



J&K aims to lead Himalayan territory with Mountain Development Policy: CM Omar

Cautions policy framework must not be formulated in isolation

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Oct 12: Jammu and Kashmir is aiming to become the first Himalayan territory to adopt a 'Mountain Development Policy', Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Monday, cautioning that the policy framework must not be formulated in isolation.

Addressing a gathering at the 13th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit at SKUAST-K, Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said Jammu and Kashmir would like to be the first Himalayan territory to have a 'Mountain Development Policy'.

The Chief Minister said, "I would tell you from my governance side that we would love to implement it, but it is important that the policy is not created in isolation."

He said many people outside J&K had the misconception that the region's economy depended on tourism, whereas agriculture and horticulture contributed far more to the economy.

"Most people outside J&K have a misconception that the region's economy survives on



tourism, but in reality, the contribution of the tourism sector towards the economy of J&K is on the third or fourth number. Agriculture and horticulture are far above anything else. For us, protecting our environment and sustainable mountain development is our existence and our very survival depends on it," he said.

He said the government alone could not protect or safeguard the environment, stressing the need for collective efforts to address environmental challenges.

"There is a need for collective

efforts to tackle it. Even the alarming matter of climate change can't be dealt with single-handedly by any region or country. We are aware that protecting the environment is a primary job of the government, but at the same time, I believe that citizens should use the environment judiciously," he said.

"Over the past couple of years, Kashmir has been witnessing a shortage of rainfall and uneven snowfall. Kashmir is also witnessing an unusual series of cloudbursts," Omar said, adding, "This is a new reality. This is a reality we are

living with. With this, we need to learn how we can sustain our livelihoods along with development. Development is essential."

On the flow of tourists, the Chief Minister said, "In closed rooms, we are discussing limiting the number of tourists, but in reality, we cannot restrict them to limited numbers because many families in Jammu and Kashmir are dependent on the tourism sector."

"It is true that some of our tourism destinations do not have the same carrying capacity, and we need to widen the tourism sector. It is also true that there is more pressure on the environment because of tourism, but saying that all the issues related to the environment occur just because of Yatris and tourism isn't correct at all," he said.

The Chief Minister further said that before pointing fingers at tourists, people in J&K must examine their own role in protecting the environment. "Before raising fingers at tourists, it is our responsibility to protect the environment. We need to look at ourselves and see how much | [More on P6](#)

Mamta Yadav assumes charge as Director Information

Calls for transparent, timely, people-centric communication



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 12: Mamta Yadav (IAS) on Monday assumed the charge as Director Information, Jammu and Kashmir, and held an introductory interaction with officers and officials of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

During the interaction, the Director underscored the pivotal role of the Information Department in ensuring effective communication between the government and the public, emphasizing the need

for transparency, accuracy, timeliness and wider outreach in the dissemination of information relating to government policies, developmental initiatives and public welfare programmes.

Emphasising the importance of adapting to the evolving media landscape, the Director called for greater utilization of digital platforms and modern communication tools to strengthen the department's outreach and enhance public engagement.

Joint Director Information (Headquarters), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; | [More on P6](#)

Rain, gusty winds likely across J&K till Oct 15: MeT

Kupwara warmest at 25.8°C, Gulmarg coldest at 4.5°C

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Oct 12: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms and gusty winds at many places from October 13 to 15, with light snowfall over higher reaches, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Monday.

The MeT department said generally cloudy weather with light rain at isolated places was expected on Monday, while higher reaches may receive light snowfall.

It has forecast generally dry weather with a brief spell of light rain at isolated places on October 16, followed by dry conditions from October 17 to 24.

In its advisory, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the department urged farmers to ensure safe storage of harvested apples, paddy and other crops during October 13-15 in view of the possibility of rain and gusty winds.

It also warned of light snowfall over important mountain passes and roads during the period and advised travellers, transporters and the general public to plan their journeys accordingly and follow traffic advisories.

According to the weather data released by | [More on P6](#)

Poonch: 4 terrorists killed in failed infiltration bid near LoC



Yogesh

Jammu, Oct 12: Four terrorists, including a top commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), were killed in a landmine explosion while attempting to infiltrate into Indian Territory near Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district on Monday.

Official sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the incident took place in the Krishna Ghati Sector where the group

was attempting to cross into this side. "Terrorists were killed after triggering a landmine," they said, adding, "The incident foiled an infiltration attempt, with all four terrorists dying at the spot."

The identity of the slain LeT commander and the circumstances leading to the suspected infiltration attempt are being ascertained, sources said, adding that following the blast, security forces sounded an alert across | [More on P6](#)

Op Sindoor lessons put Army logistics in focus: Rajnath

Says soldiers' welfare integral to national security

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 12: Stating that soldiers' welfare is integral to national security, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said lessons from 'Operation Sindoor' have underscored the need for resilient military supply chains.

Addressing a function organized to launch 'Bharat Rice' for troops and Indian Army signing a 5-year agreement with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The strategic analysis of Operation Sindoor indicated that warning times could be extremely short in future conflicts. We must build logistics resilience to sustain our operations. This MoU with FCI represents a significant step in that direction."

The Defence Minister said, "Soldiers' operational readiness



depends not only on weapons and equipment but also on their physical health, mental balance, morale and stamina, particularly in harsh conditions."

He said healthy food, robust equipment and complete training helped boost troops' morale and prepare them to face challenges. "The welfare of soldiers is not a peripheral issue, but an integral component of national security," he said.

Notably, under the Bharat Rice initiative, quality rice will

be delivered directly to Army supply depots in remote areas, including Ladakh and the Northeast, instead of being collected by Army depots from local FCI facilities.

Singh described Bharat Rice as a bond of trust extending from the farmer's field to the soldier's plate, saying the initiative embodied the spirit of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".

"This superior-quality rice will be provided in accordance with standard specifications. Furthermore, we are ensuring ergonomic packaging. While this initiative might appear small, it offers immense operational relief to the soldiers responsible for transporting rations to remote and difficult terrains," he said.

The MoU provides the Army with a formal framework to use identified FCI warehouses, labour resources and material-handling equipment during operational | [More on P6](#)

Abdullah family must answer for 1987 'rigging': LoP Sharma

Targets Omar Abdullah; calls 1987 vote theft biggest electoral malpractice

Says UCC to be implemented across country, including J&K

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 12: Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Kumar Sharma on Monday termed the alleged rigging of the 1987 Assembly elections as the biggest case of vote theft in the country and said the Abdullah family must answer questions surrounding the polls that brought Farooq Abdullah to power.

Speaking to reporters, Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the 1987 elections remained a symbol of electoral malpractice and that the Abdullah family should respond to allegations linked to those polls.

"If the allegation of vote theft is to be placed on someone, it is on the 1987 rigging. Farooq Abdullah became Chief Minister after votes were



allegedly stolen," he said.

Sharma also referred to a district commissioner named Khaliq, alleging that legislators elected during that period were popularly known as "Khaliq-made MLAs".

He further accused the Congress of a history of electoral malpractice in Jammu and Kashmir while claiming that elections held under former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi | [More on P6](#)

Son dies, father injured in Pattan accident

KNO Correspondent

Baramulla, Oct 12: A man was killed while his father sustained injuries after a dumper collided with their Tata Ace vehicle near Hyderbeigh in Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday night, officials said.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the father-son duo sustained injuries after a dumper collided with their Tata Ace vehicle near Hyderbeigh in Pattan last night.

He said the injured duo were shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Pattan for treatment, where one of them succumbed to his injuries, while the other was referred to JVC Hospital for advanced treatment.

The deceased was identified as Murtaza Shabir Bhat, a resident of Bijbehara in Anantnag district, while the injured was identified as his father, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, also a resident of Bijbehara.

The official said the cause of the accident | [More on P6](#)

DGP calls for collective fight against drugs

Flags off J&K-Ladakh Police motorcycle rally from Sgr to Gujarat

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 12: Calling children the future of the nation, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday urged society to unite against drug abuse as he flagged off a joint J&K-Ladakh Police motorcycle rally from Srinagar to Gujarat for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the function, Prabhat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the anti-drug campaign was gaining momentum in Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

"These small children are the future of our country," he said, stressing that protecting the younger generation from drug abuse was a collective responsibility.



Referring to recent action against drug trafficking in Srinagar, the DGP said significant progress had been made, with several arrests during the crackdown.

"This is a war being fought across society with a whole-of-government approach," he said, urging people to actively support the campaign.

"It is our duty to participate in this fight and say no to drugs," he added.

Earlier, Prabhat | [More on P6](#)



Omar attends last rites of S. Harbans Singh

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday attended the last rites of former Minister S. Harbans Singh at the Cremation Ground, Shastri Nagar, Jammu, and paid his last respects to the departed leader.

The Chief Minister

recalled S. Harbans Singh's dedicated service to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, praying for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear the irreparable loss.

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited the residence of the

former Minister in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, to offer his condolences to the bereaved family.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister Satish Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, former Minister Ajay Sadhotra and other senior leaders were also present.

NIA attaches Sgr property used to harbour Pak LeT terrorists

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 12: The National Investigation Agency on Monday attached a residential property on Srinagar outskirts, in connection with an alleged cross-border terror conspiracy involving Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), citing its use for harbouring Pakistani terrorists and concealing incriminating material linked to the terror network.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a NIA spokesman said, "The property, located at Khasra No. 315 and belonging to accused Ghulam Mohammad Mir alias Mama Gas in Danihama area of Hazratbal was attached under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, after obtaining prior approval from the NIA Director General."

The spokesman said, "The case pertains to a network of local Over Ground Workers (OGWs) allegedly | [More on P6](#)

DC Srinagar inspects progress in construction of District Circuit House Bemina

Takes stock of Additional Accommodation Block of Sainik Bhawan

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday conducted an on-site inspection of the construction work of District Circuit House, Srinagar at Bemina.

He also inspected the progress of ongoing works on the Additional Accommodation Block of the Zila Sainik Welfare Bhawan at Batamaloo.

During the visit, the DC, as per an official statement, was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir, Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Sai Kiran, Superintending Engineer R&B North, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer R&B South, Tatheer Manzoor, SDM West, Seerat Baji, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, ACR, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineer R&B, Fareed Khan, Executive Engineer R&B, Abdul Qayoom, Executive Engineer, KPDCI 3rd, Abrar Hussain,



Executive Engineer, Water Works, Aijaz Rafiq, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool, Tehsildar North, Syed Shahid and other concerned Officers.

At the construction site of the District Circuit House at Bemina, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the progress of ongoing works and reviewed various components of the project, aimed at augmenting cost effective accommodation & reasonable facilitation amenities in the District.

On the occasion, the DC underscored the significance of the facility in strengthening cost effective accommodation and

facilitation infrastructure in Srinagar and improving the availability of suitable accommodation for public, official and other designated purposes. The DC directed the concerned executing agency to expedite the pace of work while ensuring strict adherence to prescribed quality standards and stipulated timelines, stressing that all components of the project must be completed in a time-bound manner without compromising on quality.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress on the construction of the Additional Accommodation Block at

Zila Sainik Welfare Bhawan, Batamaloo aimed to enhance the accommodation capacity of the facility and strengthen the delivery of welfare services to eligible beneficiaries, particularly the wards of ex-servicemen and martyrs who visit or temporarily reside in Srinagar for educational purposes.

During an interaction with Officers and Officials of Zila Sainik Welfare Bhawan, the DC was informed that more than 40 percent of the civil works had been completed, with the ground floor completed and work underway on the first floor.

The DC stressed the need for expeditious execution of the remaining works, directing the concerned Officers to ensure timely completion of the project so that the facility can be made functional at the earliest. He emphasized that the timely completion of the Accommodation Block would enhance facilities for beneficiaries and contribute to the more effective delivery of welfare services to the wards of ex-servicemen

Kuldeep Krishan Sidha assumes charge as Deputy Commissioner Pulwama



KT News Desk

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 12: Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Monday assumed charge as the new Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama.

Upon assuming charge, the Deputy Commissioner was warmly received by the outgoing Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, along with other senior officers and officials of the district administration.

Soon after taking over, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, held an introductory-cum-review meeting with senior district and sectoral officers at the Circuit House, Pulwama, to take stock of the overall developmental and administrative scenario of the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the officers and sought a comprehensive overview of the functioning of various departments, ongoing developmental works, implementation of government schemes and delivery of public services in the district.

He emphasized the need for close coordination among departments, timely execution of developmental projects and efficient delivery of public services to the people.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to maintain a proactive and people-centric approach, ensure effective implementation of government programmes and address public grievances promptly.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Addendum

Sub: Addendum for tender document fee and extension thereof.
Ref: 1. This office E-NIT No. 26 of 2026-27, S. No. 01, 02
and 2. This office E-NIT No. 27 of 2026-27.
3. This office E-NIT No. 28 of 2026-27.
4. This office E-NIT No. 29 of 2026-27.

Due to the problems faced by the contractors on JKGRAS portal for remitting of tender document fee the interim option for the same is hereby provided till the portal is fully integrated/functional. Therefore, contractors can remit the tender document fee to the bank account of the Divisional Office, detailed under, with NIT No. and Serial No. clearly mentioned on the acknowledgment slip.

Bank name	The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Account No.	034701020004999
Name of account	Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore
IFSC Code	JAKA0TRUSTE
Branch	T. P. Sopore

Also, the above referred e-NITs figuring at serial No. 02 and 04 are hereby extended accordingly as under:

S. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1	Last date for online submission of bids	15-10-2026 (06:55 pm)
2	Date of online opening of bids	16-10-2026 (12:30 pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain

same.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/4433-36
Dated: 10-10-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

DIPK-6658/26
DATED: 12-10-2026

Dr. Basharat Qayoom, assumes charge as Commissioner SMC, CEO SSCL

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Monday assumed charge as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), and Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), with a focus on strengthening civic services and making urban governance more responsive to the needs and aspirations of Srinagar's citizens.

Dr. Basharat Qayoom, as per an official statement, succeeds Faz Lul Haseeb. A brief function was held at the SMC Headquarters to welcome the newly appointed Commissioner and CEO. Senior officers and officials of SMC and SSCL welcomed Dr. Basharat Qayoom and assured him of their full cooperation in advancing citizen-centric governance and ensuring



efficient, accessible and responsive municipal services.

Addressing the officers and officials, Dr. Basharat Qayoom reiterating the "Citizen

First approach " emphasised that citizens must remain at the centre of the Corporation's policies, programmes and service delivery mechanisms. He stressed the importance of accountable administration, effective interdepartmental coordination and timely resolution of public grievances to address the everyday civic concerns of residents.

He highlighted the need to strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms, improve the delivery of essential municipal services and ensure greater responsiveness to citizens' complaints and feedback. He also underscored the importance of a coordinated and forward-looking approach towards transforming Srinagar into a sustainable, clean and liveable city where urban development translates into tangible

improvements in the quality of life of residents.

His assumption of charge is expected to provide further impetus to ongoing urban development programmes, Smart City initiatives and efforts to improve the accessibility, efficiency and accountability of municipal services.

As Commissioner, SMC, and CEO, SSCL, the focus will be on strengthening civic infrastructure, improving sanitation and other essential municipal amenities, promoting sustainable urban planning, enhancing public participation and ensuring the timely implementation of development projects. Greater emphasis on citizen engagement and responsive grievance redressal will remain central to efforts to address public concerns and improve service delivery.

Director Agriculture Kashmir flags off farmers group for exposure visit to PAU

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah Monday flagged off a group of 45 progressive farmers from different zones of Srinagar district for an exposure visit and capacity building programme to Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana.

The exposure, as per an official statement, visit has been organised by Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare department district Srinagar under HADP project, Promotion of aromatic and medicinal plants.

While interacting with the farmers on the occasion, the Director said that that the main objective of this exposure visit cum capacity building programme is to train the local

farmers in the niche sector of medicinal and aromatic plants for a gradual shift from survival livelihood to high return agribusiness. As Kashmir offers a unique agro climatic conditions for the cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants, this exposure visit will provide an opportunity to the trainees to explore new income generating avenues in Lavender, Rosemary, and specializes aromatic and medicinal plants that thrive locally.

Director Agriculture stressed upon the participants to take full advantage of this opportunity so that they get acquainted with the latest high value varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants, their nursery management, post-harvest Extraction and processing besides exploring market dynamics.

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 SUFIYAN KHAN S/D/W of MOHD WASIQ Resident of 1694 GALI NO 1 SHIVDAYALPURA HAPUR MAJEEDPURA HAPUR UTAR PRADESH-245101 in Respect of LMV/Three wheeler /Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. UP37B8277 Chassis No MALBM51RLEM024082J Engine No. D4F-CEM209863 In favour of: TANVEER RASOOL S/D/W of: GHULAM RASOOL RATHER Resident of: WUSSAN KANG GANDERBAL KASHMIR (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Leading Papers to the address of undersigned. No, representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

Sd/- Authorized Signatory
Assistant Regional Transport officer Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

This information is for the general public, that in my J&K Bank Account Branch-Ganderbal bearing Account No. 0081040100022581, My name was wrongly mentioned as MASRATA AKHTER while actual/correct name is MASRAT BANO W/O: MANZOOR AHMAD SHEIKH R/O: GADOORA GANDERBAL 191201 as per my 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.

MASRAT BANO
W/O: MANZOOR AHMAD SHEIKH
R/O: GADOORA GANDERBAL 191201

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE) FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SHOPIAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

Invitation of Sealed Bids for Sale of Seized Kerosene Stock and Rice (In Compliance with Order: CNR No: JKSP03001659- 2026 Dated: 27- 07- 2026 and CNR No: JKSP03001660- 2026 Dated: 27- 07- 2026 passed by Chief Judicial Magistrate Shopian. Extension of bidding period (Final Public Notice)

Pursuant to the directions of the Chief Judicial Magistrate Shopian in the matter FIR No: 06/2026 U/Sec, 3/7 Essential commodities Act and FIR no: 07/2026 U/s 3/7 Essential Commodities Act of the Police Station Shopian, Shopian, & public Notice issued vide this office No: FCS&CA/SPN/26/844- 47 Dated: 18/08/2026, FCS&CA/SPN/26/1051- 54 Dated: 17/09/2026 and FCS&CA/SPN/26/1128- 31 Dated: 03- 10- 2026, the bidding period is extended for seven (07) Days from the date of publication of this notice and sealed bids are invited for the sale of 810.00 Liters of seized kerosene stock (in 06 Barrels) and 25.00 Qts of Rice (packed in 50 Jute bags) from all licensed kerosene dealers of District Shopian & neighboring areas and general public.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Base Reserve Price: Rs 60.00 per Litre. (Kerosene Oil) Rs 2900.00 Per Quintal (Rice)
2. Eligibility:

Licensed Kerosene Oil dealers of District Shopian and adjoining areas. (The Licenses of all the Kerosene Oil dealers has expired in district Shopian, the License holder who was having valid License upto when all the licenses expired) and also from the general public.

3. Issuing authority:
Assistant Director, FCS&CA, Shopian.
4. Mode of Bidding:

Sealed written bids, clearly mentioning the offered rate per litre.

5. Bidding period: Final Extension of 07 Days from the date of publication of notice.
6. Place of Submission:

Office of the Assistant Director, FCS&CA, Shopian (B- Block Mini Secretariat Shopian) during office hours.

7. Selection criteria:
Highest eligible bidder quoting above the base price, subject to Licensee verification.
8. Contingent Acceptance Clause: In the event that no higher bid is Received within the stipulated 07- day bidding Period, the kerosene will be auctioned on base Reserve price.

9. Deposit and payment conditions: Upon finalization, the successful bidder shall deposit a security and provisional advance of Rs 972.00 (2%) in respect of Kerosene Oil and Rs 1450.00 (2%) in respect of Rice with the Assistant Director FCS&CA Shopian. The Balance amount shall be calculated at the rate of highest bid amount multiplied by the total verified stock, after deducting the quantity (if any) already distributed. A bond shall be executed to ensure payment of the remaining amount immediately upon final quantification.

For further queries, interested Kerosene Licensee Holders/General public may contact the undersigned during working hours at the Office of the Assistant Director, FCS&CA Shopian. No: FCS&CA/SPN/26/1178- 81 Dated: 12/10/2026

DIPK-6635/26
DATED: 12-10-2026

Assistant Director
Food, Civil Supples @ C.A/ Deptt Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my FATHER'S mentioned in PAN card is GHULAM AHMAD BHAT which is wrong however my actual FATHER'S is ABDUL RASHID MALIK 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 .RUMEE JAN D/O ABDUL RASHID MALIK R/O
CHEEK FATHIPORA GANDERBAL.PAN CARD
DCHPJ9318E.

World Arthritis Day Arthritis Doesn't Discriminate by Age

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Oct 12 : Calling for greater awareness, early diagnosis and preventive healthcare, doctors on Monday urged people to adopt healthier lifestyles to reduce the risk of arthritis and prevent joint-related problems from affecting their quality of life.

On World Arthritis Day, healthcare professionals said arthritis remains a major cause of joint pain, swelling, stiffness and restricted mobility, affecting people across different age groups. They said that timely medical consultation, regular physical activity and weight management can play an important role in protecting joint health.

Doctors said arthritis is not a single disease but a broad term covering more than 100 conditions that affect the joints and surrounding tissues. Osteoarthritis (OA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are among the most common forms, although their causes, progression and treatment approaches differ.

Dr Mukhtar, an orthopaedician at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) said that arthritis can gradually interfere with routine activities, including walking, climbing stairs and performing household chores.

"Many people tend to ignore joint pain and stiffness, particularly during the initial stages, assuming that



these symptoms are a normal part of ageing. However, persistent pain, swelling or difficulty moving a joint should not be overlooked, as early assessment can help identify the underlying condition and prevent complications," he said.

He said several factors, including increasing age, genetic predisposition, previous joint injuries, obesity, infections and abnormalities in the immune system, may contribute to the development of different types of arthritis.

Explaining the role of obesity,

Dr Mukhtar said excessive body weight places additional pressure on weight-bearing joints, particularly the knees, hips and spine, potentially accelerating the breakdown of cartilage and worsening existing symptoms.

"Maintaining an appropriate body weight is one of the important measures for reducing stress on the joints. Even gradual weight reduction in people who are overweight can help improve mobility and ease the burden on affected joints," he said.

He added that smoking and a

sedentary lifestyle are also important concerns. "Smoking is associated with an increased risk of rheumatoid arthritis, while physical inactivity can weaken the muscles that support the joints and contribute to stiffness and reduced mobility," he said.

Dr Aadil, a medical officer at DHSK posted in South Kashmir, said awareness about early warning signs needs to improve, as many patients seek medical attention only after their symptoms begin to interfere significantly with daily life.

He said symptoms such as

recurring joint pain, swelling, warmth around a joint, morning stiffness and difficulty performing routine movements warrant medical evaluation, particularly when they persist or progressively worsen.

"People should not dismiss prolonged joint stiffness or swelling as ordinary body pain. Inflammatory arthritis, including rheumatoid arthritis, can affect people even at a relatively young age. If symptoms are recognised early and the patient receives appropriate treatment, it may be possible to control inflammation, preserve joint function and reduce the likelihood of long-term disability," Dr Aadil said.

He added that arthritis should not be viewed exclusively as a problem of older people, noting that some forms can develop among younger adults and, in certain cases, children.

"Age alone should not determine whether someone seeks medical advice. A young person experiencing persistent joint swelling, pain or prolonged morning stiffness also needs proper assessment. Self-medication and repeatedly taking painkillers without identifying the cause can delay diagnosis and may expose patients to avoidable side effects," he said. Dr Aadil said preventive measures should include regular physical activity suited to an individual's age and health, maintaining a healthy weight, eating a balanced diet and avoiding tobacco use. He

recommended low-impact activities such as walking, swimming and cycling.

Doctors also highlighted the importance of distinguishing between osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, as the two conditions require different approaches to treatment.

Osteoarthritis generally develops when the protective cartilage in a joint gradually deteriorates, often leading to pain and stiffness. Rheumatoid arthritis, in contrast, is an autoimmune inflammatory disease in which the immune system attacks the lining of the joints and may cause swelling, prolonged stiffness and progressive joint damage if left untreated.

The experts stressed that there is no single preventive measure that can eliminate the risk of every type of arthritis. However, healthy lifestyle choices and timely medical care can help reduce certain risk factors and improve the management of symptoms. "Arthritis does not necessarily mean that a person must give up an active life. With the right diagnosis, appropriate treatment, physical activity and regular follow-up, many patients can continue their daily routines and maintain a good quality of life. The priority should be awareness, early intervention and consistent management rather than waiting for the condition to become severe," the doctors said—(KNO)

Did Dy CM's PRO call MLA Pathania ?

Choudhary insists repeated calls were made; Pathania rejects assertion

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 12: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary has written to Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather that his Public Relations Officer (PRO) had attempted to contact MLA R.S. Pathania, but the legislator did not respond to repeated calls.

In his reply to a notice of breach of privilege, the Deputy CM maintained that his office had made efforts to reach out to Pathania, who represents the Udhampur East constituency and had alleged that he was deliberately excluded from an official function during the Deputy CM's visit.

"I hold this belief that elected representatives do have rights but with corresponding duties. It has been my endeavour to adhere to parliamentary protocols and participation of elected representatives. My PRO had called the MLA many times, but the MLA did not respond to the calls," the Deputy CM



wrote in his submission.

Pathania, however, has strongly contested the claim, describing it as "an untrue submission" and demanding evidence to substantiate it.

In his rejoinder, the MLA asked for disclosure of the PRO's name and designation, his mobile numbers, the number allegedly called, the date and exact time of each call, and the relevant call records. "The alleged telephone calls by the PRO

of the Hon'ble Deputy CM is an untrue submission. May I humbly request for disclosing the name and designation of the PRO, his official/mobile number, the number allegedly called, the date and exact time of each call, and the relevant call records or other supporting evidence. A bald assertion that the MLA 'did not respond to calls' cannot sustain, especially when the entire controversy concerns compliance with an established protocol," reads the rejoinder.

Pathania has asked the Speaker to call for the relevant documentary and electronic evidence concerning the alleged telephone calls, official deployment, and conduct of the programme.

He has also requested the Speaker to refer the matter to the Committee on Privileges for an objective examination of the relevant facts, the alleged violation of the prescribed governmental

*Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in*

Sports essential to curb drug abuse among youth: DIG Pande

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Oct 12: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Central Kashmir Range, Rajiv Omprakash Pande on Monday said that engaging youth in sports activities and promoting healthy sporting culture play a crucial role in combating drug abuse.

Addressing the closing ceremony of J&K Police Cricket Tournament organised by Budgam Police at Shaheed Aga Syed Mehdi Memorial Sports Stadium here, the DIG said, "Sports activities provide a significant boost to youth engagement and help keep young people away from drug addiction. Our objective is to provide them with a platform through which they can participate in different sporting activities"

DIG Pande said, "I congratulate Budgam Police for organising the tournament under the Civic Action Programme. Organizers have done a wonderful job."

He said around 16 teams participated in the tournament, adding that such initiatives provide a platform for young people to showcase their sporting talent and channel their energy into constructive activities.

DIG Pande said J&K Police would continue to organise sporting events to encourage youth participation and strengthen the culture of sports across the region. He



said the police department would organise various events, including cricket tournaments, marathons, cycling races and other sports activities, to encourage greater participation among young people.

He also appealed to people from different villages to participate in district-level sporting events, saying public participation was essential for making such initiatives more effective.

100-DAY NASHA UKT ABHIYAAN

Referring to the recently held Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan, Pande said the 100-day campaign was aimed at expanding awareness and encouraging collective action against drug abuse. He called upon

parents, educational institutions and civil society to cooperate with police in identifying individuals affected by drug addiction and facilitating appropriate support and rehabilitation measures.

DIG Pande also stressed the need to identify and take action against those involved in the drug trade, adding that combating substance abuse required coordinated efforts by law enforcement agencies, families and society.

Congratulating the winning team, he thanked all participating players and teams for their involvement and expressed hope that more young people would take part in future sporting initiatives organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The DIG was accompanied by SSP Budgam Hariprasad K.K., IPS, ASP Budgam Sajad Husain Bukhari, DSP Headquarters Budgam Sajad Ahmad, DSP Dr Ghulam Mohiuddin and SHO Budgam Touseef Lone.

The final match witnessed a huge gathering of spectators and cricket enthusiasts, who turned up in large numbers to support the participating teams.

The tournament concluded with Zoorigund defeating Waterwani in the final to lift the title. The event was organised by Budgam Police to promote sportsmanship, teamwork and positive engagement among youth—(KNO)

Sunita Kargotra addresses prosecution fraternity of J&K

KT News Desk

Jammu, Oct 12: The new Director General (DG) of Prosecution, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Sunita Kargotra on Monday underscored the need to strengthen the prosecution system through professional excellence, institutional discipline/strengthening, accountability and effective coordination among Prosecutors across the Union Territory.

In her maiden address to the Prosecutors of UT of J&K after taking over as the DG, Sunita Kargotra emphasised the pivotal role of the Prosecution Department in the Criminal Justice Delivery System.

The Director General stated that the foremost objective of the Directorate would be to ensure effective, fair and legally sound prosecution, while upholding the rule of law and public confidence in the Justice System.

She stressed that every Prosecutor must discharge his or her duties with integrity, diligence and a high degree of professional competence. Timely examination of Judgments and Court Orders, prompt legal action wherever warranted, effective case preparation and close coordination with investigating

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Ladakh records 60.6% jump in Sep tourist arrivals

4.6 lakh visitors in 9 months

YOGESH

Leh, Oct 12: Ladakh continues to see strong tourist footfall, with September 2026 recording 55,582 tourist arrivals, up from 34,610 in September 2025 – a year-on-year increase of 60.60 per cent.

Between January 1 and September 30, 2026, the Union Territory received 4,60,667 tourists, compared with 3,35,872 visitors in the full year 2025. The tourist arrivals during the first nine months of 2026 have already surpassed the total footfall recorded in the previous year by 37.16 per cent, with three months still remaining in the current year.

The growth is equally evident in the comparison of the



corresponding nine-month periods. Ladakh received 2,78,599 tourists between January and September 2025, while the number rose to 4,60,667 during

the same period in 2026, registering a substantial 65.38 per cent increase.

Tourist arrivals have risen across both domestic and

foreign segments. During the first nine months of 2026, Ladakh welcomed 4,20,927 domestic tourists and 39,740 foreign tourists, compared to 3,03,838 domestic and 32,034 foreign tourists during the corresponding period in 2025. This represents a growth of approximately 38.54 per cent in domestic tourist arrivals and 24.06 per cent in foreign tourist arrivals.

In September 2026, domestic tourist arrivals rose from 29,888 to 49,188, while foreign tourist arrivals increased from 4,722 to 6,394 during the month.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena attributed this massive growth to improved

*Continued on
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BJP, Cong workers trade slogans in Srinagar protest

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 12: Slogans like, Ek Kachori, Do Samosa, Rahul Gandhi Par Kya Bharosa echoed around Pratap Park in Srinagar on Monday as BJP Mahila Morcha activists staged a protest against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party, accusing them of "vote chori".

The protesters assembled outside the Congress office around noon and raised slogans against Rahul Gandhi and the Congress leadership.

They also burnt an effigy of Rahul Gandhi during the demonstration at Pratap Park in Srinagar. The protest soon saw a face-off between workers of the two parties, with Congress workers coming out of their office and raising counter-slogans, including "Vote Chor BJP" and "BJP Murdabad".

The BJP protesters accused the Congress of electoral irregularities, while Congress workers responded with counter-slogans targeting the BJP. The protest comes amid an ongoing political row over allegations of "vote chori", with the BJP and Congress trading accusations over electoral practices—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Mental Health Can No Longer Be Ignored

Something is happening in Kashmir that we don't talk about enough. In hospital OPDs, doctors are seeing more and more patients with anxiety, depression, sleep problems and drug use. These are not rare cases anymore. They are common. And psychiatrists are worried, especially about young people. The

reasons are not hard to find. Stress that never goes away. Money problems. No jobs. Family expectations. Pressure to perform in studies. Too much time on phones and social media. All of this adds up. Adolescents face things that older generations never had to deal with - comparing themselves to others online, worrying

about how they look, fear of missing out, cyberbullying. These things hurt. They hurt deeply. But the biggest problem is silence. People don't talk about mental health. They don't go to doctors because they are afraid of what others will say. They think it is a weakness. They think it is something to hide. So they suffer alone. Some

don't survive. There is also a shortage of help. Kashmir has only around 120 psychiatrists and 40 clinical psychologists. That is not enough for so many people. Patients wait for too long. Some give up. Some take medicines on their own. Some go to people who are not qualified. What can be done? A lot. Mental health should

be part of regular health check-ups. Every district should have trained doctors. Schools and offices should talk about mental health. Treatment for addiction should be available closer to home. And the voices of people who have suffered should be heard when planning services. Kashmir has seen too much pain already. Conflict.

Violence. Uncertainty. The wounds inside are not visible but they are real. We need to stop treating mental health as something shameful. Asking for help is not weakness. It is strength. And a society that listens without judging is a society that actually cares. The government must act. But so must we. All of us.

Five Years of PM GatiShakti Transforming India's Infrastructure Planning

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) has evolved from a national infrastructure mapping platform into a wider planning framework. It brings together Ministries, States and infrastructure networks through a GIS-based platform to support integrated planning and project coordination. Today, it covers 58 Central Ministries and Departments and all 36 States and Union Territories.

Infrastructure As The Engine of Viksit Bharat

India is building infrastructure at a scale that requires coordination across sectors and modes of transport. Roads, railways, ports, airports, waterways and utilities often intersect across the same regions. Planning these networks together can help in cost and time savings, coordinate projects and use existing infrastructure more efficiently. This created a need for an approach that integrates different infrastructure networks into a common planning framework.

To address this need, the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was launched on 13 October 2021. It brought data from different ministries, States and Union Territories onto a common Geographic Information System (GIS)-based platform. PM GatiShakti enables planners to view infrastructure, geographic features, economic zones and other relevant data together, supporting data-driven planning and decision-making for infrastructure projects. Five years on, this approach has grown into a nationwide planning framework.

PM GatiShakti At A Glance

PM GatiShakti is guided by six principles that seek to make infrastructure planning more integrated, efficient, and coordinated. This includes integrated development, multimodal infrastructure, last mile connectivity, expedited land acquisition, minimised clearances and reduced ecological impact.

Key features of PM GatiShakti include:

Do You Know?

PM Gati Shakti incorporates infrastructure schemes from various Ministries and State Governments, such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, and UDAN.

Seven Infrastructure Engines: Roads, Railways, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport and Logistics Infrastructure form the core sectors of the plan.

Whole-of-Government Planning: The National Master Plan covers 58 Central Ministries and Departments and all 36 States and Union Territories, enabling infrastructure proposals to be planned and assessed across sectors.

Integrated Digital Planning: The NMP brings together infrastructure, and geospatial information on a common GIS-based platform, supporting spatial planning and



decision-making.

Wider Data Access: The PM GatiShakti Public platform provides access to 230 approved datasets, enabling site suitability analysis, connectivity mapping, alignment planning and compliance checks.

Data Layers: Over 23,493 data layers, as of 12 October 2026, bring infrastructure and other relevant information onto the common GIS-based platform.

ITLA: Strengthening Integrated Transport Planning

Complementing PM GatiShakti, the Union Cabinet recently approved the establishment of the Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA). The Authority will focus on long-term transport planning and coordination.

ITLA will prepare a National Transport Master Plan with a planning horizon of ten years or more. It will assess sectoral and annual transport plans, and undertake technical appraisal of projects costing 500 crore or more. The authority will also monitor their implementation. It will also develop a National Transport Data Repository (NTDR) by integrating information from sources such as FASTag, Vahan, and GSTN e-way bills.

How GatiShakti Works: From Coordination to Project Planning

PM GatiShakti has a three-tier institutional framework comprising the following: Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS): Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, the EGoS oversees the implementation of PM GatiShakti and reviews, considers and approves changes in the Master Plan.

Network Planning Group (NPG): The NPG brings together the Heads of Network Planning Divisions from infrastructure Ministries and Departments. It examines infrastructure proposals and ensures unified planning, integration and optimisation. It also monitors developments under the National Master Plan for project planning.

Technical Support Unit (TSU): The TSU

comprises domain and subject-matter experts who support the evaluation process. It assists the Logistics Division in performing its role as the PM GatiShakti Secretariat.

As of 11 August 2026, the NPG had evaluated 396 infrastructure projects with a total estimated cost of about 18.66 lakh crore. Of these, 256 projects had been sanctioned, of which 198 were under implementation. The institutional framework is supported by a digital platform that provides planners with geospatial data, satellite imagery and analytical tools.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya: Building Expertise for Integrated Infrastructure Planning

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) is a first-of-its-kind university focused exclusively on the transport and logistics sectors. Established in 2022, the university brings together education, executive training and research across transport-related disciplines.

GSV supports the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and the National Logistics Policy (2022) through specialised education, training and research. GSV serves as a nodal agency for developing and delivering courses on both initiatives. The collaboration also envisages knowledge centres to share best practices and promote research and innovation in logistics. As of July 2026, the university had trained more than 2.4 lakh officers through courses designed for PM GatiShakti. The university is also expanding its focus on applied research for integrated transport planning, alongside specialised areas such as maritime transport, bridge and tunnel engineering, and defence logistics.

From Data To Decisions: How Digital Planning Is Helping Planners

The NMP brings together GIS-based data on infrastructure, geographic features, and demography on a common platform. Economic zones are also mapped alongside multimodal connectivity infrastructure to

support integrated infrastructure planning. This enables planners to view different infrastructure networks and relevant geographic information together while planning projects.

The platform combines spatial planning and analytical tools with mechanisms for updating and integrating data. It can support activities such as adding project information, measuring proximity, identifying Go/No-Go areas (areas where development may be restricted) and obtaining clearances.

Mapping Infrastructure and Infrastructure Nodes

The PM GatiShakti NMP maps economic, social and logistics nodes alongside multimodal connectivity infrastructure. This brings infrastructure linkages and the surrounding development context into the planning process. The platform helps identify infrastructure linkages required to support economic zones and development projects, as well as missing connectivity gaps that can affect the seamless movement of people, goods and services.

Economic zones such as textile and pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters and agri zones are mapped to support integrated infrastructure planning.

Example: Khagaria-Purnea corridor in Bihar. The upgraded corridor is planned to connect five PM GatiShakti Economic Nodes, including a textile cluster, Mega Food Parks and fishing/seafood parks, along with 11 logistics nodes. The planned connectivity is intended to facilitate faster movement of goods and passengers across the region.

Connecting Logistics Systems

Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) enables API-based integration of government logistics systems, while the Logistics Data Bank (LDB) provides real-time tracking of EXIM container movement. Together, they strengthen digital information exchange and visibility across the logistics ecosystem. As of July 2026, ULIP connected 46 government systems across 12 Central Ministries through 142 APIs.

Opening Geospatial Data to Wider Users

The digital ecosystem has also expanded beyond government users. In October 2025, the PM GatiShakti NMP platform was opened to the private sector through a Query-Based Analytics Mechanism developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N). The platform provides regulated access to selected non-sensitive datasets for infrastructure planning and investment decisions.

The platform currently provides access to 230 approved datasets covering physical and social infrastructure assets. Users can undertake site suitability analysis, connectivity mapping, alignment planning and compliance checks, and generate analytical reports.

From Data to Monitoring

The digital platform also supports the tracking of project progress and updating of infrastructure data. The PM GatiShakti NMP Dashboard provides multi-sector reporting to track progress and derive actionable insights. The Data Uploading and Management System (DUMS) enables decentralised and real-time data ownership and updating.

The overall approach uses geospatial data, satellite imagery and API integration to support data-driven decision-making, planning and optimisation of infrastructure development.

PM GatiShakti in Action

Pune-Bengaluru Expressway: The 699 km Expressway, with expected completion in 2027-28, will connect industrial and economic clusters across Maharashtra and Karnataka. These include automobile and white-goods factories, pharmaceutical clusters, special economic zones, and defence corridors. The project connects 15 National Highways, 25 State Highways and 6 railway stations, enabling multimodal connectivity. Using the PM GatiShakti NMP platform, the alignment was revised to reduce forest land overlap by 19%. The project is expected to reduce travel time by 7-8 hours. It will also save approximately 16 crore litres of fuel annually and reduce carbon emissions by around 39 crore kg.

Jogighopa Multimodal Logistics Park, Assam: The Jogighopa Multimodal Logistics Park is located on the northern banks of the Brahmaputra in Assam. It is designed to enable seamless cargo movement across road, rail and inland waterways in the Northeast. PM GatiShakti was used for integrated planning and demand analysis. A four-lane bridge under construction across the Brahmaputra between Dhubri and Phulbari is planned to reduce the travel distance from 205 km to 20 km and travel time from about seven hours to 30 minutes.

Green Energy Corridor: Ladakh-Haryana: The project, recommended by NPG under PM GatiShakti, will enable evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW of renewable energy through a 5 GW transmission system. It includes a 480-km HVDC transmission line between Pang in Ladakh and Kaithal in Haryana, with 5 GW HVDC terminals at both ends. The transmission system will pass through Himachal Pradesh and Punjab before connecting with the national grid at Kaithal. The project is targeted for completion by FY2029-30.

Building a Connected Infrastructure Future

Five years after its launch, PM GatiShakti has evolved from a national infrastructure planning initiative into a wider digital planning ecosystem. Its expansion across Ministries, States, districts and new infrastructure domains is creating a more integrated approach to planning India's next generation of infrastructure.

Why ‘I’m Sorry You Feel This Way’ Adds Insult To Injury Our decency should be stronger than our fear of admitting a mistake

CHANGIZ MOHIYEDDINI

"I am sorry you feel this way." We have all heard the sentence, and felt the sting of it.

We are all psychologically aware enough to know that feelings can reflect very little of what actually happens. Our feelings are our feelings, and we can feel them independent of the world around us. The fact that someone else feels angry doesn't mean I did wrong; feelings are not proof of anything or objective evidence.

When a 6-foot-5, 240-pound heavyweight professional boxer suffers from spider phobia in a country where there are no venomous spiders and the largest ones are smaller than a quarter, his fear doesn't make spiders dangerous. "I am sorry you feel this way" plays on the same psychological script: It is your problem that you feel how you feel. However, this statement masquerades as an apology.

Read the grammar slowly: In a real apology, the speaker is the subject and the act is the object: I did this. In "I'm sorry you feel this way," the speaker's act has disappeared. What remains is the listener's feeling, now



standing where the wrongdoing used to be.

Call it the change-of-address apology as the harm has been moved. It no longer lives in what was said or done. It lives in you, your reaction, and the way you took it. The speaker expresses regret about the new location but keeps the old one locked.

The sentence lands as an insult rather than a repair because it borrows the vocabulary

of apology while removing the element that injured parties expect and value most. There is a second cost: When a person's emotional response is treated as the thing that went wrong, the underlying message is that your reaction does not make sense.

If "I am sorry you feel this way" does all this damage, why is it so common? Often it's because it's a compromise. A full apology costs something; it requires admitting an act, and admitting an act can feel like admitting a flaw. "I'm sorry you feel this way" sits between those two doors. It lets the speaker feel kind without feeling guilty. In my clinical experience, many people learned it early, in homes where admitting fault meant punishment or humiliation, and where the safest move was to soothe a parent's mood without conceding anything. That strategy may have once worked to keep a child out of trouble but it does not hold up in adult relationships that run on accountability.

Context matters, too. If you did nothing wrong and someone is in pain, saying you are sorry they are hurting is sympathy, not evasion. The sentence becomes a

non-apology when it follows a harm the speaker caused and is offered in place of owning it.

If you are on the receiving end of "I am sorry you feel this way," here is the reframe: the hollow feeling you experience is not oversensitivity but accurate perception. You noticed that something was missing because something was. That means you do not have to argue for the legitimacy of your feelings, a debate the change-of-address apology quietly invites and that you are unlikely to win. You can step around it: I'm not asking you to be sorry about my feelings. I'm asking whether you see what happened. The question returns the harm to its original address without raising the temperature.

If you are the one sending the sentence, you are allowed not to apologize. If you genuinely believe you did nothing wrong, say so plainly and kindly: I can see this hurt you, and I see it differently. Honest disagreement respects the other person more than a counterfeit apology does. What corrodes trust is performative remorse with responsibility removed. And if you notice that you

reach for this sentence often, that is worth getting curious about rather than ashamed of. Somewhere, it probably kept you safe. When dismissal becomes a pattern in close relationships, it can help to talk it through with a therapist or someone you trust outside that relationship.

All of this comes back to a single idea: An apology is, at bottom, a statement about location. It tells the other person where you believe the harm lives. A real apology places it in what you did. A counterfeit one puts in where they took it.

Should we ever reach for "I am sorry you feel this way"? Yes and no. We can employ it when we sincerely believe we did not do anything wrong. In such a case, "this is a misunderstanding" may also be a good option. But when we know we have caused the harm, the decent thing to do is to say what you did and let the apology go to its proper address.

Changiz Mohiyeddini, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. Courtesy: Psychology Today

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

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31 JKWDC BOARD MEETING

Sakeena Itoo calls for efficiency, transparency to empower women entrepreneurs

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, chaired the 31st meeting of Board of Directors of the Jammu & Kashmir Womens' Development Corporation (JKWDC) Limited at SKICC, Monday.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Secretary, Social Welfare Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray; Managing Director JKWDC, Purnima Mittal representatives of Planning & Finance Departments, J&K and Apex Corporations from New Delhi.

During the meeting, the Board deliberated upon various important administrative, financial and policy matters concerning the functioning of the Corporation and took several key decisions.

Speaking during the meeting, the Minister emphasised the need for the Corporation to function with greater



efficiency, transparency and responsiveness. She advocated a focused approach towards ensuring that the intended benefits of welfare and development schemes reach the eligible Women beneficiaries in a

timely manner.

Sakeena Itoo called for strengthening the institutional mechanisms, streamlining procedures and improving coordination among the concerned stakeholders to facilitate easier

access to financial assistance, self-employment opportunities and other support measures for the Women entrepreneurs.

"Welfare interventions should translate into tangible improvements in the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries, particularly through initiatives that encourage entrepreneurship, sustainable livelihoods and economic self-reliance", maintained the Minister.

The Minister directed the Corporation to maintain close engagement with the beneficiaries and community representatives, identify emerging requirements and take necessary measures to address genuine concerns within the prescribed framework.

Sakeena Itoo appreciated the efforts of the Corporation and stressed upon all concerned officers to ensure transparency, accountability, efficiency and timely implementation of the decisions taken by the Board in the larger public interest.

During the meeting, the

Board directed the Corporation to intensify and expedite the recovery of outstanding loans, particularly long-pending dues and adopt all permissible measures for effective follow-up and timely recovery. She enquired about the establishment of online system for recovery and disbursement of various schemes.

The Board further approved the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2026-27, covering the revenue and capital requirements of the Corporation and providing for effective implementation of its developmental and welfare-oriented programmes. Also, financial statements for the year 2024-25 were approved by the Board which shall be sent for Audit.

The Board emphasized the need for greater financial discipline, improved recovery of outstanding loans, timely implementation of approved programmes and effective delivery of benefits to eligible Women entrepreneurs.

SWD Kulgam observes International Girl Child Day



KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 12: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Kulgam, Monday organised a programme at the Conference Hall, Kulgam, to mark the International Day of the Girl Child, highlighting the importance of girls' education, safety, welfare and empowerment.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, attended the programme as the chief guest. District Social Welfare Officer Kulgam, Raja Rameez, officers from line departments, students, lactating mothers, ASHA workers and other participants were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, stressed the need to ensure equal opportunities for girls in education and other spheres of life. He called for collective efforts by families, educational institutions and society to eliminate gender-based discrimination and ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of every girl child.

He also highlighted various government initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of girls and promoting women's empowerment, urging people to create an environment where girls can pursue their aspirations and contribute equally to society.

District Social Welfare Officer Kulgam, highlighted the department's role in implementing welfare schemes and awareness programmes for women and children. He emphasised community participation in promoting gender equality and safeguarding the rights of girls, while urging eligible beneficiaries to avail themselves of various government welfare schemes.

On the occasion, baby kits were distributed among lactating mothers as part of efforts to support maternal and child health and welfare.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about the rights of the girl child and reinforce the collective responsibility of society towards ensuring a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for every girl.

IICT offers Indigenous Design Software 'DesignNweave' for benefit of stakeholders

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: 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, as per an official statement, 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 (Taim), an

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

The initiative 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.

SWD Srinagar organises awareness programmes on Social Security Schemes

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised awareness programmes at Rangpora and Illahi Bagh Srinagar to sensitise the public about various scholarships, sponsorship assistance, skill development courses and other social security schemes aimed at supporting eligible beneficiaries and promoting their social and economic empowerment.

The programmes, as per an official statement, were organised to enhance awareness among the community regarding the benefits and eligibility criteria of various welfare initiatives and to encourage eligible individuals and families to avail themselves of the assistance available through the Department of Social Welfare. Special emphasis was laid on reaching out to vulnerable sections of society, including children in need of care and protection, girls, women and economically disadvantaged families.

During the awareness sessions, participants were informed about various scholarship opportunities available for eligible students to support their education and help prevent school dropouts. Detailed information was also shared regarding sponsorship



support for eligible children, skill development and vocational training courses for improving employability, and other social security schemes intended to provide assistance to deserving beneficiaries.

In addition, the Department in collaboration with Mission Poshan at Illahi Bagh, celebrated International Girl Child Day 2026 under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The celebration aimed to promote the rights, dignity, education, health and overall well-being of the girl child while encouraging families and communities to create an environment where every girl has equal opportunities to learn, grow and achieve her aspirations.

The programme highlighted the significance of girls' education, gender equality,

adequate nutrition, healthcare and protection from discrimination. Participants were sensitised about the need to challenge gender-based stereotypes and ensure that girls receive equal opportunities in education, nutrition, personal development and participation in society.

The Department of Social Welfare Srinagar reaffirmed its commitment to taking welfare initiatives to the grassroots level and ensuring wider public awareness about scholarships, sponsorship assistance, skill development opportunities and social security schemes. Such outreach programmes will continue to strengthen community engagement, promote inclusive development and facilitate access to government assistance for eligible beneficiaries across Srinagar district.

ATMA SCHEME

AHD Kashmir flags off Farmers' Delegation for inter-state training

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: The Animal Husbandry Department (AHD), Kashmir Monday flagged off a delegation of progressive farmers for a specialized five-day Inter-State Exposure and Capacity Building Training Programme at Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS), Hisar, Haryana. The initiative has been organized under the Agriculture Extension - Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme.

The flag-off ceremony was conducted by Deputy Director Central, Dr. Reyaz Nazir, in the presence of senior officers and officials of the department from the Directorate Premises at Gaw Kadal, Srinagar.

The training program aims to acquaint local farmers and livestock rearers with advanced scientific management practices, modern breeding techniques, innovative disease management protocols, and high-yielding dairy and livestock production technologies.

During their five-day

exposure training, the delegation will participate in interactive technical sessions, practical field demonstrations, and institutional visits to state-of-the-art livestock research and production facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Director, as per an official statement Central highlighted that exposure and training programs under the ATMA scheme play a vital role in broadening the horizons of local farmers by exposing them to progressive farming models practiced in other states. He emphasized that such capacity-building initiatives are designed to encourage the adoption of scientific livestock management at the grassroots level, ultimately leading to enhanced productivity, better income generation, and rural self-sustainability across Kashmir.

The participating farmers expressed deep gratitude to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir for providing them with this platform to learn and adopt modern scientific practices to strengthen their livestock enterprises.

Drug Control Department Kulgam conducts inspection of chemist shops



KT News Desk

KULGAM, OCTOBER 12: The Drug Control Department Kulgam Monday conducted multiple inspections of chemist shops in the vicinity of Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Yaripora under the aegis of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA).

During the inspections, the officials checked and verified records of scheduled drugs on the spot and examined the computerized billing systems adopted by the chemists. CCTV footage was also checked to ensure compliance with the prescribed regulations.

During the drive, the operation of one sales establishment

was closed down for non-compliance with certain conditions of its licence.

The chemists were sensitized about the importance of strictly dispensing drugs with addiction liability only against valid prescriptions issued by Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs). They were also directed to ensure that every sale of medicine is supported by a proper cash memo.

The Drug Control Department reiterated that any violation of statutory requirements will invite strict regulatory action. The department further stated that such enforcement drives will continue across the district to ensure compliance with drug regulations.

SWD Srinagar organises training programme on POSH Act 2013, SHE-Box Portal

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised a comprehensive training programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) and the SHE-Box portal for members of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) from various district offices Srinagar.

The programme, as per an official statement was held at the Banquet Hall, M.A. Road, Srinagar, with the objective of strengthening institutional mechanisms for the prevention and redressal of sexual harassment at the workplace and promoting a safe, secure and dignified working environment for women employees.

Resource persons from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, participated in the programme and delivered informative sessions on the legal provisions of the POSH Act, 2013, the responsibilities of Internal



Complaints Committees and the procedures to be followed while dealing with complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace.

During the training, participants were sensitised about the importance of ensuring a workplace free from sexual harassment, discrimination and intimidation. The

resource persons elaborated on the key provisions of the POSH Act, including the prevention of sexual harassment, the constitution and functioning of Internal Complaints Committees, the process of receiving and examining complaints, and the need to ensure fairness, confidentiality and impartiality throughout

the inquiry process.

Special emphasis was laid on the roles and responsibilities of ICC members in handling complaints with sensitivity, maintaining confidentiality, adhering to prescribed procedures and ensuring that complaints are addressed in a timely and legally appropriate manner.

The participants were also encouraged to discharge their responsibilities with professionalism, integrity and a strong commitment to safeguarding the dignity and rights of women employees.

The session also focused on the SHE-Box portal, an online platform designed to facilitate the reporting and monitoring of workplace sexual harassment complaints. The participants were familiarised with the purpose and significance of the portal and its role in strengthening transparency, accessibility and accountability in the complaint redressal mechanism. The importance of proper handling of complaints received through the portal and coordination with the concerned authorities was also highlighted.

The programme concluded with an emphasis on the need for effective implementation of the POSH Act, 2013, proper utilisation of the SHE-Box portal and the active functioning of Internal Complaints Committees across district offices to ensure a safe and dignified working environment for all women employees.

J&K Assembly Committee reviews delays in H&ME recruitment rules

Depts say draft rules being finalised pending Finance Department concurrence

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Oct 12: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, under the Chairmanship of its Chairman Muzaffar Iqbal Khan on Monday convened a meeting at the J&K Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Srinagar, to review the progress made in the framing and finalization of recruitment rules pertaining to the Health & Medical Education Department and other allied matters.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Hilal Akbar Lone, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Bharat Bhushan, Sheikh Khursheed and Peerzad Feroz Ahmad of the Committee, who are the members of the Committee.

Commissioner Secretary ARI & Training Shabnam Kamili,



Commissioner Secretary Law Justice Parliamentary Affairs Achal Sethi besides senior officers of the concerned Departments/organizations and officers of the J&K Legislative Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

The Chairman emphasized the need for expeditious finalization of recruitment rules, observing that prolonged delay in framing such rules adversely affects the functioning of institutions and the service interests of employees. He stressed

that the concerned departments should accord priority to the matter and complete the prescribed formalities at the earliest.

The Committee was apprised by the Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department, that draft recruitment rules are in process and will be finalized after getting concurrence from the Finance Department.

During the meeting, the Chairman stressed the desirability of framing uniform/ model recruitment rules for

Medical and Dental Colleges, wherever the posts, requirements and recruitment procedures are substantially similar, instead of adopting separate rules for each institution.

In this regard, the Committee was informed that the ARI & Trainings Department has already shared a format with the Health & Medical Education Department for devising Model Recruitment Rules for all Medical/Dental Colleges.

The Committee expressed concern over delay in finalization of Recruitment Rules and emphasized that the process should be accorded the highest priority, particularly in view of its direct bearing on functioning of health institutions and the career prospects and service interests of employees.

DIPR bids farewell to Shreya Singhal

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Oct 12: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Monday accorded an affectionate farewell to Shreya Singhal, outgoing Director Information, on her transfer as Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, acknowledging her valuable contributions, professional commitment and leadership during her tenure in the Department.

The farewell gathering was attended by Director Information, Mamta Yadav; Joint Director Information (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir, Mohammad Rafiq Zullah; Deputy Director Information (Hqr) Kashmir, Zubair Ahmad Lattoo; other officers and officials of the Department, who expressed their appreciation for her administrative



acumen and dedicated efforts towards strengthening the Department's information dissemination mechanism and enhancing its public outreach initiatives.

The officers and officials recalled her encouraging leadership, approachable demeanor and emphasis on teamwork, coordination and accountability.

They acknowledged her contribution towards fostering a positive working environment and motivating the staff to uphold the highest standards of public service and professional integrity.

The Department also wished Shreya Singhal good health, happiness and success in all her future endeavours.

India, America expanding cooperation across sectors: US envoy Gor

PTI

Kolkata, Oct 12: India and America are expanding cooperation across sectors, including defence, IT and healthcare, with investments and joint initiatives creating significant opportunities for both countries, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Monday.

Speaking at a programme here to mark 250 years of America's Independence, Gor highlighted the growing partnership between the two countries, citing recent military exercises, defence cooperation and investments by US and Indian companies.

"India and the US have a great relationship, there's so much happening; pick any sector and we're working together in it," he said.

Pointing to recent developments in defence cooperation, Gor said the two countries conducted military exercises involving more than 500 troops during Exercise Tarang Shakti at the Jodhpur Air Force Station in Rajasthan.

On technology and investment, the envoy said companies from both countries were making significant progress, with investments flowing in both directions and some American firms setting up large production facilities in India.

"In terms of IT development, incredible things are happening in both directions, with investments in the US and some



of our companies opening large production facilities here in India. It is an incredible opportunity," Gor said.

Gor also underlined India's importance in the healthcare sector, particularly in the supply of generic medicines to the US.

"In healthcare, we import a significant amount of our generic pharmaceuticals from India. This is because we trust India," he asserted.

Gor also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump had a discussion last week, hinting

at further developments in bilateral ties.

"PM Modi and President Trump spoke just last week; so stay tuned for what comes next," he said.

Gor also highlighted the relationship between Kolkata and the US, noting that former president George Washington appointed Benjamin Joy as the first American Consul to the city way back in 1792.

West Bengal Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta and Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Agarwal were also present on the occasion.

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 12: The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) will host a mega conference from October 14-16 in Delhi, themed on India's cultural legacy and its wider civilisational heritage beyond borders, officials said on Monday.

The "Brihattar Bharat: International Conference on Bharat's Cultural Connections Across the Globe" will bring delegates, ambassadors and scholars from 50 countries to deliberate on India's historical and contemporary cultural connections with the wider world.

Participants from countries including China, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal and Iran, among others, will contribute to discussions on shared cultural heritage and civilisational exchanges, a statement said.

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will inaugurate the conference at Vigyan Bhawan, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special video message will be played at the inaugural session.

The conference marks the centenary of the Greater India Society, also known as Brihattar Bharat Parishad, established in Calcutta (now Kolkata) on October 14, 1926, by a generation of Indian scholars, with Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore as its spiritual guide, the IGNCA said.

The IGNCA works under the ambit of the Ministry of Culture.



The Society laid the foundation for systematic scholarly engagement with India's wider civilisational interactions. The conference seeks to renew this intellectual endeavour through fresh research, interdisciplinary perspectives and international collaboration, it said in a statement.

The concept of 'Brihattar Bharat' refers to the wider civilisational sphere shaped by the transmission, adaptation and interaction of Indian cultural, philosophical, artistic, linguistic and religious traditions across regions and continents, it added.

The conference is being organised as part of the Brihattar Bharat Scheme (2026-2031), administered by IGNCA under

the Global Engagement Scheme of the ministry.

The initiative aims to advance research, documentation, publication, preservation, promotion and digitisation of shared cultural and civilisational heritage through collaborative research, archival projects, exhibitions, publications, outreach programmes and international academic partnerships, a senior official said.

An exhibition, 'Common Cultural Heritage of Asia', will be organised during the conference, highlighting the shared heritage and historical cultural connections between India and other Asian countries.

The conference will examine these linkages across Southeast Asia, East Asia, Central Asia,

West Asia, Europe, South Asia and the global Indian diaspora, emphasising cultural dialogue, adaptation and mutual enrichment.

The academic deliberations will centre on ten themes, ranging from early linkages and religious traditions to philosophy and trade.

It will also encourage joint research and publications, identify new areas for documentation, explore joint nominations for UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme and multinational nominations for Intangible Cultural Heritage, and support the proposed Brihattar Bharat Portal for the sustained documentation, preservation and global dissemination of shared heritage, it said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K aims to lead

plastic bag usage and other hazardous things are being used by the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He called for a practical and balanced approach to sustainable mountain development, stressing that environmental protection, economic growth and people's livelihoods must go hand in hand.

On the occasion, the CM further said that there was a need for environmentally sound infrastructure. "Unscientific hill cutting during road construction had contributed to landslides and repeated damage to roads, particularly in far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir."

He said road construction agencies often resorted to indiscriminate cutting of mountain slopes without adequate consideration for slope stabilisation and appropriate cutting angles. "While such practices might reduce initial construction costs, the resulting damage during rainfall frequently necessitated reconstruction, diverting resources that could otherwise be used to build new roads."

The Chief Minister urged the Forest and Environment Department and the Public Works Department to work together to ensure that development projects incorporated sustainable engineering practices and reduced the risk of landslides. (KNO)

Mamta Yadav assumes

Deputy Director Information (PR&AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; besides other senior officers and officials of DIPR, were present on the

occasion.

Later, the Director also inspected various sections of the department and took detailed assessment of their functioning.

Rain, gusty winds

the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 23.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 9.7 degrees Celsius on Monday. Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 17.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 6 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 13.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 4.5 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 23.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.1 degrees Celsius, while Katra recorded 21 degrees Celsius and 15.6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The department advised people, particularly those travelling through higher reaches and mountain passes, to remain alert during the forecast period. (KNO)

Abdullah family

were conducted fairly. Reacting to the INDIA bloc's campaign against alleged electoral irregularities, Sharma questioned its criticism of electronic voting machines (EVMs), asking why the electoral process was being challenged after opposition parties had participated in elections under the same system.

Referring to earlier remarks by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Sharma said the National Conference leader had previously praised the conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and reported no widespread

booth-level irregularities.

He said opposition leaders should clarify their current objections and position on the electoral process.

Sharma said political parties had every right to protest but should do so without disrupting public life.

He criticised road blockades and other forms of disruption, saying people needed access to schools, hospitals, workplaces and businesses.

"People have to go to school, hospitals and work. Roads cannot be blocked in a way that disrupts normal life," he said.

He suggested demonstrations be held at designated venues such as Jantar Mantar, Ramlila Maidan or stadiums instead of public roads.

Sharma said protests should not obstruct patients, students or businesses, and urged police to ensure law and order is maintained.

Responding to National Conference president Farooq Abdullah's remarks that Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would never be enforced in Kashmir, Sharma said it would be implemented across the country, including Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

Op Sindoor lessons

contingencies. It will support additional storage, rapid mobilisation, dispersion and forward positioning of rations, stores and equipment closer to operational areas.

Singh said modern warfare depended not only on weapons, platforms and technology but also on storage capacity, transportation networks, warehousing and timely replenishment of supplies.

Singh said the arrangement

would strengthen the responsiveness of military logistics while making better use of existing national infrastructure. He described the agreement as a force multiplier for operational preparedness and an example of a "Whole-of-Government" and "Whole-of-Nation" approach.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVING BOTH CIVILIAN, NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

He cited fighter aircraft landing on expressways and roads and bridges built by the Border Roads Organisation being used by local residents as examples of infrastructure serving both civilian and national requirements. FCI warehouses, he said, could similarly support the Army's supply chain when required.

The MoU will remain valid for five years and may be extended by mutual consent. Coordination will take place at formation level between the Army's Supply and Transport elements and FCI's regional and divisional offices, with the arrangements incorporated into operational logistics plans.

The rice will be milled to prescribed defence specifications and supplied through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) during the 2026-27 financial year after quality-control checks. It will be supplied in 10-kg and 30-kg bags to ease handling and transportation, particularly at forward posts.

Singh said the government is focusing on self-reliance and modernisation across defence requirements, including weapons, technology, clothing, equipment and training. He also stressed the need to ensure quality supplies and timely delivery

to troops deployed in forward areas.

"When the soldiers stand guard at the borders, they must have the confidence that the entire country stands with them," he said. (KNO)

Poonch: 4 terrorists

the sector and stepped up vigilance along the LoC to assess the situation and prevent any potential security breach.

"Blast occurred in the Satwal-Naki area near the LoC. The area is considered to be a traditional infiltration route. In the past few years, terrorists have made attempts to sneak into the Indian side of the border through the route, sources said, adding hat in the past, too, six to seven members of Pakistan's BAT team were killed in a similar manner in this area," sources said. (KNO)

NIA attaches

operating in coordination with Pakistan-based LeT handlers to facilitate the infiltration, movement, shelter and logistical support of Pakistani terrorists for attacks on government establishments, security forces and civilians."

"The case was initially registered as FIR No. 24/2026 on March 31, 2026, at Police Station Zakura, Srinagar, before being taken over and re-registered by the NIA as RC-02/2026/NIA/JMU," he said, adding, "A search conducted at Mir's residence on April 6 led to the detection of two suspected Pakistani terrorists, identified as Abu Huraira and Khubaib, allegedly associated with LeT. An explosive-like substance, digital devices and other incriminating material were also recovered from the premises."

"The investigation established that

Mir knowingly provided shelter to the suspected terrorists and allowed the premises to be used to facilitate their activities," the NIA spokesman said, adding, "Further investigation is underway to identify other OGWs, facilitators and individuals linked to the Pakistan-based handlers and unravel the entire terror-support network." (KNO)

DGP calls for

flagged off a contingent of 15 bikers, including 10 from J&K Police and five from Ladakh Police, from J&K Police Public School, Bemina, for Ekta Nagar in Gujarat. The team will participate in the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Parade on October 31.

Ahead of the flag-off, an awareness programme on the theme "Fight Against Drugs" was organised at the school, drawing enthusiastic participation from students.

The DGP also lauded the participation of J&K Police in the national motorcycle rally, which will feature 45 contingents from states, Union Territories and Central Armed Police Forces across the country.

He expressed satisfaction over ongoing efforts to realise the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for a drug-free society.

Several senior police officers, including Special DGP (Coordination) S.J.M. Gillani, Additional DGP (Armed) Nitish Kumar and IGP Kashmir Sujit Kumar, were present on the occasion. (KNO)

Son dies, father

was not immediately known and that cognizance of the incident had been taken. (KNO)

India will host first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in Delhi tomorrow

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 12: India will host the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting here on Tuesday, where issues related to terrorism, transnational organised crime, narcotics radicalisation, trafficking, illicit financial flows, and cyber threats will be discussed, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday.

"India is honoured to host the first BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on 13 October 2026. I extend a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Home Ministers and member state delegations," he said on X.

Shah said the historic meeting underscores the shared resolve of the BIMSTEC to combat terrorism, transnational organised



crime, narcotics radicalisation, trafficking, illicit financial flows, and cyber threats.

"Through decisive coordination, we remain committed to building a safer, stronger, and more secure BIMSTEC region,"

he said.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional grouping comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

It aims to promote economic and technical cooperation among countries bordering the Bay of Bengal and in its neighbourhood.

Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed will skip the two-day meeting, with a delegation led by Home Affairs Senior Secretary Manzur Morshed Chowdhury to participate in his place.

Nepal Home Minister Sudhan Gurung told reporters before leaving for the meeting that Nepal will raise issues such as reducing risks associated with natural disasters in the Himalayan region triggered by climate change, strengthening early warning systems and promoting regional cooperation for coordinated rescue and relief operations.

SC says Centre's 30% cap on anti-cancer drug margins 'hardly anything to be happy about'

Questions why govt can't cap trade margins of other medicines

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 12: The Supreme Court on Monday said the Centre's response on capping the trade margin of anti-cancer drugs at 30 per cent of the maximum retail price (MRP) is "hardly anything to be happy about" and questioned why the government cannot cap trade margins of other medicines.

The Centre, which has earlier come under severe criticism from the top court for steep markup of cancer drugs by hospitals, said that the government has taken an important decision to cap the trade margin on anti-cancer drugs at 30 per cent of the MRP, which is expected to result in annual savings of approximately Rs 2,500 crore to patients.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said that the Centre's response was insufficient and flagged that a single saline drip was sold in market for Rs 270 while its actual cost was Rs 11.

"There is hardly anything to be

happy about. There is actually nothing for the benefit of the patients," the bench observed as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, tried to explain the regime in place.

Mehta said that the government has taken an important step to cap the trade margin on anti-cancer drugs at 30 per cent of the MRP, which would result in savings of approximately Rs 2,500 crore to patients.

Justice Nath told the solicitor general that the court fails to understand that if the government can cap the price of anti-cancer drugs, then why can it not bring all the medicines under this regime.

"We understand that there are transportation costs, raw material cost, R&D cost and all other ancillary costs, but all these are included in the MRP. What is the logic behind allowing them to sell 400 times the actual cost? How can you allow this?" the bench observed. Bhati said that the cost of medicines in India was the lowest in the world and that is

the reason a lot of people come to the country for treatment.

Justice Mehta said that the cost of an India-made cardiac stent is around Rs 5,000 but it is sold by hospitals for more than Rs 25,000 and similarly, the cost of common antibiotic Azithromycin is sold at over Rs 70 while its actual cost is around Rs 28. Tushar Mehta said that the medicines cannot be capped beyond a limit as higher margins enable them to reach far-flung areas.

Justice Mehta said, "If the DPCO [Drugs (Prices Control) Order]-approved medicines do not reach customers, then it is the duty of the government to ensure it reaches the patient. The actual dispute is what medicine should be in the DPCO controlled list and what should not be."

The bench gave time to Tushar Mehta to come out with modalities for capping the price of medicines and posted the matter for further hearing on October 27.

"We will be strengthening the hands of the government. Nothing else. Whatever you have to do, do it by October 27," the bench observed.

Centre to set up high-level committee within week to address sugarcane farmers' grievances

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 12: The Centre on Monday decided to set up a high-level joint committee within a week to address the grievances of sugarcane farmers from Maharashtra and Karnataka, after nearly three hours of talks between two Union ministers and representatives of farmer bodies in the national capital.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Food Minister Pralhad Joshi held detailed discussions at the Pusa campus with a delegation of farmers from the two major sugarcane-growing states. About 80-90 farmers from different organisations attended, along with state ministers.

With sugar mills set to begin crushing in the 2026-27 season, which started on October 1, farmers have sought a higher support price, citing rising production costs. They have also demanded that the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar be raised from Rs 31 per kg to Rs 50 per kg.

In a statement issued after the meeting, Chouhan said the discussions covered ground-level issues, including discrepancies in recovery figures reported by mills, weighing, wastage, laboratory testing and crop insurance.

"Exploitation of farmers, who provide food, will not be tolerated under any circumstances," he said, describing discrepancies in recovery rates, weight deductions and concealment of actual recovery figures by mills as highly sensitive matters.

Rather than seeking immediate or piecemeal solutions, Chouhan said, it was essential to establish a transparent, scientific system so that no mill could infringe farmers' rights in future.

According to the official statement, the ministers announced the formation of a "special high-level joint committee within a week".

It will comprise representatives of the Centre, Karnataka and Maharashtra governments, farmers' organisations and sugar



mills, besides subject-matter experts and scientists.

The panel will examine technical aspects such as harvest timing, scientific parameters for recovery, modern laboratory testing systems and accuracy of weighing, and submit its recommendations to the government within a stipulated timeframe.

The statement said cooperation from state governments is also expected to expedite action.

It was decided to bring out both short- and long-term policy decisions, with administrative reforms and policy and technical frameworks to be strengthened on a scientific basis, they added.

Chouhan assured the farmers that the Centre would act on their suggestions "with the utmost sensitivity and without any discrimination", and that the Modi government would continue to provide all possible support to economically empower the farming community.

He said the Centre was ensuring transparency at every level in coordination with states and farmers.

The Centre has fixed the FRP, the legally mandated minimum price mills must pay farmers, at Rs 365 per quintal for the 2026-27 season (October-September), at a basic recovery of 10.25 per cent.

"Setting up a committee is long-drawn. We need an immediate solution, i.e., an increase in support price. We will discuss with the fellow farmers and decide next course of action," Bhuvanesh Sidhapur, Haveri district president of the Karnataka Sugarcane Growers Association,

told PTI after the meeting.

The association has demanded a higher support price of at least Rs 550 per quintal, given the increase in production cost.

It also said FRP should not be determined solely on the basis of sugar prices but should also take into account revenue from by-products such as ethanol, bagasse and electricity.

Several organisations also sought a State Advisory Price (SAP), over and above FRP in Karnataka, on the lines of incentives provided in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Bihar.

Sidhapur noted that the MSP for sugar has remained unchanged since February 2019. Some farmers also flagged discrepancies in weighing after harvest and demanded digital weighing machines at all APMCs. They expressed concern over discrepancies in assessing the recovery rate, on which the cane price paid to farmers is based.

Farmers in Karnataka began an agitation in Hubballi on September 29, demanding a higher cane price and an increase in the MSP of sugar from Rs 31 per kg to Rs 60 per kg.

They had threatened an indefinite highway blockade from October 13 if their demands were not met. The Centre asked them to call off the protest and invited them for talks in Delhi.

Maharashtra and Karnataka are the second and third-largest cane-producing states in the country, after Uttar Pradesh.

IAF chief flies last fighter jet sortie aboard indigenous Tejas



PTI

Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Oct 12: Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Monday undertook his final sortie in the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas during Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026, marking a significant moment in his distinguished career as a fighter pilot ahead of his retirement on October 31.

"A FINAL FIGHTER SORTIE. A LIFETIME OF PASSION. At the controls of the indigenous Tejas, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, takes to the skies for his last fighter sortie — a defining moment in a distinguished career shaped by an abiding passion for flying and an unwavering commitment to serving the Nation," the IAF said.

According to the IAF, Singh flew alongside aircraft from friendly foreign countries and the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team during the multinational air combat exercise. The sortie reflected the Air Chief's approach to leadership and his continued association with flying, the IAF said, adding that his commitment to serving the country would continue beyond his flying career.

"As one chapter draws to a close, the passion remains undiminished. The skies may mark the end of a flying chapter, but the mission of service to the Nation continues. Once a fighter pilot. Always a fighter pilot," the IAF said.

Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 is being conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur from September 26 to October 12, with the theme "Power in Partnership". The multinational exercise brings together participating air forces to undertake joint training and aerial manoeuvres, showcasing operational capabilities and enhancing interoperability.

The development comes ahead of Singh's superannuation on October 31. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, currently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff, has been appointed as the next Chief of the Air Staff in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, effective from the afternoon of October 31.

Allahabad HC seeks amendments to POCSO Act dealing with minor couples

PTI

Prayagraj, Oct 12: The Allahabad High Court has asked the Law Commission to recommend amendments to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, dealing with minor couples in light of prevailing "social realities."

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Achal Sachdev observed that in certain circumstances, strictly applying the Act could produce consequences that may "advance injustice rather than justice", particularly when a relationship has resulted in the birth of a child.

The observation came while the court was hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by Rakesh Yadav, seeking a direction to produce his wife.

"While enacting the legislation, it does not appear that sufficient regard was given to the social realities prevailing in India, where a considerable section of the population remains illiterate or semi-literate and may not even be aware of the rights guaranteed to them under law and the Constitution, much less of the duties and legal consequences arising therefrom," the court said.

According to the father of the girl,



she had studied up to class 5 but she could not read a newspaper and could only write her signature, while he never went to school.

The court allowed the habeas corpus petition of the man who had eloped with the girl, who subsequently gave birth to his child, leading to a POCSO case against him.

The court said possible amendments could include vesting special judges with adequate discretion in exceptional cases, such as the present one, to consider the circumstances of the case while determining the appropriate punishment.

The court also asked the Law Commission to examine alternative forms of punishment, including community service, in cases where a family formed in

circumstances arising from ignorance of the POCSO Act risks being unnecessarily disrupted.

The current legislation does not appear to have given sufficient regard to India's social realities, it observed.

The court said that the case at hand discloses a conflict between human development and the rigours of law, adding that it was natural for a child of about 15 years to be attracted to another person upon attaining a certain degree of physical and emotional maturity.

The bench, however, emphasised that the state must ensure that minors remain meaningfully engaged in education until they attain majority and receive adequate opportunities to acquire vocational skills and become self-reliant.

According to the contents of the case, the couple had eloped and executed an affidavit dated September 1, 2025, declaring themselves husband and wife.

The state and the girl's father maintained that the girl's date of birth is July 25, 2010. After she was taken away from the husband, she was sent to a Balika Griha, where she gave birth to a child.

The court noted that no school-issued date-of-birth certificate or birth certificate from a municipal authority or panchayat was on record.

Retail inflation rises to 5.54 pc in Sep on high onion prices

PTI

New Delhi, Oct 12: Retail inflation rose sharply to 5.54 per cent in September on the back of high onion and other food prices, remaining just within the RBI's tolerance band, government data released on Monday showed.

The consumer price index (CPI) based headline inflation was 4.83 per cent in August.

Food inflation rose to 7.74 per cent in September from 5.97 per cent the previous month, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The top five items with high inflation were onion (108.09 per cent), silver jewellery (87.8 per cent), ginger (62.85 per cent), garlic (54.62 per cent) and lemon (36.41 per cent).

On the other hand, inflation in potatoes, tomatoes, motor cars and jeeps, lady's fingers, and coconuts

remained negative.

CPI rates for rural and urban areas are 6.08 per cent and 4.88 per cent, respectively, while the All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) with base year 2024 for September is 5.54 per cent. September inflation numbers are the highest since the new series, with base year 2024, took effect in January.

Last week, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised its benchmark repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50 per cent, its first hike in nearly four years, while signalling that rate cuts are off the table in the near term and that further hikes could follow amid rising inflation, a weak rupee and high crude oil prices.

It also marginally raised the forecast for retail inflation for the current fiscal year to 5.2 per cent from its earlier estimate of 5 per cent, saying price pressures are increasingly becoming visible across a range of



commodities. CPI inflation for 2026-27 is projected at 5.2 per cent, with Q2 at 4.9 per cent, Q3 at 6.0 per cent, and Q4 at 5.7 per cent.

The government has mandated the central bank to keep inflation at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

The top five states with high inflation were Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, NSO data showed.

The lowest inflation was in Mizoram.

Commenting on the data, Dipti Deshpande, Senior Director and Principal Economist at CRISIL, said food inflation is likely to remain firm in the coming months as weak rainfall weighs on agricultural output.

She further said that price pressures are broadening outside food as well.

Devendra Pant, Chief Economist, India Ratings and Research said food inflation recorded a 21-month high growth of 7.74 per cent yoy (August 2026: 5.97 per cent; July 2026: 5.52 per cent).

Rise in food inflation was due to a combination of seasonal increase in food inflation, adverse base effect

(food inflation in September 2025 was -2.33 per cent) and El Nino," Pant said.

Madhavi Arora, Chief Economist, Emkay Global Financial Services expects 3QFY27 inflation to average close to 6.1 per cent, implying the real policy rate would stay negative even with higher rates.

"We reckon that beyond oil-related input costs, adverse weather is adding to food-price pressures, with El Niño potentially persisting into 2027. Cyclical production swings and greater crop diversion to biofuels add further supply-side risks," Arora said.

NSO collects real time price data from selected 1,407 urban markets (including online markets) and 1,465 villages covering all States/UTs on a weekly roster. During September 2026, the response rate was 100% in both rural and urban markets, NSO said.

Quick Read

Two US economists win Nobel for challenging conventional views on economic shocks



AP

Stockholm, Oct 12 : American economists Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford won the Nobel memorial prize in economics on Monday for their work on models that have helped governments and central banks manage economic shocks, such as energy crises and inflation.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the winners in Stockholm, saying the two were being honoured for work that has helped policymakers deal with economic fluctuations.

"The laureates' research has made it possible to manage major macroeconomic crises far more effectively than before," the Nobel committee wrote. "It has been hugely beneficial during the pandemic and the energy crises of recent years."

Hall is affiliated with Stanford University in California, and Woodford with Columbia University in New York.

Woodford spoke to the committee by phone Monday from New York, saying: "It's a tremendous honour, it's a surprise."

The Nobel committee said the laureates' work has created the theoretical foundation for models now used by central banks and governments around the world. "With them, we are better equipped to deal with shocks in the economy, such as energy crises or sudden changes in how much households consume," John Hassler, chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said in a news release. The 2 overturned earlier economic assumptions. For decades, governments responded to economic shocks by following the Depression-era prescriptions of the British economist John Maynard Keynes: intervene in the economy by lowering taxes and hiking government spending, thereby encouraging consumers and businesses to spend and invest and help restart growth.

EU sanctions nearly 1,600 Russian individuals, firms over drone and missile components



AP

Brussels, Oct 12: The European Union imposed sanctions on Monday on almost 1,600 Russian people and companies linked to Russia's arms industry, notably targeting those suspected of involvement in making parts for drones and missiles.

In the biggest single listing of sanctions since the Kremlin launched full-scale war on Ukraine almost five years ago, the EU also targeted 77 people accused of organising, working on, or running in "sham elections" in occupied parts of Ukraine.

Announcing the sanctions, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said that more than half of them "address the production chain for the ballistic missiles Russia uses to kill Ukrainian civilians every day."

"This is not the time to ease pressure on Moscow but to increase it," she said.

The EU said the companies are on a list established by the Russian government itself "that identifies them as belonging to the Russian military-industrial complex, and they are therefore entitled to receive subsidies."

The EU considers those officials running the companies to be "supporting Russia's military and industrial complex." It said the sanctions are aimed at "mid-level suppliers that represent the core" of the Russian military industry.

The components they provide include electronics, communication equipment, radar and navigation systems, satellite and missile systems, as well as explosives and ammunition.

The move brings the total number of Russian officials and "entities" targeted by the EU to more than 4,500, including President Vladimir Putin, oligarchs suspected of backing him and scores of lawmakers, as well as banks and the shadow fleet illicitly shipping oil.

US futures mixed as Brent surpasses USD 105 after Trump says US to buy Russian diesel

AP

New York, Oct 12 : US futures are mixed, with the price of Brent crude climbing to more than USD 105 a barrel as President Donald Trump's plan to purchase diesel from Russia drew criticism from some lawmakers.

Futures for the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average both edged up 0.1 per cent on Monday. Nasdaq futures dipped 0.1 per cent.

Oil prices have continued to yo-yo because of uncertainty about when the war with Iran will allow the global energy industry to return to normal.

Trump announced on social media Friday that he struck a deal to buy Russian diesel with Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call, aiming to tamp down a spike in fuel prices ahead of the Nov. 3 US midterm elections.

The president said Russia will immediately supply more than 300,000 tons of diesel to the American and global market, 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.

Trump said Sunday that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an "energy ceasefire" in the 4 1/2-year-old war. He offered no details on it, and Kyiv reported attacks by Moscow on energy sites after his statement. The plan runs



counter to US efforts to cut the flow of money Russia gets from oil and gas sales that can be used to pay for its war against Ukraine. Trump's announcement came just a few weeks after Congress passed legislation that directed Trump to impose substantial tariffs on the top importers of Russian oil or natural gas, with an exception for countries that import less than 15 per cent of Russia's natural gas exports and have taken significant steps to reduce those imports.

A bipartisan group of six senators called Sunday for the administration to "immediately reverse course" on the plan.

The price of Brent crude, the international standard, rose 1 per cent to USD 105.74 per barrel on Monday. US benchmark crude oil gained 1 per cent to USD 92.77 per barrel. This week

investors will be keeping an eye on economic data including updates on inflation and retail sales. The biggest US banks, including Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo, will report earnings from the most recent quarter.

Share prices have surged upward, supported by expectations of strong corporate profits, even as Americans say they're feeling more squeezed by high inflation.

A preliminary report from the University of Michigan on Friday said that US consumers are raising their own forecasts for how bad inflation will be over the coming year. They're expecting inflation of 4.7 per cent, up from their forecast of 4.6 per cent a month ago and just 3.4 per cent in February before the war with Iran began. Sentiment

among consumers is falling sharply for Americans with lower incomes and smaller investments in stocks, who can least afford the fast increases in the cost of living.

The pressure is on companies to deliver strong growth in profits after their stock prices ran toward records despite the downward push from high bond yields. In Europe, Germany's DAX added 0.7 per cent to 25,262.94, and the CAC 40 in Paris rose 0.3 per cent to 7,822.73. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.7 per cent to 10,623.84. Asian markets were mostly lower.

Markets in Tokyo were closed for a holiday.

In other dealings, the US dollar climbed to 158.63 Japanese yen from 158.23 yen. The euro was down to USD 1.1184 from USD 1.1191.

Saudi Arabia probes defence failure after deadly Houthi attack on Riyadh airport

AP

Cairo, Oct 12 : Saudi Arabia has launched an investigation to determine how its air defences failed to intercept a barrage of missiles and drones fired by Iran-backed Houthi rebels, including an attack on Riyadh airport that killed at least 13 people and wounded over 300, two regional officials said Monday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment publicly, said the initial probe showed that Yemen's Houthis first fired multiple drones to pave the way for a mix of cruise and ballistic missiles to reach Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport.

The Houthis possess ballistic missiles and advanced systems fitted with warheads that can change direction during flight and pose a challenge to Patriot interceptors and other defence systems used by the Saudis.

One of the officials said the investigation also aims to find out why air defence systems did not provide earlier warning of the attack in which the Houthi missiles and drones flew over 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) to reach Riyadh.

The Saudi government-run Centre for International Communication, which oversees foreign media, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Saudi officials want the US to engage more actively in countering Houthi attacks

On Monday, Saudi

state-run media reported that its military was responding to a new attack involving drones and cruise missiles, without providing details.

The Saudis are looking to the US to become more directly involved in their fight against the Houthis. The US has provided intelligence sharing, target identification and planning for a Saudi-led offensive, but so far has held off on directly carrying out strikes against the Houthis.

A US intervention could prompt the Houthis to try to halt shipping through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern end of the Red Sea off Yemen, restricting the flow of oil out of the Persian Gulf.

The flow of Middle East oil has already been complicated by Iranian efforts to choke off the Strait of Hormuz, another waterway through which about one-fifth of the world's oil flowed before the US-Iran war started in late February.

The rebels seized key areas along the Bab el-Mandeb last month. The Saudi-led coalition, backing forces with Yemen's internationally recognised government, has been trying to seize them back.

US President Donald Trump on Saturday told reporters after the deadly airport strike that he was looking at the possibility of carrying out US attacks against the Houthis.

But the conflict also comes at a delicate time for Trump, just weeks before US midterm elections that will show whether his Republican Party keeps control of Congress.

Bandipora, Ganderbal advance to U-17 Football Championship Final after high-intensity Knockout Battles

KT News Desk

Baramullah, Oct 12: Bandipora and Ganderbal have qualified for the grand finale of the ongoing UT-Level Inter-District Football Competition for Under-17 Boys after an action-packed fourth day featuring fiercely contested quarter-final and semi-final encounters at different venues across Baramulla.

The championship is being organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, under the supervision of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, and



hosted by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Baramulla.

The day witnessed remarkable performances, close contests and intense competition as the participating teams battled for places in the semi-finals and the coveted final.

At Synthetic Turf, Azad

Ganj, Baramulla, Poonch defeated Kishtwar by 3-2 in a closely fought encounter to secure a place in the semi-finals.

In the second quarter-final at the same venue, host district Baramulla registered a narrow 1-0 victory over Budgam, advancing to the last four.

At MET Ground, Sopore,

Bandipora edged past Srinagar by 1-0 to book its semi-final berth, while Ganderbal delivered a convincing performance against Kupwara, securing a 3-1 victory to complete the semi-final lineup. The semi-finals produced two thrilling contests, with both finalists emerging victorious through penalty shootouts after fiercely competitive encounters.

At MET Ground, Sopore, Bandipora faced Poonch in the first semi-final. After the match was decided by a penalty shootout, Bandipora prevailed 5-3 on penalties, securing its place in the championship final.

Ranji Trophy: J&K fold for 120 as MP take 135-run lead

Rohit Sharma's five-for goes in vain after MP post 196; hosts lose eight wickets for 77 runs, visitors reach 59/4 at stumps on Day 2



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Oct 12 : Defending champions Jammu and Kashmir suffered a major batting collapse against Madhya Pradesh on Day 2 of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A clash at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar on Monday, being bowled out for 120 before the visitors extended their overall lead to 135 runs by reaching 59 for four in their second innings at stumps.

Madhya Pradesh, who had resumed their first innings at 43 for three on Sunday, were dismissed for 196 in 74.2 overs, taking a 76-run lead over J&K, who had elected to bowl after winning the toss.

Rohit Sharma starred with the ball for J&K, claiming five wickets for 36 runs in 21.2 overs, while Sunil Kumar picked up four wickets for 69 runs. Auqib Nabi took the remaining wicket.

MP captain Shubham Sharma top-scored with 79 off 174 balls, hitting eight boundaries, while Aryan Pandey contributed 35 off 60 balls and Chanchal Rathore made 33 off 75 balls.

Rohit struck twice on the opening day, dismissing Himanshu Mantri for

17 and Harsh Gawali for 12, both caught by Abdul Samad, as MP ended Sunday at 43 for three after 23 overs. The visitors added 153 runs on the second day before losing their remaining seven wickets.

In reply, J&K struggled to build partnerships and were bowled out for 120 in 46.3 overs. Qamran Iqbal top-scored with 31 off 64 balls, while wicketkeeper Kanhaiya Wadhawan remained unbeaten on 35 off 63 balls. Shubham Pundir made 20 and Abdul Samad contributed 17.

The hosts lost their first three wickets for just 41 runs before Qamran's dismissal at 62 left them further under pressure. Captain Paras Dogra managed eight runs, while the lower order failed to add enough runs as J&K conceded a first-innings deficit of 76. For Madhya Pradesh, Avesh Khan and Aryan Pandey claimed three wickets each, while Akshay Sharma took two wickets. Ravi Kiran picked up one wicket.

MP, per KNO, began their second innings with a 76-run advantage but lost four wickets for 56 runs before reaching 59 for four in 27 overs at stumps, taking their overall lead to 135 runs.

INOX LIVE & MOVIE SRINAGAR

MOVIES WATCHLIST

13 OCTOBER 2026 TUESDAY

Movie Title	Language	Time
DRISHYAM: THE CONCLUSION	HINDI	10:45 AM, 04:45 PM, 12:00 PM, 06:00 PM
THE VVAAN	HINDI	11:05 AM
DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NEW NOBITA AND THE CASTLE OF THE UNDERSEA DEVIL	HINDI	04:00 PM
OTHER MOMMY	ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES	01:55 PM
THE SOCIAL RECKONING	ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES	06:15 PM

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