



J&K GCC Summit 2026

J&K can become hub for global innovation: LG Sinha

Highlights young talent, lower costs, startup growth as key advantages

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir can become a major destination for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), with its young workforce, improving infrastructure, investor-friendly policies and growing innovation ecosystem.

Addressing the valedictory session of the J&K Global Capability Centre Summit 2026, Sinha urged participants to make a case for why companies should choose the region as their next talent hub and innovation centre. He said Jammu and Kashmir could move beyond hosting capability centres to becoming a source of distinctive global innovations.

He congratulated IIM Jammu, NASSCOM, partner institutions and the administration for organising the two-day summit. He said the region's



development would depend on strengthening its institutions, infrastructure and innovation ecosystem as companies expand beyond metropolitan centres into Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

Drawing a parallel with

the Chenab Rail Bridge, the Lieutenant Governor said the bridge reflected the confidence and ambition needed to pursue transformational goals. The Chenab's formation through the confluence of the Chandra and Bhaga rivers, he added,

symbolised collaboration.

"I see Global Capability Centres in the same spirit of courage and confluence and together they can generate a strength far beyond their separate capabilities," he said.

Sinha said India has more than 2,100 GCCs employing over 19 lakh professionals and contributing substantially to exports. He described the sector's evolution as a shift from cost efficiency towards excellence and capability.

He also pointed to infrastructure development, improved connectivity, industrial investment and startup growth in Jammu and Kashmir. The number of startups in the region, he said, had risen from 69 in 2020 to 1,305—an increase of more than 1,800%.

"The industrial revolution we are witnessing today in parts of the Jammu division and the Kashmir Valley is a living symbol of the new | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar calls for future-ready education beyond exams

Says critical thinking, digital literacy, shared responsibility must be integral to learning

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Oct 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday called for a future-ready education system that prepares children for life beyond examinations, equipping them with critical thinking, digital literacy, adaptability and a strong sense of responsibility.

The Chief Minister was addressing the School Leader of the Year 2026 Summit & Awards in New Delhi, which brought together leading educators, school principals and institutional heads to celebrate excellence, innovation and leadership in K-12 education.

Emphasising the role of school leaders in nation-building, Omar Abdullah said principals and head teachers do much more than administer schools. They shape the learning environment, values, aspirations and future of young minds. Strong leadership, he said, is fundamental to building safe,



inclusive, innovative and student-centric institutions.

The Chief Minister underscored that education must focus on the holistic development of every child, going beyond academic achievement to nurture creativity, communication, collaboration, problem-solving abilities and digital competence. He stressed that schools must prepare students to meet

emerging challenges with confidence and responsibility.

Highlighting the opportunities presented by technology and Artificial Intelligence, the Chief Minister emphasised the need to adopt these tools responsibly to improve learning outcomes, personalise education and support teachers, while ensuring that technology complements | [More on P6](#)

At UN India slams Pakistan for peddling 'lies, falsehoods'

Says J&K integral, inalienable part of India

Asks Islamabad to stop grave HR violation in its illegally occupied areas

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 10: Slamming Pakistan for continuing to abuse the United Nations platform to peddle lies and falsehoods about Jammu and Kashmir, India on Saturday reiterated that J&K is and will always remain, an integral and inalienable part of India.

India's response, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) came during a discussion on 'Decolonisation' in the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee, where Member of Parliament Mahima Kumari Mewar delivered India's Right



of Reply to a statement by Pakistan's representative.

In a post on X, India at UN, New York, said, "MP Mahima Kumari Mewar delivered India's Right of Reply in response to a statement by the

representative of Pakistan in the Fourth Committee on the Agenda Item: Decolonization." The post further highlighted that Mewar said, "It is regrettable that Pakistan continues to abuse the UN platform to peddle lies and falsehoods about the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir."

Mewar accused Pakistan of human rights violations in areas illegally occupied by it and called on Islamabad to address the situation.

"We call upon Pakistan to stop the grave and ongoing human rights violation in the areas illegally occupied by it, where the | [More on P6](#)

Op Sindoor showed importance of precision in modern warfare: Rajnath

Says future military power defined by speed of sensing, understanding, deciding, acting

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 10: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said Operation Sindoor highlighted the importance of operational preparedness, integrated planning and precision in modern warfare, as he stressed the need to strengthen India's defence capabilities against evolving security challenges.

Addressing participants of Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Singh said future military power would depend on the speed of



detecting threats, understanding situations, making decisions and acting.

"Future military power will be defined less by the number

of platforms we possess. It will be determined by the speed of sensing, understanding, deciding, and acting," he said.

The Defence Minister said Operation Sindoor demonstrated the Indian Air Force's ability to conduct precise, calibrated and effective operations in furtherance of national security objectives. "The operation underlined the importance of credible deterrence and the effective application of air power in a complex security environment," he said.

Singh said modern warfare was expanding | [More on P6](#)

LG Sinha extends Navratri greetings



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended greetings to the people on the eve of Navratri, which commences on Sunday, October 11, 2026.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Greetings and warm wishes to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Navratri. As the nine sacred | [More on P6](#)

Gulmarg receives fresh snowfall, rain lashes Kashmir parts

MET forecasts rain, thunderstorms, gusty winds on Oct 13-14

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 10: Light rain lashed parts of Kashmir on Saturday, while higher reaches, including Gulmarg, witnessed fresh light snowfall as the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir for most days over the coming week.

According to the weather department, a brief spell of light rain is likely at scattered to many places on Saturday, with light snowfall over higher reaches.

The department has forecast generally dry weather on

October 11 and 12.

According to the forecast accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), on October 13 and 14, the weather is likely to remain generally cloudy, with light rain and thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds at many places. Higher reaches may receive light snowfall during this period.

The weather is expected to remain generally dry on October 15 and 16, although brief spells of light rain may occur at a few places.

From October 17 to 22, the weather is likely to remain generally dry | [More on P6](#)

INDIA bloc's protest over SIR 'baseless': LoP Sharma

Defends ECI as constitutional institution; says questioning poll body not good for democracy

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 10: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Saturday termed the INDIA bloc's proposed protest over alleged electoral irregularities "baseless", accusing opposition parties of politicising the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and attempting to create unrest in the country.

Speaking to media persons,



Sharma, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), defended the Election Commission of India (ECI), saying it is a constitutional institution and that questioning the poll body in

this manner was not good for democracy.

"The Chief Election Commissioner is a constitutional institution of India. It is not a person; it is an institution," he said.

On the SIR exercise, the senior BJP leader said electoral rolls needed to be updated by removing the names of deceased and ineligible voters and correcting errors. The process, he argued, was necessary to ensure that only eligible Indian citizens remained on the lists.

The LoP asserted that citizens were alert and would not allow the country to witness situations similar to those in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Reacting to | [More on P6](#)

Shift in funding norms of Jal Jeevan Mission

J&K left to raise Rs 2354 crore for retrofitting schemes

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Oct 10: The change in funding norms under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has left Jammu & Kashmir with a major financial challenge, as the Union Territory will have to arrange Rs 2354 crore to complete 1426 retrofitting schemes.

Under the framework of JJM-2, retrofitting projects—schemes taken up for improvement and upgradation of water supply systems built before the launch of the Mission—will no longer receive central assistance, compelling the UT

to mobilize resources on its own. "For retrofitting schemes numbering 1,426, balance cost of Rs 2354 crore is required. Jal Shakti Department (JSD) can complete all the schemes during the current financial year if funds are made available," documents accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) state.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission-1, retrofitting schemes were centrally funded with a 90:10 cost-sharing pattern for Jammu & Kashmir (90% central share, 10% UT share). Retrofitting schemes involve the upgradation and improvement of existing water supply systems that were built before the launch of the Mission.

According | [More on P6](#)

Govt mulls demand-driven subjects in J&K colleges

UT witnesses 17% increase in student enrolment: Edu Min

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 10: The government is considering introducing only those subjects in colleges across Jammu and Kashmir that are purely driven by student demand.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Education Minister Sakina Itoo while speaking to reporters here said, "The Higher Education

Department (HED) is trying to introduce only those subjects in colleges that students want to study."

"We are trying to introduce subjects like agriculture, horticulture, tourism, music and several others in the colleges of Jammu and Kashmir. The progress has been initiated in this regard," she said.

The Minister further said, "There was a mushrooming growth of colleges in Jammu and Kashmir but there was no faculty in those institutions and there were no such subjects that were demanded by the | [More on P6](#)

Educated unemployed youth facing depression: Minister Itoo

'Govt aims to make them self-reliant via skill training; new media policy within 4 months'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Kulgam, Oct 10: Asserting that the government aims to make youngsters self-reliant by developing their skills, Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo on Saturday said that educated unemployed youth are facing depression and they need to be pulled out from the quagmire of uncertainty.

Talking to reporters here in South Kashmir, Itoo, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the government wants to help young people acquire practical skills so that they can become



self-reliant and explore alternative avenues of livelihood instead of depending solely on conventional government jobs. "Many young people remain

idle at home due to a lack of employment opportunities, which can lead to frustration and depression," she added. Itoo stressed the need to

connect educated youth with skill development programmes that can improve their employability, encourage entrepreneurship and enable them to earn a livelihood through their own efforts.

The minister said equipping young people with relevant skills is important for addressing unemployment-related challenges and ensuring their productive participation in society.

NEW MEDIA POLICY WITHIN 4 MONTHS

On media-related issues, Itoo said the government would

formulate a new media policy within the next four months.

She said the policy would seek to address issues concerning the media landscape while underlining the importance of professional standards, responsible reporting and accountability in the use of digital platforms.

"Healthy criticism is always welcome, but targeting someone's dignity without reason is unacceptable," the Minister said, stressing that constructive criticism should be distinguished from personal attacks.

She said professional journalism must be respected, adding that those who misuse social media | [More on P6](#)

3rd Edition of Kashmir Marathon: Div Com Kashmir reviews preparations

Event has attracted international participation, with 67 foreign nationals from 12 countries

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Saturday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the 3rd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, taking stock of the arrangements being made by the nodal Tourism Department and other stakeholder departments for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Tourism, and officers from the departments of Information, PHE, KPDCL, R&B, SMC, YSS, Health, JKTDC, Hospitality and Protocol, SSCL, SRTC, Agriculture, Sports Council, LCMA, SDRF, Police, Fire and Emergency Services, and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, it was informed that the Kashmir Marathon will be held on October 25, with a three-day Marathon Expo scheduled to be organised at Polo Ground. The event has attracted significant international participation, with 67 foreign nationals from 12 countries having registered so far.

Both the full marathon, covering 42.19 kilometres, and the half marathon, spanning 21.09 kilometres, will be conducted on the same day in the morning. To ensure the safety and well-being of participants, 17 aid stations will be established along the marathon route to provide necessary assistance.



Addressing the meeting, the Div Com directed all concerned departments to nominate nodal officers to ensure effective interdepartmental coordination and timely execution of assigned responsibilities. Emphasising the need to enhance the visual appeal of the marathon route, he called for

beautification through the placement of potted flowers. He also directed the Roads and Buildings Department to conduct a thorough inspection of the route and ensure that all potholes are filled to provide a smooth and safe running surface. The concerned authorities were further instructed to

undertake the pruning of trees along the marathon loop.

Highlighting the importance of maintaining the scenic beauty of Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need to ensure cleanliness around Dal Lake. He also directed the deployment of volunteers at appropriate locations and the establishment of medical camps with adequate staff to address any health-related emergencies during the event.

Meanwhile, the Traffic Police was directed to publicise designated parking locations well in advance to facilitate participants and ensure the smooth regulation of vehicular movement on the day of the marathon.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited were directed to ensure the proper functioning of streetlights along the marathon route. The Sports Council was instructed to make lighting arrangements at Polo Ground for the smooth conduct of the event.

The SMC was further directed to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation along the marathon route and at the inaugural venue.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasised that close coordination among all stakeholder departments and timely completion of preparatory measures would be essential for the successful organisation of the 3rd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon.

District Admin Ganderbal bids farewell to DC Jatin Kishore

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 10: The District Administration Ganderbal Saturday accorded a warm and affectionate farewell to Deputy Commissioner, Jatin Kishore, on his transfer from Ganderbal to Budgam, with officers and officials expressing their appreciation for his leadership, dedication and significant contributions towards the development and welfare of the district during his tenure as Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal.

During the farewell function, officers, as per an official statement, from various departments lauded his administrative acumen, professional commitment and people-centric approach, recalling his efforts towards strengthening



governance, expediting developmental works and ensuring effective delivery of public services. They appreciated his leadership in fostering coordination among departments and addressing public grievances with sincerity and promptness. The officers particularly

appreciated his role in the successful conduct of the Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela and the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, highlighting the comprehensive arrangements, meticulous planning and effective inter-departmental coordination that ensured the smooth conduct of these major religious events. His emphasis on the convenience, safety and welfare of pilgrims was also acknowledged. His contributions towards the implementation and monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, flagship government programmes and developmental initiatives were also appreciated. The speakers highlighted his focus on administrative efficiency, accountability, transparency and timely execution of works, besides his efforts to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes reached eligible beneficiaries.

District Admin Budgam bids farewell to outgoing DC, ADDC, ACR

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 10: A farewell function was Saturday organised at District Budgam to bid farewell to Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Aamir Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Vivek Agarwal, and Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Afroza Bano, on their transfer to new assignments.

The function, as per an official statement, was attended by SSP Budgam Hariprasad KK, ADC Budgam Mehranj-ud-Din Shah, and senior officers and officials of the district administration, who appreciated the dedicated services and contributions of the outgoing officers during their tenure in the district.

SSP Budgam, in his remarks, appreciated the close coordination and cooperation extended by the outgoing officers to the police administration. He said their leadership and collaborative approach contributed significantly towards strengthening inter-departmental coordination and ensuring effective delivery of public services.

ADC Budgam appreciated the guidance and support extended by the outgoing Deputy Commissioner and other officers. He said their commitment to public service, accessibility and focus on

timely resolution of public issues had left a positive impact on the district administration.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Budgam expressed gratitude to all officers and officials for their cooperation and teamwork during his tenure. Appreciating their dedication and commitment towards official duties, he described the district administration as "one

of the finest teams" he had the opportunity to work with.

"The achievements made during my tenure are a result of the collective efforts, hard work and professional commitment of the entire team. I sincerely appreciate every officer and official for their dedication, teamwork and willingness to go the extra mile in the interest of public service," he said.

Sessions Judge In the Court of Additional Sessions Judge TADA/POTA Special Judge Designated Under NIA Act Srinagar

Present: Manjeet Rai

IA/4/2026

Sessions Trial/9/2026

UT OF J AND K THROUGH SIA KASHMIR FIR

NO. 01/2025 V/S ALTAF AHMAD HUSSAIN WAGAY

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS a complaint has been made before me that the accused person namely Shabir Ahmad Sheikh S/o Ghulam Nabi Sheikh R/o Rampora, Qaimoh, Kulgam A/P Pakistan has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offences punishable under sections 13,18,18-B,38,39 UA(P) Act and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person cannot be found, and whereas It has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person is evading arrest and has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the above mentioned accused person is required to appear before this Court at 10:00 a.m. on 20-11-2026, failing which further action as contemplated under law shall follow.

Dated, this day of 06-10-2026

Additional Sessions Judge TADA/POTA
Special Judge Designated Under NIA Act Srinagar
DIPK-6609/26 DATED: 10-10-2026

DC Kulgam discusses arrangements for Veshow Festival-2026

KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Saturday chaired a meeting at Mini Secretariat Kulgam to discuss arrangements for the upcoming Veshow Festival-2026.

During the meeting, department wise responsibilities were fixed and the need for coordinated efforts among all concerned departments to ensure the successful organisation of the annual festival was emphasized. The officers were directed to make necessary arrangements well in advance and ensure the availability of all facilities, logistics, services for the visiting public.

The concerned departments, as per an official statement, were instructed to establish stalls showcasing government schemes, departmental activities, services, local products, handicrafts and other initiatives.

Emphasis was laid on promoting the district's cultural heritage, literary activities, trade, art and crafts, local cuisine and entrepreneurial potential through the festival. The



concerned departments were asked to ensure active participation and fulfil their assigned responsibilities in a timely manner.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, ACR Kulgam,

Reyaz Ahmad Shah, CPO Kulgam, Suhail Malik, SDM Noorabad, Bashir Ul Hassan, ACD Kulgam, Bilal Ahmad, SE,R&B, DIO, DTO, CAO,CHO, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

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

NO: T-1/EEA/8723-27

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

Dated:10/10/2026

Extension Notice

Subject: -

1. Completion of Lane by tiling from the house of Gulzar Ah Bhat to Farooq Ah Malla Awantipora.

Reference: -

1. This office e-NIT No. 115/EEA/RNB of 2026-27/6004-14 Dated 08-09-2026

The critical dates for the above noted Work is hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	16-10-2026 up to 4:00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	17-10-2026 up to 12:00 P.M

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

Sd/-

Technical officer

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

DIPK-6583/26

DATED: 10-10-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BRANCH CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Subject:- Final Seniority list of Assistant Controller (PFA) (now rechristened as Assistant Commissioner Food Safety) of Jammu & Kashmir Drugs & Food Control (Gazetted) Services as it stood on 01.09.2026.

Government Order No:-728-JK(HME) of 2026 Dated:- 29 .09.2026

Whereas, Rule 9 of SRO 56 of 1997 (J&K Drugs & Food Control Gazetted Service Recruitment Rules) provides for the maintenance of an updated and Final Seniority List of the members of the service by the Administrative Department strictly as per the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956; and

Whereas, Health & Medical Education Department vide Order dated 05.09.2015 issued final Seniority list of Assistant Controller (PFA) (now rechristened as Assistant Commissioner Food Safety) as it stood on 05.09.2015 under endorsement No. HME-HRM/05/2015 dated 05.09.2015;- and

Whereas, on the recommendations of DPC/PSC, one officer has been regularized/confirmed as Deputy Commissioner Food Safety vide Government Order No.102-JK(HME) of 2023 dated 02.02.2023 and one officer has retired on superannuation;- and

Whereas, on the recommendations of DPC/PSC, Health & Medical Education Department has issued regularization / promotion order in respect of, (24) Food Safety Officers as Assistant Controller (PFA) (now rechristened as Assistant Commissioner Food Safety) vide Government Order No. 925-JK(HME) of 2023 dated 15.11.2023;- and

Whereas, in order to update the seniority list of Assistant Controller (PFA) (now rechristened as Assistant Commissioner Food Safety) of Jammu & Kashmir Drugs & Food Control Organization, it is necessary to include those who have been appointed to the respective posts through promotion in the said seniority at appropriate places;- and

Whereas, the Health & Medical Education Department issued a Tentative Seniority List of Assistant Controllers (PFA) / Assistant Commissioners Food Safety vide Notification No. HME-HRM/46/2022(205314) dated 01.09.2026 for inviting objections / representations from concerned stakeholders within a period of 15 days; and

Whereas, the 15-day Period stipulated for filing objections has expired, and no objection has been received within the prescribed period.

Now? therefore, the Final Seniority List of Assistant Controllers (PFA) (now Assistant Commissioners Food Safety) as it stood on 01.09.2026 of the Jammu & Kashmir Drugs & Food Control (Gazetted) Service as contained in Annexure "A" to this order is hereby issued, subject to the following conditions:

1. Date of Birth Authentication: The dates of birth recorded against officers are subject to further verification from their original service books, matriculation certificates, or relevant service records.

2. Category Verification: The reserved category status reflected against any officer is subject to verification from the competent issuing authority. If any category certificate is found fake or invalid at any stage, the benefits derived shall stand withdrawn ab-initio, alongside appropriate disciplinary action under rules.

3. Legal Outcomes: This Final Seniority List shall be without prejudice to the outcome of any writ petition(s) pending before any competent Court of Law.

The Final Seniority list is available on the official website of Health & Medical Education Department <https://hme.jk.gov.in>. The Seniority list shall also be available in the office of Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration / State Drug Controller, J&K. By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-

(M. Raju) IAS

Commissioner / Secretary to the Government

No. HME-HRM/46/2022(205314)

Dated:- 29 -09-2026

DIPK-6617/26

DATED: 10-10-2026

‘Anxiety, depression, sleep issues top mental health concerns in Kashmir’

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 10: Anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances and substance use are among the common mental health problems reported by patients visiting hospital outpatient departments in Kashmir, with psychiatrists expressing concern over the growing psychological pressures faced by adolescents and young people.

Experts say prolonged psychosocial stress, economic uncertainty, unemployment, family and societal expectations, academic competition and excessive screen time are among the factors contributing to the mental health burden in the region.

Dr Yasir Hassan Rather, Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar said that anxiety disorders, clinical depression, sleep disturbances, substance-related problems and stress-related conditions were among the most frequently encountered mental health issues in hospital OPDs.

"In the Kashmiri context, prolonged psychosocial stress, economic uncertainty, unemployment, family pressures and societal expectations can contribute to the increasing mental health burden. Among adolescents, academic and career-related pressures, excessive screen time and substance use are additional concerns," he said.

Dr Rather said young people were increasingly exposed to social media-related stress, unhealthy comparisons, pressure to maintain a



perfect appearance, body-image concerns and the fear of missing out. He added that cyberbullying, online harassment and contact with cyber predators could further compromise their safety and psychological well-being.

"Bullying, exclusion, humiliation, peer pressure and difficulties in maintaining friendships at school can contribute to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem and social withdrawal," he added.

The psychiatrist said that mental health problems and substance use were closely

linked and required greater public awareness, timely identification and appropriate professional intervention. He urged parents, teachers and caregivers to remain attentive to warning signs such as sudden changes in mood or behaviour, social isolation, declining academic performance, disturbed sleep and expressions of hopelessness.

"Any indication of self-harm or suicidal thoughts must be taken seriously and addressed with immediate, compassionate support and urgent professional help," Dr Rather said.

He said stigma remained a major barrier, forcing many people to suffer silently rather than seek professional assistance.

"The message on World Mental Health Day is that mental health conditions are treatable, early intervention matters, and seeking help from a mental health professional should be seen as a sign of strength, not weakness," he added.

Psychiatrist Dr Abrar Guroo said this year's World Mental Health Day theme, "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change," highlighted the importance of incorporating the experiences of patients and their families into the planning and delivery of mental health services.

"In Kashmir, we often discuss mental health through statistics and expert opinions, but people who have lived through these conditions and their families know best what helps, what hurts and what is missing," he said.

Dr Guroo said mental health services should be designed not only around clinical requirements but also around the practical experiences of patients, their families and caregivers.

Highlighting the need for reliable data, he said Jammu and Kashmir had not been covered in the National Mental Health Survey conducted during 2015-16. The survey, which covered 12 states, found that approximately 13.7 per cent of the population had experienced a mental health condition at some point in their lives. Dr Guroo said the second round of the survey was underway and would include Jammu and Kashmir, potentially providing region-specific evidence.

Speaking about the conditions he encounters in clinical practice, Dr Guroo said depression,

anxiety, trauma-related illnesses and substance use were among the most common concerns, with an increasing number of young people seeking help.

"Years of conflict, the pandemic, uncertainty about employment and the influence of social media have added to the burden. Mental health here is closely connected with financial circumstances, education and the everyday pressures people carry," he said.

He said awareness had improved over the years, although stigma continued to discourage many from seeking timely care. He said the Tele-MANAS service had helped improve access to mental health support.

However, he cautioned that substantial gaps remained. Referring to figures recently shared by the Union government in Parliament, he said Jammu and Kashmir had around 120 psychiatrists and 40 clinical psychologists across the government and private sectors, which remained inadequate.

Dr Guroo called for integrating mental health services into primary healthcare, ensuring trained doctors across districts, introducing awareness programmes in schools and workplaces, and expanding addiction treatment facilities.

"Mental health is part of health, and asking for help early is not weakness. If you are struggling, talk to someone you trust and reach out to a professional. Families, teachers and employers should listen without judging," he said.

He urged people to use Tele-MANAS, a free national tele-mental health service available on 14416—(KNO)

J&K begin Ranji title defence against MP



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 10: Defending champions Jammu and Kashmir will begin their Ranji Trophy title defence against Madhya Pradesh at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar on Sunday, with captain Paras Dogra set to lead the 15-member squad in the four-day opening-round clash.

The match scheduled from October 11 to 14 marks J&K's

first fixture of the 2026-27 Ranji Trophy season, with the home side looking to start its campaign on a winning note.

The squad comprises Shubham Khajuria, Qamran Iqbal, Yawer Hassan, Shubham Pundir, Abdul Samad, Paras Dogra (captain), Auqib Nabi, Kanhaiya Wadhawan, Abid Mushtaq, Sahil Lotra, Vanshaj Sharma, Sunil Kumar, Kawalpreet Singh, Lone Nasir Muzaffar and

Rohit Sharma.

Jammu and Kashmir head into the season as reigning champions after clinching their maiden Ranji Trophy title last season with a victory over Karnataka in the final. The defending champions will look to carry that momentum into the new campaign, while Madhya Pradesh will aim to spoil the hosts' party and begin their own season on a winning note—(KNO)

Police recover huge cache of arms, ammunition in Sopore

Waris Fayaz

Sopore, Oct 10: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition in North Kashmir's Sopore area.

An official said that recoveries include two assault rifles, four pistols, 11 hand grenades and three improvised explosive devices (IEDs). "It's a huge blow to terror networks in Sopore," the official added.

While sharing the details, the officer said, "Sopore Police on a tip-off launched a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in the Mukaam Cherhar forest falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Bomai this morning."

He said, "During the search, a blue barrel and a bag were found concealed beneath a large boulder. The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) was subsequently called to the spot for examination and safe handling of the suspected explosive material."

"The recovered cache included an AK-47 and an AK-76 assault rifle, along with seven magazines and ammunition. Four pistols, four magazines and ammunition were also seized. The recovery further included a Multi Grenade Launcher (MGL) with five rounds, 11 hand grenades, three IEDs fitted with remote controls, eight detonators and two timers. Other material, including a Y-SMS set, prima cords, wires, battery cells, IED-related components and miscellaneous accessories, were also recovered," the official added.

He said the material has been taken into possession in accordance with legal procedures and necessary safety precautions. "In this connection, FIR No. 66/2026 has been registered at Police Station Bomai under Sections 13, 18, 20 and 23 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Sections 7/25 of the Arms Act and Section 5 of the Explosive Substances Act," the official said, adding, "Further investigation is underway to establish the source of the recovered material, and identify those involved in concealing the cache and ascertain possible terrorist linkages."

"Recovery of arms and ammunition is a significant achievement in the ongoing counter-terrorism efforts in the area," the official added—(KNO)

FDA continues special enforcement drive to ensure Street Food Safety

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 10: Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, continues its special inspection, enforcement and awareness drive targeting street food vendors operating in busy markets and high-footfall areas across all the districts to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic and wholesome food to consumers.

During the drive, 106 inspections were conducted, 18 cases were compounded and fines amounting to 20,000 were imposed. Further, six cases were recommended for adjudication under Sections 56 and 58 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, while 22 food samples were lifted for laboratory analysis to assess their compliance with the prescribed food safety standards.

The inspection teams focused on personal hygiene, cleanliness of vending premises, safe food preparation and handling practices, and the use of food-grade utensils and cutlery. Vendors were also sensitized against the use of newspapers for wrapping or serving food, unauthorized synthetic food colours and non-food-grade materials that may compromise food safety.

As part of the drive, the teams also promoted the Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO) initiative. Used cooking oil

samples were tested on the spot using oil-testing meters to assess Total Polar Compounds (TPC). Vendors were sensitized that cooking oil exceeding the prescribed limit of 25% TPC must not be used for food preparation and should be channelled to authorised aggregators in accordance with applicable requirements.

FDA, J&K, reiterated that the ongoing



drive is aimed at strengthening regulatory compliance, improving hygiene standards among street food vendors and safeguarding public health. All Food Business Operators have been directed to comply strictly with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and regulations.

Consumers have been encouraged to actively participate in safeguarding public health by reporting suspected food

Continued on
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Police trace theft links to Awantipora, Leh

Solve seven cases in Pattan, Kreeri

Waris Fayaz

Pattan, Oct 10: Police have solved seven cases in the Pattan and Kreeri subdivisions of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, recovering stolen property including copper utensils, electric poles, copper and gold jewellery, with investigations in one major theft case leading to Awantipora and Leh. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla Gurinder Pal Singh said on Saturday. Addressing a press briefing at the SDPO office in Pattan, in the presence of SDPOs of Pattan and Kreeri and other police officers, SSP Singh detailed the breakthroughs and credited sustained investigation, technical inputs and co-ordination with police units in other areas for helping solve the cases.

Among the major recoveries, police recovered copper utensils worth Rs 4,05,314 in connection with FIR No. 186/2026 registered at Police Station Pattan. The case, investigated by Head

Constable Mushtaq Ahmed, involved leads that took investigators to Awantipora and Leh. The SSP said police in Leh recovered property worth Rs 75 lakh in the particular case.

The copper theft took place during the intervening night of August 5 and 6. The SSP said investigators initially had no technical evidence and relied on sustained fieldwork to identify a group allegedly involved in thefts following a similar pattern and modus operandi.

Police subsequently picked up suspects who allegedly confessed to their involvement, leading investigators to further leads in Awantipora and Leh. According to the SSP, two accused were apprehended in connection with the case, another was arrested in Leh, while one suspect remains absconding. One of the accused was allegedly involved in more than 13 cases registered at different police stations.

Continued on
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Chief Justice interacts with Judicial officers

Addresses Kashmir Advocates Association at Srinagar

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 10: Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati on Saturday interacted with judicial officers in the Conference Hall of the District Court Complex, Srinagar, and later attended a felicitation programme organised by the Kashmir Advocates Association.

During the interaction with judicial officers, Chief Justice emphasised the importance of discharging judicial responsibilities fearlessly, compassionately and with unwavering commitment to the rule of law. He highlighted the vital role of the judiciary in safeguarding citizens' rights, ensuring access to justice and maintaining public confidence in the justice delivery system.

Chief Justice stressed that collective responsibility, mutual trust and institutional harmony were essential for strengthening the functioning of courts. He encouraged judicial officers to work collaboratively, uphold the highest standards of judicial conduct and



foster a peaceful and conducive working environment.

He expressed satisfaction with the professional competence and dedication of judicial officers serving in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and underscored the importance of continuous learning and guidance from senior judicial officers.

At the outset, Naseer Ahmad Dar,

Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, welcomed the Chief Justice on behalf of the judicial officers of the district.

He expressed gratitude for the interaction and reaffirmed the commitment of the District Judiciary, Srinagar, to quality adjudication, timely disposal of cases and reduction of pendency.

Later, the Kashmir Advocates

Association organised a felicitation programme at the District Court Complex, Srinagar, to welcome the Chief Justice.

Speaking on the occasion, Adv. Waseem Gul, President of the Kashmir Advocates Association, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Justice on behalf of the legal fraternity and also welcomed the newly appointed Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar.

Highlighting the role of the District Court as the first accessible forum of justice for ordinary citizens, the Association President emphasised the importance of a constructive partnership between the Bench and the Bar.

He assured full cooperation in strengthening the administration of justice and sought the Chief Justice's guidance on improving court infrastructure, enhancing facilities for lawyers and litigants, strengthening legal aid, promoting alternative dispute resolution and providing structured training for young advocates.

The Association President also
Continued on
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Next-Gen GST Process Reforms Towards Simpler, Faster And More Predictable Processes

Press Information Bureau

Introduced on 1 July 2017, GST brought many Central and State taxes into a common framework. It marked a milestone in India's reform journey. It gave effect to the principle of "One Nation, One Tax" and helped move India towards an integrated tax system.

Over the past nine years, standardised procedures and rationalised rates have supported greater transparency, accountability and economic growth. They have also strengthened the vision of 'Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat'.

Building on this progress, the 56th GST Council recommended Next-Generation reforms to simplify the four-tier GST rate structure. The new structure has two main rates, 5% and 18%, and a special 40% rate for select goods and services.

This reform process has continued at the 57th meeting in October 2026. The Council recommended further process reforms, clarifications on selected goods and services, and measures to facilitate trade and streamline compliance.

GST in Numbers: Wider Reach, Scale and Collections

A wider taxpayer base: Registered taxpayers increased from around 60 lakh in 2017 to ~1.70 crore as of September 2026.

A large-scale digital tax system: As on 30 September 2026, the GST System had cumulatively processed 3,053 crore invoice uploads and 833.82 crore e-way bills.

Strong revenue growth: Gross GST collections reached ~ 12.46 lakh crore during April-September 2026, registering an increase of 11.6% Y-o-Y.

Making GST Registration Simpler, Faster and More Predictable

The proposals of the GST Council seek to create a more predictable and taxpayer-friendly GST registration framework. They are intended to support smoother business operations and encourage wider participation in the formal economy.

Reforms in the Registration process:

The GST Council recommended the following:

Comprehensive and detailed documentation along with FAQs will be issued for processing registration applications.

The registration application will be amended to simplify the filing process and improve clarity for taxpayers and tax officers.

The GST portal will provide a user-friendly interface for filing registration applications, with clear navigational paths, drop-down lists, tool-tips and contextual guidance.

What is Input Tax Credit?

It is the credit a registered person can claim for tax on goods or services received.

For eg: If a manufacturer has paid tax of 10,000 on raw material purchase and collected tax of 25,000 on product sales. Consequently, the net tax payment amount is 15,000 and the manufacturer can claim the tax paid on raw material.

These measures would facilitate correct filing of registration applications and reduce rejections and queries raised in respect of such applications.

Automatic Acceptance

For easy and near real-time updation, the Council suggests automatic acceptance of amendments to registration particulars. This would be enabled on the portal, except for changes relating to the Principal Place of Business (PPoB).

What is Principal Place of Business?

Section 2(89) of the CGST Act, 2017 defines it as follows: "principal place of business" means the place of business specified as the principal place of business in the certificate of registration".

For taxpayers registered through the automatic route, amendments to all registration particulars, including PPoB, would be accepted automatically.

Registration Cancellation Process
To simplify the registration cancellation process, the Council recommended amendments in the CGST Act, 2017 and the CGST Rules, 2017.

Automatic cancellation: To reduce the officer's interface the Council proposed the reforms in phased manner.

Phase 1:

The cancellation applications would be accepted automatically



after pending returns are filed and all dues are paid. This would apply to taxpayers who have not passed on ITC exceeding 2.5 lakh in any month. It would also apply where ITC exceeded 2.5 lakh in a month, if the final return is filed within the specified time.

Phase 2:
All the applications for cancellation of registration will be accepted automatically by the system, once all pending returns are filed and all dues are paid. FORM GST REG-16 will be amended so that the details of FORM GSTR-10 can be furnished in the said application itself.

Suo-moto cancellation: To expedite the process of cancellation certain grounds for cancellation of registration by tax officers would be removed, reducing intervention. A system-based mechanism would enable cancellation and revocation based on non-compliance and subsequent compliance, covering defaults relating to non-filing of returns or non-furnishing of bank account details within the specified time.

Reform for E-commerce sellers
The reforms suggested by the GST Council provide a simplified registration mechanism for small taxpayers making supply through E-commerce platforms.

Small sellers passing ITC not more than 2.5 lakh/month (excluding stock transfer) can opt for simple registration (PAN based) in States/UTs other than their Home State/UTs. The electronic commerce operator (ECO) warehouse can be declared as the PPoB in a State/UT where there is no physical presence.

This would facilitate ease of doing business for small e-commerce sellers by enabling them to establish their businesses in other States.

GST Return Reforms for Improved Accuracy and Compliance

To reduce mismatches and improve the integrity of ITC across the supply chain, the Council recommended streamlining the return filing process. Following are the proposals of Council:

GSTR-1/1A/IFF would be enhanced to enable better reconciliation with GSTR-3B. A facility "Electronic Statement of tax paid on Reverse charge basis and input tax credit claimed" would facilitate correct reporting of tax liability and ITC on supplies liable to reverse charge. A mechanism would enable reporting/correction of liability in GSTR-3B to align with details reported in GSTR-1/1A/IFF.

GST DRC-03 would be amended to allow declaration of the underlying invoice details for which the payment has been made. The Invoice Management System (IMS) would allow recipients to accept, reject or keep documents pending for ITC reporting. An Electronic Credit Reversal and Reclaim Statement would facilitate correct reporting of ITC reversed and reclaimed. A mechanism would enable reporting/correction of ITC reported in GSTR-3B to align with ITC available in GSTR-2B.

Clarifications would be issued on reporting ITC and its reversal in GSTR-3B in the form of circular. The alternate mechanism for correcting liability and ITC is proposed to apply from the April 2027 return period.

GSTR-1: Form GSTR-1 is a monthly/quarterly Statement of Outward Supplies to be furnished by registered taxpayers making outward supplies of goods and services or both.

GSTR-1A: A taxpayer who needs to amend any supply record furnished in GSTR 1 or need to add any supply record, the same can be done through GSTR 1A.

IFF: Invoice Furnishing Facility (IFF) is an optional facility provided to taxpayers who are in QRMP (Quarterly Return and Monthly Payment) scheme, to file their details of outward supplies in first two months of the quarter (M1 and M2), to pass on the credit to their recipients.

GSTR-3B: It is a simplified summary return. The purpose of the return is for taxpayers to declare their summary GST liabilities, ITC availed etc. for a particular tax period and discharge these liabilities.

GST DRC-03: It is a payment form utilized by taxpayers to make payments towards tax, interest, penalty, fee or any other amount due under the GST Act.

GSTR-2B: GSTR-2B is an auto-drafted ITC statement which is generated for every normal taxpayer on the basis of the information furnished by his suppliers in their respective forms.

Streamlining GST Refunds through Faster, System-Based Processing

The reforms proposed by the GST Council provide for system-based processing and sanctioning of refund claims. This would enable faster processing, greater transparency and reduced manual intervention.

Phase 1:
Refunds of excess cash ledger balances would become automatic, facilitating faster availability of funds for businesses. The acknowledgement period would be reduced from 15 to 10 days. Deemed acknowledgement will apply where no response is issued. Based on risk assessment, 90% of claimed amount is expected to be sanctioned, for refund claims on account of zero-rated supplies and inverted duty structure.

Phase 2:
System-based automated acknowledgement (without officer intervention) on due verification of the refund application by the system for refund claims on account of zero-rated supplies and inverted duty structure. In such acknowledged cases, automated sanction of full refund claim by the system (without officer intervention), in respect of claims pertaining to zero rated supplies only, after adjusting pending dues, if any, on the basis of identification and evaluation of risk by the system.

Measures to Expedite and Streamline Refunds

Amendment in refund application in FORM GST RFD-01. This will capture refund details in a system-readable format in case of refund claims pertaining to zero-rated supply and inverted duty structure.

Amendment in rule 89(4)(C) of the CGST Rules, 2017. This will remove the cap limiting the turnover of zero-rated supply of goods to 1.5 times the value of like goods supplied domestically.

Amendment in section 54(14) of the CGST Act, 2017. The 1,000 refund threshold will apply to the total refund amount, including CGST, SGST/UTGST and IGST.

What is zero-rated supply under GST?

This includes exports of goods or services and supplies made to an Special Economic Zone (SEZ) developer or SEZ unit.

Clarity on Interest on Refund of Pre-Deposit

Amendment in section 115 of the CGST Act, 2017. This will make it a standalone provision which will specify the rate of interest applicable to refunds of pre-deposit amounts paid for filing appeals. A circular will also be issued to clarify concerns relating to the rate of interest applicable to such refunds.

Reforms to Simplify Dispute Resolution and Reduce Litigation

The council recommended a circular with the comprehensive guidelines for the tax officers. This circular will include streamlined process of demand notices, adjudication orders and appeal orders. The proposals include the following:

No show cause notices will be issued if the tax amount involved is less than 10,000. Pending notices on the date of the provision and appeals involving amounts below 10,000, will be decided based on the 10,000 minimum threshold.

The penalty will be termed as 'Charge' in cases full tax amount is voluntarily paid with interest and penalty, within the specified time limit. A reduced penalty of 5% will apply where tax and interest are discharged within 30 days (under section 73) or 60 days (under Section 74A) of the adjudication order.

The minimum penalty of 10,000 to be removed, in non-fraud cases. The maximum general penalty would be reduced from 25,000 to 10,000. In cases where the order only involves penalty and no demand of tax, an upper limit of 40 crore would be provided on account of pre-deposit for appeals.

Other major reforms under GST
Widening Access to ITC Refunds and Claims

Broader refund eligibility
The GST Council recommended changes to the CGST Act and Rules to allow refunds of accumulated ITC in specified cases.

In respect of capital goods, refunds would be eligible for zero-rated supplies and inverted duty structure, applicable on or after 1 April 2027, with refunds spread over 60 months. In respect of input services, refunds would be eligible for inverted duty structure, applicable on or after 1 November 2026. This would ease taxpayers' working capital constraints and reduce the blockage of ITC on input services and capital goods.

Easing restrictions on blocked ITC

The Council recommended amendments to remove restrictions on claiming ITC for certain supplies, including Outdoor Catering, Health and Life Insurance, Telecommunication Towers, Pipelines outside factory Premises, Free Samples and Goods destroyed or written off after their shelf life expires (as required by law). This would reduce cascading taxes and support a smoother flow of ITC across the supply chain.

Reforms relating to exports/zero-rating of supplies of goods and services

Services supplied through foreign offices or branches: The Council recommended removing the condition that the supplier and recipient must not be establishments of the same person for a service to qualify as an "export of services." This would facilitate refunds for Indian service providers supplying services to or through their foreign offices or branches.

Payment for exports: A circular shall be issued clarifying that payment for exports of goods and

services may be received in foreign exchange or in Indian rupees, where permitted.

Place of supply for certain services: For services where the recipient makes goods physically available to the supplier, the Council recommended determining the place of supply based on the recipient's location under the default rule in section 13(2).

Goods delivered to overseas buyers in an SEZ or FTWZ: The Council recommended treating goods supplied to overseas buyers but delivered to an SEZ or Free Trade & Warehousing Zone (FTWZ), as zero-rated supplies, when payment is received in convertible foreign exchange or in Indian rupees where permitted by the RBI.

Ease of living and doing business

Rationalization of provisions relating to arrest and prosecution

The Council recommended withdrawing certain arrest powers under GST. The Council also recommended raising the prosecution threshold from 1 crore to 5 crore, removing specified offence provisions and wording from section 132(1) of the CGST Act, 2017, and amending clause (c) section 132(1) to cover only offence of fraudulent availment of ITC without receiving the goods or services, or without an invoice or bill.

Rationalising provisions relating to e-way bills

The Council recommended that a conveyance carrying goods could be intercepted only on specific intelligence and with authorisation from an officer of at least Joint Commissioner rank. Inspection and further action could be taken only if the supplier or recipient is located or registered in the State where the interception takes place. Goods could not be intercepted in transit States. If no e-way bill has been generated, or the conveyance carries no document showing the goods' origin or destination, the goods could be inspected, detained or seized regardless of jurisdiction. Goods/conveyances in transit would not be subject to confiscation under section 130 of the CGST Act.

Treatment of transfer of title in intellectual property rights (IPR)

The Council recommended treating the transfer of IPR title, whether temporary or permanent, uniformly as a supply of services. This would ease GST compliance and support smoother cross-border IPR transactions.

Opportunity to be heard before blocking ITC under Rule 86A

The Council recommended allowing taxpayers to file an objection to amounts blocked in their electronic credit ledger and to attend a personal hearing before the proper officer decides on the objection.

Late-fee relief for small taxpayers

The Council recommended waiving late fees for delayed returns for taxpayers with turnover of up to 5 crore in the previous financial year, if the delayed return is filed by the end of the month in which it was due.

Clarification of various issues through circulars

The GST Council recommended issuing circulars to clarify issues including Input Service Distributor (ISD) distribution of input service credit, ITC claims by banks and NBFCs opting for section 17(4), payment of pre-deposits, ITC on demonstration vehicles, and the effective date of omission of rule 96(10).

Introduction of a concept note for an ARQP scheme

The GST Council introduced a concept note for an optional Annual Return Quarterly Payment (ARQP) scheme for taxpayers with aggregate turnover of 5 crore or less in the preceding financial year who make supplies exclusively to unregistered persons (B2C supplies).

Streamlining GST compliance

The Council recommended amending section 9(5) of the CGST Act, 2017 so that e-commerce operators are liable to pay tax on notified services, regardless of their business model. It also recommended extending e-invoicing to domestic supplies received from unregistered persons where tax is payable under the reverse charge mechanism, and to imports of services, for taxpayers with aggregate annual turnover of 5 crore or more.

Aligning GSTAT provisions with tribunal reforms

The Council approved amendments to the CGST Act, 2017 and the

GSTAT Rules, 2023, to align provisions on the GST Appellate Tribunal with the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2026 and the National Tribunals Commission Rules, 2026.

Changes/Clarifications in relation to GST rates on Goods and Services
Recommended GST Treatment for Goods:

In respect of sublimation paper, it was clarified that sublimation paper is classified under heading 4809 and past cases are regularised on an "as is where is" basis. In respect of toys, the notification entries cover all categories of toys under heading 9503 of the Customs Tariff Act. Sea-weed extract-based bio-stimulants registered under Schedule VI to the Fertiliser Order, 1985, are classifiable as fertilisers under heading 3101.

For second-hand vehicles, under the GST margin scheme, suppliers may claim ITC on inputs other than procured second-hand vehicles, and on input services. For specified waste and scrap of plastics, tyres, electrical and electronics, and used cooking oil, Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) would apply when an unregistered person supplies such waste to a registered person, with 2% TDS on registered-to-registered supplies. A NIL GST rate has been prescribed for psyllium seeds (Isabgol). The GST rate on re-treaded tractor tyres has been aligned with new tractor tyres. The Compensation Cess not levied by Canteen Stores Department has been exempted for two- and four-wheelers from 01.07.2017 to 30.09.2022, and for aerated drinks from 01.07.2017 to 31.03.2022.

Recommended GST Treatment for Services:

For passenger transport and rental of motor vehicles using electric vehicles (EV), an option has been provided to pay 5% GST with restricted ITC where the cost of battery charging is included in the consideration. Delivery services supplied through an electronic commerce operator (ECO), other than courier or postal, are being brought under Section 9(5) at 5% GST rate without ITC. A 5% GST rate without ITC has been prescribed on delivery services for goods supplied or ordered through an ECO. The exemption available for services of transportation of goods by Goods Transport Agency (GTA) to unregistered persons in relation to goods supplied through an ECO has been denied.

For motor vehicle leasing, statutory and ancillary charges recovered by lessors are incidental to the principal supply of leasing. Input tax credit has been allowed in the same line of business for restaurant, outdoor catering, hotel accommodation up to 7,500 per unit per day, and gym or fitness services. Passenger transport by helicopter on seat-sharing basis to or from airports in the North-Eastern States, Sikkim and Bagdogra has been exempted. Storage or warehousing of seeds meant for sowing, curing of coffee, and services of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation have been exempted from GST.

For Research and Development services, a simple mechanism of self-certification by the head of the institution has been introduced. Import of services made without consideration by an Indian establishment of a foreign shipping company from a related person outside India has been exempted. The service of granting a concessionaire the exclusive right to demand, collect and appropriate toll fees for a highway project has been exempted. A special procedure has been provided for valuation and time of payment of GST on O&M services for highway projects under the TOT model. For Fund Transfer Pricing transactions between bank branches, it has been clarified that the notional amount recorded as "interest" is covered by the definition of "interest" in Notification No. 12/2017-CT(Rate).

Conclusion
The 57th GST Council meeting's recommendations address concerns across registration, returns, refunds, input tax credit and dispute resolution. They also seek to strengthen trade, clarify tax treatment and widen opportunities for small sellers and service exporters.

These recommendations build on GST's success and mark another step in its continued improvement. Together, these measures would further promote ease of doing business and contribute to a more efficient and taxpayer-friendly GST framework.

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

Owner & Editor, Printer, Publisher: Nasir Azam Khan, Published From Srinagar, Printed at K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industries Estate, Rangreth,

RNI NO:-JKENG-2010/39938, Email:- Kashmirthunder123@gmail.com, Website: Kashmirthunder.com, Mobile: 9906797575, 9419006285

Owner & Editor-In-Chief of Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a leading news agency in Jammu & Kashmir. Website: www.kashmirnewsobserver.com, Mail: info@kashmirnewsobserver.com

Director Agriculture Kashmir reviews performance of various districts

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: To re-view the physical and financial progress achieved under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKIP, flagship programmes and the CAPEX budget, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Saturday chaired a meeting of Chief Agriculture Officers of Srinagar, Pulwama, Budgam and Ganderbal along with Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) at Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir, Lalmandi, Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Director, as per an official statement, took a detailed assessment of the progress made under various departmental schemes and programmes, with particular focus on the pace of implementation and financial expenditure. He reviewed the status of ongoing activities and emphasized the need for timely execution of approved works and achievement of targets



within the stipulated timelines.

The Director directed all concerned officers to ensure effective implementation of schemes as per the approved action plan for the current year and maintain close coordination with field functionaries for timely delivery of benefits to farmers. He stressed upon the officers to regularly monitor both physical and financial progress and ensure optimum utilization of allocated funds.

The meeting also discussed

various issues affecting the implementation of departmental programmes, with the Director calling for prompt resolution of bottlenecks and strict adherence to prescribed guidelines and timelines.

The Director reiterated that the department remains committed to ensuring efficient implementation of all farmer-oriented schemes and programmes and strengthening service delivery to the farming community across Kashmir Division.

Information Deptt Kulgam organises seminar on Social Media Ethics at GDC Kulgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 10: Information Department Kulgam, in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, Saturday organised a seminar on “Social Media Ethics” under the Youth Engagement/Empowerment Plan at GDC Kulgam to sensitise students about the responsible and ethical use of social media.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, was the Chief Guest at the event.

The programme, as per an official statement, commenced with a street play organised by the Information Department and performed by local artists, highlighting the importance of responsible online behaviour and awareness about the potential risks associated with social media.

Following the street play, District Information Officer (DIO) Kulgam, Showkat Hussain Ganie, delivered the inaugural address, highlighting the importance of social media ethics and responsible online behaviour. He emphasised the need to use social media



judiciously, verify information before sharing and avoid spreading misinformation.

Following his address, the DIO delivered a presentation and led an interactive session debating and highlighting various issues related to social media, including responsible posting, appropriate online behaviour, AI use, digital etiquette and the importance of exercising caution while sharing information on digital platforms.

Prof. Adil Bashir Bhat, GDC Kulgam presented the expert talk on digital literacy.

Principal, GDC Kulgam, Prof.

Dr Mohd Abass Shah addressed the gathering, stressing the importance of digital literacy, online safety and ethical conduct in the digital space.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner, emphasized the constructive role of social media in education, awareness and public engagement. He urged students to use digital platforms judiciously, avoid fake news and online misconduct, and contribute positively to society through responsible digital participation. He also outlined the historical context of evolving

social and communication technologies and underscored self-correcting mechanism for consuming and sharing information for public good.

Pamphlets covering various aspects of social media ethics, responsible online behaviour, digital safety and cybercrime awareness were distributed among students.

Information regarding cybercrime reporting, including the cybercrime helpline number 1930 and the official website cybercrime.gov.in, was also shared with the students to familiarise them with the available reporting mechanisms.

The event also featured interactive sessions and speeches by students, who shared their views on responsible social media usage, highlighted issues related to social media and stressed the importance of reporting cybercrime.

The students and faculty members who spoke on the topic were felicitated by the Deputy Commissioner, Principal GDC Kulgam and DIO Kulgam in presence of senior faculty members, staff and students.

IICT offers Indigenous Design Software ‘DesignNweave’ for benefit of stakeholders

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening digital design capabilities in the handicraft and handloom sector, the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, under the aegis of the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has developed an indigenous design software named “DesignNweave.”

The software has been developed after more than four years of dedicated research and development by IICT, in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), Srinagar.

While elaborating on the details of the initiative, the Director, IICT, stated that DesignNweave has been designed to be compatible with a wide range of software and hardware platforms and incorporates additional tools, commands and options aimed at enhancing the efficiency and productivity of designers and users.

He further stated that the software has been specifically developed to facilitate the creation, development and refinement of designs for carpets, Kani shawls and other handicraft and handloom products of Jammu & Kashmir. Importantly, the software also generates computerized design scripts (Talim), an indigenous system

of Kashmir, for the execution of designs by the concerned artisans and weavers.

The initiative, as per an official statement, marks an important step towards promoting the adoption of modern digital design technologies while simultaneously supporting the preservation, development and commercial advancement of the rich traditional handicraft and handloom heritage of Jammu & Kashmir.

In view of the demand from stakeholders, and with the approval of the Competent Authority of IICT, Srinagar, the Institute has fixed the cost of a Single-User Licensed Copy of “DesignNweave” at 20,000. The pricing has been kept affordable with the objective of making the indigenous design software accessible to artisans, manufacturers, designers, stakeholders and Government organisations.

The Director, IICT, Srinagar, urged concerned stakeholders to avail the Single-User Licensed Copy of DesignNweave from the Institute at the nominal approved cost and utilise the software for improving design development, productivity and overall efficiency.

The initiative is expected to provide stakeholders with a modern, indigenous and sector-specific digital design solution while contributing to the continued growth and competitiveness of Jammu & Kashmir’s traditional handicraft and handloom sector.

DC Bandipora inaugurates Second ‘Waqar Knowledge and Youth Empowerment Centre’ at Arin

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday inaugurated the second Waqar Knowledge and Youth Empowerment Centre at Arin, established by the District Administration Bandipora with the support of the Indian Army to promote education, career guidance and youth empowerment.

The inaugural ceremony, as per an official statement, was attended by guest of honour Irfan Ahmad Lone, who qualified the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025 with All India Rank 957, besides senior officers of the district administration and the Indian Army, students, youth and a large number of local residents.

Addressing the gathering, Irfan Ahmad Lone, a specially abled resident of Mirpora, Naidkhai, Sonawari, shared his journey of overcoming challenges while pursuing his academic and professional goals. An alumnus of Hindu College, University of Delhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), he encouraged youth to remain determined, work hard and smart, and never lose hope despite failures and adversities.

Appreciating the District Administration Bandipora for establishing such platforms, he said the centres



could play a vital role in guiding young people towards education, employment and other constructive opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that Irfan Ahmad Lone’s achievements and determination were an inspiration for all, demonstrating how consistency and perseverance could help overcome challenges and achieve goals despite adverse circumstances.

The Deputy Commissioner formally dedicated the centre to the people of Arin and thanked the Indian Army for its valuable support in establishing

the facility. She urged local residents to take ownership of the centre and ensure its proper maintenance and effective functioning for the benefit of the community.

In view of the forthcoming academic examinations, the Deputy Commissioner also wished students success and advised them to overcome examination-related anxiety, remain confident and focus on their preparation.

The centre houses a reading library and an information desk providing guidance on government schemes, education, employment and skill development opportunities. It

will also offer facilities for indoor games, including chess and word puzzles, besides sports equipment to encourage recreational activities, promote positive engagement and provide youth with a constructive environment. The initiative also aims to strengthen community resilience against substance abuse and addiction.

On the occasion, local residents appreciated the District Administration Bandipora and the Indian Army for the initiative, expressing hope that the centre would create greater opportunities for the youth of Arin and adjoining areas.

International Day of Girl Child celebrated with enthusiasm in Kupwara



KT News Desk

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 10: To celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child, SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Department of Social Welfare, Kupwara Saturday organized an impressive function under the aegis of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao at Kupwara.

The programme, as per an official statement, aimed to promote awareness about the rights of the girl child, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan graced the occasion as chief guest. In his address, he underscored the importance of girls’ education for building an empowered society and advocated for promotion of simple marriages to curb social evils. District Mission Coordinator, Khalida Yasin highlighted the significance of the day and elaborated on various initiatives under Mission Shakti for holistic development and empowerment of women and girls in the district.

On the occasion, NEET qualifiers, women entrepreneurs, girls excelling in youth services & sports, besides dedicated ASHA and Anganwadi Workers were felicitated for their outstanding achievements and selfless service.

Officials from Social Welfare Department, students and a large number of women participated in the programme.

KVK Anantnag organises awareness workshop on Farmers’ Rights, conservation of indigenous plant varieties

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 10: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, SKUAST-Kashmir, in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-K and PPV&FRA Branch Office, Palampur, organised a one-day Awareness-cum-Training Workshop on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights (PPV&FR) Act.

The event, as per an official statement, witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large gathering of progressive farmers, women farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), scientists and departmental officials, reflecting growing awareness about the importance of protecting farmers’ innovations and conserving Kashmir’s rich agricultural biodiversity.

The programme was graced by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, as Chief Guest, alongside distinguished academicians, senior scientists and officers from various line departments.

In her address, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth underscored the



vital contribution of farming communities in preserving indigenous genetic resources and maintaining agricultural diversity. She emphasised that traditional crop varieties represent not only a valuable biological resource but also the collective wisdom, cultural heritage and resilience of generations of farmers. She called for strengthening awareness, documentation and registration of farmers’ varieties to ensure that their contributions receive due recognition and protection under the law.

Dr. Ishtiyag A. Khan, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Anantnag, highlighted the indispensable role of farmers as custodians of traditional agricultural knowledge and valuable genetic resources. He emphasised the need for greater institutional support, scientific documentation and legal recognition of

indigenous crop varieties conserved by farming communities over generations.

A major attraction of the programme was the vibrant agricultural exhibition featuring stalls established by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture, SKUAST-Kashmir and FPOs and agricultural entrepreneurs associated with KVK Anantnag. The exhibition showcased a diverse range of indigenous crop varieties, traditional agricultural produce, locally adapted germplasm, value-added products and entrepreneurial initiatives.

Special emphasis was placed on Kashmir’s traditional rice landraces, including the renowned Mushkbudji aromatic rice, along with maize, horticultural produce and other regionally important crops. The exhibition provided an engaging platform for farmers,

scientists and entrepreneurs to exchange knowledge, showcase innovations and highlight the immense potential of local agricultural biodiversity for conservation, value addition and commercial development.

The technical sessions featured insightful deliberations by Dr. Raj Kumar, Technical Consultant, PPV&FRA Branch Office, Palampur, who elaborated on the provisions of the PPV&FR Act, farmers’ rights and procedures for registration of plant varieties.

Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Lone, Professor, DARS Rangreth, SKUAST-K, highlighted the importance of plant genetic resources, farmers’ varieties and community-led conservation in safeguarding agricultural heritage and ensuring future food security.

The gathering was also addressed by Prof. Najeeb R. Sofi, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, Shahnawaz Ahmad Shah, Chief Agriculture Officer; and Hilal Ahmad DL SMS Horticulture Anantnag who stressed the significance of institutional collaboration, scientific innovation and farmer-centric approaches for sustainable agricultural development.

RAMP Scheme JKEDI Pulwama concludes 2 batches of ESDP

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 10: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, Saturday successfully concluded two batches of the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at the Government Degree College for Women, Pulwama.

Organised in collaboration between JKEDI and GDC (W) Pulwama at the district level, the 20-day training programme drew an enthusiastic response from students, who participated actively throughout the sessions.

Professor Sami Jan, Principal of the college, attended as the Guest of Honour. The valedictory function was also attended by Nafia Nazir, Range Officer, JKEDI South Kashmir; Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama; Dr. Suraiya, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, GDC Women Pulwama and other officers concerned.

Addressing the participants,



Raiyees Manzoor emphasised the transformative power of entrepreneurship. “Entrepreneurship is the path to self-reliance. The future belongs to those who embrace emerging opportunities with a positive mindset and choose to become job creators rather than job seekers,” he said.

Professor Sami Jan expressed satisfaction over the successful conduct of the programme and congratulated JKEDI for organising the 20-day training within the college. She noted that the collaboration between JKEDI and the institution had provided valuable practical exposure to students and would inspire more young women to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career path.

Nafia Nazir further motivated the participants, encouraging them to convert the skills

acquired during the training into sustainable enterprises and to view entrepreneurship as an empowering career option.

The ESDP under the RAMP scheme equips aspiring entrepreneurs with essential competencies in business development, financial planning, and market awareness. Both batches recorded strong student participation and received positive feedback, reflecting the growing interest among youth in enterprise creation.

Such district-level partnerships between JKEDI and academic institutions continue to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem and expand self-employment opportunities across the region. The JKEDI team reaffirmed their commitment to providing ongoing mentorship and support to the trainees.

SMC bids farewell to Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 10: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) accorded a warm and dignified farewell to Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb, IAS, in recognition of his dedicated service, exemplary professionalism, and valuable contributions to the Corporation.

During his tenure, Haseeb made significant contributions to strengthening civic administration, improving municipal services, and advancing initiatives aimed at enhancing urban infrastructure and the overall quality of life in Srinagar. His effective leadership, professional approach, and unwavering commitment to public service were widely appreciated by his colleagues and officers of the Corporation.

The farewell ceremony, held at the SMC Headquarters, was attended by Joint Commissioner (Administration) Nuzhat Qureshi, JKAS; Joint Commissioner Suhail Ul Islam, JKAS; Joint Commissioner (Works) Hamid Iqbal Mir; Secretary SMC Tahir Ahmad, JKAS; Rafiq Ahmad Shah, JKAS; Health Officer Dr. Fauzia Habib; Sajad Ahmad Kawoosa, SE, City Drainage Circle; and other senior officers of the Corporation. On the occasion, the officers



shared their views and expressed their appreciation for Haseeb's leadership, administrative guidance, and valuable contributions to the functioning of the Corporation. They acknowledged his commitment to public service and highlighted the initiatives undertaken during his tenure to strengthen municipal governance, enhance civic infrastructure, and improve service delivery.

Addressing the gathering, Haseeb expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Corporation and acknowledged the cooperation and support extended by the officers and staff during his tenure. He expressed confidence that the

Srinagar Municipal Corporation would continue to make progress in fulfilling its mandate of delivering efficient civic services, strengthening urban governance, and ensuring better civic amenities for the citizens of Srinagar.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation placed on record its sincere appreciation for the contributions and services rendered by Faz Lul Haseeb, IAS, and extended its best wishes for success in his future assignments. The Corporation expressed confidence that he would continue to serve with distinction and make meaningful contributions to public administration.

KT News Desk

Kulgam, Oct 10: Education, Social Welfare, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Saturday inaugurated Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall at Government Degree College (GDC), Frisal.

The occasion marked a significant milestone in the college's efforts to promote sports, physical fitness and the holistic development of students with the facility coming up at the estimated cost of Rs.1.94 crore.

The ceremony was attended by MLA Devsar Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah, Secretary in Higher Education Department Shafqat Iqbal, Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges, Dr. Seema Naz, DPO, Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi, CEO, Kulgam Fayaz, Ahmad Mir, CMO, Dr. Showkat Ahmad Parray, Principals GDC, Frisal, D. H. Pora & Kilam, DSWO Rameez Ahmad Ganie BDO, and senior officers of the Higher Education Department, faculty members, local residents and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo highlighted the importance of quality educational infrastructure and the role of sports in shaping confident, disciplined and responsible citizens. She called upon



the College management to engage the students in a sports activities and other positive endeavours and channelise their potential in right direction so that they excel in their studies and contribute towards the best of the society.

Sakeena Itoo said that Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall provided improved facilities for indoor games and encourage greater participation

in sporting activities of the students.

MLA Devsar also addressed the gathering, emphasising the importance of educational institutions in empowering young people and creating opportunities for academic and extracurricular excellence. MLA also announced Digital X-Ray Machine worth Rs. 24 lakh for Primary Health Center (PHC) Frisal.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Butt, Principal, GDC Frisal, welcomed the distinguished guests and expressed gratitude to the Minister and other dignitaries for their presence. He highlighted the importance of sports infrastructure in fostering discipline, teamwork, physical well-being and the all-round development of students.

SC constitutes standing committee on judicial well-being

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 10: The Supreme Court on Saturday constituted a standing committee to provide a structured institutional mechanism for identifying and addressing issues affecting the professional and personal well-being of judicial officers.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant constituted the committee, which will be chaired by sitting apex court judge Justice K V Viswanathan.

"In a significant initiative aimed at promoting the mental and physical well-being of judicial officers across the country, Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, has constituted a standing committee on judicial well-being under the aegis of the Supreme Court of India, coinciding with World Mental Health Day," the top court said in a statement.

The committee, chaired by Justice Viswanathan, will have as its members Dr Savita Malhotra, former dean, PGIMER Chandigarh, and Professor and Head, Department of

Psychiatry, Rajat Mitra, psychologist, Director and Co-founder, Swanchetan Society for Mental Health, Mrinal Kanwar, advocate-on-record in the apex court, and Aarti Singh, Registrar (J), Centre for Research and Planning of the top court.

The court, in a statement, said the initiative marks an important step towards recognising judicial well-being as an essential component of an effective, independent and sustainable justice delivery system.

The statement said judicial officers discharge their responsibilities under demanding circumstances, often involving heavy caseloads, prolonged working hours, complex decision-making, administrative pressures and exposure to emotionally challenging and sensitive cases.

"Recognising these occupational demands, the Supreme Court has established the committee to provide a structured institutional mechanism for identifying and addressing issues affecting the professional and personal well-being of judicial officers," it said.

HC asks Centre to finalise SOP for using service dogs to assist differently-abled

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 10: The Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to finalise the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the use of service dogs to assist differently-abled persons.

A bench of Justices Dinesh Mehta and Aditi Choudhary said it expects the authorities to finalise the SOP by January 7, 2027, the next date of hearing in the matter.

The court was hearing a petition by Dhananjay Sanjogta Foundation raising the issue of lack of a framework for the use of therapy or service animals by persons with disabilities.

"While expecting that the respondent nos.1 and 2 (Centre) will finalise the SOP by the next date of hearing so that persons like the petitioner and others can use service dogs for their easy commutation/ movement, we post this matter on January 7, 2027," the bench said.

During the hearing on

October 6, the counsel for the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities placed before the court a draft SOP on 'service dogs for assisting disabled persons in India' and said that objections have been invited from the public and all the stakeholders, and that the SOP would soon be finalised.

Certain suggestions came up for incorporation in the SOP, including that a register of service dogs be kept and each service dog be given a registration number.

It was suggested that all service dogs should have a pre-fixed coloured unique collar to enable the public, including security personnel, to know that it is a service dog and is not likely to cause harm.

It was further suggested that when taken in crowded areas, like cinema halls, malls and hospitals, the service dogs should be muzzled to ensure peace and harmony.

The Centre's counsel

assured the court that the inputs will be communicated to the concerned authorities for consideration and incorporation in the SOP.

The PIL, filed by the organisation in 2024, challenged the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 on the grounds that they violate the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, to the extent that they fail to address the issue of stray animal attacks on persons with disabilities (PwD).

The petitioner said India, particularly Delhi, has a very high population of stray animals, most of which are not vaccinated and sterilised.

It was stated that due to lapses in the management of stray animals, many of them also become aggressive and prone to attacking people, which poses a major health and safety risk to the inhabitants of localities with a high population of stray animals, especially when it comes to vulnerable sections of the population including aged individuals and PwDs.

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CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K can become

Jammu Kashmir," he said, adding that graduates from IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, NIT Srinagar and other universities could contribute to a growing workforce.

The LG outlined six advantages for attracting GCCs: financial support, lower operating costs, incentives for pioneering multinational investors, the return of local talent, first-mover opportunities and potential in sectors including agri-tech, tourism-tech and handicraft digitisation.

He also set out a four-pillar roadmap for the next five years: developing talent through industry-academia partnerships; building trust through credible implementation; using the region's distinctive advantages; and promoting inclusive growth through a hub-and-spoke model.

Sinha said GCCs could become an integral part of Jammu and Kashmir's industrial ecosystem over the next decade, and that the summit had laid a foundation for an innovation-driven economy.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; NIIT Chairman Padma Bhushan Rajendra Singh Pawar; IIM Jammu Director Prof. B.S. Sahay; Labour and Employment Secretary Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; IIM Jammu Dean of Faculty and Research Prof. Jabir Ali; Dean of Academics Prof. Nitin Upadhyay; and CITA&G CEO Dr. Sandeep Ananthanarayanan attended, along with industry leaders, policy-makers, officials, faculty and students.

CM Omar calls

rather than replaces the human element of education.

He also stressed the importance of continuous professional development for teachers and school leaders, noting that exposure to innovative teaching

methods, exchange of best practices and opportunities for collaboration are essential to strengthening educational institutions.

Omar Abdullah called for an inclusive approach to educational excellence, emphasising that quality education must reach children in rural, remote and underserved communities as well as those in urban areas. He said governments, educators, institutions, parents and communities must work collectively to address the diverse academic, social and developmental needs of children.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of meaningful collaboration among educational institutions, both within India and internationally, to promote innovation, share successful models and strengthen the quality of education.

He observed that recognition of exemplary school leadership helps foster a culture of excellence, encouraging other institutions to learn from successful practices and adapt them to their own contexts.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister felicitated the heads of several educational institutions in recognition of their contributions.

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology's Achyuta Samanta; Executive Chairman, Association of Indian Principals, (AIP), Dalip Sharma; CTO, AIP and CEO, City Innovates Kashish Jhamb and Managing Director, Macmillan Education India, Rajesh Pasari, were among those present. Chancellors and senior officials from Indian and international universities, officials from Austrade, school founders, directors, principals and heads of schools from across the country also attended the summit.

LG Sinha extends

days of prayers of Maa Durga begin, we celebrate the eternal triumph of truth, righteousness and virtue over evil. May Goddess Durga shower her divine blessings upon every family, bestowing good health, happiness and prosperity."

Op Sindoor showed

beyond land, sea and air to include space, cyber, the electromagnetic spectrum and the information domain, with drones, artificial intelligence, electronic warfare and long-range precision weapons increasingly shaping military operations.

Stressing self-reliance, Rajnath said India must develop indigenous capabilities to design, manufacture, maintain and upgrade critical defence technologies, while building partnerships with trusted countries. "The defence relationships of the future will be about technology and trust, not just about platforms," he said.

He highlighted indigenous systems including the Tejas fighter aircraft, Akash air defence system and helicopters such as Dhruv, Rudra and Prachand. He also referred to the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft programme as an important step towards developing fifth-generation stealth fighter technology.

The Defence Minister said India must be capable of acting independently when required while cooperating effectively with other nations where interests and responsibilities converge.

Describing the spirit of Tarang Shakti, he said, "Different nations. Different aircraft. Different experiences. But one sky. That is the message of Tarang Shakti."

Singh called upon the Indian Air Force to incorporate lessons from the exercise into its training, tactics,

technology, doctrine and future capability development. (KNO)

At UN India

population is in open revolt against Pakistan's military occupation, repression, brutality, and illegal exploitation of resources," she said.

She said that Pakistani forces and their proxies had killed civilians protesting for their rights and basic necessities.

"In the last few months, the Pakistani armed forces and their proxies have killed dozens of innocent civilians who were agitating for their basic rights and freedoms and basic necessities," Mewar said.

Criticising Pakistan's political and security record, she said, "A country like Pakistan with an established record of military dictatorship, sham elections, incarceration of popular elected leaders, religious extremism, and sponsoring terrorism as an instrument of state policy, should in future refrain from preaching homilies of this at this platform."

Reiterating India's position on Jammu and Kashmir, she added, "Jammu and Kashmir is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. I thank you, chair." (KNO)

Shift in funding

to documents, the Jal Shakti Department has repeatedly approached the Finance Department since September 2025, and again under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) in March 2026, seeking absorption of funds likely to be surrendered under SASCI.

This year, the department requested augmentation of the UT Capex and suggested provision of Rs 500 crore within the approved allocation of the

PHE sector by reducing the UT (CSS) share, citing reduced requirement therein.

The Finance Department, however, advised waiting for the outcome of the House Committee's investigation report. The House Committee initially conveyed it was finalizing its report, but later declared itself functus officio-meaning it had ceased to hold authority-after its term expired on May 31, 2026.

In August 2026, JSD again proposed allocation of Rs 1700 crore under SASCI, but no releases have been made so far. (KNO)

INDIA bloc's protest

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's reported comparison of Kashmir with Delhi, he said the situation in Kashmir had changed, claiming that peace had improved the region's atmosphere for tourism. "Today, everyone would like to become this Kashmir, where there is peace," he said, adding that he would welcome a similar atmosphere in Delhi.

Referring to the reported assault on a Kashmiri youth in Delhi, LoP Sharma condemned the violence and praised the youth for speaking against instability in the country. "The youth's stand reflected concern for India," he said, adding that the country should not face the kind of unrest witnessed in neighbouring countries. (KNO)

Gulmarg receives fresh

across Jammu and Kashmir, according to the forecast.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre has advised farmers to continue harvesting and ensure the safe storage of harvested apples and paddy. It has also warned of the possibility of thunderstorms and gusty winds on

October 10 and October 13-14. (KNO)
Educated unemployed

should also be held accountable for their actions.

Itoo said that there is need for responsible communication and the need to maintain a balance between freedom of expression and accountability.

The Minister emphasised that criticism remains an important part of public discourse, while maintaining that it should be exercised responsibly and without unnecessarily harming an individual's dignity.

She reiterated that the government's focus on skill development was aimed at creating opportunities for educated youth to become economically independent and contribute to the region's development. (KNO)

Govt mulls demand

students."

"However, in past two years we have tried to provide faculty to every college as per the subjects taught in those institutions. There are still some colleges that require more faculty," she said.

Sakina Itoo added that "Many colleges in Jammu and Kashmir didn't have buildings but the ruling NC government is ensuring to provide every possible infrastructure to the students."

"I think there are very few colleges that have been approved but have not been developed yet and mostly it has occurred because of the land dispute and placement issues," she said.

The minister further informed that in the ongoing academic year, J&K have seen 17 percent increase in student enrolment. "The government is working hard on upgrading the infrastructure in colleges." (KNO)

PM Modi assures all possible help to Manipur to restore peace, normalcy



PTI

Imphal, Oct 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday assured all possible assistance to Manipur government in its efforts to restore peace and normalcy in the state, an official statement said here.

Modi gave the assurance during a meeting with Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh in New Delhi, it added.

Singh briefed the PM on the state government's

initiatives to restore peace and normalcy.

He highlighted the resumption of Imphal-Dimapur-Guwahati bus services and the movement of goods trucks on National Highways 37 (Imphal-Silchar road) and 2 (Imphal-Dimapur road).

The chief minister also apprised Modi of his government's efforts to bridge the trust deficit among different communities and urged him to approve a

proposal to upgrade some state highways to national highways.

Singh sought the upgrade of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal, to the status of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

The PM acknowledged the state government's efforts to restore peace and normalcy in the violence-hit state, the release said.

Viksit Bharat possible only when every state, village develops together: VP

PTI

Deoghar (Jharkhand), Oct 10: Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan on Saturday said the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' can become a reality only when all states, districts and villages develop together.

He said Jharkhand could emerge as a powerful centre of inclusive and sustainable development with the right investment in education, healthcare, skills, technology and entrepreneurship.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. It can become a reality only when every

state, district and small village develops together. Access to quality healthcare and higher education for tribal communities and rural folk lies at the heart of the mission," Radhakrishnan said while addressing the second convocation of AIIMS, Deoghar.

He said it is the fundamental right of every citizen to have the best healthcare. "Over the last decade, the country witnessed an unprecedented expansion of medical education and healthcare infrastructure. New AIIMS and



medical colleges have been set up, there has been a rapid increase in MBBS and post-graduate seats, and flagship missions such as Ayushman Bharat brought health insurance to the poorest households," he said.

Earlier, there was only one AIIMS in the country. Now, the number has increased to 12, and more will come up, the VP said.

"The number of medical colleges has more than doubled from 387 in 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge, to 846 now," he said.

Radhakrishnan said the number of MBBS seats increased from 5,100 to 1.39 lakh, and the number of post-graduate seats from 31,000 to around 86,000 during the same period.

He urged students to carry their learnings beyond the walls of their

institutions to the villages and the most distant corners of the country.

The institute conferred degrees upon 50 MBBS, 94 BSc, 12 MSc and eight Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Master of Surgery (MS) students on the occasion.

Later, the VP visited the Sainya Sampark Mela – Sadaiv Aapke Saath – in Deoghar, organised by the Indian Army in collaboration with the Deoghar district administration to provide welfare services and grievance redressal facilities to ex-servicemen, 'Veer Naris' and their dependents across the Santal Pargana region, an official release said.

Addressing the gathering, Radhakrishnan paid tribute to the veterans and 'Veer Naris, for their invaluable sacrifices and contributions to the nation.

US made no formal F-35 fighter jets offer to India: IAF chief



PTI

Jodhpur, Oct 10: Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh on Saturday said the United States had made no official offer to sell F-35 fifth-generation fighter jets to India, while also clarifying that no final decision has been made on the Russian proposal for Su-57 fighter aircraft.

Singh revealed this while addressing a press conference on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the multinational air exercise Tarang Shakti-2026 in Jodhpur.

Sitting alongside the commander of the US Air Force's Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), Singh responded to a question about the reported F-35 offer with a humorous remark, saying, "Your people don't even let us go near the aircraft, and you are talking about selling it to us."

The IAF chief also addressed the possibility of India acquiring Russia's fifth-generation Su-57 fighter aircraft. He said that it has come to their notice that Russia has made an offer but clarified that "no decision has been made" regarding whether the aircraft needs to be evaluated or not.

"Once the decision is conveyed to us (by the government), we will evaluate how well it (Su-57) meets our requirements," he said.

CJI releases e-compendium of landmark verdicts of SC, HCs relating to JJA

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 10: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Saturday released an e-compendium of landmark verdicts of the Supreme Court and high courts relating to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The CJI inaugurated the two-day National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on "Ten Years of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015: Progress, Challenges and Priorities for the Next Decade" convened here by the apex court's Juvenile Justice Committee, in association with UNICEF India.

The event brought together judges of the Supreme Court and high courts, directors of state judicial academies, secretaries of women and child development departments and others, including members of juvenile justice boards and child welfare committees, to undertake an evidence-based institutional audit of the first 10 years of the Act's implementation, a press release issued by the apex court said.

System can't be honest only when you win: 124 ex-officers support EC, SIR

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 10: A total of 124 former IAS, IFS, IPS and allied services' officers have strongly defended the Election Commission (EC) and the SIR process, saying a system cannot be honest when someone wins and rigged when that person loses.

In an open letter to the citizens of India, the former officers also said institutions cannot be judged on the touchstone of political affiliation.

They said under the same commission, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre lost Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir, and in 2024, lost its majority in the Lok Sabha.

"The winners raised no complaint. A system

cannot be honest when you win and rigged when you lose," they said.

The officers, including former secretaries to the government of India, former ambassadors, former directors general of police, former chief secretaries of states and former directors general of income tax, also said errors must be corrected, but the legitimacy of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll is settled.

They said the SIR is a cleanup operation that sanitises voter lists and weeds out ineligible voters, bringing some discomfort in the process, which is part of every major initiative to improve the health of India's democracy.

The signatories to the letter included former foreign secretary Kanwal Sibal, former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers R D Kapur, Samirendra Chatterjee,

Gopal Krishna, Vivek Bhardwaj and Navneet Sehgal, former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers Bhaswati Mukherjee and Prabhu Dayal, and former Indian Police Service (IPS) officers K Aravinda Rao and Sarvesh Chandra.

Highlighting India's transformation from an era of booth capturing, ballot-box stuffing and electoral violence, the officers said today's electoral system has multiple layers of checks and safeguards, including polling agents, EVM sealing, strong-room security and VVPAT verification.

They cited last year's Bihar Assembly polls, which recorded no re-polling and the highest voter turnout since 1951. Strongly defending the EC's independence, the officers highlighted its multi-member structure and institutional safeguards.

Kashmir
Thunder

IS AVAILABLE
AT ALL LEADING
STALLS

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 arc proposed to be transferred in favour of Shri Tasleem Arif Mir

The details of the connections are as follows

Electricity Consumer ID	0205010000072
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 that 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that the number plate of my vehicle bearing Registration No. JK16C 9255 has been lost somewhere while travelling .

I have applied for the issuance of a duplicate number plate before the concerned authority.

Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of the duplicate number plate may file the same before the concerned ARTO within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

Sd/-
Name AB HAMEED GANIE
S/o ASDULLAH GANIE
R/o BARSOO LAR GANDERBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my name mentioned in Aadhaar card is MUSA BIN MUKHTAR LONE which is wrong however my actual name is BARIQ MUKHTAR LONE Now i intend to rectify my name in my aadhaar card. In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same before the concerned authorities within a period of 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME .BARIQ MUKHTAR LONE S/O MUKHTAR AHMAD
LONE R/O MANIGAM LAR GANDERBAL
ADHAAR CARD NUMBER .323464009722

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
GANDERBAL
NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr./Mrs./Miss: ZAHOOOR AHMAD DAR, S/D/W of: MOHAMMAD SULTAN DAR, Resident of: HOUSE NO 391/22 MADARSE WALI GALI ZAKIR NAGAR OKHLA JAMIA NAGAR NEW DELHI - 110025, in respect of LMV/Three Wheeler/ Motor Cycle/LMV bearing Registration No. DL9CAU4348, Chassis No. MA3EVB11SD1663547, Engine No.4871146, in favor of ZAKIR HUSSAIN MIR GOJAR, S/D/W of: MOHAMMAD QASIM MIR GOJAR, Resident of: PRENG KANGAN, PALANG GANDERBAL JAMMU AND KASHMIR (Transferee).

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

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

Sd/-
Authorized Signatory
Assistant Regional Transport Officer Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

MAHIRA ASHIQ (M)
T/M: TAHIRA AKHTAR
D/O: ASHIQ AHMAD RATHER
R/O: URPASH GANDERBAL
Account number. 0174040100013659

PUBLIC NOTICE

This information is for the general public, that in my J&K Bank Account Branch-Ganderbal bearing Account No. 0081040800026581, My name was wrongly mentioned as SHAISTA ASHRAF while actual/correct name is SHAISTAH ASHRAF D/O: MUHAMMAD ASHRAF BHAT R/O: MIRPORA ANCHAR DUGA PORA SRINGAR as per my Matriculation Board, Aadhaar Card and Pan Card Record, Now it needs to be corrected as per said Documents in my account number, Anybody having objection may contact J&K Bank Branch Ganderbal within (7)seven days No, objection shall be accepted after said time period.

SHAISTAH ASHRAF
D/O: MUHAMMAD ASHRAF BHAT
R/O: MIRPORA ANCHAR DUGA PORA SRINGAR
Contact: 9622433728

FM meets top executives of global investment funds, banks

Discusses investment opportunities in India

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 10: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday met with top executives from global investment funds, banks, and companies in Singapore and discussed opportunities to expand long-term investments in India across infrastructure, financial services, healthcare, and other growth-oriented sectors.

During the meetings, the finance minister exchanged views on India's long-term growth prospects, the evolving investment landscape and ways to mobilise global institutional and private capital to support the country's development priorities.

Sitharaman met Lim Chow Kiat, Chief Executive Officer of Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC,



and discussed India's long-term growth prospects and the role of institutional investors in supporting investment across infrastructure and other growth-oriented sectors such as financial services.

The discussions focused on the role of institutional investors in supporting investments in infrastructure, financial services and other sectors aligned with

India's growth prospects, the finance ministry said in a post on X.

She also met Dilhan Pillay Sandrasegara, CEO of Temasek Holdings, to discuss expanding investment opportunities in India, particularly in infrastructure and other growth-oriented sectors, including through National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

In a separate meeting,

Sitharaman met Jim Coulter, Executive Chairman and Founding Partner of private equity firm TPG, to discuss India's long-term growth prospects and opportunities for private capital to participate in the country's expanding investment landscape.

Healthcare infrastructure and capacity expansion were also among the areas discussed during the Finance Minister's meeting with Prem Nair, CEO of IHH Healthcare, and Ashok Pandit, the group's Chief Commercial Officer.

The discussions focused on opportunities to expand investments in India's healthcare sector, including hospital infrastructure and capacity expansion to strengthen access to quality healthcare, the ministry said in another post on X.

Quick Read

New Zealand pacer Will O'Rourke ruled out of India series



PTI

Auckland, Oct 10 : New Zealand pace bowler Will O'Rourke is the latest casualty ahead of the upcoming tour of India, with the 25-year-old set to miss the series as a precaution while continuing his rehabilitation from injuries to his left hamstring and calf.

The multi-format pacer returned to international cricket earlier this year after a back stress fracture kept him sidelined for seven months. However, he suffered a hamstring tear on the final day of the third Test against England before straining his calf during training in late August.

New Zealand coach Rob Walter said the decision to keep O'Rourke out of the India series was taken in consultation with the player and the medical team, with the focus firmly on the team's four-Test tour of Australia in December.

New Zealand are scheduled to play five T20Is, five ODIs and two Tests against India, with the series opening with a T20I in Christchurch on October 22.

"It's obviously disappointing for Will to have to miss such a marquee tour at home against India," said Walter.

"He was set to feature in both the ODI and Test series, but following subsequent discussions, we all agreed it was best for him to take some more time to rehabilitate both injuries and safely build up his bowling loads."

New Zealand had on Friday announced that Mark Chapman and Zak Foulkes would miss the T20I series due to injuries.

"Our pace bowling resources will be critical over the next few months so we're taking a conservative approach to Will's return to ensure he's fully fit before he takes the field again," Walter said.

"Ideally he'll be able to return for Canterbury in the Plunket Shield in late December, and in a perfect world he'll be ready to go for the opening Test against Australia in Perth on December 9," he added

NIT Srinagar hosts annual athletics meet with 150 students participating

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 10: The Annual Athletics Meet (Men and Women) commenced at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, with around 150 students participating in the event organised by the institute's Student Activity and Sports (SAS) Centre.

The meet aims to promote physical fitness, sportsmanship and healthy competition while encouraging students to balance academic pursuits with sports and extracurricular activities.

Prof. Mohammad Abid Bazaz Dean Students Welfare said sports and extracurricular activities were essential for the holistic development of students.

"Education is not confined to classrooms. Participation in sports helps students develop leadership, discipline, teamwork and resilience. The institute remains committed to providing students with opportunities to pursue their interests alongside academics," he said.

Dr Manoj Kumar, In-charge Faculty, SAS, said the event was part of the institute's efforts to encourage greater participation in sports and fitness activities.

"Sports play an important role in the overall development of students. The athletics meet provides them an opportunity to showcase their abilities, build confidence and develop discipline and a spirit of healthy competition," he said.

Kowsar Ali Mir, SAS Officer, said the participation of around 150 men and women students reflected the importance of creating opportunities for students to engage in sporting activities.

"We want to encourage more students to participate in sports and make physical fitness an integral part of campus life. Such events also promote teamwork, camaraderie and a healthy competitive spirit," she said.

Sohail Ahmad Baba, SAS Assistant, said the SAS Centre was working to facilitate student participation and ensure the smooth conduct of sporting activities.

"Events like the annual athletics meet give students a platform to demonstrate their talent and enthusiasm. Our focus is to encourage participation and help students develop an active and healthy lifestyle," he said.

Russian strikes kill 15 in Ukraine as Trump reaches diesel deal with Putin

AP

Kyiv, Oct 10 : Russian strikes killed at least 15 people in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, Ukrainian officials said Saturday, a day after US President Donald Trump announced a deal to buy Russian diesel that Kyiv warned would help bankroll Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Three children were among those killed when Russian aerial bombs hit residential buildings in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said Saturday. At least 16 people were wounded in the attack.

Missiles also struck Kyiv in a daytime attack Saturday. Mayor Vitalii Klitschko said four people were wounded.

Russia and Ukraine are locked in a long-range aerial war while their armies remain largely deadlocked on the front line, more than 4 1/2 years since Moscow's full-scale invasion. Ukraine is struggling to counter escalating Russian bombardments that have killed more than 60 people over the past four days.

Trump said Friday he had struck a deal to obtain diesel from Russia, a stunning reversal of years of US pressure on Moscow over its war



with Ukraine and an attempt to address high fuel prices ahead of the US midterm elections.

Anger in Kyiv over diesel deal "Today, Russia expressed its thanks for the lifting of sanctions on diesel exports by dropping five glide bombs on residential buildings in Zaporizhzhia," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote Saturday on X.

He said the attacks show Moscow understands "any easing of pressure to mean they can keep fighting, to mean they can keep dropping bombs on cities," adding that "different signals are needed." Zelenskyy said Ukraine was preparing meetings and coordinating

steps to counter the extra revenue Russia will receive from the diesel deal. In a post on X, he said he had discussed the developments with Finnish President Alexander Stubb, and said that Ukraine would receive ammunition in the coming days for the F-16s it uses to intercept Shahed drones. "It is important to continue working together to protect people and limit Russia's ability to wage this terrible war," Zelenskyy said.

Trump had been set to discuss a suspected case of plague in Russia with President Vladimir Putin in a phone call. Instead, the American leader announced Friday that Russia will immediately supply

more than 300,000 tons of diesel, followed by an additional 500,000 tons in November and 1 million tons "immediately thereafter." Russia will deliver an additional 3 million tons "within a short period of time" after that, he wrote.

In Kyiv, people gathered at a memorial to fallen soldiers on Independence Square greeted the deal with a mix of anger and resignation.

"Trump has once again shown his true face," said Oleksandr Petrenko, 26. "He didn't care about the situation, the shelling or the destruction of our homes. All he's interested in is oil or the fuel prices and how much Americans have to pay."

"Knowing Trump, he tries to manipulate the markets. He's got an election coming up soon," Petrenko said. "So he needs to emphasise to his voters that gasoline will be cheap. But it won't be effective."

For Oksana Yakunina, a financial adviser from Kropyvnytskyi, the announcement "didn't really come as a surprise."

"Trump has been working with Putin for a long time," she told The Associated Press.

Zelenskyy says deal plays into Russia's hands' Trump's

announcement was in stark contrast to a sweeping Russia sanctions law he signed last month that aimed at clamping down on the oil and gas revenues that fuel Russia's war against Ukraine.

In a lengthy post online reacting to the deal on Friday, Zelenskyy said Russia would repay it "with further terror and perfidy." He framed it as an investment in the war that could prolong it.

"It plays into Russia's hands -- allowing it to kill more, wage war for longer, have even less respect for America, and inflict even greater losses and damage on the world," he said.

According to a statement released by the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, Zelenskyy called it "a weak decision, unfortunately, a weak decision by strong partners."

Trump announced the deal as his envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner met with Ukrainian officials in Miami to discuss a proposal to end the war.

"I believe our team is simply being used as a smoke screen. And that is certainly not fair. It is certainly not how partners should treat each other," Zelenskyy said.

Gaza ceasefire was meant to end war, but progress stalls a year later



AP

Dubai, Oct 10 : It's been a year since a ceasefire deal brokered by US President Donald Trump and Arab allies promised to end the war in Gaza, and Israel is still launching deadly strikes on the devastated territory.

The agreement halted major military operations, freed all remaining hostages and increased humanitarian access. But it has failed to deliver on promises of a new Palestinian administration aided by international forces, the disarmament of Hamas and an end to Israel's control over more than half the territory. Almost nothing has been rebuilt.

Israel has tied any progress on the other issues to Hamas' complete disarmament, while the militant group -- and the Trump administration -- say they should happen simultaneously. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hardened his stance over the summer, openly defying Trump, his most important ally, ahead of Israeli elections later this month.

The wrangling has left Gaza's 2 million Palestinians in limbo. Most are sheltering in rodent-infested tent camps, the rubble of their former neighbourhoods or war-damaged buildings at risk of collapse.

In the Jabaliya area of the northern Gaza Strip, Abdullah Abu Zubaida's family lives in a makeshift shelter built from the debris of their house.

"When the ceasefire began last October, we expected the war to halt, assassinations to cease, and aid to flow in," he said. None of that has happened.

For Ne'man Abu Jarad and his family, displaced from Beit Lahia in northern Gaza to Khan Younis in the south, the truce also has brought no clear path home. The family, including five daughters,

continues to live in tents.

"The ceasefire is merely nominal, ink on paper," Abu Jarad said.

Early success raised hopes of ending the war

The 20-point ceasefire agreement, reached after months of negotiations under the Biden and Trump administrations, ended major military operations and led to the return of all the remaining hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people that day and abducted 251. Israel responded with massive bombardment and a ground invasion that has killed more than 74,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government, maintains detailed records and is seen as generally reliable by UN agencies and independent experts. It does not distinguish between civilians and militants in its toll but says women and children make up around half the dead.

After the deal was announced, Trump called for a new era of harmony in the Middle East. "We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put the old feuds and bitter hatreds behind us," he said at a summit marking the deal.

The agreement called for much more

The agreement called for Hamas to hand over power to a committee of Palestinian administrators vetted by the Board of Peace, a new body chaired by Trump and charged with implementing the ceasefire. The militants officially dissolved their government in July but left the civil service intact and remain the dominant power in the roughly 40 per cent of Gaza not controlled by the Israeli military. Israel has meanwhile barred the new Palestinian administration from entering Gaza via Egypt.

Nkomo to lead Zimbabwe during maiden India tour



PTI

Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), Oct 10: All-rounder Jesophine Nkomo will lead a 15-member Zimbabwe women's squad for their first-ever white-ball tour of India, starting October 16. Zimbabwe have picked the same set of players who competed against West Indies in September-October. Zimbabwe posted a historic first-ever win against the West Indies, beating the visitors by four wickets in the second ODI in Harare.

The 15-member side

against India will also feature Nyasha Gwanuzura and Michelle Mavunga, who took seven wickets between them in that win, alongside Modester Mupachikwa, who was the top-scorer.

The squad also has Beloved Biza and Kelis Ndhlovu, who finished as top ODI and T20I run-scorers respectively in the series against the West Indies.

The T20Is will be played on October 16, 18 and 20 in Raipur, before the ODIs on October 23, 25 and 28 in Baroda. The ODIs will be part of the ICC Women's Championship.

Police detain 76, check 50,000 schools after 2 attacks shake Poland

AP

Warsaw, Oct 10 : Police on Saturday said they detained 76 people across Poland and checked nearly 50,000 schools nationwide as part of efforts to prevent further violence following two school attacks earlier in the week.

On Friday, schools across Poland stepped up security, with some suspending classes, many parents keeping children at home and police patrols deployed to educational institutions after two attacks at schools

earlier in the week left one person dead and several others wounded, including children.

On Wednesday, a 19-year-old student at a vocational school in the Mazovian province in central Poland attacked fellow students, teachers and passersby with a sharp object, injuring nine people before fleeing and being arrested nearby. The following day, a 15-year-old killed a school custodian and wounded two others in a knife attack at his former school in the same province.

Verstappen wins singapore F1 sprint as Russell loses lead

AP

Singapore, Oct 10 : Max Verstappen won the Singapore Grand Prix sprint race after George Russell crashed out from the lead Saturday, missing a chance to cut his Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli's advantage in the Formula 1 title race.

Russell beat Verstappen off the line at the start in wet conditions but lost control when he put a wheel on a painted line at the end of the first lap, spinning across the track and into the barrier.

INOX

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Schedule

SUNDAY

11 OCTOBER 2026

DRISHYAM THE CONCLUSION (UA 10+) HINDI ATMOS 10:45 AM 01:45 PM 04:45 PM 07:45 PM HINDI	THE VVAAN (UA 10+) HINDI 11:20 AM	DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NEW NIBITA AND THE CASTLE OF THE UNIVERSE DEVIL (U) HINDI 04:35 PM
THE SOCIAL RECKONING (A) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 02:10 PM	OTHER MOMMY (A) ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 06:50 PM	

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