



Decisive leadership secured peace, confidence in J&K: Centre

Union Cabinet passes resolution, praises PM Modi's 25-year tenure, cites surgical strikes, Balakot air strikes, Operation Sindoor

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 06: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday passed resolution, marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public leadership highlighting the Centre's development and security initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, including the abrogation of Article 370, infrastructure expansion and efforts to strengthen connectivity in the Union Territory.

The resolution, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said decisions taken under Modi's leadership sought to combine development, national security and greater integration, describing the removal of Article 370 as one of the defining measures of his tenure.

The resolution also cited the 2016 surgical strikes, the 2019 Balakot air strikes and the 2025



Operation Sindoor as examples of the government's approach to national security.

For Jammu and Kashmir, it placed the Article 370 decision alongside measures such as the

creation of the Chief of Defence Staff, implementation of One Rank One Pension, and efforts to combat terrorism while promoting development.

The resolution highlighted the broader infrastructure push under the Modi government, including highway expansion and railway electrification, which have contributed to improved connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Key projects include major stretches of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, expanded road networks and the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link. Once fully operational, the rail link is expected to provide all-weather connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country. The Chenab Rail Bridge was also highlighted as a flagship engineering project under the connectivity drive. | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar rules out UCC in J&K, asks Centre to debate it in Parl

Questions action against Rohingyas, says police op not under elected govt's control

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir government would not implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), asserting that any such legislation should be debated and passed in Parliament rather than introduced state by state.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said J&K would not adopt the UCC and challenged the Centre to bring the legislation before Parliament.

"We will not implement the UCC here," he said, adding that several other governments had also expressed reservations over its implementation.

Calling for a national debate on the issue, Omar said, "If you have the courage, bring the law to Parliament and debate it



there."

He alleged that the BJP was pursuing implementation of the UCC through states because it lacked the numbers to secure its passage in Parliament.

"Instead of a national debate, they are implementing it state by state, which is wrong," he said.

On the INDIA bloc's campaign against alleged voter-list deletions, Omar said the issue

would continue to be raised through programmes planned during the month.

He said the alliance had already organised a march to the Election Commission and would persist with its campaign.

"We have been raising this issue repeatedly. Now the media and the Supreme Court are also raising questions, particularly about | [More on P6](#)

Superannuation age of judges in J&K raised to 62

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 06: In a significant move, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved the enhancement of the superannuation age of judicial officers from 60 to 62 years, subject to assessment by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

According to an order issued by the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, the competent authority, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), has accorded sanction to the enhancement of the retirement age of judicial officers from 60 to 62 years, subject to the High Court's evaluation of the fitness, eligibility, suitability, performance, and continued utility of the officer concerned.

The decision follows the recommendation of the Full Court of the High Court made on August 10, 2026.

The Full Court, in its deliberations, resolved to recommend that the retirement age of judicial officers in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh be raised to 62 years, provided such officers are found fit and eligible for continued service beyond the age of 60.

According to the order, necessary amendments in the relevant rules shall be undertaken in consultation with the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

It is worth mentioning that the Supreme Court had earlier directed States and Union Territories to take a decision regarding | [More on P6](#)

No policy to shut PSUs in J&K: Dy CM

» Says govt exploring ways to revive loss-making units » Vows to plug bottlenecks in 28,400-cr industrial policy

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 06: Asserting that the government is exploring ways to revive Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Jammu and Kashmir, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday said there is no proposal to shut down any PSU in the Union Territory, making it clear that the Omar Abdullah-led government has no such policy.

Talking to reporters here Dy CM, Choudhary as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said PSUs are a part of J&K's heritage and their financial losses should be examined to determine the reasons behind the deficit and



fix accountability.

"Why should PSUs be shut down? We will have to find the causes. We will have to find the reasons. How did the PSU go into a deficit? The officers who

put it in a deficit should be held accountable. The leaders who put it in a deficit should be held accountable," he said.

He said the practice of shutting down | [More on P6](#)

Govt approves land for mobile towers in J&K's underserved areas

Initiative will extend reliable connectivity to remote, border communities: CM

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Government, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved provision of land for installation of mobile towers in underserved areas across Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at strengthening high-speed telecom connectivity in remote and border villages.

Under the initiative, land has been approved for installation of BSNL mobile towers in underserved areas of Uri, Tangmarg, Karnah, Kalakote, Kralpora, Basantgarh, Khour, Latti Marothi, Banihal, Pogal Paristan, Ramsod and Qila

Darhal under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the initiative would help extend reliable connectivity to remote and border communities and ensure that geographical location does not become a barrier to access to digital services and opportunities.

The infrastructure is being developed under the snow-bound exercise, while 16 districts in J&K had snow-bound areas, with Kishtwar fully covered under the category.

The initiative is expected to strengthen access to online education. | [More on P6](#)

J&K, Ladakh braces for 400 MWs power paucity

Minus 14% during solar peak hours, 11.7% during non-solar peak hours

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 06: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness a power deficiency of 14 percent during the solar peak hours in the month of October, Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) officials said.

The Committee further said that the regions may face power deficiency of nearly 12 percent during the non-solar hours.

According to the official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to face power paucity of 400 MWs against the available power position during the solar peak



hours in the month of October.

It also said that during the non-solar peak hours, the regions may face a power shortage

of 337 MWs.

Stating the revised anticipated power supply position for October-2026 | [More on P6](#)

Rain lashes J&K parts, light showers likely over few days

Higher reaches likely to receive light snowfall

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 06: Light rain lashed parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday as the Meteorological Centre in Srinagar forecast intermittent showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds at several places during the coming days.

The weather remained generally cloudy across the Union Territory, with light rain reported from some areas. Light snowfall is also likely over higher reaches during spells of precipitation, the weather office said.

According to the latest forecast, accessed by the

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), generally dry weather is expected on October 7, though brief spells of light rain may occur at a few places.

On October 8, generally cloudy weather with light rain and light snowfall over higher reaches is likely at scattered places, while another brief spell of light rain may occur towards the evening of October 9.

The weather is likely to become more unsettled on October 10, with light rain or snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds expected at many places, particularly during the morning and | [More on P6](#)

Census 2027: Snow-bound population enumeration completed in J&K, Ladakh

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Jammu, Oct 06: Census 2027 population enumeration in snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has been completed, covering 5,292 Enumeration Blocks (EBs), including 4,597 in J&K and 695 in Ladakh, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations J&K and Ladakh Amit Sharma said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said a five-day revision

round concluded on October 5, during which data was re-verified and updates, including births and deaths, were incorporated.

He said all of Ladakh was covered under the snow-bound exercise, while 16 districts in J&K had snow-bound areas, with Kishtwar fully covered under the category.

In Ladakh, enumeration was completed in 367 EBs in Leh and 328 in Kargil. In J&K, Doda recorded the highest number at 798 EBs, followed by Kishtwar (602), Ramban (418), Anantnag (377) and Baramulla (359). | [More on P6](#)

Fatty liver 'epidemic' may trigger rise in transplant demand: GMC expert

Every second person in Kashmir affected, says Dr Muhammad Salim Khan; urges lifestyle modification

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 06: With fatty liver disease becoming increasingly common, health experts have warned that the growing burden of the condition could translate into a significant rise in advanced liver disease and liver failure cases in the coming years, placing greater demand on liver transplantation services.

Professor Muhammad Salim Khan, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),

described the situation as an "epidemic of fatty liver" and stressed the urgent need for preventive measures, particularly among children and younger people.

"Almost every second person is now having fatty liver," Dr Khan said, cautioning that the increasing prevalence of the condition could contribute to a substantial rise in liver-related complications in the future.

He warned that if the current trend continues, the demand for liver donors and liver transplantation could increase considerably over the next five to ten years, potentially placing a major burden on transplant



services.

According to Dr Khan, a significant proportion of fatty

liver cases are linked to modifiable lifestyle and dietary factors, making prevention an

important component of tackling the emerging burden.

He urged people to reduce their intake of foods rich in sugars and unhealthy fats and avoid excessive consumption of junk and fast food, packaged and processed foods, soft drinks and other sweetened beverages.

"Protect yourself and your families, especially your children, from preventable liver failure by adopting a healthy lifestyle," he said.

According to the doctor, excessive calorie intake combined with inadequate physical activity is an important concern, particularly as | [More on P6](#)

Since Jan 2026

J&K adds 2.25 lakh ration beneficiaries, removes 56,664

1.36 lakh in Jammu Division; 88,421 in Kashmir

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Oct 06: The Jammu and Kashmir government has added 2,25,360 beneficiaries to ration cards across the Union Territory since January 1, 2026, while 56,664 beneficiaries were removed during the same period.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the district-wise figures placed before the Legislative Assembly show that the additions include beneficiaries under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Priority

Household (PHH) and Non-Priority Household (NPHH) categories.

The Jammu Division accounted for 1,36,939 additions, comprising 1,261 AAY, 90,770 PHH and 44,908 NPHH beneficiaries. During the same period, 34,950 beneficiaries were deleted from the division, including 8,611 AAY, 11,632 PHH and 14,707 NPHH beneficiaries.

In Jammu district, 6 AAY, 3,075 PHH and 13,029 NPHH beneficiaries were added, while 1,835 AAY and 2,947 PHH beneficiaries | [More on P6](#)

Director Agriculture Kashmir kickstarts Rabi Seedling Transplantation

Inspects various ongoing farm operations, takes stock of seed multiplication programme



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 06: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah Tuesday visited vegetable Seed Multiplication (SM) Farm Gangbug Srinagar and kick-started transplantation of seedlings for Rabi 2026-27.

The Director, as per an official statement, took stock of different agriculture activities at the farm besides reviewing functioning of the machinery and equipment

for packaging and processing of seeds

During the visit, the Director inspected various ongoing farm operations and took detailed stock of the seed multiplication programme. He interacted with the concerned officers and field staff and sought a comprehensive assessment of the progress achieved, crop management practices, field operations and developmental works being undertaken at the farm.

Sartaj Ahmad Shah stressed the importance of strengthening departmental seed production infrastructure for ensuring the availability of quality seed to farmers at the appropriate time. He directed the concerned officers to maintain strict adherence to prescribed technical standards and ensure timely execution of all farm operations for achieving optimum seed production.

The Director also emphasized the need for scientific and efficient management of departmental farms, judicious utilization of available resources and adoption of improved agricultural practices. He called upon the field functionaries to maintain close monitoring of farm activities and ensure that the available infrastructure and resources are utilized to their full potential. The Director was accompanied by Seed Production Officer Kashmir who apprised him of the various activities being undertaken at the farm and future course of action so that Ganbugh Seed Multiplication Farm is transformed into a model farm.

Director Sericulture takes stock of developmental needs in border villages

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 06: Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, who is also Visiting Officer for Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II), undertook an extensive two days field visit to the border villages of Shahdara and Ghallan in Sub-Division Uri, Baramulla, to assess the ground-level implementation of developmental interventions and interact directly with the local community.

During the visit, the Director, as per an official statement, undertook a detailed assessment of basic infrastructure, public amenities, connectivity, service delivery, livelihood opportunities and other development requirements of the border villages. The field visit provided an opportunity to assess the actual status of interventions on the ground and identify areas requiring greater inter-departmental convergence and administrative attention.

As part of the visit, Bhat visited Government High School, Shahdara, Government Boys Middle School, Jabda and Government Boys High School, Ghallan, where he reviewed the existing educational infrastructure, availability of basic amenities and developmental



requirements of the institutions. He interacted with the staff and took note of the issues and requirements relevant to the schools and the surrounding communities.

A major component of the field visit was the interaction with local residents, PRIs, community representatives and other stakeholders. The Director listened to the concerns, suggestions and development priorities raised by the people and sought first-hand feedback regarding the availability of Government services, infrastructure and connectivity, livelihood and employment opportunities and implementation of various interventions

under VVP-II.

Bhat assured the local residents that the issues raised during the interaction would be appropriately recorded and taken up with the concerned departments for necessary action. He stressed that the objective of VVP-II is not merely to implement schemes on paper but to ensure visible and tangible improvement in the quality of life of people living in border villages.

The Director subsequently reviewed the progress of various VVP-II interventions with representatives of the concerned line departments. He directed the officers to ensure effective inter-departmental

coordination, close field-level monitoring and time-bound execution of approved works and proposed interventions. He also emphasised the need to identify infrastructure and service delivery gaps and address bottlenecks without delay.

Bhat further directed the concerned departments to maintain updated records of field-level progress, ensure proper coverage of eligible beneficiaries under Government schemes and prepare clear, department-wise action points for addressing the issues identified during the field visit and community interactions.

The Director emphasised that sustained coordination among departments, responsive administration and regular engagement with local communities are essential for achieving the objectives of the Vibrant Villages Programme-II and accelerating socio-economic development in the border areas.

The field visit formed part of the ongoing monitoring, coordination and review mechanism under VVP-II, with focus on ensuring effective implementation of Government interventions and addressing the developmental priorities identified by the people at the grassroots level.

DIPR's Cultural Unit Kashmir holds Drug-Abuse Awareness Programme at GGHS Wakoora

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 06: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Tuesday organised an awareness programme on drug abuse at Government Girls High School (GGHS), Wakoora, Ganderbal.

The programme, as per an official statement, aimed to sensitise students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage them to adopt healthy, productive and responsible lifestyles. Students actively participated in speeches and other awareness activities based on the theme of the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Assistant Exhibition and Cultural



Officer (AECO), Cultural Unit Kashmir, Syed Shakeel Shan, emphasised the crucial role of parents in preventing children from falling prey to substance abuse. He urged parents to maintain regular communication with their children, keep a close and caring vigil over their activities and create a supportive environment where children can openly

discuss their concerns.

The Head of the Institution also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of sustained awareness among students regarding the dangers of drug abuse. He appreciated the efforts of DIPR in taking awareness programmes to educational institutions and thanked the Cultural Unit Kashmir for organising

the programme.

Noted folk singer Haseena Akhtar presented thematic songs highlighting the message of a drug-free society. Her performance added an engaging cultural dimension to the awareness campaign and received appreciation from the students and faculty.

At the conclusion of the programme, the participating students were felicitated with certificates and mementos in recognition of their active participation and contribution to the awareness initiative.

The programme reiterated the collective responsibility of families, educational institutions and society in building a Nasha Mukht J&K and safeguarding the future of the younger generation.

SMC makes home composting mandatory for all its Gazetted Officers

Move aimed at strengthening source-level waste management: Commissioner

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 06: In a significant step towards strengthening source-level waste management, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has made home composting mandatory for all its Gazetted Officers, wherever practicable.

The order, as per an official statement, has been issued by Faz Lul Haseeb, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, directing all Gazetted Officers to ensure that biodegradable and wet waste generated at their residences is segregated and



subjected to home composting through appropriate and scientifically suitable methods.

The initiative is aimed at reducing the quantity of wet waste requiring

transportation to municipal waste-processing facilities and promoting environmentally responsible waste-management practices among the Corporation's own officers.

Under the order, officers have been directed to submit geotagged photographs of the home-composting activity as evidence of compliance within 10 days. The concerned Zonal Officers and Sectional Heads will maintain records and submit a consolidated compliance report to the Corporation.

The order also provides for verification of compliance

before processing the salary of the concerned officer for the current month, subject to applicable service and financial rules.

The initiative forms part of SMC's broader efforts to promote source segregation, decentralised processing of biodegradable waste, reduction in waste transportation and sustainable waste management across Srinagar.

The move also seeks to encourage senior officers of the civic body to lead by example, demonstrating that responsible waste management must begin at the point where waste is generated.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA

E-mail, id, xenmhd-handwara@jk.gov.in

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender(short-term)

e-NIT No:	MHDH/TS/2026-27/e NIT/63
Date:	01/10/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on item wise basis from registered experienced contractors for the following work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees)	Time of Completion	AA	Technical Sanction
01.	Construction Of C.G.I Shed For Stationing Snow Clearance Machinery During Winter Seasons At Kanzalwan, Gurez	9.00	600.00	18000.00	30days	Accorded	Accorded

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 05/10/2026 (1000hrs)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 05/10/2026 (1200hrs) to 12/10/2026 (1400 hrs) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 12/10/2026 (1600 hrs) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.

4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

5. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical & Hospitals

Division

Handwara

DIPK-6448/26

DATED: 06-10-2026

No: - MHDH/TS/2207-14

Dated: -01/10/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PROGRAMME OFFICER

MISSION POSHAN, BANDIPORA

Mini Secretariat Bandipora dpoidsbandipora04@gmail.com Phone No: 0915729550

Subject: Publication of Tentative Seniority List of Matriculate Anganwadi Workers of District Bandipora.

NOTICE

Whereas, SRO 16 dated 28-01-2004, issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Social Welfare (Non Ga-zetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 1991 and amended time to time.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Social Welfare Department notified rules for the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Decentralization and Recruitment Act, 2010, through SRO 375 dated October 21, 2010, and amended time to time.

Whereas, the Tentative Seniority List of Matriculate Anganwadi Workers of District Bandipora has been framed by the Office of the District Programme Officer, ICDS Bandipora on the basis of date of engagement of Anganwadi Workers, which is attached at Annexure-A to this notice.

Whereas, when two or more Anganwadi Workers are appointed on the same date, their inter-se-seniority shall be determined on the basis of their age, the older in age shall be senior.

Whereas, any Anganwadi Worker who has appeared as a regular candidate in any examination during service without prior permission of the Competent Authority and has drawn honorarium for the said period, her case shall be referred to the Competent Authority for further necessary action on receipt of objection/complaint/report from the concerned CDPO or otherwise.

Whereas, in case any Anganwadi Worker has been transferred or deployed from another district to District Bandipora or vice versa, her seniority shall be fixed at her parental place of engagement. If any such case exists or any name has been left out in the attached seniority list, the concerned may proceed accordingly.

Whereas, the Child Development Project Officers shall submit the documents and other related issues as per communication of this office vide letter No. DPO/POSHAN/Bpr/2025-26/132-37 dated 21-04-2025(copy enclosed) after verifying all the relevant issues related to seniority and in case any adverse entry/discrepancy is found at a later stage, the concerned CDPO shall be held responsible for the same.

Whereas, the Tentative Seniority List shall however be subject to outcome of the writ petition(s), if any, pending before the court of law. The date of birth / service bio-data / qualification as mentioned in the seniority list is always provisional and shall be subject to further verification by the DDO concerned.

Whereas, the tentative seniority list of Matriculate Anganwadi workers in District Bandipora can be accessed online through the department's website at www.jkicds.com and <https://bandipora.nic.in>. Hard copies are also available at the District Programme Office, ICDS Bandipora and Child Development Project Offices in District Bandipora. The list has also been circulated among zones through the Supervisors for dissemination of information at Anganwadi level for submission of objections (if any).

Therefore, in light of the aforementioned, Anganwadi Worker(s) not satisfied with her service bio-data / seniority position or having any objection(s) grievance(s) shall submit their concerns to the District Programme Office, ICDS Bandipora or the concerned Child Development Project Officers within ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice, under proper receipt with documentary evidence(s). Any representation / objection received beyond the prescribed time shall not be entertained and final seniority list shall be issued accordingly.

No: - DPO/POSHAN/BPR/2026/ 1636-1667

Dated: 06-10-2026

DIPK-6477/26

DATED: 06-10-2026

District Programme Officer

Mission Poshan Bandipora

CM Omar reviews Kashmir Marathon preparations

Calls for a stronger national, international outreach to attract runners



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reviewed the preparations for the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon and called for a stronger national and international outreach to attract runners from across India and abroad and establish the event as a major global sporting attraction.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the October 25 marathon, the Chief Minister directed the Tourism Department and other concerned agencies to intensify publicity for the event, including through leading running and fitness influencers.

He called for inviting prominent runners and fitness influencers to

Kashmir ahead of the event to generate greater interest and build wider visibility around the marathon.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need to leverage the event's substantial prize purse to attract competitive runners from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The Kashmir Marathon 2026 carries a total prize purse of 3.17 crore, including 2.11 crore for the Full Marathon and 1.06 crore for the Half Marathon. A dedicated J&K Local Category, with an additional prize component of 25 lakh, has also been introduced to encourage and recognise local talent.

To expand participation beyond competitive runners, the Chief Minister called for introducing an untimed 5K Fun Run, providing an opportunity for families, young people and

amateur runners to participate in the event.

He also proposed a virtual participation of runners in Kashmir Marathon's next edition to enable runners from different parts of the country and the world to participate remotely and become part of the Kashmir Marathon experience.

Reviewing the race arrangements, Omar Abdullah directed the concerned agencies to ensure international-standard route management and clear distance marking along the Full and Half Marathon courses. He called for kilometre-wise markers throughout the routes and 100-metre markers during the final kilometre to assist runners and ensure a professionally managed race experience.

The third edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled for October 25,

has already attracted more than 1,400 registrations from Jammu and Kashmir, different parts of the country and international destinations. The event is recognised on the international calendar of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS).

A three-day Marathon Expo will precede the race from October 22 to 24 at the Sports Council Ground, Poloview. Besides bib distribution and fitness-related activities, the expo will provide a platform to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's handicrafts, handlooms, horticulture and cultural heritage.

The Chief Minister directed all concerned departments and agencies to work in close coordination to ensure seamless arrangements for traffic management, route safety, medical support, public conveniences, power, water supply and other logistical requirements.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary PDD Ashwini Kumar, ACS to CM Dheeraj Gupta, ACS PWD Anil Kumar Singh, ACS Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, IGP Kashmir, Director Information, Commissioner SMC, Managing Director and CEO J&K Bank, Director Tourism Kashmir and other senior officers.

Online registration for the Kashmir Marathon 2026 is open and the participants can register through the official marathon portal.

Ladakh Police performs duty in most challenging conditions: LG Saxena



Raja Syed Rather

Leh, Oct 06: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday said that policing in Ladakh involves unique challenges arising from its vast geographical spread, high-altitude locations, difficult terrain, extreme weather conditions and dispersed settlements.

"Ladakh Police performs its duty in some of the most challenging conditions in the country, and the courage, discipline and dedication of its personnel deserve our highest appreciation," the Lieutenant Governor said at the valedictory function and passing-out parade of Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables, Followers and Special Police Officers (SPOs) at the Police Training School, Stongsar.

Today's induction of 114 newly recruited SPOs, along with the promotion and professional advancement of 99 serving personnel, will further

strengthen the Police force across Ladakh, the LG added.

The newly recruited SPOs will be deployed in the newly created districts of Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Drass and Zaskar, augmenting police manpower and strengthening presence closer to communities in remote and difficult-to-access areas.

The passing-out parade also marked the successful completion of pre-promotional courses by 99 police personnel—8 Sub-Inspectors undergoing courses for promotion to Inspectors, 9 Assistant Sub-Inspectors for promotion to Sub-Inspectors, 77 Head Constables for promotion to Assistant Sub-Inspectors, and 5 Police Followers for induction as Constables.

The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated 24 two-BHK police family quarters

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Drone-dropping module busted in Jammu

Yogesh

Jammu, Oct 06: Jammu and Kashmir Police have busted a suspected Pakistan-backed drone-dropping module in the Arnia sector and arrested four persons in connection with the recovery of narcotics, a pistol and ammunition, officials said on Tuesday.

Officials said the breakthrough came after police intercepted two men travelling on a motorcycle during a naka at Tamala Bridge in Arnia on October 3.

Police recovered a silver-coloured Beretta-type pistol, two magazines and four live rounds from Rahul Kumar of Trewa. They also seized 264 grams of a heroin-like substance along with packing material from his possession, they said.

Another accused, Ajay Kumar alias Rabb of Talhar, Arnia, was found carrying 276 grams of a heroin-like substance, including packing material.

Following the recovery, police registered FIR No. 64/2026 under Sections 8,

21, 22 and 29 of the NDPS Act and Sections 3/25 of the Arms Act at Police Station Arnia and launched an investigation.

During sustained questioning, police arrested another accused, Ajay Kumar alias Sam, and recovered 464 grams of opium resin and 13.3 grams of heroin from his possession. Further investigation led to the arrest of Jaganpreet Randhawa alias Jaggi from Punjab, who is suspected to be a forward link in the network.

According to officials, the investigation revealed that the accused had received two consignments through drone drops and were in contact with Pakistan-based handlers.

Police said the recovered narcotics, arms and ammunition are being examined as part of the probe, while efforts are underway to trace the source of the consignments and identify others linked to the network.

Further investigation is in progress to establish

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

CS assesses revised Climate Action Plan

Calls for time-bound departmental action up to 2030

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 06: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired a meeting to assess the revised Jammu & Kashmir State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC 2.0), calling for further refinement of the plan by incorporating clearly defined, department-wise actions, outcomes and timelines up to 2030.

The meeting was attended by several Administrative Heads including ACS, PDD; ACS, Tourism; ACS, PWD; Principal Secretary, DMR-R&R; Commissioner Secretary, H&ME; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Secretary, Transport; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; Representatives from MoEFCC and senior officers of the concerned departments.

The revised SAPCC, prepared by the Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, seeks to provide a comprehensive framework for strengthening climate resilience in J&K while aligning the Union Territory's climate response with India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Paris Agreement



and the emerging climate risks specific to the region.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised that a climate action plan should translate into clear, actionable and time-bound interventions. He directed the department to incorporate the actions to be undertaken by each concerned department, along with their expected outcomes and milestones, over the period up to 2030.

He observed that every plan should have clearly defined goals and a well-laid-out strategy to achieve them within a specific timeframe. He called for prioritising interventions keeping in view the strengths, constraints, vulnerabilities and available capacities of the UT so that the proposed

measures can be implemented effectively on the ground.

The Chief Secretary also stressed greater inter-departmental convergence and dovetailing of climate interventions with ongoing schemes and programmes to optimise resources and avoid duplication of efforts. He called for assigning clear responsibilities and measurable indicators to departments for effective monitoring of progress.

In her presentation, the Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda highlighted climate projections based on IPCC pathways, including SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5. She revealed that under the moderate-emission scenario, temperatures are

projected to rise by around 1.5°C during 2021–2050, with implications for water resources, agriculture, health and ecosystems.

It was also projected that the annual precipitation is projected to increase by around 5 per cent under the moderate-emission scenario and up to 15 per cent under the high-emission scenario, with the assessment pointing towards shorter cold seasons and greater variability and intensity of rainfall events.

The Commissioner Secretary further detailed out that the climate vulnerability assessment has evaluated 42 indicators across agriculture, water, health and

Continued on
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Pantha Chowk sheds designated as temp holding center for illegal migrants

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 06: The Home Department of Jammu & Kashmir has declared temporary sheds on the outskirts of Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar as a temporary holding center for illegal immigrants.

In a notification issued by the department, the Union Territory administration has notified 12 sheds at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar as a temporary holding center/camp for restricting the movement and providing temporary accommodation of illegal migrants.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under clause (e) of sub-section (2) of Section 7 and Section 13 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, read with Notification S.O. 3998(E) dated 01.09.2025 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, hereby notifies the 12 sheds situated at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar, as detailed in the annexure to this notification, to function as a temporary holding centre/camp for restricting the movement and providing temporary accommodation of illegal migrants, as defined under Section 2(b) of the Citizenship Act, 1955," the notification reads.

The notification was issued on September 30, 2026. On Monday, the government shifted 150 Bangladeshis staying illegally in Jammu & Kashmir to their native country.

According to the notification, the illegal migrants detected by the law enforcement agencies will be lodged in the said holding Centre and it shall be ensured that these persons are physically available, at all times, for their expeditious deportation

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FDA launches street vendor enforcement drive

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 06: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K conducted enforcement, inspection and awareness activities among street food vendors across all districts with the objective of strengthening compliance with food safety standards and ensuring the availability of safe, hygienic and wholesome food to consumers.

As part of the UT-wide drive, 395 street food vendors were inspected across all the districts. The inspections focused on personal hygiene of food handlers, cleanliness and sanitary conditions of vending premises, safe handling and storage of food, use of food-grade utensils, packaging materials and proper management of cooking oil.

During the enforcement drive, 38 cases were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and



Standards Act, 2006, resulting in a cumulative fine of 50,500.

In addition, 68 cases were recommended for appropriate statutory action before the concerned Adjudicating

Authorities (Additional Deputy Commissioners) of the concerned districts, based on the nature and gravity of the violations detected, under the relevant provisions of the Act, including 39 cases under

Section 56, which provides for a penalty of up to 1,00,000 for unhygienic or insanitary processing or manufacturing of food and 29 cases under Section 58, which provides for a penalty of up to 2,00,000 for contraventions for using non-food grade utensils/packaging materials.

Approximately 130 kg of
Continued on
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Army Commander reviews operational preparedness in Rajouri, Kalakot

KNO

Rajouri, Oct 06: Army Commander Northern Command Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Tuesday visited the Kalakot and Rajouri sectors to review operational preparedness and the security situation, with troops briefing him on vigilance, training and measures to maintain security along the LoC and hinterland.

In a post on social media platform X, the Army said Lt Gen Pratik Sharma visited the Kalakot and Rajouri sectors to review operational preparedness and the security scenario.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, visited #Kalakot and #Rajouri sectors to review operational preparedness and the security scenario. He was briefed on key operational aspects, including vigilance, training, synergy and innovative practices adopted to maintain a dominant posture for robust security along LoC and Hinterland," the Army said.

It added that, while interacting with the troops, the Army Commander commended their professionalism and devotion to duty. He emphasised the need to stay resolute and ready to counter any misadventure by the adversary—(KNO)



EDITORIAL

Smart Farming Must Be Inclusive

When we picture a farmer, the image that usually comes to mind is a man. But the reality of Indian agriculture tells a very different story. Women constitute nearly 64 to 76 per cent of the rural female workforce engaged in farming and allied activities. They sow, they harvest, they tend to cattle, and they manage households. Yet, far too often, their labour goes unpaid, their names do not

appear on land records, and their voices are absent from the rooms where agricultural policy is made. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's call to support women-led start-ups in agricultural technology is therefore not just a policy suggestion; it is a correction of a long-standing imbalance. When he says that women-led agri-tech start-ups should receive financing with the same confidence as any other enterprise, he is

stating a principle that should have been obvious all along. Talent and ambition are not gendered. Opportunity, unfortunately, has been. The emphasis on creating laboratories, fellowships and incubation platforms where a young woman engineer from Kishtwar or Kupwara can see her idea become a market-ready product is particularly welcome. It moves the conversation from tokenism to genuine institutional support. It says

to young women in rural Kashmir: your ideas matter, and we will build the pathways for them to succeed. Equally important is the caution that artificial intelligence and robotics must not remain confined to large land-holding farmers. With small and marginal farmers constituting nearly 86 per cent of India's farming community, technology that does not reach them is technology that has failed. Tools must work on ordinary

smartphones in low-bandwidth villages. Robotic instruments must be capable of being leased or collectively owned through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). The success of agricultural innovation, as the Lieutenant Governor rightly said, must not be measured by patents or papers but by whether a small farmer is genuinely better off. That is the test that matters. That is the standard we should hold ourselves to.

PM-SETU: One Year Of Transforming India's ITIs

Press Information Bureau

PM-SETU focuses on upgrading Government 1000 ITIs through a Hub-and-Spoke model and industry-aligned training. The scheme also provides for capacity augmentation of five NSTIs through National Centres of Excellence. Industry participation is incorporated through Strategic Investment Plans, Special Purpose Vehicles and Anchor Industry Partners. The scheme introduces new-age courses covering emerging technologies and occupations. International partnerships support advanced skilling at selected NSTIs. The initiative has also expanded implementation across States and Union Territories through State Steering Committees and industry participation. Its one-year progress includes the identification of 850 ITIs and approval of 14 ITI clusters. Planned skill labs further extend vocational exposure to students.

Transforming ITIs for a Skilled Workforce

India's Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) form an important part of the country's vocational training ecosystem, providing youth with practical skills for employment and industry. As workforce requirements evolve, strengthening the quality, relevance and industry orientation of vocational training has become increasingly important. Against this backdrop, PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) was launched on 4 October 2025. The scheme enhances the overall quality and relevance of vocational training by transforming Government ITIs into modern, industry-aligned training institutions. The initiative seeks to strengthen industry-led governance, upgrade training infrastructure and promote demand-driven courses in line with evolving workforce requirements. The scheme has a total outlay of 60,000 crore, comprising 30,000 crore from the Centre, 20,000 crore from States and 10,000 crore from industry. The scheme completes one year on 4 October 2026.

ITIs: Building the Foundation for a Skilled Workforce

ITIs provide vocational training to equip youth with practical skills for employment and industry. Under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS), training is offered through Government and Private Industrial Training Institutes in engineering and

non-engineering trades. Course duration varies from six months to two years, depending on the trade. The Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is the apex organisation responsible for the development and coordination of vocational training at the national level. The functions include framing policies, norms and standards, curriculum development, affiliation, instructor training and trade testing. ITIs are under the administrative and financial control of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

The total number of ITIs, including Government and Private, in the country has increased from 9,776 in 2014 to 13,888 in 2026, indicating an increase of 42%. Further, enrolment in ITIs across the country has increased from 9.51 lakh in the academic session 2014-15 to 14.70 lakh in the academic session 2025-26, indicating an increase of 54%.

This expanding network provides a broad institutional base for strengthening vocational training and aligning it with evolving skill requirements across sectors.

How PM-SETU is Transforming ITIs

PM-SETU brings together infrastructure modernisation, industry participation, and new-age training to strengthen vocational education quality. The transformation is anchored in two distinct components, with the first focused on Government ITIs and the second on NSTIs.

Component I covers 1,000 Government ITIs, comprising 200 Hub ITIs and 800 Spoke ITIs. These institutions are being upgraded through a Hub-and-Spoke model with modern infrastructure and industry-aligned training. Each Hub is connected with four Spokes on average, enabling shared access to advanced infrastructure, modern trades, digital learning systems and incubation facilities.

Hubs provide facilities such as innovation centres, training-of-trainers infrastructure, production units and placement services. Spokes expand access to training and connect learners with the resources available within their respective clusters.

This model is helping in upgradation of ITIs with smart classrooms, modern laboratories, digital content and industry-aligned courses.

Component II focuses on the capacity augmentation of 5 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) located in Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Ludhiana. It includes setting-up sector-specific

National Centres of Excellence and advanced training of trainers through global partnerships.

Implementing PM-SETU: State, Industry and Central Coordination

The respective States and Union Territories lead the selection of ITIs under PM-SETU in consultation with industry. They submit proposals for ITI upgradation in collaboration with industry partners. This process considers emerging skill requirements and the industrial potential of the respective regions.

At the national level, the MSDE has constituted a National Steering Committee (NSC), chaired by the Secretary, MSDE, to provide overall direction for the scheme. The NSC facilitates broad policy direction, finalises operational guidelines, monitors implementation and undertakes course correction where required.

Industry participation is also built into the selection process, with prospective partners required to submit a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).

Industry-Led Governance through SPVs

PM-SETU provides for industry-led governance through SPVs for upgraded ITI clusters. The proposed structure provides 51% ownership to the Anchor Industry Partner, while the Centre and State Governments hold 24.5% each.

The SPVs lead cluster development and operations while proposing interventions suited to local industry requirements. These interventions may cover curriculum, training delivery, infrastructure and industry exposure.

PM-SETU at One Year: From Planning to Implementation

Within the first year of PM-SETU, implementation has progressed from institutional preparation and ITI identification to the approval of ITI clusters and SIPs. A total of 850 ITIs have been identified, comprising 172 Hub ITIs and 678 Spoke ITIs. 36 States and Union Territories have identified clusters and created dedicated State budget heads. Meanwhile, 35 States and Union Territories have constituted their State Steering Committees to guide and oversee implementation. 26 States and Union Territories have also initiated the process of inviting industry participation.

The NSC has also approved the transition of PM-SETU from its pilot phase to a nationwide rollout across all 200 identified ITI clusters. The rollout enables States and Union Territories to take up implementation based on industry readiness and implementation capacity.

Approval has been given to SIPs for 14 ITI clusters under PM-SETU with an investment of 3446 crore.

14 SIPs Across 8 States and 1 UT Approved by National Steering Committee

The National Steering Committee has approved 14 Strategic Investment Plans across 8 States and 1 Union Territory. In Andhra Pradesh, the Kancharapalem cluster has been approved with Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India as the Anchor Industry Partner in the Steel and Metals sector, with a value of 200 crore. In Odisha, the Keonjhar-Barbil cluster has been approved with Jindal Naveen Avasar Ltd as the Anchor Industry Partner in Diversified Manufacturing, valued at 240 crore. In Gujarat, the Surat cluster has been approved with Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India as the Anchor Industry Partner in Steel and Metals, valued at 240 crore.

In Telangana, three clusters have been approved. The Old City cluster has Apollo MedSkills Ltd as the Anchor Industry Partner in Healthcare and Life Sciences, valued at 241 crore. The Sangareddy cluster has Neuland Foundation as the Anchor Industry Partner in Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals, valued at 241 crore. The Patancheru cluster has Sri Siddharth Infratech and Services as the Anchor Industry Partner in Diversified Manufacturing, valued at 275 crore. Also in Telangana, the Medchal cluster has ZEN Technologies Ltd as the Anchor Industry Partner in Defence and Electronics, valued at 254 crore.

In Rajasthan, the Bhiwadi cluster has H.G. Infra Engineering Ltd as the Anchor Industry Partner in Infrastructure and Construction, valued at 241 crore. In Uttar Pradesh, the Meerut cluster has the National Skill Development Corporation as the Anchor Industry Partner in Skill Development, valued at 240 crore. In Haryana, the Kurukshetra cluster has Jindal Naveen Avasar Ltd as the Anchor Industry Partner in Diversified Manufacturing, valued at 320 crore.

In Maharashtra, two clusters have been approved. The Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar cluster has Belrise Industries as the Anchor Industry Partner in the Automotive Industry, valued at 238 crore. The Pune cluster has BVG Group as the Anchor Industry Partner

in Integrated Facility Management, valued at 241 crore. In Jammu and Kashmir, two clusters have been approved. The Srinagar cluster has Inderdeep Infra India Limited as the Anchor Industry Partner in Infrastructure and Construction, valued at 235 crore. The Jammu cluster has Eagle Infra India Limited as the Anchor Industry Partner in Infrastructure and Construction, valued at 240 crore. The total value of all 14 approved SIPs is 3,446 crore.

EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF SKILLING

New-Age Courses for Emerging Workforce Requirements

To complement infrastructure and institutional reforms, PM-SETU also focuses on making vocational training responsive to emerging technologies and occupations. The Directorate General of Training (DGT) has introduced 32 new-age courses under the Craftsmen Training Scheme, covering areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Additive Manufacturing, Electric Vehicles, Semiconductor Technology, Robotics, Green Hydrogen, Drones, IoT, Solar Energy, 5G and Software Testing. States can adopt these courses in their ITIs, which are under their administrative and financial control.

International Partnerships for Advanced Skilling

The PM-SETU framework also provides for international partnerships to strengthen the capacity of National Centres of Excellence for Skilling and align training with global standards. An MoU has been signed with Singapore for NSTI Chennai, France for NSTI Kanpur, Australia for NSTI Bhubaneswar and a Joint Declaration of Intent has been exchanged with Germany for NSTI Hyderabad.

Strengthening the Pathway from Skills to Employment

PM-SETU is strengthening India's vocational training ecosystem through modern infrastructure, industry participation and demand-driven training. Its implementation is bringing Government ITIs and NSTIs closer to evolving workforce requirements. The initiative is also expanding access to new-age skills, international expertise and early vocational exposure. Together, these measures are supporting a more connected and industry-responsive skilling pathway for India's youth.

Making Sure Kids Know Their Value

It's easy to criticize, but much harder to help kids build up their self-image

David Schwartz

It should be no surprise to anyone that criticism can tear a child down. Parents may not always realize how important their words are in shaping a child's sense of self. If parents expect their child to do things a certain way, yet do not praise them when they do, a child can feel unseen and unappreciated. Then, when parents criticize the same child when they fall short, the child may feel they only get parental attention because they've done something wrong. This, in turn, makes it more likely the child will feel bad about themselves. By mostly receiving negative attention, they may internalize that they aren't good enough. This may then result in damaging their self-esteem and lead to a poor self-image. By feeling badly about who they are, they can then go down a rabbit hole of emotions, which can put them in a very bad emotional place.

The Dangers of a Poor Self-Image

Adolescents who feel "less than"



are put at risk in a variety of ways. Their grades may suffer; they may shy away from making friends; and they may even follow kids into dangerous situations just to feel like they're fitting in. In extreme cases, this can lead to self-harm and substance abuse.

The bottom line is that children

who grow up with self-esteem issues can be at risk. While all adolescents struggle with insecurities at times, when a child is constantly criticized, it can lead to a sense of hopelessness that can impact their lives in a variety of ways. For example, kids who grow up thinking

they're not good enough often feel they're not capable of getting the things they want out of life. As a result, they may give up or not strive for things that matter to them.

When it comes to relationships, people who grow up with low self-images may think they're not worthy

of being loved. As a result, they may stay in dysfunctional relationships because they don't think they deserve better. On the other hand, kids who grow up knowing their value tend to become adults who create boundaries about what works for them, including how they want to live and what careers they choose.

That's why it's so important for parents to let their kids know they're proud of them. When adolescents know their value, they generally make better decisions. If they feel confident and that they are respected, they can expect more from themselves. After all, if a person feels good about who they are, they're less likely to tolerate people in their lives who don't treat them well. Why would they accept being treated badly if they know they deserve better?

Negative Comments Can Impact a Child for Years

To help children develop a more positive self-image, it's important for parents to be aware of what they're saying to their children.

Careless comments may be forgotten by a parent in minutes but may stick with a child for years. If a parent comments on their child being fat or tells them they're dumb because of making a mistake, it can have a lasting negative impact.

What we can all do is be conscious of the way we relate to children. We don't have to constantly praise them; however, it would be nice for them to hear a kind word when they do something well or accomplish a goal.

Being aware of the power of our words can make a big difference in our children's lives. It's important to their emotional development that they feel competent and capable. Sometimes the difference between having a successful life and one of struggle can be as simple as children knowing their value and that they are capable of striving for the things that are important to them.

David Schwartz, LMFT, is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who works with adolescents, adults, couples, and families in Westlake Village, California. Courtesy: Psychology Today

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

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Govt committed to modernisation, optimum utilisation of existing industrial assets: Deputy CM

Lays foundation stone for Café House, Guest House at govt Silk Factory Rajbagh

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 06: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday laid the foundation stone for construction of Café House and renovation of existing Guesthouse at Government Silk Weaving Factory Rajbagh, a unit of Jammu and Kashmir Industries Limited.

MLA, Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed Pardesi, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department Vikramjit Singh besides others were present on the occasion.

The project is being executed by the J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (JK SICOP) and aims to enhance the overall ambience of the premises while creating additional facilities for the visitors and stakeholders. The initiative is also expected to generate additional revenue for Jammu & Kashmir Industries Limited (JKI), thereby contributing towards its financial sustainability and institutional revival.

During the event, the Deputy



Chief Minister visited the JKI showroom within the premises of Government Silk Factory, which showcased a wide range of products made from renowned mulberry silk and local wool which is integral to the region's cultural and textile heritage. While appreciating the quality, design and originality of the products, the Deputy Chief Minister

commended JKI for its efforts in preserving traditional skills, especially those related to the world-famous Kashmiri mulberry silk.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the project reflects the Government's commitment to modernisation and optimum utilisation of existing industrial assets, strengthening the

institutional infrastructure of public sector undertakings and exploring avenues for revenue generation through productive use of available resources. He emphasised the JKI officials to work with dedication and enhance the production and subsequent sales for overall development of the organization. He asked them to continue their

efforts in promoting local crafts, which are vital for the region's economic growth and employment generation.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Lal Chowk highlighted the importance of preserving and upgrading the infrastructure of the Government Silk Weaving Factory, Rajbagh, given its significance in promotion of the region's traditional silk industry and preservation of Jammu and Kashmir's rich textile heritage.

Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce highlighted that the employees of any organization plays a vital role in shaping its future. He stressed upon the JKI employees to work with integrity and sense of responsibility which will directly contribute to the progress of our industries and the prosperity of our society.

Managing Director JKI, Managing Director JKSIOP, Director Finance, I&C Department, Director Planning, I&C department and other senior officers of the Department were also present on the occasion.

NACM delegation meets Speaker JKLA, seeks intervention for implementation of FRA-2006



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 06: A delegation of the National Alliance on Community Forest Resources & Minor Forest Produce (NACM), along with members of the Jammu & Kashmir Climate Action Group, Tuesday called on Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, and submitted a memorandum seeking his intervention for effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA-2006) in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The delegation comprising representatives from Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, apprised the Speaker of various issues and concerns pertaining to the implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the UT.

The members of the

delegation urged the Speaker to intervene in the matter and facilitate necessary measures for the effective implementation of FRA-2006, stating that the legislation has contributed to transforming rural livelihoods in States where it has been implemented.

The delegation also apprised the Speaker of the issues being faced by communities dependent on forest resources and sought his support in taking up the matter with the concerned authorities for appropriate consideration and resolution.

The Speaker assured the members that he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities and seek appropriate intervention for addressing the issues raised by them. He assured the delegation that their concerns would be conveyed to the concerned quarters for due consideration in accordance with the applicable provisions and framework.

Fix monthly targets for timber marking to auction: Rana

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 06: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment Javed Ahmed Rana Tuesday directed the Forest Development Corporation (FDC) Limited and concerned agencies to put in place clear and time-bound monthly targets for timber marking, extraction, transportation and auction.

He issued these instructions while chairing a meeting at Civil Secretariat here held to discuss the issues related to Forest Development Corporation Limited.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda and Managing Director, Forest Development Corporation Limited, Dr K Anandh while Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Sarvesh Rai participated online.

Javed Rana emphasised the need to streamline the entire supply chain and ensure timely availability of quality timber to the common people at reasonable rates while calling for completion of the current year's extraction before the onset of snowfall.

"We have to find a way to meet our targets and complete the extraction of the available timber for this year before the onset of snowfall. There should be no avoidable delay at any stage, from marking and extraction to transportation and auction," the Minister said.

He stressed the need for fixing monthly measurable targets for all stages of timber operations and directed the officers to closely monitor their achievement. He also called for



expediting the tendering process and removing procedural bottlenecks that may affect timely extraction and supply.

"The tendering process has to be streamlined and monthly targets must be fixed and monitored. There should be no slump in timber marking, as any delay at this stage ultimately affects extraction, transportation and availability of timber in the market," Rana said.

The Minister further directed the concerned authorities to ensure proper grading and quality assessment of timber so that consumers receive good-quality timber at reasonable and transparent rates.

"Our objective should be to make good-quality timber available to the people at reasonable rates. Proper grading, transparent auctioning and an efficient supply mechanism are essential to ensure that the benefit reaches the common man," he said.

Rana called for a comprehensive review of functioning of the concerned Forest Corporation, including its monthly performance, sales, revenue generation and measures undertaken to improve the operational efficiency. He directed the officers to prepare a detailed vision document for the next two to three years, clearly outlining the targets for timber sales,

revenue enhancement, operational reforms and improved public service delivery.

"We need to assess where the Corporation stands Tuesday, what steps have been taken to improve its functioning and what more needs to be done. A comprehensive MPR and a clear vision document with targets for the next two to three years should be prepared so that progress can be reviewed regularly and corrective measures taken wherever required," the Minister said.

He also directed the officers to formulate a focused policy aimed at increasing the timber sales, strengthening market linkages and improving the overall efficiency of the timber supply chain while ensuring that forest resources are managed sustainably and the legitimate requirements of the people are adequately met.

Rana also took a detailed status of auction depots and Central Timber Sale Depots (CTSDs) across Jammu and Kashmir and called for ensuring their proper and efficient functioning. He directed the concerned officers to address the operational bottlenecks and strengthen service delivery so that the public gets timely access to timber and does not face avoidable difficulties or have any cause for complaint.

AMRUT 2.0

Stakeholder meeting held for preparation of GIS-Based Master Plan for Kulgam town

KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 06: A stakeholder meeting for preparation of the GIS-based Master Plan for Kulgam Town under AMRUT 2.0 was held Tuesday at Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam, in presence of MLA Kulgam and Devsar, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Special Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, MD AMRUT 2.0, Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir and Chief Town Planner Kashmir.

The meeting deliberated upon a comprehensive framework for planned, sustainable and future-oriented development of Kulgam town, with the proposed vision and development framework up to 2047 forming a key focus of discussion.

During the meeting, the stakeholders discussed positioning Kulgam as a regional agro-logistics and district service hub while ensuring sustainable urban growth, improved connectivity, economic development and better quality of life.

Various proposed components of the Master Plan were deliberated upon including strengthening of agro-logistics and mandi infrastructure, development of a multispecialty hospital, educational infrastructure, decentralised parks and recreational spaces, augmentation of the water supply network, improved parking and traffic management, bypass-oriented development and mixed-use development along identified corridors.

Local stakeholders from Kulgam, including market associations, traders, town residents, local communities of town, citizens, ex-PRIs and activists, social society members and other concerned development and service oriented departments put forward their suggestions for the finalisation of Master Plan.

They suggested that the Master Plan should be framed with a long-term perspective and should not create avoidable liabilities, unplanned development or infrastructure-related burdens for future generations. They stressed that development should remain balanced with environmental protection, adequate infrastructure, traffic management and preservation of the town's natural resources so that the benefits of planned development are sustained for generations to come.

Particular emphasis was laid on river-sensitive development along the Vishaw River, including development of riverfront public spaces and measures for strengthening flood resilience. The need to protect water bodies and environmentally sensitive areas from unsuitable and hazardous activities was also discussed. It was emphasised that dumping and other

potentially polluting activities should not be permitted in the vicinity of water bodies.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur stressed the need for ensuring that future construction is safe, planned and compatible with surrounding land use. She emphasised that the Master Plan should clearly identify the permissible activities and type of construction in the core area and other designated zones, while preventing hazardous or incompatible structures and activities in sensitive locations.

The meeting also discussed formulation of appropriate local development by-laws to regulate construction and land use in accordance with the requirements of the town. The proposed shift towards flexible, demand-driven and mixed-use planning, with compatible uses permitted subject to a defined negative list, was also highlighted as part of the BRAP-compliant planning approach.

A properly conceived Master Plan, it was noted, would help determine in advance what needs to be developed, where development should take place and how infrastructure, mobility, public amenities and environmental assets can be protected as the town expands.

MLA Kulgam, Mohd Yousuf Tarigami and MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahamad emphasised that the Master Plan should genuinely reflect the aspirations, requirements and long-term interests of the people. They called for active involvement of citizens and local stakeholders in the planning process and stressed that their suggestions should be duly incorporated to make the document practical, responsive and implementable.

The meeting was attended also by SSP Kulgam, ADDC, ADC, SEs of PWD, Hydraulic and O&M Circles, ACR, ACD, CMO, CAO, DFO, CEO, AEO Municipal Council Kulgam, ARTO, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B), PHE, KPDCI, Irrigation and Flood Control Divisions, District Officer PCB, besides representatives of Traders Association, Auqaf Committee, Transport Association, Fruit Growers Association and other prominent citizens/public representatives and others.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, visited the dumping site at Lirow and the Animal Birth Control Centre at Kulgam to take stock of the existing facilities and arrangements.

During the visits, Mandeep Kaur reviewed the sanitation, waste management and related urban service infrastructure. She emphasised the need for proper management of waste and strengthening of civic amenities in line with the objectives of planned and sustainable urban development.

Rana e-inaugurates 10 water supply schemes in Lolab Constituency

Schemes worth Rs 35.64 cr to benefit over 5,600 households

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 6: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday e-inaugurated 10 Water Supply Schemes in Lolab Constituency, completed at a total cost of 35.64 crore benefiting 5,662 households across various villages.

The schemes, executed by the Jal Shakti PHE Division Kupwara, are aimed at strengthening the drinking water infrastructure and ensuring improved access to safe, reliable and sustainable water supply for people in the constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Rana said that the Omar Abdullah-led Government is committed to the welfare and well-being of the people, with a focused approach towards strengthening the basic infrastructure and improving delivery of essential public services.

"The Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to improve the quality of life of people by ensuring that the benefits of development reach every household. Our focus is on strengthening the essential infrastructure and delivering reliable public services at the grassroots," the Minister said.

He said that access to safe and reliable drinking water is fundamental to the well-being and dignity of every household. He added that the government has accorded priority to the expansion, augmentation and timely completion of water supply schemes across Jammu and Kashmir.

Rana said the e-inauguration of the 10 schemes in Lolab marks an important step towards strengthening the water supply network in the constituency and providing improved drinking water facilities to thousands of households.

"Our objective is not merely



to create infrastructure but to ensure that every completed scheme delivers the intended benefits to the people. We will continue to work with a people-centric approach so that every household gets access to essential services in a reliable and sustainable manner," he added.

The inaugurated schemes included WSS Khabuth Dar Mohalla, costing 1.08 crore and covering 93 households in Maindanpora; WSS Dever Anderbugh, costing 3.50 crore

and benefiting 1,400 households in Dever and Anderbugh; WSS Gangbugh, costing 3.77 crore and covering 450 households in Sogam and WSS Krusen, costing 4.67 crore and benefiting 626 households in Krusen.

Similarly, WSS Walkhul, constructed at a cost of 4.25 crore, covers 200 households in Tekipora, while WSS Gadwah costing 0.92 crore caters to 91 households in Sewer Thendipora. WSS Kawari Harden Sewer, costing 3.79 crore, covers 900

households in Sewer Thendipora, while WSS Mergi, costing 0.90 crore, benefits 250 households in Dever Anderbugh. Likewise, WSS Gundmacher constructed at an estimated cost of 2.95 crore, covers 452 households in Rekhi Muchwari and Rakhi Gundmacher. Besides, WSS Surigam Wavoor Bon Maidanpora has been completed at a cost of 9.81 crore which covers 1,200 households in Surigam, Wavoor and Maidanpora.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the completed schemes so that the intended benefits are sustained and reach the targeted households effectively. He also stressed the need for close monitoring of ongoing water supply projects, timely completion of works and optimum utilisation of public resources, while directing officers to maintain regular field-level oversight of the schemes.

The e-inauguration marks a

significant step towards strengthening drinking water infrastructure in Lolab and ensuring improved access to essential public services for the people of the constituency. He said that he would soon visit the constituency to review the functioning of the inaugurated schemes and take stock of the progress of other schemes currently under execution.

MLA Lolab, Qaisar Jamshaid Lone, thanked the Minister for his consistent support and personal attention to the development of the constituency. He said that many villages would, for the first time, witness the dawn of piped water supply, marking a historic milestone for the people of the area. He conveyed his deep appreciation to the Minister and the Department for the timely completion of these schemes, which he described as a significant step towards fulfilling a long-standing public demand.

It is pertinent to mention that,

despite financial constraints, around 30 water supply schemes of the Jal Shakti Department are ready for inauguration across Kashmir, including in Kulgam, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam and Kupwara. These schemes are expected to be made operational in the near future.

Taking note of the readiness of these schemes, Minister Javed Rana directed the concerned officers to expedite the remaining works and complete all necessary formalities for their early commissioning. He stressed that the completed water supply infrastructure should be put to use at the earliest so that the intended benefits reach the people without any further delay.

Of these schemes, 10 have been taken up under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) at a cost of 64.78 crore, 14 under NABARD at 59.69 crore, three under UT Capex at 11.95 crore and one under AMRUT 2.0 at 1.41 crore.

PM hails cabinet approval of ITLA, commitment of Rs 10,000 cr to set up SME Growth Fund

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 06: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hailed the Union Cabinet's approval of a proposal to set up an Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA) and commitment of Rs 10,000 crore to establish an SME Growth Fund (SGF) for direct equity investments in small and medium enterprises, saying the decisions will have a wide-ranging impact on the country's growth trajectory.

"The Cabinet has approved the setting up of the Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA) to bring greater coordination, data-led planning and multimodal integration across India's transport ecosystem. This will have a wide-ranging impact on our growth trajectory," Modi said in a post on X.

The approval of the proposal to set up an ITLA, a special purpose vehicle (SPV), is aimed to ensure smoother connections across roads, railways, ports, aviation, waterways, urban mobility and logistics.

It will strengthen research, planning, appraisal, monitoring and impact assessment within the broad domains of transportation and logistics.

In another post, Modi said: "Big boost for the MSME sector! This Cabinet decision is a major step towards creating the next generation of Indian business leaders."

"It offers the platform for SMEs to scale up, adopt advanced technologies, expand manufacturing, enter global markets and integrate with global value chains," he added.

The Cabinet approved the government's commitment of Rs 10,000 crore to establish the SGF to catalyse growth-oriented capital for SMEs and create champion Indian enterprises across manufacturing, services, technology, innovation-driven sectors and strategic value chains.

'RuTAGE Smart Village Centres to bridge technology gap in remote J&K'

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 06: A workshop on "RuTAGE Smart Village Centre (RSVC)" was held on Tuesday in Srinagar, with the objective of exploring technology-enabled, inclusive and sustainable solutions for rural development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop was chaired by Babila Rakwal, Administrative Secretary, Science & Technology Department.

Among others who participated included Sapna Poti, Director Strategic Alliance, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, GoI, Dr. P. R. Dhar, CEO JAKEDA and senior officers from the Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Health, Education, Tribal Affairs and others besides representatives from SKUAST-Kashmir, NABARD, J&K SRLM, universities, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), NGOs and other partner institutions.

The workshop focused on the concept of RuTAGE Smart Village Centres as platforms for convergence of technology, local resources, government programmes, institutions and community participation to address the specific needs of rural communities. The discussions highlighted the need for location-specific, need-based and technology-enabled solutions, keeping in view the diverse geographical and socio-economic conditions of Jammu & Kashmir, including remote mountainous, border and tribal areas.



Emphasis was laid on inter-departmental and institutional convergence, particularly in areas such as agriculture and horticulture, post-harvest management, food processing, storage, market linkages, rural livelihoods, women-led enterprises, skill development, renewable energy, digital connectivity, health and education. The RSVC model can provide a platform for identifying, demonstrating and taking appropriate technologies closer to rural communities.

The workshop also explored the potential of decentralized renewable and clean-energy solutions to improve the power availability in remote and

underserved areas and the use of digital and technology-enabled interventions to enhance access to health and education. Discussions further highlighted how appropriate technologies can help overcome geographical barriers for tribal and remote communities while creating new livelihood opportunities.

The participants were encouraged to identify the existing schemes and programmes that could converge through RSVCs, suitable technologies and innovations, potential villages or clusters for interventions, implementation partners and measurable outcomes. Academic and technical institutions were

urged to contribute through research, innovation, technology demonstration and technical handholding. The institutions such as NABARD, J&K NRLM, FPOs, PACS and NGOs can play an important role in linking technology with livelihoods and community-level implementation.

The workshop underlined that a Smart Village should not merely mean a village equipped with modern technology but one where technology improves quality of life, creates income and employment opportunities, enhances access to services, promotes local entrepreneurship, strengthens community resilience and ensures sustainable use of natural resources.

During the interactive sessions, the participants were invited to identify potential locations for RSVCs, priority thematic areas, existing schemes for convergence, suitable technologies and innovations, knowledge and implementation partners, as well as specific action points and responsibilities. These deliberations are expected to contribute towards developing a practical roadmap for establishing RuTAGE Smart Village Centres in Jammu & Kashmir.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening technology-driven rural development in Jammu and Kashmir by ensuring that innovation reaches the grassroots and technology becomes an enabler of livelihoods, essential services and sustainable community development.

FM Sitharaman calls on Swiss President

Discusses Bilateral Investment Treaty negotiations

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 06: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday met Swiss President Guy Parmelin here and discussed issues of common interest between India and Switzerland, including taking forward negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT).

The discussions focused on advancing the BIT negotiations, which will help enhance investment flows and deepen economic engagement, the finance ministry said in a post on X.

The meeting comes as India and Switzerland seek to strengthen bilateral economic ties and facilitate greater investment between the two countries.

"They held discussions on issues of common interest to both India and Switzerland, including taking forward negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty which is mutually beneficial to both nations with a view to enhance investment flows and deepening economic engagement," it said.

A Bilateral Investment Treaty is an agreement between the two countries to promote and protect investments made by their investors in the other's territory. Under investment protection treaties, investors can take a sovereign government to arbitration.

With Outward Direct Investment (ODI) from India increasing, there is a need to ensure that domestic investors and companies investing abroad also get adequate protection.

The current 2016 framework requires a foreign investor to wait for five years before initiating a treaty-based arbitration against India.

This means that if a foreign investor has a dispute with India, it should first pursue domestic remedies for five years before bringing a claim under the agreement.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Decisive leadership

The resolution further underscored the government's focus on extending development benefits to previously underserved communities. In J&K, schemes related to housing, drinking water, electricity, banking and welfare delivery have been used to expand access to basic services.

It also referred to efforts to promote investment, manufacturing and self-reliance, noting that public capital expenditure had increased from about Rs 2 lakh crore to over Rs 12 lakh crore.

The Centre has sought to attract investment to J&K through industrial policies and incentives, while identifying tourism, horticulture, handicrafts and food processing as sectors with significant employment and growth potential.

The resolution further highlighted measures to strengthen India's defence production and national security capabilities, linking them to the government's response to security challenges.

In the context of J&K, the Centre has maintained that improved security and development are closely interconnected, pointing to a decline in violence in several areas and greater emphasis on infrastructure creation and economic activity. (KNO)

CM Omar rules out

deletions from voter lists," he said. Omar said concerns remained over the basis on which names were removed from electoral rolls and noted that the Supreme Court had sought responses from the Election Commission and the Government of India.

"We will wait to see what corrective steps follow and what the court decides," he said.

Commenting on the action against Rohingyas in Jammu and Kashmir, Omar said illegal Bangladeshi migrants could not be allowed to stay in India, but the Rohingya issue was different as they had been allowed to stay after being displaced from their country.

Describing the timing of the action as "strange", he said the matter was beyond the jurisdiction of the J&K government and rested with the Government of India.

"The police are not under our control. It is better to ask those who command the police," he said.

On connectivity, Omar said the Cabinet had decided to allot land to BSNL in areas without mobile coverage to facilitate installation of towers.

He also said utility ducts would be laid along roads to prevent repeated excavation by agencies laying water, power and telecom infrastructure.

"The purpose is to avoid repeated digging and protect road infrastructure," he said. (KNO)

Govt approves land

e-governance services and emergency communications, besides improving digital inclusion for residents of rural, remote and border areas.

The provision of dedicated land for telecom infrastructure is also aimed at facilitating faster deployment of mobile towers in difficult and geographically challenging locations, thereby helping bridge the digital divide across Jammu and Kashmir.

The initiative reflects the Government's focus on extending the benefits of digital connectivity to communities in far-flung areas and strengthening communication infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

No policy to shut

PSUs should not continue and that the government must instead find ways to run them. "There is no policy of Omar Abdullah led Government to shut down any PSU," he said, adding that committees have been constituted to examine the functioning of certain units and explore whether and how they could be revived.

Choudhary also highlighted the products displayed at the Jammu and Kashmir Industries (JKI) showroom at the Government Silk Weaving Factory in Rajbagh, saying the quality of local products could compete with major brands if they were properly marketed.

"These are the things that are our heritage, they should buy," he said, while emphasising the need to explore avenues to promote such products.

On the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report concerning PSUs, the Deputy Chief Minister said the findings would be examined before arriving at a conclusion. "The report has come, CAG's report has come. We will see what is there and what is not. There will be a discussion on it, there will be a debate. After that, we will come to a conclusion," he said.

RS 28,400-CR INDUSTRIAL PACKAGE

On concerns raised by industrialists over the implementation of the rupees 28,400-crore New Industrial Policy announced in 2021, Choudhary said the government was examining the utilisation of the package and the concerns raised by industrial associations.

He said the new industrial policy of the J&K Government was at the final stage and would seek to address shortcomings in the previous policy.

"Whatever was the discrimination in that industry policy, or there was a pick and choose, now our effort is that those bottlenecks where there were some lapses, they should be plugged somewhere and people should get the benefit of the industry policy in the right way," he said.

Choudhary said the Industries Department had worked extensively on the new policy and that the concerns raised by industrialists were

also being taken into consideration.

"If people were not happy with the previous industry policy, that is why we are bringing a new industry policy," he said, adding that the government's effort was to ensure that the shortcomings of the past were not repeated. (KNO)

Superannuation age

the enhancement of the retirement age of judicial officers from 60 to 62 years in consultation with their respective High Courts. (KNO)

Rain lashes J&K

forenoon hours.

Generally dry weather is forecast from October 11 to the evening of October 13.

Another spell of generally cloudy weather, accompanied by light rain, light snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds, is likely at many places on October 14 and 15, the Met Centre said.

The weather department has advised farmers to ensure safe storage of harvested apples and paddy during October 6-10 in view of the possibility of rain and gusty winds.

People have also been advised to stay away from loose structures, electric wires and old trees during periods of strong winds.

The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, issued the advisory while urging people to take necessary precautions during the forecast wet spells. (KNO)

Census 2027: Snow-bound

Self-enumeration in snow-bound areas was conducted from August 17 to 31, followed by field operations from September 1 to 30.

Sharma said J&K ranked first among Union Territories and eighth nationally in self-enumeration, attributing the performance to public participation and awareness campaigns.

"This is India's first paperless Census, with self-enumeration introduced for the first time," he said.

He said independent observers visited J&K and Ladakh to assess field operations, infrastructure and preparedness, while top Census officials, including Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan and Additional Registrar General Sunil Kumar, reviewed the exercise in remote areas.

On special charges, Sharma said enumeration had been completed in 125 CAPF charges in J&K and 47 in Ladakh. Paper-based enumeration was used in these locations for security reasons and will be digitised later.

He said around Rs 49.2 crore had been released for infrastructure, training, honorariums and operational expenses, while the first phase of payments to enumerators and supervisors had been transferred

directly to their accounts.

Sharma said work on the District Census Handbook is underway from October 1 to 30 across J&K and Ladakh. The handbook will provide updated information on infrastructure and institutions and serve as a planning document for development programmes.

Clarifying reports about the release of population figures, Sharma said no final numbers would be issued this week. Population enumeration in J&K's plain areas will be conducted in February, after which the process for notification of final population data will begin.

He said Census 2027 data would form the basis for future development planning and welfare programmes. (KNO)

J&K adds 2.25 lakh

were deleted.

Samba recorded 390 NPHH additions, whereas 705 AAY and 8,559 PHH beneficiaries were removed. Kathua added 196 AAY, 4,537 PHH and 3,830 NPHH beneficiaries, with 930 AAY beneficiaries deleted.

Udhampur added 11,570 PHH and 7,824 NPHH beneficiaries, while 4,273 AAY beneficiaries were deleted. Reasi recorded 250 AAY, 16,036 PHH and 5,224 NPHH additions, alongside deletion of 66 AAY beneficiaries.

In Doda, 74 AAY and 11,893 PHH beneficiaries were added, while 4,174 NPHH beneficiaries were deleted. Ramban recorded additions of 181 AAY, 12,464 PHH and 528 NPHH beneficiaries, with no deletions reflected in the annexure.

Kishtwar added 7,369 PHH beneficiaries, while 556 AAY and 10,426 NPHH beneficiaries were deleted. Rajouri recorded 238 AAY, 8,933 PHH and 8,568 NPHH additions, with 137 AAY beneficiaries deleted. Poonch added 316 AAY, 14,893 PHH and 5,515 NPHH beneficiaries. The district also recorded deletion of 109 AAY, 126 PHH and 107 NPHH beneficiaries.

In the Kashmir Division, 88,421 beneficiaries were added to ration cards, including 8,628 AAY, 59,441 PHH and 20,352 NPHH beneficiaries. The division recorded 21,714 deletions—2,873 AAY, 8,893 PHH and 9,948 NPHH.

Anantnag recorded the highest additions in the division, with 1,089 AAY, 13,111 PHH and 3,247 NPHH beneficiaries added. The district also reported deletion of 403 AAY, 4,895 PHH and 1,961 NPHH beneficiaries.

Budgam added 534 AAY, 7,239 PHH and 1,965 NPHH beneficiaries, while 127 AAY, 360 PHH and 29 NPHH beneficiaries were deleted.

Bandipora recorded 457 AAY, 2,444 PHH and 473 NPHH additions, against deletion of 88 AAY, 315 PHH and 209 NPHH beneficiaries.

Baramulla added 1,052 AAY, 10,412 PHH and 1,065 NPHH beneficiaries. It also recorded deletion of 1,583 AAY, 595 PHH and 2,389 NPHH

J&K, Ladakh braces

for both the Union Territories, NRPC said that there will likely be a peak availability of 2450 MWs against the requirement of 2850 MWs—keeping a loophole of 400 MWs during the peak solar hours.

The figures further said that during the peak non-solar hours, J&K and Ladakh are likely to require 2872 MWs of power against the availability of 2535 MWs.

As already reported by KNO, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require nearly an additional 450 Megawatts (MWs) of power during the peak hours in the coming three years.

The official documents in this regard had said that in the ongoing fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir may have a peak demand of 3813 MWs.

It also said that in the coming fiscal 2027-28, the region is likely to require additional 151 MWs of power during the peak time with a total demand projection of 3964 MWs.

Furthermore, the projections said that in the year 2028-29, Jammu and Kashmir may require additional 300 MWs of power during the peak hours in comparison to the projected demand of the ongoing fiscal.

The official figures also said that in the year 2029-30, Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a peak demand of 4262 MWs that amounts to 449 MWs of additional energy demand to the projection made for the year 2026-27.

Pertinently, this news agency earlier reported that in the past 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a surge in power demand by more than 24 percent.

The Government of India (GoI) had said that from the fiscal 2014-15 to 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a surge in demand of 3,971 MU. (KNO)

Fatty liver 'epidemic'

sedentary lifestyles become increasingly common.

He advised people to focus on fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and traditional home-cooked meals while avoiding overeating. At the same time, he called for a substantial increase in physical activity, including brisk walking, jogging, running and sports.

Dr Khan said lifestyle modification should remain a key component of long-term health protection rather than relying primarily on medicines and other support systems after disease has already developed.

"Lifestyle modification is a key to living a better and healthier life ahead than depending on medicines and support systems," he said.

He urged families to make physical activity and healthier eating habits part of their daily routine, saying preventive lifestyle changes could play a crucial role in reducing the future burden of liver disease and protecting the next generation. (KNO)

‘Indian Captain Machchhar making steady progress’

PTI

Dubai, Oct 06: Indian Captain Smit Machchhar is making “steady progress” and is “regaining his health”, the Indian Embassy in the UAE said on Tuesday. On flydubai flight FZ1073 on Wednesday, Machchhar was attacked by his co-pilot, an Omani citizen, with a crash axe, typically kept in the cockpit for use in emergencies, seriously injuring him. The motive for the attack remains unclear.

“Capt Smit continues to make steady progress and is regaining his health. The Embassy remains in close touch with his family, doctors & local authorities, extending all possible assistance,” the embassy posted on X. “We thank everyone for their prayers & wish him a speedy recovery,” it said. The flight, carrying 174 passengers, transmitted emergency signals and made a rapid descent of more than 17,000 feet from 34,000 feet. The captain was lying injured on the cockpit floor when he realised the plane was descending and decided to make “one last push” to open the cockpit door.

On October 1, India's ambassador to the UAE, Deepak Mittal, said that Machchhar was “in good health and recovering well”. Mittal visited Captain Machchhar and his family at the hospital. It is understood that Machchhar was shifted to the UAE a day after he was admitted to a hospital in Tabuk city in northwest Saudi Arabia to receive necessary medical attention.

Machchhar was covered with blood on the floor when he managed to click open the release on the cockpit door.

Two reserve pilots landed the aircraft safely at Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Airport in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk city, where the co-pilot was taken into custody and Machchhar was taken to a nearby hospital before being airlifted to Abu Dhabi.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit named next Chief of Air Staff



PTI

New Delhi, Oct 06: Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, an accomplished fighter pilot with over 3,500 hours of flying experience on over 20 types of aircraft, will be the next Chief of Air Staff succeeding incumbent Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, the defence ministry announced on Tuesday.

Dixit, known for his strategic planning and who played a key role during Operation Sindoor, is currently serving as the Vice Chief of the force.

In a distinguished career spanning four decades, the Air Marshal has held a variety of Com-mand, Staff and Instructional appointments.

The government has appointed Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff with effect from the afternoon of October 31, the ministry said.

Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh will superannuate that day.

Born on December 9, 1966, Air Marshal Dixit was commissioned into the fighter stream of Indian Air Force on December 6, 1986.

Prior to assuming charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, he has served as Chief of Integrat-ed Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) at Headquarters Inte-grated Defence Staff. Before that, he served as

the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command.

The Air Marshal is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Defence Staff Service College (Bangladesh) and National Defence College. He has more than 3500 hours of extensive flying experience on various aircraft including Mirage-2000, variants of Mig, Kiran, Jaguar, IL-78, Hawk and Tejas.

He is an experimental test pilot and a qualified flying instructor. During his service career spanning approximately four decades, Air Marshal Dixit has been actively involved in nu-merous operations and exercises including Operation-Sated Sagar, Operation-Rak-shak and Operation Sindoor.

The Air Marshal has held a number of significant field and staff appointments.

He commanded a front-line fighter air base in Western sector and a premiere fighter training base in Southern sector.

Air Marshal Dixit was involved in several indigenous upgrade and development programmes including the avionics upgrades for the Jaguar and MiG-27.

The operational capability of Indian Air Force has improved with contribution of the Air Of-ficer in various capacities, the ministry said.

BJP fields 8 candidates, SP 2 for RS polls from UP

All set to be elected unopposed

PTI

Lucknow, Oct 06: Filing of nomination papers for Rajya Sabha polls ended at 3 pm on Tues-day, with the BJP fielding eight candidates from Uttar Pradesh and the Samajwadi Party two, all of whom are expected to be elected unopposed.

The terms of 10 Rajya Sabha MPs from UP end on November 25, necessitating the elections.

Two independent candidates—Kante Syana, a resident of Tamil Nadu, and Onkar Nath Chaurasia— are also in the fray, but their candidatures will be rejected due to technicalities, the Returning Officer for the Rajya Sabha poll, Ajeet Verma, told PTI on Tuesday.

“As of now, 12 candidates are technically in the fray. These include eight from BJP and two from Samajwadi Party. The nominations of 2 independents lack the mandatory signature of 10 lawmakers and would be rejected during scrutiny,” Verma said, making it clear that both the BJP and SP candidates are set to be declared elected unopposed.

Tuesday was the last date for filing nominations for the Rajya Sabha polls, followed by scru-tiny of papers on October 7. Names can be withdrawn till October 9, while polling (if neces-sary) will be conducted on October 16.

Earlier on Tuesday, BJP candidates including 3 from OBCs -- UP minister Dharampal Singh (Lodh), OBC wing chief Prakash Pal (Pal), Shruti Gangwar (Kurmj); two from the Dalit community -- Vidya Sagar Sonkar and Priyanka Rawat; two from the Brahmin community -- Radhakant Ojha, Gopi Krishna Pandey and Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan (Thakur) filed their nomination papers.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya



and Brajesh Pathak, and UP BJP chief Pankaj Chaudhary were present on the occasion.

Two Samajwadi Party candidates, veteran Ram Gopal Yadav and Reliance Industries execu-tive Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani, have already filed their nominations in Lucknow.

Though there were speculations that the Samajwadi Party would field a third candidate to force a contest, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav put all the rumours to rest early Tuesday.

“Now, our focus is not on three, but on 403,” Yadav said on X before leaving for New Delhi to participate in the opposition protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

However, the BJP was quick to react to Ahilesh's post.

“The writing is clear. SP has conceded defeat for 2027 UP polls,” Deputy Chief Minister Bra-jesh Pathak said.

Earlier, all BJP candidates arrived at the party office opposite the Vidhan Sabha. After meet-ing senior leaders, including BJP's UP in-charge Vinod Tawde, they left to file their nominations amid drum beats and a joyous atmosphere.

With its eight picks, including two women, the BJP has displayed a

carefully crafted bouquet of caste and regional representation, reflecting that the names were finalised after much de-liberation ahead of the 2027 UP polls.

“The selection of BJP candidates shows that only BJP truly respects PDA; SP's PDA narrative is bogus, and 2027 UP polls will prove it,” BJP's OBC chief Prakash Pal said after filing his nomination.

UP minister Dharampal Singh thanked the party leadership for the Rajya Sabha nomination, as did Vidya Sagar Sonkar.

“We are party workers first, office-bearers or MPs and MLAs later. Our fundamental identity is that we are BJP workers,” Sonkar said.

Sonkar added that the BJP's Rajya Sabha candidates list represents the party's motto of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Samman’.

He also took a swipe at SP's ‘Pich-da (backward classes), Dalit, and Alpsankhyak (minorities)’ narrative.

Akhilesh Yadav coined the acronym PDA in June 2023 to counter the ruling BJP-led NDA by uniting these marginalised social groups beyond traditional vote bank.

India's democratic strength has enhanced its global standing: Om Birla

PTI

Panaji, Oct 06: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday asserted that the world today listens to India's voice on global challenges, and credited the country's rising international standing to its strong democratic foundations and institutional stability.

Addressing the silver jubilee celebrations of the Goa legislative assembly complex building here, Birla said India's democracy has grown stronger since Independence because its institutions have accommodated diverse views and opinions in policy-making and lawmaking.

“Today, the world listens to India's voice. There has been a special change in the perception of India,” he said, attributing the country's growing global influence to its faith in democracy and constitutional institutions.

He noted that India's democratic experience was particularly significant given the country's vast diversity, with different opinions, perspectives and aspirations finding



space in its institutions.

“Despite having so much diversity, so many opinions and so many views, we have strengthened democracy after Independence. Our institutions have functioned through an institutionalised process after the Constitution was framed,” the Lok

Sabha Speaker said.

Birla said India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, was working towards finding solutions to global challenges and taking forward the philosophy of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (the world is one family).

“Whenever there have been disasters or difficulties in the country, Indians have worked together. Whenever disasters have occurred anywhere in the world, India and its people have come forward and worked at the forefront,” he said.

Birla also highlighted Goa's development journey, saying the state had successfully balanced economic growth with the need to protect its natural environment and heritage.

Goa had created a distinct identity in tourism, industry and education while maintaining the quality of life of its people, he said.

Birla praised the Goa legislative assembly for maintaining the dignity of the House and providing a platform for discussion, dialogue and debate based on facts and arguments.

NOTICE

This is to inform the concerned authorities and the general public that the Bank NOC pertaining to the following vehicle has been lost:

- Vehicle No.: JK01AM-9461
- NOC No.: 4007942-74
- Name: Siraj-Ud-Din Qamie
- S/o: Abdul Ahad Qamie
- R/o: Sehpara, Qamdan

The original Bank NOC has been misplaced/lost. The undersigned hereby requests the concerned bank/ authority to kindly issue a duplicate/new Bank NOC in respect of the above-mentioned vehicle.

Anyone finding the original NOC is requested to kindly inform the concerned person or authority.

Siraj-Ud-Din Qamie

NOTICE

My name in my Service book is wrongly mentioned as Mohd Anwar, and my real name is Mohd Anwar Khan Now I am applying for its correction.

It is certified that I have complied with all other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NAME .SAMAR JAN
D /O: MUHAMMAD ANWAR KHAN
R/O: WAIL GANDERBAL
Account number:0174040150002655

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL

NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr./Mrs/Miss ABDUL RASHEED PARRAY S/D/W of/ABDUL GANI PARRAY Resident of YAMUNA KHA-DAR CHILLA MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-I EAST DELHI-110091 In Respect of LMV/Three wheeler /Motor Cycle MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg. No. DL9CAG9670 Chassis No. MA3FUA61S00355296 Engine No. F8DN5141099 In favour of: MOHD SHAFI BHAT S/D/W of: GHULAM NABI BHAT Resident of : DUDERHAMA GANDER-BAL., JK-191201 (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Leading Papers to the address of undersigned.

No. representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

Sd/-
Authorized Signatory
Assistant Regional Transport officer
Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

I ZAHOOR AHMED MIR, S/O ABDUL KHALIQ MIR R/O GANGERHAMA GANDERBAL WORKING AS HEAD CONSTABLE TELECOM IN J&K POLICE TELECOMMUNICATION UNDER REGIMENTAL NO. 2444/PW TEL-013277, AM REPRESENTING FOR CORRECTION OF MY NAME RECORDED AS ZAHOOR AHMED MIR, IN MY SERVICE RECORDS INSTEAD OF ZAHOOR AHMED MIR, AS SUCH, OBJECTIONS IF ANY, IN THIS REGARD ARE INVITED FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHICH SHOULD REACH TO ZONAL HEADQUARTERS POLICE TELECOMMUNICATION KASHMIR ZONE SRINAGAR WITHIN THE PERIOD OF (07) SEVEN DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my ADDRESS in my driving license bearing No: JK_0420110009313 from BUDGAM TO DAB GANDERBAL

(as per aadhar card).

If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file the same before the concerned authority within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME . VILAYAT HUSSAIN MALIK S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD MALIK R/O DAB GANDERBAL

NOTICE

My name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9038 6654 3028 is wrongly mentioned as W/o. Touhar Bano, and my real name is Jawahsa Begum, W/o Yashiq Ahmad Khan, R/o Raypora, Thamskasi, Baramulla. Now I am applying for its correction.

It is certified that I have complied with all other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Correction of Parentage in PDD Records and Billing
It is hereby notified to the concerned public that the consumer bearing Consumer ID: 0213030013045, having a PDD connection under Subdivision 3rd, Sopore, intends to correct his parentage details in the PDD records and billing.

The incorrect parentage/name presently recorded is:

Nazir Ahmad Bhat, S/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhat

The correct parentage/name should be recorded as:

Nazir Ahmad Bhat, S/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhat

Accordingly, any person having any objection regarding the proposed correction may submit the same before the concerned office within the prescribed period.

Cell No.: 9419479000
R/o Wadora Payeen, Zaingeer, Sopore
Nazir Ahmad Bhat

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

Address: Mini Secretariat Ganderbal

No.: 8562-67

Dated:- 06-10-2026

Subject:- Invitation of Various Tenders.

Reference:- This Office NIT No.75 of 2026-27 issued under endorsement No.8284-89 Dated:29-09-2026.

Extension Notice

The Bid submission end date for the subject work floated for tenders vide this office NIT No. referred to above which were scheduled to be on 06-10-2026 upto 04:00 PM is hereby extended and the details were of are given as under:-

1	Date of issue of Tender	29-09-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	29-09-2026
3	Bid submission start date	29-09-2026 from 04.00 PM
4	Bid submission End date	09-10-2026 upto 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening	10-10-2026 at 10:00 AM in the office Of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

The other terms and conditions of the aforesaid NIT shall remain unaltered.

DIPK-6450/26
DATED: 06-10-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B)Division Ganderbal

Quick Read

Antarctic ‘Ghost Particle’ scientist wins Nobel Prize in physics



AP

Stockholm, Oct 6 : Belgian-born scientist Francis Halzen won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for his efforts to demystify a rare group of neutrinos, tiny cosmic particles that researchers believe offer clues to how the universe evolved.

“It was a great surprise, and I obviously didn’t expect it,” Halzen said, speaking to the Nobel Physics Committee by phone from Italy, in a call broadcast at the news conference to announce the winner.

Halzen said it was predicted that he would win the prize, but the announcement still made him feel “strange.”

“I am working on a proposal, and I hope that this prize will help getting it approved,” he said to chuckles from the audience.

Halzen paved the way for a new kind of astronomy

Neutrinos are tiny cosmic particles with no electrical charge and extraordinarily small mass, making them difficult to detect. Yet they are everywhere: They spew from stars like the sun, and trillions zip through our bodies every second.

Scientists cannot glimpse the mysterious ghost particles zooming around on their own, so they measure what happens when the particles collide with other bits of matter. Neutrinos bump into other particles only rarely, so scientists build large detectors to improve their odds of catching collisions.

Halzen had the idea to turn the vast Antarctic ice into such a detector. The Nobel committee said his work was instrumental to the construction of the IceCube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica, which glimpsed the first high-energy neutrinos from far-away galaxies.

“This experiment in the Antarctic is a revolutionary way of understanding the universe that we didn’t have before,” said Michael Moloney, chief executive officer for the American Institute of Physics.

When a neutrino interacts with ice in the detector, it produces a flash of light that’s picked up by sensors. The transparent ice makes it easier for scientists to pick up on faint signals from the mysterious ghost particles, and the sensors are buried about 8,200 feet (2,500 metres) deep to protect against interference from cosmic rays and radiation.

The 82-year-old scientist is affiliated with the University of Wisconsin–Madison in the US, which operates the observatory. Efforts by The Associated Press to reach him were not immediately successful.

Halzen helped pull the curtain back on a rare gang of neutrinos that scientists say hold clues about the development of the universe.

In a post on social media, Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever said Halzen is the 11th Belgian to win a Nobel Prize. De Wever called the award “impressive recognition for a lifetime dedicated to shedding light on the great mysteries of the cosmos through its smallest components.”

A representative from the IceCube Neutrino Observatory did not immediately return a request for comment. The University of Wisconsin–Madison did not immediately comment when reached by the AP.

DC Bandipora congratulates teams on winning UT-Level U-14, U-17 and U-19 Handball Championships



KT News Desk

Bandipora, Oct 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today interacted with the Inter-District UT-Level Handball Boys’ teams at her office chamber here, appreciating their performances in the recently concluded U-14, U-17 and U-19 championships.

The DC congratulated the Bandipora teams for clinching the U-14 and U-17 titles, while Jammu emerged champion in the U-19 category.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated all participating teams for their dedication, discipline and sporting spirit, and encouraged the young athletes to continue working hard and pursue excellence through sports.

Yemen fighting escalates as US-Iran tensions remain high

AP

Cairo, Oct 6 : Saudi Arabia and Yemen’s government have launched a military campaign to drive Iran-backed Houthi rebels from the Bab el-Mandeb strait, a critical trade route for oil and other goods.

The Houthis have responded by escalating missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia, claiming to have struck the international airport in the capital, Riyadh, an Aramco refinery and Saudi military bases. They have also advanced around a city in western Yemen that has been a major battleground in the 12-year civil war.

The worst fighting in Yemen in years comes as tensions remain high between the US and Iran.

The US and Gulf nations have largely restored oil exports despite Iran’s monthslong disruption of the Strait of Hormuz. But US President Donald Trump has warned he might resume full-scale military operations after the US congressional elections in November, and Iran could be planning proxy attacks.

The price of Brent crude was hovering around USD 100 per barrel on Tuesday, compared to roughly USD 70 a barrel before the Iran war, as the price of basic goods remains elevated far beyond the Middle East.

A new escalation in long conflict Yemen’s conflict has had a devastating impact on the Arab world’s poorest country.

Houthi rebels swept down from their northern stronghold and seized the capital, Sanaa, in 2014. A Saudi-led coalition intervened in 2015 on the side of Yemen’s internationally recognised government.

Years of fighting settled into a stalemated proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, causing widespread



hunger and misery in Yemen. The war killed more than 150,000 people, including fighters and civilians, and created one of the world’s worst humanitarian disasters.

A 2022 ceasefire was largely honoured until this summer.

The fighting is focused on a critical Red Sea strait

Last month, the Houthis raced down the Red Sea coast, capturing the key port city of Mokha and islands in the Bab el-Mandeb, allowing them to tighten their declared blockade of Saudi shipping.

The strait at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. Around 12 per cent of the world’s trade, including a fourth of global container traffic, passes through the narrows, moving between Europe and Asia via Egypt’s Suez Canal.

It also became a crucial alternative route for Saudi oil exports when Iran initially shut down the Strait of Hormuz after the US and Israel launched

the wider war on February 28.

The Saudi-backed offensive to retake the Red Sea coast began after the Houthis captured Turbah, a town near the western city of Taiz that had served as a key staging ground for government forces.

Taiz has seen some of the heaviest fighting of the war and would be a major prize for the Houthis.

The fighting in Yemen has displaced more than 184,000 people since the beginning of August, according to the International Organisation for Migration. It said nearly 22,000 people were displaced between September 27 and October 3, marking a 26 per cent increase from the previous week. Nearly 6,500 were displaced on October 4 alone.

The Saudis are fed up

Yemeni officials said the Saudi-led coalition has already recaptured several key areas around the Bab el-Mandeb that the Houthis took just weeks ago, including the crucial town of Dhubab.

First Ebola case confirmed in Kenya after Congo traveller dies



AP

Nairobi, Oct 6 : Kenyan authorities on Tuesday confirmed the country’s first imported Ebola case from Congo, making Kenya the latest country affected by the fast-moving outbreak.

Health Minister Aden Duale said a Kenyan citizen who arrived in the country on Saturday from Congo via its neighbour Uganda had been isolated and treated at Nairobi Hospital, where he tested positive for the Ebola virus and died late Monday.

Ebola is highly contagious and spreads in the human population through contact with bodily fluids such as vomit, blood or semen, and with contaminated surfaces and materials such as bedding and clothing.

The current outbreak was declared in mid-May, months after it had been spreading in a remote part of eastern Congo. At least 8,400 cases have been recorded, including over 4,000 deaths, according

to government data, making it the fastest-growing outbreak of the disease in history.

Kenya had never had an outbreak of Ebola, according to the Kenya Medical Research Institute.

The country hosts a United States-funded isolation centre for American citizens exposed to Ebola to quarantine for 21 days before travelling back to the US. The isolation facility faced legal battles and deadly protests by locals who feared it was exposing them to the virus.

Dozens of contacts have either been identified or are being traced

Kenya is the fourth country to record an Ebola case in the current outbreak, which was declared in eastern Congo in mid-May. Uganda has recorded 20 cases and France one. Before Kenya reported its case, there had been no active cases outside Congo since Uganda declared its outbreak over in late August.

Boy's Table Tennis events commence at Indoor Sports Stadium Shopian



KT News Desk

Shopian, Oct 6: The Boy’s Table Tennis events across all age groups commenced today at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Shopian, as part of the ongoing Inter-Division UT-Level Table Tennis Tournament.

The events were formally inaugurated in the presence of the District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO), Shopian, alongwith members of the technical committee, departmental officials and

field staff. On the occasion, the District Youth Services & Sports Officer highlighted the importance of sports and games in the overall physical, mental and social development of young athletes.

DYSSO encouraged the participating players to compete with dedication, discipline and true sportsmanship and urged them to utilise the tournament as a platform to showcase their talent and gain valuable

competitive exposure.

The tournament is witnessing enthusiastic participation of young players from different age groups, providing them an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and compete in a healthy and sporting environment.

The department reiterated its commitment to providing quality sporting opportunities to youth and promoting a culture of sports across the district.

Cold War memories stir Rubio in Iceland as he champions diplomacy, downplays differences

AP

Reykjavik (Iceland), Oct 6 (AP) US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday sought to reassure NATO ally Iceland that President Donald Trump’s administration has no designs on the island but shares its deep concerns about Arctic security as tensions between the United States and Russia rise in the high north and elsewhere.

Rubio hailed the role of diplomacy in resolving conflicts as he began a three-nation tour of NATO allies in the capital of Iceland, where concerns over the Republican administration’s often brusque and sometimes rude approach to traditional friends and partners have stirred unease. Rubio, whose tour of NATO members will include Greece and Portugal, met Tuesday with Icelandic Foreign Secretary Thorgerdur Katrin Gunnarsdottir at Reykjavik’s Hofdi House, the site of the 1986 summit between US

President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that is widely regarded as the beginning of the end of the Cold War. “The house symbolises diplomacy’s role in ending the Cold War and defeating communism,” Rubio posted on social media after the talks that took place just days before the 40th anniversary of the landmark meeting.

However, both Rubio and Gunnarsdottir downplayed differences between the allies and said both countries were committed to deepening and expanding military and commercial ties. Rubio made clear that the United States would not do anything in Iceland without Iceland’s consent. “We would be open to having those conversations to see what we can do together,” he said, noting that the US had a decades-long permanent military presence in Iceland until 2006, when shifting priorities caused it to close its Keflavik base outside of Reykjavik. He noted that priorities have shifted again.

DC Rajesh Sharma inaugurates divisional-level badminton tournament in Kathua

KT News Desk

Kathua, Oct 06: The inter-district division level annual (all age groups) Badminton tournament for boys and girls commenced today at the Indoor Stadium Kathua. The District Youth Services and Sports Department is hosting the divisional-level sports event.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma was the chief guest at the inaugural function. He declared the tournament open. CPO Ranjeet Thakur, DYSSO Sunil Kumar, besides officials from the department of Youth Services and Sports were present on the occasion.

Interacting with the participating players, the Deputy Commissioner urged them to uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship, discipline and dedication while striving for excellence. He encouraged the young sportspersons to make the best use of the opportunities available to them, work hard and maintain a positive attitude both on

and off the field.

The DC emphasised the important role of sports in promoting discipline, confidence, teamwork and healthy lifestyle among youth. He also called upon the participants to remain committed to their sporting pursuits and contribute towards building a healthy, disciplined and drug-free society.

Earlier, the District Youth Services and Sports Officer welcomed the chief guest and other guests. He highlighted the significance of organising such tournaments in providing young athletes with a platform to showcase their talent, gain competitive exposure and develop a healthy competitive spirit.

Sportsmanship and Nasha Mukht Abhiyan pledges were also administered to the participating players and officials, reinforcing the message of discipline, healthy living and collective commitment towards a drug-free society.

