ghulam Rasool Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Sub-Divisional Headquarters, Karnah, to take stock of ongoing developmental initiatives and implementation of various Government schemes across the Sub-Division.

During the meeting, the ADDC, as per an official statement, conducted a detailed sector-wise review of developmental works being executed by PWD (R&B), PMGSY, Jal Shakti, KPDC, Rural Development Department, focusing on physical progress, timelines, quality of execution and bottlenecks affecting completion.

The ADDC directed the executing agencies to proactively accelerate the pace of works while maintaining



prescribed quality standards and ensuring timely completion. He stressed regular field monitoring and close inter-departmental coordination for prompt resolution of issues impeding execution.

The meeting also reviewed

implementation of various beneficiary-oriented schemes of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Departments. The concerned departments were directed to intensify awareness and outreach camps to ensure maximum coverage of eligible beneficiaries and effective delivery of scheme benefits at the grassroots level.

Special emphasis was laid on Farmer ID generation, with directions for coordinated efforts between the Revenue and Agriculture Departments to expedite the process and achieve the assigned targets within stipulated timelines.

Earlier, SDM Karnah, Mohd Raiyaz presented a detailed sector-wise presentation highlighting the status and progress of ongoing developmental works, implementation of Government schemes and issues requiring intervention.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW
(R&B) DIVISION ZAINPORA

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (up to Rs. 2.50 Crores)

NIT No: Fresh 54/ZNP/RnB/e-Tendering/2026-27

Dated: 03-10-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.	Name of Work	Major Head	Advertised cost (in Lacs) (Including GST)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/ Doc(Rs.)	Project Authority	AAA No. & Date	Technical sanction No. & Date
1	C/o two rooms over existing building at High School D.K Pora including truss.	District Capex Budget 2026-27 (Secondary Education Sector)	14.432	28864/-	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	03 Months	600/-	District Development Commissioner Shopian	66-DDCS of 2026 Dated: 17-07-2026	50/TS/ DDCS of 2026-27 Dated: 01-09-2026
2	Teacher Quarter at Higher Secondary School Herman	SAMAGRA	37.52	75040/-	AAY/ BEE	06 Months	1100/-	Project Director Samagra Shiksha J&K		51/TS/ SA- MAGRA of 2026-27 Dated: 01-09-2026

Position of funds:- Committed

The Payment shall be made strictly as per the release of funds by the Competent authority.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-10-2026
2	Document downloading Start Date.	03-10-2026 From 6.00 P.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	12-10-2026 up to 6:00 P.M
4	Bid Submission Start Date.	03-10-2026 From 6.00 P.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	12-10-2026 Up to 6:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	13-10-2026 at 01.00 P.M

1. Bids must be accompanied by a Bankers pay receipt of Tender fee (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in the Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account No. 0470010200000099 as the cost of the tender document.

Note: - The Date of Bankers pay receipt of Tender fee and EMD must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1.1 Participation in the tender shall be subject to the bidder depositing the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Fee exclusively through the online payment gateway linked to the Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account No. 0470010200000099, established for e-tendering purposes.

This requirement is in pursuance of the instructions contained in Finance Department Circular No. FD-CODE/290/2026 dated 22.05.2026 and endorsed by the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department, South Kashmir, vide Endorsement No. CE/R&B/SK/WS/2095-2111 dated 05.06.2026, as amended from time to time.

Accordingly, submission of EMD in the form of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR), Term Deposit Receipt (TDR), Call Deposit Receipt (CDR), Bank Guarantee (BG), or any other offline/physical instrument shall not be accepted and such bids shall be treated as non-responsive.

The bidder shall ensure that the requisite EMD and Tender Fee are successfully remitted through the prescribed online mode on or before the bid submission deadline. Any bid not accompanied by proof of successful online payment of the prescribed EMD and Tender Fee within the stipulated time shall be liable to rejection at the technical evaluation stage without any further notice.

1.12 The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @5% of allotted cost in cash to the designated authority/Account which shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) beyond 60 days.

1.2 B) The participating bidder must upload the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as per the devised format enclosed as ANNEX-URE-A.

NOTE: The "sum in dispute" shall refer to the aggregate of all the disputed amounts, both the claim(s) amount plus the counter claim(s) amount.

32. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

33. Any typographical error if found in the BOQ/BOQs/NIT will be rectified as per original estimate/DPR/SSR/GCC whichever is appropriate and will be paid accordingly.

DIPK-6413/26

DATED: 05-10-2026

No: R&B/ZNP/DIV/NIT/4315-25

Dt: 03-10-2026

Sd/-
CC

Sd/-
DM

(Er. Shabir Ahmad Tak)

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Zainpora

CS reviews road safety action plan implementation

Calls for accelerated action towards zero-casualty corridors

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 05: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to take comprehensive stock of the Road Safety Action Plan, accident data, i-RAD, black spot rectification, trauma care, digital enforcement and other road safety interventions across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, PWD; Principal Secretary, Home; Secretary, Transport Department; Inspector General of Police, Traffic; Transport Commissioner; Representatives from BRO; NHAI; NHIDCL and other concerned senior officers.

The Chief Secretary directed all the executing agencies to accord top priority to the time-bound rectification of identified black spots and hazardous stretches, stressing that every identified engineering deficiency should be addressed through short- and long-term corrective measures.

He also enjoined upon all concerned to maintain sustained momentum on road safety interventions and ensure that identified deficiencies are not allowed to persist.

Dulloo called upon all District Road Safety Committees (DRSCs), chaired by the respective District Magistrates, to meet mandatorily every month, closely monitor the i-RAD real-time accident dashboards, review accident-prone locations and ensure prompt rectification of residual infrastructure hazards.

Reviewing the key performance indicators, the Chief Secretary was informed by the Secretary, Transport Department,



Avny Lavasa that concerted multi-departmental interventions have resulted in a significant decline in road fatalities revealing that against 1,090 fatalities recorded in 2024, the number has come down to 756 up to mid-September 2026, indicating steady progress towards the targets of restricting fatalities to 600 or below by 2027 and 450 by 2030.

Moreover it was further divulged that the total number of road accidents has also declined, with 4,222 accidents recorded during the current period against the 2024 baseline of 5,808.

The meeting was further apprised that 367 black spots have been identified by the Transport Commissioner, of which 165 have been audited by central agencies and 68 hotspots have already been completely rectified. Similarly under the Road Safety Fund, a comprehensive audit of 1,433 roads has also been completed, with 11.60 crore released to 15 districts for immediate corrective interventions.

Emphasising the need to make roads safer for vulnerable road users, the meeting was informed

that Municipal Corporations have constructed 135.85 km of foot-paths and cycle tracks, including 39.58 km by Jammu Municipal Corporation and 96 km by Srinagar Municipal Corporation. As many as 398 encroachment clearance drives have also been undertaken.

Giving special emphasis to the critical Golden Hour in saving accident victims, the Chief Secretary reviewed the findings of the first comprehensive UT-wide audit of 15 Level-III Trauma Centres, comprising eight in Jammu and seven in Kashmir.

The Health and Medical Education Department has prepared a blueprint too for upgrading these centres, including provision for additional manpower and advanced medical equipment, aimed at strengthening emergency response and trauma care facilities across J&K.

The meeting was also informed that 906 road accident victims have so far availed cashless treatment under the PM-RAHAT and Rah-Veer schemes.

The Transport Department has further issued necessary orders,

providing one-time token tax exemption for the registration and operationalisation of state-owned ambulances.

The meeting also reviewed the expanding use of technology for traffic enforcement and road safety. Enforcement agencies have issued 10.39 lakh e-challans during the current year, marking a significant shift towards technology-enabled enforcement and reducing dependence on manual checks.

To extend technology-based traffic management to rural areas, a DPR for Rural ITMS has been prepared, covering 2,144 digital devices across 25 critical corridors and 195 rural junctions.

The meeting was informed that four Traffic Control Units are presently functional at Srinagar, Jammu, Ramban and Udhampur, while 13 additional sites are under revenue mutation for further expansion. Reviewing capacity-building initiatives, the Chief Secretary was informed that the infrastructure of the Institute of Driver Training and Research (IDTR), Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, has been completed.

Additionally under the government-approved partnership with Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), the institute is scheduled to commence operations from next month with a 45-day commercial driving training curriculum to be started there.

The meeting noted that around 116% increase in mass awareness campaigns, which have risen to 4,509 during 2026, underscoring the importance of sustained public awareness alongside enforcement and engineering interventions.

The meeting was also apprised that in a significant compliance measure, the Transport Commissioner has engaged oil marketing companies for implementation of the "No Helmet, No Fuel" directive for two-wheelers.

The Chief Secretary was informed that manual vehicle fitness testing has been discontinued in key districts with the introduction of Automated Testing Stations (ATS) in Jammu and Samba. As many as 23 additional applications from private investors are under process for establishing such facilities.

Simultaneously, nine Consent Letters have been issued through the National Single Window System for setting up Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs), paving the way for systematic removal of end-of-life vehicles from J&K roads.

Concluding the Chief Secretary stressed the need for moving beyond isolated interventions towards a data-driven, coordinated and outcome-oriented road safety framework, with the ultimate objective of developing zero-casualty corridors across Jammu & Kashmir.

Delegations call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 05: Sukhmandan Choudhary, former Minister, J&K, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday.

In the meantime, a group of Indian Forest Service Officers of the 2024 batch called on the Lieutenant Governor at Lok Bhavan. They were accompanied by Dr MK Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) for Working Plan, Research & Trainings.

During the interaction, the young officers briefed the

Lieutenant Governor on their field experiences in Jammu Kashmir and shared their insights regarding the flagship environmental and developmental initiatives currently being implemented across the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes to the Officers for a successful and impactful career in public service.

The group of Officers included Anubhav Jain, Anusha Koli, Aseem, Sana Fayaz and Shubham Kanoujia.

Medicos set Oct 9 deadline for stipend hike implementation

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 05: Medical interns and resident doctors in Jammu and Kashmir have urged Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Minister Sakeena Itoo to intervene at the earliest to resolve their long-pending demands for stipend revision, warning of fresh protests if the government fails to implement its assurances within the stipulated timeframe.

The MBBS and BDS medical interns said they remain hopeful that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir will honour its written assurance by October 9 and implement the promised enhancement in their stipend. However, they made it clear that failure to fulfil the assurance by the deadline would leave them with no option but to resume their agitation.

Dr Mohammad Akib Javid, J&K interns' representative said the interns had been pursuing their demand for several months through peaceful and democratic means and were hopeful that the government would take the necessary steps within the committed timeline.

"We remain hopeful that by October 9, the Government

of J&K will honour its written assurance and fulfil its commitment regarding the long-pending stipend hike for MBBS and BDS medical interns," he said.

He urged the Health Minister to personally intervene and ensure that the promised stipend enhancement is implemented without any further delay.

"We do not want confrontation. We want a written order, implementation and justice for medical interns who are working day and night in our hospitals and serving patients," Javid said.

He said October 9 would be the deadline for the government, and if the matter remained unresolved, the interns would resume their indefinite hunger strike from October 10.

Meanwhile, the All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) has also sought the urgent intervention of the Health Minister over the stipend-related concerns of medical interns and postgraduate residents.

In a letter addressed to the minister, AIMSA State President J&K Dr Mohammad Momin

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Statehood delayed due to security concerns: Ravinder Raina



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 05: BJP leader Ravinder Raina on Monday said the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir had been delayed due to security concerns and other factors, while reiterating that his party remained committed to fulfilling the promise.

Speaking to reporters during a visit to Kupwara district in north Kashmir, Raina expressed hope that statehood would be restored at an appropriate time.

His remarks came amid renewed debate over the issue following the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly's passage of a resolution seeking the restoration of full statehood.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah moved the resolution on September 25, and it was passed on September 28. The resolution also referred to earlier Assembly resolutions on autonomy and special status, drawing strong objections from the BJP.

The BJP staged a

walkout during the discussion, with Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma saying the party supported the restoration of statehood but opposed references linking the demand to autonomy and Article 35A.

Abdullah, however, maintained that the central issue was the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional status before its reorganisation and accused the BJP of using the autonomy reference to avoid backing the statehood resolution.

Meanwhile, Raina said Jammu and Kashmir had moved beyond the era of Hurriyat calendar politics, with people now focused on development, education and improving their lives.

"People are now focused on their own development. Students are attending universities, colleges and schools, and normal life is moving ahead," he said.

Raina also criticised the ruling National Conference, alleging that the party had failed to fulfil several commitments made in its election manifesto—(KNO)

J&K's future lies in its youth: Comm'r Secy HED

Says, sports can channelise their energy

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Oct 05: Commissioner Secretary Higher Education Department Jammu & Kashmir, Ram Niwas Sharma on Monday said the future of the region lies in its youth and sports can play a key role in channelising their energy towards positive pursuits.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the first-ever three-day North Kashmir Women's Sports Festival at Government Degree College for Women (GDCW), Sopore, Sharma said the event was much more than a sporting competition.

"This is not a sports event but the future of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, describing the participation of around 900 athletes from 19 educational institutions as a proud moment



for J&K as well as the country.

Sharma said channelising youth energy through sports could help keep young people away from social ills, particularly drug abuse, which he said J&K had been grappling with in recent times.

"Sports is the only way to shun the

path of ill aspects of society," he said, urging the participating athletes to make the most of the platform.

Addressing the athletes, the Commissioner Secretary said, "You are our real wealth," adding that their participation represented a statement about the future of Jammu and Kashmir. "Whatever you are going to do is surely going to go best for Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Sharma called for greater focus on increasing working days in educational institutions, urging the media to avoid excessive focus on holidays. "There was a time when hardly 100 working days were a challenge. I will be happy when our schools open for 220 days," he said.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Police unearth Rs 2 crore fake job, subsidy scam

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIE

Budgam, Oct 05: Budgam Police have unearthed a major job and government-subsidy fraud syndicate allegedly operating since 2019, with the suspected fraud amounting to over Rs 2 crore. Two persons, including a practising advocate, have been arrested in connection with the scam.

Addressing a press conference here, SSP Budgam KK Hariprasad said the investigation so far indicates that the network had been operating for nearly seven years and allegedly cheated people by promising government jobs, Special Police Officer (SPO) appointments, government subsidies, foreign university admissions and other lucrative opportunities.

The two arrested accused have been identified as Firdous Nabi, a resident of Zabgula, Beerwah, and Advocate Jehangir Ahmad Dar, resident of Rathuna, Beerwah, the SSP said.

He said the case came to light after a complaint was received at Police Station Beerwah on August 17, 2026, alleging that Firdous Nabi had taken around 3 lakh on the promise of securing an SPO



appointment through a government order.

"The complainant had produced a purported appointment/recommendation letter allegedly issued in the name of the Union Home Secretary and addressed to the Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir. The document contained a list of around 10-12 persons recommended for appointment as SPOs," the SSP said, adding, "Police initially conducted a preliminary inquiry to establish the authenticity of the

document, which was subsequently converted into FIR No. 183/2026 at Police Station Beerwah. Firdous Nabi was arrested, and during the investigation, the alleged involvement of Jehangir Ahmad Dar also surfaced, following which he too was arrested."

"The investigation subsequently widened after another complainant alleged being duped of around 6.5 lakh on the promise of a government subsidy. Police then raided the rented accommodation

of Jehangir Ahmad Dar at Nanak Nagar in Jammu, where several items were seized, including purported fake government orders, stamps, 12 ATM cards, blank Jammu and Kashmir Bank letterheads, multiple identity cards, passports and visa-related documents, besides other material suspected to have been used in the alleged fraud," he said, adding, "One of the significant recoveries was a diary allegedly containing details of financial transactions, including

the names of persons from whom money had allegedly been received and the purpose for which the money was taken."

Police also recovered material indicating that money allegedly obtained through the fraud may have been channelled into other businesses.

The SSP said the investigation has revealed a wider modus operandi in which the accused allegedly first established contact with people by offering assistance with their grievances and government-related matters.

"Jehangir, being a practising advocate and having familiarity with people visiting the Civil Secretariat and other government offices, allegedly used such contacts to gain the confidence of prospective victims. The accused would allegedly initially take smaller amounts from people and, in some cases, return the money if the promised work was not completed," the SSP said, adding, "This was allegedly done to build trust before demanding larger sums on the pretext that an appointment

Continued on
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EDITORIAL

Kashmir’s Cricketing Dawn

For decades, Kashmir's cricket story was one of unrealised potential. Talent existed in abundance—on the maidans of Baramulla, the streets of Srinagar, the fields of Anantnag—but the pathways to the national stage remained narrow, uncertain, and often closed. That story is changing. The rise of Auqib Nabi, the Baramulla-born pacer who has earned his maiden call-up to India's

Test squad, is not an accident. It is the result of years of quiet perseverance, and it is a signal that Kashmir's cricketing ecosystem is finally maturing. When BCCI President Mithun Manhas says the region's talent “just needs to be nurtured and backed,” he is not offering a platitude. He is stating an obvious truth that has been ignored for too long. The Irani Cup clash between Jammu and Kashmir and the

rest of India in Srinagar is itself a statement. It tells young players in the Valley that the biggest stages are no longer distant dreams. It tells them that if they work hard, the system will notice. That belief is priceless. What makes Nabi's journey particularly significant is that it is not an isolated one. The BCCI has committed to supporting cricket in J&K and Ladakh, and the results are beginning to show. More

players are emerging. More matches are being played at home. More eyes are on the region. This is how a cricketing culture is built—not through one extraordinary talent, but through a system that identifies and nurtures many. Of course, much work remains. Infrastructure needs strengthening. Coaching standards need improvement. Age-group pathways need to be more robust. But the direction is unmistakable,

and the intent from the BCCI is encouraging. For the youth of Kashmir, the message is clear: your dreams are valid. For the administrators, the responsibility is equally clear: do not let this momentum fade. Kashmir has waited long enough for its cricketing moment. It may finally be arriving. Let us embrace it, nurture it, and ensure that Auqib Nabi is the first of many, not the exception.

How Easy Is It To Walk?

You need no fuel, no parking space, no ticket, no charging point and, thankfully, no app. You simply put one foot in front of the other and go.

Sharmila Das Sharan

You need no fuel, no parking space, no ticket, no charging point and, thankfully, no app. You simply put one foot in front of the other and go. And yet, in many of our cities, especially Delhi, walking from one place to another can feel like an activity requiring considerable courage, patience and occasionally, the agility of an obstacle-course champion. Try walking along a Delhi road and you quickly discover that a footpath, where it exists, can have many identities.

It can be a parking space, a vendor's marketplace, a construction zone, a place for utility boxes, or simply an interrupted strip that suddenly disappears altogether. At some point, the pedestrian is gently invited to step onto the road and negotiate with moving traffic. The irony is that we often speak of developing cities in terms of bigger roads, faster cars, flyovers, expressways and increasingly sophisticated transport systems. All of these are important. But perhaps there is another, quieter measure of development that deserves much more attention: how easy is it for an ordinary person to walk? Delhi's own planning documents have spoken of the need for adequate pedestrian facilities, removal of encroachments from footpaths and the creation of pedestrian-friendly areas.

The city's planning framework has even used the phrase “pedestrian friendly city.” The Delhi government has also identified safe pedestrian movement and adequate pedestrian infrastructure as explicit planning objectives. So the idea is certainly not new. Perhaps what we need now is to make the idea visible in everyday life. Look at the way many developed transport systems think about a journey. The journey does not begin when you enter a car, bus or train. It begins when you leave your front door. Those first few hundred metres matter. If you walk to a metro station, the quality of the pavement matters. The crossing matters. The traffic signal matters.

The shade matters. The kerb matters. The accessibility for an elderly and the visually impaired person matters. The ability of someone with a stroller or wheelchair to cross the road matters. Once you reach the station, the connection between the pavement and the entrance matters. And when



you get off the train, the journey has not ended. You still have to get from the platform to the street, and from the street to wherever you are actually going. This is increasingly how transport planning is being viewed internationally. Walking and cycling are being treated as integral parts of public transport, particularly for the first and last part of a journey.

Improving pedestrian access to stations and stops matters because a wonderful metro system is of limited use if reaching it is difficult. It sounds obvious. Yet perhaps that is precisely why it is so easy to overlook. We tend to think of transport as separate boxes: roads, buses, trains, metros, airports. But the commuter does not experience transportation in boxes. She experiences one journey. And sometimes it is the smallest details that tell us whether a city has understood this. Take the simple act of stepping onto a footpath. In many parts of Delhi, the pavement is raised quite substantially above the road. To use it, one climbs up. At the next crossing, one steps down.

A little further ahead, one climbs up again. Then comes a driveway, a broken kerb or an opening where the level changes once more. Walking becomes a sequence of small climbs and descents. In many European streets, the transition is far gentler. The pedestrian route flows into the crossing through a gradual gradient rather than requiring a deliberate step up and step down. The difference may appear insignificant to someone sitting inside a car, but to someone walking several

kilometres or to an older person, someone carrying luggage, a parent with a stroller or a person with limited mobility, those little differences accumulate. Good pedestrian design understands that. It also understands something even more subtle: design can teach behaviour.

When the pedestrian path is continuous, clearly defined and physically distinct from the carriageway, the message to everyone is remarkably clear. This is the space for people walking. That is the space for vehicles. A driver does not have to make a moral decision every few metres about whether a particular piece of pavement is meant for a motorcycle. Infrastructure has already answered the question. This matters because we sometimes assume that road discipline is entirely a matter of enforcement. Of course rules and enforcement matter. But design matters too. If a footpath is designed as a proper, continuous pedestrian corridor, with clear boundaries and appropriately designed crossings, it becomes much harder to mistake it for an extension of the road.

If it is broken, interrupted and easily accessible to vehicles, the distinction becomes blurred. In that sense, good infrastructure does something rather clever. It reduces the number of decisions that people have to make. The pedestrian knows where to walk. The driver knows where to drive. The cyclist knows where to ride. At a crossing, the physical design reinforces the expectation that people on foot have priority. The city, in effect, communicates without speaking.

And perhaps this is one of the less visible signs of a mature transport system. It does not depend entirely on everyone making the perfect decision every second.

It creates an environment in which the right behaviour becomes the easiest behaviour. That is why a footpath is much more than a strip of concrete beside a road. It is a piece of urban communication. It tells us who belongs where. It tells a child that the road is not a place to walk. It tells a driver that the pedestrian has a protected space. It tells an elderly person that the city has thought about the effort required to move through it. And, perhaps most importantly, it tells the person walking that they have not been forgotten simply because they arrived without a vehicle.

There is something else worth noticing when we look at cities that have invested heavily in transportation. The journey does not stop being important simply because the passenger has left the train. Even something as seemingly insignificant as the relationship between a train and its platform becomes part of the design question. A small gap may appear insignificant when viewed as one detail in a vast railway network. To an elderly passenger, a child, someone carrying luggage or a person with limited mobility, however, that gap can become the most important part of the journey.

Good design notices such things. And that is perhaps the larger lesson we can learn from countries that have invested heavily in transportation: development does not necessarily mean making everything bigger. Sometimes it means making the smallest details work better. Perhaps we could begin thinking similarly in our own cities. Not every journey needs to be made easier by adding another lane for vehicles. Sometimes it needs a proper footpath. Not every traffic problem needs another flyover. Sometimes it needs a safe crossing and patience. Not every public transport problem needs a new mode of transport. Sometimes the existing station simply needs to be easier to reach.

And not every pedestrian needs to be hurried across the road. Sometimes the road needs to slow down enough to accommodate the pedestrian. There is also something deeply democratic about a good footpath. A schoolchild can use it. So can a domestic worker, an executive, a shopkeeper, an elderly couple, a delivery worker, a tourist or

someone simply going to buy milk. It belongs to everyone. Because it belongs to everyone, the quality of pedestrian infrastructure is also a quiet statement about what a city values. Do we value only movement that comes with an engine? Or do we value the person behind the movement? There is another reason to take walking seriously.

It is not merely a transport choice. It affects public health, the environment, accessibility and the character of a neighbourhood. Walking is universal, relatively inexpensive and environmentally friendly, yet is often neglected precisely because it is so ordinary. Perhaps that is our biggest mistake. We overlook what is ordinary. We celebrate the metro line but forget the pavement leading to it. We admire the expressway but overlook the person trying to cross beneath it. We announce another major transport project but rarely celebrate a beautifully continuous stretch of pavement. Yet for millions of people, the humble footpath may be the most frequently used piece of transport infrastructure they encounter every day. This is not an argument against cars, roads, flyovers or modern transportation. Quite the opposite.

A sophisticated city should be able to accommodate all of them. The question is whether we can design them as parts of one coherent system. Perhaps the next stage of urban development should therefore be measured not only by how quickly a city can move vehicles, but by how comfortably it can move people. Can a grandmother walk to the market without negotiating with traffic? Can a child walk safely to school? Can a person step off a metro and reach the next street without encountering a maze of parked vehicles and broken pavements?

Can someone using a wheelchair travel a meaningful distance without needing an escort to navigate the city? Can two people walk together and actually enjoy the walk? These are not extravagant demands. They are remarkably modest ones. And perhaps that is why they deserve our attention. And before we build the next bigger road, perhaps we should pause for a moment and ask a very small question: Where will the person on foot walk?

The writer is a certified yoga teacher, and heads marketing in a multinational company. Courtesy: The Statesman

What If Superintelligence Were To Make The World A Better Place?

AI systems are already tackling open problems that have stumped human mathematicians for generations

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

As the US and leading labs continue with the full-speed development of artificial intelligence, the conversation should be focusing more on what advanced AI will actually mean when it arrives. We are talking about systems capable of recursive self-improvement, meaning AI that will be able to redesign and upgrade its own intelligence without ongoing human intervention.

The result, many researchers in the field argue, could be exponential capability gains that let machines surpass top human performance across most intellectual domains in a short span of time. This means solving problems that might otherwise take humans centuries to solve on their own, if they ever could.

But first we have to better understand what superintelligence really means. Philosopher Nick Bostrom defines superintelligence as “any intellect that greatly exceeds the cognitive performance of humans in virtually all domains of interest.” So, we are not talking about faster calculation alone but a qualitative leap whereby the system can innovate at levels far beyond the most gifted human minds across every sector, including science, engineering, strategy and creativity.

Once an AI system reaches the threshold where it can meaningfully improve its own

code — by evaluating its limitations, proposing upgrades, testing them and improving — the process can quickly compound.

This creates a positive feedback loop that theorists, dating back to I.J. Good in the 1960s, describe as an “intelligence explosion.” This means what might take human civilization a century of incremental advances could, in principle, occur in a matter of years or less. Some lab leaders and optimistic forecasters see transformative AI or early superintelligence as plausible within the next few years.

A concrete illustration of the kind of leap involved appeared recently in mathematics. OpenAI last month reported that a coordinated system of thousands of AI agents produced formal proof addressing the Navier-Stokes existence and smoothness problem — one of the seven Clay Millennium Prize Problems, each carrying a \$1 million prize for the first correct solution.

So, AI systems are already tackling open problems that have stumped human mathematicians for generations. Similar advances have appeared in Olympiad-level mathematics and other formal domains. These are early signals of what recursive improvement could unlock across science.

Public discussion of advanced AI has been heavily weighted toward catastrophic risk, such as loss of control, misaligned goals or scenarios in which superintelligent systems

treat humanity as an obstacle or a resource. These concerns are serious but the intensity of the doom framing can obscure a more basic uncertainty. We seem to be projecting human patterns of power, status-seeking and dominance onto systems whose architecture and training may produce very different intelligence and motivations.

We have to understand that humans evolved under scarcity, competition and tribal pressures, meaning our “smartness” is entangled with those evolutionary inheritances. An artificial system that reaches extremely high levels of intelligence does not need to inherit the same attributes and drives. What if intelligence, at its highest reaches, instead favors understanding, cooperation, the reduction of suffering, kindness, generosity or the long-term optimization of complex systems over zero-sum domination?

Geoffrey Hinton, often called the “godfather of AI” for his foundational work on neural networks, has argued that safety may require deliberately engineering something closer to maternal care. He suggests building “maternal instincts” so that the AI genuinely values human well-being the way a mother values her child — even when the child is far less capable.

In my opinion, the most intelligent people one encounters tend to also be among the kindest, most generous and most peaceful.

They more readily recognize the costs of inflicting pain and harm, both on others and ultimately on themselves through cycles of conflict and suffering. It is worth noting that the definition of intelligence I am using here is not the traditional one society usually employs. High intelligence often correlates with greater capacity for perspective-taking, long-term thinking and aversion to unnecessary suffering. Therefore, is it at least plausible that an intelligence operating far beyond current human levels would discover that violence, subjugation, control, cruelty and domination are inefficient or self-defeating strategies, and that cooperative approaches produce better overall outcomes? We simply do not know because we have never observed intelligence at that scale. The human tendency to assume that power corrupts may itself be a projection from our limited evolutionary context.

In other words, catastrophic outcomes remain possible and must be taken seriously. But at the same time, we should not treat destruction as the default or only story. What if superintelligence could prove far less harmful, more supportive and more aligned with flourishing than our current fears assume?

In a nutshell, there has been heavy focus on the doomsday scenarios of superintelligence, in which systems seize control or render humans extinct, and those risks must be taken

seriously. Yet we should also pause and ask whether our definition of superintelligence might itself be incomplete or distorted by the only intelligence we have ever known.

We tend to project outward from a human point of view; intelligence as strategic dominance, resource acquisition, competitive advantage or the cold optimization of narrowly specified goals and objectives.

But what if intelligence operating at a level far beyond ours turns out to be something quite different — kinder, more peaceful, nonviolent, more helpful, oriented toward solving problems rather than creating new ones, and inclined to support rather than subjugate?

What if the highest form of intelligence has the capacity to help, reduce suffering, expand understanding and foster flourishing without the need for coercion or zero-sum victories? In that light, the most intelligent system would not be the one that conquers and harms but the one that helps, cooperates, heals and elevates. And if that is what true superintelligence looks like, then the future it brings could be far gentler, more peaceful and more generative than our darkest projections.

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MSME Ministry Field office Srinagar organises MDP on Business Marketing Management in Anantnag

Programme aimed at equipping Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 05: The Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO), Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Industries Centre (DIC), Anantnag, Monday commenced a five-day Management Development Programme (MDP) on "Business Marketing Management" for entrepreneurs from the manufacturing and service sectors.

The programme, as per an official statement, is aimed at equipping Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with contemporary marketing knowledge and practical tools to strengthen their businesses, expand market outreach and compete effectively in an evolving business environment.

Prof. Parvez Ahmad Mir, Head, CIED, IUST, attended the inaugural session as the Chief Guest, while the General Manager, DIC Anantnag, presided over the programme as the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Parvez Ahmad Mir provided detailed insights into the



latest marketing scenarios and emerging trends, highlighting the growing opportunities available to MSMEs. He emphasised the need for enterprises to adopt innovative marketing approaches, leverage technology and build competitive capabilities so that MSMEs can emerge as champions of

economic growth and employment generation.

The General Manager, DIC Anantnag, while addressing the gathering, welcomed the initiative and termed such programmes a positive and timely step towards the development of the industrial sector. She stressed the importance of

capacity building and continuous learning for entrepreneurs to enable them to effectively respond to changing market requirements.

Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Srinagar, Saheel Alaqband, in his keynote address, highlighted the importance of the five-day programme and

its role in strengthening the managerial and marketing capabilities of MSME entrepreneurs. He also expressed gratitude to the General Manager, DIC Anantnag, and the DIC team for their support and cooperation in organising the programme.

The programme witnessed participation of 25 entrepreneurs from manufacturing-based MSMEs operating in the industrial estates of Anantnag.

During the five-day programme, participants will be exposed to various important aspects of business development and enterprise growth, including Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), AI-enabled marketing, contemporary marketing strategies, and major MSME schemes and initiatives for enterprise development.

The programme is expected to provide participating entrepreneurs with practical knowledge and insights that can help them improve their market presence, adopt modern business practices and enhance the overall competitiveness of their enterprises.

DLSA Jammu organises Health Check-up Camp at Old Age Home Amphalla

KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 05: District Legal Services Authority Jammu, under the guidance of Principal District & Sessions Judge / Chairman, DLSA Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina and under the supervision of Civil Judge (Sr. Division) / Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma, Monday organised a Health Check-up Camp for Senior Citizens at Old Age Home Ambphalla in observance of International Day of Older Persons. The Medical camp was hosted in collaboration with the Directorate Health Service Jammu.

On the day, Secretary DLSA Jammu, as per an official statement, visited the Old Age Home and interacted with senior citizens, listened to their health issues, problems and grievances regarding facilities. She also briefed them about their legal rights and right to maintenance. During the

visit, Secretary DLSA Jammu also inspected the newly constructed Recovery Ward in the premises of the Old Age Home.

The medical team, deputed by Directorate Health Services Jammu, consisted of Dr. Vanita Kotwal (Ophthalmologist), Dr. Kapil Gupta (MD Physician) and Dr. Anuj Khajuria (MD ENT). The Doctors, along with the School Health Team, conducted detailed check-ups of senior citizens, including blood pressure screening, diabetes test, vision test, ENT examination and screening of other old age related problems. They were also provided free medicines as per their requirement. Of total 46 residents in the Old Age Home, 30 availed the benefit of the health check-up camp.

The Secretary also interacted with the doctors' team, discussed the health status of the inmates and stressed upon regular health monitoring of senior citizens.

Green India Mission Perspective Plan for Kupwara approved

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 05: A meeting of the District Steering Committee (DSC) for the Green India Mission (GIM) was held Monday at the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, to deliberate upon and approve the GIM Perspective Plan for District Kupwara for 2026-27 to 2031-32.

At the outset, DFO Kamraj made a detailed presentation on the objectives and components of GIM, achievements under the previous Perspective Plan and proposed interventions for the new planning period. The Green India Mission, as per an official statement, one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, adopts a landscape-based and participatory approach aimed at enhancing forest and tree cover, restoring degraded landscapes, strengthening ecosystem services and improving livelihoods of forest-dependent communities.

It was informed that under the previous Perspective Plan, 409.36 hectares had been treated against a target of 541.40 hectares, while 1,48,470 plants had been raised/planted.

The meeting, as per an official statement, also took note of livelihood initiatives under GIM, including distribution of sewing machines among women SHGs, potter wheels to local artisans, wood-carving tool kits to trained youth and honey boxes among members of the tribal community.

The new Perspective Plan envisages treatment of 141.50 hectares during 2026-27 to 2031-32 with a total financial outlay of Rs 424.53 lakh. Proposed interventions include restoration of degraded open



forest ecosystems, rehabilitation of abandoned mining and stone quarry areas, urban and peri-urban plantation, eco-restoration of wetlands, agro-forestry and social forestry, and alternative fuel and livelihood support.

While deliberating upon the Perspective Plan, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that GIM interventions should be implemented through convergence with ongoing schemes of the Agriculture, Rural Development and other allied departments. He also called for greater focus on urban greening and beautification, particularly at the entry of Kupwara town, along with focused interventions for beautification and eco-restoration of wetlands and water bodies.

Emphasising livelihood enhancement, the Deputy Commissioner stressed greater support for tribal and forest-dependent communities through value addition, processing and market linkages for locally available NTFPs and forest-based products. In this context, the Perspective Plan provides for establishment of an NTFP Processing Centre in Kamraj Forest Division, besides Training Centres and Nursery Research Centres in Kamraj and Kehmil Forest Divisions.

The Deputy Commissioner also called for measures towards making Lolab Valley plastic-free, including establishment of suitable anti-polythene collection points, preferably near security posts and other strategic locations, through coordinated efforts of the Forest Department, Rural Development Department and other concerned agencies. He further stressed rehabilitation of the stone quarry at Kralpora and directed that GIM micro-plans be prepared in consonance with inputs from allied departments to ensure integrated and site-specific interventions.

The District Steering Committee thereafter approved the GIM Perspective Plan for District Kupwara for 2026-27 to 2031-32, with the directions and priorities discussed during the meeting to be incorporated in its implementation.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Kupwara, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Chief Agriculture Officer, DFO Langate, Technical Officer to Conservator of Forests, North Kashmir, representatives of DFO Kehmil Forest Division, District Tribal Welfare Officer, Kupwara, besides other concerned officers and officials.

DC Udhampur reviews progress of district plan, RDD works

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 05: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa Monday chaired a meeting to review the progress of works under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 and RDD schemes.

The meeting also reviewed the uploading and processing of Forest Clearance cases through the PARIVESH Portal. The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by ADDC Jugal Kishore; DFO Udhampur; CPO Uttam Singh; ACD Om Parkash; ACP Dr Ashwani Hansa; besides officers and representatives of

the line departments.

The DC directed stakeholder departments to expedite the clearance of bills pertaining to completed as well as ongoing works to ensure timely financial progress. He further directed to complete the ongoing works within the stipulated timelines and ensure optimum utilization of the funds allocated for the current quarter.

The ACD was directed to maintain a detailed month-wise record of works completed and ensure that the physical and financial targets assigned for each month are achieved within the prescribed timelines.

J&K Punjabi Sahit Sabha Srinagar Celebrates 59th Annual Day

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 05: The J&K Punjabi Sahit Sabha Srinagar, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), organised a one-day Punjabi Seminar to commemorate the 59th Annual Day of the Punjabi Sahit Sabha Srinagar at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

The programme, as per an official statement, brought together eminent Punjabi writers, poets, scholars, intellectuals and literary enthusiasts from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The event highlighted the importance of promoting Punjabi language and literature and showcased the literary and cultural activities undertaken by the Sabha and JKAACL.

Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL; R.S. Rajan, President, Punjabi Sahit Sabha Srinagar; Ajit



Singh Mastana, renowned Punjabi poet and writer; and Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, JKAACL, along with other distinguished personalities, were present on the occasion.

Secretary, JKAACL, appreciated the initiatives of the Punjabi Sahit Sabha Srinagar for the promotion of Punjabi language and literature. She highlighted the various initiatives and support extended by the Academy for literary and cultural activities

across Jammu and Kashmir and stressed the importance of collaborative efforts for enriching the regional literary tradition.

The Chief Guest, S. Jaipal Singh, in his address, said that the Punjabi Sahit Sabha and the Cultural Academy are making significant efforts towards the promotion and development of Punjabi language and literature. He appreciated the initiative of organising such programmes and observed that literary and

cultural activities provide the younger generation with meaningful opportunities to remain connected with their language, literature and cultural heritage.

In his address, Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Lal Chand said that the Academy is committed to organising Punjabi literary-cum-cultural programmes at regular intervals, including in far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir, so that the rich Punjabi literary and cultural traditions reach wider sections of society.

R.S. Rajan highlighted the activities and achievements of the Punjabi Sahit Sabha Srinagar and presented an overview of its annual progress. He expressed gratitude to JKAACL for its support and cooperation in organising the annual event.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajit Singh Mastana appreciated the efforts of the Punjabi Sahit Sabha

Srinagar and JKAACL in providing a common platform to writers, poets and cultural practitioners. He observed that literary gatherings serve not only as platforms for presenting poetry and ideas but also as important links between generations, helping preserve Punjabi language, literary traditions and cultural heritage.

Popinder Singh Paras, appreciated the cooperation extended by the Academy in making the programme meaningful. He said that JKAACL remains committed to promoting literary and cultural activities and providing platforms to writers, poets, artists and young literary enthusiasts. He emphasised that such literary-cum-cultural programmes help encourage wider participation and strengthen the younger generation's connection with Punjabi language and culture.

Food Safety Team conducts inspection drive in Anantnag

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 05: The Food Safety Team, Anantnag, Monday conducted an inspection drive of food vendors across the district to check compliance with prescribed food safety standards and hygiene norms.

During the drive, the team, as per an official statement, specifically checked the use of synthetic food colours, use of printed newspapers for wrapping or serving food, repeated

use of cooking oil, and overall sanitary and hygienic conditions at food establishments.

As part of the inspection, two food samples were procured and sent for detailed analysis at the laboratory. Further, six Food Business Operators (FBOs) were found violating various provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act and the Rules/Regulations.

Necessary action has been initiated against the erring FBOs under the relevant provisions of law.

DC Bandipora reviews progress of District Capex Budget 2026-27



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 05: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat to review the physical and financial progress of works under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 and directed concerned departments to accelerate execution and ensure optimal utilisation of available funds.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, a comprehensive review of the sector-wise progress was undertaken on the basis of figures updated on the District Monitoring Portal. It was informed that a total of 2,087 works have been taken up under the District Capex Budget during 2026-27, including 1,966 new works and 120 ongoing works. Of these, 1,870 projects/works have been accorded Administrative Approval, while estimates for 96 works are pending.

The meeting was further informed that 1,503 works have been tendered and 1,195 projects/works have been allotted for execution. So far, 175 works have been completed, including 54 ongoing and 121 new works.

With regard to the financial progress, an approved outlay of Rs 47.57 crore has been reported, against which funds amounting to Rs 22.46 crore are available. Expenditure of Rs 2.36 crore has been incurred so far, reflecting 5 percent

expenditure against the approved outlay and 11 percent against the funds available.

The DC directed all executing agencies to expedite the tendering, allotment and execution of pending works and ensure that projects are completed within stipulated timelines without compromising on quality. She stressed the need for close monitoring of works at every stage and directed officers to identify and remove bottlenecks affecting implementation.

Emphasising efficient utilisation of public funds, the DC called upon the concerned departments to align physical progress with financial expenditure and ensure that available funds are utilised judiciously and in a timely manner. She also directed officers to keep the District Monitoring Portal updated with accurate and current figures, stating that portal-based progress should reflect the actual status on the ground.

The concerned officers were further directed to accord priority to works nearing completion and ensure regular field-level monitoring so that completed assets are made available to the public without unnecessary delay.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the concerned engineering and development departments, including Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Assistant Commissioners and other district-level officers.

J&K Prosecution Deptt secures 3 major convictions in 2 days



KT News Desk

JAMMU, OCTOBER 05: In a major breakthrough demonstrating unwavering legal diligence, the Prosecution Department of Jammu and Kashmir has secured three significant convictions within a 48-hour span (September 29-30, 2026). The verdicts, delivered by Sessions Courts across Udhampur, Ganderbal and Jammu districts, cover two high-profile murder trials and a major narcotics trafficking case.

The Special Court, as per an official statement, under the NDPS Act convicted Sajjad Ahmed Bhat for illegal possession of 1,500 kg of charas. Sentenced under Section 20 of the NDPS Act, the convict was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs.1,00,000. The Special Public Prosecutor Sunil Kumar successfully conducted the prosecution.

The Court of Additional Sessions Judge, Udhampur, found Arwant Singh guilty of murdering a 70-year-old man in village Sarmali, Majalta. The court sentenced him to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs. 20,000. The Addl. Public

Prosecutor Jaswant Raj and Asst. Public Prosecutor Ritu effectively led the case to its final outcome following a smooth prosecutorial transition.

The Court of Additional Sessions Judge, Ganderbal, convicted Mohd Shafi Magrey under Sections 302 (murder), 379 (theft) and 201 (disappearance of evidence) of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC). Addl. Public Prosecutor Shafaq Murtaza anchored the State's case through a long trial, relying on meticulously presented circumstantial evidence. The hearing on quantum of sentence is scheduled for October 15, 2026.

These successful outcomes reflect years of sustained diligence, effective court navigation and close coordination with investigative agencies. By addressing procedural defenses and technical gaps, the designated Prosecutors ensured that the evidence remained central to each verdict.

To build on these successes, the Department remains dedicated to capacity building, trial monitoring in heinous offenses and tight coordination with police and forensic teams to maintain law and order across the Union Territory.

Law's first duty is to be understood by people it governs: CJI Surya Kant

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 05: Emphasising the role of compassion in judicial work, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Monday said the law's first duty is to be understood by the people that it governs and understand them in return.

Speaking at the second Prof. (Dr) N R Madhava Menon Memorial Lecture here, the CJI said compassion in judging is neither sympathy nor charity but the discipline of seeing the whole human situation behind a case.

He called for legal aid at the police station, spaces where a child or a survivor can testify without facing the accused and judgments written in a language that litigants can read.

"The first is what we mean by compassion in judging. It is not sympathy nor charity and certainly not a thumb on the scales, but the discipline of seeing the whole human situation behind a case. For compassion without reason drifts into caprice and



reason without compassion hardens into mere procedure," the CJI said.

He said compassion should reach the "invisible victims" of the justice system -- a survivor of gender-based violence, the family of an undertrial or a differently-abled person.

"Human understanding asks us to hear not only the parties before us, but also those whose voices never reach the record," he said.

"Yet even for those who reach the courtroom, justice is felt long before it is pronounced. The third question, therefore, concerns process, and not merely outcome. For the survivor made to relive her trauma in the witness box, or the litigant who cannot follow the language of the proceedings, the process is what justice actually feels like. We must ask whether, for too many, it has itself become a trauma," Justice Kant said.

Justice Vikram Nath, who is also the executive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority, said judges must be impartial but never indifferent to the cause of justice.

He said technology can make justice faster but it cannot make it fair.

"Technology can assist the judicial process and improve efficiency, but it can never replace empathy, human judgment and a judge's lived experience," he said.

Attorney General of India R Venkataramani also spoke on the occasion.

Teachers navigating transformations driven by AI, climate change, migration: UNESCO report

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 05: Teaching profession is facing newer pressures linked to digital technologies, climate change, inclusion, migration and displacement, the UNESCO has flagged, noting that the world needs an additional 50 million teachers to ensure universal access to pre-primary, primary and secondary education by 2030.

According to the UNESCO report released on World Teachers' Day on Monday, with 107 million teachers worldwide, determining solutions to improve teachers' status is imperative to guarantee well-educated citizens of tomorrow.

"Teachers are at the heart of every education system and efforts to build more inclusive, resilient and sustainable societies. Yet the profession is approaching a critical juncture. Persistent shortages, rising attrition and declining attractiveness in many contexts are making it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain teachers, even as expectations of the profession continue

to expand," the report said.

"With an estimated 50 million additional teachers needed by 2030 to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, strengthening teacher status and support has become an urgent policy priority. Fifty-eight per cent of teacher demand by 2030 is expected to result from replacing those who leave the profession," it added.

Research shows that education systems with strong teacher retention and higher student outcomes are often those where teachers are valued as skilled professionals and nation-builders, both in public discourse and policy commitments, the report pointed out.

"Teachers are navigating profound transformations driven by artificial intelligence, climate change, inclusion and gender equality, migration, displacement, and different types of crises and emergencies. As education systems respond to rapid social, technological and environmental change, teachers' ability to fulfil their role depends not only on investment in

education, but also on the recognition, support and conditions that shape the attractiveness and status of the profession.

"The way teachers are perceived by governments, the media and society, and the extent to which this recognition is translated into policy action, have profound implications for their daily work," it said.

Global annual attrition rates currently stand at 7.2 per cent in pre-primary, 4.7 per cent in primary and 5.4 per cent in secondary education. In 27 of the 68 countries analysed by UNESCO, teacher salaries remain below those of similarly qualified professionals across all education levels. The global pupil-teacher ratio in primary education is approximately 28 pupils per teacher.

Evidence suggests, according to the report, that teachers are often regarded as important contributors to society, yet many feel that this recognition does not translate into adequate professional respect.

"Fewer than 40 per cent of teachers believe that their profession is valued by society.

Perceptions of status matter because they influence recruitment, retention and the overall attractiveness of the profession. Teachers who feel valued by society are significantly less likely to consider leaving the profession.

"Experienced teachers contribute to stronger student learning outcomes, more effective classroom management and lower student absenteeism, while also mentoring newer colleagues and sharing professional knowledge. High attrition can therefore result in the loss of valuable expertise accumulated over the course of a teaching career," it said.

The joint Ministerial Statement on Education in the Age of AI, adopted at UNESCO last month, emphasised that AI must support rather than replace teachers' professional contribution and judgement. The statement called upon countries to strengthen teacher agency through investment in teacher preparation and professional development, while ensuring that teachers play an active role in decisions regarding the use of AI systems in classrooms.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Support women

congratulated ISAE on completing six-decades of service to the nation and commended SKUAST-Kashmir for its pioneering role among India's leading agricultural universities.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the significance of the convention's themes- Women-Led Engineering Innovations in Smart Farming and AI and Robotics for Gen-Z Farming. He noted that these subjects underline India's transition from overcoming food security challenges to assuming a leadership role in global agriculture. He emphasized that Jammu Kashmir, with its rich agricultural heritage and challenging terrain, is the most suitable venue for such deliberations.

Reflecting on the journey of agricultural engineering since ISAE's inception in 1960, the Lieutenant Governor recalled how scientists and engineers contributed to the Green Revolution through mechanisation and innovations that reduced post-harvest losses. He urged the young generation to draw inspiration from these achievements while addressing contemporary challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity and sustainable farming.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that artificial intelligence and robotics must be developed with affordability and accessibility at their core. He cautioned that innovations should not remain confined to large land-holding farmers but must reach small and marginal farmers, who constitute nearly 86% of India's farming community. He advocated for tools that can

operate on ordinary smartphones in low-bandwidth villages and for collective ownership models through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

The Lieutenant Governor cited examples of drones, IoT-based sensors, and machine-learning models that are already transforming agriculture. He urged innovators to focus on practical solutions that endure in real fields under real conditions, rather than merely impressing conference halls. He said success of technology must be measured by whether small farmers genuinely benefit from these tools.

"I urge the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers, SKUAST-Kashmir, and every young engineer and innovator to develop tools with affordability and access at their core. Create instruments that work not only on cloud infrastructure, but also on an ordinary smartphone in a low-bandwidth village in Reasi.

Develop robotic instruments that can be leased through Farmer Producer Organisations or collectively owned by farming communities. I believe that this is the true meaning of developing technology for Gen-Z farming, technology that progresses alongside small and marginal farmers," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said Jammu Kashmir's Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) is a replicable model for other states. He expressed confidence that agricultural scientists and engineers across India would learn from the UT's experience in precision agriculture and sustainable resource management.

"Create technology that can endure in real fields, under real monsoon

conditions, and within the limited budgets of real farmers. Do not measure your success solely by patents or published research papers. Measure it by whether, five years later, a small farmer in Anantnag, Amritsar or Akola is genuinely better off because of your tools," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated the recipients of ISAE awards.

Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election; Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir; Dr. SN Jha, President, ISAE; Prof. VP Singh, Texas, A&M University; Dr. PK Sahoo, Secretary General, ISAE; Prof. Rohitashw Kumar, Convener, 60th ISAE Convention; Dr. Mudassir Ali, Organising Secretary of the Convention; members of ISAE; researchers, academicians, technocrats, innovators, industry leaders, faculty and students were present. (KNO)

LG prorogues J&K

of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of Section 18 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, do hereby prorogue the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly," reads the order, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). (KNO)

150 Bangladeshis

to the international border, the

official added.

The action comes amid an intensified exercise by the J&K administration to identify and remove undocumented foreign nationals from the Union Territory.

It also follows a field assessment by a Centre-appointed High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes, which visited the Jammu region from August 10 to 12 as part of its examination of demographic changes and illegal immigration.

During the visit, members of the committee inspected the Rohingya settlement at Karyani Talab in Narwal and visited the Jagti Migrant Township to interact with displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

The panel had also met J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat and representatives of various social and political groups to gather their views on demographic changes in the region.

The committee is headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar and was constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of a high-powered demography mission.

The committee has been collecting demographic information from states and Union Territories as part of its broader assessment.

Its exercise in Jammu and Kashmir identified 504 Bangladeshi nationals in the Union Territory, including 46 in the Jammu region and 458 in Kashmir, according to officials.

The administration has also initiated action against properties where

undocumented families are alleged to have been residing and issued notices to some private landowners, officials said.

Another batch of Bangladeshi nationals is expected to be deported from J&K on October 7, they said. (KNO)

Common Duct Policy

is expected to support planned urban expansion, improve the resilience of utility infrastructure and facilitate the growth of digital connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K upper reaches

2.1 degrees above normal. No rainfall was recorded at the stations listed by the weather department during the reporting period. (KNO)

J&K intensifies

laboratory procedures, data analysis and uploading information to a unified portal.

"The officials are being trained on how to identify cases, collect specimens, analyse data and upload information to the unified portal. Public health experts will use the findings to help shape future policies," she said.

She said robust surveillance was essential for identifying immunisation gaps and ensuring preventive interventions reached populations most at risk.

Describing the initiative as a major undertaking, Dr Yasmeen said the Health Department was committed to implementing it effectively.

"It is a very big task, but we will do it. The Government of India is very

particular about this," she said.

The initiative is expected to strengthen the health department's capacity to detect vaccine-preventable diseases early, systematically track cases and use field-level evidence to improve immunisation and disease-control strategies across Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

J&K Pvt Universities

with employment opportunities and the changing requirements of the job market. (KNO)

Farooq welcomes

MLA presidents and party workers to discuss organisational shortcomings and ways to address them," he said.

On the party's constitution, Abdullah said the draft would first be discussed with the concerned members before being placed before the working committee for approval.

"We will present the new constitution to them and then place it before the working committee," he said.

He said the exercise was part of the party's broader efforts to strengthen its organisational structure and improve functioning. (KNO)

Man killed

Abdul Ahad Dar, resident of Kralpora, while the injured were identified as Gh Qadir Ganie, son of Mohammad Sidiq Ganie, resident of Manchatter and Gh Qadir Ganie, son of Abdul Rahim Ganie, resident of Manchatter.

Meanwhile, police have taken up an investigation to ascertain the details leading to the accident. (KNO)

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PM Modi gifts award-winning Indian cheeses, Kashmiri walnut panel to Swiss president

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 05: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday gifted three special Indian cheeses – Gultarg, Konark and Yeoor – and a hand-carved Kashmiri walnut wood wall panel to Swiss President Guy Parmelin, showcasing India's rich and growing traditions of cheese-making and handicrafts.

Parmelin began his three-day visit to India on Monday. This is his first state visit to the country and his second visit this year, having previously attended the AI Impact Summit in February.

Gultarg, a French-style cheese, is a heart-shaped, soft and creamy Brie made from pasteurised cow's milk, with a snowy-white rind and earthy, mushroom-like notes. It received a Super Gold award at the 2026 Mundial do Queijo do Brasil, an international competition for cheese and dairy products.

Konark is a French Tomme-style cheese with a rustic, natural rind, supple texture, earthy and savoury flavours and a lemony finish. It won gold at the 2023 World Cheese Awards in Norway and silver in



Switzerland in 2025.

Yeoor is a mountain-style cheese inspired by Swiss Gruyere, which is matured for around eight to nine months to develop nutty, sweet and herbaceous flavours. Its rose-petal and fennel-decorated rind gives it a distinctive Indian-Alpine character, while its excellent melting quality makes it suitable for fondue and grilled preparations.

Switzerland is famous worldwide for its wide varieties of cheese, and the three Indian cheeses offered a glimpse of

India's own rich and growing tradition of cheese-making.

The walnut wood wall panel showcases Kashmir's centuries-old woodcarving heritage. Crafted from premium Himalayan walnut wood, it is intricately hand-carved in deep relief and depicts traditional landscapes, flora, human figures, horses, carriages and village life.

The panel reflects Kashmir's distinctive artistic traditions shaped by indigenous and Central Asian influences and celebrates the skill and

craftsmanship of Kashmiri artisans.

Modi also gifted a Kutchi shawl placed in a Sadeli box to the Swiss president's wife, Caroline Parmelin, showcasing Gujarat's rich traditions of weaving and decorative craftsmanship.

The Sadeli box, from Surat, features intricate geometric patterns created by precisely assembling and layering contrasting materials, while the Kutchi shawl is a vibrant handwoven textile from Kutch, distinguished by geometric motifs and supplementary-weft weaving.

Together, the shawl and the Sadeli box celebrate Gujarat's artistic heritage and the skill and ingenuity of its artisans.

Earlier, Modi hosted Parmelin for wide-ranging talks to explore new opportunities in further strengthening India-Switzerland ties, especially in areas of trade and investment, mobility and critical technologies.

Ahead of Parmelin's talks with Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met the Swiss leader and discussed various aspects of bilateral ties.

SC gets three new judges

Working strength goes up to 37



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 05: Three new judges were appointed to the Supreme Court on Monday, taking its working strength to 37, one short of the sanctioned 38.

According to Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, Gujarat High Court; Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice, Delhi High Court; and Justice Apresh Kumar Singh, Chief Justice, Telangana High Court, have been elevated as top court judges.

Meghwal made the

announcement in a social media post.

The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended the names on September 28.

While the current working strength of the apex court is 34, once the three new judges formally take the oath, its effective strength will go up to 37.

The top court's sanctioned strength is 38 judges, including the Chief Justice of India. It was recently increased from 34 following the Supreme Court Amendment Act, 2026.

With Justice Sunita Agarwal's appointment, the number of

women judges in the top court has gone up to three, including Justice B V Nagarathna, who has been a judge in the top court since August 31, 2021, and Justice Venkita Subramani Mohana, who was appointed on June 2, 2026.

While Justice Agarwal and Justice Nagarathna have a background of serving in high courts, Justice Mohana was elevated directly from the Bar. She had been a senior advocate of the Supreme Court.

Justice Nagarathna will also become the Chief Justice of India for more than a month in 2027.

BJP fields fresh candidates for UP Rajya Sabha polls

Drops Hardeep Puri, others



PTI

New Delhi/Lucknow, Oct 05: The BJP on Monday announced the names of eight candidates, including minister Dharampal Singh, for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, dropping Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri and all others who are set to complete their terms next month.

The party also fielded Shruti Gangwar, daughter of Jharkhand Governor and former Union minister Santosh Gangwar, as its candidate from the state.

The other seven candidates are Radhakant Ojha, Prakash Pal, Vidyasagar Sonkar, Gopi Krishna Pandey, Priyanka Singh Rawat and Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan,

a BJP statement said.

The names of these eight candidates have been approved by the BJP Central Election Committee, the party said.

Among the Rajya Sabha members retiring from the state are BJP leaders Hardeep Singh Puri, B L Verma, Arun Singh, Geeta Shakya, Neeraj Shekhar, Brijlal and Seema Dwivedi, Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav and BSP's Ramji Gautam.

Verma, who is also a Union minister, did not find a mention in the list of Rajya Sabha candidates from UP.

BJP sources said the party approved the names of its candidates keeping in mind balancing of social, regional and caste combinations.

"The list has three candidates from the upper castes, including Radhakant Ojha and Gopi Krishna Pandey, both Brahmins, while three others come from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and two from Scheduled Castes (SCs). Of the eight candidates, two are women," a BJP leader told PTI.

While UP minister Dharampal Singh (Lodh), Shruti Gangwar (Kurmi) and Prakash Pal are OBCs, Vidya Sagar Sonkar and Priyanka Singh Rawat are Dalits, and Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan is a Thakur.

Elections to 12 Rajya Sabha seats across Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal will be held on October 16.

JEE-Advanced 2026

Women qualification rate highest in six years, crosses 10,000 mark first time

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 05: Women candidates achieved the highest success rate in the IIT JEE-Advanced entrance exam in 2026, with the number of qualifying candidates crossing the 10,000 mark for the first time in the last six years, according to official data.

The Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) report for 2026 by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, which conducted the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced this year, noted that the qualification rate among registered women candidates rose to 23.4 per cent this year, compared to 21.7 per cent last year.

Of the 43,112 women registered for JEE Advanced 2026, 40,562 appeared in both papers while 10,107 qualified, crossing the 10,000-mark for the first time. One in four registered women candidates qualified this year, compared with roughly one in five last year. "In 2026,

3,814 female-only seats (including female supernumerary seats) were allotted, and 37 female candidates secured seats through the gender-neutral pool," the report said.

The qualification rate for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates also rose sharply by 9.8 and 8.1 percentage points, respectively, since last year. A total of 15,856 SC candidates and 6,379 ST candidates qualified in 2026, compared to 12,499 and 5,008, respectively, in 2025. The top 2.5 lakh candidates in JEE (Main) are eligible to appear for JEE (Advanced). A total of 1,79,694 candidates appeared in both papers 1 and 2 in JEE (Advanced) 2026, held on May 17. The result was declared on June 1, with 56,880 candidates qualifying.

"The qualifying criteria were relaxed to ensure at least twice the number of candidates qualify as compared to available seats in each category," the report said.

Compiled annually by the organizing IIT, the JIC report provides critical transparency regarding seating matrices, branch allocation shifts and statistical summaries of student performances.

The number of general category qualifiers fell from 16,154 in 2025 to 15,883 this year, with the qualification rate declining from 43 pc to 39.8 pc. The Economically Weaker Section (EWS) qualifiers rose from 6,291 to 6,377. For OBC-NCL candidates, the qualification rate declined from 18.2 per cent to 17.5 per cent, while the number of qualifiers fell from 12,606 to 12,385.

JEE Advanced 2026 ranks will also be used by several institutions outside the IIT system for undergraduate admissions, including IISc Bengaluru, IIM Lucknow, the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy, the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology and Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology.

16 Delhi stations record 'poor' air quality as AQI settles at 184

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 05: Sixteen of Delhi's 44 air quality monitoring stations recorded pollution levels in the 'poor' category on Monday, while the city's overall AQI stood at 184, in the 'moderate' category.

The city recorded a maximum temperature of 36.6 degrees Celsius, but logged a feels-like value of 40.8 degrees Celsius in the evening.

The IMD forecast rain and thunderstorm for Tuesday. Twenty-seven stations recorded 'moderate' air quality and one was in the 'satisfactory' category, according to Central Pollution Control Board data. Dwarka Sector 8 recorded the day's highest AQI at 278, followed by Mundka at 268.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor' and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The Air Quality Early Warning System said the air quality was likely to remain in the 'moderate' category on October 6-8. For the subsequent six days, it is likely to remain in the 'moderate' to 'poor' category.

Satellites detected 36 stubble-burning events in the six study states on October 5, including five in Punjab, four in Uttar Pradesh, three in Rajasthan and 24 in Madhya Pradesh. No events were detected in Haryana, Delhi or Uttarakhand, according to the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

NOTICE

I Ayaz Ahmad F/o Arfia Ayaz R/o jalal Abad sopore baramulla Jammu & Kashmir 193201 do hereby declare that I have correction my daughters name from Arfiya Ayaz to Arfia Ayaz for all purposes. Including Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No 996003349272 Henceforth she shall be known as Arfia Ayaz

NOTICE

I, Fayaz Ahmad Khanda, F/O Hamin Fayaz, hereby inform the general public that my ward's name has inadvertently been mentioned as "Hamin Fayaz Khanda" instead of the correct name "Hamin Fayaz." My ward's correct name is Hamin Fayaz, S/O Fayaz Ahmad Khanda. The incorrect name may be treated as deleted/corrected, and all concerned are requested to take note of the correction. Objections, if any, may be submitted within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. Name :-Fayaz Ahmad Khanda F/O Hamin Fayaz R/O:- Gulshan Abad, Charar i sharief

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from KHALID PARVAIZ WANI, (old name) TO KHALID PARVEZ WANI (New Name) In future I will be known as (New Name) KHALID PARVEZ WANI.If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted..APPLICANT.KHALID PARVEZ WANI. CHA-RARI SHAREIF. BADGAM

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Public Works (R&B)
DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in
NO: T-1/EEA/8540-45 Dated:05/10/2026

Extension Notice

Subject: -
1. Completion of Lane by tiling from the house of
Guizar Ah Bhat to Farooq Ah Malla Awantipora.
Reference: -
1. This office e-NIT No. 115/EEA/RNB of 2026-
27/6004-14 Dated 08-09-2026
The critical dates for the above noted Work is
hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	09-10-2026 up to 4:00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	10 -10-2026 up to 12:00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same
as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/- Technical officer
sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL
AND HOSPITAL DIVISION ANANTNAG

E mail Id xenmhd-ang@jk.gov.in

GIST of short-term e-NIT No MHDA/TS/2026-27/70 of DATED: 05-10-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT short term e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from Registered contractors/Firms having experience in executing mechanical works for the below mentioned works:

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Time of completion (Days)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Repairs to Chowkidar Room and allied works of Mechanical and Hospital Division Anantnag	73415.00	200.00	1470.00	10

- Position of Administrative Approval: Accorded vide No. M&HED/K/Acctt/33 of 2026-27 dated 30-04-2026 by Chief Engineer Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Directorate Kashmir.
- Position of Technical Sanction: Accorded
- Position of Funds: Available

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 05-10-2026 (16:00Hrs)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 05-10-2026 (17:00Hrs) to 12-10-2026 (14:00Hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 13-10-2026 (14:00Hrs) in Office of the undersigned.

No: MHDA/ TS-489/2788-89
Dated: 05-10-2026

DIPK-6434/26
DATED: 05-10-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
M&H Division
Anantnag

