



Cyber frauds, cyber-crimes do not respect borders: PM Modi

» Says India ready to share cybercrime expertise

» Calls for global framework against fraudsters

Sajid Raina

New Delhi, Oct 08: Asserting that technology achieves scale only when it gains trust, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that cyber frauds and cyber-crimes do not respect borders and global framework is required to keep fraudsters at bay.

While addressing the India Mobile Congress 2026, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), called for a global framework to tackle cross-border cyber frauds and the growing threat of deepfakes.

PM Modi urged governments, technology companies, telecom operators and financial institutions to come together for a mechanism to prevent such frauds before they reach the people. "Technology achieves scale only when it gains trust. And you all know that cyber fraud and cyber crimes do not respect borders. They have



already crossed boundaries," he said.

He said India has gained considerable experience in tackling cyber frauds and is ready to share its learnings with the world.

Highlighting the cross-border nature of cyber crimes, he said a person sitting in one country, with the help of a fraudster in another country, can commit a crime in a third country.

PM Modi also flagged the

growing challenge posed by deepfakes and said countries need to work together on a global framework to address such emerging threats.

"Therefore, it is necessary that we work on a global framework for this. Governments, technology companies, telecom operators, and financial institutions - all will need to connect with this framework. I urge the GSMA and telecom operators across the world: come, let us create a global | [More on P6](#)

Omar greets people on Urs Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA)

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Oct 08: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the annual Urs of Sheikh-ul-Alam, Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA), describing his life and teachings as an enduring source of spiritual guidance, harmony and compassion.

In his message, the Chief Minister said Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA), revered as Alamdar-e-Kashmir and Nund Reshi, occupies a unique place in Kashmir's spiritual and cultural heritage, and | [More on P6](#)

GST Council decisions will strengthen J&K's fiscal position: CM

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Oct 08: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday attended the 57th meeting of the GST Council, chaired by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, in New Delhi.

The meeting was attended by Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers from across the country, along with senior officials of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

The Council held detailed deliberations on key GST-related issues, with discussions focused on strengthening the fiscal capacity of States and Union Territories, improving revenue mobilisation and advancing balanced fiscal federalism.

Attending the meeting in his capacity as Finance Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed confidence that the decisions taken by the Council would further | [More on P6](#)

Rail link to Kashmir historic milestone: LG Sinha

Says it will boost J&K's growth | Meets Mumbai media delegation

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 08: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said expanded railway infrastructure could support tourism, horticulture and industry in Jammu and Kashmir, while stronger connectivity in border areas was important for national security.

Sinha made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation of media representatives from Mumbai at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar. He described the Kashmir-to-Kanyakumari rail link



as a historic milestone in the Union Territory's development.

The delegation, accompanied by Western Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Vineet

Abhishek and senior railway officials, is on a four-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to study its rail network and infrastructure.

Sinha said infrastructure

modernisation had accelerated in recent years and that improved connectivity was vital to local economic development, particularly in border regions.

CM Omar hails major clean-energy push 'J&K City Gas Distribution Policy to expand clean fuel access, boost industrial growth'

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 08: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday termed the notification of the Jammu & Kashmir City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy, 2026 a major step towards expanding access to clean fuel, strengthening industrial competitiveness and modernising the energy infrastructure of Jammu & Kashmir.

Notified following its approval by the Council of Ministers, the policy establishes a clear, investor-friendly and time-bound framework for expanding the use of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) across households, commercial establishments, industries and the transport sector.

The policy envisages phased expansion of City Gas Distribution networks across all 20 districts of J&K,



bringing cleaner and reliable natural gas closer to consumers while supporting the transition away from conventional fuels.

A key focus of the policy is to simplify and accelerate project implementation through single-window, time-bound clearances, streamlined procedures for establishing CNG stations and standardised Right of Way norms. It also provides for priority gas connectivity to major industrial estates, including those in Kathua,

Samba and Pulwama, to support industrial growth and improve access to reliable energy.

The expansion of PNG and CNG infrastructure is expected to provide safer, cleaner and more affordable energy options, help reduce fuel costs, improve industrial efficiency and competitiveness, and encourage greater investment in the emerging clean-energy sector.

The policy also provides an impetus to local employment, | [More on P6](#)

LG, CM condole loss of lives in Ramban accident

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 08: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have expressed grief over the tragic road accident in Ramban, in which seven other persons were injured.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor wrote: "Deeply anguished by the unfortunate road accident in Ukhral, Ramban. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families, prayers for speedy recovery of the injured. I have directed district administration to provide best possible treatment to the injured."

CM Omar Abdullah also expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in the accident. Expressing his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, the CM conveyed his solidarity with them in this hour of grief.

Abdullah directed the administration and medical authorities to ensure the best possible medical treatment and all necessary assistance to the injured, and to closely monitor their condition.

Vaccinate against influenza, pneumonia: SKIMS winter advisory

'Avoid self-medication, unnecessary antibiotics'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 08: The Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has issued a public advisory ahead of the winter season, urging people to take necessary precautions to protect themselves from respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological complications that may worsen during the colder months.

The advisory, issued in the public interest by the Department of Internal & Pulmonary Medicine, SKIMS, emphasised that viral infections tend to spread more

easily during the fall and winter months, while exposure to cold weather can aggravate several chronic medical conditions, particularly asthma, COPD, cardiovascular diseases and certain neurological disorders.

The institute has advised people to stay adequately protected from the cold, maintain good hygiene, avoid unnecessary exposure to crowded places, and ensure timely vaccination against influenza and pneumonia.

According to the advisory, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), people should | [More on P6](#)

'Op Sindoor' showcased IAF's destructive power, air defence capability: Air Chief

'Swift combat transition reflected force's operational preparedness'

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar/New Delhi, Oct 08: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, on Thursday said that the Indian Air Force's swift transition into combat operations during the "Operation Sindoor" demonstrated its "destructive power" as well as effective air defence operations.

Addressing the 94th Air Force Day celebrations at Air Force Station Hindan in Ghaziabad, the Air Chief,



as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Air power is the primary | [More on P6](#)

Devastating hailstorm pounds Kashmir, Bandipora worst hit

» Standing crops, apple orchards affected in several areas

» MeT forecasts scattered rain over next two days

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 08: A severe hailstorm lashed parts of Kashmir on Thursday evening damaging standing crops, orchards and disrupting normal life for some time.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Bandipora District in North Kashmir was worst hit.

Residents described the intensity of hailstorm as unusually severe. "It was terrible. The hailstones came down heavily



and within minutes the ground was covered with hail," said Fayaz Ahmad from Bandipora. "Several areas witnessed heavy

hail accompanied by gusty winds, causing concern among farmers, particularly those dependent on standing crops and fruit orchards," he added.

Traffic movement was also affected during the hailstorm, they said.

Heavy hail and strong winds were also reported from parts of Ganderbal, Baramulla and Kupwara districts.

In Kupwara, severe hail and heavy rain were reported to have affected paddy fields and apple orchards, while crop damage was | [More on P6](#)

ICMR-GMC Jammu workshop

Early detection key to improving cancer outcomes: Experts

Stakeholders develop proposal covering awareness, screening, diagnosis, treatment, follow-up

Jahangeer Ganaie

Jammu, Oct 08: Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, organised a two-day co-development workshop aimed at strengthening cancer prevention, screening and treatment strategies across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The workshop, held on October 7 and 8 at GMC Jammu, brought together senior health

officials, clinicians, researchers, programme officers, academic experts and investigators associated with various ICMR hubs and spokes to deliberate on strengthening the cancer-care continuum in the region.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the programme focused particularly on the prevention and screening of breast, oral, cervical and gastric cancers, besides developing a dedicated proposal for improving breast cancer survival in Jammu & Kashmir.

The initiative assumes significance amid the growing need



for early detection, timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment of cancer, with experts stressing the importance of developing interventions that are scientifically sound while also being practical and adaptable to the local healthcare system.

A major component of the workshop focused on implementation science and the challenges involved in translating evidence-based health interventions into routine healthcare delivery.

The session was led by Principal and Dean GMC Jammu, Dr Ashutosh Gupta,

and Dr Jyotsna Suri, Head of the Department of Pathology and Nodal Officer, Multi-Disciplinary Research Unit, GMC Jammu.

The ICMR team included Dr Nisha Jose, Senior Programme Officer and Senior Scientist; Dr Pramit Ghosh, Senior Scientist; Dr Bhawana Sirohi, Medical Director and Senior Medical Oncologist, BALCO Medical Centre, Raipur; and Dr Supriya Malik, ICMR expert and HOD Medical Oncology, JIPMER, Puducherry.

Discussions centred on the need to understand local healthcare challenges before designing | [More on P6](#)

Four drug peddlers arrested in south Kmr

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 08: Continuing its sustained drive against the drug menace, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested four drug peddlers in Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian districts of south Kashmir. Contraband substances have also been recovered from their possession.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a police spokesperson said that in Anantnag, a police party from Police Station Anantnag, while conducting naka checking at Mattan Adda, intercepted a person identified as Umair Nabi Shah | [More on P6](#)

DLSA Srinagar holds meeting on Mediation 3.0, Special Lok Adalat

Meeting also focused on preparations for upcoming Special Lok Adalat for cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act (NI Act)



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 08: A meeting regarding the ongoing Mediation 3.0 campaign and the upcoming Special Lok Adalat on NI Act cases, scheduled

Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, and under the overall supervision of the Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, with the participation of all Judicial Officers of District Srinagar.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the objectives of Mediation 3.0, with emphasis on promoting mediation as an effective, expeditious and amicable mechanism for resolution of disputes. The Judicial Officers were sensitized about the importance of identifying suitable cases for mediation and encouraging litigants to explore alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

The meeting also focused on the preparations for the upcoming Special Lok Adalat for cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act (NI Act), to be held at the District Court Complex, Srinagar. The participants discussed measures for effective case disposal, coordination among stakeholders and ensuring maximum participation of litigants for amicable settlement of eligible cases.

The meeting underscored the commitment of DLSA Srinagar towards strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms and facilitating speedy, accessible and cost-effective justice for litigants.

to be held on 17th October 2026, was convened at the District Court Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was held under the guidance of Naseer Ahmad Dar Chairman, District

DC Ramban reviews status of priority sector lending, implementation of social security schemes

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 08: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan Thursday chaired a meeting of Bankers to review the progress achieved under priority sector lending, social security and financial inclusion schemes in the district.

Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Lead District Manager Davinder Singh; Cluster Heads J&K Bank Nirdesh Sharma and heads of various banks attended the meeting. The meeting held a detailed review of the bank-wise progress under various government-sponsored schemes and initiatives aimed at extending financial assistance and banking services to eligible beneficiaries, particularly youth, farmers, entrepreneurs and people in rural and far-flung areas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Launch of "VOYARA" Tour & Travel Agency

This is to inform the general public that Mohammad Yamim Mir from Arampora, Ganderbal Near Power House has launched a new Tour and Travel Agency under the name "VOYARA", offering travel-related services to customers.

Through this notice, any person, firm or agency already using the name "VOYARA" for a tour and travel business or any related commercial activity is requested to contact the undersigned at the numbers given below to discuss and clarify the matter.

Contact:7006603313
9113285925

PUBLIC NOTICE

For General Information

Notice is hereby given to the general public through this publication that the drinking water connection and electricity connection presently registered in the name of Shri Ghulam Ahmad Mir are proposed to be transferred in favour of Shri Tasleem Arif Mir.

The details of the connections are as follows:

Electricity Consumer ID 020501000072

Drinking Water Consumer ID 2896

Proposed New Consumer Shri Tasleem Arif Mir

Any person having any objection, claim, or concern regarding the proposed transfer of the said drinking water and electricity connections may submit the same, along with supporting documents, to the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice

In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there is no objection from any person, and the concerned departments may proceed with the transfer of the connections in favour of Shri Tasleem Arif Mir

Date: _____
Place: _____

Sd/-
Tasleem Arif Mir
Applicant

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER NEHALPORA

Address: NEAR HSS NEHALPORA PATTAN

Mail Id: zeo.nehalpora@jk.gov.in

No: ZEO/NP/2026/1017

Dated: 08/10/2026

AUCTION NOTICE

Auction of Old Building Structure at GMS Dandoora Zone Nehalpora

Interested Bidders are invited for the standing Auction of Old Dilapidated Building at GMS Dandoora Revised (2nd Call) Public Auction for the dismantling, lifting, and removal of the Dilapidated building structure located at the GMS DANDOO-RA. The Bidders must submit the security amount of Rs. 15000/- in the form of CDR in favor of Zonal Education Officer Nehalpora within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice i.e. Upto 15/10/2026 (4:00 pm).

Terms and conditions:

Bidding Venue: Govt. Middle School Dandoora.

Bidding Date: 21/10/2026 Bidding Time: 11:00 to 12:00 PM

- The "Minimum Reserve Price" of the Building Structures is fixed as Rs. 107174/- (Rupees One Lakh Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Four Only). No Bid will be accepted with 'Quoted Price' less than the "Minimum Reserve Price".
- The successful Bidder shall mandatorily deposit 100% of the Final Bid amount (i.e., its Quoted Value) at the time of receipt of Allotment in Cash.
- The CDR should be addressed to Zonal Education Officer Nehalpora Pattan in Original Format (No CDR will be Accepted send via What Sappliother Platforms without Hardcopy in original).
- The Auction Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason and the decision shall be final.
- The bidder can visit the spot for physical verification before submitting the bid.
- The "Lifting" shall be done by the Successful Bidder within a period of Seven (20) days at his own cost. After which the department shall not be responsible for its watch and ward.
- The successful Bidder shall be responsible for dismantling of the Old Building Structures and avoid any damage, under normal conditions, to the facility/building adjacent to the said Building structure. For which RS: 10000 as Security Deposit is to be submitted which will be released after the Completion of the Demolition and NOC issued by Head of Institution.
- The NSL (Natural Surface Level) of the area must be maintained after demolition of the building and the site shall be left neat and clean by the successful bidder at the final Selection and Also No NOC shall be issued if violation of point No. 07 is observed.
- The successful bidder shall not dismantle the building until the bidding amount is deposited to the concerned office.
- All the Bidders have to deposit a copy of proof of identity before the auction is initiated.

DIPK-6536/26
DATED: 08-10-2026

Zonal Education Officer
Nehalpora

DC Shopian chairs introductory meeting with district officers

Calls for proactive Governance, Teamwork & Time-bound Public Service Delivery



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, convened an introductory review meeting Thursday with district officers and field staff to assess administrative functioning, the status of ongoing development projects and public delivery systems across the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC, as per an official statement, outlined his core priorities for Shopian, emphasizing proactive governance, complete transparency, patient hearing of public grievances and time-bound delivery of public services. He directed key departments, including

RDD, Agriculture and others to coordinate seamlessly, resolve inter-departmental bottlenecks and eliminate procedural delays to accelerate key development projects and welfare schemes.

To ensure structured oversight, department-wise reviews will be prepared to identify critical needs and track performance metrics directly.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary, ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC, Dr.

Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Sha-koor Ahmed Dar, SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik, ACD, Muzaffar Ahmed, senior officers/officials and other district officers.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA Near: Tehsil Office Chadoora

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Two cover system

E-NIT No: 82/EE/R&B/CHD/ 4815-24 of 2026-27/Dated: 08/10/2026

Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering

system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

SN	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. cost of Bitumen and GST (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money CDR/ FDR/ BG (Rs)	Time of Completion (days)	Major Head	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Restoration of Nowhar Lashkalan road (Macadamization)	20.00	800.00	40,000	07	Permanent Restoration SASCI-H	B/C

Project Authority: Chief Engineer (R&B) Central Kashmir

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Sanctioned

Position of funds: Committed

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08/10/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08/10/2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	08/10/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	14/10/2026 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15/10/2026 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

1. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Inviting Authority) as the cost of the tender document.

2. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

2.1. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work, The CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security on stipulated period, the case may be forwarded to Higher Authorities for debarment of the participating in tendering process for a period of 01 Year.

3. Abnormally Low Bid Price:

As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08.08.2025, which is reproduced as :- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price. Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance Security shall be taken only after approval of next Higher authority.

4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority).

5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

i) All other terms and conditions will be as per PWD Form 25 and CPWD General Conditions of Contract (CPWD G.C.C)

ii) All other terms and condition shall be same as per NIT No:

No: 4815-24
DATED: 08/10/2026

DIPK-6537/26
DATED: 08-10-2026

Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Chadoora

World Sight Day Don't Wave Off Wavy Vision: Ophthalmologists

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 08: Prolonged exposure to smartphones, computers and other digital screens is increasingly being associated with eye strain and vision-related complaints, with ophthalmologists advising people to adopt preventive measures and undergo regular eye examinations.

Doctors said the growing dependence on digital devices has made eye health a major concern, particularly among children, elderly people and those already suffering from conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.

Ophthalmologists said continuous screen viewing requires the eyes to remain focused at a close distance for extended periods, which can result in digital eye strain, commonly known as computer vision syndrome.

They said people experiencing prolonged screen exposure may develop symptoms including blurred vision, dryness or irritation of the eyes, headaches and discomfort in the neck and shoulders.

Doctors also cautioned that children could be particularly vulnerable, with prolonged near-work and reduced outdoor activity being associated with an increased risk of developing myopia or short-sightedness at an early age.

Ophthalmologist Dr Tariq Ahmad stressed the importance of periodic eye examinations, particularly



among the elderly. He said that with increasing longevity, age-related eye disorders, including age-related macular degeneration (AMD), are becoming increasingly common.

"Among elderly patients, an eye check-up every six months is necessary. Age-related macular degeneration has become more common, and its incidence has doubled over the past decade," Dr Tariq said.

He said early detection and timely treatment remain crucial in preventing avoidable deterioration of vision. "As a general recommendation, people should undergo regular eye examinations, while children should have their eyes checked at least once a year, even when they do

not have any obvious symptoms," he said. Another ophthalmologist, Dr Shugufta, said several major causes of vision loss and blindness can either be prevented or effectively managed if detected at an early stage. "Refractive errors, cataract, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy are among the important causes of preventable blindness. Regular screening is therefore extremely important," she said.

She advised people to pay attention to their diet and include green leafy vegetables, fresh fruits and nutritious sources of protein, including fish, in their daily meals.

Dr Shugufta added that people suffering from diabetes, hypertension and other systemic diseases

require more frequent ophthalmic evaluation.

Ophthalmologist Dr Sajad Ahmad highlighted the rapid advances in technology and research transforming the diagnosis and treatment of eye disorders.

He said developments such as gene therapy have opened new avenues for treating certain inherited eye disorders, including Leber congenital amaurosis.

"Artificial intelligence is now being used in the diagnosis of eye diseases, improving the speed and accuracy of detection," Dr Sajad said.

He said people should not ignore changes in vision, including blurred vision, floaters, flashes, changes in night vision, redness or pain in the eyes. Doctors advised people to reduce unnecessary screen exposure and follow the 20-20-20 rule—after every 20 minutes of screen use, look at an object around 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds.

They recommended adequate hydration, a nutrient-rich diet containing vitamins, antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids, and avoiding prolonged exposure to bright screens.

For children, doctors emphasised limiting recreational screen time and encouraging outdoor activities.

The experts urged the public to treat eye health as part of routine healthcare rather than waiting for vision problems to become severe before seeking medical attention—(KNO)

Tourists rescued from Dal Lake amid gusty winds



KNO

Srinagar, Oct 08: Amid gusty winds and rain, around 15 tourists were safely rescued after their Shikara got stranded in Dal Lake in Srinagar, officials said here on Thursday.

An official said that the tourists, who were enjoying their Shikara ride on Dal Lake, were safely rescued after their Shikara got stranded near Nehru Park amid strong winds and rain. He said that

upon receiving information about the incident, CRPF and SDRF personnel and rescue teams immediately launched a rescue operation and safely evacuated all the stranded tourists.

"The exact number was not counted at the time of the rescue, while the number of tourists may have been more than 15," he said.

Meanwhile, an investigation has been taken up, while the official said that all the tourists were safe and sound—(KNO)

Lady found dead in Reasi's Mahore

KNO

Jammu, Oct 08: A 22-year-old lady was found dead at her residence in the Shajroo area of Mahore in Reasi district on Thursday, officials said.

An official said that the lady was found unconscious at her residence in Shajroo area of Mahore. He said the circumstances leading to her death are being investigated, while the body will be shifted to a hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The deceased was identified as Fatima Begum (22), wife of Talab Hussain, a resident of Shajroo, Mahore.

Meanwhile, investigation into the matter has been initiated and further details are awaited—(KNO)

Mine recovered, destroyed near fence in Mendhar

KNO

Jammu, Oct 08: An old land mine was recovered and safely destroyed near the fence in Basooni Top area of Mendhar in Poonch district on Thursday, officials said. An official said that the mine was recovered by the Army, following which a Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) team safely destroyed it on the spot in the morning.

The official said no loss of life or injury was reported in the incident.

He said the source of the mine is being verified, while further investigation into the matter is underway—(KNO)

Man died, 8 injured in Ramban road accident

KNO

Ramban, Oct 08: A man was killed and eight others injured after the Sumo vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in the Senabati area of Ukherhal in Ramban district on Thursday, officials said.

An official said that the accident took place in the Senabati area after the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to overturn.

He said the injured were shifted to nearby health facilities for treatment. Two of the injured were referred to District Hospital Ramban, while six others were referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for further treatment, officials said.

The deceased was identified as Vijay Singh, son of Raj Singh, a resident of Chunthan, Senabathi.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Youth succumbs to injuries 13 days after fatal fall

KNO

Srinagar, Oct 08: A 17-year-old youth succumbed to his injuries on Thursday, 13 days after sustaining injuries in a fall from an apple tree in Behibagh area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

An official said that the youth fell from an apple tree while plucking apples 13 days ago in Behibagh, Kulgam.

He said the youth sustained injuries and was initially taken to a hospital before being shifted to Srinagar for specialised treatment. "Despite undergoing treatment for 13 days, the youth succumbed to his injuries at the hospital today," he said.

The deceased was identified as Sameer Hussain (17), a resident of Behibagh, Kulgam.

Meanwhile, cognizance of the incident has been taken up—(KNO)

IIM Jammu, J&K Govt to host GCC Summit 2026

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 08: A press conference was organized on Thursday ahead of the J&K GCC Summit 2026, organized by the Indian Institute of Management Jammu in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, with NASSCOM as the Knowledge Partner.

The press conference provided an overview of the summit, its objectives, key focus areas, and its broader vision of positioning Jammu and Kashmir as India's emerging destination for Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

The J&K GCC Summit 2026, scheduled for 9-10 October 2026 at Mandapam, IIM Jammu, will bring together a distinguished group of senior policymakers, industry leaders, academic experts, investors, and representatives from the GCC and technology ecosystem, including Atal Dulloo, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Jammu and Kashmir; Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Padma Bhushan Rajendra Singh Pawar, Chairman, NIIT; Rajesh Nambiar, President, NASSCOM; Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, Secretary, Labor and Employment Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir; Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research; Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Anandam, Dr. Sandeep Ananthanarayanan, CEO, CiTAG, IIM Jammu, among other leaders from industry, government, academia, investment, human resources, and the innovation ecosystem.

Centered on the theme "Unlocking J&K's GCC Potential for Building Growth Ecosystem & Catalyzing Investment," the J&K GCC Summit 2026 is expected to bring together more than 300 delegates and provide a focused platform for translating Jammu and Kashmir's emerging GCC potential into investment, employment, skills development, and sustainable economic growth.

Global Capability Centres have evolved significantly from their earlier role as offshore units focused primarily on transaction processing and cost optimization. Today, they serve as strategic centres for high-value functions such as product engineering, enterprise analytics, artificial intelligence, research and development, and other critical global operations.

While India has emerged as a major hub for this transformation, GCC activity is increasingly expanding beyond



established metropolitan centres into Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

This shift creates an opportunity for Jammu and Kashmir to develop a distinctive proposition built around its talent base, academic ecosystem, technology capabilities, infrastructure, innovation potential, and quality of life.

Against this backdrop, the J&K GCC Summit 2026 has been conceived as a targeted investment facilitation platform to present Jammu and Kashmir's potential before global capability heads, location strategy leaders, and transaction advisers.

The Summit will facilitate dialogue on how GCC investments can support the Union Territory's priorities in employment generation, skills development, and economic diversification.

It will also highlight the infrastructure readiness, single-window facilitation, incentive framework, and institutional support available in J&K, while enabling investors, industry stakeholders, government representatives, and knowledge partners to contribute to a comprehensive roadmap and enabling policy framework for GCC development.

The deliberations will further examine successful GCC models from other states and identify policy interventions and ecosystem conditions that can strengthen investor confidence and facilitate long-term growth.

A dedicated focus will be placed on building stronger industry-academia linkages through industry-aligned curricula, internships, experiential learning, and leadership development.

The Summit is also expected to facilitate tangible outcomes, including Memoranda

of Understanding, anchor investment commitments, and concrete employment proposals, thereby translating strategic dialogue into measurable opportunities for investment, talent development, and economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, stated that when the Institute was established, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had emphasized that the role of institutions such as IITs, IIMs, NITs goes beyond merely awarding degrees and includes contributing to the development of the region and the nation.

He said that IIM Jammu is working closely with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, with significant convergence taking place across various areas.

He highlighted that the Institute is contributing through its three broad mandates, including policy formulation, capacity building and engagement with government and industry.

He said that four policies developed at the "Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CiTAG), IIM Jammu including the successful Mission YUVA, have been accepted, while public-private partnership projects are also being facilitated through the Centre. The Institute is also undertaking capacity-building programmes for government officials and has been working with the Government on initiatives such as Mission YUVA.

He said that IIM Jammu is also working with the MSME sector and exploring ways to support its revival and growth. He noted that the Institute had proposed the development of a GCC ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir as an important opportunity to create

employment and contribute to the region's economic development.

Referring to the J&K GCC Summit 2026, he said that around 45 companies, 55+ Industry Leaders and 300+ delegates and several government representatives and industry leaders will participate in the two-day Summit being held on 9-10 October 2026.

He emphasised that the Summit is not an investment summit, but an effort to create awareness about the potential of Jammu and Kashmir as a GCC destination and to facilitate meaningful engagement between the government and industry. He said that GCCs can create opportunities across a range of service and knowledge-based functions and that Jammu and Kashmir needs to build the ecosystem required to attract such organisations.

He highlighted the availability of institutions such as IIM Jammu and IIT Jammu, which can contribute to developing and training the skilled manpower required by industry. He stressed that preparing the youth with the right skills is essential to ensure that the opportunities created through the GCC ecosystem translate into employment.

He further said that the Summit will provide participating organisations an opportunity to understand the ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, interact with government representatives and explore the possibilities of establishing their operations in the region.

Business meetings and parallel interactions with organisations are also being facilitated during the Summit to take these discussions forward.

He called upon industry,

government and other stakeholders to use the Summit as an opportunity to understand the potential of Jammu and Kashmir and work collectively towards bringing more organisations to the region.

He said that the objective is to create a sustainable ecosystem that contributes to employment, skill development and the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir. The Summit will also showcase the rich cultural heritage of the region through a cultural programme titled, Colors of Jammu by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur.

Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS, Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, stated that the J&K GCC Summit 2026 comes at an important juncture for the region as Jammu and Kashmir looks to create new avenues for employment and economic opportunities. He noted that the GCC model can provide a platform for attracting large corporate organisations and creating sizeable employment ecosystems, particularly in white-collar and knowledge-based sectors. He emphasised that Jammu and Kashmir needs to continuously create employment opportunities for its growing pool of skilled and educated workforce, while recognising that the Government alone cannot be the sole source of employment.

In this context, he said that GCCs can play an important role by creating opportunities across areas such as finance, human resources, technology, analytics and other knowledge-driven functions. Highlighting the need to develop a strong local talent pool, he stressed that the focus should be on creating skilled manpower aligned with emerging industry requirements. He also pointed to Jammu and Kashmir's favourable climatic conditions, natural environment and connectivity to the National Capital Region as factors that can support the development of a GCC ecosystem.

He further observed that the growth of GCCs can have a wider multiplier effect on the local economy by generating direct and indirect employment, strengthening supporting services and creating an ecosystem around new investments and businesses. He expressed the view that a focused GCC ecosystem can therefore contribute significantly to addressing employment challenges while creating sustainable opportunities for skilled professionals in Jammu and Kashmir.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: Raising Children with Justice

Islam places the upbringing of children at the very heart of its moral vision. The Quran repeatedly reminds us that children are a trust (Amaanah) from Allah, and that parents will be held accountable for how they fulfil that trust. "O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire" (66:6). This verse is not merely a warning; it is a directive to raise children with care, fairness

and moral purpose. Justice among children is one of the most neglected aspects of this duty. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was explicit on this point. When a father favoured one child over another, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Fear Allah and be just between your children" (Sahih al-Bukhari). In another narration, he said, "I do not like that you prefer some of your children over others, even in a

gift" (Sahih Muslim). This teaching strikes at the root of favouritism, which breeds resentment, jealousy and broken families. Justice does not mean treating every child identically. It means recognising each child's needs, temperament and potential, and responding to them with fairness. A sick child needs more attention; a struggling child needs more patience; a gifted child needs more challenge.

Justice is about giving each child what they need, not necessarily what the other receives. The Prophet (PBUH) was also a model of affection. He kissed children, carried them in prayer and played with them. He said, "He who does not show mercy to our young ones is not one of us" (Sunan al-Tirmidhi). Kindness is not indulgence; it is the foundation of a secure and confident child. In a time when children

face immense pressure—academic, social and digital—the Islamic model of just, loving and purposeful upbringing offers a timeless path. It calls us to balance discipline with affection, guidance with freedom, and equality with individual care. Our children are not our possessions. They are our responsibility. And justice toward them is among the purest forms of worship.

Faith & Spirituality

The Love And Mercy In Islam

Loving, caring for, supporting and nurturing people, animals and plants because they are all creations of Allah (SWT) are among the strongest expressions of faith and the fundamental values upon which Muslim society is built. The Prophet (SAW) said: "All creatures of Allah are His family; therefore, among His creations, Allah loves the person who treats His creatures in a good manner and takes care of their needs."

Zin Eddine Dadach

With His Infinite Love, Allah (SWT) created us with the promise of eternal happiness in Paradise, while this short worldly life serves as a divine test.

To explain this, the Prophet (SAW) said: "Allah (SWT) says: 'I have prepared for My righteous slaves that which no eye has seen, no ear has heard and it has never crossed the mind of man. All of that is reserved, besides which all that you have known is as nothing.'" Then he recited: "No person knows what is kept hidden for them of joy as a reward for what they used to do" (Quran 32:17) (Al-Bukhari).

The love and mercy that Allah (SWT) shows towards humanity can be beautifully understood through the Quran. Indeed, all but one of its chapters begin with: "In the name of Allah, Al-Rahman (The Most Gracious), Al-Raheem (The Most Merciful)." His Beautiful Names—including The Acceptor of Repentance, The Compassionate, The Loving One, The Forbearing One, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful, The Source of Goodness, The Most Generous, and The Bestower—further remind us of His mercy, kindness, generosity, and love.

As human beings, we are naturally inclined to love, but it is the love of Allah (SWT) that can truly fulfil the deepest needs of our eternal souls. As the Prophet (SAW) said to the people of Medina: "O people! Love Allah with all your hearts for what He has given you from blessings..."

"And if you should count the favor of Allah, you could not enumerate them." (Quran 14:34)

We should be grateful to and love Allah (SWT) because He is our Creator and the source of all that we have. Many Quranic verses and hadiths emphasise the importance of loving Allah (SWT). For example, the following prayer of the Prophet (SAW) beautifully highlights the importance of love in Islam: "O my Lord! Grant me Your love, the love of those whom You love, and the love of those deeds that will make me earn Your love. And make Your love in my sight dearer than the cold water desired by a person with a raging thirst" (Al-Tirmidhi).

Love surpasses many other values and is presented as a foundation of faith. A man once asked the Prophet Muhammad (SAW): "When will the Hour (of the Day of Judgment) be established?" The Prophet replied: "What have you prepared for it?" The man said: "I haven't prepared for it very much (by way) of prayers or fasting or charitable giving, but I love God and His Apostle." The Prophet then said: "You will be with those you love." (Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Al-Tirmidhi).

"And out of His Mercy He made for you the night and the day that you may rest therein and [by day] seek from His Bounty and [that] perhaps you will be grateful." (Qur'an 28:73)

Ultimately, Allah (SWT) not only guides us through life through the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet (SAW) but also provides for all living creatures. His provision is endless and includes our material needs, such as money, food, water, air, shelter, and protection.

Alongside meeting our physical needs, He (SWT) also fulfils our emotional and psychological needs. He gives us love through the love of our parents and allows us to experience joy through beautiful flowers, adorable animals, delicious food, refreshing drinks, and fruits and vegetables of countless flavours, shapes, and colours. In return for these countless blessings, He asks us to be grateful by showing love to Him and kindness towards all His creation.

"Say [O Prophet], 'If you love Allah, follow me; Allah will love you...'" (Quran 3:31).

One of the defining qualities of



believers is their love for Allah (SWT) and His love for them. As Allah (SWT) says, "O you who have believed, whoever of you should revert from his religion - Allah will bring forth [in place of them] a people He will love and who will love Him [who are] humble toward the believers, powerful against the disbelievers..." (Quran 5:54). True believers, therefore, are those who love Allah (SWT) above all else. This is beautifully highlighted in the Quran: "Yet there are people who make others as God's equals, loving them as only God should be loved. But those who have faith love God more than all else..." (Quran 2:165).

From this, we understand that loving, caring for, supporting, and nurturing people, animals, and plants because they are all creations of Allah (SWT) are among the strongest expressions of faith and the fundamental values upon which Muslim society is built. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) further explains that "Love for the sake of Allah is one of the greatest acts of worship and one of the best of righteous deeds." (Al-Bukhari, Muslim).

The Prophet (SAW) also said, "Allah (SWT) said: My love is a right upon those who love each other for My sake. My love is a right upon those who visit each other for My sake. My love is a right upon those who sit together for My sake. My love is a right upon those who maintain relations for My sake." (Musnad Ahmad).

Showing love and support to those around us is one of the central principles of Islam. For instance, the love between spouses, when nurtured for the sake of Allah (SWT), is beautifully described in the Quran: "And among His Signs is this: that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are

Signs for those who reflect" (Quran 30:21). The love we have for our children is also reflected in the Prophet's (SAW) tenderness toward his daughter Fatimah. Whenever he saw her, he would welcome her, rise from his seat, kiss her, and take her by the hand to seat her in his own place (Al-Bukhari).

Similarly, Islam encourages us to treat our neighbours and coworkers with kindness, compassion, and consideration. Allah (SWT) says: "Worship God and join none with Him in worship, and do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, the needy, the neighbour who is near of kin, the neighbour who is a stranger, the companion by your side, the wayfarer (you meet) and those whom your right hands possess. Verily, Allah does not like such as are proud and boastful." (Quran 4:36).

"Behold! Verily, for the friends of Allah, there is no fear, nor shall they grieve." (Quran 10:62).

The eternal rewards of choosing to love and care for those around us for the sake of Allah are beautifully explained in the teachings of Islam. Allah will ask on the Day of Judgment: "Where are those who loved each other for the sake of My glory? Today, on a day when there is no shade but Mine, I shall shade them with My shade." (Muslim). The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) further said: "There are people from the servants of Allah who are neither prophets nor martyrs, yet the prophets and martyrs will envy them on the Day of Resurrection." They are those who love one another for the sake of Allah. "Their faces will glow, and they will be upon pulpits of light. They will have no fear when the people are afraid, and they will not grieve when the people grieve." (Al-Albani).

"And We have sent you forth [O Muhammad] not but as a mercy for mankind and jinn." (Quran 21:107).

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was sent as a mercy to all of creation, and his life reflected compassion, kindness, and care for others. In speaking about our responsibility toward Allah's creation, the Prophet (SAW) said: "All creatures of Allah are His family; therefore, among His creations, Allah loves the person who treats His creatures in a good manner and takes care of their needs." (Al-Bukhari).

He (SAW) also emphasized the importance of loving our brothers and sisters in faith and humanity, saying: "None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." (Al-Bukhari, Muslim).

"There is no creature on the earth or bird that flies with its wings but that they are communities like you." (Quran 6:38).

The traditions of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) remind us that humankind has been entrusted with the care of Allah's creation. Treating animals with kindness and mercy is one of the responsibilities that comes with this trust. To illustrate this, the Prophet (SAW) told the story of a man who became extremely thirsty while traveling. He found a well, climbed down, quenched his thirst, and then came out. He noticed a dog panting and licking the mud because of severe thirst.

Realizing that the dog was suffering just as he had, the man returned to the well, filled his shoe with water, and gave the dog a drink. Allah appreciated his deed and forgave him. The Companions asked, "O Messenger of Allah! Is there a reward for us in serving the animals?" He replied: "Yes, there is a reward for serving every living creature." (Al-Bukhari).

"And [remember] when your Lord said to the angels, 'Indeed, I am going to place upon the earth a successive authority.'" (Quran 2:30).

In Islam, mankind's relationship with the earth is one of responsibility and stewardship. Muslims are encouraged not to be wasteful or extravagant in their consumption of food, clothing, water, or natural resources. The Quran reminds us: "Eat and drink from the provision of Allah and do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption." (Quran 2:60). Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also encouraged people to plant and cultivate the earth, saying: "If a Muslim plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, person, or animal eats from it, it is regarded as charity for him." (Al-Bukhari, Muslim).

In conclusion, at the heart of everything is love for Allah (SWT). Those who come to know and love Him discover a deeper sweetness in faith. That love naturally extends to His creation: loving others, helping them, showing compassion, and treating them with kindness for the sake of Allah (SWT). These acts of mu' ' mal' t are an essential part of living Islam, alongside our acts of ' ib' dah, and they reflect the sincerity of our relationship with Allah.

As a final reminder, the Prophet (SAW) said: "If Allah loves a person, He calls Gabriel saying: 'Allah loves so-and-so; O Gabriel, love him.' Gabriel would love him, and then Gabriel would make an announcement among the residents of the Heaven, 'Allah loves so-and-so, therefore, you should love him also.' So, all the residents of the Heavens would love him, and then he is granted the pleasure of the people of the earth."

O Allah, grant me Your love, the love of those who love You, and the love of every deed that brings me closer to Your love. Ameen.

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CS reviews operational readiness of National Waterways in J&K

3 waterways targeted for public use next year, Directs Div Coms to periodically review progress, resolve bottlenecks

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 08: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday reviewed the status of readiness for development and operationalisation of National Waterways across Jammu & Kashmir, taking comprehensive appraisal of the onshore infrastructure being developed by the Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Limited (IPRCL) and the river ecosystem and navigation facilities being prepared by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

The meeting, as per an official statement, besides the ACS, PWD and Chairperson, IWAI was attended by the respective Divisional Commissioners; Secretary, Transport; GGM, IPRCL and several other officers from the concerned departments and these agencies.

The Chief Secretary directed the Divisional Commissioners to undertake periodic review of the progress of National Waterway projects in their respective divisions and make occasional on-site visits to facilitate quick resolution of issues and smooth execution of works.

He observed that most of the issues confronting the projects are minor and resolvable and should be addressed promptly by the concerned Divisional Administrations in coordination with the executing agencies.

Dulloo also underscored the tourism and urban mobility potential of the National Waterways, observing that river cruises could emerge as a major



attraction for visitors while providing an alternative mode of transport in congested urban areas.

He stressed that development of waterways, should be planned to promote river-based tourism, facilitate passenger movement and help reduce pressure on the road network, while ensuring a safe, attractive and sustainable experience for both tourists and commuters.

He called upon IPRCL and IWAI to work strictly against the prescribed timelines and ensure that the necessary infrastructure, navigation facilities and supporting river ecosystem are put in place so that the waterways are ready for public use by next year.

The Chairperson, IWAI, Sushil Kumar Lohani while speaking in the meeting revealed that three major National Waterways including Jhelum (NW-49), Chenab (NW-26) and Ravi (NW-84) are being targeted for operationalisation during FY 2026-27. He added that the Jhelum National Waterway extends 110 km from Sangam

Bridge in Anantnag to Wular Lake; the Chenab waterway covers 53 km between Reasi and Akhnoor; while the Ravi waterway extends 44 km from Chamera Dam to Ranjit Sagar Dam at Basohli.

The Chief Secretary was apprised of the substantial progress achieved on NW-49 (Jhelum), where a 106-km river cruise route from Sangam to Wular Lake has been proposed, covering important locations including Pantha Chowk, Zero Bridge, Amira Kadal, Maharajan, Chattabal, Sumbal and Gund Prang.

Moreover it was given out that a work order has been issued for 10 hybrid electric catamarans with a capacity of 20 passengers each, at a cost of 66.11 crore. The vessel designs have been approved and construction is underway, with delivery targeted by March 2027.

It was further informed that all 52 navigational HDPE buoys required for the Jhelum waterway have been delivered, while six of the eight concrete

pontoons/jetties have already been cast and are targeted for completion by December 2026.

Additionally the construction of eight passenger/tourist terminal facilities at Sangam, Pantha Chowk, Zero Bridge, Amira Kadal, Byopar Mandal Ghat, Chattabal Weir, Sumbal and Gund Prang has also commenced, with the works targeted for completion by June 2027. The terminals are being designed with a local Kashmiri architectural character while incorporating modern structural and utility features.

On NW-26 (Chenab), it was informed that the cruise route has been identified for initial development between the identified terminal locations, while terminal land at Reasi and Akhnoor has been handed over to IWAI. On NW-84 (Ravi), a cruise route has been identified at Sohar in Jammu, with terminal land at Satwain near Ranjit Sagar Dam being processed for development.

For the same, it was elucidated that the civil works for three concrete pontoons across the

Chenab and Ravi waterways are under casting and are targeted for completion by December 2026, while DPRs for the associated onshore facilities have been finalised.

On the land and site-readiness front, it was informed by the GGM, IPRCL, Deepak that all the 11 identified land parcels for terminal development have been transferred to the Transport Department and formally handed over to IWAI. In addition to that the sites on the Jhelum, besides Manda in Akhnoor and Talwara in Reasi, have been handed over for their development. The remaining parcel at Domar/Satwain in Kathua is being processed with the concerned authorities.

The Chief Secretary was also apprised of the issues requiring coordinated intervention of various UT departments, including modification of overhead HT/LT power lines to meet navigation safety clearances, removal of coffer dams, shifting of electrical poles, provision of permanent water and power connections, wastewater disposal arrangements and widening of approach roads to terminal sites.

The development of the National Waterways is expected to provide a new dimension to river-based tourism, passenger mobility and sustainable inland water transport in J&K, besides creating opportunities for local economic activity and enhancing the tourism potential of the regions connected by these waterways.

Loans worth Rs 14.71Cr provided to artisans, weavers in Q1 & Q2 of CFY

Rs 19.00 Cr interest subvention provided by Handicrafts & Handloom Dept since 2020



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 8: Artisans and weavers across Kashmir are receiving a fresh boost of working capital, with the Handicrafts and Handloom Department extending loans worth 14.71 crore under its flagship Credit Card Scheme in the first two quarters of the current financial year.

Of the 3,885 applications sponsored to banks, 1,332 have been sanctioned and 1,054 disbursed by the end of September 2026.

Sharing details in a press release issued here Thursday, spokesman of the Department stated that the department is working with lead banks and other financial institutions to widen access to this facility. "The funds are meant to help craftspeople set up independent units and buy raw material and tools in a sector that remains heavily labour-intensive," he said.

The spokesman, as per an official statement, further stated that the beneficiaries also receive interest subvention of 7% on a tapering basis for five years, designed to help new units become self-sustaining. "Since the credit limit was raised from 1 lakh to 2

lakh in 2020, in line with the Wool Processing, Handloom and Handicrafts Policy, more than 10,000 craftsmen have taken loans totalling 151 crore," he said.

Over the same period, the department has provided interest subvention of 19 crore to support these unit-holders, he added.

The scheme is aimed at reducing dependence on informal credit and giving traditional crafts a more stable financial footing. By easing access to formal loans for tools, raw material and small production units, the department hopes to help artisans and weavers expand output, retain younger craftspeople in the trade and strengthen Kashmir's handloom and handicraft economy.

Artisans and weavers can apply online at singlewindow.jkgov.in to avail the benefits of the scheme. Common Service Centres set up across districts are available to help with registration.

The spokesman urged the financial institutions and lead banks to treat the craft sector as under priority lending and extend timely, hassle-free credit so that small unit-holders can build a stronger and more self-reliant base.

Training-cum-awareness session on narcotics control held in Udhampur

KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 08: A one-day training-cum-awareness session on Narcotics Control was conducted Thursday by the Narcotics Control Bureau here in collaboration with District Administration Udhampur.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh presided over the training-cum-awareness session.

At the outset, Superintendent NCB Jammu Kapil Sharma, as per an official statement, delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering various aspects of the NDPS Act, investigation techniques, capacity building and inter-departmental coordination, enforcement intelligence and operations, demand and harm reduction, control of precursors and synthetic drugs and rehabilitation strategies for persons affected by drug addiction.

Addressing the participants,

the ADC stressed the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination in combating the drug menace. He directed the concerned departments to intensify awareness activities regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse and ensure effective preventive measures across the district.

He emphasized the need to educate people, particularly the younger generation, about the dangers of addiction and to work collectively towards creating a drug-free environment in the district.

The training session witnessed active participation from officers and officials of various departments, reflecting a coordinated and mission-oriented approach towards preventing drug abuse and strengthening narcotics control measures in the district.

The session was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan, besides senior officers and officials from various departments.

3-day lecture workshop on recent advances in chemical sciences begins at KU

KT News Desk

Srinagar October 08: The Department of Chemistry, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Journal of Chemical Sciences, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru, Thursday began a three-day lecture workshop on "Recent Advances in Chemical Sciences" at the Main Campus on Thursday.

The workshop, as per a KU statement, is part of the outreach initiative of the editorial board of the Journal of Chemical Sciences and aims to provide students and young researchers with an opportunity to interact with leading experts and gain exposure to emerging areas of chemical sciences.

The lectures will cover recent developments, contemporary challenges and advances in different fields of chemistry, besides providing participants an insight into the latest trends in chemical research.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan said that such academic initiatives play an important role in connecting students and researchers with the latest developments in their respective fields.

"Workshops and academic interactions of this nature help our students and young researchers broaden their perspective and connect classroom learning with the rapidly



changing landscape of scientific research," she said.

In his remarks Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said that exposure to contemporary research is essential for developing a deeper understanding of a subject and such events encourage students to explore new areas of research.

Dean, School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences KU, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, noted that the workshop would provide participants an opportunity to understand emerging areas of chemical sciences and engage with experts working in different domains.

Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Chemical Sciences, Prof. Irishi, said the outreach initiative of the journal is aimed at taking contemporary scientific knowledge beyond conventional academic spaces and encouraging meaningful

interaction between experts, teachers and students.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Head, Department of Chemistry KU, Prof. Mohsin Bhat, said the workshop was an important academic initiative aimed at providing exposure to students and research scholars on recent developments in chemistry.

The three-day workshop features lectures by experts on emerging areas of chemical sciences, recent advances and challenges in the field, besides opportunities for interaction and discussion with the participants.

The event is being attended by research scholars and students of the University campus, as well as students of Chemistry from various colleges across the Kashmir division.

Prof. Syed Wajahat, faculty, Department of Chemistry, KU proposed formal vote of thanks on the occasion.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026

DC Samba inaugurates mega plantation

KT News Desk

SAMBA, OCTOBER 8: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan Thursday inaugurated a mega plantation drive at Mansar Morh, organised by the Municipal Council (MC) Samba in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department, as part of Swachhata Hi Seva 2026.

The plantation drive, as per an official statement, aims to strengthen green cover, promote ecological conservation and enhance the visual and environmental quality of public spaces across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner planted a tree sapling to mark the launch. She appreciated the coordinated efforts of the Municipal Council and Forest Department towards promoting sustainable environmental practices and creating greener public spaces.

Senior officers from the District Administration, Municipal Council and Forest Department along with civic



staff, students and volunteers, participated actively in the plantation drive. A variety of native, shade-giving, flowering and fruit-bearing saplings were planted along roadside stretches and available open spaces.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of collective community participation in environmental conservation and called for sustained efforts to protect and nurture the saplings planted under the campaign.

Doda joins National launch of JOSH initiative to accelerate TB elimination

KT News Desk

DODA, OCTOBER 08: A district-level programme was organized Thursday by the Health Department Doda here at the CMO Office to mark the National level launch of JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

The initiative aims to strengthen community participation, awareness and collective action towards the elimination of tuberculosis, while encouraging greater involvement of youth and community volunteers in the fight against TB.

The programme began with the virtual streaming of the national launch of JOSH by the Union Health Minister. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod



Sharma; Dy CMO Dr. Sat Lal Manhas; District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma; Nodal Officer My Bharat, Sandeep Sharma; Block Medical Officers, Divisional ASHA Coordinator, District ASHA Coordinator, Nodal Officer NTEP, ASHAs, health workers; NCC Cadets, My Bharat Volunteers, students and staff of ANMT School, besides other officials and staff of the Health Department attended the live streaming.

Addressing the gathering,

the CMO highlighted the significance of the JOSH initiative. He emphasized the need for sustained community participation, early identification of TB symptoms, timely diagnosis, treatment adherence and stigma-free support to TB patients. He appreciated the dedicated efforts of the NTEP teams, ASHAs, health workers and community volunteers in taking TB-related services to the grassroots level.

DTO Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma elaborated on the objectives of

the NTEP and the importance of active community engagement in achieving the goal of TB elimination. He appreciated the contribution of frontline workers and urged all stakeholders to work collectively towards identifying and supporting TB patients and ensuring completion of treatment.

Nodal Officer My Bharat Sandeep Sharma spoke about the role of youth and My Bharat volunteers in supporting public health initiatives. He emphasized that the active participation of young volunteers can significantly strengthen awareness and community outreach activities under NTEP.

Later, the CMO and other officers felicitated fully recovered TB patients, Block Medical Officers, TB Health Staff and

other frontline workers by presenting certificates of appreciation for their valuable contribution towards the implementation and strengthening of the NTEP at the grassroots level.

The felicitation was aimed at recognizing the commitment and dedication of individuals and health teams who have contributed significantly towards TB detection, treatment, follow-up, awareness and patient support across the district.

A TB Elimination Pledge was also administered to all participants, who reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the national goal of making India TB-free and to spreading awareness about TB prevention, early diagnosis, treatment adherence and the importance of eliminating stigma associated with the disease.

Mandeep Kaur presides over first-ever BWG convention

Says every generator must own its waste

KT News Desk

Budgam, Oct 08: A convention for Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) was on Thursday organised by district administration Budgam with the objective of sensitising the business establishments, institutions and other bulk waste generators about their responsibilities under Solid Waste Management Rules and promoting scientific and responsible waste management.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur who presided over the first of its kind convention said that all business establishments and other Bulk Waste Generators have to take responsibility for processing and managing the waste generated by them.

Addressing the gathering, Mandeep Kaur said that waste generators can adopt appropriate mechanisms such as on-site processing, home or institutional composting, or engaging authorised waste collectors or agencies for collection and disposal of waste. She said the practice of dumping waste outside commercial establishments after closure of markets has to change, emphasising that every waste generator must take responsibility for its own waste.

"Municipalities cannot be expected to take responsibility for the waste generated by every establishment," Commissioner



Secretary said, adding that waste generators can engage private or municipal agencies for collection and management of their waste.

The Commissioner Secretary said similar conventions would be organised in every district to create awareness and strengthen implementation of waste management rules in both urban and rural areas. She said the committees constituted under the directions of the Supreme Court and the responsibilities entrusted to Deputy Commissioners would play an important role in ensuring effective enforcement.

Emphasising that public participation is crucial for achieving a clean environment, Mandeep Kaur said people are willing to contribute but systems need to be strengthened and responsibilities clearly assigned. She called upon the welfare associations, societies, organisations, business associations and other

stakeholders to establish and implement effective systems for management of the waste generated by them, describing it as an important step forward in the Swachh Bharat journey.

The Commissioner Secretary also urged the local youth to become Swachhta entrepreneurs and create avenues of economic opportunity for themselves and others while contributing towards cleanliness and sanitation.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamar highlighted the importance of strengthening institutional capacity and fixing responsibility at every level. He stressed the need for active participation of PRLs and communities in fulfilling the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission and safeguarding the environment. He also elaborated Budgam's rich natural heritage including Doodhpathri and Shaliganga.

Managing Director, SBM

J&K, Dr. Devansh Yadav, gave a detailed introduction to Bulk Waste Generators and apprised the participants of applicable Solid Waste Management Rules and Supreme Court guidelines. He highlighted the provisions related to identification and coverage of BWGs, processing of waste, appropriate disposal and engagement of authorised waste management agencies.

Earlier, the participants were sensitised about registration through the CPCB portal, engagement of waste entrepreneurs and private vendors and opportunities under Waste to Wealth initiative.

Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Bandy sensitised participants about the role and responsibilities of every citizen in safeguarding fragile environment of Jammu & Kashmir.

A dedicated session on BWGs was conducted by SWAHA, followed by demonstration of CPCB portal and registration process by SBM(U) PMU. An interactive Q&A session was also held to address queries of the participants.

On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary administered Swachhta Pledge.

All district and sectoral officers, representatives from service sector, hotel industry, schools and other private institutions, restaurant owners, shopkeepers and other business holders attended the convention.

Rana launches Rs 1.32 crore forest, eco-tourism projects

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 08: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Thursday e-inaugurated and e-laid foundation stones for four projects under the Forest, Ecology & Environment Departments across Budhal, Thanamandi and Rajouri constituencies.

The projects, funded under UT Capex and having a combined cost of Rs 131.71 lakh, are aimed at promoting eco-tourism, providing recreational spaces to local communities and strengthening forest and wildlife protection infrastructure.

The projects included two eco-parks in Nanga Thub (Bakori) and Nambal (Budhal), each being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 40 lakh under the Rajouri Forest Division. The foundation stones for both projects were laid in presence of MLA Budhal, Javid Iqbal Choudhary.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for a Forest Check Post at Darhal, to be constructed under the Rajouri Forest Division at an estimated cost of Rs 11.71 lakh under UT Capex 2026-27, in presence of MLA Thanamandi, Muzaffer Iqbal Khan.

He also e-inaugurated the Range Office Building at Rajouri, constructed by the Department of Wildlife Protection at a cost of Rs 40 lakh, in presence of MLA Rajouri, Iftikhar Ahmed.



Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the projects reflect the Government's commitment to balance the environmental conservation with development while creating quality recreational and eco-tourism facilities for local communities.

Highlighting the importance of eco-parks in Jammu and Kashmir, Rana said that such initiatives promote harmony between nature, forests, wildlife and local communities while creating opportunities for eco-tourism and ecological restoration. He emphasised the need to develop eco-parks and undertake conservation measures in a manner that safeguards the natural environment while providing quality recreational spaces and sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

"These eco-parks will provide quality public spaces for the people and promote eco-tourism while the forest check post and Range Office will further strengthen the protection, monitoring and management of our forests and wildlife," he

said. Rana directed the officers concerned to ensure timely completion of the ongoing works and maintain the prescribed quality standards. He asked them to ensure proper upkeep of the facilities after their completion so that these serve the intended purpose and benefit the local population.

The Minister also reviewed the ongoing soil conservation and forest protection measures being undertaken across the concerned constituencies and called for a focused approach towards preventing soil erosion, protecting vulnerable slopes and strengthening measures for conservation of natural resources. He directed the officers to identify the vulnerable areas on priority and undertake appropriate soil conservation works in a timely manner, particularly in areas prone to erosion and degradation.

Rana stressed the need for effective coordination between the concerned departments and field functionaries to ensure that conservation measures yield sustainable results on the ground. He directed the officers to closely monitor the progress of works, ensure adherence to prescribed quality standards and complete all ongoing projects within the stipulated timelines. He further called for proper maintenance of the completed facilities and regular field-level monitoring to ensure their optimum utilisation for the benefit of local communities.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Cyber frauds, cyber

mechanism that can stop such fraud before it reaches the people," PM Modi said.

Industry body GSMA represents mobile network operators and companies across the global ecosystem.

PM Modi said strengthening the security framework around telecom and digital technologies was equally crucial for their rapid expansion, with phone and network security becoming priorities.

He said India has learnt a lot from its experiences in this direction, and is always ready to share its experiences with the world.

For an ordinary citizen, he said, trust means knowing who is calling, whether a message is genuine or fake, whether a payment is safe and whether personal data is secure.

Mobile phones had evolved beyond being a means of communication and had become an important tool for governance and delivery of public services, the PM noted, and emphasised the need to strengthen safeguards against cyber threats in a growing digital ecosystem.

HIGHLIGHTS INDIA'S EXPERIENCE WITH DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

PM Modi also highlighted India's experience with digital governance and said Direct Benefit Transfer had enabled nearly Rs 50 lakh crore to be sent directly to beneficiaries' mobile-linked bank accounts. He said nearly Rs 5 lakh crore had been saved from going into the "wrong hands".

PM Modi asserted that he was determined to stop "wrong practices".

"Now tell me, those whose ill-gotten income has stopped, will they love Modi? Did I do the right thing or not? Should it be done or not? Should all these wrong practices be stopped or not? No matter how much they shout or scream, I am determined to get it done," he vowed.

He observed that had the old system prevailed, Rs 5 lakh crore of the government would have gone into leakages, filling the pockets of such people. "Modi has stopped this," he said adding that the money is now reaching rightful beneficiaries and being used for the right causes.

The prime Minister also said that India had moved from being a consumer to a creator in the telecom sector and was advancing towards designing products and owning technology and intellectual property in the country.

He said the India Mobile Congress had an important role to play in shaping the roadmap for the next decade of the mobile market, not just in India but globally. (KNO)

CM Omar hails

apprenticeships and skill development, creating new opportunities in the construction, operation and maintenance of gas distribution infrastructure and associated services.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated Minister for Food, Civil

Supplies & Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma and the Department on the notification of the policy, describing it as an important step towards cleaner growth, sustainable development and a modern energy ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

"The City Gas Distribution Policy will help expand clean and reliable energy access while creating an enabling environment for industry and investment. It is an important step towards building a cleaner, more efficient and sustainable energy future for J&K," the Chief Minister said.

GST Council decisions

strengthen Jammu & Kashmir's fiscal position, support economic growth and accelerate development and public welfare.

Omar greets

that his teachings continue to carry profound relevance in the contemporary world.

"Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) remains an eternal beacon of peace, harmony and spiritual enlightenment. His universal message transcends sectarian boundaries and continues to inspire people across faiths and generations," the Chief Minister said.

He said the revered saint's emphasis on simplicity, compassion, tolerance, devotion and brotherhood has deeply influenced Kashmir's composite cultural and spiritual ethos.

The Chief Minister observed that the enduring appeal of Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) lies in his message of humanity, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, values that remain as relevant today as ever.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and urged everyone to draw inspiration from the life and teachings of Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA).

Vaccinate against

wear multiple layers of clothing to retain body heat and limit exposure to outdoor air, particularly when temperatures fall below freezing. Those venturing outdoors have been advised to keep their nose and mouth covered and take adequate precautions against cold air.

SKIMS has also stressed the importance of frequent handwashing and avoiding touching the face, particularly the nose and mouth. People have been advised to stay well hydrated by drinking enough fluids and to continue indoor physical activity to support cardiovascular and lung health.

The institute urged people to take precautions against falls on icy and slippery surfaces, recommending proper footwear with good traction and walking through well-lit areas.

"Prioritise sleep and manage stress," the advisory stated, recommending seven to nine hours of sleep every night. It noted that stress and anxiety can act as triggers for seizures in some individuals, making adequate rest and

stress management particularly important during winter.

The advisory has laid special emphasis on vaccination, urging people to get vaccinated against influenza and pneumonia, stating that vaccination can reduce the risk of respiratory infections.

Patients suffering from hypertension have been advised to monitor their blood pressure regularly and continue prescribed antihypertensive medicines without interruption. Similarly, patients with chronic diseases have been asked to take their prescribed medicines regularly and strictly follow their doctors' advice.

Asthma and COPD patients have particularly been advised to follow their action plans during exacerbations and carry a rescue inhaler if prescribed by their healthcare provider. SKIMS has also cautioned people against smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke, while advising them not to expose themselves to cold air without adequate protection.

The advisory warned against undertaking strenuous outdoor activities during severe cold and urged people to exercise caution while using space heaters. Proper ventilation should be maintained and excessive dryness of indoor air should be avoided.

The institute has strongly advised against self-medication, particularly unnecessary use of antibiotics. It noted that viral infections are more common during the winter season and antibiotics have no role in treating viral infections. Unnecessary antibiotic consumption can contribute to antimicrobial resistance, posing a serious public health concern.

SKIMS lists warning signs requiring hospital care

The institute has urged people not to ignore worsening symptoms and to seek medical attention if the frequency of cough or breathlessness increases, or if a patient develops new-onset fever accompanied by a fall in oxygen saturation.

People have also been advised to immediately report to a hospital in case of left-sided chest pain accompanied by worsening breathlessness, as these may be warning signs of a heart attack.

Similarly, sudden weakness of an arm or leg, difficulty in speaking, facial drooping or disturbance in gait should be treated as medical emergencies as they may indicate a stroke.

Patients have also been advised to seek medical attention if their symptoms are not adequately controlled with routine medication or begin interfering with their daily activities.

Advice on home oxygen The advisory also provides guidance regarding oxygen saturation, stating that home oxygen may be considered when oxygen saturation falls below 88 per cent as measured through a pulse oximeter, with a target saturation of 89-92 per cent as advised.

SKIMS has urged the public to remain vigilant during the winter

months and take preventive measures to protect vulnerable individuals and those living with chronic respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological conditions. (KNO)

'Op Sindoor' showcased

technique to protect national interests. The IAF always remains alert and is committed and ready to meet any contingency."

Referring to Operation Sindoor, he said the IAF's swift transition into combat operations demonstrated its destructive power as well as the effectiveness of its air defence operations.

He said an air force's true strength is not merely determined by the advanced aircraft it possessed, but by its operational preparedness and its ability to act quickly and confidently whenever required.

"An air force can have the most advanced aircraft in the world, but its true strength is measured by its operational preparedness how quickly and confidently it can act whenever the call comes," he said.

The Air Chief said this year's Air Force Day theme, "Infallible, Impervious, Precise," is not merely a tagline but a manifestation of the IAF's strength and resolve.

He also reiterated the force's commitment to technological advancement and self-reliance, saying 'Atmanirbharta' remained its guiding principle. Emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence and autonomous systems, would be integrated while keeping human authority at the core, he said.

He stressed the need for deep synergy among the armed forces, saying joint planning and integrated combat application with the Army and Navy had become a daily activity.

Pertinently, 'Operation Sindoor' was launched by India on May 7, 2025, in response to the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalagam, which left 26 people dead. The operation involved precision strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). (KNO)

Devastating hailstorm

also reported from some areas of Ganderbal.

Rainfall was reported from several other parts of Jammu and Kashmir, while cloudy conditions prevailed over most areas.

The overall extent of damage to crops and orchards in Bandipora, Kupwara and Ganderbal has not yet been officially assessed, and no district-wise loss estimates were immediately available.

J&K TO WITNESS RAIN OVER NEXT 2 DAYS

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness light rain at scattered places over the next two days, with light snowfall possible over higher reaches, the Meteorological Centre said.

The weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy on October 9

and 10, with generally dry conditions likely to prevail on October 11 and 12.

A brief spell of light rain is possible at a few places towards the evening of October 9, while another spell of rain may occur towards the evening or night of October 13, the weather office said.

Generally cloudy weather with light rain, light snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds is expected at many places on October 14 and 15.

The weather is likely to remain generally dry from October 16 to 18, according to the forecast.

The Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting and ensure safe storage of harvested apples and paddy.

SRINAGAR RECORDS 28.3 C, JAMMU 31.5 C

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 28.2 degrees Celsius, which was 4 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 10.9 degrees Celsius, 3.4 degrees above normal.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 31.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 20 degrees Celsius, while Pahalagam recorded a maximum temperature of 23.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 6 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 19 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 6 degrees Celsius, the data showed. (KNO)

Early detection key

interventions, ensuring that cancer-control programmes are responsive to the needs of the population.

Another session focused on data management and the REDCap platform, conducted by Dr Pulkit Verma, Programme Officer, Data Management, ICMR Headquarters. The session highlighted the importance of accurate data collection, standardised documentation, digital monitoring and systematic evaluation in assessing the effectiveness of cancer-screening and treatment interventions.

Improving breast cancer survival emerged as one of the key areas of discussion. Stakeholders worked towards developing a proposal addressing multiple stages of the breast cancer care pathway—from awareness and early identification to screening, diagnosis, referral, treatment and follow-up.

The proposal development exercise sought to identify practical interventions that could help reduce delays in diagnosis and treatment and improve continuity of care for breast cancer patients.

Experts also discussed strengthening linkages between screening facilities, diagnostic services and specialised treatment centres so that patients requiring further evaluation can be referred and managed without unnecessary delays.

The workshop discussed an integrated approach for prevention and screening of breast, oral, cervical and gastric cancers. Participants

deliberated on strategies for identifying populations at higher risk, improving awareness regarding early warning signs, strengthening screening mechanisms and establishing efficient referral pathways.

Experts emphasised that early detection remains an important component of improving cancer outcomes, as timely diagnosis can facilitate appropriate treatment and reduce delays across the care pathway.

The workshop also provided an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between ICMR experts, GMC Jammu, government health authorities, researchers and other stakeholders involved in cancer-control activities. The collaboration is expected to facilitate the development of scientifically robust proposals and implementation frameworks to support stronger cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up services in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The workshop is expected to contribute towards strengthening cancer awareness and prevention initiatives, expanding population-based screening, promoting early detection and diagnosis, improving referral mechanisms and strengthening the overall continuum of cancer care.

It will also support the development of locally adaptable intervention packages, improved digital data-management systems and the generation of implementation evidence that can inform future cancer-control programmes. (KNO)

Four drug peddlers

son of Gh Nabi Shah resident of Marwah, Kishtwar, presently residing at Donipawa. During search, 3 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from his possession.

In Kulgam, a police party at a checkpoint established at Choimulla on NH intercepted a vehicle (Volkswagen Polo) bearing registration No. JK03D-7723 with two persons on board. During search, 25 bottles of Codeine, each containing 100 ml, concealed in a black bag were recovered and the accused were instantly arrested.

Meanwhile in Shopian, during routine naka checking at Nadigam Kundalan Crossing, a police party from Police Station Shopian apprehended a person under suspicious circumstances. During search 2.16 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from his possession. The accused has been identified as Shreeraz Ahmad Lone son of Mohd Ramzan Lone resident of Tungdano Kulgam.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiated, the spokesperson said.

J&K Police reiterated its commitment to combating the drug menace and taking stringent action against those involved in the illegal trafficking of narcotic and psychotropic substances. (KNO)

Ex-judges dub opposition attack on EC 'campaign without evidence'

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 08: A group of 42 retired judges have defended the Election Commission against the opposition onslaught and backed the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, describing it as a lawful exercise.

In an open letter to the "people of India", the former judges of the Supreme Court and former chief justices and judges of various high courts said they hold no brief for any political party but felt compelled to speak as "silence is no longer a neutral choice".

The signatories include Former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi High Court B C Patel, Former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court Subhro Kamal Mukherjee, former Supreme Court judge Hemant Gupta and Pankaj Mittal.

The opposition INDIA bloc leaders have accused Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar of revising electoral rolls to benefit the BJP and have sought his resignation. Both the BJP and the commission have rejected the allegation.

The former judges claimed that India's constitutional bodies are under "sustained attack", with the Election Commission of India at the centre of the assault.

"Even the higher judiciary, which we hold in high esteem, and statutory agencies have not been spared," the letter pointed out.

They said the attacks were not reasoned criticism but appeared to be a "calculated campaign" driven by vested political interests, with little regard for the potentially devastating consequences of "destabilising the world's largest democracy".

The former judges described the attacks on the poll panel and other institutions as a "campaign without evidence".



"Criticism of institutions is a democratic right. Denigration is not. Constitutional authorities are now branded 'thieves', 'puppets' and 'compromised' from public platforms," they lamented.

On the SIR, the former judges noted that the electoral law empowers the EC to carry out revision of electoral rolls at any time.

They said SIRs had been carried out repeatedly since the first general elections, with the last such exercise completed about two decades ago. "No one called those revisions a conspiracy," they said.

The former judges said the allegations of "vote theft" are made at press conferences, "not before courts".

"When the commission seeks a sworn declaration, none is filed. Electronic Voting Machines are blamed only after defeat. Victories won on the same machines go unquestioned," the letter said.

In an apparent reference to the Congress, they said a party that governed the nation for over five decades now claims that the very system which elected it is rigged.

"It does not act alone. Activist outfits with a long record of selective litigation lend these claims a veneer of legality," it said.

They file petition, "one after the other" but seldom give proof. The courtroom becomes a stage, and when the judgment is delivered, it is criticised whenever it does not serve their interests, the letter said.

"Vitriol is then amplified and disseminated on an industrial scale, with the deliberate aim of eroding public confidence in a well-established and widely trusted judicial system," they said.

On Tuesday, the INDIA bloc MPs marched from Parliament, and Rahul Gandhi observed an eight-hour sit-in at Akashvani Bhawan. On Wednesday, the scene shifted to nearby Jantar Mantar as Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders held a street protest against Kumar before being detained by the police later in the evening.

Thursday marked the third day of continuous protests in the national capital by top opposition leaders.

GST process reforms to stabilise over next one year: Sitharaman

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 08: The process reforms under the next-generation GST framework are expected to stabilise over the next one year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday, expressing confidence that the changes will improve ease of doing business while ensuring stable revenue for the Centre and states.

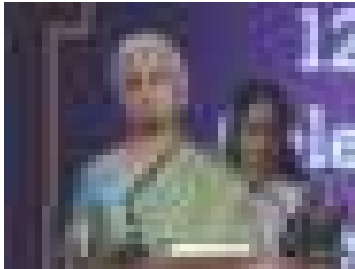
Announcing various decisions taken at the 57th GST Council meeting here, Sitharaman said the tax rate reduction effected last year had not resulted in any loss of revenue, with collections growing steadily and becoming less dependent on festival months.

New lower GST rates, kicked in from September 22, 2025, slashed prices of as many as 375 items, ranging from toothpaste and shampoo to cars and television sets.

Tax rates of 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent have been clubbed into two rates -- 5 per cent and 18 per cent, resulting in a reduced price of 99 per cent of daily use items.

The next-generation GST, which began with rate reductions, has emerged as a positive, transparent and stable source of revenue for both the Centre and states, she said.

Sitharaman said she expects the process reforms to be equally



accepted by states and businesses, which would help stabilise the system further.

The process reforms are scheduled to be implemented from April 1, 2027, and it would take about a year for the new system to fully stabilise, she added.

"It is going to be implemented only from April 1, 2027. It will take a full year for it to stabilise this set of process reforms," Sitharaman said.

Once stabilised, the next-generation GST would provide ease of doing business, ensure revenue for states and the Centre, and give businesses confidence that the tax system facilitates business while providing greater certainty, she pointed out.

Sitharaman described the development as a major achievement of the GST Council and said the evolution of the institution demonstrated the strength of cooperative federalism.

Recalling the challenges faced by the GST Council before 2019, during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the period immediately thereafter, she said the institution had matured significantly, with the Centre and states now working together on difficult and sensitive issues such as revenue. She said the GST Council today stands out as an example of how Centre-state cooperation can deliver results.

"I am immensely proud, and I'm grateful that the Prime Minister has given me an opportunity to work in such a body, which has grown to be an exemplar," she said.

Sitharaman said the GST Council had mostly addressed the aberrations because of ITC and addressed the duty inversion.

"So, I don't think there are many outstanding issues which are fundamental to ease of doing business or fundamental to anomalies and rates remain. So, yes, you can say GST next generation, 99 per cent issues have been addressed, rate or process," Sitharaman said.

The GST reform Process has been driven from the principle of trust, the minister said.

"Business has to be trusted. Taxpayers have to be trusted. And businesses among themselves, with trust, if they do it, we shouldn't be too intrusive," she added.

Absence of AI in equities will become India's strength in year: CEA Says markets to start attracting flows

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 08: The absence of artificial intelligence focus in Indian equities, which is among factors blamed for the selloff by foreign investors, will turn into a "strength" in a year, and the same set of people will come back to bet on our other fundamentals, a top policymaker said on Thursday.

The rupee, which has seen some sessions of a depreciation and is hurtling towards its lifetime lows, is likely to continue being under pressure, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said while speaking at SBI-Amundi India Investor Seminar here.

"If the AI boom stumbles, India is well placed to gain... one year from now, we might find that the absence of an AI trade, will turn up to have been India's strength," Nageswaran said.

Acknowledging that the absence of AI opportunities is considered a drawback of global investors when it comes to the country, the academic-turned-policymaker said India is set to have a "second mover advantage" on this front.

Terming AI as a "borrowing story", Nageswaran said a shake-off will make capital look for growth opportunities that do not depend on AI and exuded confidence that with its strong economic growth,

India will be the alternative they will come to.

"I would submit that it is a matter of time before this happens," he said, adding that he is certain about this eventuality playing out.

All these four headwinds are exogenous, and include the challenging relationship with the US, the absence of an AI trade, the West Asia conflict which has led to hardening of oil prices impacting an oil importing country like ours and the rate tightening by global central banks.

"Clearly, the fundamentals are very, very different and healthier right now than what the exchange rate alone might tell you," he added.

Actor Nana Patekar passes away at age 75 PM Modi, film fraternity condole demise

PTI

Panaji, Oct 08: Veteran actor Nana Patekar, who went from painting zebra crossings and printing movie posters to a mainstream artiste who stood out for his raw, earthy performances across diverse films such as "Krantiveer" and "Khamoshi: The Musical", died at his Goa home in the early hours of Thursday. He was 75.

Patekar, whose powerful screen presence was felt even in ensemble comedies such as "Welcome", is suspected to have suffered a heart attack, doctors said.

The actor was taken to a private hospital after he was found unconscious at his apartment in Dona Paula, near Panaji, said Dr Shekhar Salkar, a senior doctor at the medical facility said.

Despite being administered CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) for 45 minutes, Patekar could not be revived and was declared dead at 5.10 am, he said.

The sudden death of the actor, who effectively captured the anger, helplessness and disillusionment of the common person in his roles, came as a shock to his colleagues and friends.

Just four days ago, he said at an event in Goa, "We all have to go someday. I don't know whether I will be here tomorrow." The words underscoring the fragility of life.

Patekar is survived by his wife Neelkanti and son Malhar.

According to information provided by a friend of Patekar to the hospital doctors, the actor had messaged him around 3.30 am that he was not feeling well.

"The friend saw the message around 4 am and rushed to the apartment of Patekar, who was living with a caretaker," Salkar said, adding that an ambulance was sent to the actor's house, which is about five minutes away from the hospital.

"The treatment started in the ambulance itself," Salkar said. The doctors tried to revive him after being brought to the hospital but he was declared dead at 5.10 am.

After the postmortem, the actor's body was taken to his Pune farmhouse for the last rites, where he will be



accorded state funeral.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled Patekar's death in a post on X, saying the actor's death leaves a deep void.

"Few actors possessed the intensity, individuality and unmistakable presence that Shri Nana Patekar Ji had. He brought remarkable versatility and creativity to every role and gave us characters that will be remembered for generations. He was also admired for his frank and forthright views, never hesitating to express what he believed in," the PM said in a post on X.

"Shri Nana Patekar's contribution to Hindi and Marathi cinema was immense. His passing leaves a deep void. My condolences to his family, friends and countless admirers, Om Shanti," he added.

Shah Rukh Khan, his co-star in "Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman", said Patekar was a masterful actor and an unbeatable carrom champion.

"When I first met him, out of awe and awkwardness I fiddled with my hair. He slapped my hand away and said 'hero ki tarah Baal mat bana...tu actor hai!' He didn't flatter you. He didn't tell you what you wanted to hear. He told you what you needed to hear. That was Nana. Straightforward. Rough, honest and had the most beautiful smile," Shah Rukh said in a post on X.

Akshay Kumar, who worked with Patekar on blockbuster comedy "Welcome", said he has so many memories from their time together on the movie.

"Really saddened by the news of Nana ji's passing. He was one of those rare actors who never needed to do too much to make you sit up and watch. That voice, that intensity, that honesty in every performance... he was completely his own. Nana ji was truly one of a kind," Akshay

wrote in a post on X.

Kangana Ranaut said the news was particularly shocking because Patekar appeared to be in good health.

"Such terrible and tragic news, especially because Nana ji looked so fit and healthy. OM Shanti," she wrote.

He was born Vishwanath Patekar into a Marathi family in Murud-Janjira in Raigad district as the youngest of three brothers on January 1, 1951. His father had a small business but that failed when he was still in school, forcing the actor to earn money by printing movie posters and doing other odd jobs.

"When I was in the ninth grade, someone made my father sign something bad and he lost everything and I started earning. I would come from school in the afternoon, eat something, walk for sixteen kilometres everyday to print movie posters. I would get Rs 35 a month and one meal a day," he told Amitabh Bachchan during an appearance on KBC in 2024.

Patekar, who studied at Sir J J School of Art, never forgot his humble origins or the humiliation and invisibility he suffered because of poverty, often recalling his early struggle in interviews later.

"I studied commercial art there (at JJ School of Art). After that, I worked as a visualiser in an advertising agency. Then you had to choose between theatre and the job. So, I left the job and continued with theatre. In those days, we were poor.

"Our dean, he used to assign us government work... That would help me earn some money. Sometimes there would be the job to paint the zebra crossing. We would get Rs 15 for that but then you did not have to beg anyone for money," Patekar said on KBC.

He came to acting through Marathi theatre where Patekar stood out as a talented artist to look out for through Vijaya Mehta-directed plays "Hamida Bai Chi Kothi", "Mahasagar" and the long-running "Purush", which he first did at the age of 16.

It was Smita Patil who encouraged Patekar to join films, but he was hesitant, fearing his unconventional looks would lead to rejection.

Patil and Farookh Sheikh's 1978 film "Gaman", directed by Muzaffar Ali, marked his Hindi cinema debut, but it would take him a decade to finally move to the big leagues with Mira Nair's "Salaam Bombay!" in 1988.

Then came Vidhu Vinod Chopra's "Parinda", his own directorial "Prahaar: The Final Act", patriotic drama "Tiranga", commercial hit "Krantiveer" and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Khamoshi: The Musical", each performance earning him acclaim, awards and wider popularity.

For "Prahaar", the actor trained in the Maratha Light Infantry regiment. Former Army chief and union minister VK Singh helped him in his training and also had a cameo in the movie.

Patekar convinced Defence Minister George Fernandes during the Kargil War in 1999 to work with the soldiers on the frontline. He spent about 60 days, during which he was posted at different locations, including Drass, Mughal Pora and Baramulla. Patekar was also a member of the Quick Reaction Team (QRT).

The actor was the recipient of three National Film Awards for his roles in "Parinda", "Krantiveer" and "Agni Sakshi", several Filmfare Awards, the Maharashtra State Film Award and Filmfare Awards Marathi.

He also received Padma Shri, the country's fourth-highest civilian honour.

In 2018, Patekar was accused of sexual harassment by actor Tanushree Dutta on a movie set and the allegation led to the start of India's MeToo movement. An FIR was registered against the actor, who consistently denied the allegations. The case was later closed due to insufficient evidence. Patekar is survived by his wife Neelkanti and son Malhar.

In a first, Rolls-Royce hosts board meeting in India

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 08: For the first time, British defence giant Rolls-Royce hosted its board meeting in India this week, re-affirming the strategic importance it attaches to the Indian market.

Separately, Rolls-Royce CEO Tufan Erginbilgic met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the company's long-term ambitions for India and opportunities to support the country's priorities as a strategic partner across defence, aerospace and energy sectors, the company said.

"India is very important to Rolls-Royce and our long-term growth ambitions," Erginbilgic said.

"We want to deepen our role as a strategic partner supporting energy security, infrastructure growth, national security and connectivity, contributing to economic growth for India," he said.

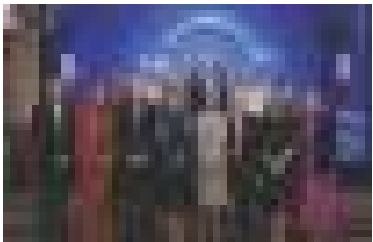
"From developing sovereign aero-engine capability, to exploring new opportunities across power and propulsion, our focus is on building partnerships and capabilities that can create lasting value for India and Rolls-Royce," Erginbilgic said.

The company has been working on a mega plan to scale-up its business in India across vital sectors of defence and energy including co-development of a next-generation combat jet engine.

Dame Anita Frew, Chair, and the Board of Directors met with Rolls-Royce's India leadership team and government stakeholders during the visit.

They also visited Rolls-Royce's Global Capability and Innovation Centre in Bengaluru where teams across engineering, defence, global business services as well as digital and IT demonstrated the depth of capabilities being delivered from the country, the company said in a statement.

It said the decision by the top brass of the company to visit India reflects the country's growing importance to



Rolls-Royce and its commitment to developing deeper partnerships and strengthen capabilities.

"The company's future growth ambitions in India build on its decades-long presence, established industrial partnerships, growing engineering footprint and expanding manufacturing and supply chain ecosystem," it said.

In August 2026, Rolls-Royce and Reliance Industries announced their strategic intent to partner and offer capabilities for the design, development, manufacturing and delivery of a sovereign indigenous combat engine for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

The partnership would include the establishment of a dedicated Aerospace Gas Turbine Complex (AGTC) in India, with the AMCA engine programme as an anchor.

Beyond combat aerospace, Rolls-Royce has significant presence in India across its civil aviation, defence, and power systems businesses.

The company's long-standing industrial footprint in India includes its manufacturing joint ventures with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and Force Motors as well as sourcing partnerships with over 100 different vendors including Tata, Bharat Forge, Godrej, Azad Engineering and many small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Rolls-Royce's Global Capability and Innovation Centre in Bengaluru serves global corporate functions while advancing digital and engineering expertise.

EU sends envoy to Beijing as rising exports from China raise economic anxiety



A letter by France and Germany, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press, called for a sweeping rethink of the EU's China policy. Among other actions, it proposed making it easier for the European Commission to use the bloc's so-called "trade bazooka," the Anti-Coercion Instrument. This is a never-used-before raft of measures for blocking or restricting trade and investment from countries found to be putting undue pressure on EU member nations or corporations.

Long-deployed USS Lincoln is returning home to San Diego

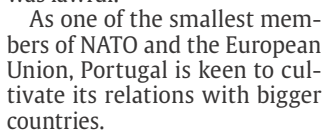
AP

The carrier had left San Diego in November and arrived in the Middle East in January. US and Israeli forces launched airstrikes against Iran on February 28.

Rubio visits Portugal, hails 'great ally' as US seeks deeper ties

AP

"Portugal is a great ally, a very cooperative ally of the United States and a country with which we already have a solid and growing relationship. And we visit these countries in order to reinforce those ties," Rubio said before departing Athens. "That's the purpose of the trip." Spain's



Portugal, a country of fewer

KU concludes Women's Volleyball, Men's Football Tournaments

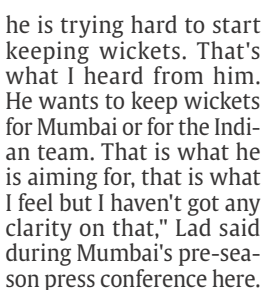


The medals and trophies were distributed among the winners and runners-up by Prof. Majid Zaman and Prof. Raies Ahmad Qadri. The proceedings of the prize distribution ceremony were jointly conducted by Football Coach, Sajid Yousuf Dar and Volleyball Coach, Muneer Alam.

Yashasvi Jaiswal is working on his wicketkeeping skills with Mumbai team: Lad

PTI

"With Yashasvi, I feel



"He is someone who has started practicing keeping

Jaiswal is said to have kept the wickets for about 10 overs during one of Mumbai's practice matches ahead of the Ranji Trophy. Lad said having Jaiswal would benefit the Mumbai team which will be without their former captain Shardul Thakur, with former skipper Ajinkya Rahane also having retired from all forms of cricket before the start of the season.

